



# Chai Lines

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

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower  
Conservative Jewish Women

November 18, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 38

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### Mazal tov to:

Iris "Rusty" Zackheim on her nomination as WLCJ Vice President  
Lisa Kogen, WL Education Director, upon her marriage

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### FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT



I enjoy attending Shabbat services.

Greeted by a security guard as I approach the front door of our synagogue, I am reminded of how vulnerable our community is. As I enter the sanctuary and shake the hand of a member who hands me a *siddur* and *chumash*, I feel welcome. And as I walk to my seat and hear whispers of "*Shabbat Shalom*," I feel a kinship to the people around me.

This past Shabbat, our congregation honoured veterans who are members of our synagogue. All were called to the *bimah* for *aliyot* and the rabbi spoke respectfully about each of them and of all those whose lives were taken in times of war. As "*In Flanders Fields*" was recited, the choir hummed a *yizkor* arrangement. At the end of the

service, our cantor sang a very emotional version of "Adom Olam" to the melody of "Halleluyah," in memory of Leonard Cohen who was born and raised in Montreal.

As poignant and meaningful as this service was for me, I was most impressed by our rabbi's sermon. As is traditional in most congregations, partisan politics are rarely addressed at the *bimah*. But this past Shabbat it was clear how Rabbi Moses felt about the historic weight of the election results in the United States. He passionately spoke about righteousness, justice, love, and compassion. He spoke about being created in God's image, loving our neighbour, and welcoming the stranger. He spoke about these being uncertain times; that no matter what our personal feelings are of the election outcome, we must respond with serious attention and vigilance. And we must keep the lines of dialogue open with those who don't think like us.

As women who are active members of our sisterhoods and Women's League, we are committed to promoting and perpetuating the tenets that are at the core of Judaism. As Jewish women, we must help to promote equity and equality and we must stand up for the eternal values of our Torah. And, we must work together to uphold those values that equally protect every man, woman and child, independent of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Shabbat Shalom,

**Eleanor**  
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514-458-6204

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### **FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN**

It's the season when geese fly south. I love to see them in a small man-made lake in our town; some are resting, some are eating, some are swimming, while others are standing guard.

Yesterday coming home I passed the lake and saw the geese circling in a "v"-formation. One goose was at the point of the "v." They circled and circled and landed into the water.

What can we learn from these graceful birds? I repost the following to remind us of the answer.

*Shabbat Shalom*

## A SENSE OF GOOSE

by Dr. Harry Clarke Noyes from the *ARCS News*, Vol. 7, No. 1,  
January 1992

Next  
fall, when  
you see Geese  
heading South for  
the Winter, flying along  
in V formation, you might  
consider what science has dis-  
covered as to why they fly that way:  
as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an  
uplift for the bird immediately following. By  
flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least  
71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community  
can get where they are going more quickly and easily  
because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When  
a goose falls  
out of formation,  
it suddenly feels the drag  
and resistance of trying to go it alone  
and quickly gets back into formation to take  
advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are  
headed the same way we are.

When  
the Head Goose  
gets tired, it rotates back  
in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying  
South.

Geese  
honk from behind to  
encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally,  
and this is important,

when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE,  
WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER LIKE THAT.

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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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### Slate of Officers for 2017-2020

Be sure to join us at Convention 2017 when we install this wonderful group of women as the new leaders of Women's League. Thank you to the Nominations Committee chaired by Rita Wertlieb for its thoughtful efforts.

**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 Bengel, *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*

Two more weeks to ...

# #GIVING TUESDAY

**November 29**

Giving Tuesday is all about celebrating generosity and making a difference in our world. We hope that you will join us and make a difference by donating to support pluralistic Days of Study for women in Israel.

It's easy to do. [Just click here!](#)

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## Personal Conversations

Our first **Personal Conversation** was a big hit! Thank you to Sharsheret for sharing information in a sensitive and straightforward way.

Personal Conversations are an opportunity to address everyday issues that really aren't so every-day in discussions about obstacles and opportunities, where we are today and where we want to be in the future.

The next scheduled conversation will be [Aging is not for Sissies: Helping members of the sandwich generation help those they love as they age](#)

*Presented by Renee Glazier on January 24, 2017*

Click [here](#) to register.

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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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Education Director Lisa Kogen married Dr. Howard Ellison last Sunday in Atlanta! The entire Women's League family wishes her all the best!

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## 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.

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## Program Evaluation Survey

The Women's League **Program Activities Team** is evaluating all of the educational and programmatic materials that we have produced over the past several years. To ensure the most accurate assessment of what we produce, we need to hear from you as to how (or if) you have used these materials in your sisterhood or personal life.

Most of these materials are posted on our website at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

Please click [here](#) to access the survey. Please complete the survey by November 16.

***As a thank you, we will enter your name into a raffle drawing for one of the books discussed in Women's League Reads.***

Click [here](#) for the survey. Thank you for your time!

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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 particularly 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 bras, nursing bras, mastectomy bras and other undergarments *now* in your sisterhoods and regions.



## BookMarks

The next issue of Women's League BookMarks is available [online](#)! Leading into our centennial celebrations, it is focusing on celebrated books of the last century ... game changing books, memorable books ... with one or more chosen for each decade

### What you'll find in the issue:

- What makes a book a game changer?
- The Women's League selections
- Q & A with authors Anita Diamant and Maggie Anton
- Response to *Lean-In* by Sheryl Sandberg, a year after losing her husband and becoming a single mother
- Program suggestions

## 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](#).



## Women's League Reads

### Something new and tasty!

For our next Women's League Reads selection, we have chosen a cookbook!

In honor of Women's League's upcoming centennial, our soon-to-be released issue of Bookmarks will feature a game-changing book from each of the last ten decades. For the 1970s, we selected *The Moosewood*

*Cookbook* by Mollie Katzen, listed by the New York Times as one of the

top ten best-selling cookbooks of all time, and no wonder. With her sophisticated, easy-to-prepare vegetarian recipes, charming drawings, and hand lettering, Mollie introduced millions to a more healthful, natural way of cooking. A new 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition is currently available.

Mollie Katzen herself will be joining us for a live interview and a Thanksgiving "cooking demonstration" on Thursday, November 17 at 8:30 pm EST. You can buy the ingredients and cook along with Mollie.

## Next selection for intergenerational readers

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### *When Life Gives You OJ*

by Erica Perl

This is an affectionate and hilarious 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 who is important to you to join in reading this book. Together, read the book, 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 for our regular Women's League Readers, including questions you can discuss with your special young person.

Then join with us on **Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2016** (time to be announced) for a live interview between the author and Women's League member and educator Bethany Spector. This discussion will be appropriate for your young readers.

You can 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 confirmation email welcoming her or him to Women's League Reads.

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## 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](mailto:Razel.Kessler@wlcj.org).

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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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## SISTERHOOD AND REGION PROGRAMS



Presents:

## Torah Fund Study Day

Sunday November 20, 2016



### **Living Your Life With Meaning, Purpose And Joy**

An interactive program including discussion, meditation and Jewish text study

led by

**Elaine Cooper PhD**

and introducing

**Debbie Cohen Savage, Vice Principal, Associated Hebrew Schools, Toronto**

Graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), Davidson School of Education, NY

JTS is fully supported by Torah Fund, the dedicated tzedakah of WLCJ

Sunday, November 20, 2016

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue  
55 Yeomans Road, Toronto ON M3H 3J7

\*RSVP to Bea Muroff by November 15

[bmuroff@sympatico.ca](mailto:bmuroff@sympatico.ca) or 416.633.2777

\*Pre-registration \$7. At the door \$10  
Refreshments

Sponsored jointly by the Torah Fund Committees of the Sisterhoods of  
Beth David, Beth Tikvah & Beth Tzedec

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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?**

**HELP IS AVAILABLE ON THE WLCJ WEBSITE.**

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 | **Website Click here**