



Mid Atlantic Region

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Mid-Atlantic Happenings



Region President, Mimi Pollack

Bulletin Editor, Amy Perrone

Founder's Day

Winter 2008-2009/5769

This year, Founder's Day will take place on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at Adath Israel, 250 N. Highland Avenue, Merion Station, PA. This is the first Founder's Day event sponsored by the new Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

We will begin the day with Shacharit Services at 9:30 am. Registration will follow at 10:00 am followed by Brunch at 10:30 am. Our guest speaker, Dr. Arnold Eisen, will address us after brunch.

We look forward to your attendance at this special event that celebrates our Founder, Mathilde Schechter, our Jewish heritage, and Torah Fund. As a highlight of the day, we will be recognizing all of the Sisterhoods that have reached their Torah Fund goals for 2007-2008. Our program booklet will include a listing of Benefactors and all other Special Gift contributors.

We respectfully suggest that you invite your Rabbis, Cantors and their spouses as guests of your Sisterhood. We also encourage each Sisterhood to subsidize their members, as necessary, to enable them to attend and share in this exciting day. The brunch will be catered by Betty the Caterer. The fee for the event is \$28.00.

A Reservation forms can be found in this bulletin.

We need your support to ensure that this event is successful and memorable.

We look forward to seeing you on March 1st.

B'Shalom,
Deborah Napoleon
Founder's Day Chair

Mimi Pollack, President
Mid Atlantic Region

Maxine Endy
Torah Fund Vice President

Our Speaker



March 1, 2009

Founder's Day

Adath Israel (Merion Station, PA)
Guest Speaker, Dr. Arnold Eisen,
Chancellor of
The Jewish Theological Seminary

May 3 and 4, 2009

Mid-Atlantic Region Conference

Congregation Beth Judah
700 North Swarthmore Avenue
Ventnor, NJ 08406

Arnold M. Eisen

Arnold M. Eisen is the seventh chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary. One of the world's foremost experts on American Judaism, Chancellor Eisen has worked closely for the past twenty years with synagogue and federation leadership around the country to analyze and address the issues of Jewish identity, the revitalization of Jewish tradition, and the redefinition of the American Jewish community.



A product of the Conservative Movement, Chancellor Eisen has regularly served as a faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Program, the Wexner Fellowship, and the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He has served, and is now serving again, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and has long been well known as a passionate advocate of strengthening the connection between American Jews and Israel.

Chancellor Eisen's publications include a personal essay, *Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America* (1997); a historical work entitled *Rethinking Modern Judaism: Ritual, Commandment, Community* (1998); and *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America* (2000), coauthored with sociologist Steven M. Cohen. He is currently at work on a book that probes new possibilities for the meaning of Zionism.

Chancellor Eisen received a PhD in the History of Jewish Thought from Hebrew University; a BPhil in the Sociology of Religion at Oxford University; and a BA in Religious Thought from the University of Pennsylvania. Before assuming his role as chancellor, he was the Koshland Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion at Stanford University. He previously served as senior lecturer in the Department of Jewish Philosophy at Tel Aviv University, and assistant professor in the Department of Religion at Columbia University.

Chancellor Eisen is married to Dr. Adriane Leveen, a scholar of Hebrew Bible, and has two children, Shulie and Nathaniel.



Shalom everyone,

I wish you all good health and much happiness in this new year.

Since we started sending weekly Constant Contact messages to you, I am pleased that many have expressed that you like knowing what is happening in our Mid-Atlantic Region, and on a more current basis. I think this vehicle has helped bring our region together since we are finding out more about each other. We can also see that our Region, even though it has grown, is certainly accessible, one area to another and one Sisterhood to another. I thank Meryl Stern, our Region Communications Secretary for maintaining and facilitating this link with you. Also, keep in mind that our Mid-Atlantic Region website is full of current information thanks to Karen Lewin, our Region Webmaster.

Women's League International Convention in Detroit this past November was a phenomenal experience. We had 35 delegates from our Region and we learned, laughed and created new bonds with each other. Faye Laveson has written an article for her synagogue bulletin about experiences at convention and we have included it in this bulletin. There are also pictures which I hope you will enjoy.

Our Mid-Atlantic Region has scheduled three events, in February, March, and May, and your presence would be so welcome.

On Sunday, February 1, 2009 we plan to have two open Mid-Atlantic Region Board meetings. At 10:00 A.M. the first of these meetings will be held at Ohev Shalom of Bucks County, 944 Second Street Pike, Richboro, PA. Those who can are welcome to attend to meet and greet others who live nearby in order to create new bonds of friendship among our Sisterhoods. That meeting will be approximately two hours and will be interactive among the participants. At 2:00 P.M. the second of these meetings will begin at Keshet Israel, 1000 Pottstown Pike, West Chester, PA and those from that area are welcome to attend for the same reasons as stated above. That meeting, too, will be about two hours and will also be interactive. Refreshments will be served at each. Our Region had a previous full board meeting several months ago at Temple Sinai in Cinnaminson, NJ and was well received. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday, March 1, 2009 is Founder's Day, a yearly event honoring the Torah Fund campaign and all our contributors. We are especially honored to have Dr. Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary, as our guest lecturer. More information can be found in this bulletin. Please plan to be part of this eventful day. We will also be honoring all the Mid-Atlantic Sisterhoods who reached their Torah Fund goals in 2007-2008.

Finally, May 3 and 4, 2009 is Conference which will be held at Congregation Beth Judah in Ventnor, NJ. Plans are still in formation. Kindly put these dates on your personal and Sisterhood calendars. More information will be coming shortly.

I look forward to seeing you at all the above Mid-Atlantic Region functions.

B'Shalom,

Mimi Pollack, President
Mid-Atlantic Region

THE Z'HAVAH PLANNER



Would you like to know how to involve the younger women in your sisterhood? Would you like a user-friendly basic guide to programming and publicity, with guides you can use today? Order a copy of the new Z'havah Planner, designed by and for women in their 20's, 30's, 40's, and engage the women of your synagogue!

Available to download at www.wlcj.org/MyWLCJ/Zhavah





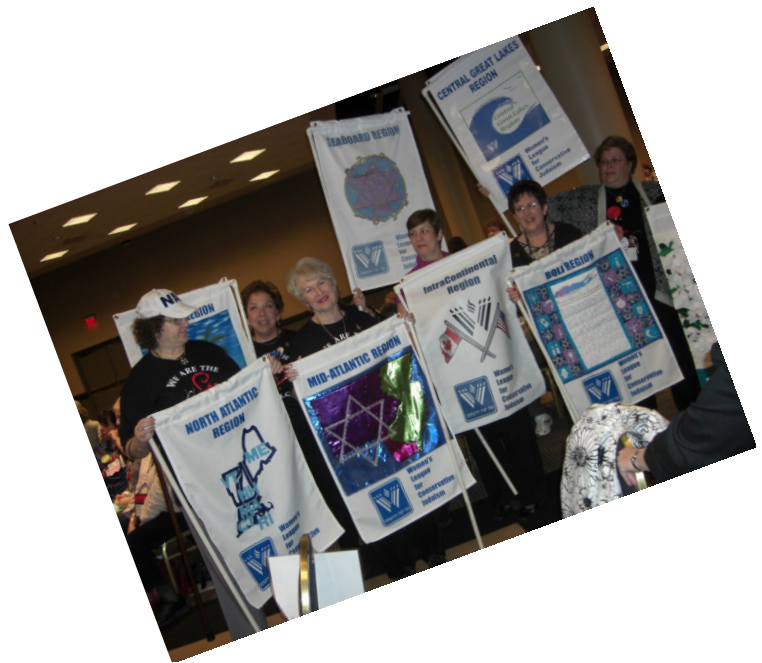
The Women's League Convention in Detroit, November 9-12, 2008, was focused on MITZVOT. The community service project that the Mid-Atlantic Region participated in was the knitting of scarves and mittens to keep the people of Detroit warm. The overflowing bins of garments were gratefully received by the Jewish Federation of Greater Detroit.

Paula Coplon from Atlanta, Georgia led the handicraft program teaching women how to make blankets for Project

Linus. Project Linus is a program that offers warm polar fleece blankets to kids in children's hospitals. Information on how to make these blankets can be found on the WL WEB page.

Rabbi Brad Artson, Dean of Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies offered a powerful presentation entitled MITZVAH YOMIT, Doing a Mitzvah a Day.

Professor Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of JTS, presented the conservative theme for this year MITZVOT with All our Hearts.



After December 15th, Mitzvah Yomit Cards complete with blessings and ideas for many mitzvot will be available on the www.wlcj.org/home.asp

Donna Finkelstein, Area Vice President has a limited number of these cards for distribution to our sisterhoods; contact donnaef@cspcorp.com

We want to know what your Sisterhood is doing to make our world a better place! Please feel free to contact me on my cell 484-433-3619 or email: annatract@aol.com. If your Sisterhood desires a personal visit or a consultation on community service and outreach programs we are always available. We want to share good news throughout the region. I look forward to hearing back from you in a creative idea exchange for new mitzvah programs.

B'Shalom,
Anna Tractenberg, Community Vice President.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Area Directors and Sisterhoods: Making a Positive Connection

Women's League Institute

Your first Mid-Atlantic Happenings was a very impressive issue of our newsletter. However, I would like to correct some misinformation.

The Philadelphia Branch Women's League Institute started in Fall 1981. We met in center city Philadelphia at Beth Zion-Beth Israel. For the first few years, we had two classes per semester day. Dr. Neil Gillman taught the classes on Conservative Judaism and Dr. Jeffrey Tigay taught Bible. Those were wonderful and exciting times to be part of the Institute. Many of us who started studying with our Conservative scholars in 1981 are still in the class.

Millie Brooks
Philadelphia Branch President
1980-1982

By working with the area directors, Sisterhood leaders have the opportunity to change the Women's League world – to make it more relevant, accessible and valuable to each of our sisterhoods and each of their members.

Our goal is to provide direct services to each sisterhood within the Mid-Atlantic Region. Our barometer of success can no longer be "how often or how many" attend region functions. Each sisterhood is entitled to support and services even if they never attend a region function. By creating areas with specific services and a system of accountability, we will ensure that "no sisterhood is left behind."

The direct services that the Area Directors 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.

Area Directors are the link between the Region and the Sisterhoods. As a Sisterhood leader, you are in a unique position to make a positive connection and establish a meaningful bond.

Area Directors are the ambassadors to Sisterhoods. They can articulate the benefits and features, the material, resources, trainers and region officers Women's League has to offer the Sisterhood. Women's League is committed to help.

Area Directors educate Sisterhoods on the latest Women's League and region events. The encounters set the tone for further commitment. They can tell Sisterhoods about how exciting the Convention and Region conferences can be.

Area Directors are creative and make a lasting impression of friendliness, warmth, openness and willingness to help. Support an exchange of ideas, programs, speakers and events. Now it is your time to share your talents. Be sure that your Sisterhood contacts your Area Director today.

Donna Finkelstein
Area Vice-President, Mid-Atlantic Region

Ohev Shalom of Richboro, PA Membership Dinner 10/23/2008

Judaic Arts

What is your "creativity quotient?" Can't find a Judaic Arts Chair for your Sisterhood? Not to worry. The Region's Judaic Arts Chair, Idelle Wood, can help you. There is a place for creative flair in each element of your Sisterhood –holidays and home, an afternoon or evening workshop, mitzvah projects, kitchen crafts, and ritual objects.

Do your ladies polish their nails, tie their shoes, brush their teeth? Those are the skills needed for gluing, painting, and button projects. Check the MAR - WLCJ website for patterns and ideas or contact me for assistance.

Idelle Wood
MAR Region WLCJ
Judaic Arts Chair
eyewood@earthlink.net



Ohev Shalom Of Bucks County Sisterhood starts new program

This past summer the executive board of the Sisterhood of Ohev Shalom of Bucks County in Richboro PA was approached by their Director of Congregational Learning, Rabbi Daniel Aronson.

Discussions between Rabbi Aronson and Co-Presidents Rochelle Noch and Karen Weinberg, revealed a need. Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing! was born. This program is the vision of the Sisterhood to build self esteem, leadership skills and Jewish identity in teenage girls. The girls grades 8 to 12 meet and participate once a month to engage in fun, thought provoking activities, and discussions. Sisterhood funds the whole program. For more information about this program contact Rochelle (rockyroad84@verizon.net) or Karen (kpw555@verizon.net).



Ohev Shalom of Richboro, PA Membership Dinner 10/23/2008

LEAGRAM

The Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League wants to share with each of it's "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.

GET WELL: R'Fuah Shlaymah

Bernice Oswald, Former Philadelphia Branch President
Amy Perrone, Bulletin Editor, Mid- Atlantic Region
Phyllis Haas, Former Philadelphia Branch President
Harvey Schwartz, Husband of board member Edis Schwartz
Rosalind Bulk, Region Area Director
Gert Golub, Region Board member
Marion Goldstein-Beckhorn, Region Area Director
Linda Grife, wife of Rabbi Saul Grife of Beth Tikvah-B'nai
Jeshurun (Erdenheim)
Jennifer Abraham, wife of Rabbi Reuben Abraham of Congre-
gations of Ner Zedek (Philadelphia)

Mazel Tov:

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel (Vineland, NJ)
(Presidents: Rita Ostroff and Susan Shostak) Mazel Tov on
second Bat Mitzvah {83 years}.

Faye Laveson on birth of grandson Charles Gordon Lewin.
Karen Lewin on birth of son Charles Gordon Lewin.
Bernice and Stan Oswald on marriage of granddaughter, Sarah
Robbins.
Elaine Emmer, Former SNJ Branch President, birth of great-
granddaughter
Shari and Mike Benson, Sisterhood President of Beth El (East
Windsor), B'nai Mitzvah of sons, Benjamin and Evan.
Fran Radel, birth of grandsons Ethan Matthew and Matan Eli
Radel
Sandy and David Berenbaum, Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter,
Julia Taylor Robinson
Judith and Fred Young, Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter, Zeva
Michal Young
Rabbi Howard and Joan Hersch, Congregation Brothers of Is-
rael (Newtown), Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter Tamar Michal
Goides
Debbi and Bob Goldich, engagement of son Matthew to Robin
Weinstein

Condolences: Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Stanton Oswald on the passing of Bernice Oswald, Former
Philadelphia Branch President, .
Ruth Mendelsohn, Former NY State Branch President, on the
passing of her husband, Morton Mendelsohn.
Brenda Levine, member of past president's council, on the loss
of her mother, Tillie Labovitz
Lisa Tesser, National Board Member, on loss of her mother,
Helen Meltzer

continued

Condolences: Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Family of Hadassah Blocker, past New England Branch Presi-
dent.
Jamie Dollinger Hirsch, past SNJ region board member, loss of
father, Richard Dollinger.
Marsha Cohen, national board member, loss of mother, Libby
Jablonsky.
Tammy Roberts, Sisterhood President of Suburban JCC-B'nai
Aaron (Havertown), loss of mother-in-law, Marion Roberts.
Judith Young, Region Torah Fund Director, loss of brother-in-
law, Jules Levine.
JTS Chancellor Dr. Arnold Eisen, loss of father, Alan Eisen.

Leagrams

by Violet Zeitlin, Leagram Chair

Hi. I am the Leagram chair for our Mid-
Atlantic Region. Leagrams are the way our
president and board of directors recognize
special occasions, life-cycle events, get well
wishes and, unfortunately, condolences. They
are hand-written notes and a way of letting
our members know that we care about them.
Please let me know if you have Region news
and think it appropriate to send a Leagram. I
can be reached at 215-635-1587 or
razeitlin@aol.com.

Violet Zeitlin, Mid-Atlantic Region Leagram Chair was honored
by Congregation Adath Jeshurun (Elkins Park) as Kallah Bereshit
on Simchat Torah. Mazal Tov!

NEXT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

January 25-27
Houston, Texas

Grow with us.

You are cordially invited to attend an inspiring two day Leadership Institute that will expand your knowledge as a Jewish woman and as a leader in your community.



The Leadership Institute's unique format allows you to build a personal program to expand your Jewish knowledge and leadership skills. Choose workshops and seminars most relevant to your interests, and meet and network with other Conservative Jewish women who share your passion for pursuing learning and personal growth.

The Leadership Institute brings together prominent speakers, seminar facilitators, and promising Jewish leaders (including you).

Register for an experience that will enhance your personal and spiritual growth by calling 212.870.1263 or emailing

ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT

January 24, 2009, Parashat Va'era

With all your heart and with all your soul

Material is now available online at www.wlcj.org/
MyWLCJ

THIS IS MY PRAYER

Va'ani Tefillati

Jewish Women in Prayer

Have you ever felt the need to pray? Do you reach for God when you are grateful for a miracle like birth? When you are mourning a loss? When you or a loved one reaches a milestone?

Learn...network...create...Explore the world of Jewish women's prayers!

Participate in a ground-breaking inter-denominational conference on Jewish women's prayer sponsored by Women's League for Conservative Judaism together with the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, Women of Reform Judaism, the Jewish Theological Seminary, Heschel School, and the JCC of Manhattan.

The conference will take place at the Heschel High School on Manhattan's West Side, on Sunday, March 1, 2009, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Materials will be available to duplicate this type of conference in your community.

SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

Personal involvement Get involved personally and locally by supporting fundraisers, volunteering to chaperone, making a donation to a USY or Kadima scholarship fund.

Financial support Due to rising travel expenses, USYers often are deterred from participating. Scholarships and subsidies are necessary, so help organize fundraisers and support youth fundraisers.

USY on Wheels Home Hospitality involves different synagogues hosting Wheelniks in different communities. These visits minimize costs and demonstrate the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim (welcoming visitors). Last summer, 37 congregations supported the home hospitality program. If you can't host a Wheels bus, perhaps you can offer home hospitality for a meal or supply space to eat.

Be chaperones for a USY convention or conference in your area.

For information, contact: Karen Stein at Stein@uscj.org

DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE

April 26-29, 2009

Washington, DC

You are invited to join the members of Women's League at the Jewish Women International's Fourth Conference on Domestic Abuse. Explore ways to empower women and girls, promote healthy relationships for teens and young adults, and support women, children and families affected by abuse.

Build concrete skills and learn about practical tools you can bring back to your community.

To register, visit www.jwi.org/conference.

WRITING PROJECT TO SHARE

At the Jewish Writing Project, Jews of all backgrounds and ages share stories, poems, memories, and experiences as a way of shedding light on what it means to be Jewish today. Participation in the Jewish Writing Project would be a wonderful Special Interest Group for your sisterhood, and could even be expanded to include teens and younger children. Go to: <http://jewishwritingproject.wordpress.com>

MITZVAH YOMIT CARDS

Since Convention 2008, Women's League has been inundated with requests for the Mitzvah Yomit cards handed out after Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson's session on Soul Food. The cards, which slide into your Women's League calendar diary pocket, list over a dozen blessings and hundreds of mitzvot that you can recite and do every day. They are wonderful to include in new member kits, Hanukkah gift packages for college students, or Purim mishloach manot baskets, and as Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur handouts. Let us know other ways you have used them.

The cards are available in sets of 25 for \$10.00. Call 212.870.1260 ext. 7150.



Mid Atlantic Region
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Reservation Form for Founder's Day

Sunday, March 1, 2009
5 Adar, 5769
9:30 AM Shacharit Service
10:00 AM Registration

Adath Israel
(610)934-1919
250 N. Highland Avenue
Merion Station, PA 19066

<http://www.adathisrael.org/ai/about/directions.asp>

This form can be used for SINGLE or GROUP reservations

Sisterhood/Synagogue: _____ Date: _____

Sisterhood President: _____

Attendee Name	Check Number	Full/Half Day?

Full Day (including Brunch) \$28.00

Half Day (speakers only) \$18.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to *Mid-Atlantic Region WLCJ*

Send check(s) and completed form to:

Gayle Wilton, Reservations
588 Dutch Neck Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520

**Please send in your reservation with check(s) by Friday, February 13, 2009.
THANK YOU!**

Deborah Napoleon, Founder's Day Chair
Phone (609) 448-6635

Mimi Pollack, President, Mid-Atlantic Region
Phone (215) 355-5069

Maxine Endy, Torah Fund Vice President



WLCJ Mid-Atlantic Region Presents...

Discovery Through Study:

a program of continuing Jewish Education

Join us for the Spring Semester 2009 as we study

Mishnah Part 2

The Holidays

with Rabbi Robert R. Alpert

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

March 2nd, 16th, 23rd, & 30th

April 6th, 20th & 27th

May 4th, 11th & 18th

Place: Har Zion, 1500 Hagys Ford Road, 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



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Women's League Spring Institute

Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz
Rabbi of Congregation Beth El, Voorhees, NJ

Jewish Law

A history, the process of creating and maintaining it, where it came from, how it got to where it is today, and how it functions today in traditional and non-traditional circles.

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 PM 6 sessions

February 4 & 18
March 4, 11 & 18
April 1.

Congregation Beth El
8000 Main Street
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Tuition: \$75

For additional information: Sharon Katz 856-784-7147 or morah5@yahoo.com
Ellen Podell 856-482-0752 or podellfamily@comcast.net

Open to any Sisterhood member or friend

Send check made payable to: Women's League for Conservative Judaism to:

Sharon Katz, 37 Rollingwood Drive, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Lev V'Nefesh Heart and Soul

Women's League For Conservative Judaism Convention Report

From Sunday, November 9th to Wednesday, November 12th, I attended the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Biennial Convention held in Detroit, Michigan. This is the fourteenth time I have had the honor of representing Temple Sinai Sisterhood as a delegate. Attending along with me were our Sisterhood President Cindy Horowitz and past Sisterhood Presidents Meryl Stern and Debbi Goldich. The programming was fabulous. Women's League has recently reorganized into 13 new regions by merging some of the 25 branches as we were called into the new regions. We are members of the Mid-Atlantic Region, a merger of the Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania Branches. The



role call of the new regions on Sunday afternoon was as spirited as any political role call with each region president announcing the number of their delegates with a clever speech describing the attributes of their areas. Of course we were the home of the Phillies, the Jersey shore, the seat of our country's liberty, etc. On Sunday evening following our opening banquet where we remembered Kristallnacht, we held our installation where our WLCJ president and new officers and board members were installed. We at Temple Sinai are honored to have four representatives on the WLCJ board. They are Meryl Stern, Gert Solkov, Debbi Goldich, and myself. We were treated to the music of a Gospel Choir and a beautiful dessert reception completed the evening.

Every morning we had a beautiful shaharit service led completely by women that included a study session. Rabbi David Golinkin, President of the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem gave a very thought provoking and challenging Responsum concerning the addition of the Imahot (Matriarchs) to the Amidah. At our service and study session on Tuesday morning, our scholar in residence Professor Vanessa Ochs gave her response to his Response making her case for why the matriarchs should be included. On Wednesday morning it was my privilege to introduce Temple Sinai's very own Rabbi Eric Yanoff, who serves a congregation in Detroit since graduating from JTS. He led a text study on the Sh'ma using Rashi's commentary to relate it to the Convention theme Lev V'Nefesh.

On Monday we held a Plenum addressing Women's Health. Three of our very own women who are physicians addressed us on Breast Cancer, Osteoporosis, and Women's wellness. A Health Information Fair followed this. On

Monday night we celebrated Israel's 60th anniversary with an address by Rabbi Danny Nevins, dean of the JTS Rabbinical School and a musical salute by Cantor Meir Finkelstein whose compositions are sung in synagogues throughout the world.



During the convention we were privileged to hear Dr. Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary who spoke about the state of the Conservative Movement and the contributions of the women in our movement as leaders of change. Rabbi Bradley Artson, Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in California spoke about Mitzvot as Soul Food. He related Torah to the Convention theme. Torah, he said is the Heart and Soul of the Jewish people. This helped to launch a new initiative for Women's League called Mitzvah Yomit, a Mitzvah a

Day. Each delegate received a list of mitzvot and berakhot to help them in their commitment to take on one mitzvah each day. We were also treated to "The Jewish View" where we heard from three female authors and their stories of how and why they began to write about Jewish women. One of them was Maggie Anton, the author of the Rashi's Daughters series, the other Illana Blumberg, whose most recent work Houses of Study: A Jewish Woman Among Books won an award and the third Naomi Harris Rosenblatt, who has written several books and was featured on the Bill Moyers series on Genesis.

Along with all of these wonderful speakers were workshops to help us with our sisterhood work, great food, and lots of singing and dancing. Did I mention we were led in song by Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz who authored the B'kol Ehad songbook that we often use here at Temple Sinai for our Shabbat singing. And of course there was lots of partying every night into the wee hours and I almost forgot the great vendors and shopping opportunities.

Along with all that I have written about is perhaps one of the greatest benefits of a Women's League convention and that is meeting so many wonderful women from across the country who become your friends. There were 623 delegates from across our country, Canada and Israel. It was a pleasure to meet them at a workshop or sit with them during a meal or dance with them during the many musical experiences or pray with them each morning. A special feeling! One that cannot be really explained or felt unless you attend so save the dates of December 12 to 15 of 2010 and plan to be a delegate at our next convention at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront Hotel. I look forward to seeing you there.

Faye Laveson

Being a delegate to the Women's League for Conservative Judaism becomes a family affair



Fron left, Lisa Riseman, Ethel F. Levinson and, Faye Shapiro.

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Judah was represented at the Women's League for Conservative Judaism International Convention by Ethel F. Levinson. And accompanying Levinson to the convention as first time delegates were her daughters, Lisa Riseman, president of her sisterhood in Brockton, Mass., and Faye Shapiro, representing her sisterhood in Cherry Hill.

This was a first for the convention., which was held in Detroit Nov. 9 to 12.

Ethel is a past president of the Southern New Jersey Branch and bringing her daughters to this convention was an amazing experience for her. She said she "kvelled" as they interacted with their peers and learned what Women's League could do for their individual sisterhoods.

Faye had the distinct privilege of reading Torah for the Women's League morning minyan on the Monday of convention. Of the more than 1,000 attendees, there were approximately 800 women at the minyan each morning. All three had an enjoyable time and brought back innovative ideas for each of their sisterhoods.

http://www.jewishtimes-sj.com/news/2008/1121/front_page/001.html



Mid-Atlantic Region delegate Janet Kirschner stomping on the tables



Mid-Atlantic Region President, Mimi Pollack with Region Banner



Mid-Atlantic Region WLCJ culmination of past presidents from the former EPA, SNJ, and Philadelphia Regions of WLCJ.



Gloria Cohen, Past National WLCJ President



Mid-Atlantic Region President, Mimi Pollack shows that one of a kind, Mid-Atlantic ruach

**CONVENTION 2008
A HUGE SUCCESS**

Pictures from convention are available to order.
Go to: www.imagequix.com/photog.php?id=Q9J7T9R&ec=1013-2870-0025

The Heart of Torah Fund travels through the years...

When I was first asked to be a Torah Fund Co-chair this spring, there really was not much to think about: Torah fund runs in my family. My grandmother was a frequent benefactor and my mother, Natalie Dickstein was her synagogue's Torah Fund chair for as long as I can remember, going back close to 30 years. It is in my mother's honor and memory that I decided to take on a shared roll as Torah Fund Co-chair in my Synagogue.

Growing up I have always heard the stories of how much Torah Fund meant to my family. My father recently told me how when he and my mother first married and then joined a synagogue in Baltimore in the mid 50's that one of the first organizations that they donated to was Torah Fund and the campaign of the time to build the Mathilde Schechter residence hall for women at the JTS. As great supporters of Jewish education, especially for young women, my parents eagerly donated to the cause. How proud they were nearly 20 years later, when that dorm was finally completed, to see their oldest daughter, now Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, as a member of first group of women to live there. To this day, I still have some memories of walking through that beautiful new dorm when my sister moved in and thinking how much I would want to live in a college residence hall like this one. How much I, the 9 year-old little sister had to learn.

The power of Torah Fund in our lives will live on as a memory given to my family last year in the form of a letter written to us shortly after my mother's passing by one of my parent's former Rabbis, Jonathan Case, a college friend of my oldest sister. He wrote of my mother's hard work for, great belief in, and tireless support for the work of Torah Fund. He always knew when the new pin was out and she never let him forget it. "See anything different" she would ask him the first time she would wear the new pin. She would then tell him about the beautiful new pin and its meaning. Each week she would sit in her spot in the synagogue sanctuary (a spot occupied for almost 40 years) and drop subtle visual hints to Rabbi Case until he noticed and finally announced to the congregation the details of the new pin. If he ever needed an example of the new pin to show off, my mother would give him hers so that everyone could see what it looked like.

Although the lung cancer that had her in its grasp finally won, it took 7 years for that to happen. My mother never gave up her fight to live and she never stopped supporting the causes that she believed in the most. One of the most important to her for so many years was Torah Fund and the many educational opportunities that it provided. I hope that I am able to do half as much for Torah Fund as she did.

Aviva Dubrow
Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County
Downingtown, PA

Torah Fund and Me by Violet Zeitlin, Cong. Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park, PA

My knowledge of Torah Fund goes back more years that I'd like to acknowledge. Back to 613 lunches for Matilde Schechter Residence Halls and for \$6.13 you got 6 Torah Fund cards and lunch!

When my husband, Richard and I moved to Elkins Park, PA and I started my involvement at Adath Jeshurun, it was natural for me to volunteer for the Torah Fund committee – both as a connection with my sister, Shirley Ilberman, z.l, who had been a Torah Fund chair, and because of the importance on wider level to Conservative Judaism. I have served on the Torah Fund committee and acted as chairperson for at least ten years. Our Torah Fund campaign has consistently met the goals set for us. Last year we raised over \$22,000.

Conservative Judaism has made a great difference in my life. Coming from an Orthodox family but not completely subscribing to all of the observances and theology, I might have been lost to religious practice if not for Conservative Judaism where I found a home both intellectually and spiritually. My children and grandchildren have attended Conservative Day Schools. Today one of my daughters lives in Israel with her husband and two daughters, the eldest serving in the IDF and my other daughter is very involved at her synagogue in West Caldwell, NJ. We are so very proud of them all.

So think: Where would you be without Conservative Judaism? For me, that question is too unthinkable to ponder and that is why I continue to support Torah Fund with my resources and my "*Lev v'Nefesh* – Heart and Soul."

Israel Chair

Shalom! My name is Tami Arnowitz and I am the Israel Chair for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Israel has always been an important part of my life – not just as a place to visit, which I've done many times, but also as a place to live. I wanted to use this forum to reach out to all of you and offer my help in incorporating Israel programming into your Sisterhood.

With the latest events, Israel has been in the news and on the minds of many people. This offers a perfect opportunity to create programming to both support Israel in this time of crisis and to remind your members of the wonderful parts of our homeland – parts that are often not seen on the news.

For example, you can feature an Israeli artist in your gift shop, giving some details on the artist's life. If you have a book club, you can choose a book by an Israeli author that will help the readers gain an "insider's perspective" into the country. You can bring Israel to the children of the synagogue with an event involving Israeli dancing and falafel, or other cultural specialties.

You can also incorporate Israel into your other programming. This is particularly poignant because it symbolizes that Israel is not separate from the rest of our Judaism, but rather an integrated part of the whole. For instance, if you are doing a pre-Passover wine tasting, make sure that some of the wines are from Israeli vineyards. You can have a map of the country with the vineyards pinpointed so that the tasters know where the wines originate.

It would be my pleasure to help bring the love of Eretz Yisrael to all of our area sisterhoods.



NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

**Written by Women's League
Director of Education Lisa Kogen**

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 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, graduates, teachers, counselors, friends, and family. It is a fabulous title for a sisterhood book discussion or program focus.

Cover Price.....\$39.95

Kol Ishah Members.....\$31.95

Limit of 3 books, plus \$6.50 per book for shipping & handling.

Discounts for Judaica Shops available

Call 212.870.1260 to order.

WALKING WITH LIFE

Women's League has joined the Rabbinical Assembly, United Synagogue, and the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs as partners with the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies the 'Walking With' series. The third book in the series, *Walking with Life*, will be published in the summer of 2009.

Each book in the series is a 12-part course for the adult learner who seeks nuanced religious thinking about the Jewish lifecycle, from birth to death.

www.WalkingWith.org will carry materials and links for facilitators and participants to download, adapt and use. Everything will be available free of charge.

Membership Vice President Mid-Atlantic Region

Debbi Goldich
December, 2008

Membership events have taken place all month and the Mid-Atlantic Region executive committee has been represented at every event from one side of the Region to the other. Mimi Pollack, Region President, Donna Finkelstein, Area Vice President and I have enjoyed meeting and greeting all Sisterhood members and sharing in their successes. We have been entertained fed and treated as guests in the most gracious way. We thank all of the Sisterhoods who have shared their special events with us.

Per Capita bills have been sent by the International office to each Sisterhood President. As you know \$10 of every member's dues, or per capita, is paid by the Sisterhood to the International organization to cover the costs of CJ magazine, training services, publications, educational information and other special services. All Sisterhood Presidents should please check with their Financial secretary to make sure this dues is paid in a timely fashion.

For information on membership events and programming, please feel free to call me at 610-828-2962 or email me at DKGRNMSN@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIP

Make a list and check it twice! Remember to look at the membership list you received from Women's League in September and check it again. Have you received dues from everyone? Now is the time to make those calls before they become former members! Go back a year or two and reclaim women who haven't renewed as sisterhood members.

Looking for ideas to bring women back? You'll find information you can use now at www.wlcj.org and in the new Blueprint for Membership or ask for assistance from your region membership vice president or the Women's League membership chair.

Remember, the per capita report is due at Women's League on December 31. Make the list...check it twice...It is your sisterhood member's connection to the world of Women's League. Let's make an effort to include everyone. Wishing you a happy, healthy, membership-successful 2009!



Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project

An important community service pro-Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project” from all ethnic and religious groups access to language literature by stocking schools with quality second-hand speaking communities abroad.

ject to consider is the "Jade which helps Israeli children throughout Israel to gain ac-the libraries of participating books donated by English

The following schools in the TALI system are currently waiting for books.

TALI Schools are associated with the Schecthter Institute in Israel and provide a pluralistic Jewish studies curriculum in Israeli public schools.

TALI Schools currently requesting books are:

Tali Harel (Ashkelon)
Tali Ramon School (Negev)
Tali Bayit Vegan School (Jerusalem)
Tali Geulim (Jerusalem)
Tali Gilo Elementary (Gilo-Jerusalem)
Tali Adoror, Mevasseret Zion (Mevasseret)
Tali Hod HaSharon (Hod HaSharon)
Tali Mamlachti Gimel School (Ma'ale Adumim)
Tali Neot Ashkelon Community School (Ashkelon)
Tali Nof-Yam A School (Ashkelon)
Tali Nof-Yam B School (Ashkelon)
Tali Pissgat-Zeev Mizrach (Jerusalem)
Tali Retamim (Ashdod)
Tali Science Technology (Pisgat Ze'ev- Jerusalem)

For more information on how to start a Sisterhood book drive, please contact:

Susan Heckler
The Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project
Associate International Coordinator
Manalapan, NJ

Secrets of a Man's Garden

On Saturday evening, December 13th, at Tiferet Bet Israel Synagogue, friends gathered to celebrate the life of Gloria Schwartz and to commemorate the publication of Gloria's book entitled Secrets of a Man's Garden. Inspirational thoughts about Gloria, her husband, and her commitment were shared.

Gloria Schwartz, of blessed memory, was a Past President of Eastern Pennsylvania Branch and a past international board member and Vice President of International Women's League for Conservative Judaism. She was a remarkable woman, responsible for many innovative programs and publications, as well as the mentoring of many present and future leaders. If you wish to order a copy of the book, you may do so at:

<https://www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdisplay.asp?bookid45109>

Anna Tractenberg,
Community Vice President

BOOKS FOR ISRAEL

On Friday, October 31st, 21 cartons of children's books were picked up at my home for shipment to Ashkelon, Israel. This was the culmination of a yearlong project, involving a number of sisterhoods, enthusiastic helpers, and funding from Philadelphia Region Women's League, Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Sisterhoods of Temple Sinai (Dresher), Cong. Beth El (Yardley), Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El (Wynnewood), Germantown Jewish Centre (Philadelphia), Adath Jeshurun (Elkins Park), and a few independent donors. I thank them all for their generosity. This project was not a "go" without every one of them. The books were shipped with the help and support of Craig Vogin (Joan Vogin's son) of the Philadelphia Mail Room and I thank him particularly for his participation in this mitzvah project. [I also encourage you patronize the Philadelphia Mail Room.]

Our Books for Israel project was done with the advice and encouragement of Susan Heckler, of the *Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project*, which is an international grassroots effort to bring gently used good quality English books to school libraries in Israel, and in cooperation with Women's League for Conservative Judaism who directs the books to those Tali schools that request them. Our books will be going to two Tali schools in the city of Ashkelon in the south of Israel. I have been in touch with a parent and a teacher at these schools and hope to be able to visit and meet the children using these books when I am in Israel visiting my children for Passover.

In addition to sending 21 cartons to Israel, a good number of books were donated to the Elkins Park Library. These books were those that were too heavy for shipping or not appropriate for Israeli schoolchildren.

Again, my sincere thanks to those who donated books, time, money or all of the above and helped carry this project to fruition. I could not have done it without you.

Violet Zeitlin



An international grassroots effort to provide direct help to Israel's students and teachers
<http://booksforisrael.wikispaces.com>

The Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project



The government of Israel has had to divert funding from its schools to national defense. As a result, Israeli public schools need English language reading material to help teach children to read English. The need is there, in all neighborhoods rich or poor, affecting all religious and ethnic backgrounds. Women's League for Conservative Judaism is working together with the Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project to help.

Be introduced to a TALI school in Israel and support the Masorti movement, parent to parent, student to student, community to community!

Beginning readers

Classic short stories

Phonics materials

Dictionaries

Pre-reading skills

Dr. Seuss books

Chapter books, mysteries

Harry Potter books

History & science

DON'T WANT: Books in bad condition, torn or dirty

Hard cover, romances, outdated encyclopedias, text books, non-educational magazines, comic books, novels involving violence and sexual content

IF YOU WOULD WANT YOUR CHILD TO READ IT - DONATE IT!



WOMEN'S LEAGUE
FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

For information on The Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel Project, contact:
Susan Heckler, Associate International Coordinator, SusanHecklerB4I@aol.com

Public Policy, Nancy Schwartz

As Mid-Atlantic Public Policy Chair, I review and share information on current legislative, plus other issues in the public domain, that may affect our Jewish community. Dr. Rita Altman, National WLCJ Public Policy Chair, is the source of much of this information. I also receive notices directly through the JCPA, Jewish Council on Public Affairs, and the JCRC-SNJ, Jewish Community Relations Committee of Southern New Jersey, of which I am a member.

Prior to the November Convention, a public policy committee met to review the proposed resolutions. We were concerned about alleged abuses to employees and unsanitary conditions of Agriprocessors, the kosher meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa. This resulted in our proposal of the Heksher Yzedak Draft Resolution, linking social justice with observance of kashrut. An addition to the proposed resolution supported humane treatment for animals raised for kosher slaughter. The resolution with addition was passed. All resolutions appear on the WLCJ website.

Public Policy awareness is vital to members of our Mid-Atlantic Region. If members contact me with concerns, I will do my best to address them.

I can be reached at 856-795-3046 or email:
naschwar@comcast.net

Art and prayers combined in Images of Prayer

The art of prayer revealed

From an award-winning artist comes a picture book created to bring you closer to God. Arlene Frimark paints this volume in a hope to make a difference in people's lives in terms of spiritual growth. *Images of Prayer* will give you a glimpse of the beauty and mystery of the divine.

Images of Prayer: An Art Siddur for Shabbat Morning is designed for adults who are looking for spiritual connection to Jewish worship. Thirty original paintings, imbued with symbolism through subject, color, and composition, seek to reveal the hidden wisdom of essential elements of the liturgy common to all Jewish practice.

This reader-friendly companion to any siddur (prayer book) introduces the artwork within the framework of five sections or movements of the Saturday Morning Service. Accompanying each image is a meditative commentary that explains its meaning in reference to the blessing or prayer that it represents, along with historical and practical notes on the liturgy. Look at the language of prayer and discover the beauty and mystery of the Divine.

Enlighten your souls and open your hearts up to prayers.

For more information, log on to www.Xlibris.com.

Z'HAVAH

Z'havah gives younger members of Women's League Sisterhoods an opportunity to connect with a larger organization and it helps to reach out to the younger women who are not a part of Sisterhood. This is how the metamorphosis at BT-BJ occurred. We had a Sisterhood led by three very dedicated women. The Sisterhood had, however, become stagnant. Membership numbers were low, as was participation. Our shul had started to grow with the addition of a new Rabbi, who just celebrated his tenth year. It was time to do something about Sisterhood.

The Region Z'havah chair met with a group of women, including me, from our Sisterhood to let us know we needed change and how to start a Z'havah group. So, my friend Meryl and I went about creating a Z'havah group to attract the younger women of the synagogue to Sisterhood. We had a focus group and planned special programs to attract them. Our first event was a welcome dinner cooked by the group trying to establish Z'havah. Sixty women attended this dinner. We then planned a movie night, book review, and a mother-daughter tea. As time went on, our numbers grew and Sisterhood thrived.

Meryl was nominated as the next Sisterhood President and I became the fundraising chair. We had a full Board of Directors with women of all ages participating. The three dedicated Presidents still attend every Board meeting and as many events as possible. We raised four thousand dollars that first year. Almost four years later we still plan a movie night every year, our gift shop is transformed and we have met our Torah Fund goal every year. This year we raised \$9,500 to give to the Synagogue. In addition, Sisterhood was able to purchase new linens and United Synagogue Birkat Ha Mazon booklets as well 150 place settings of meat china. We had 85 women attend our Membership dinner and I feel confident that we are not only thriving, but the years to come will only serve to strengthen Beth Tikvah-B'Nai Jeshurun Sisterhood.

B'shalom,
Eileen Graub
Sisterhood President
Beth Tikvah-B'nai Jeshurun
Erdenheim, Pennsylvania

About the Author

Arlene Frimark is an award-winning artist whose work has been exhibited in Philadelphia and Bucks County, Pa; New York, and New Jersey. The paintings and text for the past ten years, during which time she became an avid student of Torah (Five Books of Moses) and texts on Jewish liturgy, Midrash, Jewish mysticism, and a variety of Jewish prayer books. In addition to creating commissioned artwork, she enjoys working as a docent and art teacher at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, Pa. She lives in Langhorne, Pa. with her husband Paul.

Arlene is available to speak at your organizations. For more information, contact her at 215-750-1351.