



Lev el Lev

HEART TO HEART
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



MAY 2025
IYYAR-SIVAN 5785
LAG B'OMER, MAY 15
CELEBRATING OUR JEWISH
RUACH!



A Message from Rozan Anderson

Dear WRJ,

Last month's WRJ Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference (SJC) was exactly where I needed to be in these days filled with uncertainty. Once again surrounded by my WRJ and Heartland community, I found the strength to raise my voice along with so many others who share my commitment to making this world better and more just for all. I could go on and on, but I will mention a few specific things that inspire me.

First of all, I was able to spend good, quality time with people from across our district (over 40, quite a few of whom were at their first WRJ event), as well as people from across North America and Israel. I had conversations where we shared what brought us to this place and time, and we built lovely and meaningful connections.

The Shabbat services were awesome – especially on Friday night, as we read piece after piece from WRJ's beautiful new book, *"Covenant of Justice: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations from Women of Reform Judaism."* Quite a few of the selections were written by people we know from Heartland. I look forward to spending more time with this book, and our delegation from Temple Beth El in Madison, WI, has gifted our entire senior staff with copies.

During both the WRJ North American Board meeting (just prior to SJC) and SJC, I attended quite a few sessions on how we can better foster belonging and make our spaces as safe as possible, both physically and psychologically. There is always plenty to consider.

With this in mind, I have invited WRJ Executive Committee member and Ethics Chair Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab to join us for our annual Heartland District Board meeting on Tuesday, June 3. She will lead us in an enlightening presentation and conversation about group ethics and codes of conduct that help promote healthy relationships and safety wherever we meet (our district, women's groups, congregations, work places, and so on).

While the annual district board meeting is primarily for our district board members (see the meeting announcement for board membership criteria), I invite you all to attend. Also on the agenda will be a state of the district update and approval of next year's budget.

Please registration [here](#) or in our Heartland Mighty Networks space. I hope to see you at the meeting, or online before that, at one of our many district events!

May we all continue to move forward *together*, strengthening one another.



Rozan

Rozan Anderson,
President, WRJ Heatland District President

Heartland District Annual Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
8:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm CT on Zoom

Special Guest: Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab, WRJ Executive Committee Member and Ethics Chair



Members of the board include the Executive Committee, district past presidents, slated committee chairs, and a president or leader from each district sisterhood/women's group. While only board members will vote on the budget, all are welcome for the entire meeting, and we encourage you to join us!

[Click here](#) to register.

Heartland Budget Info Session
Tuesday, May 27, 2025
7:30 pm ET / 6:30 pm CT on Zoom

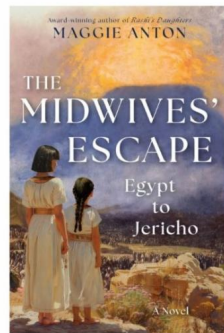


Interested in learning more about the Fiscal Year 2026 budget and how it reflects our values? This is your opportunity to review the budget with our treasurer and ask questions!

[Click here](#) to register.

Contact Heartland President [Rozan Anderson](#) with questions about the annual meeting or budget info session.

Heartland Upcoming Events



**The Midwives' Escape:
From Egypt to Jericho
by Maggie Anton**

Thursday, May 15, 2025
8:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm CT
on Zoom

Maggie Anton will be in the Zoom meeting to discuss her new historical novel.
[Click here](#) for more details and to register.

Questions? Contact Laura Cooper at cooper4449@gmail.com.

HILLARY'S HEARTLAND

BOOK CLUB



Leaving Lucy Pear by Anna Solomon

**Thursday, June 5, 2025
8:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm CT
on Zoom**

In mesmerizing prose, award-winning author Anna Solomon weaves together family, establishing Anna Solomon as one of our most captivating storytellers.

[Click here](#) for more details and to register.

Questions? Contact Jane Page at jane67@gmail.com or Connie Silver at conniesilver@comcast.net.



Registration Now Open

ILLINOIS AREA DAY

EMPOWERED

Women

**EMPOWER
WOMEN**

**Sunday, June 22, 2025
8:15am - 2:00pm (CT)
Temple Beth-El, Northbrook, IL**



Keynote Speaker: Rebecca Weininger

Anti-Defamation League Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region

[Click here](#) for more details and to register, or scan the QR code above.
Please register by Monday, June 16.

Questions? Contact Joanne Merritt at joannem9TBI@gmail.com.



Registration Now Open

**HEARTLAND DISTRICT
EAST REGION EVENT**

We Belong Together

**JUNE 27 - 29, 2025
FRIDAY, 5 PM ET - SUNDAY, 12 PM ET**

**Congregation Beth Tikvah
Worthington, OH**



Join together as we learn, pray, sing, and have fun at WRJ Heartland District's

East Region Event. Enjoy workshops, activities, and Shabbat services that will help you to grow both personally and as a leader.

Heartland District East Region includes all or part of OH, KY, PA, WV, and TN. [Click here](#) for more details and to register by June 16, or scan the QR code above. Hotel group rate ends May 28.

Questions? Contact Karen Schwartz at karenschwartzwrj@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

2026 Heartland District Convention

March 13-15, 2026
Indianapolis, IN

Heartland District Recaps

Heartland District members join the WRJ North American Board



Heartland District President Rozan Anderson joined Heartland members newly installed on the WRJ North American Board at the recent board meeting in Washington, DC. Pictured L-R: Leslie Coff, Marci Kops, Rozan Anderson, Simona Seiderman, and Yaffa Muhlbaum.

Heartland District members enjoying their time at the WRJ Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference in Washington, DC





Illinois members lobbying their Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill



Pictured L to R: Judy Wexler, Beth Nudelman, Sandy Lorgeree, Michelle Scheinkopf, Karen Dillon, Sandi Firsell, Marci Kops, Cheryl Stern, and Donelle Macey.

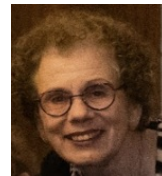
Reflections on attending the WRJ Rabbi Marla J. Feldman Social Justice Conference, their first WRJ event



**By Kat Hsia,
Temple Beth El
Sisterhood,
Madison, WI**

"From Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday night to our closing session on Monday morning, the conference itself felt like something my soul needed. Having the ability to connect with 350 others with shared values yet different experiences for a full weekend was a very needed connection during a time of increasing strife in our country..."

[Click here](#) to read her thoughtful essay.



**By Maureen
Ordman-Fike,
Women of
Mishkan Or,
Beechwood, OH**

"I arrived at the Social Justice Conference knowing almost nothing about WRJ. The Social Justice theme sparked my interest, and it had been a long time since I participated in a conference with, what I hoped would be like-minded people. I did not expect to be as grateful for the experience as I was and still am..."

[Click here](#) to read her moving essay.



Update from the Heartland West Regional

Carmen Larios from Congregation Beth Am, Buffalo Grove, IL, shows gifts cards collected for *Fill A Heart for Kids* at the March regional event. This nonprofit organization in Lake Forest, IL, provides homeless, at-risk, and foster children food, critical necessities, life skills, and educational support living in group facilities.



What does the Vote Reform slate stand for?

Vote to protect religious equality, defend democracy, and promote long-term peace & security in the World Zionist Congress Elections.



World Zionist Congress Voting Ends MAY 4!

Please get involved and **VOTE** in the 2025 World Zionist Congress Election before it's too late! Help build a democratic, pluralistic, secure Israel. Democracy and Reform Judaism are under threat in Israel. Your vote matters!

[Click here](#) to cast your vote now!

WRJ Microgrants Can Help Fund Your Next Big Event!

Is your women's group itching to plan an event, but not sure where you'll get the funding to do it? You may be able to qualify for a microgrant ranging from \$500-2,500. This grant can be used to help you defray the costs for ANY program or project on engagement or social justice/advocacy.

Submit your grant application by June 30, 2025. Develop your proposal, apply for a grant, promote your event, implement your program... and then revel in your success!

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Or Ami Awards Applications Are Due Before July 31!

Established in 1973, WRJ's **Or Ami "Light of My People" Award** for special achievement in programming recognizes exemplary events that can serve as models for other WRJ districts and women's groups. These awards honor those WRJ-affiliated groups undertaking replicable programs or projects of distinctive character and significance.



WRJ is proud to be a shining light, providing the path for outstanding programming. Now it is time to shine a light on our superstars in this area. Please share this information with your sisterhood/women's groups.

Applications must be submitted by July 31, 2025, for programs between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

To apply for the Or Ami Award, [click here](#). For more information, [click here](#).

Questions? Email Talia Blank, WRJ Program Associate, at TBlank@WRJ.org

Women's Groups News and Events



The Women of Or Shalom's new cookbook, filled with 250 every day and holiday recipes, is now available for \$18.

[Click here](#) for the flyer with more details. For more information contact: WomenofOrShalomLC@gmail.com

The Creation of The Sound of Music with Charles Troy
June 8, 2025, 12:00 pm CT
Sinai Temple, Michigan City, IN
Cost: \$15 Presentation to follow lunch.

[Click here](#) for more information.
RSVP by Wednesday, June 4, to [Lonna Temkin](#).



Save the Date!

Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel

(Skokie, IL)

Presents



6th Annual Mah Jongg Madness

Sunday, July 27, 2025
Registration Coming Soon!

Did you have an especially successful event in the past couple of months that other sisterhoods could replicate? **Well, don't keep all that fun stuff to yourself! Share it with the rest of us!** That's what this section is all about--sharing great event ideas with your sisters across the Heartland!

Send a write up on the event along with photos and contact info to [Andi Blain](#) or [Karen Dillon](#).

Good & Welfare



We send our deepest condolences to Peggy Kipp on the passing of her mother, Carolyn Kaufmann. Cards can be sent to Peggy at 2273 Wagon Wheel Ct, Mendota Heights, MN 55120.



We are sending lots of healing energy to Carol Berger for her recent hip surgery. Notes of support can be sent to Carol at 4552 Lindenwood Ln, Northbrook, IL 60062 or emailed to her at berger.carol@sbcglobal.net.

Speedy recovery to Co-VP of Marketing & Communications, Andi Blain, from her recent knee surgery. Send your good wishes to ablainwrj@gmail.com or to her home at 9750 Crawford Ave, Skokie, IL 60076.



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

Be well,

Heartland Products



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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

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



We want to share your stories - about great programs you are doing that others may want to copy. Please send us a short paragraph and a few pictures after your event and we will be happy to include it in upcoming newsletters.

Our communications team is here to help you get the word out about all Heartland District events and programs. Please email a completed flyer or contact Karen Dillon if you need help.

Materials must be received by the 25th of each month.

We also want to thank Denise Fogel for the beautiful new Heartland Tree logo she created and granted us the rights to use it in our communications. We are so grateful for your creativity and talent!

[Andi Blain](#) and [Karen Dillon](#), Co-VPs Marketing & Communications

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](#)
[URJ's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(REDI\) resources](#)
[Microaggression resource](#)

If you do not regularly receive our monthly *Lev el Lev* newsletter, [click here](#) to join our mailing list.

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 | 633 3rd Ave | New York, NY 10017 US

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