



# Mid-Atlantic Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism **Mid-Atlantic Happenings**

Region President, Mimi Pollack

Editor, Amy Perrone

Volume 1 Issue 1

Late Summer 2008/5768

## Executive Committee

### President

Mimi Pollack

### Vice Presidents

#### Area

Donna Finkelstein

#### Community

Anna Tractenberg

#### Education

#### Membership

Debbi Goldich

#### Torah Fund

Maxine Endy

### Treasurer

Deborah Napoleon

### Financial Secretary

Gayle Wilton

### Administrative Secretary

Charlotte Stein

### Communications Secretary

Meryl Stern

### Immediate Past Presidents

Sandy Blumenthal-

Parliamentarian

Janet Kirschner-

Nominating Committee

Mary Starkman-

Training Services

## President's Message



We are at the beginning of a new era, not only in Women's League, but in our Region. For most of us, we have seen our comfortable geography more than double and most of us are now closely associated with more than double the number of Sisterhoods we were accustomed to. Change is not always easy, some have said – but look at the benefits and possibilities now open to us.

It has already been my pleasure to personally meet so many more wonderful women who love Women's League as much as I do. I have already had the opportunity to work closely with women who are as near to their Conservative Judaism as I am. I have already visited synagogue Sisterhoods who are as warm and lovingly welcoming as I could ever have imagined. I find that no one in a Women's League Sisterhood is a stranger. We all have commonality. We are all linked together.

When I became President of this new Mid-Atlantic Region in May, I was in awe of the vastness of these new responsibilities I had taken on. I wanted to do everything in my power to help encourage a comfortable union for all of us. My job is just beginning. Of course, I have been blessed with an extremely capable Executive Committee and Board of Directors and would not be able to succeed without their input and expertise.

Another new beginning is our bulletin, "Mid-Atlantic Happenings" (named by popular vote by members of our new Region). That was something we did together. We'll be doing more together.

Your Region Board is dedicated to making your Sisterhoods a success. This show is going on the road to see you and help you in any way possible. Your Region Board is reaching out to you. The success of our Mid-Atlantic Region comes from the success of our Sisterhoods. Please let us be part of helping you toward that goal. Each of us is a phone call or an email away. We are here for you.

The Hebrew month of Elul is always our indicator that a New Year is on the horizon. Let us have wonderful new beginnings in our lives and let us commit ourselves to successful new beginnings in our Sisterhoods. From my family to yours, we wish you a healthy, happy, sweet and prosperous New Year – L'Shana Tovah Umitukah.

B'Shalom,  
Mimi Pollack, President  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

**Your Area Directors:**  
**Problem Solvers and**  
**Sources of Help**

Mid-Atlantic  
 Region  
 Breakdown

The Mid-Atlantic Region of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism is divided into seven geographic areas. Each one has its own Area Director to solve problems and help our Sisterhoods. The direct services that the Area Directors will provide to Sisterhoods include answering questions, organizing workshops and programs, and making personal visits. The Area Directors report to the Area Vice President, Donna Finkelstein.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, during the Presidents’ Session at the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference, the Area Directors met with Sisterhood Presidents from their areas. This was an opportunity to exchange contact information and preferences for future meetings and communication methods. Priorities and types of support from Women’s League were discussed. Joint workshops and meetings with Sisterhoods were highlighted. The next meeting of the Area Directors was at the end of our Region Board Orientation on June 19<sup>th</sup>. This was the first opportunity for the Area Directors to meet each other.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Area Directors had their first conference call. They discussed the direct services the Area Directors will provide to Sisterhoods.

The Next Step:

It is very important to keep them informed about EVERYTHING happening in the Mid-Atlantic Region. They are the link between the Region and the Sisterhoods. Often, they are the first point of contact with Mid-Atlantic Region and Women’s League for Conservative Judaism.

As a Sisterhood President or member of the Executive Committee, it is important for you to communicate with the Area Directors about all programs, projects and events you are planning.

*Donna Finkelstein*  
 Area Vice President  
 Mid-Atlantic Region

<b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Marian Goldstein-Beckhorn</a>	Beth El (Allentown) Ohev Shalom (Williamsport) Temple Israel (Scranton) Temple Israel (Wilkes Barre)
<b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Mary Starkman</a>	<b><u>Area 1</u></b>

<b><u>Area 2</u></b> <b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Joy Novick</a>	Adath Israel (Merion Station) Beth El—Ner Tamid (Broomall) Beth Zion—Beth Israel (Philadelphia) Har Zion (Penn Valley) Ohev Shalom (Wallingford) Or Shalom (Berwyn) Suburban JCC-B’nai Aaron (Havertown) Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El (Wynnewood)
<b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Rosemarie Miller</a>	

<b><u>Area 3</u></b> <b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Nancy Goldberg</a>	Beth El (Lancaster) Beth Israel (Uwchland) Beth Israel (Lebanon) B’nai Jacob (Phoenixville) Keshet Israel (West Chester) Keshet Zion (Reading) Women’s League of Pottstown
<b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Roz Goldstein</a>	

<b><u>Area 4</u></b> <b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Barbara Bess-Pashak</a>	Adath Israel (Lawrenceville) Beth El (East Windsor) Beth El (Yardley) Brothers of Israel (Newtown) Ohev Shalom (Richboro) Tifereth Israel (Bensalem)
<b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Judy Young</a>	



Ideas, letters, and programs. This is your newsletter.

# Mid-Atlantic Region Breakdown

Continued from previous page

<p><b><u>Area 5</u></b></p> <p><b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Susan Handis</a></p> <p><b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Rebecca Peikes Kohn</a></p>	<p>Adath Jeshurun (Elkins Park) Beth Sholom (Elkins Park) Beth Tikvah—B'nai Jeshurun (Erdenheim) Germantown Jewish Centre (Philadelphia) Melrose B'nai Israel, Emanu El (Cheltenham) Ner Zedek Ezrath Israel Beth Uziel (Philadelphia) Temple Sinai (Dresher) Tiferet Bet Israel (Blue Bell)</p>
<p><b><u>Area 6</u></b></p> <p><b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Rochelle Hirt</a></p> <p><b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Lyn Stein</a></p>	<p>Congregation Beth Tikvah (Marlton) Har Zion (Mt. Holly) Ner Tamid (Cherry Hill) Temple Beth Sholom (Cherry Hill) Temple Sinai (Cinnaminson)</p>
<p><b><u>Area 7</u></b></p> <p><b>Area Director:</b> <a href="#">Rosalind Bulk</a></p> <p><b>Torah Fund Director:</b> <a href="#">Judy Simkin</a></p>	<p>Beth El (Voorhees) Beth Israel (Vineland) Beth Israel (Woodbury) Beth Judah (Ventnor) B'nai Tikvah (Turnersville)</p>

## Our Administrative Secretary

I am Charlotte Stein, Administrative Secretary for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. My duties include recording minutes of all executive and full board meetings; attendance records, copies of all reports; policy book in conjunction with the Parliamentarian; keep a Region calendar with Women's League and Region events; coordinate with Area Directors on Sisterhood events; provide updated calendar information for Communications Secretary, Webmaster and Bulletin Editor.

My previous position was Administrative Vice President of Southern New Jersey Region I am looking forward to a very productive year with Mid Atlantic Region. In November, I will attend Convention and meet up with many friends from Institute and the South Jersey Area.

*Charlotte Stein*  
Administrative Secretary  
Mid-Atlantic Region

## INTRODUCING our new Mid-Atlantic Region President...

Mimi has been a member of Sisterhood since the age of 22 at Temple Sholom in Philadelphia. There she immediately became active and attained positions of leadership. In 1974 Mimi, Bernie and three babies moved to Bucks County. After being instrumental in founding Ohev Shalom of Bucks County in 1976 and its Sisterhood shortly thereafter, Mimi rose through the ranks and became Sisterhood President from 1995-1998. In the interim, Mimi became active in Philadelphia Branch/Region and became Corresponding Secretary in 1998, Financial Secretary in 2000, Torah Fund Vice President in 2002, Membership Vice President in 2004 and Education Vice President in 2006. Mimi was also Founders Day Chair in 1998 and 1999 and Spring Conference Chair in 2002.

Mimi has attended Women's League Leadership Institute in 2003 and 2008 and has attended Women's League International Convention since 1994 when it was still held in the Catskills.

Mimi is also active in other Jewish organizations, among them Women's American ORT, NCJW, and was a charter member of Newtown Hadassah. She serves on the board of Directors of Bucks County Israel Bonds and was honored by Israel Bonds in 1993. Mimi also serves on the Board of Directors of Philadelphia Women's Division of Israel Bonds and in April of 2008 was a co-chair of their Evening of Honor.

Mimi has been married to Bernie for 40 years and they are the proud parents of Elisa (and Craig) Kandel, Erica (and Dr. Ross) Levine and Adam (and Allyson) Pollack. Mimi and Bernie are the loving grandparents of Lara and Julia Kandel, Hannah Pollack, and Myles and Danna Levine.

# Conference 2008



"The past is our heritage  
The present is our responsibility  
The future is our challenge"

This is the motto we shared and lived by on Monday May 19, 2008 when the Mid-Atlantic Region held its first annual conference as we came together to "marry" the four separate regions of Philadelphia, South Jersey, Central Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania.

The day proved to be both rewarding and fulfilling to all who attended. The day consisted of multi-workshops, all of which were enjoyed and found to be informative and helpful in everyday leadership activities. Our speakers included Gloria B. Cohen, Conference Consultant and past Women's League International President, and Professor Beth S. Wenger, Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, who spoke on American Jewish history and culture. One of the many highlights of the day was a beautiful concert by Cantor Elizabeth Shammash of Tifereth Bet Israel who sang for us in celebration of Israel's 60th birthday.

Following a lovely cocktail party, a very warm and moving installation of 2008-2009 officers and directors was performed, with a special honor welcoming the new and incoming president Mimi Pollack. A delicious and very social dinner capped the evening perfectly. All in all, thanks to a hard working and diligent transition team, a successful day for the Mid-Atlantic Region was had by all. A special thanks to my amazing Co-Chair **Judy Simpkin**. Todah rabah!

*Jay Navick*

## **Lazy Dazy Days of Summer for Torah Fund**

**By Maxine Endy, Torah Fund Vice President**

It's the dog-days of August, but not for the hard-working Mid-Atlantic Region Torah Fund Team! I have the most dedicated bunch of Torah Fund Directors I could ever ask for. Roz Goldstein, Roe Miller, Rebecca Peikes Kohn, Judy Simkin, Mary Starkman, Lyn Stein, and Judi Young have attended a dinner training session and come out full of vim and vigor for the job ahead. This month they also enjoyed meeting via telephone conferencing.

To date, they have completed their lists of Torah Fund Chairs and Pin Chairs for the various sisterhoods and number of pins to be sent. In the coming weeks, they will be delivering 2008-9 Torah Fund Campaign goals to the Sisterhood Presidents and Torah Fund Chairs. And, of course, they will be setting up meetings for their areas.

At the rate these ladies are going, we suggest you make your contribution to Torah Fund early. We may run out of pins if they keep up the pace!

### **Torah Fund Idea of the Month Award**

The Mid-Atlantic Torah Fund Team has established a new award. Each month, one Sisterhood will receive an award for the most creative idea for its Torah Fund Campaign. For July, the MAR Torah Fund Idea of the Month Award has gone to Temple Beth Sholom in Cherry Hill. Helene Amster, Torah Fund Chair sent an early letter to prospective Torah Fund donors, and she received so many pledges, she had to increase her initial Torah Fund pin order to 60, 20 more than previously ordered. Congratulations to Helene and Temple Beth Sholom. And thank you to Lyn Stein for reporting the news.

***Idea of the Month Award***

***to***

**Temple Beth Sholom, Cherry Hill**

**Helene Amster, Torah Fund Chair**

Helene Amster, Torah Fund Chair, sent a letter to prospective donors, reminding them of the 2008-9 campaign, explaining the details, and asking for their support. She got back so many responses that she increased the number of pins she was ordering.

**Congratulations!!!**

**Lyn Stein, Torah Fund Director, Area 6**

*Maxine Endy, Vice-President Torah Fund, Mid-Atlantic Region*

*Mimi Pollack, President, Mid-Atlantic Region*



## LEAGRAM

The Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League wants to share with each of its "Sisters" their simchas, sorrows, celebrations, and accomplishments. Please let us know by calling VIOLET ZEITLIN [215]635-1587 so that we can acknowledge the event by sending a LEAGRAM. CALL TODAY with details and keep us informed.



### **Mazel Tov:**

**Janet & Philip Kirschner** - on the occasion of their daughter, Jennifer's graduation from Vasser

**Meryl & Larry Stern**— on the occasion of their daughter, Heather's graduation from University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

**Joan Vogin** (Past President Philadelphia Region) on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Maya Vogin

**Sue Leventhal**—on becoming a grandmother

**Barbara Braunstein**-on her retirement

**Lina & Marty Shane** on the birth of their grandson, Brian Henry

**Nancy Schwartz** on the marriage of her son



לשנה טובה תכתבו!

## **Get Well:** R'Fuah Shlaymah

**Gayle Vogel, President of Beth Sholom (Elkins Park) Sisterhood.**

**David Tractenberg, son of Anna Tractenberg, Community Vice President, after his surgery.**

**Andrew Goldstein husband of Dana Goldstein, President of Temple Israel Sisterhood, Wilkes Barre.**

**Pearl Reznik Co-President B'nai Jacob Sisterhood (Phoenixville) recent foot surgery**

**Debbi Goldich, Membership Vice President, recent shoulder surgery.**

**Joan Vogin, Past President Philadelphia Region, hand surgery**

## **Condolences:** Baruch Dayan HaEmet

The family of Gloria Schwartz, former Eastern PA Branch President. We mourn her loss. May her memory be for a blessing.

The family of Edith Toll, former Philadelphia Branch President. We mourn her loss. May her memory be for a blessing.

The passing of Rhoda Pomerantz, former President of Tifereth Israel (Bensalem) Sisterhood. We extend our condolences and sympathy to Rhoda's family and comfort to her loving friends and fellow congregants.

The passing of Ida Goldman, beloved mother-in-law of Maxine Goldman, Sisterhood President of Ner Zedek-Ezrath Israel-Beth Uziel (Philadelphia).

## CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Shabbaton

### SUNDAY

- 9:00 Registration opens
- 10:00 Judaica Fair opens
- 10:00 Torah Study
- 11:00 Something for Everyone: drop in sessions
- 1:30 Opening Plenum and Region Roll Call
- 3:45 Region Meetings
- 5:15 Time for You: Creative Judaic arts open studio, yoga, choral group
- 6:45 Dinner, Installation, Gospel Concert

### MONDAY

- 8:30 Judaica Shop Chairs Breakfast
- 10:00 The Heart of the Matter: Women's Health
- 12:00 Torah Fund Program and Luncheon
- 3:15 The Heart & Soul of Women's League: Sessions for officers and chairs; study with scholar-in-residence; Book & Author; World Affairs Resolutions Caucus
- 5:30 Time for You: (See Sunday 5:15)
- 8:15 Celebrate Israel at 60

### TUESDAY

- 9:45 The Soul of the Matter: Mitzvah Yomit
- 1:30 Resolutions
- 3:00 The Heart & Soul of Women's League (see Monday 3:15)
- 5:00 Time for You (see Sunday 5:30)
- 6:45 Dinner, Baalot Mitzvah Awards, and the Women's League 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY

- 10:30 The Jewish View: a conversation among Jewish women writers



# Convention 2008

We're looking for you on the road to Detroit...

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CONVENTION 2008

#### Tikkun Olam

#### Creative Judaic Arts Project

Check out [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) (link on the homepage) for patterns, or use your own design for hats and scarves for the homeless in Detroit. Send them to Women's League.

Women's League is going green in 2008! Please register online at [www.wlcjconvention.org](http://www.wlcjconvention.org) or call 212.870.1263 for help from the Registration Team.

Our Sisterhoods devote energy, hours, funding and sometimes even tears to making our synagogues and the greater communities better places to live. Why we do this is because as Jewish women, it is our responsibility to perform acts of chesed and Tzedakah. We know that the Sisterhoods of the MID-ATLANTIC REGION are doing amazing things to make our world a better place to live. We want to hear from you so we can share your ideas on the region's web and bulletin pages; pictures, as well as ideas are invited. Currently many of our sisterhoods are knitting, gloves, hats, scarves sweaters, baby blankets etc. for the people of DETROIT. These beautiful handcrafted items will be the centerpieces at convention dining tables this year and then distributed at the end of convention. WOMEN'S LEAGUE really has a HEART AND A SOUL. Once again LAUREL HOUSE, [www.laurel-house.org](http://www.laurel-house.org), a women's and children's domestic violence shelter in Montgomery County, PA has given us a wish list of items they need to enhance the quality of life of their temporary residents.



Beth Hillel Beth El sisterhood (Wynnewood, PA ) knitting group

The list is as follows:

- Kids underwear up to about age 12
- \$5 and \$10 gift cards to Target and Wal-Mart
- 30 minute and 60 minute phone cards
- After school snacks
- Markers small packs
- Zipper pencil cases
- Stickers

I look forward to hearing from your sisterhoods with what you are doing to make a world a better place: book drives, blood drives, planting trees in Israel, volunteering in the Nursery School, literacy programs, supporting USY, Meals on Wheels and so forth. Together as Sisterhood women we can change our world for the better.



Beth Hillel Beth El sisterhood (Wynnewood, PA ) knitting group

*Anna Tractenberg*  
 Community Service Vice President  
 Mid-Atlantic Region  
[annatract@aol.com](mailto:annatract@aol.com)  
 484-433-3619



Women's League for  
Conservative Judaism  
**CONVENTION 2008**  
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, MI  
**SUNDAY—WEDNESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 9–12, 2008**

**Registration Information**  
We're going green! Register on line at  
[www.wlcjconvention.org](http://www.wlcjconvention.org)  
Registration hotline:  
212-870-1260

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Hyatt Regency

600 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan  
313-593-1234 dearbornhyatt.com

All hotel arrangements must be made through Women's League.

### Meals

Delegates are expected to eat all meals with Convention. Delegates must present a meal ticket and Convention badge to be served. All food is kosher and under the supervision of STAR K.

### Roommates

Each roommate must register separately. If a Roommate cancels without a substitute, the Delegate will be responsible for the cost of a Single room. Some triple rooms with rollaway beds are available.

### Transportation

Taxi service is available from the Detroit airport. Parking is available at no cost.

### Special Needs

Women's League will do its best to accommodate your needs. Please contact the office for further information. All requests for special meals must be made before October 6, 2008. Call 212-870-1260, ext. 7167 or e-mail [chawkins@wlcj.org](mailto:chawkins@wlcj.org)

### Pre & Post Convention

The room rate is \$180 per night, per room.

Information about area tours will be included in the packet you will receive after your registration process has been completed.



## CONVENTION 2008 TIKKUN OLAM CREATIVE JUDAIC ARTS PROJECTS

### Two special projects to keep your fingers busy before and during convention:

Women's League has committed to knitting and crocheting hats, scarves and mittens for needy adults and children, men and women in Detroit. Check out [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) (link on the homepage) for patterns, or use your own design. Please call 212-870-1260, ext. 7150 to request labels to sew onto your finished work. Mid-Atlantic Region aims to create 60 items in honor of Israel's 60th. Don't worry if you can't knit or crochet you can help by donating needles, yarn and hooks etc. For more information contact Gloria Spitz at [Gloria.s@juno.com](mailto:Gloria.s@juno.com). Donations can be dropped off at any synagogue, marked "Sisterhood". Let the warmth of your hands keep someone warm next winter.



## NEW FOR CONVENTION 2008

Registration forms will be done online at  
[www.wlcjconvention.org](http://www.wlcjconvention.org)

If you have any problems with the registration process, please call 212-870-1260, to set up an appointment with our registration hotline.

If you do not want to register online, call your area director or Women's League for a registration blank or set up an appointment with our registration team who will take your information over the phone. Call **212-870-1260** for an appointment.

**Those who register before September 15, 2008 receive the Early Bird Special.**

All registration must be completed by October 6, 2008. Room availability and rates are not guaranteed after that date.

**REGISTER:**  
[www.wlcjconvention.org](http://www.wlcjconvention.org)

## DESCRIPTIONS of DELEGATE PACKAGES and COSTS

Women's League is going green! In order to save paper, time and money, we are asking that delegates register online. If you prefer to register with paper registration, please call **212-870-1260** and request a form.

A convention registration fee of \$100 is included in each convention package.

Only registered delegates will receive a convention kit and be allowed into convention programs and meals.

### FULL-TIME DELEGATE

Includes registration fee, hotel for 3 nights (double occupancy), meals from Sunday lunch through Wednesday lunch, installation reception, taxes, gratuities. Luggage handling not included.

<b>Early Bird Special</b> (payment in full by September 2nd.)	<b>\$835</b>
After September 2nd.	<b>\$885</b>
Single supplement	<b>+\$270</b>

### PART-TIME DELEGATE

Includes registration fee, hotel for one or two nights (double occupancy), consecutive meals, installation reception (Sunday), taxes, gratuities. Luggage handling not included.

<b>One night</b> (3 consecutive meals) Single supplement	<b>\$370</b> <b>+\$90</b>
<b>Two nights</b> (6 consecutive meals) Single supplement	<b>\$610</b> <b>+\$180</b>

### SHABBAT PACKAGE

**November 7-8**

Per person, double occupancy **\$325**  
Includes Friday and Saturday hotel. Friday dinner, Saturday continental breakfast, lunch and *s'udah shishit*, taxes, gratuities. Luggage handling not included.

Single supplement	<b>+\$180</b>
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### ADDITIONAL HOTEL NIGHTS

Per person, double occupancy	<b>\$90</b>
Per person, single occupancy	<b>\$180</b>



Get the Early Bird Rate  
Register by September 15  
[www.wlcjconvention.org](http://www.wlcjconvention.org)

Call the Convention  
Registration Team  
for assistance  
**212-870-1260**

## Z'havah at Convention

Z'havah women will have many opportunities to meet, connect, learn and have fun together at Convention 2008. There will be a training session for Region Sisterhood and Z'havah Chairs and a Z'havah workshop, open to all, which will feature a panel discussion about the evolution of Z'havah within Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Social activities will include a Meet and Greet afternoon, an informal gathering one evening and a Z'havah reunion. The most exciting Z'havah "first" will be the debut of our new "Z'havah Planner" - written by and for Z'havah women. Finally, we'll be highlighting the accomplishments of Z'havah with a celebration of Z'havah's 10th Anniversary.

Get in "Z" Know! Plan to meet your Z'havah sisters at Convention 2008.

For more information, contact:  
Mid Atlantic Region Z'havah Chair  
Jan Berger [janberger@verizon.net](mailto:janberger@verizon.net)

**Cancellations must be submitted in writing. All cancellations will be assessed a \$50 fee. No refunds will be issued after October 6. Substitutions are permitted. Reservations received after October 6 may be charged at the regular hotel rate, not the special Convention rate.**

**Room availability is not guaranteed after October 6.**

**Women's League for Conservative Judaism**  
**Orpah's List**  
**Fall, 2008**

***The Faith Club***

By Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner

This fall, Women's League for Conservative Judaism has chosen ***The Faith Club*** for the fall 2008 Orpah's List selection. It is the first time that we are recommending a work of non-fiction.

*The Faith Club*, written jointly by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner is a fascinating account of three women of the Abrahamic faiths – Idliby is an Muslim of Palestinian descent, Oliver a Christian and Warner a Jew – who, on their own initiative, met regularly to see if they could seek a common ground within their respective religious traditions. In the aftermath of 9/11, their initial goal was to write a children's book on these commonalities. But the three highly educated women soon realized that they must first learn to understand each other before they could pursue their original goal. The women grapple with a multitude of issues – from those of personal piety to a highly tense discussion over Israel-Palestine issues.

In addition to this immensely stimulating narrative of how women engage with each other on matters of religion and politics (which is sometimes comforting and sometimes confrontational) they also offer extensive step-by-step assistance to other women who would like to create their own interfaith discussion groups in their communities. Included in an appendix at the back, in three languages (English, Hebrew and Arabic) are: a conversation with the authors, a comprehensive guide for setting up a faith club which includes questions for discussion, and extremely helpful, brief guides to basic tenets of belief of all three religions.

On many levels, this is an ideal tool and opportunity for Sisterhoods and their book clubs, to engage in many of the deeply sensitive issues that confound and conflict us all as citizens of the world.

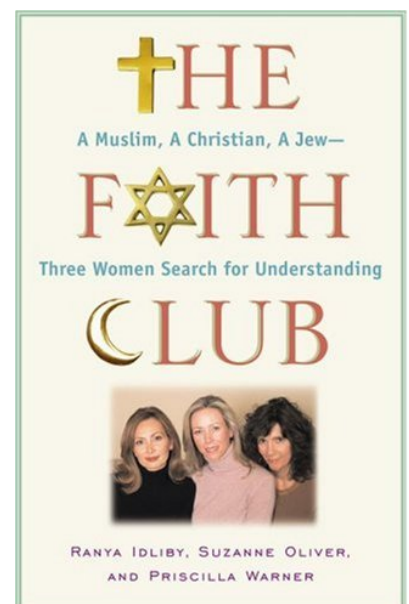
The publisher, Simon and Schuster, is providing WLCJ members a 40% discount for purchases of 10+ copies of the book. You can find the S & S order form on the Mid-Atlantic Region's website at <http://www.wlcj.net/midar/S&SOrderForm.pdf> Additionally, at this time, Amazon is selling copies of *The Faith Club* for \$6.49.

For any questions on this, contact either Illene Rubin, the WLCJ Books Chair [illenerubin@aol.com](mailto:illenerubin@aol.com), or Lisa Kogen, Education Director [lkogen@wlcj.org](mailto:lkogen@wlcj.org). If you simply want a hard copy of the Simon and Schuster order form, you can email Maxine Frye, [mfrye@wlcj.org](mailto:mfrye@wlcj.org) directly.

Happy reading!

Illene Rubin  
Books Chair

Lisa Kogen  
Education Director



**Introducing the  
First Ever**

**GUARDIANS OF THE EARTH**

# **SHABBAT ECO-CANDLE™**

**A renewable light for a renewable world**

● THE FJMC SHABBAT CANDLE PRODUCED FOR THE CONSERVATIVE-MASORTI MOVEMENT™ ●

**18 COUNT ECO-CANDLES**

patent pending

**100% Renewable and Soy-based • Biodegradable  
Earth Friendly • Lead-free Wicks • Recyclable Metal Tins**

Women's League Judaica Shops can purchase  
Shabbat Eco-Candles™ via the following website:

**[www.ecoshabbat.com](http://www.ecoshabbat.com)**

Case lots are:

18 tea candles per box

20 boxes per case

360 candles per case

Price: \$90 per case plus S&H

**\*\*High Holiday orders must  
be placed by August 20, 2008\*\***

A Product of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs  
Endorsed by Women's League for Conservative Judaism

# Special for Convention 2008

The women in this galaxy of remarkable Jewish women each demonstrated determination, courage, and imagination that enabled them to challenge the boundaries of gender and social conventions and to forge new paths to enrich our world. This project began as *Beauty, Brains and Brawn: The New World Balabuste*, the Women's League exhibit commemorating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Jews in North America. Now expanded to 47 women and with a new title, *With Strength and Splendor* reflects how Jewish

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

## WITH STRENGTH AND SPLENDOR

Jewish Women as Agents of Change



women disassembled old gender roles, shattered boundaries and expanded the options for future generations of women. *With Strength and Splendor* will make a wonderful gift for adult or teen bat mitzvahs, high school and college graduates, teachers, counselors, friends, and family. Order yours today or buy them at Convention for the pre-publication special price .

*Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of With Strength & Splendor to:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

!Check payable to Women's League.

!Visa !Mastercard Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Women's League  
for Conservative Judaism  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820  
New York, New York 10115  
FAX 212.870.1261  
or call: 212.870.1260, ext. 7150

## Prices

**Cover Price**.....\$39.95  
**Pre-Publication Discount**..25%  
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WLCJ Mid-Atlantic Region Presents...

# Discovery Through Study:

*a program of continuing Jewish Education*

Join us for the Fall Semester 2008 as we study

## Mishnah:

### The Soul of Judaism

### with Rabbi Robert R. Alpert

When: 10 Mondays from 10am - 11:30am

October 6th & 27th

November 3rd, 10, 17th, & 24th

December 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd

Place: Har Zion, 1500 Hagys Ford Rd. Penn Valley, PA

Cost: \$100 Tuition \$15 Registration Fee

For more information, call Edis Schwartz at 215-782-1493

Please fill out the information below, detach and mail to:

Edis Schwartz, 8100 Jenkintown Rd. Elkins Park PA 19027

Make checks payable to: Mid-Atlantic Region, Women's League for Conservative Judaism

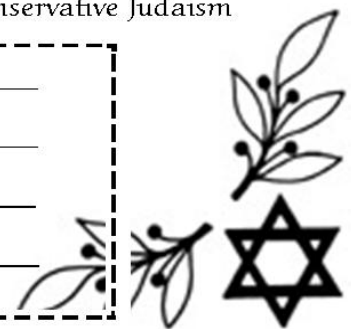


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WLCJ Mid-Atlantic Region Presents...

Discovery Through Study:

a program of continuing Jewish Education

Join us for the Fall Semester 2008 as we study

Our Matriarchs:

The Real Heroes of Genesis

with Rabbi Jeff Pivo

When: 5 Wednesdays from 8pm - 9:30pm

October 29th, November 5th, & 19th

December 3rd & 10th

Place: Congregation Beth El

375 Stony Hill Road Yardley, PA 19067

Cost: \$60

For more information, contact Barbara Bess-Pashak at 215-946-7007 or email pashak@aol.com

Please fill out the information below, detach and mail to: Barbara Bess-Pashak, 2 Red Rose Drive. Levittown PA 19056

Make checks payable to: Mid-Atlantic Region, Women's League for Conservative Judaism



Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

WLCJ Mid-Atlantic Region Presents...

# Discovery Through Study:

*a program of continuing Jewish Education*

Join us for the Fall Semester 2008 as we study

## Snapshots of Our Sages:

Stories about the Rabbis of the Talmud  
to gain insight into their lives & culture  
with Rabbi Micah Peltz

When: 6 Thursdays from 7pm - 8:30pm

October 30th

November 6th, 13th, & 20th

December 4th & 11th

Place: Temple Beth Sholom

1901 Kresson Rd. Cherry Hill NJ

Cost: \$75



For more information, contact

Sharon Katz:

[morah5@yahoo.com](mailto:morah5@yahoo.com)

or Ellen Podell:

[podellfamily@comcast.net](mailto:podellfamily@comcast.net)





## Women's League Institute

The Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism in conjunction with the Jewish Theological Seminary presents Discovery Through Study. This is a program of continuing Jewish education for men and women. The Institute was established in the fall of 1994 with Dr. David Ackerman teaching "Created Readings on Favorite Talmudic Passages". Our Mid-Atlantic Region exists to serve Sisterhoods and provide opportunities to share and gain knowledge.

This year the Institute has three locations in the Mid-Atlantic Region to serve your needs. Beth El (Yardley) will be the site for the northern suburbs and will have night classes taught by Rabbi Jeff Pivo starting on Wednesday, October 29th. (SEE FLYER IN THIS BULLETIN). Har Zion Temple will serve the western area and accommodates the women attending morning classes. Classes begin with Rabbi Robert Alpert on October 6th. (SEE FLYER IN THIS BULLETIN). Temple Beth Shalom (Cherry Hill) will be the site for Southern New Jersey. Rabbi Micah Peltz will discuss, "Snapshot of Our Sages", stories about Talmudic rabbis, on Thursday evenings, beginning on October 30th (SEE FLYER IN THIS BULLETIN).

Mid-Atlantic Region provides the opportunity to study and meet your fellow sisterhood members. Please join us. Please contact Edis Schwartz for further information. [HS8100@aol.com](mailto:HS8100@aol.com) or 215-782-1493.

## A Message from the Membership Vice President- Debbi Goldich

Membership is everyone's responsibility! If you are a Sisterhood member, you are a member of the Membership team. It is every member's responsibility to

- Reach out to new members
- Reach out to members of longstanding that you have not seen in a long time
- Reach out for a better turnout at meetings
- Reach out for new Sisterhood leadership
- Reach out to members with publicity
- Reach out to members with enthusiasm

Call me for new and old ideas to help grow your membership. I am available by phone at 610-828-2962 and by email at [DKGRNMSN@aol.com](mailto:DKGRNMSN@aol.com).

I look forward to meeting you at Region events and meetings. I would love to come to your Sisterhood to meet you in person. Please consider inviting the Region Membership team to come to your Sisterhood.

Lihitraot,

*Debbi Goldich*

Membership Vice President  
Mid-Atlantic Region WLCJ

## **ALL NEW CALENDAR/DIARY**

The beautiful new Women's League Calendar/Diary celebrates the many projects and achievements of the organization. To order, call 800.628.5083, ext. 7150, or email [orderdept@wlcj.org](mailto:orderdept@wlcj.org).

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE HELP LINE

Are you having difficulty finding new leaders?  
Do you have a committee that's not functioning?  
Do you have a sudden mid-term vacancy in an office?  
Do you have trouble accessing sisterhood funds?  
Do you have any other ticklish questions, unsolvable problems, difficult situations?

Connect to the Women's League Help Line at 800.628.5083 or [help@wlcj.org](mailto:help@wlcj.org). A qualified and experienced trainer will respond within 48 hours, not including Shabbat.



## NEW KERUV POLICY

Women's League is committed to the preservation and vitality of the Jewish people. To that end, we understand the urgency of reaching out to non-Jews married to Jews in the hope that they will raise their children as Jews, move closer to Judaism themselves, and ultimately convert. We encourage the Jewish partner to maintain his/her Jewish identity, and family and community ties.

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 sisterhoods can offer membership to women who support the above mission. 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 this policy.

(Passed by the Board of Directors, 3/26/08)

## MORE ISRAEL AT 60: Books 4 Israel

The Jade Bar Shalom project (B4I) is an international grassroots effort that reaches out and helps in a simple way. Books are needed by Israeli schools that do not have the funds to purchase them. Over 70 tons of donated English literature and reference books have been delivered to over 250 of Israeli schools, schools with both Jewish and non-Jewish students.

The program is an extraordinary opportunity to connect with the Masorti movement in Israel. Many close friendships across the ocean have been created from this effort. Your sisterhood can organize a book drive for the Tali school in Hod Hasharon. Tali schools are Israeli public schools that have a pluralistic religious education track designed by the Schechter Institute, a Masorti center of higher education in Jerusalem. The Tali school in Hod Hasharon enrolls many children associated with the Masorti kehillah in Hod Hasharon. This book drive could be a joint sisterhood-youth group project as well as a way to connect your sisterhood with the upcoming b'nai mitzvah in your synagogue.

The Books4Israel coordinator in Hod Hasharon is Ilana Mushkin, a member of the kehillah, who volunteers at the school and is familiar with Women's League. She has a list of book categories that are needed, so please contact her first. Books can be new or gently used. Ilana's email: [ilana@meitarimraanana.org](mailto:ilana@meitarimraanana.org).

The only funds needed are for postage. Try "A Book & A Buck" to cover the costs. For more information regarding the packaging and mailing specifics, contact Susan Heckler at [Susan-HecklerB4I@aol.com](mailto:Susan-HecklerB4I@aol.com)

## NOVEMBER IS JEWISH BOOK MONTH

The Fall 2008 WLCJ Orpah's list selection is **The Faith Club** by Rayna Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. Simon & Schuster is providing WLCJ members a 40% DISCOUNT for purchases of 10+ copies of the book. For more information contact Illene Rubin, Books Chair [illenerubin@aol.com](mailto:illenerubin@aol.com), if you just want an order form, you can e-mail Maxine Frye at [mfrye@wlcj.org](mailto:mfrye@wlcj.org). Please plan on making this a Sisterhood Program or Book Review.

