

Midwest District M'Kesher

מְקֵשֶׁר

Av 5776

August 5, 2016

In the past few weeks I have been dealing with many of life's lessons, especially with the fragility of life itself. One lesson I have learned is how important WRJ is to me. While dealing with the death of my partner Jack's mom, I have also been involved with the illnesses of both my son-in-law and my brother-in-law in Florida. I can't begin to thank everyone enough for your kind words and support during these difficult times. The women of Midwest District are truly an extension of my family.

As you are all aware, [registration](#) for Convention is well under way and the numbers are increasing daily. I am so proud of our co-chairs, Michelle, Linn, Cheryl, and Carol who continue to work diligently to create what we expect to be the most successful one ever. If you haven't registered yet, please do so now and also promote it on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) with **#WRJMD2016**. It will enable Janet and the chairs to finalize plans. After you register, you will be given a link to register for the hotel through [Eventbrite](#).

If you are an outgoing board member, you will receive a letter to help the transition of your portfolio to the incoming board member. This is a very significant part of your current job. You will also receive updated information about the Executive Board meeting prior to **Thursday, October 27th**. Also, expect a letter from Janet to the entire board concerning the meeting on Sunday **October 30th**.

A special reminder to Sisterhood and Women's Group presidents, you are on the Midwest District Board and are expected to be at the meeting on Sunday, **October 30**, if at all possible. There is always a great deal of information for you to bring back to your Sisterhood/Women's Group. And, whether you are a president or on the Executive Committee or Board, emails that we send through Constant Contact are the only way we can stay in touch with you and keep you up-to-date on all Midwest news. We try not to send them too often but prior to convention it is necessary to be in touch a little more often. Thanks for your understanding.

Lynne Turry
WRJ Midwest District President

Rhoda Hauptman Memorial Award Deadline Extended

Rhoda Hauptman

Sisterhood Presidents, the deadline to receive applications for the Rhoda Hauptman Memorial Award for Excellence has been extended to **Monday August 8, 2016**. [Click here](#) to download the application. The applications must be emailed to Judy Lohr-Safcik at jklohrsafcik@gmail.com.

WOMAN OF VALOR DEADLINE APPROACHING

Sisterhood presidents and boards have been asked to select one special woman for recognition at our Kavod Awards Luncheon as your sisterhood's **WOMAN OF VALOR**. Our **WOMAN OF VALOR** award has become a wonderful tradition at our District conventions. The honorees will be highlighted at our luncheon program and receive a recognition certificate and a beautiful **WOMAN OF VALOR** pin which we hope they will wear proudly alongside their other WRJ and District pins.

We would like to announce the **WOMEN OF VALOR** in September so that the honorees will have the opportunity to invite their loved ones to attend the Shabbat morning service and the Kavod Awards Luncheon on Saturday, **October 29, 2016**. Please submit the name of your **WOMAN OF VALOR** along with her photo, a one paragraph bio and three short words which best describe your honoree. We ask that you send the application to

Penny Shnay at plshnay@sbcglobal.net by **August 15, 2016**. We look forward to receiving a nominee from each sisterhood and meeting these remarkable **WOMEN OF VALOR** at convention. [Click here](#) for **WOMAN OF VALOR** application.

Honor Your Sisterhood Women Today With an Ad, Sponsor an Event or Provide Sample Size Products for the Registration Bags!

It is time to **honor and celebrate** as we will gather together for three days of leadership development, motivation, recognition, networking, prayer and the blessing of joining together as a sisterhood community of dedicated Jewish women.

We encourage you to reach out to your clergy, brotherhood or men's groups, religious schools and temple board members to ask them to consider placing an ad. Also, if any of your members have businesses they personally might want to promote, please let them know about this wonderful opportunity!

There are three opportunities to be honor and recognize your Sisterhood or the District:

- Place an ad in our printed program book. [Click here](#) to download the Ad Book Form.
- Sponsoring one of our signature events such as: Saturday Evening Entertainment, our Kavod Luncheon or the Hospitality Suit. [Click here](#) to download the Sponsorship Opportunity Form.
- Sample size product to include in our Registration Bags. [Click here](#) to download the In-Kind Donation Form.

The completed form, camera ready art and payments are due by **September 2, 2016**. Please contact [Karen Dillon](#) (or the contact person on the downloaded form) if you have any questions.

WRJ IS GOING TO ISRAEL!

[Join WRJ on the trip of a lifetime to Israel in May, 2017!](#) Explore the country with 8 nights' accommodation and 7 days of touring in a luxury bus with a licensed, English-speaking tour educator.

[Download the flyer for the trip.](#)

Get ready to explore the old and the new of Israel: ancient Jerusalem and modern Tel Aviv; mystical Tsfat and bustling Jaffa; Masada and Independence Hall; archaeological

sites and Yad VaShem. Through our journey we will visit Reform Movement leaders and WRJ

YES Fund grantees

. Options will be available for both first-time visitors and returnees. From the Mediterranean Sea to the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea and back - we will have an amazing journey. This trip is scheduled to coincide with **World Union for Progressive Judaism's (WUPJ) Connections 2017** conference happening May 17-20 in Jerusalem. Attendees can look forward to enriching their trip experience further by first attending the conference to further develop their leadership skills before joining WRJ on this wonderful tour experience. The tentative schedule can be [seen here](#).

Register today!

GOOD & WELFARE

Refuah Schleimah to Nikki Levin, 2016-2018 Nominating Committee member and incoming Wisconsin Area Director on her upcoming surgery. Get well wishes may be sent to her at 11650 North Bobolink Lane, Mequon, WI 53092.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

August		
Linda	Brubaker	08/05
Marcy	Frost	08/06
Susan	Schomer	08/09
Marcia	Bannon	08/15
Alese	Goers	08/20
Kirsten	Stern	08/25
September		
Sarah	Acker	09/02
Carole	Fefferman	09/07
Sara	Coleman	09/08
Debbie	Brenner	09/12

MIDWEST DISTRICT CALENDAR

WRJ Midwest District Convention	October 27-30, 2016
Executive Committee Meeting	October 27, 2016
Board Meeting	October 30, 2016
Downers Grove, IL	

SISTERHOOD EVENTS*

BJBE Sisterhood Resale	August 7-8, 2016
BJBE Sisterhood Deerfield, IL	
Mah Jongg Tournament	August 28, 2016
Beth Tikvah Sisterhood Hoffman Estates, IL	
Annual Bake Sale	September 11, 2016
Sisterhood TBI Skokie, IL	

*Share your Sisterhood programs with us. Email lturry@comcast.net to update the calendar.

Contact: **Lynne Turry**
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