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MIDWEST DISTRICT M'KESHER מְקַשֵּׁר

August 2018 | Av 5778

A Message from Janet Buckstein
Midwest District President

Greetings!

With the announcement of our WRJ Midwest District slate of nominees for our [2018-2020 Board of Directors](#), as well as the newly installed leadership at many sisterhoods and women's groups, our thoughts turn to the future. New leadership means new and fresh ideas and the excitement of paths not yet followed. However, our success also depends on all of us being prepared to tackle new challenges and that means taking the time to groom those who will succeed us.

OUR TAPESTRY OF VALUES



CREATES THE FABRIC
OF COMMUNITY

I don't know about the rest of you, but the word *mentor* comes to my mind in thinking about how to support our incoming leaders. Usually I think of mentoring as helping someone grow into future roles, but it is equally, if not more, important in how we help our successors be the best they can be. As mentors, we are trusted counselors and guides. We teach, but in a very facilitative way, allowing our successors to define their roles and solutions.

Start with the basics... **TRANSFER YOUR FILES** ! This includes job descriptions, time-lines, budgets, reports, and any flyers or letters you may have used. But also try to find a way to have a conversation with your successor to walk her through the information. You might include what you think the most important things were that you did to create success AND any challenges you may have faced. Most important, LISTEN to any concerns and brainstorm possible solutions.

Women's Group Presidents, even if you are continuing in your role, you may be working with a board that includes experienced and novice leaders. Your task can be daunting, but WRJ can provide support to assist you in your role:

If you are brand new...

- Make sure that your predecessor has notified WRJ of the transition. ([WRJ Leadership Change Form](#)) This is not just paperwork. It will assure that you receive information you will need to succeed. It will also invite you to join Yammer, a network that will provide connections to other women's group presidents throughout North America. Here is a link to tips on [how to use Yammer](#).
- Check out the [Sisterhood/Women's Group Presidents Toolkit](#) in the Midwest District Leadership Group on Yammer for various checklists, sample job descriptions, and even information on "who to call for what"!

If you are new or continuing, assuming that everyone knows what to do in their new roles could prove disastrous for a new board and the coming year. In order to avoid any confusion, a new board training session may be helpful to the success of the board. In fact, here is a wonderful article penned by our own Michelle Scheinkopf on [board training sessions](#) .

Finally, I must thank all of you who have served on the Midwest District Board during the past two years for your support and commitment; and congratulate all of you who will be serving, allowing us to "kvell" in your future accomplishments!

L 'Shalom ,
Janet Buckstein
President, WRJ Midwest District

Creating Our WRJ Community...
Are You Stepping UP?
by Janet Buckstein





coordinated the day, Wisconsin Area Director Nikki Levin, Area VP Laura Cooper, and First Vice President Michelle Scheinkopf for all of their work on this event.

What a wonderful time we had being with our Wisconsin sisters (and those who joined from Illinois as well) at the August 5 Area Day held at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee!

Many thanks to Cindy Levy and Alice Lambie, who conceived of and

I know that many of you are doing wonderful things to create our WRJ community. Let me know and I'll let everyone else know!

Supporting Our WRJ Midwest Convention



How can you support the WRJ Midwest District Convention? The most important way you can support Convention is by **your attendance**. We want to see YOU there! You can also support Convention by purchasing a tribute ad in our program ad book. There are two advertising opportunities. First is our program tribute book which includes advertising space. Second, is the chance to sponsor one of our signature events of the convention such as: Artisan Market/Judaica Shops, Welcome Reception, Saturday Evening Entertainment, or our Awards Luncheon. All are excellent marketing opportunities enabling you to reach out to and beyond the women of these Midwest District Reform congregations, encompassing eight states, while proudly displaying and informing customers of your products and services. We hope you will support the Women of Reform Judaism, Midwest District by purchasing an ad in our convention program book and/or sponsoring an integral piece of our convention.

Here are the [Ad Book](#) and [Sponsorship Opportunity](#) forms. We hope you will support the WRJ Midwest District by purchasing an ad in our convention program book and/or sponsor an integral piece of our convention. The completed forms, camera-ready artwork and your payment are due by **August 15, 2018**.

Deadline Extended for Rhoda Hauptman and Woman of Valor Applications



Sisterhood/Women's Group Presidents, the deadline to submit your applications for the Rhoda Hauptman Memorial Award for Excellence and Woman of Valor has been extended to Friday, **August 17th** ! You still have time to submit your entries to [Judy Lohr-Safcik](#) for Rhoda Hauptman and [Penny Shnay](#) for Woman of Valor. [Click here](#) for the forms.

Webinars



As female students are returning to campus, it is three times as likely for them to be at risk of sexual assault. This increases to four times for those not in higher education institutions. Join WRJ on **August 21, 2018** at **1:00PM ET** to hear about what rights do students have and how we can advocate for a safer future. Our featured speaker is Anne Hedgepeth, the Director of Federal Policy at the American Association of University Women.

[Qq6K4TgipWVsw6EEX2w](#)

https://urj.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EYc

YES Fund: Where Does the Money Go?



We all raise money for the YES Fund during the year. Want a nice way to explain and show your Sisterhood how the money gets distributed? You can find all the information [HERE](#) .

Upcoming Midwest District Events

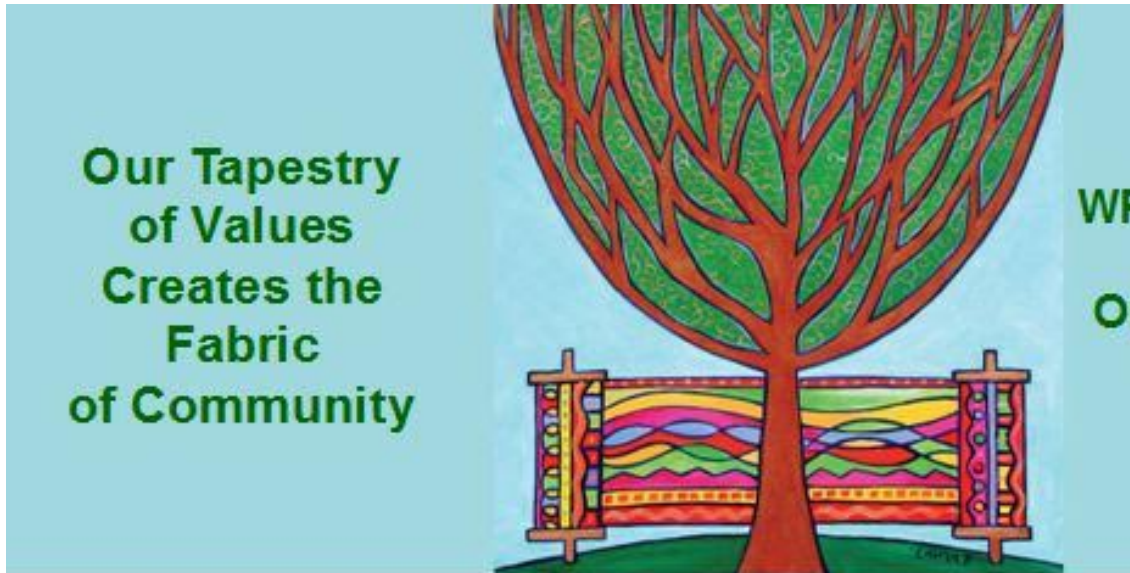
[Mah Jongg, Canasta &
Games Weekend](#)

Registration is live!

[Click here](#) to register

September 14-16, 2018

OSRUI, Oconomowoc, WI



Click image for website link or visit here: <https://wrj.org/wrj-midwest-district-convention>

Articles & Information

**Help Protect Women's
Health
August 2018**

**CRITICAL
ISSUES**

by Marilyn Glazer

Sent: June 26, 2018 From WRJ

This morning the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 5-4 in favor of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra, allowing medical professionals to omit full reproductive health care information to their

patients. Women of Reform Judaism condemns this decision to further restrict the reproductive rights of women. We must continue to act to demand full access to women's health care.

On June 1st, the Department of Health and Human Services proposed an amendment to Title X to ensure compliance with, and enhance implementation of, the requirement that no funds under this federal grant program may be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning. This regulation, commonly known as the "domestic gag rule," would undermine a woman's right to choose her own medical decisions and would allow healthcare professionals to withhold accurate and timely medical information from patients.

Title X is the United States' only program dedicated to providing affordable reproductive health care on the federal level, helping 4 million women nationwide. Currently the law states that funding cannot go to abortion services, but organizations that perform abortions with their own money can still receive funding to provide other health care services. This proposed rule would eliminate all federal funding to any organization that provides or refers for abortion services.

Since our resolution in 1935 on Birth Control Literature, WRJ has continued to fight for a woman's right to choose, the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, and access to health care.

Consistent with our longstanding background of actions towards reproductive rights, WRJ urges you to demonstrate your strong opposition to this deeply destructive proposal.

Would you like to receive advocacy notices and alerts directly from WRJ when they identify an urgent issue with specific recommended action steps? Here is a link to subscribe: <https://wrj.org/sign-our-newsletter>

Sisterhood / Women's Group Events in the District



Need help publicizing your next event?

Please send a pdf flyer to your [area director](#) and we will try to include it. **Materials must be received by the 15th** of the month.



BETH TIKVAH SISTERHOOD'S
4th Annual Mah Jongg Tournament: Mangia
Sunday, August 26, 2018

10:30 am - Registration 11:00 am - Italian-themed lunch 12:00-3:
RAFFLES! PRIZES! SNACKS! MOF



**BAKE SALE AT
COOKIE WAL
SPONSORED BY SISTERH**

Please click the adorable graphic to learn more about this fun event on **September 16!**

Good & Welfare

Yom Huledet Sameach (Happy Birthday!)

to our Midwest District Board Members and
Alumnae

August:

3 [Helene Steen](#)
6 [Marcy Frost](#)
8 [Parichehr Yomtoob](#)
9 [Susan Schomer](#)
15 [Marsha Bannon](#)
20 [Alese Goers](#)
25 [Debbie Robbins](#)

Yom Huledet



Same'ach!



Mazel Tov!

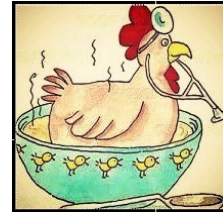
Mazel Tov
to [Marilyn
Oskin](#), Alumnae,
on the upcoming
marriage of her
son, Michael to

Becky Meisels on August 23rd in Hawaii.
Congratulations may be sent to Marilyn
at 9434 Kenneth Ave., Skokie,
IL 60076.

Get Well Wishes

[Rozan
Anderson](#), WRJ
Chai Society, on
her recent surgery.

Get well wishes may be sent to her at
3456 John Muir Drive, Middleton, WI
53562.



We wish a speedy recovery to [Lynn
Mesirow](#), sisterhood president of Temple
Beth-El Munster, IN. Get well wishes
may be sent to her at 318 Seminole,
Park Forest, IL 60466.

Connect With Us



Useful links ►

**As you are putting together your
newsletters & e-blasts, please use these
forms:**

[WRJ Sisterhood Leadership Change Form](#)

(This is WRJ's Leadership form)

[Midwest District Sisterhood President Info Form 2018](#)

[Speakers Bureau Request Form](#)
[Expense Reimbursement Form](#)
[District Deposit Form](#)
[Alumni Association Registration](#)



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 this [form](#) and

let me know what you are looking for. Do you know someone 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.

Sign up for our Eblast

Visit our Midwest District website

Like and follow us on Facebook

Contact: Ashley Burbul, M'Keshet Editor
msashleymarieb@gmail.com



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.