



Midwest District M'Keshet

מְקֵשֶׁת
Kislev 5777



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I am still so exhilarated by everything about our recent Midwest District Convention! I hope that everyone who attended agrees that the warm and welcoming enthusiasm of every individual volunteer, sisterhood and district leader, as well as the quality of the speakers and services, created ruach for the entire weekend.

There are many to thank, and we thanked them profusely! But I can't say too often what an incredible job the four co-chairs (**Carol Berger, Michelle Scheinkopf, Cheryl Stern** and **Linn Ullenbrauck**) did to create one of our most successful conventions ever. Their 2-year effort resulted in:

- 120 full weekend/day registered attendees.
- Over 200 individuals who attended one or more programs.
- Representation from 28 of our 33 sisterhoods.
- More than \$6,000 donated to WRJ's YES Fund.

There were so many incredible programs and workshops, but here is what moved me:

- The services. Friday night service at Etz Chaim, where we presented their sisterhood with their charter and gavel in front of their entire congregation; a Saturday morning service of music, poetry and prayer led by **Marla Goldberg** and **Cantor Rachel Rosenberg**; and our installation service coordinated by **Judy Wexler**, with our first ever convention choir led by **Karen Dillon**, and installation blessings and Havdalah led by "my Rabbi Ike", **Isaac Serotta**.
- **The Kavod Luncheon**. 190 participants honored the achievements of our sisterhoods and women of valor.
- **The Mensch Panel**. **Roza Anderson** facilitated a panel of nonprofit leaders whose community outreach programs are making a real difference in the world.
- **WRJ Vice President Sara Charney**. Sara was an incredible resource in planning the convention and provided essential information to our

attendees about WRJ. More importantly, she became a wonderful friend to many of us.

Perhaps the most moving part of the weekend for me was the time we spent laughing together and crying together. We thanked **Lynne Turry**, and shed a few tears with her, for all she has done for Midwest District and for her fortitude and commitment to be with us. I thank Lynne for being my mentor, teacher, and partner in efforts to support WRJ and our members.

And we laughed with new **First Vice President Michelle Scheinkopf** and her complimentary skill set in all things related to pins and wrapping paper. Seriously, I know, and you will know if you don't already, that Michelle is wise and funny, calm and passionate. She always puts the people side of issues first. I couldn't ask for a better partner in leading WRJ Midwest District.

In addressing the attendees, I talked about my vision for our district... that we come together as one community. For me that means that I have a bond with every woman reading this. I share in your dreams, I share in your frustrations and I share in your commitment to building a better world. Today we are individual members, sisterhoods and women's groups, and district leaders. My dream is that tomorrow, whether working together or playing together, that we become dear friends. You will all be my sisters, my family, my WRJ community.



L'Shalom,

Janet Buckstein
President, WRJ Midwest District

***Congratulations to your new
WRJ Midwest District Board of Directors.***



Thank you for your commitment to serve our district.



MIDWEST DISTRICT CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

Mah Jongg & Canasta Weekend

March

31-April 2, 2017

OSRUI, Oconomowoc, WI

WRJ Midwest District Kallah
Executive Committee Meeting
OSRUI, Oconomowoc, WI

April 28-30, 2017
April 28, 2017

Leadership Training & Interim
Board Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting
District Board Meeting
OSRUI, Oconomowoc, WI

October 27-29, 2017
October 27, 2017
October 29, 2017

SISTERHOOD EVENTS*

Artisan Faire

November 20, 2016

Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel
Skokie, IL

*Share your Sisterhood programs with us. We will try to include them if you email kyellendillon@gmail.com (must receive pdf flyer 2 months prior to event)

A FINAL M'KESHER FROM LYNNE TURRY

Dear WRJ Midwest District Members,

It is hard to believe that it has been over two weeks since we came together for our district convention. The beauty of those four days will be embedded in my memory forever. It was so special for me to be surrounded by all of you who were able to attend, who gave me such lovely Uniongrams and gifts, and especially kind words of support and warm hugs. And special thanks to those who were unable to attend but also sent me good wishes during a very difficult time in my life. Throughout the weeks preceding the convention I had one goal, to be well enough to attend, to end my presidency with all of you, and of course to be with Janet and Michelle as they became our new leaders.



It has been my privilege to be the president of WRJ Midwest District for the past two years. I have enjoyed meeting so many dedicated women who support WRJ, who share my ideals and will leave a legacy for generations to come. Though we are aware of the changes WRJ has had to encounter, we understand that we have important goals to fulfill, and we will continue to work together to achieve them.

The most significant aspect of my final days as president is that I learned what it means to have my WRJ "sisters" in my life. So many of you have volunteered to drive me to therapy, to visit me at home, to deliver food, and to just call and check in with me. Your support has meant so much to me and to my family. My life has been so greatly enriched by knowing you. I cherish your kindness and realize that my recovery is so much more meaningful because of you. Please know that my health is improving and I look forward to sharing many more wonderful events with you.

Todah rabbah,

Lynne Turry

WRJ FRIED LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (FLC)

March 3-5, 2017 Charleston, SC



The 2017 WRJ Fried Leadership Conference will take place in Charleston, South Carolina at the Charleston Marriott Hotel, which will host both programming and nightly accommodations.

For more information please visit their website at <http://www.wrj.org/flc2017> #WRJFLC17

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.

[Register today!](#)

The tentative schedule can be [seen here](#) .



H APPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Nov. 20	Julia Ziev	jgziev@sbcglobal.net
Nov. 21	Jennifer Schneider	jeisen45@gmail.com
Nov. 22	Marla Goldberg	auntiemar@msn.com
Nov. 25	Sandi Firsel	sfirsel@comcast.net
Nov. 30	Penny Levy	pjoylevy@aol.com
Dec. 2	Susan Pittelman	spittelman@icloud.com
Dec. 4	Sharon Kalling	sharon.kalling@berrienresa.org
Dec. 15	Sandra Brotzman	sandybrot@sbcglobal.net
Dec. 15	Cherrie Worker	cherriew777@yahoo.com
Dec. 31	Debbi Josephson	debbi.josephson8@gmail.com
