



Chai Lines

International Northeast Region

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower
Conservative Jewish Women

March 31, 2017

Volume 2, Issue 50

HAPPY PASSOVER
from the Officers and Board of
the International Northeast Region
of Women's League



The Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide 5777

The Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide is a brief outline of the policies and procedures relevant to the preparation of a kosher for Pesah home.

This guide is intended to help families maintain a kosher for Pesah home in accordance with the principles of Conservative Judaism and its understanding of Jewish Law.

To download the Pesah Guide, click [here](#).

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The New International Northeast Region is online

This new site is full of information to help connect you with the region, its leaders, and its sisterhoods.

[To visit, click here.](#)



FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT



We all believe in the importance of Judaism. We believe in its wisdom, its spirituality, its meaning, its beauty, and its power to make people better and to make better people.

As Jews, we also love to argue. We argue with ourselves, with one another, and even with God. We all nod our heads in agreement when we hear the phrase, "Two Jews, three opinions." Jewish traditional learning places value upon provoking different opinions. The Talmud is full of such debates: different opinions are voiced, compared and tested.

As women engaged in our sisterhoods and in Women's League, we are often involved in complicated and sensitive issues. How we deal with these issues will almost always influence the results. Are we transparent and honest? Do we respect due process and something as simple as kindness and consideration? Do we care about the people who give their time, energy and heart to our sisterhoods? While attempting to attract new members, do we remember to honour the old ones? Do we celebrate happy moments, visit the sick, acknowledge sad times, and make people feel good about being involved?

We should strive to maximize the efforts of our volunteers to achieve what is best for our sisterhoods. We should work together to align and listen to the people around us with a vision and strategy for a common goal. I want to feel good about volunteering in my synagogue, my sisterhood and Women's League. We won't always agree on how things should be done, but we can agree to disagree with those that think differently from us and do that with courtesy and consideration. I believe we can work together in an atmosphere of civility and mutual respect. And although we may have different opinions, we should be willing to compromise in order to achieve what is best for our community.

Shabbat Shalom

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FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN

Passover is more than food.

It is a time to remember that we were once enslaved in both body and mind.

Thus it is a time to remember those who today are subjugated by political, economics, and/or cultural means.

Passover is the celebration of freedom.

Yet in every generation a pharaoh arises to challenge our way of life, our religion, and our freedom.

Thus every generation must fight for the continuation of freedom and then pass it on to the next generation.

L'dor v'dor.

This is one message of Passover.

Here is a song of the 1960's which could easily be a song we sing during our seders.

Happy Passover
Lois

Pass It On
Music by George Kleinsinger
Lyrics by Millard Lampell

Freedom doesn't come like a bird on the wing
Doesn't come like the summers rain
Freedom, freedom is a hard won thing
You got to work for it, fight for it,
Day and night for it
And every generation's got to win it again

Pass it on to your children, mother
Pass it on to your children, brother

You've got to work for it, fight for it
Day and night for it
Pass it on to your children
Pass it on.
And every generation's got to win it again.

[Click here to hear Judy Collins sing Pass It On](#)

from the 1964 album *This Land Is Your Land: Songs of Social Justice UAW*



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31: *Deadline for Jewels in the Crown applications*

May 8: *Personal Conversation: Celebrating the Shabbat Bride*

May 10: *Personal Conversation: Preserving Your Bloom*

May 15: *Early Bird deadline for Convention 2017*

Important notice: You receive these weekly emails because you are a leader in Women's League. It is your responsibility to share this information with women in your region and sisterhoods, as well as with friends and potential members of Women's League.

Please share the information below, especially the news about Amazon Prime, Convention 2017, and resolutions. Thank you!

Support Women's League the easy way!



You can help Women's League now by **shopping!** We have joined the Amazon Prime shopping experience. Shop for the items you love but initiate your shopping session through our website. Amazon will rebate a percentage of the sale back to Women's League. Without spending an additional dime, you will be helping Women's League continue to provide its outstanding services.

This is such a simple way to support Women's League with no additional costs on your part! **The only requirement is that you initiate your online shopping session through our website.** Click on the Amazon logo on the top of our [webpage](#) (near the Facebook icon) than click on the Amazon shopping cart on the next page. Do that for every purchase. And don't forget to ask your friends and family to do the same. Use our website and we get the rebate. How easy is that?

Happy shopping!

A Meaningful Mother's Day Gift



Once again, Women's League has joined **JWI** (Jewish Women International) in honoring women and children in domestic violence shelters. Through the annual Flower Project, JWI sends bouquets of flowers to shelters across the United States.

Here is how it works:

- Make a \$25 donation to JWI in honor of a special person.
- As a partner organization, Women's League receives a percentage of the donation.
- JWI sends a card, which will arrive by Mother's Day or Father's Day, stating that a contribution has been made in his or her honor.
- JWI uses proceeds to send flowers to more than 200 domestic violence shelters on Mother's Day.

We will be sending out more information soon.

Resolution for review

The first [resolution](#) being presented in our new open system is available for review and discussion on our website. Please take a look at the resolution on [religious pluralism in Israel](#) and leave your comments. We will ask all of our members to vote on accepting or rejecting the resolution immediately after Passover. There are several more resolutions being worked on by the resolutions committee.

Click [here](#) to read and comment.

Personal Conversations

May 8, 2017



Lekha Dodi: Celebrating the Shabbat Bride

Speaker: Author/Artist Debra Band

In preparation for Mother's Day, Debra Band reveals Kabbalistic puzzles in this ode to the Shabbat Bride. The talk will be via webinar so you can enjoy Debra's beautiful art work. Register [here](#).



**It's almost over: Jewels in the Crown Deadline
is this Friday, March 31**



CONVENTION UPDATES

Registration is open!

Log onto www.wlcj.org and choose **Convention 2017 Registration**. We are looking forward to welcoming you personally. **Early bird deadline is May 15.**

Eikhah Class One If you missed the extraordinary teaching of Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner, you can watch it now by clicking [here](#). You can also download the materials Anne discussed from the member document section of the [website](#). The next class with Rabbi Cheryl Peretz will be on April 25. Watch for registration.

Bid and Buy is back! This is your opportunity to bid on and purchase items like jewelry, artwork, dreidels, and more. Look for the table all day Sunday! Sisterhoods: if you would like to submit items, please contact Fran Radel

Moments in History from Women's League, regions and sisterhoods will introduce every session, large and small. Be sure to share your memorable moments asap. Send to [Lisa Kogen](#).

Check out [Convention Day-by-Day](#) for the latest information.

Virtual Ad Journal

Once again, Women's League is offering a wonderful, ecological and fun way to honor your sisterhood, region, new members of the Women's League board of directors, outgoing members of the board of directors, winners of Jewels in the Crown awards, women who were acknowledged by their regions in the next Women's League calendar/diary for being role models, etc. You are invited to support Women's League and honor your friends and "sisters" by clicking [here](#).

Special Convention project

Mathilde's Mentionables will be an ongoing chesed project of Women's

League. For Convention, we are collecting new and gently used undergarments for women in need in the Washington, DC area.



Women's League Reads

To listen to Lisa Kogen's interview with Betsy Lerner, author of *The Bridge Ladies*, click [here](#).

Distance Workshops



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.

The Bridge Ladies

A book review by Ruth Borsky, Region Book Chair

The Bridge Ladies by Betsy Lerner is definitely a memoir. It is the author's take on her mother's generation and her own Baby Boomers generation. It is also an attempt to "bridge" (pun intended) the gap between generations so that she can be closer to her mother as a daughter.

The "Bridge ladies," as Lerner calls her mother's group, are Roz, her mother, Bea, Bette, Jackie, and Rhoda. They are of the 50's generation where the "hair was frosted, nylons shimmery and patent leather pocketbooks carried every thing as they wore coordinated outfits." They are of the generation where you were expected to get married and have babies.

To be honest, these ladies cared about one another and each one's family, but they were not "gushers." They went through happy times (*bar/bat mitzvot* and children's weddings) as well as the deaths of children and husbands. As Betsy says, "Facebook may connect us across eternity, but it won't delivery a pot roast". The Bridge Ladies group was merely the vehicle that kept these friends constantly in touch and caring.

Betsy peppers her memoir with honest and personal tidbits about her travel towards independence and back again-marijuana, sex before marriage, life anywhere but New Haven and its Jewish community, and sessions on the couch of a psychiatrist. She can't stop her metaphoric comparisons and descriptions. "Gefilte fish is a tan and grey mixture in the shape of a miniature meteor that has been promoted to delicacy status." In her acknowledgements, she thanked her husband "who read every single draft and never stopped pushing me [like her mother] to do better, offering advice that always turned out to be exactly right. And I wanted to kill him."

The Bridge Ladies is not a new book. It is available at the library, Amazon.com, and electronically. It is the latest recommendation of WLCJ's book group. It is an honest memoir with a happy ending, but it takes a while to get there.

FROM THE TORAH FUND



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](#)



