



L'ev el L'ev

HEART TO HEART
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2025
SIVAN - TAMMUZ 5785

Happy Shavuot
June 1-3



A Message from Cheryl Stern and Marci Delson

Dear WRJ,

A Time for Every Season: Renewal, Leadership, and Purpose in the New Fiscal Year

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As we step into the warmth of summer and the beginning of our new fiscal year, these words from *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes) resonate deeply. Jewish tradition teaches us to honor the rhythms of time—not only in nature, but also in our communal and organizational life. This is a season of renewal, a moment to pause, reflect, and begin again with intention.

Many of our women's groups are proud to welcome new leadership who will guide them into this next chapter with wisdom and dedication. Just as the Torah reminds us of the importance of *l'dor v'dor*—from generation to generation—so too do we recognize the sacred continuity of leadership. Our new leaders bring fresh energy and perspective, grounded in our shared values and mission.

With the transition to a new fiscal year comes the implementation of new budgets, crafted thoughtfully to reflect our priorities and support our evolving vision. In the spirit of *cheshbon hanefesh*—an accounting of the soul—we also engage in financial reflection: not only how we spend, but why. These resources are tools to help us build, serve, and grow. Remember to include leadership training in your budgets and convention dollars to send your women to the Heartland District Convention, "Under One Tent" in March of 2026.

Summer is a time of preparation, a quieter yet vital season in the Jewish calendar. Although we are between the high moments of Passover and the High Holy Days, this time offers space for thoughtful planning. We are actively shaping the year ahead—developing programs, aligning resources, and imagining new ways to bring meaning and impact to our community.

As we move forward, may we be guided by the words of *Pirkei Avot*: "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." (2:21)

Thank you for being part of this journey. May this new season bring blessing, renewal, and purpose to all we do together.



L'Shalom,

Cheryl Stern and Marci Delson
Co-1st VPs, Heartland District



Please Update Your Leadership Information for 2025-2026

Please fill out the [Leadership Change Form](#) with your most up-to-date leadership names and contact information, so that WRJ and the Heartland District can keep them informed with news, events, leadership tips, and more.

Due to limited space, you may submit the contact information of up to four leaders per form, or you can upload your full board list at the end of the form.

If you have any questions, please email leadership@wrj.org or call the WRJ office at (212) 650-4050.

Heartland Upcoming Events

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.



Hillary's Heartland Book Club
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](#) or [Connie Silver](#).



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



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

Please note: The hotel group rate has been extended to Friday, June 6.

The Heartland District East Region includes all or parts of OH, KY, PA, WV, and TN. All who want to belong to our WRJ community are also invited.

Questions? Email [Karen Schwartz](mailto:Karen.Schwartz).



Registration Now Open
**HEARTLAND DISTRICT
MID REGION EVENT**
We Belong Together

JULY 19 - 20, 2025
SATURDAY, 6 PM ET - SUNDAY, 2 PM ET
Temple Beth Emeth
Ann Arbor, MI



[Click here](#) for more details and to register by Thursday, July 3, or you can scan the QR code above. Hotel group rate ends Wednesday, June 18.

The Mid Heartland Region includes Indiana, Sylvania (OH), Louisville (KY), and Michigan. All who want to belong to our WRJ community are also invited.

Questions? Email [Wendy Kohlenberg](#).



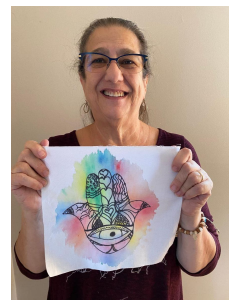
SAVE THE DATE!
**2026 Heartland District
Convention**

March 13-15, 2026
Indianapolis, IN

Help us Build a Banner

The Heartland District is building a banner that will be unveiled at the 2026 Heartland District Convention in Indianapolis and then used at district events. The banner will be assembled like a quilt with individual squares of artwork sewn together to create the banner.

This exciting, new district-wide project is the brainchild of creator Marci Kops, Area Director in the West region. Leaders are encouraged to share this project with their sisterhoods/women's groups. [Email Marci Kops](#) to request a square. Please make sure you have appropriate postage.



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



So much is happening that it is difficult to choose which issue to discuss. Given that, I thought that I would raise some of the issues that arise from the "Big Beautiful Bill" that harms women, children, and the poor. Much of the bill goes against Jewish values as expressed in resolutions of WRJ and URJ.

I encourage you to take a good look at the bill [here](#) to see how the issues you care about are affected by the House-passed bill. [Click here](#) to read more of my thoughts on this topic.

Sally Frank
VP Social Justice



Climate Programming Kickoff Thursday, June 5, 2025 8:00 pm ET / 6:00 pm CT via Zoom

Are you or your Reform Jewish women's group, sisterhood, or district interested in organizing an environment- or climate-focused event/program/effort? Are you interested in learning more about climate and how to put on a climate-friendly event? Celebrate a belated Earth Day with the WRJ Climate Steering Team as we learn from each other and discuss ways our local communities can create positive change.



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



Wear Orange Weekend **June 6 - 8, 2025** [Find an in-person event](#)

Every day in the US, 125 people are shot and killed, and hundreds more are wounded or traumatized. Starting on June 6, National Gun Violence Awareness Day, we will wear orange to call attention to our nation's preventable gun violence crisis, which takes nearly 46,000 lives every single year.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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 Monday, 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 [Talía Blank](#), WRJ Program Associate.

Women's Groups News and Events



The Women of Or Shalom's new cookbook, filled with 250 everyday 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](#).

Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie
Presents
6th Annual
Mah Jongg Madness



Sunday, July 27, 2025



Registration closes
July 18, 2025

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

Questions? Please email [Sheila Rosenfeld](#).

Did you have an especially successful event in the past couple of months that other sisterhoods could replicate? Don't keep all that fun stuff to yourself! Please 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



Mazel Tov to Sally Frank, who was honored by her alma mater, Princeton University. The Terrace Café/Tap Room in Prospect House will be named for her, and the dedication ceremony will be on October 23. For more details, [click here](#).



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,
Shawna Olds
Good & Welfare Chair

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.





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