

Sivan 5776
June 7, 2016
Midwest District M'Keshet

מְקֵשֶׁת

After spending five nights at OSRUI last month at the District President's and WRJ Board meetings, I learned a new appreciation for the camp, the staff, and their director Jerry Kaye. How lucky we are to have Oconomowoc located in Midwest District so that we can enjoy the benefits throughout the year.

During this visit we were very fortunate to have beautiful weather every day and together the District presidents and the members of the WRJ board were able to bond, learn, pray, and perpetuate the goals for the future of the Women of Reform Judaism. Adaptation appears to be a key word in 2016, along with URJ's philosophy of audacious hospitality. Together with women from around the world, Janet and I learned about many topics including fiscal responsibility, communication, leadership, membership, WRJ representation at the United Nations, social action, and conflict management. As a board and after much preparation via a webinar, we approved the budget and listened to updates from all of the departments. Here are a few things about WRJ you may or may not be aware of:

1. We continue to improve connections with sisterhoods through email, phone calls, and our Area Directors;
2. We promote and include Tzedakah projects when and wherever possible;
3. We now have Individual Memberships where a woman may belong to WRJ without belonging to a specific sisterhood;
4. We promote Israel education by working with IMPJ, IRAC and serving on the WRJ Israel Planning Committee;
5. Our United Nations representative works continuously to promote Israel, standing against human trafficking, as well as many other sustainable goals;
6. We support many advocacy and social actions goals which include: pledge forms against distracted driving, joining the RAC with a webinar against gun violence, a reproductive rights webinar, equal pay day;

7. WRJ supports the elimination of domestic violence, the global refugee crisis, and many more injustices throughout the world;
8. PJ Library has distributed over 3500 books to children;
9. The Sisterhood President's webinar is informative and still available to incoming presidents;
10. Chai Mitzvah is beginning to increase their numbers, 9 currently, 12 participating sisterhoods anticipated in the fall;
11. WRJ engages with local and global communities.

I certainly could go on and on but instead I will refer you to the WRJ website which is a wonderful learning tool. I am always amazed and thrilled to see how successful and important WRJ is to the Jewish community worldwide. Each individual woman and individual sisterhood truly carries a great responsibility. Let us never forget how important our work is and how much pride each person can glean from what we do each and everyday.

On behalf of the WRJ Midwest Board, I would like to congratulate each new incoming sisterhood president. Our future is dependent upon your dedication and skills. Congratulations too, to the outgoing sisterhood presidents who have set a wonderful example for all to follow.

May the coming weeks be filled with peace as we enter into summer and the month of Sivan.

L'Shalom,

Lynne Turry
WRJ Midwest District President

SISTERHOOD AND WOMEN'S GROUP PRESIDENTS:

Mazel Tov to all new Sisterhood/Women's Group Presidents of the Midwest District. This is a new beginning for you and your organizations. Thank you to all those who are completing their terms. We hope you will want to continue to receive district communications and attend district functions. Please contact [Sue Center](#) to become an Alumnae. [Click here](#) for the Alumnae brochure.

The Midwest District needs to update our contact information for each Sisterhood or Women's Group presidents and their Congregation. [Click here](#) to download the 2016 MW Sisterhood President Info Form. Please complete this form and email to [Peggy Kipp](#), our Data Management/Directory chair so our information on your sisterhood/women's groups is up to date!

Do you need to add your new president and board members to Yammer? WRJ automatically does this when they receive your leadership change form: <https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/m1w91rgx0usj4gx/>
If you have other members of your sisterhood that you want to add to Yammer, please email leadership@wrj.org.

GOOD & WELFARE

It is with great sadness to inform you of the death of WRJ Past President **Judith (Judy) M. Hertz**, who passed away on May 31. Judy was president of WRJ (NFTS) from 1989-1993. Among many outstanding accomplishments, Judy was one of the leading forces in the creation of The Torah: A Women's Commentary, serving as the key instigator and first co-chair of the project. It was also during her administration that the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods voted to change the name to Women of Reform Judaism. May Judy's memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov to:

WRJ Board Member **Rozan Anderson**, on becoming Congregational President at Temple Beth El, Madison, WI. Congratulations may be sent to her at 3456 John Muir Drive, Middleton, WI 53562.

Speedy Recovery to:

Programming Chair **Sue Schneider**, of Temple Beth Israel, Skokie, IL on her recent surgery. Get well wishes may be sent to her at 9200 East Prairie Rd. Unit #201, Evanston, IL 60203.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

June		
Karen	Gutterman	06/09
Janet	Buckstein	06/12
Cheryl	Stern	06/18
Susie	Rosengarten	06/20
Sheila	Mina	06/21
Pam	Altman	06/22
Judy	Stevens	06/22
Kitty	Loewy	06/23
Naida	Cohn	06/24
Lisa	Giglio	06/24
Rozan	Anderson	06/25
Sue	Stein	06/27
July		
Joni	Abramowitz	07/01
Adina	Sutlin	07/09
Marilyn	Glazer	07/10

MIDWEST DISTRICT CALENDAR

[Metropolitan Chicago Area Day](#)

June 25, 2016

Oak Park Temple

Oak Park, IL

[Wisconsin Area Day](#)

July 17, 2016

Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun

River Hills, WI

[WRJ Midwest District Convention](#)

October 27-30, 2016

Executive Committee Meeting

October 27, 2016

Board Meeting

October 30, 2016

Downers Grove, IL

SISTERHOOD EVENTS*

[A Beading Evening](#)

June 20, 2016

Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel
Skokie, IL

[Mah Jongg Tournament](#)

August 28, 2016

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood
Hoffman Estates, IL

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

Contact: **Lynne Turry**

5 Dartmouth Ct., Lincolnshire, IL 60069

lturry@comcast.net

