



Chai Line

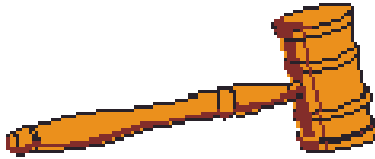
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM INTERNATIONAL NORTHEAST REGION



December, 2011 Kislev, 5771

Editor: Lois Silverman

President: Fran Caine



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the happy holiday of Hanukkah, I hope you will enjoy these days with family and friends.

I want to thank all of you for working towards your goals. Our tasks have been learning experiences for all of us.

My last few months have been very busy as I learn how to fulfill my task as President. I have had conference calls and webinars. I had heard of webinars, but I had never participated in one. Last week I took part in the WLCJ webinar about Facebook and Twitter as forms of communications; the teachers were knowledgeable and enthusiastic about using both Facebook and Twitter as our future means of communications.

We hope to have a Leadership Training Institute this summer. Rusty Zackheim has offered to host the program at Temple Beth Tzedek, Buffalo. I will be sending more information soon. I want to thank Rusty and the Temple Beth Tzedek Sisterhood for always being ready to help our region.

This week I attended a very interesting Sisterhood meeting at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth An Sisterhood. They had Rabbi Jennifer Gorman as their guest speaker. Rabbi Gorman is the executive director of Mercaz Canada. She was very informative and an excellent speaker. I gave greeting and updates from INR.

Early in January Canadian Seaway Area will start planning a spring program.

Congratulations to the New York State area for planning a get-together in Schenectady this spring. Details will be coming soon.

I hope you are planning to attend the WLCJ Convention on December 2-5, 2012 at the JW Marriott in Summerlin, Nevada, a suburb of Las Vegas. I am preparing: I just got a cute little coin bank, vacation in bold letter on the front. I am adding convention to the wording; I will try to put my loose change in every day.

I would love to hear about your Sisterhood Shabbat programs.

Happy Hanukkah

Bon Voyage to the travelers.

Bundle up warm –to the rest of us.

Fran

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fcaine@wlcj.org



*From
the International Northeast Region*

Visit the
International
Northeast Region
Website

at

www.wlcj.net/inr

Many interesting
articles and links.

TORAH FUND UPDATE



women ensuring Conservative/Masorti Jewish education

Regional Interest in Torah Fund
Ruth Borsky, Torah Fund Director, New York State Area

Jeanie Weisberg of the Sisterhood of Temple Adath Yeshurun in Syracuse proudly announces that her granddaughter, Elizabeth Heather Krusch was accepted to early admissions to the dual JTS/ Columbia graduate program in the coming Fall semester.

Two summers ago, Elizabeth, daughter of Drs. Deborah and David Krusch, Pittsford, New York joined her entire family (sister, brother, uncles, parents and grandmother) on a sojourn to Israel. This was a temple Adath Yeshurun trip led by Rabbis Charles and Erez Sherman. Lizzie, (as she was known to all on the trip) loved the country and explored, with fondness, her Jewish heritage.

Elizabeth is in the 99th percentile of her graduation class. She has opted to accept the early admissions offer to JTS. Her grandmother, Jean Weisberg, is an avid supporter of Torah Fund at TAY, which is part of INR. Now our regional Sisterhoods have a personal interest in continuing support for Torah Fund.

The Torah Fund Mission

To give every person an opportunity to participate in preserving, promoting, and perpetuating Conservative/Masorti Jewish education through active giving to the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism in support of The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano.



Hiddur Mitzvah
הידור מצוה

Send all mail to:
JTS
Torah Fund Campaign
3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-4649

For Canada only:
Dennis Maister
Jewish Theological Society
491 Lawrence Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M5M 1C7
Canada

FROM Z'HAVAH CHAIR

Hi! My name is Cheryl Maser and I am the *Z'havah* chair for our region.

Do you currently have a *Z'havah* chapter as part of your Sisterhood? Or are you trying to find ways to gain more members and are looking for ways to connect with younger women?

As stated on the Women's League website:

Are the young women in your congregation looking for:

- Interaction with their peers?
- Jewish study on their level?
- Opportunities to help others?
- Friendship and camaraderie?
- Support and encouragement?
- Parenting tips?
- Leadership skills?
- Play groups, childcare, help finding the right school?



Z'havah gives younger members of Women's League sisterhoods a point of focus and connection with the larger organization. It is a mechanism to reach younger, unaffiliated women who are not yet aware of Sisterhood.

There is a lot of information in the *Z'havah* Planner, available after signing into the Women's League website (www.wlclj.org), or you can contact me directly and I have lots of ideas to share with you.

Cheryl Maser

chm113085@gmail.com

315-868-2862

FROM PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL CHAIR

Did you know that INR has a Past President's Council? We meet by phone conference and discuss ways we can support our sisterhoods, stay involved and stay in touch with each other. We have discussed the need for all of our archives to be placed on disk and housed in one place. A suggestion was made to see if there was a student who might be looking for a project who would take this on for each of our areas in the region. Important documents and pictures are scattered within each area, and the time has come to put them all together. If you know of someone in your area or might be able to help with this project, please let me know and I will pass the information along to our archivist, Jessica Many.

We also discussed the possibility of Walk-A-Thon called a "Bridge of Hope." Nancy Bloom has volunteered to coordinate this project. The idea involves having our sisterhood members walk on the same day at the same time for the purpose of raising funds to be distributed to a cause such as domestic violence or a women's shelter in each area. The idea of having all women walk at the same time and date is a way to unify our region which is so scattered geographically and bring women of our region together in spirit. We will keep you posted as plans for this project move along.

Rusty Zackheim

Past President's Council Chair

FROM THE EDUCATION V.P.

Shalom,

In each edition of Chai Lines I will share something that you can pass along. As your Education VP I am always available to help you with your education programming throughout the year. Please let me know how I can help you.

Ellen Jadd ejbj32@aol.com or by phone, 716 510-7670.

Latkes

Today there are so many variations of the little fried pancake that I couldn't list them all. Last year I participated in a Latke Fry-off. Five of us each prepared a different type of Latke which were sampled at a Hanukkah program and voted upon. Would you believe that the ones I made, from our own Agudat Achim's, Divine Kosher Cuisine, the Tex-Mex Latkes won! It was a fun program for everyone to enjoy!

What makes a potato pancake a latke? Potato latkes weren't originally a part of Hanukkah cuisine. A latke, is not just a pancake made from potatoes, it's a potato pancake with a poor man's pedigree, a history, a tradition and a neshamah, a soul. A lot to expect from a little pancake? Just as the menorah (originally an oil lamp) plays an integral part in the religious practice of the holiday, so does the potato latke, for most Ashkenazi Jews, play a starring role in the holiday's culinary tradition.

Over the centuries, those who wanted to observe the tradition of cooking in oil developed recipes using ingredients available in the countries in which they lived. Jews who settled in the Middle East or around the Mediterranean use fresh-pressed olive oil to fry their holiday foods, because Hanukkah falls at the end of the olive-pressing season, just as it did in the days of the Maccabees. Italian and Moroccan Jews serve such dishes as chicken fried in olive oil, and Greek, North African and Turkish Jews make different kinds of olive oil-fried puffs of dough for dessert.

The word latke derives from Yiddish, the Jewish language spoken by East European Jews. For Jewish villagers living in Russia or Poland, pickings were slim in winter, and potatoes were cheap and available from the root cellar. Grating and making potatoes into little patties to be fried, millions of Jewish mothers provided sustenance to their hungry children with just a few potatoes and very little fuel. Because there weren't any olives to press in Eastern Europe schmaltz, fat rendered from a chicken, duck or goose, was used as well.

There is no single correct latke. Some like their latkes made with coarsely grated potatoes, others with finely grated ones. For binding, some prefer flour and others matzo meal. Purists like their latkes to be all potatoes, often with a pinch of onion, while the more daring might add grated carrots or other vegetables such as Jerusalem artichokes. (From the Idaho potato assoc.)

Check out this award winning recipe: Tex-Mex Latkes from Divine Kosher Cuisine, catering to family & friends. Shared with permission. Agudat Achim-Cookbook, to order contact them at www.divinekosher.com.



RECIPE

These freeze and refreeze beautifully and may be reheated at 375 degrees F.

1 cup corn
½ cup finely chopped onions
3 Tbsp. finely chopped green pepper
1 Tbsp. grated fresh gingerroot
2 garlic cloves
2 green onions
3 Tbsp. finely chopped red pepper, minced

1 tsp. finely chopped fresh dill
1 tsp. chopped fresh cilantro
1 tsp. salt to taste
1 tsp. salt or to taste
½ tsp. pepper or to taste
½ cup flour
½ tsp baking powder
2 large eggs, separated

Vegetable oil for frying

Sour cream, dairy or Pareve

1. Mix together all ingredients except whites and oil.
2. Beat whites at high speed with electric mixer until stiff and fold into corn mixture.
3. Heat oil in large skillet and spoon batter by tablespoons into oil, Fry until golden brown on each side and drain on paper towels or brown paper.
4. Serve with sour cream.

It's hard to believe, but as I write this Hanukkah is next week. It's a busy time of the year. Of course school vacations are around the corner for many of us which means we are welcoming visiting friends and family, doing our own traveling or welcoming our children who come home to visit. Take time to enjoy the season.

Enjoy!



FROM OUR SISTERHOODS

Beth Tikvah, North York, ON

A Historical Look at Jewish Women's Prayer

Over the years the trend is for Conservative synagogues to become increasingly egalitarian in their ritual practice. The move in the United States has been underway for longer than in Canada, but this trend is now certainly evident in Canadian synagogues as well. In Toronto there is a huge range - from synagogues where women's roles are limited and women are not able to have *aliyot*—to being counted in a *minyan*. As our own synagogue is exploring the move to Torah egalitarianism there have been many discussions and study sessions.

As we look at where we are going, we tend to focus on assuming roles that have always been, in our synagogue's history, performed by men. We look to the future and see ourselves perhaps taking on more of these roles.





There is a saying that "a good driver looks ahead—but keeps checking the rear view mirror." Before the high holidays we took a fascinating look at our own Jewish women's rear view mirrors. Beth Tikvah Sisterhood's September weekend Scholar-in-Residence was Dr. Aliza Lavie from Bar Ilan University. In doing the research for *A Jewish Woman's Prayer Book* Dr. Lavie discovered prayers, customs and traditions that draw from a variety of Jewish communities through the ages, some from as early as the 13th century.

We were introduced to the writings of Fanny Neuda, whose book of prayers for women, *Stunden der Andacht* (Hours of Devotion) first published in German in 1855, was reprinted in German over 28 times, and then translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, and English and was a best seller until the early 1900's. We became aware of a whole body of literature and of research that ties us to Jewish women of the past and introduced us to powerful and beautiful liturgy created during a period when it has been generally believed that Jewish women did not write at all.

Since publishing her book Dr. Lavie has continued her research and is constantly uncovering more material that gives us insight into the prayers and lives of Jewish women of past centuries. Our week end of study helped us focus for a while on the powerful and rich liturgy and traditions of the women who preceded us. We certainly felt that exploring this material was a meaningful and powerful Sisterhood experience.

Arlene Anthony
President, Beth Tikvah Synagogue Sisterhood

A partnership enriching Jewish women worldwide

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Sisterhood and Women's League <i>learning</i></p> |  <p>Sisterhood and Women's League <i>living</i></p> |
|  <p>Sisterhood and Women's League <i>linking</i></p> |  <p>Sisterhood and Women's League <i>sharing</i></p> |

FROM OUR SISTERHOODS

Temple Beth David, Rochester, NY

The Temple Beth David Sisterhood is proud to support The Soldiers Project which began in 2008 to serve the needs of Jewish service members around the world. It is a year round endeavor that is not only supported by sisterhood but also by the whole temple as well as the larger Jewish community.

The coordinator, Keith Freedman, a temple member, sends care packages for the Jewish holidays of Purim, Passover, Shavous, and Rosh Hashanah, in addition to Shabbat care packages to soldiers in remote bases.

The recipients of these care packages are Jewish Chaplains, lay leaders and soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Germany, Liberia and Djibouti. These care packages are not complete without cards from the Hebrew school. Supporting the soldiers is an ongoing project that our sisterhood supports. We are very proud to have Keith as part of our synagogue . He will be giving a talk of his stories and travels at an upcoming sisterhood program. If you would like more information about this very special project , Keith Freedman can be contacted at kdfreedy@aol.com

Temple Beth David Sisterhood sponsored another program earlier this year about another very important social issue, the issue of aging and advocating for change in how and where we age. This was the title of a talk given by our presenter, Pat Gardner, a leader and a wonderful, sensitive advocate for creating change in the culture of aging. We had the pleasure of jointly sponsoring this program with our mens club.

Upon reflecting back, we began our year with our annual production of our Sisterhood Calendar with the legwork and phone work of our sisterhood and support of our temple members year after year. We plan on finishing the year with a sisterhood Friday night shabbat working closely with members from ritual committee to talk about traditions, customs and explore traditional and modern melodies of our beloved prayers.

Submitted by,
Jackie Kaufman and Debbie Steinfeld

Shaare Zion, Montréal

We have been really busy at Shaare Zedek. After our opening event we continued to sell honey and we have sold all the jars. We also held a Book Review on November 15th. Dr Stephanie King reviewed *Midwife in Venice*. Our big pre-Hanukkah lunch was on November 30th. It will be a high tea with entertainment.

According to the congregation archives and according to the Sisterhood Presidents Board in our upstairs dining room, Shaare Zedek Sisterhood was founded in 1951. So we will celebrate our jubilee one year before the Queen! No, she won't be lending us a crown—perhaps a tiara—the one with emeralds.

Recently Sisterhood provided the volunteers for the blood drive held at Shaare Zedek. Imagine my chagrin and the Rabbi's when we were rejected because we had spent more than a month in England when they had Mad Cow Disease!

The snow birds are already flying. Three members of our Sing With Yosi group who have places in Deerfield will be taking their homework with them and studying together.....Shaare Zedek South! I have asked for photographs.

Ethel Phillips was our *Esheet Chayill*, a well deserved honour. This year she retired from the gift shop, and Ellen Pesner is now in charge.

Carole Burke

FROM OUR SISTERHOODS

Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood, Syracuse, NY

The Sisterhood of Temple Adath Yeshurun kicked off the year with our annual Donor Event which this year was a Champagne Brunch, art show and silent auction. This event continues to grow and was well attended and garnered rave reviews.

Our “Stitch n Kvetch” group has changed gears and is now knitting and crocheting scarves that will be sent to Poland. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous provides financial support to more than 800 non-Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust and preserves their legacy through a national education program.

In October we were pleased to be able to host Margie Miller who spoke about her experiences during and since the 9/11 tragedy that claimed her husband Joel z”l. Margie as always was a dynamic speaker who engaged her audience and shared her wisdom and experiences.

Our November Book Review for Jewish Book Month was presented by our Rabbi, Charles Sherman. Rabbi Sherman reviewed Henry Winkler’s book, I never met an idiot on the river. One participant who had read the book was overheard saying “wow, Rabbi got a lot more out of that book than I did”. In fact Rabbi did find the underlying message about family relationships and shared his insight on the subject as presented by Henry Winkler.

Our Paid Up Member Brunch was held in December and great food and company was enjoyed by all. Our program for this event was making *mezuzot* cases. We originally encountered this craft session at the INR Region conference in Buffalo last spring and had so much fun that we brought the idea home.

Wishing all of our sisters in the International Northeast Region a very happy secular new year.

B’Shalom from The Sisterhood of Temple Adath Yeshurun.

Joan Lowenstein, President

Congregation Beth Sholom/Chevras Shas, DeWitt, NY

In October, our Sisterhood co-sponsored a symposium with the JCC on stem cell research and ethical issues. Our speakers were Dr. Richard Waldman, immediate past president of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mark --- and Rabbi Leonard Sharzer, M.D., Associate Director for Bioethics of the Finkelstein Institute of Religious and Social Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary,. TAY’s Sisterhood sponsored a table as well.

In November we had chair yoga, led by member Linda Santanam. Because of the level of skill (and age!) of those attending, it quickly became yoga without the chair. and helped Men’s Club by serving food at kiddish for Men’s Club Shabbat;

In December, we are doing “Crafts with Karen,” decoupage on glass trays in anticipation of Hanukkah. The trays will allow us to save our tablecloth from candle wax. Sisterhood members have been saving cards and Judaica since New Year’s for this program. During winter break in late December, we will go to a Syracuse University women’s basketball game for a family-friendly night out.

Gwen Kay, Sisterhood President

FROM OUR SISTERHOODS

Beth Tzedek, Buffalo

The annual huge rummage sale of Temple Beth Tzedek Sisterhood is finally over, and we can come up for air (literally). This is our biggest fundraiser, and we need to thank all of our hard working volunteers, who helped with this year's sales event beginning the day after Labor Day. We have many wonderful salespeople and cashiers, as well as sorters and baggers. Heading the Rummage Sale for over thirty years is Carolyn Kershanbaum, assisted by Elaine Brothman and Shirley Magil. They are the heart and soul of Rummage. It is a great deal of hard work, but our Sisterhood benefits and in turn so does our Synagogue and community. The money we raise is not only donated to our Synagogue and Sisterhood activities, but we also generously give to community causes. Our leftover merchandise is given away to any community group that will distribute the items to individuals that need them.

Our first general meeting of the year in September was not only delightful but extremely entertaining. There was a great crowd of women enjoying a sumptuous dinner catered by our own Temple Beth Tzedek Caterer and then we were serenaded with melodic tunes by David Bondrow. He also recanted many humorous stories for us. Our programming chairmen are Carolyn Kershanbaum and Eileen Markowitz.

Before she left for a warmer climate for the winter, Sheila Trossman delivered an informative book review about the Jewish people of China during World war II. We discussed the book, Ten Green Bottles by Vivian Jeanette Kaplan.

We invited our membership to a special 'paid up brunch' at the end of October. Elaine Baren and Sheila Trossman planned and prepared a delicious repast for us and our program involved a discussion of the theaters in Buffalo and an update about our Jewish Repertory Theater. Membership in Sisterhood is open to all women who support our mission, regardless of synagogue affiliation. Karen Wexler and Sheila Weisman are our vice presidents in charge of membership.

We held a Chanukah program and musical program on December 14. Bobbie Vishner, Eileen Markowitz, and Carolyn Kershanbaum planned an extraordinary evening for us. We were entertained by Cantorial Soloist Penny Meyers. Her grandmother, Ceil Balber, has been a sisterhood member for a long time and Penny sang Yiddish and Hebrew songs with our cantor, Mark Spindler. Our ladies prepared latkes in our synagogue kitchen. Elaine Brothman shared her recipe and showed off her culinary skills by directing a fine group of women in making the batter and frying the latkes. Our kitchen crew consisted of Rachel Cohen, Ilene Cooper, Carolyn Kershanbaum, Marilyn Rosen, Ilene Scheib, and Myra Werbow.

We will be having our annual cultural night and our book reviewer, Edith Fine, will lead a discussion of Malkeh and Her Children, by Marjorie Edelson on January 17 and Rusty Zackheim is chairman of our Sisterhood Shabbaton which will be held on January 20-21. Many of our women will be reading Torah and leading services.

Our Sisterhood members are very involved with each other and we have many activities planned. We want our members to feel ownership and want to be able to meet everyone's needs.

Linda Steinhorn - President

Phone: 634-6330 Email: oralin330@aol.com

FROM OUR AREAS

Montréal Area

Happy Hanukkah et bonne année (secular) de Montréal, Canada.

The big news is that it hasn't snowed yet! Oh I know when it comes it will dump gazillions of centimetres but we have had November and half of December! What a bonus.

Beth El continues its good work with Torah Fund. Shaare Zedek ladies celebrated Hanukkah in November before all the snow birds flew. It was part of the diamond jubilee celebrations and featured an English tea.

Shaare Zion Sisterhood has a new president. Please welcome Eleanor Diamond who has served on the Congregation Board of Trustees . She is a wife, mother, daughter sister and she is the clinical supervisor at Montreal Association for the Blind, an old and respected institution in our city.

We are grateful for the leadership of Sylvie Spivack who served the Sisterhood for six years.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the recent Distance Workshop on Social Media. What a well organized and informative hour! The notes which arrived this morning will enable us to enter the modern world with confidence.

Carole Burke
Area Director Montréal

New York State Area

There will be a New York State area event for all Sisterhood members in either June or July. We are working on an available date for the program that will be held at Agudath Achim in Schenectady and will be hosted by the Women's Network. This is in the planning stage so stay tuned for more information and all the details. There will not be a spring conference this year so there will be events in each area to bring our sisters together for learning, fun, food and friendship.

Rusty Zackheim, NYS Area Director:

WLCJ'S **BA'OLAM** BLOG



This new look for WLCJ's International and Public Affairs newsletter allows us to keep our readers up to the minute on those issues and events of interest to them.

Please go to <http://wlcjbaolam.blogspot.com/> via you internet browser in order to view the latest stories.

We hope you continue to read Ba'Olam and find it informative.

Lois Silverman, Editor
Rita Wertlieb, President
Sarrael Crane, Executive Director

FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Hold the Date
CONVENTION 2012

December 2-5, 2012

Las Vegas, Nevada

עוררי! עוררי!

Awake! Greet the New Dawn



JEWELS IN THE CROWN awards were introduced at Convention 2010. Last time, more

than 100 sisterhoods were recognized for their fabulous programming and ongoing commitments to *tikkun olam*. Get ready for the 2012 award season! You, too, can be recognized for how your sisterhood educates its members, helps your community, and participates in Women's League initiatives.

Up & Running ON LINE DATA BASE

Women's League is very excited about its newest tool for helping presidents and their teams easily administer sisterhoods while complying with our per capita requirements. Sisterhoods should now update their membership data directly online! Presidents, financial secretaries and treasurers access the data when they log onto WLCJforYOU at www.wlcj.org. Each sisterhood president can designate a data manager who also will have access. In addition, region personnel can see the information for all of their sisterhoods, which should help them service their members more directly.

A benefit of this new system is that it allows each sisterhood to use the Women's League data base as its own data management system. In one place you have access to members' profiles, personal data, and their sisterhood positions. You can create reports for your use and for the use of your chairs, and/or export mailing addresses and email addresses for mailings. If your members have updated their personal profiles on the Women's League website (www.wlcj.org), the information will already be there. For those who have not registered on the website, you can fill in the necessary information just once and have it at your disposal!

There is a Sisterhood Presidents Guide to the website available to download at WLCJforYOU.

CELEBRATE CHANUKKAH, ENJOY SOME BEAUTIFUL MUSIC and PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 11:00 AM

Jewish Theological Seminary

You are invited to the Women's League annual meeting (at which important bylaws revisions will be discussed) and an afternoon of music. At the meeting, which is open to all, you'll have the opportunity to meet some of the KOACH students who are making a difference on their campuses. Lunch will be a Chanukkah celebration, and the after-lunch program includes guest speaker Hazzan Nancy Abramson (director of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School & College of Jewish Music) and a performance by JTS cantorial students. Register at www.wlcj.org.

What's New on WLCJ for YOU

- Preliminary materials for Women's League Shabbat (January 21, 2012)
- Quick Find (an alphabetical list of links to help you easily find the content you're looking for)
- Guide to the Website for Sisterhood Presidents
- The Hiddur Mitzvah Project: Chanukkah
- The Art of Skyping with Bubbie
- Orpah's List Study Guide to *The Invisible Bridge*
- Region Conference Material

Register now for the next LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Are you interested in becoming the best leader you can be? Women's League – committed to developing the next generation of skilled and knowledgeable leaders – invites you to attend an inspiring three days that will expand your leadership skills while enhancing your Jewish knowledge. Choose workshops relevant to your interests. Meet and network with other Conservative Jewish women who share your passion for pursuing learning and personal growth.

The next Leadership Institute will be held at the American Jewish University, in Los Angeles, from January 29-31. Register at www.wlcj.org.





From the Hiddur Mitzvah Project **CHANUKKAH ACTIVITIES**

The Chanukkah material in the Hiddur Mitzvah Project (www.wlci.org) offers a variety

of activities for sisterhood; you can even do some at home with your family.

In sisterhood

*Oh Chanukkah! Oh Chanukkah!
Come like the menorah....*

The Hiddur Mitzvah Project includes an essay on chanukkiot (Chanukkah menorahs), from early times to the present. Since collecting them has become popular in many Jewish homes, invite members to bring chanukkiot that are particularly unusual or have an interesting story. Use the essay (pgs. 20-22) as a basis for a discussion of the various chanukkiot.

- What are the similarities and differences?
- How does the chanukkiah reflect historical development?
- How does it reflect cultural variations?
- Which design motifs reflect the majority or popular culture?
- How do we decide which chanukkiah we use or purchase?

Chanukkah and the work of our hands....

Try one of the many creative projects as a sisterhood activity or at home. Hand-made gifts are a great change from the usual book or scarf.

- The Chanukkah table runner (pgs. 22-23)
- Hand-dipped candles (pgs. 23-24)
- Latkes for the health conscious (pgs. 24-25)

If making 56 hand-dipped candles to last the whole 8 days is too daunting, make just 9 for the last night. They are a lovely and personal gift, and end the holiday in a blaze of glory.

Take a plate of warm home-made Israeli doughnuts or sufganiyot (pg. 26) to a Chanukkah party. Watch how quickly they disappear before *everything* else!

Latkes or surfganiyot for seniors: Following the guidelines for **Honey Cakes for Seniors** on page 12, enhance the Chanukkah celebration in a local nursing home or senior center.

SHOP OUR VENDORS THIS CHANUKKAH

Check out the Judaica Shop Suppliers on our website (www.wlci.org/articlenav.php?id=251) for gifts for the whole family. Also, support the advertisers in CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism. Tell them you found them in CJ!



DISTANCE WORKSHOPS

Women's League provides extensive training on a variety of topics covering every area of sisterhood business and leadership development.

But Women's League knows that the great training it offers isn't always convenient to attend. And that is why we have created **Distance Workshops** that use the technology of conference calls and online services to bring our advice, tips & tricks, and first-hand experience directly into your home.

There is no charge but pre-registration is necessary. Participation is limited to members of Women's League. To register, log on to our website at www.wlci.org.

2011/2012 SCHEDULE

December 7, 2011

Strengthen Sisterhood Through Social Media:
Don't let Facebook and Twitter intimidate you

January 10, 2012

Nominations or How to Find Your Sisterhood's
Next Leaders

February 9, 2012

Creating Sisterhood Bylaws: How, Why, When

March 21, 2012

Synagogue-Sisterhood Relations: Independence
& Cooperation

May 6, 2012

Books, Books and More Books: Book clubs and
sisterhoods are perfect together



ARE YOU FOLLOWING Z'HAVAH?

Z'havah has a social media presence on three different platforms.

Which one works for you?

You can read our tweets by following @Z'havah on Twitter. On Facebook you can friend WLCJ Zhavah or like the WLCJ Zhavah page. And the newest way to see what Z'havah women are talking about is to go to <http://wlcjzhavah.wordpress.com/> and subscribe to our blog.

We have designed these pages to provide younger Conservative/Masorti women the opportunity to find interesting content, talk with one another, and be in touch with their sisterhoods and the international organization. We plan to keep it fresh and hope you'll be a big part by commenting and interacting with us!

WHAT'S IN YOUR LEADERSHIP LIBRARY?

Be sure you have up-to-date copies of these essential sisterhood tools:

- New Directions & Directives Handbook for Sisterhood Presidents
- The Sisterhood Planner
- Blueprint for Membership
- Image Plus Public Relations Handbook
- The Z'havah Planner
- Ways to the Means
- The Hiddur Mitzvah Project

The Hiddur Mitzvah Project is being posted on line before each holiday, together with a sisterhood guide to activities. The others can all be downloaded from www.wlcj.org. You should also have *Count Your Blessings* and *The Women's League Hebrew Word Guide*, which you can order online or from the order department at 212.870.7150.

Help support the

www.KOACH.org

KALLAH

at www.wlcj.org/donatenow

KOACH helps college students maintain and develop connections to Conservative Judaism while nurturing a love of Torah, the Jewish people, Israel and God through a variety of social, religious, educational, cultural, and social action programs.

Members of Women's League realize that if their college-age children and grandchildren have KOACH as an outlet to explore and experience Conservative Judaism on their own terms, they improve the odds that they will live modern Jewish lives after graduation.

Help us maintain the tradition of an annual KOACH kallah that brings Conservative student leaders from across the continent together. It is up to us to ensure the future! Donate today.

COOKING WITH TORAH FUND



Receive monthly pomegranate recipes reflecting this year's Torah Fund and Women's League theme promoting Hiddur Mitzvah. Send your name and email address to cabaron@jtsa.edu and enjoy the delicious foods you will create.

BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS

Women's League has been expanding its services to book groups and book lovers. In BookMarks you'll find interviews with three dynamic authors who all happen to be on the faculty of JTS, suggested reading lists, and the reading favorites of your region president. Study guides for previous Orpahs's List Book Selections include *Pictures at an Exhibition*, *People of the Book*, *The Faith Club*, *Those Who Save Us*, and more. You'll find it all at www.wlcj.org/WLCJforYOU>

MEMBERSHIP

This is the time for contacting sisterhood members who have not rejoined. A note, a call, or an email, saying that we miss you, would be welcomed by those who haven't yet sent in their membership. Take the time to follow up with the women who have been supporters in the past. Everyone likes to know that they are being thought about.

Our Sisterhood Friends Weave Our World

(author unknown)

Any woman who sews or knits or weaves,
who blends colors in a tapestry or creates
a patchwork quilt,
knows by the feel
that a single thread is weak,
but the weaving,
the blending,
the intertwining
with many others
make it strong.
Any woman alone -
without friends to sustain her,
to hold her with loving arms-
like a single thread, may be weak.
But the weaving,
the loving,
the nurturing of others,
the networks of friendship with her
sisterhood women make her strong.

WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST?

Working with your hands? Look for Creative Judaic Arts projects, *Aleph-Bet Variations* (Hebrew alphabets for needlecrafts and other media), *Headcoverings* (new & old designs).

What's happening in the Jewish world? Sign up for BaOlam, the international and public affairs newsletter at <http://wlcjbaolam.blogspot.com/>

Networking with other committed Jewish women? Join WLCJNet, our sisterhood without walls, by emailing womensleague@wlcj.org.

Staying in touch with your family in Israel? Share your concerns and your suggestions on our listserve, American Mothers of Olim by emailing womensleague@wlcj.org.

Saving the environment? Find out what your sisterhood can do, along with other Conservative congregations at: greenfaith.org/success-stories/just-released-energy-conservation-res

For Kol Ishah: Plus and Platinum Members SPECIAL STUDY OPPORTUNITY

As a thank-you to those who join the Women's League Kol Ishah Society as a plus or platinum member (minimum donation of \$100), Education Director Lisa Kogen will be teaching two illustrated online study sessions just for them this winter.

Lisa, a dynamic and engaging teacher, will be discussing Jewish art through the ages and around the world.

The first session will be on February 6, 2012 at 8:30 in the evening.

The Kol Ishah Society ensures that Women's League continues to fulfill its mission of promoting learning and Jewish education, living as active and knowledgeable Jews, linking and supporting those in need, and forging connections among Conservative/Masorti women around the world.

If you believe that we can make a difference when we join our voices together, add your voice and become a member of the Kol Ishah Society today!



**How can we help you?
Invite TRAINING
SERVICES into your
sisterhood**

**Choose from our menu
of services**

Contact hmerkowitz@wlcj.org for:

- On-site customized seminars
- Specialized seminars
- Conference calls
- Individual mentoring
- The personal touch of region or international leadership

Try the Helpline at 516.378.2105 or wlcjhelp@wlcj.org for an answer or solution from an experienced trainer in 48 hours

Join the Preznet at womensleague@wlcj.org

Women's League for Conservative Judaism Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 11 was a day of the WLCJ annual meeting. The meeting was held at The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City and included an afternoon of inspirational music.

Highlights of the Meeting

Dvar Torah was given by Sandy Myers. She suggested that for Hanukkah we should think about ways to share our blessings and gifts. Some ideas mentioned were:

volunteering time, knitting hats, to pick 1 night of Hanukkah and donate gelt to an organization, work with a religious school for a clothing drive. We do good work for Women's League, such a Sisterhood Shabbat, for making a better Women's League.

President's report: Rita Wertlieb

Rita mentioned her trip to Greece and Israel. WLCJ is hard at work, it is an exciting, relevant and successful organization. The goal is to reach out to every woman in congregations not currently a member and to increase our membership. Women's League's activities are varied and successful. Its attributes and activities of WLCJ for the letters of the alphabet. This included:

A AZM

B bookmarks, *Ba'Olam*, brick meeting campaign

C conference calling, CJ Magazine (please support our advertisers), committee and affiliates, convention (at the Marriott 12/2-5), and Chanukah

D *Divrei Hakohmah*, distance workshops

E Executive committee, planning for upcoming events

F Facebook, finance

G Greenfaith, dedicated to helping synagogues become environmentally friendly

H *Hiddur Mitzvah*, the beautiful guide

I Israel support of Israeli Masorti mission (excellent)

J Jerusalem program

K *Kol Ishah*, Koach initiative

L Leadership training, (trainer Margie Miller), strengthening Conservative Judaism worldwide

M Monthly messages, movement meetings (ideas in common with mens clubs), Mercaz, Masorti

N New and exciting programs, new ways to access tools, materials

O Orpah's list of books, online updates

P I didn't quite get this one. A good one would be planning, and projects

Q I didn't quite get this one. A good one would be quickly working on new activities

R Regions, conferences, mentioned presidential road trip

S Strategic planning VP Shelly Goldin

T Training, available to the regions

U Us remaining united in our beliefs

V *Vad*, W applied to be a member of WZO

W Website, WLCJ is to be most educated, vital, contemporary and up to date.

Z *Z'havah*, most successful ways to bring young women

Executive Report Sarrae Crane

We strengthen and change the way we do business. Responses to donations in a timely manner is important. There are weekly messages for the board and presidents council. And idea is to have a message for region presidents. A goal is to have world affairs, with ways to disseminate information on Israel. Thank you to all for all the work you do.

Finance Report Janet Kirschner

There was a review of the budget, with services to members. Kol Ishah was mentioned, general revenue. The budget is close to break even.

President

There was a showing of a presentation about the WLCJ trip. Items mentioned were a kosher restaurant in Prague, fine dining, cathedrals, home hospitality from Masorti in Prague with everything homemade and a real Shabbos dinner, Ambassador to Israel with a real private dialog talking about the Jewish community in Prague. It was an easy trip. The Prague community has a commitment to the State Poinsettia Gift Topper of Israel. There was a visit to Palmach and the museum, rabbinical students at the Ziegler school are thankful to WLCJ and torah fund, havdalah on the beach, a tram, kibbutz, Golan Heights, shopping, the Hotel in Jerusalem, Masorti, an archaeological dig, City of David, Yad Vashem museum. It was a tremendous visit. There was the kotel. Sensational trip.

Jerusalem Report Janet Tobin

WLCJ is becoming an international organization. The WLCJ is part of Masorti. It is an exciting time for WLCJ on the world scene. The motion was the WLCJ accepts the Jerusalem program, uniting and reinforcing our bond with Israel and Judaism worldwide.

Biennial Convention Report: Faye Laveson

It is to be at the JW Marriott in Las Vegas. Activities include jewels in the crown award, tzedakah project, torah fund. Saving \$36 per week would allow for the full amount for convention.

Koach: Rabbi Elyse Winick, KOACH Assistant Director, and Koach students

There is enrichment in Jewish life. There are wonderful activities at the colleges. Koach focuses on students and their communities. Shabbat is very important. The activities are implemented on campus. The students mentioned wonderful koach activities at college campuses, like Friday night Shabbat service, classes on Jewish prayer and music, enhanced college experience. They thanked WLCJ for continued support. There are kabbalat Shabbat services. There are luncheon Shabbats. Programs like koach allow students to become more active. The students drive Koach. There is commitment and passion of students. This provides wonderful conservative Judaism activities. There are opportunities for college students. Koach provides resources, it serves the students directly and their campus communities. Koach offers a podcast on the torah portion. There are interns on 8 campuses. The intern program represents something we are doing all over the US. There is a great varying of size, small and large campuses. There are grants on campuses, we are supporting a program, a garden program, and Russian Hillel. The Kallah sounds wonderful. It is important. Making Shabbat is wonderful, and it has an incredible impact. There is an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm, and it is good to nurture it and bring it to the surface. There was a suggestion to box at a Sisterhood meeting for extra funding. WLCJ funds Koach. You are inspirational. We are nurturing.

Presentation

There was an awesome presentation. The guest speaker was very charming and enthusiastic, very warm and charming. She included in her presentation about her interests, her career where she has studied to be a cantor, and we enjoyed a musical presentation.

Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.
Marla Allentoff, WLCJ Board Member

Women's League for Conservative Judaism Distance Learning Session on Social Media

The distance workshop on social media covered the nuts and bolts of social networking. Social media is an unbelievable force in today's world. Outstanding ideas on social networking were also presented.

Facebook [FB] is a good social networking site, a good sharing outlet. Users can create profiles with personal information. Users can communicate with friends, and it grows exponentially. FB is free and easy to do. You can sign up for an account. Select a last name like Sisterhood Tampa, first name like Beth Israel. For mail, you can choose any email account. Upload a sisterhood profile or a picture. Friends can be Sisterhood members, you can show them whatever you like, you have control over what people can see. You can create a page. There are "likes," for example, preschool, Hazzan and Z'havah, your sisterhood, synagogue and friends. Friends notice events, *etc.* There is a share function which allows you to share additional information. You can make it public, just for friends, or *Z'havah*, for example. You can specify who can see it, and you can customize. We are promoting our Sisterhood. For items, it shouldn't be static, it should be updated at least once/week. Consistently post on a regular basis. Get the message out there

Twitter is a micro blogging site that enables its users to send and read text-based posts of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets." A blog is a website that can be updated with new content from time to time, like WL *Ba'Olam*. To set up a Twitter account, you supply a user name, email password which can be the same as the one used for gmail. You can pick a design. You can set a profile page. Young people like it. You can also re-tweet. A Twitter account can link to your Facebook account.

Wordpress works well for Sisterhoods. Look at which format your synagogue is most comfortable with. Wordpress is free. There is easy sign in, like jjcsisterhood.wordpress.com. Follow the blog via email. It posts to Twitter and Facebook. They are independent and also connected. Options include, managing themes, going to widget, header, links, sharing settings, posts. You can manage themes. You can go to widget, set your widgets. For appearance theme options, you want it to have a very clean format. For users, general setting, set the tag line. Have a description about your Sisterhood or Region. It is a good way to share and be a good source of information.

Gmail account: It is good to establish an email account via gmail account which is unique to your Sisterhood. Make it easy.

Look at which format your synagogue is most comfortable with and then put everything ready in one place. Let your membership know where to find the information. Put it in your congregation and/or Sisterhood bulletin. The message can be as simple as: "Sisterhood has a new look. Come and See our Blog at [give the address]."

Thank you to Lara and to Janine for such an informative presentation.

Marla Allentoff, WLCJ Board Member

BULLETIN SPOTS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

WE Have THE BEST APP
OF ALL!



Call on us to

- Link into some fabulous social events
- Dial into life-long friendships
- Search for your inner leadership skills
- Learn and work in a caring network
- Discuss relevant issues at home and around the world
- Support our synagogue, schools and community

All that and more at your **sisterhood**, an affiliate of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, a network enhancing Jewish women worldwide



Use any of these flyers to announce your next meeting or as a handout at services.

Available from the Women's League website in the members' only section which requires you to log in.

How do you recharge YOUR batteries?

Join our sisterhood. Energize yourself. Help us run!

Plug in with sisterhood to

- Engage in fabulous and fun social events
- Develop life-long friendships
- Find your inner leadership skills
- Learn and work in a caring atmosphere
- Discuss relevant issues, at home and around the world
- Support our synagogue, schools and community

All that and more at your SISTERHOOD an affiliate of Women's

League

for Conservative Judaism, a network enhancing Jewish women worldwide



SHOW OFF YOUR MOVES AND WORK IT AT SISTERHOOD

From warrior moms to movers & shakers to battling bubbes to learners and leaders, we are a force to be reckoned with! We are everything you want to be: smart, social, generous, opinionated, warm, caring, skilled, committed, nurturing, and strong.



Don't **YOU** want to kick back on our team?

JOIN US AND ...

Engage in fabulous and fun social events

Develop life-long friendships

Learn and work in a caring atmosphere

Find your inner leadership potential

Discuss relevant issues, at home and around the world

Support our synagogue, schools and community

Affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism

For Your Information

Happy Hanukkah

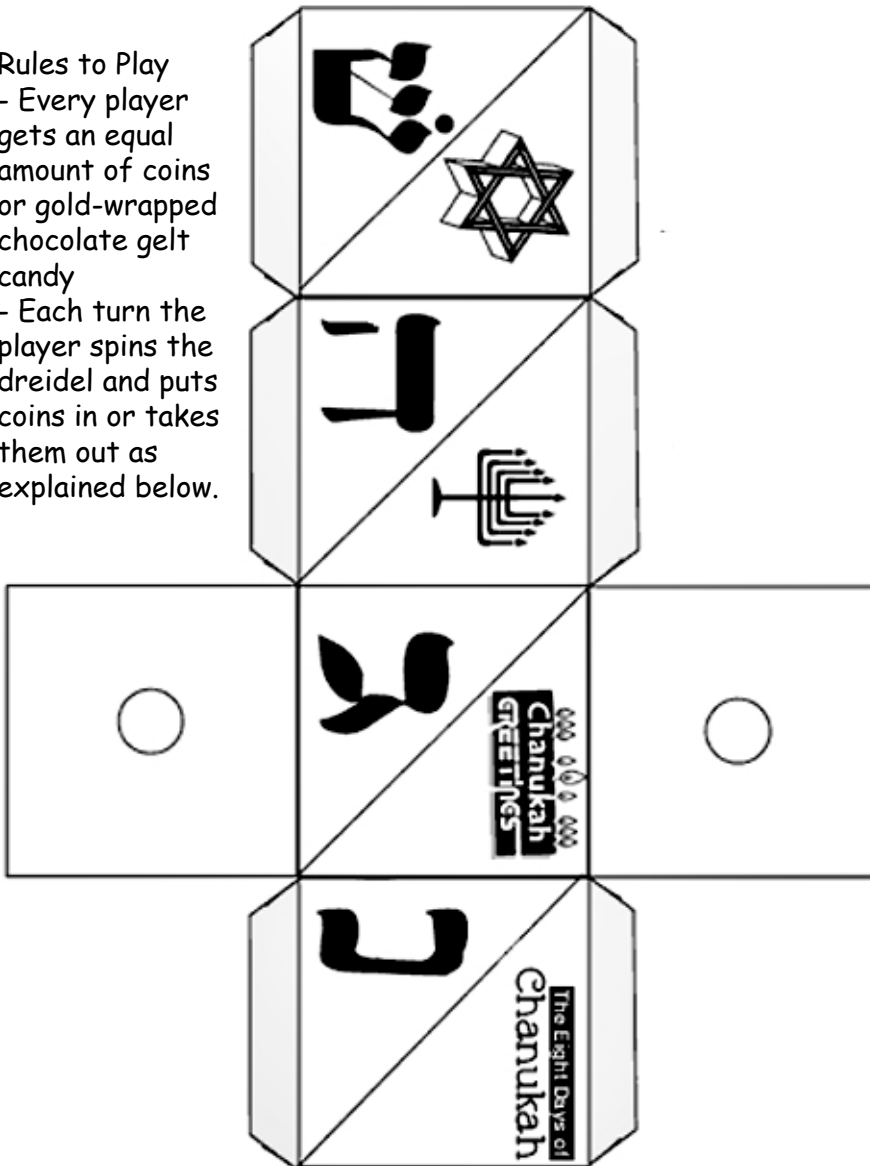
Make your own dreidel

Direction to make:

- Copy the graphic below
- Color the dreidel
- Cut out the dreidel
- Fold shaded area and glue or tape together as a cube
- Use a paper punch to cut out round holes
- Insert a short sharpened pencil through the round holes
- Play on a surface that is easy to clean in case of pencil marks.

Rules to Play

- Every player gets an equal amount of coins or gold-wrapped chocolate gelt candy
- Each turn the player spins the dreidel and puts coins in or takes them out as explained below.



- put one in the middle



-get all that is in the middle



-get half of the amount in the middle



-none (does nothing)

A QUOTE A DAY

The darkness of the whole world cannot swallow the glowing of a candle. –Robert Altinger

Now, near the Winter Solstice, it is good to light candles. All the nice meanings of bringing light to the world can be beautiful. But perhaps we are concentrating on lighting the world because we don't know how to light up our own lives. –Ralph Levy

Now, near the Winter Solstice, it is good to light candles. All the nice meanings of bringing light to the world can be beautiful. But perhaps we are concentrating on lighting the world because we don't know how to light up our own lives. –Ralph Levy, *Hanukkah - Another View*

The miracle, of course, was not that the oil for the sacred light - in a little cruse - lasted as long as they say; but that the courage of the Maccabees lasted to this day: let that nourish my flickering spirit. – Charles Reznikoff, *Meditations on the Fall and Winter Holidays*

The major question, which we must ponder on Hanukkah, is whether the Jewish people can develop an identity that will enable it to meet the outside world without feeling threatened or intimidated. The choice, hopefully, need not be ghettoization or assimilation. We can absorb from others without being smothered. We can appreciate and assimilate that which derives from "foreign" sources and at the same time feel firmly anchored to our particular frame of reference. –Rabbi David Hartman, *A Different Light: The Hanukkah Book of Celebration*

Kindle the taper like the steadfast star
Ablaze on evening's forehead o'er the
earth,

And add each night a lustre till afar
An eightfold splendor shine above thy
hearth.

–Emma Lazarus, "The Feast of Lights"

ENDNOTES¹

¹by Lois Silverman, Chai Lines Editor

Light the Lights

The lights of the *hanukiyah* are small, barely overcoming the darkness of the mid-winter night; but they are there to remind us of a small miracle that affected only a small group of people who was as weak as our Hanukkah candles. But this small miracle is still remembered over 2000 years after it occurred because this miracle, small as it was, has an importance which we can see when we put value and events small a group is, its beliefs and customs are important; that beliefs and customs are important to fight for; that no matter what the odds, one can win such a fight; and that assimilation into the larger group is not the way to happiness and success.

—reprinted from the
Hanukkah, 1996 *Chai
Lines*

Dry Bones

