



Chai Lines

International Northeast Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower
Conservative Jewish Women

January 20, 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

Click on name of article to go to that article.

- [FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT](#)
- [FROM THE EDUCATION VP](#)
- [FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE](#)
- [FROM THE REGION TORAH FUND VICE PRESIDENT](#)
- [NEED HELP? HELP IS AVAILABLE ON THE WLCJ WEBSITE](#)

Our Sincere Sympathy to

Helen Sieber on loss of her husband, Max.

FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT



Last week my daughter and I volunteered at a community kitchen which provides free, hot, nutritional, kosher meals in a welcoming and comfortable environment. The service is aimed particularly at seniors and families who are struggling financially, many with mental illnesses. Although these twice weekly dinners are sponsored by the Jewish community and meant for the disadvantaged, there are no questions asked at the door and everyone is served a three-course meal.

I am often in awe of the lofty goals that our community has set for itself, not to mention its accomplishments. I admire other traditions and their contributions to the world. I do not think Jews are better than others, more intelligent, creative, generous or successful. I admire other civilizations and traditions and believe each has brought something special into the world. But, as a Jewish woman, I am proud of my heritage, my faith and what we have contributed to humanity. We have a wonderful gift to give to future generations.

Through Women's League we can help to perpetuate what is uniquely ours - our heritage, our values, our land and our faith. *L'dor vador.*

Join us for **Women's League for Conservative Judaism Convention 2017**, July 23-26, in Arlington Virginia. Let us learn, pray and have fun together.

Shabbat Shalom,

Eleanor

diamondeleanor@gmail.com

514-458-6204

FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN

On this weekend when many sisterhoods observe Women's League Shabbat, I post a prayer to celebrate those who make it all possible—Our Valued Volunteers.

OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Adapted from a prayer written by Theresia M. Pennartz

Our God and Ruler of the Universe,
We know that the power of one kind heart
added to another and another gives birth to a legacy of love,
And yields a harvest of commitment to the lives of others,
Which lives beyond this very day.

So, in our prayers of thankfulness,
We lift our faces toward You and express
Much gratitude and praise for each and every Women's League volunteer.

As we look out over our community and turn our faces toward
This steady stream of love generated by
Hundreds upon hundreds of volunteer hours,
We become aware that love has and is
Enriching our lives, the lives of our families and friends,
The lives of our neighbors, and the lives of our fellow citizens.

We thank You God and Ruler of the Universe
for these love-filled volunteers,
And the rich blessings wrought upon our community,
By their compassionate hearts.
Bless the ever-giving hearts of these volunteers.
Amen.

FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



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

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

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](#).

New Outlook

In time for the inauguration on Friday, you might want to take a look at our [Profile of Myra Gutin](#), who is an expert on First Ladies. Give us feedback on our [website](#). We'd love to read your comments!



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

A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK CONVENTION UPDATES



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

CONVENTION 2017

Registration is open!

You can be among the first to register for Convention 2017! You need to log onto 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.

On Line Study Sessions

Convention will convene during the nine days between *rosh chodesh Av* and *Tishah b'Av*, traditionally considered a period of mourning with limitations on activities like listening to music and eating meat. To permit a meat meal on Tuesday night, we are hosting a *siyyum*, which is a short study session following our year-long study of the book of *Eikhah* (Lamentations) that is read on *Tishah b'Av*.

To prepare for the *siyyum*, Women's League is offering monthly on-line study sessions, from March through June, led by Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner (JTS), Rabbi Cheryl Peretz (Ziegler School of Rabbinics), Rabbi

Lilly Kauffman (Executive Director, Torah Fund).

Dates and topics of the study sessions will be posted shortly.

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, 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 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.

THIS WEEK IS Women's League Shabbat

Best wishes to all our sisterhoods that are celebrating this Shabbat.

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](#).

Annual Meeting



THE FRUIT OF OUR HANDS

1 Day ~ 3 Celebrations
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, 2017
A Day of Celebrating and Honoring the Sisterhoods of PSW

Welcome

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson
Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

Rabbi Cheryl Peretz
Associate Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

Dr. Robert Wexler
President, American Jewish University

Panel

Danielle Berrin
Senior Columnist at The Jewish Journal

Ivy Kagan Bierman
PSW Region Board Chair of ADL

Debbie Green
Assistant Dean, Graduate School
of Non-Profit Management, AJU

Nizan Steir Kokin
Ziegler student, Zacharias Frankel College Potsdam, Germany

Ronda Spinak
Co-Founder & Artistic Director of Jewish Women's Theatre

WLCJ Annual Open Board Meeting
Carol Simon, International President

American Jewish University
15600 Mulholland Drive, Bel Air, California 90077

9:30 Registration/ 10:00 Program
Continental Breakfast and Catered Lunch Included

Attendance by paid reservation only. Please use reply card sent with this invitation.

Our Celebration Finale will be "Entertainment with Surprises"

VIRTUAL TRIBUTE BOOK
Information will be arriving soon to let you know how
you can honor our Region, Torah Fund, Sisterhoods, Women's League and friends.

PSW Celebration ~ Reserve By February 20, 2017

Name _____ Sisterhood/City _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Guests included in this reservation: _____

Your Payment is Your Reservation

Before February 20, 2017: \$75/person Number of reservations _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

After February 20, 2017: \$85/person Number of reservations _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Sorry I cannot attend and wish to make a contribution of \$ _____

Credit Card Payment: PSW is authorized to charge my Visa or Mastercard in the amount of \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date __/__/____ 3-Digit code _____

or contact Kim Memar at (702) 429-0888 to give her your credit card information directly.

Please indicate your lunch entree(s): Chicken Picatta _____ Vegetarian (gluten free) _____

If you have special dietary restrictions, please contact Jina Rezvanpour at (310) 991-2509

Make checks payable to PSW WLCJ.

Return form with payment to: PSW Office, 15600 Mulholland Dr., Bel Air, CA 90077

We Look Forward To Seeing You!

Public Policy

Resolutions

The Public Policy and Resolutions Committee is looking to craft meaningful and timely resolutions for your consideration. If you have any specific requests or input, please contact Committee Chair [Marion Mayman](#).

United Nations

Holocaust Remembrance: Educating for a Better Future

Registration is open for the United Nations Holocaust Remembrance events in New York. The main event will be held in the General Assembly Hall on January 27, 2017. To register click [here](#).

The exhibition *State of Deception, the Power of Nazi Propaganda*, curated by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will be on display in the UN Visitors Lobby through March 2017.

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](#).

Next Distance Workshop



Women's
League

Torah Fund: Teapots & Testimonials

February 1

Everything you wanted to know about Torah Fund but were afraid to ask.

DISTANCE

WORK
SHOPS

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.

Jewels in the Crown Update



Every sisterhood should want to be a recipient of a **2017 Jewels in the Crown Award** for outstanding programming and involvement.

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.

**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



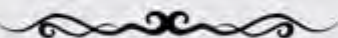
SHE PLANTS A SEED FOR THE FUTURE

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

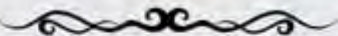
Gifts of \$1800 and higher will be
recognized in a permanent installation
at both campuses.

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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c) 416 518 1860

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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/h/4fcgm1vx528ze9x/AADNqaT_GXwnbZaISMm_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](#)