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MIDWEST DISTRICT M'KESHER מְקֵשֶׁר

June 2017 SIVAN 5777

A Message from Janet Buckstein Midwest District President

Dear {First Name},

May and June are our months to celebrate community with our WRJ Iowa sisters. Yes, we do cross the Mississippi river!



In mid-May, Midwest District Immediate Past President, Lynne Turry, and I joined **Temple Emanuel Sisterhood** in Davenport to celebrate Shabbat, install the new sisterhood leadership, and share a wonderful meal. New President, Audrey Zaprudsky, coordinated the evening and was a wonderful hostess to Lynne and I, and all of Temple Emanuel's congregation. Immediate Past President, Sheila Gluck, passed the torch with a beautiful d'var Torah honoring leadership and their sisterhood's community programs. On Saturday morning Lynne and I joined the new

sisterhood board for breakfast and a spirited discussion of WRJ resources, as well as Congregation Emanuel Sisterhood's programming and priorities. The group came up with some great ideas for generating participation and enthusiasm in the Quad Cities Community.

On June 4, WRJ heads to Coralville, IA near Iowa City. Past District President Marla Goldberg, joined by Audrey Zaprudsky (our Midwest District Special Event chairs), will do a presentation on a modern take on the "Woman of Valor" at **Agudas Achim Congregation Sisterhood's** Mitzvah

lunch.

We know that meeting with our sisters throughout the Midwest is a great way to build relationships and celebrate with our WRJ family. Let us know if we can join your community at a special event, program, or service. Just complete the speakers' bureau form linked to this newsletter.

And here is a way for you to join us and about 100 women from throughout metropolitan Chicago... attend **Chicago Area Day** on June 24 at BJBE. Women from suburban Chicago, Indiana, Wisconsin and even Iowa will be joining us for a one-day event of workshops, services, and Torah study all centered on the theme of **"Stronger Together Through Community, Spirituality and Advocacy"**. There will be a lunch and keynote speaker Victoria Hass, Clinical Director for The Ark. The registration link and more information on specific workshops is included in this newsletter. What could be easier?

L'Shalom,

Janet Buckstein

President, WRJ Midwest District

Creating Our WRJ Community

...

Are You Steppin g UP?

by Janet
Buckstein

Want to step up your WRJ involvement?

Check out Michelle Scheinkopf's article below about the WRJ Board of Directors. Michelle is our district's representative on the WRJ Board of Directors nominating committee and is your go-to person for questions about the role and nominating process. The WRJ Board members from Midwest District are a great team of women that care tremendously about our organization and its legacy of support to Progressive Judaism and women throughout the world. Almost equally important is that we love being with each other, exploring new cities, fun activities and dining establishments. Won't you join us?



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!

Have You Considered Joining the WRJ Board?

In all probability, if you are reading this edition of the M'Keshet, you are connected in some way, shape, or form to your congregation's sisterhood/women's group, WRJ Midwest District or have an individual membership in WRJ. I'm guessing your enthusiasm for this connection has given you the hankering for more. You may be wondering then what else you can do to become more involved at the North American level of WRJ. The next step to think about in your Jewish leadership journey is to consider applying to be on the WRJ Board of Directors!

Do you have a passion for making a difference in our global community? Whether through advocacy or social justice initiatives, or hands-on support of sisterhoods and women's groups throughout the world, this is the work of our WRJ board members. I have been on the WRJ Board since 2013 and it has been an amazing learning and personal growth experience for me. For one, I have a profound appreciation and greater knowledge of what WRJ does for women and the Reform Movement in North America and worldwide. My involvement on the WRJ Board has given me the wonderful opportunity to educate Reform Jewish women, many of them, you, about WRJ's purpose, programming, and projects that are available at the local, regional and national level.

I personally have chaired the WRJ College Outreach Committee and continue to work with the NFTY Campus Connector Program and NFTY alumni taskforce; an opportunity that would never have come my way without my involvement on the WRJ Board. WRJ appreciates the skills and talents that the board members bring to the table. Each member is encouraged to serve on committees of their interests, skills and expertise.

It goes without saying, the friendships I have made while serving on the board have meant the world to me. The women I have met are inspiring, intelligent, interesting, and passionate about their Judaism and the mission of WRJ.

Of the 14 WRJ Midwest District women who currently serve on the WRJ Board, eleven will be ending their term in 2018.

Though difficult to replace these women, we need to find others who are ready to take the next step and use their leadership skills, talents and expertise on the WRJ North American Board of Directors.

If any of what I have said ignites your desire to apply to be a member of the WRJ Board, the WRJ Nominations Committee is now accepting applications to the 2018-2021 WRJ Board of Directors! Talk to your sisterhood/women's groups presidents about applying to the board. Each sisterhood/women's group is invited to endorse one candidate to apply.

All forms are due **September 1, 2017**. To find out more information and fill out the application forms on-line, [click on this link](#).

If you wish to mail in your application or for any other question please contact Michelle W. Malkin, at mwmalkin@wrj.org or 212-650-4072.

Finally, I am a member of the Nominating Committee and it would be my sincere honor and pleasure to have a conversation with anyone who would like to know more about being of the WRJ Board of Directors!

Michelle Scheinkopf
scheinkopf@sbcglobal.net

Or Ami “Light of My People” Award

How often have you heard from members of your sisterhoods/women's group that the event they just attended was the best, most meaningful, and inspirational program they have gone to in years? How often have you heard from district friends that they heard through a friend that temple so and so sisterhood/women's group put together a project that they wish they could duplicate? How often have you thought after presenting a program that your SH developed and organized that you really hit it out of the ballpark and how much you wish there was a way you could receive recognition and share it with others? Well, guess what? There is a way to share and receive recognition and be honored for your hard work and efforts from your WRJ sisters by applying for the WRJ Or Ami “Light of My People” Award. This award recognizes and honors those WRJ affiliated women's groups undertaking replicable programs or projects of distinctive character and significance.

[Click here](#) to read about past award winners including our very own WRJ Midwest District. Our district won a Gold Or Ami Award in 2013 for the Women in Need Project which honored the centennial celebration of WRJ's 100th anniversary. We were presented and recognized at the 2015 WRJ Assembly in Orlando. Your Sisterhood/Women's Group could be awarded an Or Ami next March at the annual Fried Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

The programs/projects (*you may submit as many as fit the criteria for submission*) should have

occurred between April 2015 and June 30, 2017 and cannot have previously been submitted for an Or Ami award or a WRJ Incubator Grant. **Guidelines for submission can be found [here](#).**

Applications are available [on-line](#) . **Completed applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by July 10, 2017**

So don't delay! Discuss with your sisterhood/women's groups boards the programming and projects you have done over the past 26 months and decide if they fit the guidelines and criteria for submission. What a wonderful gift your sisterhood/women's group will bring to other WRJ affiliated groups at the global level with your award winning projects and programs!



TIME TO REVIEW ROE v. WADE

We are hearing a lot of conversation about Roe v. Wade and I thought it might be time for a little review of that landmark United States Supreme Court decision.

Roe v. Wade , [410 U.S. 113](#) (1973), is a [landmark decision](#) by the [United States](#)

[Supreme Court](#) on the issue of [abortion](#) . It was decided simultaneously with a companion case, [Doe v. Bolton](#) . The Court ruled 7–2 that a right to [privacy](#) under the [Due Process Clause](#) of the [14th Amendment](#) extended to a woman's decision to have an abortion, but that this right must be balanced against the state's interests in regulating abortions: protecting women's health and protecting the potentiality of human life. Arguing that these state interests became stronger over the course of a pregnancy, the Court resolved this [balancing test](#) by tying state regulation of abortion to the third [trimester of pregnancy](#) .

Later, in [Planned Parenthood v. Casey](#) (1992), the Court rejected *Roe* 's trimester framework while affirming its central holding that a woman has a right to abortion until [fetal viability](#) . "The *Roe* decision defined "viable" as "potentially able to live outside the mother's womb, albeit with artificial aid." Justices in [Casey](#) acknowledged that viability may occur at 23 or 24 weeks, or sometimes even earlier, in light of medical advances.

In disallowing many [state](#) and [federal](#) restrictions on [abortion in the United States](#) , *Roe v. Wade* prompted a [national debate](#) that continues today about issues including whether, and to what extent, abortion should be legal, who should decide the legality of abortion, what methods the Supreme Court should use in constitutional [adjudication](#) , and what the role should be of [religious](#) and [moral](#) views in the political sphere. *Roe v. Wade* reshaped national politics, dividing much of the United States into [pro-abortion](#) and [anti-abortion](#) camps, while activating [grassroots](#) movements on both sides. (Source: Wikipedia)

In Illinois , House Bill 40 was introduced and passed the House and has moved on to the Senate. Should the Senate pass it, Governor Rauner has said he would veto this legislation. This bill is called a trigger bill – should Roe v. Wade be overturned by the United States Supreme Court. Below is a brief summary of what HB 40 covers:

The Illinois Criminal Code currently states that "life" begins at conception the day Roe v. Wade is

overturned, outlawing abortion, the IUD, the pill, and most other commonly used birth control methods.

- HB 40 removes this anti-choice language from the Illinois Criminal Code so that abortion remains legal in Illinois.
- HB 40 repeals the Illinois law that prevents low-income women from obtaining abortion care solely due to the source of their health insurance.
- HB 40 also repeals the Illinois law that denies insurance coverage for abortion care to state employees, while male employees have coverage for Viagra.

Questions? Contact Marilyn@MarilynGlazer.com.



Sisterhood / Women's Group Events in the District:



2017 District Events

Click on the red links below to view the details.

Saturday, June 24

Metro Chicago Area Day
B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (BJBE) Deerfield, IL.
[Click here for the flyer.](#)
[Register online here.](#)

June 4 Women of Temple Chai, Long Grove, IL [Cocktails, Canasta & Cards](#)

June 11-12 Women of Oak Park Temple, Oak Park, IL [Rummage sale](#)

October 27-29

Midwest Leadership Training & Interim Board Meeting at OSRUI
10/27: Exec.Meeting
10-29 District Board Meeting
(details coming soon)

Jun 25 Women of North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL [Mah Jongg Tournament and Canasta Corner](#)

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 prior to the event.



Sisterhood & Women's Groups Leadership Change

Sisterhood Presidents : It's time to fill out WRJ's Sisterhood [Leadership Change Form](#) to make sure your new key leaders receive WRJ news, events, tools, and more! Please email WRJ at leadership@wrj.org to be added to Yammer.

For WRJ Midwest District, please complete the [Midwest Sisterhood President Info Form 2017](#) and email it directly to Database/Directory chair, [Peggy Kipp](#).

Are you an outgoing sisterhood president and would like to continue receiving district communications and be part of the district? Become an alumnae. [Click here](#) for the Alumnae form and forward it to Alumnae chair [Mae Schwab](#).

New WRJ Outreach Grants For Interfaith Families & Non-Jews in Your Community

by Judy Wexler, WRJ Board member and WRJ Midwest District Secretary

We are excited to announce that WRJ is now providing outreach grants in amounts up to \$1,000 to WRJ sisterhoods and women's groups, to fund programs that reach out to interfaith families and non-Jews within their communities. These grants, made possible by the [National Center to Encourage Judaism](#), are designed to encourage and enhance learning about Judaism and participation in Jewish life.

Some suggestions for programs or projects are: (1) Inviting interfaith or non-Jewish families in your community to a program based on a Jewish holiday; (2) Hosting Shabbat dinners for interfaith families within and outside of your congregation; (3) Developing a specific group for non-Jewish women for your Chai Mitzvah program. Please see the WRJ website for additional programming ideas. Be creative!

The application for these grants is now available on the [WRJ website](#), and applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis over the next year. Any sisterhood or women's group that receives funding will be required to submit an evaluation form upon completion of the program, and programs must be completed by **June 1, 2018**.

Useful links ▶

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

[WRJ Sisterhood Leadership Change Form](#)

(This is WRJ's Leadership form)

[Midwest District Sisterhood President Info Form 2017](#)

[Speakers Bureau Request Form](#)

[Expense Reimbursement Form](#)

[District Deposit Form](#)

[Alumni Association Brochure 2016-2018](#)

Good & Welfare



JUNE:

- 2 June Levin - JLevin1030@gmail.com
- 2 Barbara Rosenberg - BRosenbergWRJ@aol.com
- 3 Helen Gold - hlgold1@sbcglobal.net
- 3 Michelle Scheinkopf - scheinkopf@sbcglobal.net
- 6 Marcia Koester - mjkoester@comcast.net
- 9 Karen Gutterman - rkgut@att.net
- 10 Cynthia Levy - macalevy@netzero.com
- 12 Janet Buckstein - jbuckstein@comcast.net
- 17 Dr. Julie Luks - julieluks@gmail.com
- 18 Cheryl Stern - cbsternies@aol.com
- 21 Shelia Mina - sdmina@aol.com
- 22 Pam Altman - pljaltman@comcast.net
- 22 Judy Stevens - jstevens22@sbcglobal.net
- 23 Kitty Loewy - kdloewy@gmail.com
- 25 Rozan Anderson - rozan@chorus.net

27 Sue Stein - sstein@mail-stein.com

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- 14 Sharon Sabin - sharonsabin714@aol.com
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- 21 Sue Schneider - susanjschneider@comcast.net
- 28 Sara Cherny - Sara.cherny8@gmail.com
- 30 Dana Rubin - drubes@comcast.net
- 31 Gloria Kaiz - gloria@Kaizs.com
- 31 Linn Ullenbrauck - linneupooh@att.net



**Yizkor (In Remembrance) Condolences to:
*Zichrono Livrachá z”l (May his/her memory be for a blessing)***

Ruth Garner, Co-President of Mount Zion Temple Sisterhood, on the passing of her mother, Deborah Goldberg z”l. Messages of condolence may be sent to 2003 Diffley Rd., Eagan, MN 55122 or ruthsg1966@comcast.net.



The WRJ Spring Gift Guide is here!

Looking for the perfect gift to honor your outgoing or incoming Sisterhood President(s)? Need a thoughtful present for a recent female graduate? Want to recognize an awesome woman in your life, but don't know what she'd like? Take a look [here](#).



It's always nice to be appreciated! Jerry Kaye & OSRUI sent a heart-felt *thank you* for our recent contribution. [Click here](#) to read the letter



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. 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.



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.