

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([00:01](#)):

Who knows, maybe it is just for this moment that you find yourself in a position of leadership. I'm Rabbi Liz Hirsch and I'm your host. Inspired by the story of Esther, I will invite women in leadership to talk about women and leadership. As CEO of Women of Reform Judaism, the women's affiliate of the largest Jewish denomination in North America, I am committed to sharing powerful stories of women who stand out in their fields, who have stepped up just for this moment. Each week I interview women who are influencing the world around them. My guest today is Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Welcome back to Just For This! Last season, it was my honor to welcome inspiring women to share their stories with you. Each week, I asked each guest to share their "just for this" moment, a moment of embracing their inner Queen Esther. a moment of stepping up to lead. Last spring, the holiday of Purim and the character of Esther inspired our conversations. That was fitting as we launched this podcast during the spring, with our season tracing the progression from Purim to Passover, from the power of Esther to the promise of liberation from the streets of Shushan to the shores of a redemptive sea.

([01:40](#)):

This season Esther's own just for this moment, her moment of saving her people at risk to her own life, exercising bold leadership when she alone could do it. Her story will continue to be our guide, and yet beginning this season in the fall of 2024 in the Hebrew month of Elul in the waning days of a Jewish year, I recorded these opening words to you on September 5th, and I spoke with today's guest just a bit earlier than that, on August 27th. This season, we will trace the fall holidays of the Jewish calendar, some of the most sacred days of the year. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. And toward the end of this secular year, we'll look toward Hanukkah bringing light to our darkest days. And of course, we will mark one year since October 7, 2023, which my guest calls one of our darkest days.

([02:48](#)):

The fall may seem like a kind of upside down, out of place time to think about Purim, but in fact, our rabbis and teachers have long reflected on this inverse intimate connection between Yom Kippur and Purim, in particular. Two days that might seem like opposites, which are perhaps two sides of the same coin. Yom Kippur might even be Yom Kippurim, a play on words in Hebrew, meaning a day like Purim, a day as if it were Purim. I'm not always so specific about the dates and times of my interviews, but for many reasons, the world is turning very quickly, spinning us upside down, and time is running out. I hope and I pray and I am speaking out every day for a hostage deal and a negotiated ceasefire for this war to end, for Israelis and Palestinians to live in safety and peace. It is very raw and very real for so many of us right now. From the time that I spoke with today's guest, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz, and the time we're putting out this first episode of our second season, the unimaginable has happened as we learned about Hamas' murder of six hostages, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an Israeli-American citizen, and Israeli citizens, Carmel Gat, Eden Yerushalmi, Ori Danino, Almog Sarusi, and Alexander Lobanov. May their memories be for a blessing.

([04:32](#)):

My heart is absolutely broken, out of my body, lying on the ground. I'm a mom of two young kids and I wept When Rachel Goldberg- Polin, Hersch's mom, shared her eulogy at his funeral. Okay, sweet boy, go now on your journey, she said. Finally, you are free. I'm a rabbi and I believe deeply in the universal ,unalienable sanctity of all people and equally so in the particular ties between Jewish people around the world, even if we have never met. And those two beliefs are not in conflict, they are and must be two complimentary ideas that anchor me in this world. And I'm an advocate. And I have stood on the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, shoulder to shoulder with Israelis of all denominations and beliefs

protesting the same Israeli government's attempts in 2023 to limit the power of Israel's courts, threatening human rights and Jewish values.

[\(05:37\)](#):

I hear the echoes of those protests today. Israelis are in the streets again demanding a hostage deal and an end to this war. And so God willing, when you hear this, our demands will be a reality. But until that moment, leaders like my guest today, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz, are stepping up just for this moment. First sworn into the US House of Representatives in 2005, she previously served in the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate. She's Florida's first Jewish congresswoman and she speaks proudly about her Jewish identity and values, both in our conversation and every day. In our wide ranging discussion, we talk about the situation at home and abroad from her work in Israel in the Middle East to her leadership on abortion access and the plague of gun violence. The world is a heavy place right now. We will not shy away from that darkness on this podcast, and I hope that these stories of leaders, women who are stepping up, I hope they will guide you, inspire you, bring you comfort, and plant for you a seed of hope. I know they do that for me. I began my conversation with the congresswoman just like this, asking her to share her story with us.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [\(06:58\)](#):

I've been in Congress for nearly 20 years. I'm concluding my 10th term. I am the first Jewish woman to represent Florida in the United States Congress. I represent Florida's 25th congressional district, which is the Fort Lauderdale Hollywood area. Everybody's favorite place to vacation. And yes, I'm biased. I came to Congress really understanding that I was going to continue to make policy as I had through my years as a state legislator through a distinctly Jewish lens. And I always only half jokingly say to people, I was raised by my parents around my very Jewish family dinner table, secular but Jewish family dinner table, and taught the values of tikkun olam. And I took them so seriously that I made tikkun olam career choice.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch [\(07:52\)](#):

I also really resonate with the idea of looking at the world through a Jewish lens. It's what led me to pursue a career as a rabbi and a leader of a North American Jewish organization. And I'm wondering if you could tell us a little bit more both about what led you to want to run for office and to come into your role and also just more about your Jewish journey.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [\(08:17\)](#):

I was raised as a secular Jew. I was not bat mitzvah was not really immersed in formal Judaism, but my parents always taught my brother and I that as Jews, we were really responsible for helping to make the world a better place. They didn't use the term an expression tikkun olam, but they always taught us how, because we were fortunate, it was important for us to help make other people's lives better and that we should speak up and use our voices to help fight injustice and right wrongs and not stand silent when someone was being wronged. And that was part of our responsibility to repair the world. And that really over the long term inspired me to pursue a career in public service, first as a legislative staffer, but then as a member of the Florida legislature when I was elected at 26 years old and all the good old boys told me it was not my turn and I needed to get online, they'd let me know when it was my turn, if it ever was, and then served in the state Senate, and then eventually was elected to the United States Congress. I really bring my Jewish values to my work every day.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch [\(09:33\)](#):

I love what you said both about not standing silent and not waiting your turn. Right. When will it be your turn? I think in terms of thinking about not standing silent, that's been a phrase that has echoed and resonated for me since October 7th. There's actually a Hebrew song that I love. We will not be silent as we think about speaking up and speaking out. And I heard that phrase from Vice President Harris when I was at the reception that she convened in June at the White House to highlight the really terrible atrocities and gender-based violence in Israel and also all around the world. So I'd love to hear more about the ways that you have been speaking up and standing out not being silent since October 7th as something that I know has been so important to you.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([10:32](#)):

October 7th really changed the world for Jews, and I mean in Israel certainly, but here at home around the world, the Jewish colleagues that I have gotten to know in other countries. We are all feeling deeply personally affected by the atrocities and the aftermath of October 7th. I mean, that was the most fatal day for Jews since the Holocaust. And before and since then, there's been a horrific rise in antisemitism. Even while over a hundred hostages are still held in Gaza, Israel still under attack from on seven fronts, Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, its other proxies. And what's been amazing since then is that the Jewish community has come together worldwide like I have never felt personally before and that I think that you've never seen us lean on one another collectively, in part because we can with modern technology and that we're so much more connected, but coming together, supporting and uplifting each other in the face of this vitriol, using our institutions to fight back and not just sit by and let things happen to us.

([11:51](#)):

Enlisting allies, I mean we've, we've even heard from synagogues in the United States and other Jewish institutions that there is an affiliation movement going on where you have much more interest being expressed in Jewish people going to joining synagogues and Jewish institutions. And I mean, I just think that's so incredibly important right now because we have to weave that safety net for one another really tightly and we have to use our influence and the reach that we have, which collectively we would have much more strongly together to be able to help make sure that we can protect our community and protect other communities because we know that we're the canary in the coal mine when it comes to hate.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([12:41](#)):

That's right. We have been hearing about this potential surge in interest in folks wanting to connect in with their Jewish communities and to feel at the same time that they want to be together in solidarity and joy and also to feel safe. And there has been such an unprecedented rise in antisemitism. Wondering if you could speak a little bit more about the work that you've been doing and what you're hoping still to accomplish.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([13:13](#)):

So the breadth of the effort and outreach in the face of the antisemitism we've experienced has necessarily been significant. I am along with my colleague Anthony Housefather, who's a member of the parliament in Canada, co-chaired an international task force to combat online antisemitism because that is so much of where all of this fomented and germinates and the social media policies and pushing back on up until very recently, they've mostly refused to do very much about changing their take down policies and how they define what antisemitism means and what's acceptable to having forums. I hosted a forum in my district at our JCC last spring pre-October 7th because of how significantly and precipitously antisemitism had risen, and we had 400 people come to that forum a year later, post-

October 7th, we had another 400 people come to one that was jointly hosted by myself and American Jewish Committee. And it was important for us to have experts and panelists who were focused on everything from campus antisemitism, to how to make sure that we can bring communities together, sponsoring legislation using the platform that the House of Representatives has to push back and speak out against antisemitism. I mean, it's just been an all hands on deck full court press out of necessity and it's going to have to be sustained because this isn't going away soon.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([14:52](#)):

Antisemitism has been around for ages and centuries, but if you think back to 15, 20 years ago, we weren't talking about it as much. There were fewer more public incidents, but I think that nearly every active and public Jewish person that I have met or spoken with recently has experienced some form of antisemitism lately. I have my own personal experiences with it, and I'm wondering if you've ever personally faced antisemitism, if there's a personal angle to it for you.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([15:29](#)):

So many times and increasingly worse since October 7th, but prior, I grew up on Long Island and then as an adult, I've lived in South Florida for really my whole adult life. Large Jewish communities, not very much fairly at all, did I experience antisemitism. A couple of instances that I could point to in my younger life as a high profile public official now, I mean I get death threats related to my Judaism. I have had my children threatened to where we've had to have police posted near their classrooms on their school campuses when they were growing up on more than one occasion, just the antisemitic hate and vitriol that spewed at me. And this is not just me, this is all Jewish members online. And then even how fighting to just make sure that anti-Zionism, which is a form of antisemitism, is considered antisemitic speech and expression because thankfully we've started to be able to move the needle and demonstrate that there are antisemites who when they are not able to actually traffic antisemitic tropes directly, they've been using Zionism as a substitute for Jew and as a result, they don't get those posts taken down and that hate is able to spread more easily.

([16:55](#)):

Meta, Facebook's parent company, thankfully recently adopted a policy that they aren't going to allow Zionism to be used as a substitute word for Jew and that it will be considered an antisemitic expression depending on the context, obviously. But yeah, I've had to have police up posted outside my house, and when I am attacked, and it is a dangerous situation, it is related to being a Jew, and it's deeply troubling.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([17:25](#)):

Thank you so much for sharing all of that. I ask it because I think both we want to thank you and honor you for being publicly Jewish in the way that you are in your leadership role, and also to make sure that people understand that this is all over the map and we have to put a personal face on antisemitism for those less familiar or less plugged in to know that this is something that's real and that it's a truly problematic issue.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([17:55](#)):

Very much so. And it's not a one-off where it's only a handful of us, and it's also not only high profile individual Jews either. There's just orders of magnitude of depth of the kind of antisemitism that rank and file Jews are experiencing all over the world.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([18:15](#)):

Absolutely. I'm wondering, we have folks who are plugged in and who will be listening to the podcast, people who are really interested in advocating and working on Jewish values to make sure that our laws are meeting the values in the way that we want to show up in the world. And I'm wondering if there is any current legislation, anything on your agenda for folks to be aware of related to antisemitism and the pieces we've been speaking about?

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([18:46](#)):

The good news is that we have an administration in President Biden and Vice President Harris now that really understood that antisemitism and its spread was really becoming institutionalized. I mean, it was so rampant and widespread that it was necessary to have a comprehensive plan. And they formed the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism and launched it a year ago in October. And it's a government-wide focus on agency by agency implementing methods to combat antisemitism and whether it's the Department of Education using Title VI of the Civil Rights Act that is applicable for students who are being persecuted and investigating on college campuses the antisemitism that has unfortunately spread significantly, or just making sure that there's an effort to educate Americans about the importance of the impact of Jewish Americans on the success of our country using not just the criminal statutes, but being able to have every aspect of our government be able to help fight antisemitism and the discriminatory conduct that has taken place.

([20:10](#)):

So that has been a very big deal. And then what we're trying to do is pass legislation that unfortunately in the Republican majority, they have not been willing to bring to the floor to codify the plan to fight antisemitism so that it survives more than just one presidency because we want to make sure that we have the ability to have the institutions of government be able to over the long term. I mean Rome wasn't built in a day, and antisemitism is the oldest ism, so we need to make sure that there's impermanence to our ability to fight it. Sorry, the other thing I want to just make sure I stress is that much of the spread of antisemitism does germinate online and using the congressional committees and the task force that I lead that I mentioned to pressure the social media companies who completely control through their algorithms what content is fed to people who are using their platforms, and they have no consequences because of something called Section 230, they can't be sued from a law years ago that protected them because they said that the time before algorithms that they didn't control the content, they only offered the platform.

([21:27](#)):

Well, now they totally control the content, and so they put eyeballs on antisemitic content next to advertising and they make money and profit off of the spread of antisemitism. And so making sure that we can either pressure them into changing their policies as Meta thankfully did, which included pressure from our Task Force Against Online Antisemitism, but also if we have to revoke their protection in section 230 and change the law so that they have consequences if they don't.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([22:00](#)):

That's huge and such an important impact. And while antisemitism can be painful or even dangerous when a person experiences that in real time, the online antisemitism is also faceless, so it's so much harder to counter it, and to track it, and to route it to the source. I am wondering if you could speak a little bit more about October 7th and the efforts on the national stage to be involved and to influence what's going on.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([22:33](#)):

I was in the region on October 6th in Saudi Arabia with a bipartisan bicameral congressional delegation. We were in Saudi Arabia to talk to their leadership about advancing the normalization process with Israel and Saudi Arabia. We met late into the evening with the crown prince and then woke up on Saturday morning, and my legislative director had called and said, there are alarms going off all over Israel and not the normal kind that just subside quickly and it looks like this is very serious. And part of that trip included going to Israel, which we did three days later. We went to Israel in spite of the State Department not wanting us to, and went on October 10th we were the first congressional delegation there, meeting with the Prime Minister, Netanyahu, with the foreign minister, with the families that were victims, lost, loved ones, had hostages taken. And what we really believed so strongly, even though our State Department didn't think it was the safest thing to do, is that we all spend so much time talking about our support for Israel and the US-Israel relationship being so important.

([23:44](#)):

And I'm a show me person, not a tell me person. So I and my colleagues thought it was absolutely critical that we show Israelis, show their leadership that the United States is actually physically going to stand by them, and we did that weekend and those days and then every day thereafter because there's no country that should have to live with a terrorist threat on their doorstep. The fact that 1200 were slaughtered that Hamas could end this right now if they simply release the hostages and stop being sworn to Israel's destruction and the killing of Jews and someone has to be in Congress speaking out and keeping the spotlight and attention on this, on the gender-based and sexual violence, which was denied repeatedly. The whole idea of Me Too, unless you're a Jew, is so real and so raw. I mean, the stories, the classified briefings I've been in, the film that we've seen, it is so disturbing that accountability and criticism and outrage is applied to harm that comes to every other culture and community.

([24:59](#)):

But when it comes to Jews, somehow there's this big asterisk and always an exception, always something that's Israel's fault or the Jews' fault. That's unacceptable. And it's important to point out, there was a Bedouin Muslim hostage that was rescued by the IDF, and you have a large number of hostages who were taken and people who were killed, who were from countries of other origin, Latin American countries, European countries, there were Muslims. I mean, it's Hindus. The breadth of people who were impacted by this terrorist attack is significant, but people only think about the impact and the victims and who this was perpetrated against as being Israelis. And there are Americans still there. And so making sure that we keep that constant bait of attention focused is critical.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([25:56](#)):

I couldn't agree more about showing up. I did not know that you were in the region so soon afterwards. That's amazing and so powerful. And I was there over the winter, this past winter, leading a feminist mission and oriented toward lifting up women's voices and sharing their stories and making sure, as you were saying, to keep the spotlight on the extremely disturbing accounts of gender-based violence. And also really to highlight the ways in which this is entwined with antisemitism and making sure that the pressure is kept on so that folks will never deny the stories of these women, of these victims.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([26:42](#)):

We have to make sure that people understand that Hamas is a terrorist organization. This is not a country, this is not a peaceful actor that abides by the rules of war or plays by any rules at all. And yet they're treated, and they've been treated since October 7th, as if they are the equivalent of a

democratic nation like Israel that takes precautions to protect themselves and more specifically to protect those that are in harm's way when they are trying to protect their own national security in an unprecedented way.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([27:17](#)):

You said it. Hamas is a terrorist organization, and we need to make sure that folks remember that. We don't want anyone to be suffering. We don't want Palestinians to be suffering, those who are living in Gaza. We don't want anyone to be at war. We want everyone to be able to live in safety and peace, and we need to make sure that all of those stories are honored and those lives are protected.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([27:44](#)):

I think Jon Polin, at the Democratic National Convention when he and his wife Rachel spoke, said it best, no one wins a suffering competition.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([28:04](#)):

I wonder if we could talk for a moment about Queen Esther to shift gears a little. And the theme for our podcast is based on the Purim story from the Megillat Esther, where Esther has reached this moment where she has become the queen and she's been hiding her Jewish identity, right? She's worried about antisemitism. That is why she's hiding her identity and has been encouraged to do that even in the highest role that she could hold in the land. And then there's this moment where all of the Jews are at risk and her Uncle Mordechai comes to her and says, now is the time you need to step up. You need to speak out. Who knows? Maybe it's just for this moment that you find yourself in a position of leadership? And she does, at risk to her own life, and she saves the Jews, she saves our people. Is there a moment like that for you where you've been in the right place at the right time and you've been the person to lead to step up just for this moment?

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([29:10](#)):

For so many of us, this is one of those times in the aftermath of October 7th. And while there are many pro-Israel legislators, the fact that Jews punch above our weight, so to speak, given that we're really less than 2% of the population in our country, and in worldwide, are able to be represented in the most significant halls of power around the world. And each of us in our own way, I think carries the weight of Esther's responsibility in our hearts, like her feel propelled forward to be able to use that influence to pop our head above the waterline and make a difference for our people because it's much more personal coming from a Jew. I mean, there are instances in which my presence personally on an issue has made a difference. And as a Jewish mother who has three young adult Jewish kids who are just starting out on the next stage of their lives, I feel a tremendous responsibility to do all I can to make it less likely that they have to walk a very difficult and painful pathway and that they can experience the near utter lack of antisemitism that I faced. The stage of life that they're at now, but that now we are all unfortunately experiencing exponentially more significantly.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([30:42](#)):

I'm a mom, and that is also for me, a huge part about the way that I show up in the world, and that influences me to think about creating the world that I want to give to my children. We've spoken a bunch about international policy and what's going on around the world for the Jews and for Israel. I'm wondering if we could talk a little bit about some of the domestic policies and some of the key issues that are going on here. I know that my organization and that I have taken a keen interest in working on

reproductive rights and abortion access, also on gun violence. There are so many important issues, and for me, they're all directly related to creating that world that I want my children, that I want my daughter to have.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (31:30):

All of the above are issues that are so intense, and we are facing a literal fire hose of assault on the safety and security and ability of people to thrive. And that means thrive in their health, in their healthcare, and the ability to be able to have the freedom to make their own decisions about their reproductive choices. And that goes from whether an abortion is necessary or IVF. I mean, I'll just give you a perfect answer to your question. So IVF has been talked about most recently and the threat looming of it possibly being banned. I mean, I had a colleague in Congress who actually proposed an amendment to completely ban IVF, but it's more than just whether or not you can start a family. My twins were conceived through IVF, they're 25, but subsequently many years later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and it turned out that I had the BRCA two genetic mutation, which is associated with Jews and is much more likely to be carried by Ashkenazi Jews.

(32:44):

So I survived. I'm a 16 and a half year breast cancer survivor, but my children, all three of them, my son and my two daughters, they will all have to be tested to see whether because it's passed on only through one parent so that they know what their risk is. If they are positive, the technology now would allow them to go through IVF and select out embryos that did not carry the genetic mutation and implant only those, and that would end generational cancer in my family. And if you ban IVF, then you are going to instead insist that cancer be perpetuated in my family that the risk would continue to exist. How dare they? How dare they? So this is so much deeper than just whether or not you can be a parent. It's whether or not successive generations of your family can live, and it's that and gun violence policy.

(33:49):

Gabby Giffords is one of my closest friends. I had to walk her onto the House floor and I read her letter of resignation for her because as everyone has seen how determined she is, that gun and that shooter ended her ability to continue to do the job that she was meant to do, and how much more good in the world could she have done. She's a remarkable individual. But between the children who've been mowed down in schools, in grocery stores, in movie theaters, the Jewish values, the assault on the values that we identify with and our responsibility that we all feel to help make sure that we look out for one another and that laws are in place to be able to make sure that there's a safety net. Jewish values are on the ballot in this election.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch (34:43):

Such difficult and powerful stories and so personal for you. For me, it does always come back to Jewish values. I also think about the value of Pikuach Nefesh, just making sure that above all else, we prioritize saving a life. And those values are right there to save the life of a woman, of a person who's pregnant. If they are lying in an emergency room waiting to be able to be helped by a doctor who wants to help them, or thinking about people who have their lives cut short or irrevocably damaged and impacted through gun violence. It comes back to those values. Thinking about Esther, something else that really fascinates and interests me about her is that she reaches that really high level of leadership, the highest point that a woman could in her time. And as we were talking about, she still really faces barriers to her leadership.

(35:48):



The king is 100% in that patriarchal society, sort of above and beyond, and she risks her life to go and to save her people. For me, it so parallels our current moment where women have reached incredible heights of leadership and you are one of them representing us in Congress. And yet, there are still so many barriers for women as leaders in all fields, not just in political office, but everywhere. I'm wondering, have you faced barriers in your leadership journey, and do you have insights more broadly about this current moment and knowing the conversations that are going on about barriers to women and perhaps hitting that highest glass ceiling?

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz ([36:40](#)):

I feel like I'm here in part and have been able to attain the elected role that I have because we come from hardy stock. There's a lot of chutzpah that is running through our DNA as Jews. And I remember back to when I first decided to run for the state legislature in the State House of Representatives in Florida. My predecessor was my mentor, Jewish man, Peter Deutsch, and I was supposed to run his congressional race and he called me at home one day and said to me, I think you should run for my seat. He knew I wanted to run for office one day, but I figured that would be along the traditional path for women, get married, have kids, and eventually pursue my dream to run when they were older. But he said, you can do this. I'll get someone else to run my race.

([37:27](#)):

You should run now. And of course, when I went out and started talking to the community leaders in quotes, all the good old boys told me it was not my turn that I should get online, that they would let me know when and if it ever was my turn, as I mentioned earlier. I said to them, well, I appreciate your advice, but I'm going to run and when I win the primary, I'd love to have your support. And so they of course dismissed me and said they thought, of course they would support me if I won the primary, but never thought they would have to deal with that. And so I had to make up in shoe leather what I lacked in resources. And there were six candidates, a six way race in the Democratic primary, and I went door to door eight hours a day, seven days a week for six months.

([38:15](#)):

That was the only way people were going to know I was running. I ended up knocking on 25,000 doors, basically myself. I had no volunteers. And when the results came in, I won that primary with 53% of the vote in a six-way race. Look, I was out-raised by all my opponents and I certainly didn't have the institutional support, but my ethos throughout my life, always do your best, reach for the stars, and work hard, and then you won't have any regrets. And so my ethos has always been, I might not always win the day. I might not convince everybody that I'm right, but I'll never lose because I got outworked.

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch ([39:03](#)):

I'm your host, Rabbi Liz Hirsch, CEO of Women of Reform Judaism, and you've been listening to Just For This. Check us out on most social media platforms at @JustForThisPodcast. You can also follow Women of Reform Judaism @WRJ1913. Our show is produced by Sheir and Shim, LLC. Special thanks to Lisa Pincus Hamroff, Aly Rubin, Rabbi Neil Hirsch, Lior, and Mikah. Jen King designed our logo, and Eric Shimoni wrote our theme music. Thanks for listening. We'll have more just for this moments next time.