



# Garden State Region

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

A publication of the Garden State Region of  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism



Volume 1 Issue 1

[www.wlcj.net/gsr](http://www.wlcj.net/gsr)

Fall 2008



## Garden State Region 1st General Meeting and Torah Fund Event

### **Conservative Judaism - The Next Generation**

Special Guest Speaker

**Rabbi Abigail Treu**

Jewish Theological Seminary Professor in the  
School of Talmudic and Rabbinic Studies

Oheb Shalom Congregation  
170 Scotland Road, South Orange, NJ

**Sunday, November 23, 2008**

Check-in at 9:30 pm

Brunch will be served at \$18 per person

RSVP by Nov. 10th to:

Sharon Barkauskas

9 Abingdon Street, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

## Garden State Region Executive Board

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*Please send all photographs as  
jpgs or tifs and articles in a word  
document or pdf.*



*Meryl Balaban, President*

## *President's Message*

In May, at our Region's installation I presented you with my vision for the Garden State Region for this coming year. I stated: "We need to put ourselves side by side, woman to woman, heart to heart and hand to hand, and bind ourselves one to the other – not looking at our differences but knowing that we're the same in our commitment and our goals, and what it takes to accomplish them. In the end it will be the goals we want to accomplish and the jobs we have to succeed at that will draw us together in our newly formed region. Change is not easy – but changes bring about vision. And friends, our Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the Conservative Movement is about VISION!" At the time I would not have predicted that by the first week in September, our officers and chairs have achieved just that! We have come together with our various degrees of experience, interests and personal visions and have truly created a new direction for the Garden State Region.

During the summer months we were preparing ourselves for the year. Our new Garden State Region logo was designed by an outside source and then further refined by our Communications Secretary, Sheila Kaufman. Our first edition of this Newsletter, designed and edited by Sheila, was compiled by just some of the chairwomen of our region. You will learn more about us and what Women's League can offer your sisterhoods throughout this edition and further editions during the year. With Betty Fertik, as our webmaster, our website will be completed by October. The web address can be found on the inside cover of this newsletter. Ilene Rothman, our Administrative Secretary, has crossed her "t's" and dotted her "i's" in editing our new Directory. All Sisterhood presidents and Board members will be receiving a copy in the mail. If you haven't sent in your sisterhood's profile report as of this date, please be sure to have it sent to me so that I can forward it to the Women's League office. Your sisterhood board will begin to receive valuable information that will assist them in reaching out to the membership of your sisterhood and synagogue.

Karen Mazal, the region's first Area Vice President, has set the bar with her area directors, Sue Hill, Lois Davis and Janice Saferstein. They, along with the assistance of Lynne WeissMarshall, in Area 2, have contacted all of the Sisterhood presidents in our four areas. Their own personal commitment to our region and Women's League is evident in their enthusiasm and outreach. With our "GPS" hooked up in our cars, we are each ready and able to visit your Sisterhood at a board meeting or program.

*(continued on next page)*

## *President's Message, continued*

Eileen Toll, Membership Vice President, has ideas galore to brainstorm with you and your own sisterhood membership vice president. Eileen's ideas presented in her upbeat manner will be sure to ignite all of the women. We are fortunate to have a young and vivacious Z'havah chair, Dana Lichtenberg. Dana recognizes the need and importance of creating venues for the women who are "under 45" in your synagogue. She will work with the presidents and membership vice presidents by sharing ideas for this age group and incorporating them into the mainstream of Sisterhood as well.

Janet Geldzahler, Torah Fund Vice President, has an enthusiastic group of women for each of our areas. Helayne Simon, Cindy Schechter, Rose Ann Rosenthal and Sebley Hausler, will help you educate the women on the importance of the perpetuation of Judaism through the Conservative Movement by supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Argentina. Torah Fund, which is Women's League financial commitment to the education of the Conservative/Masorti Movement, is a consistent line item in the budget of these institutions. Our Region's Torah Fund event will take place on Sunday, November 23rd at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange. Sisterhoods who have exceeded their goals will be recognized and given awards.

The Women's League Biennial Convention will be held in Dearborn, MI from November 9th-12th. Our region's 48 sisterhoods will have a very large delegation attending. If you haven't registered, there is still time to be part of the excitement and ruach. Contact Sharon Barkauskas, our co-convention liaison for further information.

I've only touched upon a handful of the women who are making a difference for us in the Garden State Region. I am proud to be part of such an exciting group of Jewish women who will inevitably "leave their mark" on the history and foundation of the Garden State Region, Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

I wish you and your families a year filled with good health, love, and peace.

Lshana Tova!  
Meryl Balaban  
President, Garden State Region, WLCJ

## *Dates to Remember*



<i>Sept. 29-Oct. 1</i>	<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>
<i>October 9</i>	<i>Yom Kippur</i>
<i>October 13-20</i>	<i>Sukkot</i>
<i>October 21</i>	<i>Shemini Atzeret</i>
<i>October 22</i>	<i>Simchat Torah</i>
November	Jewish Book Month
<b>November 9-12</b>	<b>WLCJ Biennial Convention</b> Detroit, Michigan
<b>November 23</b>	<b>Garden State Region</b> <b>1st Annual General Meeting &amp;</b> <b>Torah Fund Event</b> Oheb Shalom Congregation
<i>November 27</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
<i>December 22-29</i>	<i>Chanukah</i>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>WL Sisterhood Shabbat</b>
March	Women's History Month Orpah II
<i>March 10</i>	<i>Purim</i>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Region Board Meeting</b>
<i>April 9-16</i>	<i>Passover</i>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>End of year rap-up &amp; Board Meeting</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Garden State Region</b> <b>Conference &amp; Installation</b>

### **Name the Newsletter!**

As you can see this "newsletter" does not have a name! Here is your chance to make history. Send in your "Newsletter Name" with your name and Sisterhood by Dec. 15 to sheila.kaufman@comcast.net and let's see what the next issue will be called. Winners will be named in that issue!!

## *Area Vice President, Karen Mazal*

I'm Karen Mazal, the Area Vice President of the new Garden State Region ~ Women's League for Conservative Judaism. This is such an exciting time for all of us. We are blazing a new trail for Women's League and bringing new opportunities to our Sisterhoods with improved communications and a great team of communicators!

Garden State Region has been divided into four areas; each with their own Area Director and Torah Fund Director. Our Area Directors are there to communicate with the Sisterhoods, and they are accessible to help answer questions and navigate challenges.

### **Area 1**

Sue Hill, [suzstchs@msn.com](mailto:suzstchs@msn.com), (201) 445-0684.

- (Closter) Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood
- (Fair Lawn) Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood
- (Fair Lawn) Fair lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood
- (Fort Lee) Jewish Community Center of Fort Lee/Gesher Shalom Sisterhood
- (Glen Rock) Glen Rock Jewish Center Sisterhood
- (Leonia) Congregation Sons of Israel Sisterhood
- (New Milford) Beth Tikvah New Milford Jewish Center Sisterhood
- (Paramus) Jewish Community Center of Paramus Sisterhood
- (Passaic) Passaic "Y" Sisterhood
- (Ridgewood) Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center Sisterhood
- (Teaneck) Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
- (Woodcliff Lake) Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley

### **Area 2**

Lynne WeissMarshall, [weissmar@optonline.net](mailto:weissmar@optonline.net), (732) 583-0093 and Karen Mazal, [kmanmaz@aol.com](mailto:kmanmaz@aol.com), (973) 328-1082

- (Clark) Temple Beth Or/Beth Torah Sisterhood
- (Cranford) Beth El/ Mekor Chayim Sisterhood
- (Metuchen) Congregation Neve Shalom Sisterhood
- (Millburn) Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood
- (Scotch Plains) Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood
- (Somerset) Temple Beth El Sisterhood
- (South Orange) Congregation Beth El Sisterhood
- (South Orange) Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom
- (Springfield) Women's League of Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael
- (Staten Island) B'nai Jeshurun Sisterhood
- (Summit) Summit Jewish Community Center Sisterhood

- (Union) Congregation B'nai Ahavath Shalom Sisterhood

### **Area 3**

Janice Saferstein, [copre21@yahoo.com](mailto:copre21@yahoo.com), (732) 238-6712

- (Aberdeen) Temple Beth Ahm Sisterhood
- (Brick) Temple Beth Or Sisterhood
- (East Brunswick) East Brunswick Jewish Center Sisterhood
- (Edison) Beth El Jewish Center Sisterhood
- (Highland Park) Highland Park Conservative Temple CAE Sisterhood
- (Marlboro) Marlboro Jewish Center Congregation - Ohev Shalom
- (North Brunswick) Congregation B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood
- (Oakhurst) Temple Beth-El Sisterhood
- (Ocean) Temple Beth Torah Sisterhood
- (Old Bridge) Congregation Beth Ohr Sisterhood
- (Rumson) Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood
- (Toms River) Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood

### **Area 4**

Lois Davis, [loisdavis11@optonline.net](mailto:loisdavis11@optonline.net) (973) 331-7835

- (Caldwell) Congregation Agudath Israel Sisterhood
- (Livingston) Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood
- (Montclair) Congregation Shomrei Emunah Sisterhood
- (Montville) Pine Brook Jewish Center Sisterhood
- (Morris Plains) Adath Shalom Sisterhood
- (Morristown) Morristown Jewish Center Beit Israel Sisterhood
- (Newton) Jewish Center of Sussex Country Sisterhood
- (Pompton Lakes) Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
- (Rockaway) White Meadow Temple Sisterhood
- (Verona) Congregation Beth Ahm Sisterhood
- (Wayne) Congregation Shomrei Torah
- (West Orange) Congregation B'nai Shalom

The women on my team, joined by Janet Geldzahler and her Torah Fund team, Eileen Toll, Sheila Kaufman, and Ilene Rothman, Sharon Barkauskas and a host of other women are dedicated to sharing a wealth of knowledge and expertise with any "sister" in our organization. At the helm, of course, is our incredible Garden State Region President, Meryl Balaban. I can't imagine a more dynamic and collaborative group of women to spend time with.

We are all busy women trying to find a balance in life. Without our Jewish traditions, we would certainly be un

*(continued on page 5)*

## *Membership Vice President, Eileen Toll*

I have spent the latter part of August reaching out to Sisterhood presidents to try to get the names and contact information of your Sisterhood Membership Vice Presidents or Chairs as well as your Z'hava Chairs. If I have not reached you please feel free to contact me and provide the requested information. I am looking forward to keeping an open dialogue with our Sisterhoods concerning membership – including building and retaining membership. I offer my assistance and ideas, as well as the support and resources of International Women's League, to help make this a successful membership year!

Women's League has a myriad of resources for you – both in publications and personnel – starting with me. My personal philosophy is that everything a Sisterhood does is a membership opportunity. Your programs, your fundraising, education . . . are all opportunities to attract members. Dana Lichtenberg, our Region's Z'hava Chair and Rosalie Kesselman, a past Branch President and our Region's Retention Chair, are here to answer your questions and offer support.

Keep in mind that our members are our most valuable asset. **Everything** you need to do can be summed up in five phrases:

- We're glad you're here!
- It pays to be a Sisterhood member!
- Did you know that sisterhood did THIS!
- We couldn't have done this without you!
- Thank you for all you do and continue to do!

Offer free membership for one year to new synagogue members and be sure Sisterhood information is included in New Member Kits that synagogues often provide for new members.

Attitude is contagious – and keep in mind that a free member will become a dues-payment member when:

- She understands what sisterhood is all about because she was given a New Members Welcome kit
- She knows everyone's name because you use name tags at meeting
- She has someone to sit with because you have a mentor system
- She finds activities and programs that interest her
- She feels valued and important because you thank members for supporting programs and events
- She feels valued because you have taken the time to make a phone call or meet with her personally

**Toot your own horn.** Many of your members may not be fully aware of what your Sisterhood does for your synagogue, your congregation and your community. Be sure to submit articles to your synagogue's newsletter for congregation-wide publication; place notices of upcoming events in local newspapers; be sure that a Sisterhood representative meets regularly with your clergy so that they know what you're doing and can publicize it from the pulpit; create a Sisterhood brochure or bookmark highlighting the benefits of Sisterhood membership, its accomplishments, its goals and place on seats in the sanctuary or for distribution to nursery or religious school students and their families; include lots of Sisterhood information with your dues statement, i.e. your upcoming calendar of activities, list of officers and activity chairs with contact information, Sisterhood brochure – most importantly, please don't forget that

*Your sisterhood is affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the world's largest network of synagogue women. By joining sisterhood you add your voice to an international organization grounded in Jewish observance and tradition that is committed to repairing the world in which we live. Women's League supports the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles) and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem).*

Eileen Toll  
Membership Vice President, Garden State Region, WLCJ  
(973) 758-9368 / EToll1956@aol.com

### *Area Vice President continued from p. 4*

balanced. We all work hard to provide the essentials for our families, and time is in short supply. We at Women's League for Conservative Judaism are here to share and care. Our resources will help to enrich your life with Judaic knowledge, offer opportunities for involvement in contemporary issues, and foster long-term friendships that form when we all work together to perpetuate the continuation of Masorti Judaism. Make the time to explore our new Garden State Region. You will be glad that you did!

Karen Mazal  
Area Vice President, Garden State Region, WLCJ  
(973) 328-1082 / kmanmazz@aol.com

***Torah Fund Vice President, Janet Geldzahler***

*Lev va Nefesh* means heart and soul. This is our theme for the Women’s League Biennial Convention and the 2008-2009 Torah Fund pin. I cannot think of a more perfect premise for this years campaign, because it encourages us to understand our commitment to the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and the Seminario Rabinico Latinamericano, and to keep Torah Fund deep in our hearts and souls.

Our Torah Fund pin beautifully portrays the essence of our theme and, when worn, will depict our steadfast and heartfelt commitment to Conservative/Masorti Judaism. By wearing this pin, you will become our best source of publicity, illustrating the significance of supporting both our movement and our institutions of higher learning. You will set an example for others to follow!

Garden State Region is divided into four regions with its own Torah Fund Directors for you to speak with throughout the year.

**Area 1**

Helayne Simon, helayne\_simon@nyce.net, (201) 569-4420

**Area 2**

Sebley Hausler, billh01@msn.com, (732) 388-8060

**Area 3**

Rose Rosenthal, rap0104@aol.com, (732) 249-6289

**Area 4**

Cindy Schechter, cschech@optonline.net, (973) 403-8654



*Janet Geldzahler, GSR Torah Fund VP, showing off the Torah Fund presentation board at a GSR Torah Fund meeting in August 2008.*



*Torah Fund meeting in August 2008. From left to right-Sharon Barkauskas, GSR Treasurer; Janet Geldzahler, GSR VP Torah Fund; Eileen Toll, GSR VP Membership; Meryl Balaban, GSR President*

May you continue to go from strength-to-strength with Lev va Nefesh. Looking forward to seeing you at Convention November 9, in Detroit, and at our Torah Fund event on November 23, at Oheb Shalom, in South Orange!

Janet Geldzahler

Torah Fund Vice President, Garden State Region, WLCJ  
(973) 992-2053 / JGParties@yahoo.com

*Don't forget to wear your Torah Fund pin!*



.....  
**• We want your sisterhood articles and photographs?**  
 .....  
 • Send in your photographs and articles about any programs that you would like to share with your Garden State Region and WLCJ women!  
 • Send to sheila.kaufman@comcast.net  
 .....

## *Twinning Report*

Hello! My name is Michelle Cohen, and I am very pleased to be our Regional liaison for the wonderful Masorti Program WLCJ supports called the “Twin With Me” program. This program is a fantastic mitzvah project- an outstanding opportunity for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah children to be “twinned” with a child in Israel (there are 30 schools in Israel for special needs Bar/Bat Mitzvah training through the Masorti movement) who has a range of disabilities and needs economic supports in order to acquire many of the following items: money for Kiddush Cup, Cantorial lessons, a talit, a kippah, adaptive equipment, and other necessities our own children/grandchildren often take for granted as a “given right”.

The participating child here will receive a photo of the twin in Israel and a short biography of the twin, as well as a beautiful (suitable for framing) certificate for their participation, but nothing will compare to the amount of satisfaction for having supported such a worthy mitzvah project!

Late last Spring when I first accepted this position, a mailing was sent out to all Sisterhood Presidents in the Region introducing the program and myself and offering additional

information if needed. We did secure one new “Twin” over this summer from this mailing, and have mailed out several informational DVD’s on the program to various interested individuals throughout the region since. I hope to concentrate this Fall and Winter on presenting this program to religious school directors in the Region, a recommendation made by a temple assistant rabbi that works closely with Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and suggested this as another venue for me to explore.

Let’s not forget that this does not have to be JUST for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah students - ANYONE can participate in supporting this Mitzvah Project- an entire sisterhood, a congregation, a school, an individual - the possibilities are all there and available.

Any ideas or suggestions are always welcome. May everyone have a healthy and sweet New Year!

Michelle Cohen  
Disabilities Chair, Garden State Region, WLCJ  
amcoh93@msn.com



### **WITH STRENGTH & SPLENDOR: Jewish Women as Agents of Change**

*With Strength and Splendor* is an engrossing look at 48 Jewish women who have made significant — and often overlooked — contributions to modern life. Author Lisa Kogen (Women’s League Education Director) presents such fascinating stories as that of silent film vamp Theda Bara; award-winning children’s author Judy Blume; Frances Slanger, the army nurse who was the first female casualty after D-Day; fashion icon Carrie Marcus Neiman; Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and dozens more.

You will laugh, you will cry, you will be surprised, and you will be in awe. Additional sidebars feature unusual and often humorous complementary information. Find out about the Barbie Dolls that offended, crazy fad diets, banned chil-



dren’s books, and birth control methods from the pantry and the garden.

You’ll find a bit of your Grandma Rose, your mama and Aunt Tessie. And your Jodi or Sydney or Talia will find the inspiration to dream dreams and to act on them.

You can order your copy at the pre-publication price of \$29.95, by calling (212) 870.1260, extension #7165.

## Israeli News

### B' Lee Harabbanut

#### The Wedding Game: The Masorti Movement's Response

In Israel when a couple wishes to get married, only Orthodox Rabbis, approved by the Rabbanut, the office of the chief Rabbi can perform the ceremony. The religious official is the representative of the government but only the Orthodox establishment can be that representative. Conservative and Reform Rabbis cannot officiate without the presence of an Orthodox Rabbi.

Two summers ago my husband and I attended three weddings in Israel over the course of five days. Conservative rabbis officiated at two of the three weddings. The third wedding which took place on the beach in Caesaria at sundown on a Friday afternoon had no Rabbi at all, other than my husband who was a guest. In each situation, the couples and their families wanted a religious ceremony but according to their view of Judaism, not the Orthodox one. All three couples had separate civil ceremonies in other countries. More and more people who are committed Jews but do not feel comfortable with the Orthodox establishment or secular Jews have opted to get married "belee harabbanut" without the Rabbinat. Some couples go to Cyprus and have civil ceremony and then come back to Israel and have a Conservative or Reform Rabbi perform a religious ceremony. American couples may have a civil ceremony in the United States and then arrange for a religious ceremony in Israel with their Rabbi from the US. The civil ceremony is performed separately from the religious ceremony.

Recently, the Conservative movement in Israel, called Masorti or traditional Judaism has reached out to the Israeli population who want to have a meaningful religious marriage ceremony in Israel, which better reflects their religious practices and views. They launched a advertising blitz called "Play the Wedding Game" which allows Israelis the opportunity to explore religious options for their weddings just as they explore catering, music and other aspects of their simcha. The response has been overwhelming.

<http://conservativejew.blogspot.com/2008/06/weddings-in-israels.html>

In the first three days, there were more than 25,000 people who responded. As expected there was a negative response from some Orthodox leaders who do not see the Masorti movement as legitimate. However, the response of the Israeli population indicates that they hit a responsive chord. "B'lee Harabbanut" does not mean without Rabbis and Judaism but rather challenges the Orthodox monopoly on marriages in Israel. As stated by Rabbi Tamar Elad-Applebaum the director of the Masorti Wedding Initiative, "Play the Wedding Game" is "an innovative creative strategy... to reach today's young Israeli couples who are seeking to renew ties to their Jewish tradition and heritage in accordance with their personal values, which are open to the realities of modern life."

Sharon Hammerman  
Israel Chair, Garden State Region, WLCJ  
sfhammermn@aol.com



#### **Garden State Region Donation Opportunities**

##### **Garden State Region Scholarship Fund Ella Berman Memorial Fund**

To provide scholarships for leadership development opportunities.

##### **Garden State Region Sunshine Fund**

To support members of the Board in their time of need.

Checks should be made payable to: Garden State Region-WLCJ  
Mail to: Sharon Barkauskas, 9 Abingdon Street, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

*NNJ Past Presidents gather at Janet Arnowitz's home this past summer. From l to r: Heddy Belman; Florence Belfer, WL Jewish Braille Chair; Janet Arnowitz; Miriam Bergwerk; Marion Mohl; Evelyn Auerbach, NNJ Past President and International WL President; Barbara Goldfarb; Penny Leifer.*

## International News



### WOMEN'S LEAGUE CONVENTION

#### The Best Yet!

It's not too late to join your region sisters at the Women's League Biennial Convention in Detroit, November 9-12! There is time on the schedule for each region's delegation to meet and get to know each other better and there will be opportunities for developing personal skills and leadership talents. You also give yourself the gift of study with outstanding scholars and movement leaders.

Women's League is going green, so all registration is online at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org). For assistance, call (212) 870.1263.

From the Women's League Network, came this countdown from one of our own!

**D**edication  
**E**nergize  
**T**remendous  
**R**ejoyceful  
**O**ath  
**I**nvigorating  
**T**roops

Thank you to Gidget Friedman, Temple Torah in Ocean, New Jersey part of Garden State Region for #94 in our countdown to Convention.

### CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

#### Soul Food: Mitzvot

Professor Arnold Eisen, JTS chancellor, will challenge you to fill your lives with mitzvot, from the ordinary to the extraordinary, and Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, will illuminate the road to spiritual fulfillment and communal rejuvenation.

#### The Heart of the Matter: Women's Health

A conversation with Drs. Ruth Lerman, Barbara Levin and Rhoda Pomerantz will demonstrate how our physical health and spiritual well-being are intricately intertwined.

#### Israel at 60

Rabbi Danny Nevins, dean of the JTS rabbinical school, will explore ways to keep Israel in our hearts at all times.

#### The Jewish View

Writers Naomi Rosenblatt, Maggie Anton, and Ilana Blumberg will chat about writing books for and about Jewish women.

### HEART & SOUL

#### The 2008-2009 Program Theme

The relationship between heart and soul, body and spirit -- recognized two thousand years ago by the rabbis -- has now moved to center stage in public conversations as clergy and health care professionals emphasize the sympathetic connection of our physical to our emotional beings. Heart and Soul is the theme for the Women's League Biennial Convention, Divrei Hokhmah, and Torah Fund campaign theme for this year.

### CALLING ALL KNITTERS

If anyone from your sisterhood has knitted or crocheted scarves, etc. for Convention and did not have a chance to send them in...bring them with you to Convention! They will not make it to the table centerpieces but will definitely be distributed to the needy!

*Please let your sisterhood members know about it!*

## *International News*

### **YOM KIPPUR TEKHINE SAID WHEN FASTING**

This tekhine, an East European Yiddish prayer written for (and sometimes by) women, is just one of the many wonderful texts you'll find in this year's Divrei Hokhmah from

Women's League, mini-study sessions to be used to open each meeting. You can download the entire set of Divrei Hokhmah at [www.wlcj.org/EducationPrograms](http://www.wlcj.org/EducationPrograms).

May my tears wash away  
My worst troubles,  
And may my repentance  
Strike away Your anger  
When you judge me.

Accept my table  
As a substitute  
For the holy sacrificial altar.

And let the pot  
That I have not placed  
On the coal fire  
Be the fire  
On the sacrificial altar.

And let the listlessness  
Of my blood through fasting,  
Be the sacrificial blood  
That was dashed on the horns  
Of the altar.

And let my shrinking flesh  
Be the fat  
That was poured  
Onto the altar.

And let the sound  
Of my weeping  
Be the song  
That the Levites sang,  
At the offering.

And let the taste of hunger  
In my mouth  
Be the scent  
Of incense.

And let the weakness  
Of my limbs  
Be a substitute  
For the gasping  
Of the sacrifice.

And let my broken heart  
Tear to shreds  
All evil decrees,  
And let my bath  
That I avoid today  
Represent the washing of the priests  
In the Temple.

And in my turning to You  
May you turn to me,  
And to all Israel.  
Amen.



### **ELECTION YEAR ACTIVITY GUIDE**

Every vote counts! In 2000, George Bush won the state of Florida by just over 500 votes. School budgets, impacting local budgets by millions of dollars are often approved by less than five votes.

Your sisterhood can help make this difference. Use this year's Election Year Activity Guide for Sisterhoods to help get out the vote, provide meet the candidates events, focus on issues.

Why?

Although Jews comprise a small minority, our high voter turn-out has made the difference in many elections. It is

imperative that we continue to make voter turn-out a priority and a cultural norm.

We are citizens of representative democracies and should participate to the extent that we can in the process.

As a community with immigrant roots, we need to cherish the right to vote.

Every sisterhood president received a copy of the guide in the recent sisterhood activity kit from Women's League. If you would like more information, please call (212) 870.1260.

## International News

### 2008 ORPAH'S LIST BOOK SELECTION

#### *The Faith Club*

by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner

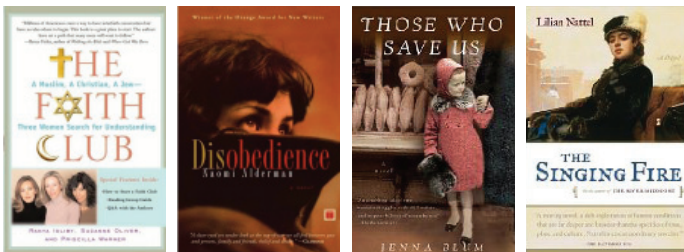
*The Faith Club* – the first work of non-fiction that Women's League is recommending for the Orpah's List selection – is a fascinating account of three women of the Abrahamic faiths – Idliby is a Muslim of Palestinian descent, Oliver a Christian, and Warner a Jew – who met regularly to seek common ground. Their initial goal was to write a children's book on these commonalities. But the three soon realized that they had to first understand each other before they could pursue their original goal. The women grapple with topics from those of personal piety to a highly tense discussion over Israel-Palestine issues.

In addition to this stimulating narrative of women engaging with each other on matters of religion and politics, the authors offer step-by-step assistance to others who would like to create their own interfaith discussion groups. Included in an appendix in English, Hebrew and Arabic are a conversation with the authors, a comprehensive guide for setting up a faith club, and a helpful brief guide to the basic tenets of belief of all three religions.

This is an ideal tool for sisterhoods and their book clubs to engage in many of the deeply sensitive issues that confound and conflict us all as citizens of the world.

The publisher, Simon and Schuster, is providing WLCJ members a 40% discount for purchases of 10+ copies. We will e-mail the order form and study guide on request. Contact Maxine Frye, [mfrye@wlcj.org](mailto:mfrye@wlcj.org) for more information. Guides for the other books selected for Orpah's List are available for members at [www.wlcj.org/MyWLCJ](http://www.wlcj.org/MyWLCJ):

- *Disobedience* by Naomi Alderman
- *Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum
- *The Singing Fire* by Lilian Nattel



### We Won!!

Thanks to the hard work of Esther Schwarz, our region was put into a drawing for a \$125 scholarship sponsored by Women's League to be used for a first time delegate to Convention.

The lucky Garden State Region winner is:

**Gidget Friedman**

### Sisterhood Activity Kit

Check with your sisterhood president for these helpful materials sent by Women's League during August:

- Blueprint for Membership revised, with more information than ever.
- The 2008 Elections, an activity guide for sisterhoods.
- Sisterhood by Design from the education department
- Public Relations & You with tips and new art.
- The World We Live In for public policy and community service.
- WWW.WLCJ.ORG News with lots of ideas from our website.
- Five new pages for your Sisterhood Planner.
- Information from our partners at Mercaz, Torah Fund, the Jewish Women's Studies MA Program at JTS, the Shabbat Eco-candle program.
- Pamphlets about our tikkun olam tzedakah projects.

### WWW.WLCJ.ORG

#### Study from the Web

Don't start a meeting without some serious Jewish learning. You can now download all four years of Divrei Hokhmah:

- The Book of Proverbs
- The Ten Commandments
- Kol Ishah
- Heart & Soul

### Crafts for the High Holidays

You can also find creative Judaic arts projects just in time for Rosh Hashanah on MyWLCJ. Directions are for an apple and honey dish, fiber postcards, and a family sukkah decorating project.

## *Leagrams*

**Lois & Barry Davis**

*Bat Mitzvah of daughter*

**Esther Schwarz**

*Mazel Tov on graduation of granddaughters from high school and elementary school*

**Karen & Brian Mazal**

*Mazel Tov on marriage of Reina*

**Janet & Jerry Geldzahler**

*Engagement of daughter Amy*

**Fran Katz**

*Mazel Tov on your 45th wedding anniversary*

**Sheila Kaufman**

*Appreciation for efforts in designing the new letterhead for the Garden State Region, WLCJ*

**Sandy Bernoff**

*Speedy Recovery from by-pass surgery*

**Sharon & Richard Hammerman**

*Mazel Tov on wedding of daughter Yael & Joshua*

**Karen & Brian Mazal**

*Mazel Tov on your 35th wedding anniversary*

**Rose Ann Rosenthal**

*Speedy Recovery from broken foot*

**Bonnie Sturm**

*Condolences on death of father-in-law Irving Sturm*

**Janet & Alan Arnowitz**

*Mazel Tov on 40th wedding anniversary*

**Marlene Oslick**

*Speedy Recovery from broken toe*

**Suzie Hammer**

*Speedy Recovery from broken foot*

**Rose Ann & Gary Rosenthal**

*Mazel Tov on marriage of granddaughter Gittel*



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