



# Lev el Lev

HEART TO HEART  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**MARCH 2025**  
**ADAR / NISSAN 5785**

**Happy Purim!**



## A Message from Rozan Anderson

Dear WRJ,

*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."*

This African proverb was presented by Rabbi Jon Prosnit recently at a leadership gathering at my congregation, Temple Beth El, in Madison, WI. He was quoting NJ Senator Cory Booker.

Throughout the past month, this has been part of many conversations at TBE, including within my own women's group, as we seek to move forward, increasing participation, not only in the number of people, but the quality of engagement.

How often do we decide that it's just quicker and easier to do something ourselves, rather than mentor people, or allow others the opportunity to give of themselves and experience the satisfaction of seeing how their actions improve the community, working together? We're always talking about the importance of building our leadership pipelines.

Rabbi Prosnit continued: *"Instead of how many, let's ask how far? How far did we move toward our goal? What was the outcome for those who were there? Were people's lives changed in some way?"*

I leave you with these questions to think about in your own work and interactions with others and hope you find them as meaningful as I have.

Our 2025 regionals begin this month, with West at OSRUI, in Oconomowoc, WI. I hope to see many of you there for a fabulous weekend of sisterhood, spirituality, and social justice - no matter where in the Heartland you live.

Of course, registration is still open for WRJ's Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference (SJC), and we already have a large Heartland contingent coming to Washington, DC, April 4-7. There is more info in this *Lev el Lev*.

May we all continue to move forward *together* from strength to strength.

*Rozan*



**ROZAN ANDERSON**  
President  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Heartland District

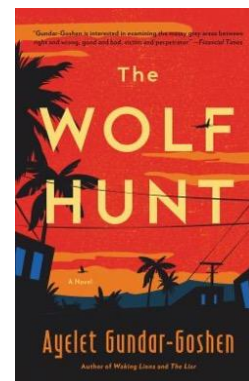
## Heartland News and Events

### Hillary's Online 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 with Israel's leading newspaper, and has worked for the Israeli civil rights movement. *The Wolf Hunt* is set in Palo Alto, CA, and explores the racial and religious fault lines of a local community from the perspective of an Israeli expat.



[Click here](#) for the flyer and registration.



## **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.**

[Click here](#) for more details.

[Click here](#) to register by March 5.

If you can't attend this event, you can still donate to the Heartland District by clicking [here](#).

## **GUCI Women's Work Weekend** **Collaborate. Create. Celebrate.**

**Thursday, May 1 - Sunday, May 4**  
**Zionsville, IN**





will then make policies for Israel's relationship to the diaspora and allocate over \$1 billion annually. It influences cultural, educational, and developmental activities in Israel. The WZC funds land purchases, pays rabbis, and does a variety of important other activities.

In the last few elections, the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) won the largest slate of representatives from North America. It has been able, therefore, to influence the WZC to support a pluralistic Israel, where all segments of the Jewish community can find a comfortable home.

**Between March 10 and May 4, American Jews (18+) will choose candidates from over 20 diverse slates, ultimately electing 152 delegates -- approximately a third of the representatives to the next Congress.** Subsequently, when the Congress convenes in Jerusalem in October, the elected delegates will determine how more than \$1 billion will be allocated annually to strengthen Jewish identity, enhance communities, and foster education worldwide, and will directly affect the Reform Movement in Israel.

You can vote online or through paper ballots. Please watch for alerts that will have links to the online voting starting on March 10. Encourage your women's group members and congregants to get involved and vote the ARZA slate. Reform Jews need to get out the vote to protect democracy in Israel and support the Reform movement there. Together, we will make a difference in this election. For more information about the WZC, [click here](#).

## Sally Frank

Heartland District VP Social Justice



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.

Join your sisters from the Heartland District at WRJ's Social Justice Conference!

**[Click here](#) to register by March 20.**  
**[Click here](#)** for more information about the conference.



## On A Roll - Hitting YES Fund Goals!

By definition, an honor roll is a list of the names of people who are celebrated for something they have done, such as doing very well in a sport or in school. Honor roll in WRJ-world has a broader, more encompassing meaning. We celebrate your sisterhood or women's group when they earn a place on the WRJ YES Fund Honor Roll.

How, you ask? There are three levels of honor—Roll of Honor is reached at \$5/member, Special Merit is reached at \$10/member, and Chai Honor is reached at \$18/member. The WRJ YES Fund Honor Roll recognizes sisterhoods and women's groups who have gone above and beyond in their YES Fund donations. All donations made by members of a sisterhood or women's group are credited to the group's honor roll status. Honor roll status reports will be sent to your sisterhood so you can track your progress. Honor roll is evaluated on a fiscal year basis, meaning you have until June 30, 2025 to make our list!

Contributions to the YES Fund support WRJ's philanthropic endeavors to nurture the leaders of today and tomorrow in the Jewish community, reaching people at a local, national, and global level. In 2024-25, with \$300,500 in grant allocations, WRJ provided 28 grants to Jewish organizations around the world.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the YES Fund.



### Choosing Judaism, Choosing Sisterhood

by Karen Goldberg,  
WRJ Vice President of Member Services

I did not grow up Jewish, but now, I cannot imagine my life without Reform Judaism. Being Jewish is a fundamental part of who I am. It has helped shape my values, perspectives, and all that I do. My love of storytelling, social justice, Torah, and Israel fuel my deep commitment to creating positive social change while bringing a feminist perspective. Being part of a Jewish women's group has made all the difference. Read her whole article [here](#).

## WRJ Microgrant Applications Available

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.

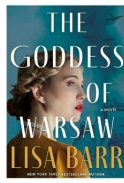
**Put a plan together and submit your grant application by June 30, 2025.** You have plenty of time to plan. So develop your proposal, apply for a grant, promote your event, implement your program... and then revel in your success!

[Click here](#) to learn more.



NY Times Best-Selling Author  
**The Goddess of Warsaw**

**Lisa Barr**



**Temple Beth Israel,  
3601 W Dempster St,  
Skokie, IL 60076**

[Click here](#) for the flyer to share  
with your sisterhood/women's  
group.

[Click here](#) to register.

**In-Person at Temple Beth Israel  
Monday, March 10, 2025 - 7:00pm**



## **Congregation Beth Am Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament**

Congregation Beth Am Sisterhood hosted its annual Mah Jongg tournament on February 2, bringing together players from across the Chicago area for a day filled with fun, strategy, and community spirit. More than just a competition, the tournament fostered connections and strengthened bonds between Sisterhood members and guests from other congregations. The event provided a welcoming space for camaraderie and engagement, reinforcing the power of shared experiences in building lasting friendships. We are grateful to all who participated and helped make this tournament a success!



## **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**



Sending get well wishes to Peggy Kipp for a speedy recovery. Cards can be sent to Peggy at 2273 Wagon Wheels Ct, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 or [pegk56@comcast.net](mailto:pegk56@comcast.net).

Mazel Tov to Joanne Merritt on the birth of her first granddaughter! Cards can be mailed to Joanne at 7430 Kenneth Ave, Skokie, IL 60067 or [joannem9tbi@gmail.com](mailto:joannem9tbi@gmail.com).



We send our deepest condolences to family and friends on the passing of Helen Gold. Notices of condolence can be mailed in care of her son, Howard Gold, at 8135 Woodlawn, Munster, IN 46321. A memorial service will be held on March 15 at Kish Funeral Home in Munster, IN.

### **In Memory of Helen Gold**

by Judy Lohr-Safcik and Gayle Weil

Helen was one of two area directors for Northwest Indiana and Greater Illinois, served on the Midwest District Board, and was one of two area directors for Northwest Indiana and Greater Illinois.



One of the most significant things we learned about Helen over the almost 20 years we knew her was her generosity. Helen loved WRJ and anything connected with it. Her donations were monumental, as she held eleven WRJ lifelines. When she served on the WRJ North American Board from January 2007 to November 2011, and they would meet in New York, two things were a given: she would bring treats for the staff and the Midwest board members (and maybe others), and she would walk almost any distance to get ice cream.

Helen was also instrumental in having the Jewish Braille Institute (JBI) create large-print prayer books to be purchased by our congregations.

Helen's generosity was known, at least to a group of Midwest women, when it came time for Chanukah. Suddenly we would get a mysterious package of 3M products. Helen was a special lady who will be greatly missed. Her memory will be for a blessing.

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](mailto:shawnolds1967@gmail.com).

Be well,

**Shawna Olds**

Good & Welfare Chair

## **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

Mighty Networks allows us to connect with our sisters throughout WRJ! Looking for someone to carpool with to OSRUI in March for the West Region event? Or find a roommate for your hotel stay at the upcoming Social Justice conference in DC? Mighty Networks is a great place for that!

To request access, just email us at [leadership@wrj.org](mailto:leadership@wrj.org) and we'll get you connected!



## From the Lev el Lev Editor

Want to share your sisterhood's or women's group's news, announcements, or upcoming events with Lev el Lev? Just send your articles, photos, links, PDFs, and contact information directly to Alison Miller, Lev el Lev Editor, [Alison@PMHRN.com](mailto:Alison@PMHRN.com). Deadline is always the 25th of the preceding month.



# 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

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