



Chai Lines

International Northeast Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower
Conservative Jewish Women

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FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT



This week we ushered in 2017.

As Jews, some of us are conflicted about celebrating a new year on January 1. We see the holiday as part of secular tradition and therefore not "Jewish." We choose not to participate, or participate half-heartedly, because we perceive it as being somehow unfaithful to Jewish tradition.

Whether or not we celebrate the beginning of the secular year 2017, the chance to be able to start again is always a tempting option. Most of us welcome any opportunity to rewind the clock to zero and move forward, fresh, and untainted by past errors. New possibilities energize our spirits.

Jewish tradition celebrates the ability to start over throughout the year. In Jewish life, every day, we are given the chance to begin again. For me, just setting the Shabbat table and lighting the Shabbat candles, although simple gestures, encapsulate the entire Jewish notion of a clean slate.

My hope for all of us – whether we observe a new secular year, a new month or a new day - is that we can celebrate building a better tomorrow. As committed members of Women's League, I hope we can rejoice in our accomplishments and work together to perpetuate the values and tenets of Conservative Judaism.

May you be blessed with good health and happiness.

Shabbat Shalom,

Eleanor

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FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN

On January 1, the secular new year, it is a tradition in our society to make resolutions to improve ourselves. Most of our promises are soon broken.

I don't make resolutions because I know my promises to lose weight, exercise more, keep my temper, etc., etc. would be broken within minutes.

Yet the one promise I make on January 1 as well as on Rosh Hashanah is to remember. I remember that we Jews were slaves in Egypt and outcasts in the most societies; I remember those Jews who died for their beliefs and those who lived for them; I remember that I am grateful to my grandparents like many others who arrived in the USA or Canada in the early 20th Century for coming to a country where we have freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom from want. I remember that, in the words from the a mid-sixteenth-century by John Bradford, "there but for the grace of God go I."

So I feel strongly that a society must be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable of its people.

So I post the following from the Children's Defense Fund's founder Marian Wright Edelman.

Shabbat Shalom
LOIS

A Prayer For The Children

By Marian Wright Edelman

We pray for the children
who sneak popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes. And we pray for those
who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,
who never "counted potatoes,"
who are born in places where we wouldn't be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for the children

who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.
And we pray for those
who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't find bread to steal,
who don't have rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We Pray for the Children
who spend their allowance before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
who never rinse out the tub,
who get visits from the tooth fairy,
who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
who squirm in church and scream in the phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and
whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those
Whose nightmares come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything
Who have never seen dentist,
Who aren't spoiled by anybody,
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
Who live and move, but have no being

We pray for the children
Who want to be carried and for those who must,
Who we never give up on and for those who don't get a second chance.
We pray for those we smother and for those who will grab the hand of
anybody kind enough to offer it.

FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 11: *Distance Workshop: Nominations*

January 21: *Women's League Shabbat*

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

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

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!



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

A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK CONVENTION UPDATE



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
CONVENTION 2017

Presidents kits

Special kits for sisterhood presidents will be in the mail next week. They will 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, 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.

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](#).

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

UN Report

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

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

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



Nominations

January 11

Creating realistic board structures. How do we fill the void?

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



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.

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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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

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](#)