



# Chai Lines

## International Northeast Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower  
Conservative Jewish Women

December 2, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 39

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### FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT



This week we are allocating some of this newsletter to let you know of a couple of events that happened recently in the Toronto area. [see the next article below

We are proud of what you do so if any of your Sisterhoods have any news or events to advertise or brag about, please contact Lois or me and we will include them in our newsletter.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

**Eleanor**  
[diamondeleonor@gmail.com](mailto:diamondeleonor@gmail.com)  
514-458-6204

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### SISTERHOOD AND REGION PROGRAMS

**Beth Tikvah Women, Toronto, November 6 Meeting**

Beth Tikvah Women (BTW) Toronto held a successful welcoming opening Brunch November 6, 2016 attended by over 90 women. The keynote speaker, Nicole Anderson, PhD, Senior Scientist Rotman Research Centre, Baycrest, spoke on "Memory and Aging: What's Normal, What's Not, and what you can do about it" to a captivated, engaged audience.

The program began with a D'var Torah given by Bracha Feder. Holocaust survivor, author and speaker Gerda Frieberg spoke about her experience in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Week. Fran Caine spoke about WLCJ. Marilyn Cohen made a Torah Fund Presentation and Janice Maser discussed the new BTW structure and programs planned and underway. Much enthusiasm was generated and the participants filled with praise, getting our 'relaunch' off to a good start. We had a draw for 3 door prizes! Special thanks to our speakers and the hospitality team who help make the brunch an elegant affair.

Janice Maser, President  
Beth Tikvah Women  
Toronto, Ontario



**Torah Fund Study Day, Toronto, November 20, 2016**



## LIVING YOUR LIFE WITH MEANING, PURPOSE AND JOY

Marilyn Cohen, INR Torah Fund VP and her Team of volunteers, organized a wonderful Torah Fund Study Day on Sunday November 20, 2016 on our first 'snow day' of the season. Sponsored jointly by Sisterhoods of Beth David, Beth Tikvah and Beth Tzedec in Toronto, the event was held at Beth David Synagogue.

The afternoon began with an inspiring and thoughtful Dvar Torah given by Leona Eligberg. Marilyn, as Chair, spoke about all the ways we can support Torah Fund and displayed her framed collection of annual Torah Fund Pins going back to 1980. Fran Caine had a display of Torah Fund Cards, pins and posters.

To learn more about Torah Fund 'in action', we were treated to an interesting talk by Debbie Cohen Savage, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), Davidson School of Education, NY, now Vice Principal of Associated Hebrew Schools Toronto. Debbie related her experiences, shaped by a strong family life of Conservative Judaism, spanning Beth Tikvah Synagogue, USY, Camp Ramah and JTS, and how they shaped her career choice. Her infectious enthusiasm for Jewish life and learning is inspiring a new generation. Debbie is truly Marilyn's daughter with her passion for and commitment to Judaism!

The keynote speaker, Elaine Cooper, PhD, led a thought provoking, interactive session that encompassed Jewish values, life lessons and skills that inspired and promoted conversation, rounding out an afternoon of learning and socializing.

We were delighted that Rusty (Iris) Zackheim and Linda Steinhorn drove in from Buffalo with their husbands. We were similarly honoured that Eleanor Diamond, President of our International Northeast Region came from Montreal and spoke on behalf of WLCJ.

Yasher koach to Marilyn Cohen and her Team for a most enjoyable program that brightened an otherwise cold, dreary day!

Janice Maser, President Beth Tikvah Women



Picture on left

*L to R: Past Region President Linda Steinhorn; Region President Eleanor Diamond; Past Region President Rusty Zackheim*



*Pictured from left: Eleanor Diamond-President of INR; Debbie Cohen Savage-speaker; Elaine Cooper-speaker; and Marilyn Cohen, INR Vice President of Torah Fund who introduced the Speakers. (Photo Credit to Mollie Rothman)*

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## FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN

It doesn't come easy. Our Jewish organizations have to work hard to keep our heads above water. We have to work do twice as much with fewer volunteers than we did not too many years ago.

But being who were are we don't give up. We work harder and maybe complain more. We do what we have to without compromising our

beliefs.

As that old song says "We Shall Survive!"

*Shabbat Shalom*

LOIS

MODERN FAIRY TALE  
BY JEANNE BERNSTEIN

Once upon a time in a small city with a big sound there was a small synagogue. While there were many happy things going on inside the synagogue, like children learning and laughing, people praying, dancing, meeting each other, learning and having a good time, the little synagogue was not always happy .

In fact it was sometimes very sad.

There was never enough money to keep it looking shiny and new, it was very hard to get enough people together for *minyans* and there never seemed to be enough people to volunteer when things had to be done.

There was a small group of people who were very dedicated and somehow were involved in almost everything that went on in the synagogue. They came to *minyan*, raised the funds, planned the special events and the little synagogue was grateful for all their help.

The most talked about members of the synagogue was a family that while talked about constantly, was never actually seen: The You family.

No one had ever met the family: the father Why don't You; his wife Why-didn't You; or their child You should have. They were often talked about but never seen.

When something at the synagogue had to be done lots of people would say "Why Don't You."

If something went wrong, Why Didn't You and You Should Have were very popular among other congregants.

Yes, the You's were often talked about but seldom seen.

Then one day a miracle happened the You's left town and the We's

moved in.

Mr We, whose first name was also Why Don't, and his wife, We Will, along with their daughter, We Did It, became active members of the synagogue community.

Suddenly instead of "why don't you" the people said "why don't we." And when things got done people said "we did it"

People started to come to the synagogue, become involved, participate in *minyans*, help raise funds and became an active part of the Jewish.

The sun began to shine.

The little synagogue smiled and everyone lived Jewishly everafter.

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## FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



*Networking to engage,  
enrich and empower  
Conservative Jewish women*

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 11:** *Intergenerational WLReads program with Bethany Spector*

**January 21:** *Women's League Shabbat*

**March 5:** *Annual Meeting, American Jewish University, Los Angeles*

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# #GIVING TUESDAY

A very warm *thank you* to everyone who participated, and especially to those who "shared" their involvement on FaceBook. We know that there are many causes to donate to and are grateful that you chose to help us support the Masorti Women's Days of Study.

We did fall just shy of our goal but there is still time to help! Click [here](#).

We also want to thank our Giving Tuesday team of Illene Rubin and Lara Werwa who did a remarkable job!

From our NGO team: Sandy Koppell, Lucy Becker and Florence Wolpoff

Click [here](#) to read a report on Holocaust Remembrance and Public Memorials.

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**Save the Date**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**March 5, 2017**

American Jewish University  
Los Angeles, California

Please let us know if you plan on attending  
and would like to join us for the Shabbat before  
Email [csimon@wlcj.org](mailto:csimon@wlcj.org)

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### **Sisterhood stipends for convention!**

**A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK**



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR  
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM  
CONVENTION 2017**

Win a \$500 convention stipend for your sisterhood! Get the members of your sisterhood to provide their email and click on I wish to receive periodic email updates from WLCJ (or ask us to do it for them).

Four sisterhoods with 75% of their members "clicked" will be eligible to win \$500 toward their convention expenses.

We want to expand our online network. To do that, members need to let us know, on their personal profiles, that they wish to receive periodic email updates from WLCJ to be active members of that network. They get more benefits from Women's League and your sisterhood could win \$500 so that it can benefit from participation in an exceptional Women's League convention. It's a win-win.

#### **Special Convention project**

For the past several conventions we have been immensely proud of our social action projects designed to help local communities. With Convention 2017, we are starting a particularly fitting project that hopefully will continue long past next July.

Called **Mathilde's Mentionables**, in honor of our founder Mathilde Schechter, we will collect new and gently used undergarments for women in need. Start saving those slightly used bras, nursing bras, mastectomy bras, as well as unopened packages of underpants now in your sisterhoods and regions.

### **Slate of Officers to be installed at Convention**

**President:**

Margie Miller, *BQLI Region*

**Vice Presidents:**

Rusty Zackheim, *International Northeast Region*  
Agnes Emert, *Pacific Southwest Region*  
Debra Green, *Central Great Lakes Region*  
Sue Taffet, *Seaboard Region*  
Bev Dunn, *North by Northwest Region*  
Vivian Leber, *BQLI Region*  
Deborah Bruce, *North Atlantic Region*  
Lucy Becker, *MetroNorth Region*  
Sue Bengeler, *Florida Region*  
Elly Sokol, *IntraContinental Region*  
Barbara Levin, *Southern Region*  
Lara Werwa, *Garden State Region*

**Treasurer:** Janet Kirschner, *Mid-Atlantic Region*

**Financial Secretary:** Sandy Blumenthal, *Mid-Atlantic Region*

**Recording Secretary:** Karen Block, *North Atlantic Region*

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## News from.....



### Masorti Foundation

#### Help urgently needed in Israel to repair fire damage

Masorti communities have been severely damaged by the fires in Haifa, Zichron Yaakov and elsewhere. While in time, insurance and the government will provide help, our Masorti kehillot, schools and community centers must be repaired now. This is our chance to act in solidarity with our community in Israel. Click [here](#) to help now.

#### Equality at the Kotel

The historic Kotel agreement, signed in January and approved by the Israeli government, has not been implemented. This agreement assured Jews an egalitarian prayer space at the Kotel and solidified support for religious freedom in our homeland, positions long advocated by the Masorti Movement along with Women of the Wall. But the agreement has not been honored by the government.

Send a message to the Prime Minister of Israel, to the President of Israel, the Speaker of the Knesset and the Minister for the Diaspora. Stand with Masorti and Women of the Wall. [Click here](#).

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## Women's League Reads

If you missed our live interview and cooking lesson with Mollie Katzen, author of *The Moosewood Cookbook*, click [here](#).

### For intergenerational readers

#### ***When Life Gives You OJ***

by Erica Perl

This is an affectionate tale of the enduring bond between grandparents and grandchildren that is ideal for 8 to 12 year olds. Younger children might also enjoy reading it or having it read to them.

Invite a young person to read this book with you. Discuss it, and cherish your time together. If distance is a problem, you can always try Skype or FaceTime.

Starting December 4, we will post questions, including questions to discuss with your young reader.

Then join with us on **Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2016** (time to be announced) for a live kid-friendly interview between the author and educator Bethany Spector.

Register your young reader by contacting Lois Silverman at [lsilverman@wlcj.org](mailto:lsilverman@wlcj.org) with their name and email. Please provide your sisterhood name and location. The young reader will receive a welcoming email from Women's League Reads.



## Join MERCAZ

**MERCAZ** is the Zionist membership organization of the Conservative Movement, the voice of Conservative Jewry within the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Zionist Movement and the Jewish National Fund to support religious pluralism in Israel and strengthen the connection between Israel and the Diaspora. [Click here to become a new member or renew an existing membership.](#)

[Click here](#) to see how MERCAZ represents our Conservative/Masorti Movement institutions in Israel and throughout the Diaspora.

## Women's League Shabbat

January 21, 2017/23 Tevet 5777

Parashat Shemot

***P'ri Yadehah - The Fruit of Her Hands***

We are pleased to provide a collection of new *divrei Torah* and readings for Women's League Shabbat 2017, this year focusing on the theme of the work of our hands. You can download the materials [here](#).



## Board Obligations for 2016-2017

All Women's League board members need to update their Conflict of Interest form for 2016-2017 and make a contribution (\$75 minimum) to the **Kol Ishah Society Leadership Campaign**. The form can be downloaded on [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org) or by contacting [Razel Kessler](#).

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## Distance Workshops



For the complete 2016-2017 schedule of Distance Workshops, [click here](#).

You can read the scripts from each of the last workshops in the member document section of the website.

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## Jewels in the Crown Update



Convention 2017 will be here before you know it, and every sisterhood will want to be a recipient of a **2017 Jewels in the Crown Award** for outstanding programming and involvement.

There are a few changes for this year's awards, most importantly that the awards cover *three* years and that to be eligible, a sisterhood must be up-to-date with its per capita, participate in Torah Fund and attend region events. Information and the application are available on the [website](#). To help sisterhoods fulfill the various requirements, we have also prepared a tracking sheet to record programs and events as of Convention 2014. Remember, Jewels in the Crown Awards 2017 cover the period from July 2014 through June 2017 and will be presented at Convention 2017.

*Please be sure to share this information with the sisterhoods in your region, and encourage everyone to participate.*

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**FROM THE TORAH FUND VICE PRESIDENT  
MARILYN COHEN**

**TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2016-2017**

# TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN

## Women's League for Conservative Judaism



Seeds Newsletter, Issue 3



### SHE PLANTS A SEED FOR THE FUTURE

Join this Special Project to raise \$600,000 in two years to support

Ziegler's Year of Study in Israel  
Refurbishing and Re-sanctifying  
the JTS Women's League  
Seminary Synagogue

Gifts of \$1800 and higher will be  
recognized in a permanent installation  
at both campuses.

All gifts will be recognized at Women's  
League Convention in July, 2017.



Let us know how this project works  
for you at: [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu)

Do you have a great idea to share?  
Send it in to: [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu)



#### MATERIALS

- Charms and adjustable bangles  
(purchased through various Etsy vendors)
- Jump rings  
(6mm, 20 gauge wires purchased at  
Jo-Ann's Fabric)

### How Does Your Garden Grow? ... with Seeds!

This is the first issue of a new monthly e-newsletter from Torah Fund, offering you easy, creative marketing ideas to strengthen your Seeds Campaign.

### Seeds Project Fundraiser: Seaboard Region

Seaboard Region made and sold charm bracelets to support the Torah Fund Seeds Project. Inspired by Florida Region, our Torah Fund Vice President, Bobbi Premack Gorban, created an Alex and Ani - style bracelet. Each silver color bracelet has three charms:

- a ship, representing Seaboard Region
- a Hamsa
- a bunch of grapes, representing the Torah Fund theme for 2015-16.



#### HOW TO

The bracelets were easy to construct:

- After a jump ring was attached to each charm, the three charms per bracelet were added to the wire. This can be done by one of two methods:
  - Each jump ring is opened, the charms are placed on one level of the bracelet and the jump ring is closed.
  - One end of the bracelet is opened, the charms are slipped on and the opened part of the bracelet is closed.

#### MARKETING

- Each Region Shabbat message includes an appeal for the Seeds Project fundraiser with a photo of the bracelet.
- At every Region event, a prominently displayed table is set up to sell these bracelets. Women walk around modeling the bracelets to increase interest.

#### PRODUCTION COST AND PROFIT

- The material cost per bracelet was \$1.25.
- They were sold for Chai (\$18).
- The profit per bracelet was \$16.75. (Shipping was an additional cost, covered by Seaboard Region.)
- Our donation to the Torah Fund Seeds Project has totaled over \$750 to date. We continue to sell the bracelets.
- An investment of \$75 yielded more than 10-fold profit (over \$750).

#### SECOND YEAR

- Seaboard Region will create a brass bracelet with three different charms. That way the donors can have a set.

## Donor Profile



**BOB AND LAURIE SUNSHINE** met at Brandeis University fifty-two years ago. She says, "We met at *shul*. Judaism is the underlying core of our lives." We thank them for their generous contribution to the *She Plants a Seed for the Future Torah Fund Special Project*.

Laurie was the Literary Editor of *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*, as well as the weekday volume. She contributed her poetry, which appears in both editions. Bob, an economist for the Congressional Budget Office, recently "retired" as the Deputy Director of that agency. He is now a Senior Advisor at CBO, cutting his workload significantly, and giving him more flexibility in his schedule and life. The couple generously support a variety of worthy causes.

The Sunshines are from the Boston area. They moved to Rockville, Maryland in 1972 and became members of **Congregation Har Shalom** in Potomac. Bob is a past president of the congregation and of the Seaboard Region of **United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**. They have two sons, Rabbi Ari (wife Jen) and Josh (wife Dara), and four grandchildren, Jonah, Elana, Benjamin and Rebecca.

Bob and Laurie's donation to the Seeds Project is in memory of dear friend and neighbor, **Selma Miller**. The Sunshines and Millers had a special connection. "It was great to have a kosher neighbor just across the street. We shared holidays. We were neighbors; we were friends."

Selma was a beloved part of Torah Fund. Laurie attended Torah Fund events with her and realized its impact. She felt that she could and should do more, and Torah Fund became important to her, too.

Selma died last year at age 90. Laurie has decided to not only continue her own annual pledge, but to also assume Selma's yearly contribution. At Har Shalom, many women wear their Torah Fund pin. This is a part of Selma's legacy. The Sisterhood has set a **Seeds Campaign goal of \$3600 in Selma's memory**. The Sunshines have already contributed a large part of the funds. Laurie says, "It is to honor Selma and what we meant to each other. She was my inspiration!"



Selma Miller, of blessed memory

Marilyn Cohen, INR Torah Fund VP

h) 416 223 2955

c) 416 518 1860

[marilyncohen@bell.net](mailto:marilyncohen@bell.net)

**Check out the New Torah Fund Guide and all the other materials to run a great campaign!**

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/4fcgm1vx528ze9x/AADNqaT\\_GXwnbZaISM0\\_m6Ona?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/h/4fcgm1vx528ze9x/AADNqaT_GXwnbZaISM0_m6Ona?dl=0)

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**NEED HELP?**

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Programs, membership ideas, education material, and more available at

wlcj.org

[Click here to visit the WL and explore all the resources](#)



INR OF WLCJ | [Itsilverman@gmail.com](mailto:Itsilverman@gmail.com) | **Website Click here**