



Fall 2011
Issue I
5772

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM Mid-Atlantic Region

Mid-Atlantic HAPPENINGS



DONNA FINKELSTEIN REGION PRESIDENT • LESLIE BLAU-BERLIN BULLETIN EDITOR

L'SHANAH TOVAH!

I wish you and yours a Happy and Sweet New Year! A peaceful year, where you and your loved ones will be written in the Book of Life and Good Health and all your wishes will be fulfilled.

Welcome to the Fall edition of Happenings, our Mid-Atlantic Region newsletter.

It has been a very busy summer in the Mid-Atlantic Region. We've held five Area Leadership Meetings throughout the Region at Beth El Synagogue (East Windsor), Beth Sholom Congregation (Elkins Park), Congregation B'nai Tikvah – Beth Israel (Sewell), Congregation B'nai Jacob (Phoenixville) and Har Zion Temple (Penn Valley). There were instructive Conference Calls for Sisterhood Presidents, for Torah Fund Directors and for Area Directors. Our newly formed Past Presidents Council held a Day at the Jersey Shore. We've been developing a new Region Directory.

The Mid-Atlantic Region is planning many exciting Region Events for the coming year. Each of our Vice Presidents – Charlotte Stein, Community Vice President, Barbara Bess Pashak, Education Vice President, Idelle Wood, Membership Vice President, Rochelle Hirt, Torah Fund Vice President and Debie Napoleon, Sisterhood Support Vice President – will be bringing you something special in the months ahead. I personally invite you to join us. Volunteer and be part of the fun or attend as a guest, but do not miss out on the excitement.



Good communications is the foundation for an informed Region. Every Friday, the Mid-Atlantic Region sends a weekly email message to the women in our Region with the latest and greatest info from Women's League for Conservative Judaism and from our Region. If you are not currently receiving the message and would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact me (dfinkelstein@wlcj.org) and I will add your name.

Please remember to share this issue of Happenings with your Sisterhood members. It can be printed and shared or forwarded via email.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or areas of concern. I'm here for you.

Shalom,
Donna Finkelstein
President
Mid-Atlantic Region
Women's League for
Conservative Judaism
856-273-8209



Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays for FALL 2011

Holidays begin the evening before the day noted. Holidays marked with an asterisk are observed for one day only by Reform and Reconstructionist Jews. Holidays noted in *italics* are **holy days** on which no work is permitted and absences from school or work should be excused.

*Rosh Hashbanah** *Thu & Fri, Sep 29-30, 2011*
Yom Kippur *Sat, Oct 8, 2011*
*Succot** *Thu & Fri, Oct 13-14, 2011*
Sh'mini Atzeret *Thu, Oct 20, 2011*
Simchat Torah *Fri, Oct 21, 2011*

REGION DATES TO NOTE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, October 17, 2011

REGION EVENT - Trip to Jewish Theological Seminary Sukkah

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Open Board of Directors Mtg./ REGION EVENT - Membership

Sunday, February 12, 2012

REGION EVENT - Hiddur Mitzvah Women's Tea

Sunday, March 18, 2012

REGION EVENT - Torah Fund Event

Thursday, April 26, 2012

REGION EVENT - Israel Independence Day Celebration

Sunday, May 6, 2012 and Monday, May 7, 2012

Mid-Atlantic Region Spring Conference

OUR REGION BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - Donna Finkelstein
dfinkelstein@wlcj.org

Community Vice President - Charlotte Stein
charlottestein@comcast.net

Education Vice President - Barbara Bess-Pashak
pashak@aol.com

Membership Vice President - Idelle Wood
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Sisterhood Support Vice President - Debie Napoleon
dnapoleons1018@comcast.net

Torah Fund Vice President - Rochelle Hirt
thehirts@verizon.net

Treasurer - Fran Radel
fran@markradel.com

Financial Secretary - Lisa Ganzman
crazyjany9@comcast.net

Administrative Secretary - Amy Perrone
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Parliamentarian - Mimi Pollack
mimipollack@comcast.net

Immediate Past President - Debbi Goldich
dkgrnmsn@aol.com

Bulletin Editor - Leslie Blau-Berlin
blauberlin@verizon.net



KOL ISHAH **A Woman's Voice**

The Kol Ishah Society is a wonderful way to make sure our voices will continue to be heard for generations to come. Each woman has the opportunity to become part of the Kol Ishah society for a minimum donation of \$54, and of course, larger donations are welcome!

The funds raised will help to insure that Women's League for Conservative Judaism can continue to expand on the wonderful materials it produces, offer more training and leadership opportunities to members, and promote the causes and issues that are vitally important to all of us as Conservative Jewish women.

You already know that each Sisterhood makes a per capita payment to Women's League from their members' dues, and those dollars help to pay salaries, print materials and educate. However, you also know that costs continue to rise and we need to meet the challenge to help Women's League continue their mission.

Help Women's League continue to help you. Please consider joining the Kol Ishah Society. You will be glad you did!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dorene Karasick at 215-290-7570 or email her at gingeralegal45@aol.com.

SISTERHOOD SUPPORT UPDATE

Hi, this is Debie Napoleon with an update from the Sisterhood Support/Area team. Our motto this year is "How can We help YOU?" We want to be your resource for any question you may have, to ensure you get the answers you need and to help you with any concerns that could arise during the year.

To get everyone started on a good note, we held several Area Leadership meetings this year where we had an opportunity to chat, share and exchange ideas. We heard from our Sisterhoods about great fundraising and team building ideas, plus we were able to brainstorm on problems that all of us share!



The Area Directors and I look forward to visiting your Sisterhoods, meeting with you and helping you to continue to build and thrive. Please call, email or even snail mail us and we will respond in kind. If you would like to get in touch with me directly, please e-mail me at dnapoleons1018@comcast.net and I promise to get back to you within 24 hours (except on Shabbat of course!)

Thank you again for all your contributions; to being the women who keep our Sisterhoods moving forward and have a sweet, Happy New Year.

TORAH FUND PLANNED GIVING

Whenever it is time for you to write or update your will, please consider naming Torah Fund as a beneficiary – any amount will be accepted.

By making a named bequest to Torah Fund you can help assure the future of Conservative/Masorti Judaism and ensure that students at the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), The Ziegler School (California), The Schechter Institute (Jerusalem), and the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires) can get the monetary support they need to become our future leaders.

Once you have made this commitment, kindly contact Carolyn Baron (see next paragraph). You will then be listed in the annual JTS Commencement Booklet as one of a growing number of women belonging to the Tzaddikim Society.

For further information concerning bequests or charitable gift annuities, please contact Rabbi Abby Treu (212-678-8805 or abtreu@jtsa.edu) or Carolyn Baron at the Torah Fund office (cabaron@jtsa.edu.)

B'Shalom,
Mimi Pollack, Chair
Torah Fund Planned Giving
215-355-5069
215-837-6502 (cell)
215-355-5410 (fax)
mimipollack@comcast.net

COMMUNITY UPDATE

During this summer, the Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism held Area meetings for Sisterhood Presidents in many areas of the Region, near and far. It was a time for meeting new women and hearing a variety of new ideas that you as leaders could focus on in your sisterhoods.

As Community Vice-President of the Region, I wish to say "Thank You" for taking your time away from your families to join in the discussions that I hope gave you fresh ideas for your coming year.

The envelope that you received from me contains the names and contact information of additional women on the Community Team. They will be glad to provide their expertise for a successful project. Please don't hesitate to call them.

Wishing everyone a successful term and success in any avenue you pursue.

Charlotte Stein
Community Vice-President
Mid-Atlantic Region
Women's League for Conservative
Judaism

REMINDER: IT IS MOST
IMPORTANT TO PLEASE SIGN
THE TWO PETITIONS FOR
ISRAEL AS SHOWN IN THE
FRIDAY WEEKLY MESSAGE.
ISRAEL NEEDS US.



MID-ATLANTIC REGION TZ'DAKAH BOX

The following is the history of the Mid-Atlantic Region Tz'dakah Box that has been handed down to the Region.

Sometime in the early 1980's, Women's League for Conservative Judaism held a national contest in which the various Branches submitted Tz'dakah Boxes that would be voted on and one would be determined as the best. This contest was held before a National Convention of Women's League.

At that time, Perri Dash, Creative Handicraft Chairperson for the Southern New Jersey Branch, entered the contest to make a Tz'dakah box for her Branch. Perri was an active member of Temple Sinai in Cinnaminson. She met with Rabbi Bornstein, who held the pulpit at the time, and he gave her some guidance on the wording for the box. It was decided that the top would read: "Justice, Justice shalt thou pursue". Perri purchased a wood box and foil which she embossed with the wording and designs. She painted the inside and all the corners so there would not be any rough spots. There was a company in New York who sold music boxes. Perri purchased a box that had the song "Hatikvah" and attached this to the inside of the box. When the lid was opened, the music would start, when closed it would stop. However, the music box was faulty and the music did not stop until it ran down. Unfortunately, the box did not win the contest.

Southern New Jersey Branch was very proud of all the efforts made by Perri and often displayed the box. Now that the box has been handed down to Mid-Atlantic Region, it has been decided to use it at all Executive Committee Meetings where everyone will contribute at that time. The committee will decide where the monies will be donated.

At the Mid-Atlantic Region Spring Conference on May 1, 2011, the monies collected will be contributed to Israel for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah program for children with special needs.

From the desk of Charlotte Stein:

I wish to introduce the women and activities they are in charge of under the umbrella of Community Services for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Nancy Schwartz, Mid-Atlantic Region Public Policy Chair, #856-795-3046
naschwar@comcast.net

Becky Siman, Mid-Atlantic Region Israel Affairs Chair, #856-234-3948
rmrsiman@comcast.net

Charlotte Stein, Mid-Atlantic Region Community Vice-President,
#856-642-1007
charlottestein@comcast.net

Do you need assistance with a community event? We are here to help you with planning, implementation or support in order to help make your event successful. Need new or different projects? Call us to give you a run down of ideas.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday April 26, 2012, Mid-Atlantic Region Event, "An Israel Experience" Details to follow.

A few words from Nancy Schwartz, Public Policy Chair:

Public Policy refers to current happenings in all branches of our government. An awareness enables us to support issues meaningful to us in a collective voice, and in turn, create resolutions to present at our national conventions. In the recent *Voice*, Bernice Balter's article "Caring for our Children is Imperative", specifically cited two resolutions submitted at our December 2010 Convention by Mid Atlantic members....Bullying by Nancy Schwartz, and Childhood Obesity by Debbi Goldrich.

EDUCATION UPDATE

My name is Barbara Bess-Pashak, Education VP. For the last three years, I was one of the Area Directors. In that role, I met with many sisterhood presidents & their board members to develop program ideas to strengthen their sisterhoods. It was a rewarding experience and in my new position, I look forward to reaching out to sisterhoods outside my area.

Trying to get your members to attend? WLCJ competes for time with PTA's, organizations and much needed R&R for your sisterhood members' time and attention. Developing programs that are timely and catchy is a sure way to get your women to attend meetings and programs. Are you looking for D'Var Torah or Education Programs? Try going to the Women's League's website: WLCJ.org and then click on to the Education tab. Many ideas await you.

Did you know our Mid-Atlantic Region loans out chuppot? There are three to choose from. It's free and easy. All you need to do is complete a form, and hand in a refundable deposit. Return the chuppah in great shape and your check is returned. For more details please contact me.

Save the date: 2/12/11 for our Mid-Atlantic Region's Event: "Hiddur Mitzvah Women's Tea" with our very own author, Lisa Kogen. Adath Israel's Sisterhood of Lawrenceville, NJ will host this event. If you would like to help, please contact Barbara Bess-Pashak.

Shalom,
Barbara
pashak@aol.com
267-679-2458 cell



TORAH FUND UPDATE

Rochelle Hirt

Mid-Atlantic Region Torah Fund Vice President

Torah Fund is alive and well in our Mid-Atlantic Region! We helped to raise over \$2,100,000 for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America during the 2010-2011 campaign. Our MAR alone raised over \$217,000, which is more than 10% of the overall total from all 13 Regions!

These first few months of my vice-presidency have been quite busy setting the foundation for what promises to be two of the most successful years ever!

In June, I spent three days in New York attending the Torah Fund Region Vice Presidents Training Conference which was held at the Jewish Theological Seminary and led by our International WLCJ TF Chair, Lauren Wishnew. Together with the other twelve TF Region VPs, we spent our days learning about our positions, but also participating in Services twice a day in the WL Seminary Synagogue (funded by TF dollars), hearing from learned speakers like Chancellor Arnold Eisen, and got to meet and hear from students at each one of the schools. We ate our meals in the student cafeteria, we visited the Billie Rubinoff Student Center, and toured the library. In short, we saw what our Torah Fund dollars have done and are still doing.

When I returned, I held a conference call with our MAR TF Directors to share some of what I learned and to prepare them for our Area Leadership Meetings that were held throughout the summer. We discussed this year's TF theme: Hiddur Mitzvah (to embellish, adorn, or enhance a mitzvah), which is illustrated beautifully on this year's Benefactor's Pin. Other topics ranged from the very meaning and purpose of Torah Fund to the detail items like how to fill out transmittal sheets. I would like to thank my TF Directors---Gayle Wilton, Gert Solkov, Judy Simkin, Sandy Lewis, Sue Leventhal, and Madelyn Karasick (in the order of their Area Meetings), for taking what they learned and presenting it so well to the Sisterhood TF VPs/Chairs who attended the meetings in each of their respective areas. (Special thanks to Nancy Goldberg who stepped in last minute to present for Area 3). I'd like to re-emphasize what they each said: We are all here to help your Sisterhood! Whether you're a TF VP/Chair or not, if you have any questions about Torah Fund, just contact any one of us.

In late August we had a meeting to establish the new '11-'12 Sisterhood TF Goals. Letters are now being prepared and will be received by your sisterhood's TF VP/Chair or President before the Holidays.

By now, you should have seen the flyer advertising our upcoming trip to have lunch in the JTS Sukkah on Monday, October 17. We will be riding a luxury coach, with two stops (one in PA and one in NJ) and snacks. After lunch we will have a guided tour of the Seminary, and then return on the bus (with more snacks) -- all of this for only \$55.00 per person! If you haven't already signed up, there may still be time to do so (depending on when this newsletter comes out). The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, Oct. 5, so please call Thelma Fox at (856) 779-0019 ASAP.

Our Annual Torah Fund Event this year will be held in March, 2012. We have already begun making plans for it and it promises to be very exciting! We will be bringing Torah Fund into the 21st century! Watch for more information in upcoming weekly notices and in the next Mid-Atlantic Happenings.



Benefactor's Pin
2011-2012
Hiddur Mitzvah

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN ON TARGET? NEED TO CATCH UP? HERE ARE SOME IDEAS

JULY (RECRUIT)

Establish a Membership Team.

Contact your Region Membership Vice President and introduce yourself.

Brainstorm with your Membership team to develop goals.

Develop an Action Plan, discuss it, prioritize, establish steps, and delegate assignments.

AUGUST (RECRUIT)

Review your plans.

Present your plan to your Sisterhood Board.

Send invitations to join Sisterhood to new synagogue members and other prospective members. Include a Sisterhood Calendar and other relevant material.

SEPTEMBER (RECLAIM)

Hold a membership event. Need ideas? Call your Region Membership Vice President or check the Sisterhood Planner.

OCTOBER (RECLAIM)

Call prospective members who did not attend the Membership Event and invite them to your next meeting.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION MEMBERSHIP TEAM IN YOUR PLANS.

Idelle Wood, MAR Membership Vice President

eyewood@earthlink.net 215-673-6430

JUDAICA SHOP

As the Judaica Shop Chair for the Mid-Atlantic Region, I am available to answer questions, provide resource information and connect Judaica Shops with one another for brainstorming, joint purchasing and sharing of best practices. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, needs or concerns. It is my hope to visit each of the Judaica Shops in the Region and meet the wonderful volunteers who provide this vital service to our shuls.

Sincerely,

Helene Amster

Home: 267-886-8912

Cell: 856-912-8070

Email: helene18@verizon.net

"SACRED TRASH -- THE LOST AND FOUND WORLD OF THE CAIRO GENIZA" by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole

Greetings Ladies. I hope that you had a delightful and restful summer and you enjoyed your reading. As the days get cooler I'd like to suggest a book that seems perfect for the days ahead: *Sacred Trash – The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza* by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole. From the unlikely cast of characters who discovered the geniza (repository for worn-out texts), to their chance encounter with Solomon Schechter, who traveled to Cairo and rescued the materials, to the scholars who painstakingly reassembled and deciphered the documents, we get a remarkable glimpse of pre-modern Jewish history over an almost thousand year span. The Cairo Geniza is unique in that anything written in Hebrew letters was saved. This included poems, letters, court documents, doctor's prescriptions and many day-to-day items as well as sacred religious texts. It is a peek into the world of Jewish life in Cairo when it was the hub of Mediterranean commerce and home to one of the most prosperous Jewish communities.

Nina Einhorn

Books Chair



WOMEN'S LEAGUE EXPANDS ITS FOCUS TO INCLUDE KOACH

In keeping with our mission to perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community, Women's League is exceedingly proud to announce that it is sponsoring the 2012 KOACH Kallah. KOACH is the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's college outreach program and its kallah brings Conservative student leaders from across the continent together each February.

For most of its 93 years, Women's League has supported the Conservative movement's key institutions of higher learning - the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, and the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. Now, in keeping with its mission, Women's League has expanded that focus to students from colleges and universities across North America.

Women's League's leadership is intent on ensuring that the Conservative movement does not lose the next generation of Jews to the myriad influences that impressionable young people encounter when they leave their home communities for the unlimited choices found on most campuses. More than 90 percent of all North American Jewish students enroll in college. Although the Orthodox movements continue to commit an estimated \$15 million this population, budget considerations have forced the liberal movements to cut back their offerings on campus.

For more than two decades United Synagogue has supported KOACH's kallah, but now, as it works toward the goals laid out in its new strategic plan, it too has been forced to cut back its funding. Women's League has come forward to ensure that this vitally important program continues.

Members of Women's League are the mothers and grandmothers of hundreds of thousands of current and future college students. They recognize that young adults are idealistic, open to new experiences, searching for meaning, and still developing their sense of themselves. They understand the need for entertaining, engaging, accessible, and meaningful Jewish experiences on campus. They appreciate that if their children and grandchildren have an outlet to explore and experience Conservative Judaism on their own terms, they have considerably improved the odds that these students will live modern Jewish lives after graduation.

KOACH provides college students the opportunity to 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. More than 2,200 students from scores of campuses have participated in the kallah over the last 22 years, and each one has brought programming ideas, enthusiasm, and a commitment to Conservative/Masorti values back to their campuses, Hillels and Jewish communities.

According to Richard Skolnik, United Synagogue's international president, "We are grateful to Women's League for providing this additional support for this crucial population. The KOACH kallah in particular produces both tangible and intangible results. Many students have met their future spouses and formed lifelong friendships there. Many kallah participants are now active members of our kehillot."

Rita Wertlieb, president of Women's League, said that Women's League's sponsorship of the KOACH kallah "sends a clear message that we are committed to providing all of our college students with opportunities to become passionate about being Conservative Jews who are committed to our traditions as well as to tikkun olam. We are thrilled to become partners with United Synagogue in expanding the reach of KOACH by underwriting this essential part of the KOACH agenda. At the same time, we hope that our assistance will challenge KOACH to increase participation in the kallah and thereby increase our impact on the next generation of synagogue and sisterhood members."

HIDDUR MITZVAH PROJECT

A fresh approach to enhancing mitzvot

Holiday celebrations help maintain the spiritual rhythm of our lives and the vitality of our family traditions. The new Women's League Hiddur Mitzvah Project - organized around the Jewish calendar - offers new, creative and practical ideas for making holiday and Shabbat observances more meaningful.

This innovative guide includes:

- Thoughts about hiddur mitzvah from Conservative movement scholars and leaders
- Source material for study in groups or on your own
- Tried-and true Creative Judaic Arts projects as well as new ones appropriate for family activities
- Study guide based on Meredith Levin Jacob's *The Modern Jewish Mom's Guide to Shabbat: Connect and Celebrate - Bring Your Family Together with the Friday Night Meal*
- Resource lists of books, websites, museums, and more

Much of the material will be available on the Women's League website, www.wlcj.org. **One copy of the Hiddur Mitzvah Project will be sent to any sisterhood that requests it at no cost.** If you would like to order a copy for your sisterhood, please contact the order department at 212.870.1260, ext. 7150 or orderdept@wlcj.org.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN TIME!

It's time to refresh your sisterhood campaign to find new members and reactivate old ones! Check out some creative ideas for flyers and postcards at www.wlcj.org/WLCJforYOU/ LINKING: Strengthening Sisterhoods

Mark Your Calendars
Women's League
for Conservative Judaism
CONVENTION 2012
December 2-5, 2012
Las Vegas, Nevada



DISTANCE WORKSHOPS

Women's League provides fabulous 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.wlcj.org.

2011/2012 SCHEDULE

September 19, 2011

Sisterhood Presidents - A Crash Course

November 2, 2011

Navigating the Women's League Website: The wonders you will find

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

ATTENTION ALL SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS

Women's League is ready to send you and your chairs important, vital, essential, fascinating, informative, crucial, absorbing, useful materials and information. But if they don't have your sisterhood profile, they can't!

What are you waiting for?

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

They 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 212.870.1260, ext. 7150.

SUPPORT WOMEN'S LEAGUE

There are many ways to help Women's League continue to provide the services and materials that our regions and sisterhoods depend upon:

- Become a member of the KOL ISHAH SOCIETY with an annual contribution of \$54. You can help even more by becoming a KOL ISHAH PLUS member for \$75 or a KOL ISHAH PLATINUM member for \$150.
- Participate in our semi-annual direct mail campaigns. Women's League has created some lovely and useful items to thank you for your generous support.
- Honor friends, family, your sisterhood and region with an easy online donation.
- Sponsor a publication or project, from Ba'Olam to CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.



REGION PRESIDENTS TRAINING

Thirteen newly minted region presidents and 12 Torah Fund vice presidents recently completed three exhausting, but exhilarating, days being prepared for their new roles. Many of the women were already well on their way as graduates of Women's League Leadership Institutes.

Thanks to intensive training by Women League President Rita Wertlieb, Region Services Chair Carol Simon, and Region Presidents Conference Chair Heddy Belman, each president mastered a variety of tools that she will use to be as effective as possible in her region. The group discussed organizational skills, leadership development, dealing with a variety of personality types, how to take advantage of new social media. And they studied with Education Director Lisa Kogen, prayed in the Women's League Seminary Synagogue, and heard from JTS Chancellor Arnie Eisen.

Carol Simon will maintain the ongoing connections between Women's League and the regions with conference calls scheduled every 6 to 8 weeks. The goal is to reach into each region and its sisterhoods, and solidify the ties between sisterhoods, regions, Women's League, and our members.

Carolyn Baron, Torah Fund director, and Torah Fund Chair Lauren Wishnew agree that this class of Torah Fund vice presidents is energetic, enthusiastic and prepared to embark on the vital campaign to ensure Conservative/Masorti Jewish education. The vice presidents complemented their training with networking with their region presidents. Their overall opinion? "It was awe inspiring!"

MEET GILAD

At its 2010 convention, Women's League resolved to tell the story of Gilad Shalit and the six missing Israeli soldiers to the American public and its elected representatives. To heighten our efforts, we urge all members to send a message to the Shalit family, the United Nations, the Palestinian Authority, the European Union, and the International Criminal Court. The Community Internet Engagement project's campaign, Meet Gilad, reminds people of the human side of his ordeal. Simply visit the website and leave Gilad a personal message. One million messages is the goal. Together we can achieve exponentially greater results than any organization, region or country could alone. At the same time, please send a message to the international organizations above.

Send your message of support today and be counted as a part of Women's League's initiative at www.meetgilad.com.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE MISSION

15 days in Prague and Israel

November 6-20, 2011

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Prague's remarkable Jewish history
- Experience Israel's history
- Enjoy some of the country's newest cultural landmarks including the Rabin Center and the Nagala'at Theater for the Blind & Deaf
- Connect with our Masorti sisters and brothers
- Meet movement leaders and dignitaries

COSTS

- Land only: \$2942 per person, double occupancy
- Air & land: \$4139 per person, double occupancy

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Go to: www.gate1travel.com/wlcj.aspx
- Contact Women's League, 212.870.1260
- Women's League Mission Chairs: Judy Horowitz (JHorow11@aol.com) and Anna Tractenberg (AnnaTract@aol.com)

MAGENTZEDEK

We in the Conservative movement are delighted that the principles of Magen Tzedek have permeated the consciousness of the American Jewish community. Magen Tzedek, which is not a hekhsher or kashrut certification, instead reflects the highest standard on a variety of important issues: employee wages and benefits, health and safety, animal welfare, corporate transparency and environmental impact of food production. Magen Tzedek demonstrates that ritual and ethical commandments have an equal place at our tables.

The Torah says, "Do not oppress the hired laborer who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your people or one of the sojourners in your land within your gates... lest he cry out to God about you, for this will be counted as a sin for you" (Deuteronomy 24:15). The Talmud expounds: "His life depends on them" indicates that anyone who denies a hired laborer his wages, it is as though he takes his life from him." The Talmud informs us that God is concerned about workers' rights and dignity, and employers must take that seriously.

As Conservative Jews, we understand that the commandments *bein adam l'Makom* (between human beings and God) and *bein adam l'havero* (between human beings)

are commanded equally by God. We must look at the act of eating as a wholly holy enterprise. Because the Torah commands it, we seek to assure through Magen Tzedek that the holiness of eating includes how food production workers are treated. The Magen Tzedek seal signifies that this food was produced adhering to the highest ethical standards, just as the hekhsher signifies that the food is kosher.

The goal of Magen Tzedek is simple -- to do as much as possible to insure that workers' rights are upheld and their dignity is observed. We must make it impossible for anyone to say that we consumers stood idly by as the workers who produced our food were mistreated. Magen Tzedek will allow us to say that food that carries that seal was produced by a business that follows federal, state, and Jewish law on the treatment of workers, and takes that obligation seriously.

What's Happening in Our Sisterhoods

USHERING IN A SWEET NEWYEAR!

Women's League of Temple Israel (Wilkes-Barre) will offer for the second year our Challah and Honey Gift Bag. The holiday gift bag includes a kosher challah, plain or raisin, apples, honey, candy and yom tov candles at \$20 per bag. This fundraiser is an ideal holiday greeting for family members, host or hostess, or someone new in town!

Last year was the first time we did this project. Our fundraising efforts enabled us to give a donation to our synagogue and religious school. We were also able to reach out to a large group of our Temple membership, both men and women, as volunteers to deliver bags.

Everyone involved from stuffing bags to delivering the finished product enjoyed the camaraderie that Women's League projects provide. As people opened their front doors they were greeted with Shanah Tovah and handed their gift bag. What better way to start the New Year!

Marsha Levenson

Women's League of Temple Israel Steering Committee

OHEV SHALOM OF BUCKS COUNTY SISTERHOOD

How To Night - Thursday, November 10, 2011 - Learn "How To": Make a Decorated Chanukah Sweatshirt, Learn to Knit, Learn to Play Mah Jongg, Learn to Use your iPad, iPod Touch or iPhone.

Chanukah Bazaar - Sunday November 13, 2011 9am - 2pm. Shop for all of your Chanukah gifts. Variety of vendors selling everything from jewelry to gift items to tools.

Women's Study Dinner - Thursday, November 17, 2011 - Light Dinner followed by discussion.

Book Review by Rabbi Perlstein - Thursday, December 1, 2011 - Rabbi will review *The Help* by Katherine Stockett. Light Dinner (\$18) will be served first.

For more information or to RSVP for any of these programs, call the office at 215-322-9595. All events are at Ohev Shalom of Bucks County



HAPPENINGS SUBMISSIONS

For future articles in
HAPPENINGS
please submit to
Leslie Blau-Berlin
blauberlin@verizon.net

The editor regrets any alterations or omissions of original copy which may have been edited to fit the newsletter guidelines



Ner Tamid Sisterhood invites
the community to an afternoon with



MAGGIE ANTON

author of RASHI'S DAUGHTERS

"Three Women and a Talmud" - Maggie Anton discusses research behind the award-winning RASHI'S DAUGHTER'S trilogy. A question and answer period follows.



Lecture and refreshments
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th

3:00 PM

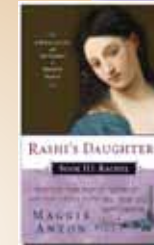
Temple Beth Sholom

1901 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ

\$10 per person w/RSVP

\$12 at the door

<http://www.rashisdaughters.com>



Please RSVP by 11/1

\$10 pp, checks payable to:
CNT Sisterhood

c/o Elaine Barlow, 304 Tearose Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

For more information
call Ellie Feller
856-229-7758

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| ADDRESS _____ | TOTAL INCLUDED _____ |
| PHONE _____ | @ \$10 per person _____ |