



# Chai Lines

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

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower  
Conservative Jewish Women

January 13, 2017

Volume 2, Issue 43

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## US ACTION ALERT

### Women's March on Washington

It should not be surprising that Women's League is concerned about many of the issues being addressed by the Women's March in Washington next week.

Unfortunately, the march is scheduled for Shabbat and we cannot sponsor or support it as an organization. But if our members choose to attend there are Jewish events and programs being offered.

National Council of Jewish Women is co-sponsoring Shabbat services on Friday night at 6pm and Saturday morning singing and reflections at 8:45am at Sixth and I Synagogue (600 I St NW, Washington, DC 20001) with T'ruah, Jews United for Justice, and other partners. Click [here](#) for more information. Their plan at this time is for Jewish women to start gathering at 6th and I at about 9:15 and then proceed to the start of the march so that everyone can march together.

## January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Women's League has signed on to a statement from the Jewish Coalition Against Trafficking, co-convened by NCJW and T'ruah, outlining a vision for the fight against human trafficking. (The text of the letter is attached.) They plan to share this statement of values with the incoming administration and Congress on January 11 - National Human Trafficking Awareness Day - urging them to work with us to turn these values into a reality.

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## MORE FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

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

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### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**January 24:** *Personal Conversations: Aging is not for sissies*

**February 1:** *Distance Workshop: Torah Fund*

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

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### Personal Conversations

#### [Aging is not for sissies](#)

*Helping members of the sandwich generation help those they love as they age*

The next Personal Conversation will be held on January 24, 2017

It will be led by Renee Glazier, a dedicated member of the Women's League board, who is a geriatric care manager and a former long term care ombudsman and

advocate for residents of nursing homes. She has an MBA from Babson College and a certificate in gerontology from the University of Massachusetts. To register, [click here](#).

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### New Outlook

We are very proud of our third issue of New Outlook. If you haven't received it in the mail yet, you can read it and give us feedback on our [website](#). We'd love to read your comments!

**new** A publication  
of Women's League  
for Conservative Judaism  
**OUTLOOK**  
FOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Share your favorite articles with friends on Facebook and help us spread the word.

A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR  
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

**CONVENTION 2017**

## CONVENTION UPDATES

### Registration opens on Monday!

You can be among the first to register for Convention 2017! You need to log onto [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) and choose **Convention 2017 Registration**. We are looking forward to welcoming you personally to Arlington, Virginia for our most exciting convention yet.

### Presidents kits

Special kits for sisterhood presidents are in the mail. They include everything a sisterhood needs to start preparing for convention and the beginning of our centennial celebrations.

### Sisterhood stipends for convention!

Win a \$500 convention stipend for your sisterhood! How to do it?

1. Get the members of your sisterhood to log onto the Women's League website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org), by clicking on the button on the top right.
2. They need to log in by following the directions given, if they haven't already. If they have any questions, please contact Razel Kessler at [rkessler@wlcj.org](mailto:rkessler@wlcj.org) or 212.870.1263.
3. They should click on: **Update My Profile**
4. In the first section, last line, they should click on the box that says: **I wish to receive periodic email updates from WLCJ**
5. Then they *must* scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **Update Profile Information**.

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 that they wish to receive 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 and benefit from 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 new and very slightly used bras, nursing and mastectomy bras in your sisterhoods and regions bras.

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## 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](#).

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## Masorti Women's Study Days

If you will be in Israel during February or March, you might want to plan to attend one of these exciting and dynamic study days.

### WOMEN CHANGE CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY

February 14 (4:00-8:45 pm)

Eshel Avraham, Be'ersheva

February 21 (4:00-8:45 pm)

Hod v'Hadar, Kfar Saba

March 1 (4:00-8:45 pm)

Hanaton

It's very easy to register online. Click [here](#).

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## Save the Date ANNUAL MEETING

March 5, 2017

American Jewish University

Los Angeles, California

The program on Sunday begins at 9:30 and ends by 5:00 pm.

If you would like to spend Shabbat with Women's League, early Shabbat dinner will be at 5:30 with services following, and luncheon will follow Saturday morning services.

Please let us know if you plan on attending and would like to join us for Shabbat. We are still working on the specifics

for hotel and meals.

You can fly into either LAX or Burbank airports

RSVP to [csimon@wlcj.org](mailto:csimon@wlcj.org)

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## Public Policy

Conference of Presidents urges Congress to support resolutions opposing US abstention at Security Council

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations expressed strong support for the resolutions being introduced in both Houses of Congress that denounce the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 2334 and urge it to be repealed or altered significantly. This resolution condemns Israel's settlement building and ultimately hinders the peace process by promoting an imposed solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, instead of supporting direct, bilateral and unconditional negotiations. Additionally, the resolution offers approval and support for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions efforts, ignores the 900,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries, and declares all of East Jerusalem to be Palestinian territory including Judaism's holiest sites.

*"We applaud Congress's efforts to denounce this one-sided, anti-Israel resolution that will only push the prospects of peace further from realization. A strong message from the leaders and members of the United States Congress will show the world that the American people stand with Israel and support direct negotiations as the only path to true peace. President Abbas' refusal to accept and recognize a Jewish State with which he must sit and work out all the problems, is, and has been, the major obstacle to peace. We remain committed to the search for a just and lasting peace which has been made more complicated and distant by the Security Council's action."*

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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](#).

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## Next Distance Workshop



**Torah Fund: Teapots & Testimonials**  
February 1  
*Everything you wanted to know about Torah Fund but were afraid to ask.*

To register, [click here](#).

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

You can read the scripts from 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 4



### 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)

### A Successful Fundraising Idea! Try This!

We thank Lori Snow, Torah Fund Vice President from Mid-Atlantic Region, for sharing these successful ideas.

### Seeds Project Fundraiser: Mid-Atlantic Region



• For Mid-Atlantic Region's Torah Fund Founder's Day, Gift Baskets were created with items donated from Sisterhood Gift Shops. The Region Gift Shop Chair coordinated collecting items and assembling great baskets. Raffle tickets were sold at the event and all profits went towards their Seeds Pledge.

• For other Region Events, Baskets were made from items donated by the event's committee members and again raffle tickets were sold and all profits went towards their Seeds Pledge.

• 50/50 Tickets were sold at all Region events. One half of the monies collected was awarded to the individual winner. The other half of the monies collected went towards the Region's Seeds Pledge.

• After two MAR events with featured speakers, the Executive Committee reviewed final figures and decided on donation amounts to honor each speaker. The Torah Fund Office graciously sent notes to each speaker to confirm the donation in their honor.

The Mid-Atlantic Region pledged \$1,800 to the two-year Seeds Campaign. Over \$1400 was sent to the Seeds campaign in 2015-16. Mid-Atlantic Region will continue these efforts in 2016-2017.

Inspired by the success of the Seeds Campaign in the Mid-Atlantic Region, the MAR Past President's Council has also pledged \$1,800 to the Seeds Campaign. Thank you!



## The Sisterhood of Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun (BTBJ- Erdenheim, PA)

has a long history of supporting Torah Fund and Women's League for Conservative Judaism. In early 2016, Sisterhood Board Members decided to raise money for the Torah Fund Special Campaign "She Plants a Seed for the Future" in honor of their beloved Rebbetzin Linda Grife, who was struggling with a recurrence of cancer. Contributions were collected in secret to surprise Linda with this honor. Donations were collected from the extended BTBJ community and local

friends. Debbi Goldich, Sisterhood member and International Torah Fund Chair, spearheaded the collection efforts.

The money raised through this Campaign supports the student year in Israel for Ziegler rabbinical students and supports the refurbishing and re-sanctification of the Women's League Seminary Synagogue at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Linda Grife was a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Social Work, which gave the donation an even more special connection.

Linda was an active member of BTBJ Sisterhood during her 18 years as Rebbetzin. She attended Board Meetings, gave informative and entertaining *divrei Torah*, participated in programs and events, and was a Torah Fund Honoree. Linda and Rabbi Saul Grife led more than ten congregational family missions to Israel. Each trip was sold out and was more successful than the next.

Professionally, Linda held many jobs in the Philadelphia Jewish community. Most recently, she served as Director of Admissions for the Perelman Jewish Day School and Co-General Manager of Max and David's, a kosher restaurant. Linda touched us all with her love and knowledge of Judaism and Israel, her kind and inspiring stories, and her overflowing optimism.

Everyone knew Linda and Linda knew everyone. Thousands described Linda as their "best friend" and she was a special friend to all! She has been described by congregants as:

*...a special soul who touched every person she met. She radiated warmth and goodness and her beautiful smile lit up our shul.*

Rabbi Robert Lieb, a family friend, wrote,

*We have lost one of the great shining stars in our Jewish universe. Linda was an extraordinary human being. She was and always will be an inspiration to countless numbers for her boundless joy and optimism, her courage and tenacity. May Linda's righteous memory be for an everlasting blessing.*

In July 2016, Linda was presented with a framed "She Plants a Seed for the Future" Certificate in her honor. In September 2016, Linda lost her hard-fought battle with cancer. Linda Grife was a remarkable person who will be missed dearly by the entire synagogue and the Philadelphia Jewish community. At her funeral, her three brothers asked us to honor Linda's life and legacy by carrying out extra acts of lovingkindness each day to make the world a better place. The BTBJ Sisterhood and the BTBJ community is committed to carrying out this mission.

*Special thanks to Deena Friedland and Debbi Goldich for their input into this article.*

### **CANADIANS PLEASE NOTE:**

Please mail any SEEDS DONATIONS, along with your Transmittal Form & cheques, payable to

**Jewish Theological Society,  
3845 Bathurst St. #310, Toronto, ON M3H 3N2**

Marilyn

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Check out the New Torah Fund Guide and all the other materials to run a great campaign!  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/4fcgm1vx528ze9x/AADNqaT\\_GXwnbZaISMo\\_m6Ona?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/4fcgm1vx528ze9x/AADNqaT_GXwnbZaISMo_m6Ona?dl=0)

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Programs, membership ideas, education material, and more available  
at [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org)

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



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