



Lev el Lev

HEART TO HEART
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2025
TIVET/SHEVAT 5785

A Message from Rozan Anderson

Dear WRJ,

As we head into 2025, I'm excited about the many opportunities we'll have this year to help make our world a safer, more peaceful place -- a place that provides dignity to all.

Here in the Heartland, we are planning events, both in person and online, that will bring together WRJ's three pillars of sisterhood, spirituality, and social justice. Be on the lookout for our regional events, themed "*We Belong Together.*"

Of course, I also hope you'll consider joining me and hundreds of others at WRJ's Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference (SJC) in Washington, DC, on April 4-7. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about current issues and how we can work together in social action. Registration is open, and applications for scholarships must be in by January 12. There is more info in this issue of *Lev el Lev*.

May 2025 be a good year for us all, and may we move forward together from strength to strength.



A handwritten signature of Rozan Anderson.

Rozan Anderson
WRJ Heartland District President

Heartland News and Events

[Register here](#) by Monday, February 3 Space is limited to the first 100 to register. Once you register, you will receive the Zoom link.

[Click here](#) to download the

From Fedoras to Fascinators

February 6, 2025
8:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm CT
A Free Program on ZOOM



Join us for a delightful parade through the history of ladies hats with well known Chicago performer, Ellie of Ellie Presents.

flyer to share with your women's group.

Questions? Email Kathy Madura at
optsisterhood@gmail.com

Hillary's Book Club

Thursday, March 6, 8 pm EST / 7 pm CST

The Wolf Hunt by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen is a practicing clinical psychologist, has been a news editor on Israel's leading newspaper, and has worked for the Israeli civil rights movement. *The Wolf Hunt* is set in Palo Alto and explores the racial and religious fault lines of a local community from the perspective of an Israeli expat.



Registration coming soon!



Mark your calendars for these upcoming Heartland Regional Events!



**HEARTLAND DISTRICT
WEST REGION EVENT**
"WE BELONG TOGETHER"

MARCH 21-23, 2025
FRIDAY, 5 PM CT - SUNDAY, 12 PM CT
AT OSRUI IN OCONOMOWOC, WI.

The West Region is IL, IA, MN, SD, or WI, but anyone is welcome to join us!

What's on the agenda?

- > Spiritual celebration of Shabbat
- > Workshops on effective leadership
- > Advocacy and social action activities
- > And a lot of fun and social connection!

Remember: WE BELONG TOGETHER! So circle your calendar!



(L-R) 1st VPs Marci Delson and Cheryl Stern, and Area VP, West

Registration opens in February.

(Both single day and multi-day registrations will be available!)

[Click here](#) for more information or contact Janet Buckstein at jfbuckstein@gmail.com.

Illinois Area Day

June 22, 2025
Temple Beth-El
Northbrook, IL

East Region

June 27-29, 2025
Congregation Beth Tikvah
Worthington, OH

Mid Region

July 19-20, 2025
Temple Beth Emeth
Ann Arbor, MI



Heartland District Convention

March 13-15, 2026
Indianapolis, IN

SPEAKING OF THE 2026 CONVENTION...

Did you know we are creating our own Heartland District Banner?

WRJ Heartland District is creating a banner that will be unveiled at the 2026 Heartland District Convention in Indianapolis. The banner will then be used at other future district events!

This exciting new, district-wide project is the brainchild of Marci Kops, Illinois Area Director. Leaders are encouraged to start brainstorming ideas with their sisterhoods/women's groups on how they can get their members involved.

The banner will be assembled like a quilt with individual squares of artwork sewn together to create the finished banner.



Please [click here](#) for more information and instructions on how to create the squares.

WRJ at the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA)



honor of representing WRJ at the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA) meeting this past December in Washington, DC. This incredible gathering brought together leaders to advance our movement's social justice agenda and work on key issues shaped by the recent election outcomes. I was especially eager to engage in these discussions, as they play a vital role in

shaping WRJ's social justice priorities for the coming years. What sets us apart in our advocacy efforts is our steadfast commitment to promoting Reform Jewish values through a gendered lens.

WRJ truly shined during the 4-day event! With 11 members in attendance, we received many praises from the CSA, RAC (Religious Action Center), and URJ leadership for our social justice efforts and dedication to women's empowerment. Representing WRJ filled me with immense pride.

One of the most exciting parts of the trip was joining over 300 energized teens at the Bernard and Audre Rapoport L'Taken Social Justice Seminar. Watching high school students passionately connect their Judaism to advocacy was wonderful! The seminar prepared them to lobby their elected officials on critical issues, and we had the privilege of accompanying them to Capitol Hill. I had an empowering one-on-one meeting with my representative's senior policy advisor to discuss women's reproductive health and environmental legislation.

When we weren't spending time with the teens, the CSA was hard at work learning about the important efforts of our task forces, including addressing antisemitic and anti-Israel actions at the local government level, judicial ethics, and protecting transgender rights. We also heard about the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections and how we can help ensure that Reform Jews have a strong voice in shaping Israel's future.

After a beautiful and very cold Havdalah service at the Jefferson Memorial with the teens, I had a chance to reflect on all the amazing work we're doing. I came away from the CSA meetings and my Capitol Hill visit energized and ready to engage in the important work ahead. I hope you'll join me on Mighty Networks in the Social Justice and Advocacy Conversations space and consider attending the WRJ Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference in April. It's the perfect opportunity to deepen our understanding of our social justice priorities and grow the confidence and advocacy skills needed to engage in conversations about the issues that matter most to you.

Michelle Scheinkopf

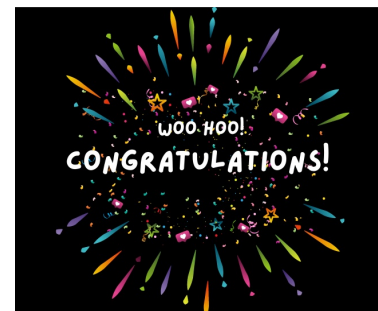
WRJ Vice President of Social Justice

Recent Heartland Event Highlights

Great news from our YES Fund Co-Chairs, Liz McOske and Gayle Weil

Liz and Gayle wish to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the YES Fund made during the "*Heart to Heart & Face to Face*" weekend in Cincinnati last month. **Together, we raised the incredible sum of \$20,456!**

This year, through WRJ's philanthropic arm, the YES (Youth, Education, and Special Projects) Fund, we have been able to award over \$300,000 in grants to 29 programs that will encourage the growth of individuals as Jewish trailblazers! These



Congratulations, Liz and Gayle! And THANK YOU for your hard work on this important project!

Sisterhood News and Events

CALLING ALL HEARTLAND WOMEN'S GROUPS!

Our communications team is here to help you get the word out about any of your group's big events and programs. Please email a completed flyer or feel free to contact [Karen Dillon](#) if you would like some help in creating a flyer for your event. *Materials must be received by the 25th of each month.*

Andi Blain and Karen Dillon

Co-VPs Marketing & Communications.

Good & Welfare



We send our deepest condolences to...

The Heilveil family on the passing of Bobbie Heilveil. Notices of condolence can be sent to David Heilveil at 2665 Aspen Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

The Leman Family on the passing of Janet Leman. Notices of condolence can be sent to Temple Emanuel Sisterhood at 2215 E. Kimberly Road, Davenport, IA 52807 and marciapersin@comcast.

Rozan Anderson and her husband Brian on the passing of Brian's father, Lyle Anderson, on December 7, in Crystal Lake, IL. Notes of condolence can be sent to Rozan and Brian at 3456 John Muir Dr, Middleton, WI 53562 or via email at andersonrozan@gmail.com.

We want to cheer for each other in the good times and support each other during difficult ones. Please keep me informed of your sisters' difficulties and celebrations by emailing me at shawnolds1967@gmail.com.

Be well,

Shawna Olds

Good & Welfare Chair



**WRJ Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference
April 4-7, 2025 in Washington, DC**



We are so excited to announce that registration for WRJ's Social Justice Conference is officially open!

Spend time with like-minded women who share your passion for advancing our Reform Jewish values in a welcoming and encouraging environment, discussing the biggest, most important issues of our time.

Now more than ever, we must actively engage in issues that are crucial to everyone's safety, wellbeing, and happiness. This conference will help us to become better educated about social justice issues and be trained in advocacy skills we can utilize locally and nationally.

The SJC is intended for anyone over the age of 18 who identifies as female, nonbinary, or gender fluid and is interested in advocacy through a Jewish feminist lens. Beginning Sunday afternoon through the conference duration, we offer an "Empowerment Option" to anyone interested – including those who identify as male.

[Click here](#) for more information about the conference and scholarship opportunities. And [click here](#) to register for this incredible event!

Microgrant Applications Now Open

Is your women's group hesitant to plan an event because you don't have the funding available to bring it to life? If you are a WRJ-affiliated group, you may be able to qualify for a microgrant ranging between \$500-\$2,500. This grant can be used to help you defray the costs for ANY program or project that relates to engagement or social justice/advocacy.

Put a plan together and submit your grant application by June 30, 2025. You have plenty of time to plan. So develop your proposal, apply for a grant, promote your event, implement your program... and then revel in your success!

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Heartland Products



Get your Heartland District Pin!

[Click here](#) to order and pay by check.

[Click here](#) to order and pay by credit card.

Speakers Bureau



Request a Speaker

The Heartland District's [Speakers Bureau](#) is a great tool to bring interesting and informative speakers to your organization. The speaker can address a specific problem or topics in general that can help your organization achieve its goals. Sisterhoods/women's groups in the Heartland District are entitled to a speaker every other year. There is no charge for a district speaker. WRJ also has a speaker's program. To learn about both programs, please visit the Heartland District's website [here](#).

Make a Gift to Heartland



A gift to the Heartland District is a wonderful way to recognize, remember, or honor the special people in your life: your sisterhood/women's group, your leadership, your clergy, your family and friends.

Make a gift to WRJ Heartland District to say "thank you," "happy birthday," or congratulations," or to send get well wishes or condolences. An acknowledgement will be emailed to each person whose email address is provided.

[Click here](#) to donate. The Heartland District appreciates your support!

Stay Connected



[Heartland District Website](#)
[Heartland District Instagram](#)
[Heartland District Facebook](#)
[Heartland District Mighty Networks](#)
[WRJ Website](#)
[WRJ Facebook Page](#)



Mighty Networks: A Way to Stay Connected

Consider this your official invitation to join us on Mighty Networks, an online platform where you can connect with other district members and keep up to date on what is going on in WRJ and the Heartland District. Looking for someone to carpool with to OSRUI in March for the West Region event? Or maybe just interested in making some new friends with your sisters in other regions? Mighty Networks is a great place for that! Check it out for yourself!

To request access, just email us at leadership@wrj.org and we'll get you connected!

Heartland District Forms & WRJ Resources

Useful links ►

[Alumnae Association Form](#)
[Financial Deposit Form](#)
[Financial Expense Reimbursement Form](#)
[Financial Vendor Payment Request Form](#)
[Leadership Change Form](#)
[Speakers Bureau Request Form](#)
[Treasurer's Work Sheet](#)
[Zoom Meeting Request Form](#)

[WRJ's Brit Kehillah](#) (shared behavioral agreement)
[Policy on Harassment](#)
[WRJ's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(REDI\) resources](#)
[Microaggression resource](#)

To receive our monthly *Lev el Lev* newsletter,
[click here](#) to join our mailing list

Alison Miller, Newsletter Editor

WRJ strengthens the voice of women worldwide and empowers them to create caring communities, nurture congregations, cultivate personal and spiritual growth, and advocate for and promote progressive Jewish values.



WRJ Heartland District | c/o WRJ, 633 3rd Ave | New York, NY 10017 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!