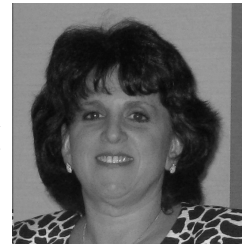


Reva Gershen Lowy, Region President March, 2010/ Adar/Nisan 5770

Barbara Schreiber, Editor

Dear All,

On Wednesday evening, February 24, 2010, the MetroNorth Region hosted our annual open Board Meeting for all of the members of our Region. Thanks to the women from Greenburgh Hebrew Center who hosted the evening. They prepared a great dinner and made all of us feel welcome in their synagogue.



Although the group was small, it was great to see so many of our Board Members and Sisterhood Presidents. We opened the board meeting to the general membership of the Region, and it was wonderful to see several new women attending.

The evening began with dinner, followed by a brief board meeting which included a discussion about the upcoming events being sponsored by the Region. Our annual Spring Conference will, once again, be held at the Jewish Theological Seminary, on May 2, 2010. This year's speaker will be Maggie Anton, author of the Rashi's Daughters books. Watch your mail for your invitation. If you have any questions about the conference, feel free to contact Linda Klempner, conference chair, at [lskny@aol.com](mailto:lskny@aol.com).

We also discussed a survey created by Women's League to determine what programs and services are important to our membership. I would like to encourage all of you to complete the questionnaire which can be found in your CJ magazine or on line at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org). The deadline for filling out the survey is March 18, 2010.

Additionally, we talked about the upcoming Women's League Convention which is going to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, on December 12-15, 2010. Anyone who has attended a convention will tell you that the experience of joining Conservative Jewish women from across the country is exciting and rewarding. Look for additional information on our Region website and on the Women's League website.

Following our Board Meeting we had the opportunity to meet with Cory Schneider, our International Women's League president, and had a thought-provoking discussion. We enjoyed meeting with Cory and hearing about her vision for the future of Women's League. During our discussion Cory shared her experience having just returned from traveling to South Africa and Israel with the 2010 Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' Leadership Mission. If you were unable to meet Cory, the MetroNorth Region is planning two additional parlor meetings with her. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Park Avenue Synagogue and the second meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, also at 7:00 PM, in the Rockland County area. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, contact Lucy Becker, Area Vice President at [lucyabecker@aol.com](mailto:lucyabecker@aol.com) or Florence Wolpoff, Membership Vice President at [florence.wolpoff@verizon.net](mailto:florence.wolpoff@verizon.net).

Have a sweet Passover and see you in the Spring.

Reva Gershen Lowy  
MetroNorth Region  
President

Plan to attend  
**WOMEN'S LEAGUE CONVENTION 2010**  
**December 12-15, 2010**  
**Marriott Waterfront Baltimore**

***Kehillah Kedoshah: Celebrating Community Woman to Woman***

**NEW FOR CONVENTION 2010**

Gala Vashti's Banquet on Tuesday evening (unlike any party you've ever seen!)

Hands-on interactive drop-in presentations of Women's League programs

A virtual journal that will be online for a full year, which will reinforce the Women's League commitment to the environment

Installation of 2010-2012 officers on Sunday evening

Installment payment plan

Online registration and registration team

**NEW SISTERHOOD INITIATIVES FOR CONVENTION**

The Jewels in the Crown: A three-level award for sisterhoods that demonstrate commitment, excellence and creativity in programming and in the use of Women's League materials. Information for every sisterhood to participate and be recognized at convention will be available soon.

Books for Baltimore: Creating Community One Child at a Time: To demonstrate our tangible commitment to the convention theme, Women's League will be presenting a new reading book to every third grade student in the system (approximately 7,000 books). Sisterhoods and regions are encouraged to participate to their fullest ability.

**AND DON'T FORGET THE  
HALLMARKS OF EVERY WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Fascinating speakers

Inspiring services

Valuable workshops

Region meetings and parties

Great shopping

Delicious food

Wonderful camaraderie

**RESOLUTIONS**

Women's League has been engaged in creating and acting upon public policy and social action resolutions for over 60 years. We have individually and collectively made our voices heard on contemporary issues that affect Jewish life and the greater welfare of the world. The body of resolutions provides the authority for Women's League's support of a wide range of public policy issues. Resolutions are presented to the delegates at convention for approval and action. Any member of Women's League who would like the convention body to address an issue is invited to submit her idea for consideration. For information, contact Rita Altman, Public Policy & Advocacy chair, at [altmanrc1@verizon.net](mailto:altmanrc1@verizon.net).

**A GUIDE TO WRITING PUBLIC  
POLICY RESOLUTIONS CAN BE  
DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE  
[www.wlcj.org/NK\"https://www.wlcj.org/  
templates/memb\\_page0.asp?docid=6  
52\"MyWLCJ/Public Policy and  
Advocacy](http://www.wlcj.org/NK\).**

## NEW FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE



### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. . .

has been updated with a beautiful new cover by artist Susan Leviton. This popular Women's League publication presents the most frequently recited *berakhot* (blessings) in Hebrew, with translations and transliterations.

This book would make a wonderful present as a hostess gift or as a welcome to new sisterhood members.

The book is available by calling the Women's League office at 212.870.1260, extension 7150# or online at [orderdept@wlcj.org](mailto:orderdept@wlcj.org).

Cost: \$10.00 Kol Ishah Society members receive a 10% discount.

### IMAGE PLUS

#### Public Relations Handbook

Entirely redone, this new sisterhood guide from Women's League focuses on all aspects of public relations that sisterhoods can use today, from how to create a sisterhood brochure to using public service announcements. Brand new is a chapter on social networking; how to market sisterhood through new technologies such as Facebook and Twitter.

Every sisterhood president will receive a copy at spring conference. Members of Women's League can download the handbook from the Women's League website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

### LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

It's not too early to start planning for the next Leadership Institute. Participation is a proven way to prepare the next generation of leaders in your sisterhood.



**When: July 25-27, 2010**  
**Where: New York City**

*To plant and to preserve*  
לעבודה ולשמרה



**Yom Yarok, Green Day** is more than just a Tu B'Shevat celebration.

Included in the kit is material to use throughout the year for engaging and informative environmental programming for sisterhoods, congregations and families. Members of Women's League can download all of the material other than the children's match game from the website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

### KERUV

The sisterhoods affiliated with Women's League--both by design and by practice--provide the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to foster a Jewish home and lifestyle. Every sisterhood should be a warm and welcoming gateway into Jewish life for all women, including the non-Jewish woman. Those already contemplating or in the process of conversion, as well as those married to Jews, and/or raising Jewish children, will find the support and encouragement that sisterhoods can provide.

Therefore, Women's League recommends that sisterhoods offer full membership to women who support the above mission of Women's League. However, only Jewish women may serve as officers and members of the board of directors.

The rabbi of the synagogue is the mara d'atrah (religious authority) for each sisterhood and must be consulted before instituting any change in membership policy.

Look for keruv programming ideas in the near future. Download the Conservative Movement welcoming keruv brochure from [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

## TORAH FUND

Passover is just around the corner and it's time to get rid of those unwanted articles in your home and support Torah Fund at the same time. eBay for Torah Fund is an easy way to help you accomplish both goals. You can donate anywhere from 10 to 100 percent of your selling price to Torah Fund. Your sisterhood gets credit, and you get the tax deduction.

Just gather your treasures and go onto eBay; click on Giving Works and T for Torah Fund. If you need help, contact eBay chair Marjorie Fuhrmann, at [mfuhrmann18@gmail.com](mailto:mfuhrmann18@gmail.com). She is ready, willing and able to help.

As you think about Passover, please remember our students. If you are near one of our schools, and have a place at your seder table, extend an invitation to a student to join you. Also, consider the students who could not complete their studies without the help of our Torah Fund Scholarship Project. If you have fulfilled your pledge, but would like to add a bit extra toward the Scholarship Project ("plus giving") send a check to Carolyn Baron (Torah Fund, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027); call or email Sherrill Solomon (212.678.8877, [shsolomon@jtsa.edu](mailto:shsolomon@jtsa.edu)) or donate online at [www.jtsa.edu/torahfund](http://www.jtsa.edu/torahfund).

It's quick, it's easy, and it can make all the difference in the world. The Torah Fund Scholarship Project supports students at the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), and the Seminario Rabbinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires).

Thank you for your continued support of these projects and the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

## LISTSERVE JUST FOR JUDAICA SHOPS

Women's League has just inaugurated an online discussion group for Judaica shop chairs. Moderated by Chair Jacki Stevens and Lois Silverman, internet services coordinator, this is an opportunity to share

questions, concerns, and achievements with other gift shop chairs across the continent. Post your questions to: [wljudaicashop@googlegroups.com](mailto:wljudaicashop@googlegroups.com)

Please post only questions and information pertinent to Judaica shops. Hopefully by sharing our knowledge, we will have more efficient and financially successful gift shops for all of us!

Questions? Contact Jacki Stevens at [jstevens@wlcj.org](mailto:jstevens@wlcj.org).

## LOVE TO COOK?

Women's League is hosting an online fundraiser you won't want to miss, featuring products from The Pampered Chef, March 1-31, 2010, just in time for Passover.

Just follow these easy steps:

During the month of March, log onto [www.pamperedchef.biz/cookstools](http://www.pamperedchef.biz/cookstools)

Select Shop Online

Enter

WLCJ as the Fundraising  
Host in question #1



## WOMEN'S LEAGUE SURVEY

Women's League is interested in knowing the extent to which its programs and services are valued by all Conservative women. Please take 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire in CJ Magazine or online at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org). The responses will guide the organization as it assesses the resources it provides. Invite women who might not be members of your sisterhood to fill in the survey so that Women's League can be the voice of *all* Conservative Jewish women. The deadline for filling out the survey is March 18.

## MEMBERSHIP PURIM SPIEL, PASSOVER FOURSOME & SHAVUOT SUGGESTIONS

Once upon a time, in the land of Shushan, there was a Women's League sisterhood president, whose name was Vashti, who ran the sisterhood *her* way. She never looked for new members. She never asked the members what programs they would like. The executive committee could only do what she told them. Every meeting was the same old thing -- belly dancing, belly dancing, belly dancing. We all know what happened to Vashti: the king made demands; Vashti said no; she did not have the support of the members, and suddenly, Vashti was no longer in Shushan and no longer sisterhood president.

What was the sisterhood to do? They wept and they fasted but they couldn't find a president and the members were dropping quickly. But then the new queen, the lovely Esther, gladly lead the sisterhood to success. What did Esther do?

She read *Blueprint for Membership* and the *Z'havah Planner*. She called her region membership vice president for suggestions. She asked Women's League's training services to send someone to help increase membership, develop leadership and plan programs.

Share **your** success story with your membership vice president and you can write your own membership megillah.

Have you ever wondered what is going through the minds of successful membership chairs as they clean out their cabinets and wash down everything in sight before Passover? Since it is too overwhelming to figure out how to fit three more people at their seder tables, they instead take the time to review what is happening with their sisterhood membership. Take a cue from them and remember why this year is different than every other time you think about membership.

1. Every other year you review membership just three weeks prior to submitting your plans. This year plan your strategy early.
2. Every other year you concentrate on enticing new synagogue members to join. This year work on last year's new members as well.
3. Every other year you're concerned with bringing in dues-paying women. This year concentrate on *involving* more women.
4. Every other year it takes a phone call from the region asking why there has been a drop in membership. This year, recruit those who have not rejoined.

Shavuot speaks to us about rules to live by. Membership offers rules (well, suggestions really) to make sisterhoods the place to be.

1. Kindness and civility are catching. Practice being warm and friendly.
2. Encourage women to work with you, not for you.
3. Ask the women what they want and invite them to make it happen.
4. Invite women to join or rejoin. Everyone wants to be asked.
5. Meet or call all potential members. Don't use email as your only contact.
6. Let women know the benefits of sisterhood, what's in it for them.
7. If you can reach each woman at least once or twice a year, this is a success.
8. Adjust the membership material on [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) to fit your needs.
9. Build teams and committees. Encourage new and long time members to participate.

*Treat others as you would like to be treated. Thank them and always smile.*

If you have other suggestions, please do not hesitate to share your ideas with Women's League Membership Chair Harriet Merkwitz ([harriem18@comcast.net](mailto:harriem18@comcast.net)).



SAVE  
THE  
DATE!!



MetroNorth Region  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

## SPRING CONFERENCE

**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**at the Jewish Theological Seminary**

**3080 Broadway**

**New York City**

**Keynote speaker:**

**Maggie Anton**

**Author of the Rashi's Daughters books**

For more information, contact Linda Klempner at [LSKnyc@aol.com](mailto:LSKnyc@aol.com) or 212-744-0234. Maggie's books can be purchased in advance by contacting Linda. All three books in the series (*Joheved*, *Miriam*, and *Rachel*) for \$40 or volume 3 (*Rachel*) only for \$15. Maggie will be available to sign her books at the conference.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

To all,

You see before you, mostly on your computer screen I guess, the eighth MetroNorth Bulletin since our new Region was formed in the autumn of 2008. On the next several pages, whether paper or electronic, you will see most of our 35 sisterhoods mentioned in one article or another but you will see that not ALL sisterhoods are represented.

Everyone should know that the information in this bulletin comes to me mostly in one of two ways, with a third method used only occasionally. Mainly, a paper bulletin from your synagogue comes to me each time it is published. Alternately, an emailed bulletin from your synagogue comes to me each time it is published. Only occasionally will a sisterhood president email me information about her sisterhood's activities.

You will notice a large discrepancy regarding the lines of information printed about various sisterhoods. This is NOT because I want to favor one sisterhood over another sisterhood. This is because there is a large discrepancy in the amount of Sisterhood information in some synagogue bulletins, whether electronic or paper. And I cannot make this stuff up!

So, if you are disappointed about the "press" your sisterhood has received in this bulletin, please ask your synagogue email person to add my name to the blasting list — [bsjsgramps@aol.com](mailto:bsjsgramps@aol.com) ---- OR put my name and postal address on your synagogue's mailing list ( 36 Johnson's Lane, New City, NY 10956 ) so I will get a paper copy of your bulletin. I thank you for your help in this on-going adventure.

Also, verb tenses are an interesting issue. If an event happened in the past, that is no trouble: we use the past tense of all verbs. Easy decision.

If something is happening near the middle to end of March, or in April or May or June, we use the future tense of all verbs. Another easy decision.

But the verbs for activities right around now, March 3 as I write this editorial, are iffy. I am writing articles as if this issue will arrive at your inbox by Sunday, March 7. But if the issue arrives later, the verb tenses will be inappropriate. Please understand.

And, again, thank you for your help in this on-going adventure.

B'Shalom!  
Barbara Schreiber  
Editor, MetroNorth Express

## WITH OUR SISTERHOODS

**TEMPLE BETH EL, POUGHKEEPSIE:** ➔ members helped long-time congregant Bess Friedman celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as she was honored at a luncheon after Shabbat services in mid-February. ➔ Purim was recently celebrated by all of us but how many had a sea adventure such as at TBE, where many were dressed up as captains and sailors, sea animals, pirates, and beachbums, as well as their favorite Purim character! ➔ Near the end of January, TBE congregants enjoyed learning about Rashi, Ramban and Rembrandt as a visiting student, fourth year rabbinical student Michael Fel, used commentary and art to teach about the Bible. ➔ At Sisterhood Shabbat towards the end of January, congregants listened and learned as Rahel Musleah spoke about the Jews of India. ➔ In mid February members of Temple Beth-El attended a lecture and a photo display at the Wallace Center (FDR home). The topic was Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugees at Black Colleges. The Honorable George Marlow made opening remarks and the archivist and curator of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Bonnie Gurewitsch, spoke to the topic.

**CONGREGATION HABONIM, NEW YORK:** ➔ Costumed members (and non-costumed members as well! ) enjoyed a Purim Carnival for kids of all ages. A bouncy slide, cookie decorating, face painting, and tattoos all added to the fun. And a bake sale helped things along!! ➔ Sisterhood is working on its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cook Book and the Congregation is celebrating the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the Nursery School! ➔ Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of JTS, will join the Habonim community for Shabbat dinner on March 26 at 6:30 pm, after which he will speak to the topic “Conservative Judaism: A Personal Vision.”

**FIRST HEBREW CONGREGATION OF PEEKSKILL:** ➔The women of First Hebrew Congregation of Peekskill have had a busy winter so far, with promises of continued activities into the spring. Their annual Shabbat service followed weeks of preparation and this work was reflected in a moving morning, followed by a festive Kiddush lunch. ➔ Following an annual tradition, they prepared first night packages for victims of domestic violence at a local shelter. ➔ On March 7th member Shelley Kessler will lead Sisterhood ladies in a story-telling workshop. ➔At their April meeting they will combine with their Men’s Club as they welcome a speaker from United Synagogue. ➔In May they are planning a winery tour. ➔Very joyous was the publication of Sisterhood’s cookbook, One Hundred Years and Still Cooking. And tasty and delicious!!!

**BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE, New York, NY** ➔ The Women’s Group of Brotherhood Synagogue had a very successful and enjoyable Tu B'Shevat Seder. ➔ On May 25, at 7 PM, Dr. Jennifer Stein, a dermatologist practicing in New York City and a member of Brotherhood Synagogue, will be speaking to members of the Women’s Group about skin cancer.

**BET TORAH, Mt. Kisco, NY** ➔ Early in February Sisterhood held its annual Open Board Meeting and Cooking Demonstration. Myong, owner of Myong Private Label Gourmet in Mt. Kisco, demonstrated her philosophy to Sisterhood women that “All you need are the freshest ingredients you can find, and a willingness to try.” A fun and delicious evening was enjoyed by all. ➔ At the end of February, Sisterhood packed and distributed almost 500 shalach manot boxes in celebration of Purim. ➔ On March 6, for Parasha Ki Tissa, Sisterhood of Bet Torah celebrated Sisterhood Shabbat, at which time more than 80 Sisterhood members took part in leading the entire service.

**EAST 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET SYNAGOGUE WOMEN’S LEAGUE:** ➔Sandy Koppell, chair of the East 55<sup>th</sup> Street Synagogue Women’s League Shalach Manot project, said, honestly, that “...I know many synagogues have a Shalach Manot project, but I feel our project is unique.” Reading through Sandy’s report, the following “take” on Shalach Manot became evident: “...We use this as an opportunity for social action. We send gifts to children, through the Metropolitan Council on Poverty, and to our seniors in The Jewish Home.” What a nice modern tweak to an ancient custom!!

**TEMPLE SHOLOM**, Greenwich, CT ➔ Recently, women of Temple Sholom enjoyed a late morning fun(d) raiser at which they learned to make simple, home-style Japanese dishes under the tutelage of Japanese teacher Yuko Iwashita, with the help of Sisterhood member Phyllis Shapiro. All this happened at the home of Ronna Sussman. ➔ Sisterhood women had another culinary experience when they gathered together for a Cupcake Marathon. At this event Karen Tack, author of “Hello Cupcake” taught some fun techniques to make birthday and holiday cupcakes into a special treat. ➔ A third culinary experience happened in early December when sisterhood members gathered at the home of Felice Robinov to learn from nutritional consultant Raema Salmon how to use tasty recipes and creative ideas to improve health and lifestyle through better food choices.

**CONGREGATION ANSHE EMETH**, Hudson, NY ➔ In mid-February Sisterhood paired with Men’s Club to celebrate a Joint Sabbath, sponsored by the Conference for Justice and Community, and were privileged to hear Mr. Steven Spicer, principal of Hudson High School, discuss the tremendous and very positive changes which have occurred in the that school over the past seven years. ➔ In late February Sisterhood held a Bakeless Bake Sale.

**YORKTOWN JEWISH CENTER**, Yorktown Heights, ➔ YJC’s Torah Institute Weekend on March 13 and 14 will feature Rabbi Michael Laxmeter, whose expertise lies in how the Egyptian language (hieroglyphics) and literature influenced the Hebrew Bible. Saturday night YJC members will learn about The Rabbi as Archeologist: How Archeology Can Shed Light on Esoteric and Elusive Biblical Texts; Sunday morning they will learn more about the Bible through the Lens of Egyptian Language and Literature. ➔ On the evening of April 12, members will participate in a Yom HaShoah Commemoration. ➔ “Wine, Women and Torah — the Great Hebrew Poetry of Medieval Spain” — readings in translation and in the original Hebrew — will be featured on Sunday, April 18, at 7 pm, as YJC’s “Poetry Cafe” dedicates its new home in their recently renovated library.

**CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL**, Briarcliff Manor, NY ➔ Sisterhood continues with its popular Knit and Crochet Circle, this time on Wednesday, March 10. ➔ On March 17 Sisterhood will have its Mah Jongg event. ➔ And on April 3, Sisterhood members will lead Shabbat morning services during its annual Sisterhood Shabbat.

**NANUET HEBREW CENTER**, New City, NY ➔ Fifty-seven Sisterhood members enjoyed their Paid-Up Membership dinner and then learned together with Joy Slater how to make Havdallah candles. ➔ on December 24<sup>th</sup> close to 140 people enjoyed NHC’s annual Rock and Egg Roll Vacation party. ➔ NHC Sisterhood had an earlier-than-many Sisterhood Shabbat — on February 13<sup>th</sup> — with all activities having been coordinated by Dianne Rice.

**BETH EL SYNAGOGUE CENTER**, New Rochelle, NY ➔ Sisterhood’s catered Torah Fund Brunch will take place on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, and will honor Victoria Fisher and Barbara Horowitz. ➔ Sisterhood women enjoyed Mitzvah Knitting on Friday, March 5, and will have another meeting on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Women are encouraged to come for lessons or just to come and schmooze. ➔ As congregations age, things change, and, at Beth El Synagogue, Sisterhood’s gift shop lady, Millie Gordon, has retired. Not wanting to leave the congregation without a gift shop just prior to Passover, Sisterhood president Joan Freedman is asking for women to volunteer to serve on sales teams for the 3 Sundays prior to Passover. ➔ In the same vein, the Beth El coordinator for Project Hope is relocating to another area and Sisterhood president Joan Freedman is asking for shoppers and cooks to volunteer once a month for this important project. Project Hope prepares food once a month for the New Rochelle soup kitchen, vital to be maintained in these difficult times. ➔ Sisterhood is seeking prom clothing, both male and female, to be donated to its Prom Clothing Drive on Sunday, April 11, thus to enable disadvantaged students at Edenwald, at Mt. Pleasant Cottage School, to attend their prom. Although all sizes of clothing are needed, plus sizes will be especially welcomed.

**ORANGETOWN JEWISH CENTER**, Orangeburg, NY ➔ Sisterhood women are among those OJC members who are volunteering to drive, cook, carry, shop, visit, talk and meet new babies --- all acts of Chesed --- loving kindness and caring — as OJC’s Chesed Committee moves towards making all of OJC a Chesed Community. Their aim is to meet some of the needs of community members who may need extra help in their lives because of illness, isolation, limitations, and/or disabilities.

**TEMPLE BETH EL**, Stamford, CT. ➔ For Sisterhood Synaplex Shabbat early in January, TBE women were joined by Barbara Sofer as Scholar-In-Residence. Ms Sofer, the Israel Director of Public Relations and Communications for Hadassah, is a popular columnist in the *Jerusalem Post*, and a journalist and novelist. Ms. Sofer made 3 presentations, each one addressing different facets of the lives of Jewish women in history and till now — a thoughtful and contemplative discussion of prayer in everyday life.

➔ Also in January, TBE women learned what “...is NOT your grandmother’s mah jongg.” Sisterhood member Nancy Rosenberg led a mah jongg game perfect for beginners! ( More experienced players also had set-ups provided for them!)

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**, Mahopac, NY ➔ Sisterhood’s Torah Fund luncheon will be held on Sunday, June 13 at 2 pm. ➔ Sisterhood members lost weight at their autumn Weight Watchers 12-week session, and another 12-week session began on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CONGREGATION KNESES TIFERETH ISRAEL**, Port Chester, NY ➔ Joanie Rosenbaum, president of Sisterhood at KTI for six years, is stepping down to assume the role as KTI’s Religious School Board president. A successor is being sought from among congregants as well as from among the Early Childhood Program parents.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL CENTER**, White Plains, NY ➔ Sisterhood members celebrated their Sisterhood Shabbat in mid-February. ➔ TIC’s Sisterhood Torah Fund Brunch will happen on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11 AM.

**NORTHEAST JEWISH CENTER**, Yonkers, NY: ➔ Sisterhood president Marge Wise dipped back to the opening meeting of their sisterhood year to recap an especially interesting program. Peter Savigny, whose presentation was entitled, “**Every Age Has a Story to Tell**” made an effective case for why each and everyone of us should preserve the special events of our lives, our histories and everything that makes us and our families, special – so that these family stories can be enjoyed with our families now, and in the future. Mr. Savigny provided helpful tips on how to begin the process of collecting and classifying our memories. ➔ Similarly dipping backward to good programming, in October a nurse/nutritionist spoke to NJC Sisterhood on the subject of “It’s Never Too Late to Eat Right.” ➔ The NJC Torah Fund Brunch will be held in May. ➔ The Westchester Jewish Conference will be leading a delegation of member synagogues and Jewish organizations to march in the Salute to Israel Day Parade on May 23, and interested NJC synagogue and Sisterhood members will be participating.

**CONGREGATION ANSHE EMETH**, Hudson, NY ➔ In mid-February Sisterhood paired with Men’s Club to celebrate a Joint Sabbath, sponsored by the Conference for Justice and Community, and were privileged to hear Mr. Steven Spicer, principal of Hudson High School, discuss the tremendous and very positive changes which have occurred in the that school over the past seven years. ➔ In late February Sisterhood held a Bakeless Bake Sale.

**YORKTOWN JEWISH CENTER**, Yorktown Heights, ➔ YJC’s Torah Institute Weekend on March 13 and 14 will feature Rabbi Michael Laxmeter, whose expertise lies in how the Egyptian language (hieroglyphics) and literature influenced the Hebrew Bible. Saturday night YJC members will learn about The Rabbi as Archeologist: How Archeology Can Shed Light on Esoteric and Elusive Biblical Texts; Sunday morning they will learn more about the Bible through the Lens of Egyptian Language and Literature. ➔ On the evening of April 12, members will participate in a Yom HaShoah Commemoration. ➔ “Wine, Women and Torah — the Great Hebrew Poetry of Medieval Spain” — readings in translation and in the original Hebrew — will be featured on Sunday, April 18, at 7 pm, as YJC’s “Poetry Cafe” dedicates its new home in their recently renovated library.

**NEW CITY JEWISH CENTER, New City, NY** ➔ Late in February Sisterhood enjoyed a game night. ➔ Sisterhood co-presidents Marilyn Drayer and Sheila Gersh, together with Sisterhood Vice President for Programming Harriet Alpert all took part in a recent Purim Spiel at NCJC. Dressed in black outfits with crisp white aprons and head pieces, they dust-brushed King Achascherus with great enthusiasm—to the hysteria of most of the audience. ➔ At their next meeting, sisterhood members will learn how to bake challah and they will learn, as well, some of the customs that accompany this welcome to Shabbat.

---

---

## BOOK EVENTS ALREADY IN THE PAST

Given the production schedule of Metro/North Express, it is inevitable that we cannot be timely about all the book events in our Region. We include the belated information below, hopefully to inspire and inform our book clubs with new ideas.

### SHAAREI TIKVAH, Scarsdale, NY

This book club, known as Between the Book Ends, met on Wednesday, February 3. Each attendee was asked to bring a favorite short story, poem, bubbe meise, Jewish humor, or a favorite recipe. They spent the afternoon talking about things they liked, and enjoyed the camaraderie of the group and meeting new friends.

### CONGREGATION HABONIM, New York, NY

We began the year with a lively discussion of Meir Shalev's novel Four Meals (aka The Three Loves of Judith) on January 13<sup>th</sup>, and on March 3<sup>rd</sup> we talked about Jews and Power by Ruth Wisse.

### EAST 55TH ST SYNAGOGUE, New York, NY

On January 12 at 8 PM, at the home of Eva Shamah, the book club discussed A Pigeon and a Boy by Meir Shalev. The discussion was led by Harriet Gussin.

### TOWN & VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE, New York, NY

In February the Town & Village book club enjoyed reviewing Friendly Fire by AB Yehoushua, with the discussion having been led by Dr. Louise Shelby.

BET TORAH, Mt. Kisco, NY: In January Sisterhood and Bet Torah's Adult Education Committee held a joint book discussion of Now They Call Me Infidel by Nonie Darwish. The author's father was an officer under Nasser and she was raised in Egypt and Gaza. Today she speaks out on behalf of Israel.

TEMPLE ISRAEL CENTER, White Plains, NY In late autumn TIC members heard guest author Joshua Halberstam discuss his book, A Seat at the Table.

ORANGETOWN JEWISH CENTER, Orangeburg, NY: In mid-February Sisterhood's Book Club featured Snow in August, by Pete Hamill. It is a novel which is beautifully written, poignant, filled with bits of humor, and a story that captures the essence of friendship during post-Holocaust years.

---

---

## BOOK EVENTS COMING UP

and a note from MetroNorth Region Book Chair, Sandy Koppell

### BOOKS ARE HAPPENING:

MetroNorth has several active book groups. Books are a wonderful way for women to get together and enjoy, learn, develop friendships with like minded women and, most importantly, to create a bond with your sisterhood/affiliate. You might like to start your own synagogue or sisterhood group. Your sisterhood or synagogue group might like to invite others. Contact me if you would like to share your information or if you have a question, at [safta18@aol.com](mailto:safta18@aol.com) or call 212-758-7445.

*Sandy Koppell*

Region Book Chair

TEMPLE BETH-EL, Poughkeepsie, NY

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 pm. Best selling author Lucette Lagnado will join us at Temple Beth-El to discuss her memoir THE MAN IN THE WHITE SHARKSKIN SUIT: My Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World.

GREENBURGH HEBREW CENTER, Dobbs Ferry, NY

Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 pm. Josh Lambert will discuss American Jewish Fiction: A JPS Guide. He suggests that by considering "what exactly makes a book Jewish . . . we'll develop richer and more complex ideas about our literature, and even, perhaps, about what "Jewish" means."

SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION HABONIM, New York, NY

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This group will be reading Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman

Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 - 9:00 pm. The group will be discussing Three Cups of Tea by Gregg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin.

Sunday, May 16, a private tour and lecture by scholar David Wachtel on the subject of the Seminary's Rare Book Collection. For further information about this event, contact Sisterhood Co-Presidents Amy Kargauer at 212 787 1516 or karwalkers@gmail.com or Fran DeLott at 212 362 9807 or [Fbdelott@aol.com](mailto:Fbdelott@aol.com).

All book club discussions take place at 7:30 pm at the synagogue and everyone is welcome to participate.

SHAAREI TIKVAH, Scarsdale, NY

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. The book club at Shaarei Tikvah, known as Between the Book Ends, invites all Region members to join them at the synagogue at the above-noted date and time. The actual selection(s) have yet to be announced but under consideration are Songs for the Butcher's Daughter by Peter Manseau and/or Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom.

For further information contact Ann Zeidberg, [ANPH22@aol.com](mailto:ANPH22@aol.com), 914-428-9667 or Ruth Shire, [rshire@verizon.net](mailto:rshire@verizon.net) or at 914-668-05830.

TOWN AND VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE

Thursday, April 15, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Dr. Louise Sherby will lead a discussion about Sarah's Key by Tatiana De Rosnay. The author offers a compelling portrait of France under the Occupation and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this painful time in Jewish history.

BET TORAH, Mt. Kisco, NY

On Thursday, April 15, Erin Einhorn, author of the novel The Pages In Between: A Holocaust Legacy of Two Families, One Home will be speaking at Bet Torah. In her book, Ms. Einhorn, a resident of New York City and a reporter for the New York Daily News, tells of the family in Poland who saved her mother from the Holocaust. But instead of a joyful reunion with this family, Ms. Einhorn unearths a dispute that forces her to navigate the bitter crossroads between memory and truth.

NEW CITY JEWISH CENTER, New City, NY: On March 8, NCJC's Book-of-the-Every-Other-Month Club will meet to discuss Hunting Eichmann by Neal Bascomb. This is a tale the end of which everyone knows, but the telling of it runs as a great mystery. Long time participants in the Book Club, Jerry and Irene Steinman, will lead the discussion.