



**MIDWEST DISTRICT M'KESHER מְקֵשֶׁר**  
**NISSAN 5777 APRIL 2017**

**A Message from Janet Buckstein**  
*Midwest District President*

Greetings!

This month we have two wonderful opportunities for you to meet with WRJ sisters, some old friends and some new, and yes, become even further rooted in our WRJ community.

Are you in or near the Minneapolis/St. Paul area? If so you won't want to miss the Area Day Weekend from Friday evening **April 7th**- Saturday evening **April 8th** at Bet Shalom Congregation in Minnetonka. Area Director Beth Ettinger has planned a fun and informative two days. There will be a Shabbat Service Friday evening at **6pm** followed by dinner afterwards for anyone interested. Saturday morning services at **10am** will be followed by a lunch and our speakers. After lunch, there will be a session on Membership Engagement for presidents and their membership VP's/committee members featuring Sherri Feuer and Ashley Burbul; as well as a session on "Jewish Women – from Suffrage to Today" for all other sisterhood members led by Rabbi Locketz and Michelle Scheinkopf. For more information, see the event [flyer](#).

April is also the month for our annual Spring Kallah. You have probably seen the invitation and know that we will be celebrating the creative journey with author Deby Eisenberg, but there is so much more:

- **Not your grandmother's Challah:** recipes and hands on creating sweet or savory challahs that we will use on Shabbat;
- **Come on baby light my fire:** create Candles in a teacup to be used as Centerpieces for the weekend, then yours to take home;
- **Iron chef Appetizer:** teams will create appetizers from ingredients that are preselected. Then we will VOTE!
- **"Protecting Paige":** a creative journey with the author, [Deby Eisenberg](#).
- **Spicing up your sisterhood with Michelle Scheinkopf & Marla Goldberg:** Ideas to bring home to your Sisterhood;
- **Nurture your Nature with Diane Kaplan:** leisurely stroll around OSRUI, as

we use reading and prayer to enhance the experience;

- ***Purifying your Soul with Joan Hakimi***: Making environmentally friendly cleaning products to use at home;
- ***Torah Study***: with Rabbi Carmit Harari from BYBS in Homewood, IL;
- ***Finding your creativity: tracing your steps with Deby Eisenberg*** – Exploring how you take your creative ideas to the next step;
- ***Lotions and Potion***: Creating your own beauty products;
- ***Light up Social Media***: Ashley Burbul will show you how to use social media to help get the word out about your fabulous sisterhood.

I think you will agree that the variety of programs will provide fun for us all. But don't forget that there will also be singing, dancing and prayer! For a full listing of all activities, click [here](#) for the schedule.



March was a great time to be with so many of my WRJ Midwest sisters. I think everyone who attended the WRJ Fried Leadership Conference in Charleston, SC had a great time, made new friends and learned a lot about

sisterhood leadership.

And the 24 of us who arrived early enough to play together got to enjoy Charleston and its great food!

Midwest District leaders also enjoyed celebrating with sisterhoods:

Michelle Scheinkopf, Judith Wexler, Karen Dillon and I joined WNSCI in Glencoe, IL at their intergenerational Women's Seder. Cheryl Stern and I joined Etz Chaim Sisterhood in Lombard, IL at their Chocolate Seder. Michelle Scheinkopf and I celebrated Shabbat with Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha Sisterhood in Waukesha, WI at their annual women's service.



Thank you for inviting us into your sisterhood family. We really enjoy being with you. I am looking forward to seeing so many of my WRJ sisters this month as well!

***L'Shalom,***

Janet Buckstein  
President, WRJ Midwest District

## Creating Our WRJ Community... Are you Stepping UP? *by Janet Buckstein*



Part of creating community is sharing. You may have seen the announcements for WRJ's Or Ami "Light of My People" Award for Special Achievement. It's a great way to share your outstanding programs and activities with sisterhoods throughout WRJ North America, and be acknowledged by our international organization. These awards recognize exemplary social justice, community service, and educational programming that serve as model for other WRJ Districts and sisterhoods.

For more information and to download the award application and guidelines from the WRJ website, [click here](#).

Also - our Messenger editor, Michelle Dloogloff is looking for articles to include in the next edition. Please send your ideas to [m\\_dloogoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m_dloogoff@sbcglobal.net). I know that many of you are doing wonderful things to create our WRJ community. Let me know at [wjmdpres@gmail.com](mailto:wjmdpres@gmail.com) and I'll let everyone else know!



## Help us with our Kallah Tzedakah Project

We are collecting arts and crafts supplies to Kindle the Creativity and Spark the Imagination of children at the Boys and Girls Club at Hadfield Elementary School in Waukesha, WI.

[Download the Tzedakah Project Flyer](#) for details and a list of what you need to bring! If you have any questions, please contact Special Event Co-Chairs Donelle Macey at [donelle12@comcast.net](mailto:donelle12@comcast.net) or Karen Schwartz at [kschwartz62@att.net](mailto:kschwartz62@att.net).



## Protect Trans Students by Marilyn Glazer

[Pledge to Take Action to Protect Trans Students](#)

On February 22, 2017 the Trump administration rescinded 2016 federal

guidelines instructing public schools to create inclusive environments for transgender and gender non-conforming students, including ensuring access to restrooms and other facilities based on each student's gender identity. Reform Movement leaders from the RAC, Union for Reform Judaism and Central Conference of American Rabbis condemned the rollback of these key protections, calling it a "serious step backward in the effort to protect transgender youth—and, more broadly, in the march toward equal civil rights for all Americans."

[Click here](#) to read the entire Critical Issues article.

Questions? Contact [Marilyn@MarilynGlazer.com](mailto:Marilyn@MarilynGlazer.com).

## Midwest District



### Minnesota Area Day

Friday, April 7 & Saturday, April 8, 2017 at Bet Shalom Congregation. Download the flyer [here](#).

### Consultation on Conscience 2017

We hope you'll join us as the RAC brings together Reform Jewish advocates and allies in a powerful moment of collective reflection, conversation, and action.

### Midwest District Kallah

April 28\*-30, 2017 OSRUI Download the flyer [here](#).

### Metropolitan Chicago Area

Saturday, June 24, 2017 at B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (BJBE), Deerfield, IL Download the flyer [here](#).

### Midwest Leadership Training & Interim Board

Meeting - October 27-29, 2017 OSRUI, Oconomowoc, WI  
*Exec. Committee Meeting: October 27*  
*District Board Meeting: October 29*  
*(details to come...)*

## Upcoming District Sisterhood / Women's Group Events:

### BJBE's Games Galore:

May 10, 2017

### Women of Oak Park rummage sale.

June 11-12, 2017

### Women of NSCI's Mah Jongg Tournament

Sunday, Jun 25, 2017.

For information, contact Beth - [iagal1@comcast.net](mailto:iagal1@comcast.net)

## Let us know about your next event!

If your event is open to the community, send a flyer (pdf) to your [area director](#) and we will try to include it.

Materials must be received by the 15th of the month prior to the event.

## Good & Welfare

**Yom Huledet (Happy Birthday)**  
to our Midwest Board Members:



### APRIL:

- 3 Harriet Krasnoff - [hrrkras@comcast.net](mailto:hrrkras@comcast.net)
- 4 Michelle Dloogoff - [m\\_dloogoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m_dloogoff@sbcglobal.net)
- 11 Peggy Kipp - [pegk56@comcast.net](mailto:pegk56@comcast.net)
- 21 Sheila Rosenfeld - [srosenfeldtbi@gmail.com](mailto:srosenfeldtbi@gmail.com)
- 22 Esther Schak - [ers@schak.com](mailto:ers@schak.com)
- 27 Judy Katz - [katzinmn@gmail.com](mailto:katzinmn@gmail.com)
- 28 Joanne Merritt - [joannem@wicresoft.com](mailto:joannem@wicresoft.com)
- 29 Sheila Schuman - [sschuman@frontiernet.net](mailto:sschuman@frontiernet.net)

### MAY:

- 1 Judith Geleerd Kitzes - [jdgshopgirl@aol.com](mailto:jdgshopgirl@aol.com)
- 4 Carol Berger - [ponderer4552@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ponderer4552@sbcglobal.net)
- 7 Janet Olson - [Jlolson2011@gmail.com](mailto:Jlolson2011@gmail.com)
- 10 Jill Binder - [jbinder@larkinhoffman.com](mailto:jbinder@larkinhoffman.com)
- 10 Carol O'Neil - [caroljo@tds.net](mailto:caroljo@tds.net)
- 13 Gigi Green - [dbleggreen@yahoo.com](mailto:dbleggreen@yahoo.com)
- 16 Marlen Frost - [minyfrost@aol.com](mailto:minyfrost@aol.com)
- 19 Matilda Oppenheimer - [mountziontemplesisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:mountziontemplesisterhood@gmail.com)
- 20 Lauren Levant - [slevr@aol.com](mailto:slevr@aol.com)
- 25 Sheri Frisque - [sherifrisque@yahoo.com](mailto:sherifrisque@yahoo.com)
- 26 Lisa Greene - [wgreene61@comcast.net](mailto:wgreene61@comcast.net)
- 27 Mae Schwab - [maewash@aol.com](mailto:maewash@aol.com)
- 28 Karen Harlan - [kbh1224@comcast.net](mailto:kbh1224@comcast.net)
- 29 Florence Kesselman Slavick - [flosla@earthlink.net](mailto:flosla@earthlink.net)
- 30 Alyce Heman - [alyceheman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alyceheman@sbcglobal.net)
- 30 Marci Kops - [530ttfn@gmail.com](mailto:530ttfn@gmail.com)
- 30 Carrie Morris - [carriemoss55@gmail.com](mailto:carriemoss55@gmail.com)

**Congratulations (Mazel Tov) to:**



WRJ Board Member [Marcy Frost](#) on the engagement of her son Joseph Kreisman to Allison Wolf. Congratulations may be sent to Marcy at: 6051 Laurel Avenue, Apt. 205, Golden Valley, MN 55416

## Need a Speaker For Your Next Event?



## REQUEST a Speaker

Having a WRJ speaker available for Sisterhood Services, installations or to just help facilitate or conduct workshops is really easy to do. Just fill out the form and return it to me to let me know what you are looking for.

Also, do you know someone in your Sisterhood who has an area of expertise she might be willing to share? We are looking to expand our Speaker's Bureau and we can only do that with the help of each of you. I am looking forward to your requests and wonderful ideas from each and every one of you. Thanks!

**Gloria Kaiz**

Midwest District Speaker Bureau's Chair

[gloria@kaizs.com](mailto:gloria@kaizs.com)

Download the Speaker Request Form

Useful links ▶

### FORMS:

[Speakers Bureau Request Form](#)

[Expense Reimbursement Form](#)

[District Deposit Form](#)



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM  
*stronger together*

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.

### Connect with us



Sign up for our Eblast

Visit our Midwest District website

**Contact: Janet Buckstein, WRJ Midwest District President**

[jfbuckstein@gmail.com](mailto:jfbuckstein@gmail.com)   [wjmdpres@gmail.com](mailto:wjmdpres@gmail.com)

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