



Chai Lines

International Northeast Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower
Conservative Jewish Women

November 4, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 37

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FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT

Laura, a woman I know, was eager to share her experience about the Halloween party she attended last Friday night. Although Laura is blind, she described in detail the costume that she wore, the music that was played, the food that she ate and the people that she met. I have known Laura for about a year and a half and, although she is generally a happy person, I don't think I have ever seen her that excited.

She talked about a man, Rob, who was sitting at her table who had asked her to dance. She refused, not because she wasn't flattered by the offer, but because she was too shy to dance. She hadn't danced in about forty years and was worried that she would step on his toes and look ridiculous. Rob persisted and finally convinced Laura that they would have fun-certainly more fun than they would have just sitting at the table. So they danced and danced...and sang and talked the night away. Laura said that she felt like Cinderella hoping the evening would never end.

With a huge smile on her face, Laura talked about how much fun she would have missed if she had declined Rob's offers, just because she was too shy and self-conscious.

Laura made me think of all the excuses I have made for not going to an event, participating in an activity, getting involved in worthwhile causes or just dancing. And, of course, I thought about what I may have missed.

Being active in Woman's League and our Sisterhoods means having so many opportunities to get involved. Our programs come in many forms: they may be intellectually stimulating, spiritual, educational, socially relevant, a chance to make new friends or just plain fun.

Last weekend, I attended a wonderfully planned and beautifully executed fashion show hosted by the sisterhood of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue in Toronto. Kudos to Sisterhood president Ruth Shapiro, fashion show chair Lisa Levine, and all the talented women who helped put this successful and entertaining fundraiser together.

This Sunday, November 6, Toronto's Beth Tikvah Women are hosting their opening brunch featuring Dr. Nicole Anderson speaking about "*Memory and Aging, What's Normal, What's Not and What You Can Do About It.*" Contact Janice Maser, president of Beth Tikvah Women, for more information.

On Sunday, November 20, the Ontario area of the International Northeast Region of Women's League is presenting a *Torah Fund Study Day* which will include an interactive program led by Dr. Elaine Cooper.

I urge you to attend these events. Just think about what you might be missing if you don't!

Shabbat Shalom,

Eleanor
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514-458-6204

FROM THE EDUCATION VP
LOIS SILVERMAN

If you are a volunteer, you may not get encouragement or a simple thank-you.

Therefore I post the following as a way of my saying thank you all for whatever you do to keep your sisterhood, congregation, and other organizations viable and productive.

Shabbat Shalom

LOIS

You Never Know

By Helen L. Marshall

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seals a light
The way you love, may not matter at all
But you never know it might.

And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you
Might possibly change for the better
With a broader and brighter view
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing the way to the right
Of course it many not matter at all,
But then again...it might

FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 7: *First Women's League Personal Conversation*

November 17: *Cook with Mollie Katzen*

December 11: *Intergenerational WLRReads program with Bethany Spector*

Personal Conversations

We are delighted to invite you to participate in our newest program for members, **Personal Conversations**.

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.

Our first Personal Conversation will be:

What's Jewish About Breast Cancer: Taking Control of Your Health
November 7, 2016 at 8:30 pm Eastern Time

Presented by Sharsheret

Sharsheret, a not-for-profit organization, offers a community of support to Jewish women diagnosed with breast cancer or at increased genetic risk and their families, by fostering culturally-relevant individualized connections with networks of peers, health professionals, and related resources.

Speaker Melissa Rosen will share her own journey with breast cancer and discuss genetics, how a supportive and caring community can help, what women can do to decrease their risk. Melissa will also take questions.

Click [here](#) to register.

A new BookMarks

The next issue of Women's League BookMarks will be available online later this week! 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

To listen to the conversation with Lauren Belfer, author of *And After the Fire*, [click here](#).

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 40th 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

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 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.

wlcj@100 Countdown to Convention

A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK



The Eikhah Project [material now online](#)

Convention will convene during the "nine days" from *Rosh Chodesh Av* to the 9th of Av (*Tishah b'Av*). In Jewish tradition, this is a period of mourning with limitations on various celebrations, live music, and eating meat. To satisfy these prohibitions, in order to serve meat at Convention, prior to the Tuesday night meal we will conduct a *siyyum* (short study session) concluding a year-long course of study by our members on the book of *Eikhah* (Lamentations) which is read on *Tishah b'Av*.

To enrich the *siyyum* experience, we are providing study modules that focus on the book of *Eikhah* and on corollary topics such as loss and healing. We are encouraging sisterhoods and regions to incorporate these study materials into their regular programming. The Women's League Executive Committee has already begun to use the material at the beginning of its meetings.

Click here to access [The Eikhah Project](#).

World Affairs and Public Policy at Women's League

Reports from the United Nations

Read a personal reflection from Women's League NGO Sandy Koppell [here](#).

Read a report from the conference from our NGOS [here](#).

Interest in Resolutions

If you -- or someone you know -- are interested in helping identify issues, and research and craft resolutions for Women's League, please contact President [Carol Simon](#).

Resolutions are an essential vehicle for Women's League to address important issues in today's ever-changing world. You can see a full list of past resolutions on our [website](#).

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 or by contacting [Razel Kessler](#).

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.

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.

SISTERHOOD AND REGION PROGRAMS

Opening Brunch BTW 5777

Beth Tikvah Women

Invites

*All Members
of BTW
to Brunch*

Sunday November 6

10:30 am – 1:00 pm



Registration 10:15 a.m. Beth Tikvah

**Memory and Aging,
What's Normal, What's Not and
What You can do about it**

By Nicole Anderson, PhD, Senior Scientist, Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest
D'var Torah, Bracha Feder Holocaust Tribute, Gerda Frieberg
WLCJ, Fran Caine Torah Fund Marilyn Cohen
Musical Entertainment Prizes!

BTW is a member of Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ)

Members of BTW 5777, No charge.

Non-members \$30.00 includes membership in BTW

Guests, cover! \$25.00

At the door \$35.00

RSVP Required by Friday October 28, 1:00 pm

To: Gayle @ 416 221 3433

**Women's League for Conservative Judaism,
International Northeast Region,
Ontario Area**

**Torah Fund Study Day
Presents:**

**"LIVING YOUR LIFE WITH
MEANING, PURPOSE AND JOY"**

Led by

Elaine Cooper PhD

An interactive program including discussion, meditation and Jewish Text study.

**Sunday, November 20, 2016
From 2:00pm - 4:30 pm**

**Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue
55 Yeomans Rd. North York**

Refreshments served

\$7 pre-registration* \$10 at the door.

***RSVP to BEA MUROFF 416.633.2777**

bmuroff@sympatico.ca

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

**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



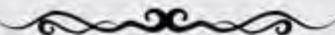
SHE PLANTS A SEED FOR THE FUTURE

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

Do you have a great idea to share?
Send it in to: 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

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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_GXwnbZaISMo_m6Ona?dl=0

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](#)