

**MIDWEST DISTRICT M'KESHER מְקֵשֶׁר**  
**April 2018 | Nisan 5778**

A Message from Janet  
Buckstein  
*Midwest District President*

Greetings!

We in the Midwest District of WRJ are justifiably proud of our history of success in running district events. Whether spiritual retreats, leadership training conferences, or conventions; we have a track record of delivering exceptional



programming and a unique experience to connect with women who share our values for sisterhood, spirituality, and social good. Kallah is one of our premier events, focused on empowering Reform Jewish women through programming, prayer, and play! This year **Midwest District Kallah** will be held at OSRUI from April 27 to 29. The theme is ***"Inspiring our uniqueness: Write your own words, Sing your own song"***. Co-chairs Karen Schwartz and Donelle Macey are planning a wonderful day/weekend (your choice). In addition to Shabbat services (Friday night, Saturday and Havdalah), here are just a few of the sessions that will be featured:

- **Award Winning Author, Ronald Balson**
- **Gail Simon, Jewish music educator**
  - **Israeli Dance**
  - **Learning Improv**



And it would not be a WRJ event without programs supporting social action and Tikkun Olam. This year we will all have the opportunity to support a Habitat for Humanity initiative in Springfield, IL. This Habitat project, “**1000 Women Strong**” will be built by women, beginning in late March, for single mother, Sharrell, who has two children and her grandmother living in her care. The program is

being coordinated by Sharon Green (WRJ Midwest District Social Action Chair) and Marilyn Glazer (WRJ Midwest District Critical Issues Chair). Our YES Fund event will provide everyone with an opportunity to join women throughout the world in supporting WRJ’s Youth, Education and Special Projects that ensure a strong and vibrant future for Reform Judaism. Chaired by Sandi Firsel, we will have the opportunity to “*Take a Walk on the Sweet Side*” at a **Cookie / Brownie / Cupcake Walk** on Saturday. It promises to be a lot of fun as we support WRJ’s global initiatives.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone very soon at Kallah!

***L 'Shalom ,***  
**Janet Buckstein**  
*President, WRJ Midwest District*

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



April is also the time that we usually celebrate Passover, and there is no better way to feel a part of our community than to attend a “women’s seder”; created, led and attended by women. This year a special effort was made by WRJ affiliated women’s groups sponsoring Seders to welcome all in our district to attend. I know of no less than six such Seders, and was thrilled to join many of you, as did other Midwest District leaders. Thank you for including us and Chag Sameach!

***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!***

## - Updated WRJ Midwest District Website -

Have you visited our website lately? If not, you should! Marci Kops, our website chair, has been working hard in making sure the content is current. Learn about Midwest District, browse our photo gallery, and check out our valuable resources!

Visit <https://wrj.org/midwest> . *The website is always changing so please check often.*

## - LEADERS WANTED: JOIN THE 2018-2020 WRJ MIDWEST DISTRICT BOARD! -

Whether serving as an Officer, Area Director or Committee Chair, Midwest District Board members have one thing in common... a passion for serving and supporting the WRJ affiliated women's organizations and individual members of WRJ. Next week you will be receiving an invitation to join this committed group by applying for a position on the Midwest District Board of Directors.

If you'd like to get started, here are links to the application and job descriptions.

[Click here to read the job descriptions](#)

[Click here for application](#)

While submitting an application does not guarantee a board position, not submitting an application guarantees you won't get one. So, apply now, before the **deadline on May 10!** Questions? Contact Lynne Turry at [lynneturry@gmail.com](mailto:lynneturry@gmail.com) .

## - Kallah 2018 Reminder -

**"Inspiring our Uniqueness" April 27-29, 2018**

**Write your own words,  
sing your own song**



**KALLAH  
2018**

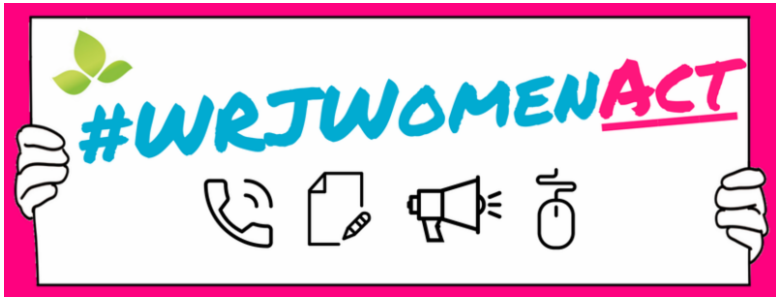
*Write your own words, sing your own song!*

[Click here](#) for the flyer. [Click here](#) to register.

Join us for 24 hours (or stay until Sunday) for learning, praying, laughing and games with your Midwest Sisters! More details to come.....

[Donelle Macy](#) and [Karen Schwartz](#) , Kallah Co-chairs

# Articles & Information



[WRJ April Advocacy Webinar Registration](#)  
April 10 is Equal Pay Day, meaning that it takes until this day in the



calendar year for women to make as much as men did in the previous year. At 1 p.m. ET on this day hear from experts Rabbi Mary Zamore, Michael Gan, and Rabbi Marla Feldman on ways to combat the gender wage gap and learn about the Reform Pay Equity Initiative and how it is working to end this gap within the Reform Movement.

**April 10, 2018 1:00PM Eastern**

# - WRJ Stands Against Gun Violence -





WRJ issued its first statement for Restrictions on the Sale of Firearms in 1967: [WRJ Response](#) . On March 24, we marched in Washington, DC. We marched in cities and towns across the Midwest and around the country. But the fight for gun violence prevention isn't over!

As Abby Brafman and all the young people around the country have stated, if you aren't with them, get out of their way! Here are some photos of our Midwest District sisters marching!

**Critical Issues**  
– Marilyn D. Glazer

**WRJ Board Statement-**  
*Racial Profiling*

**April 2018**



“There shall be one law for all of you.” Leviticus 24:22

*“Do not make a mockery of justice for it is one of the . . . pillars of the world.”  
Talmud, Devarim, Rabbah 5:1*

Racial profiling occurs when law enforcement officials target people of color for detention, interrogation and searches without evidence of criminal activity based on the person's perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion. It happens every

day throughout North America.

The practice of racial profiling became an issue in the recent presidential campaign in the United States. President Donald Trump declared his support of the practice when he cited New York City's "stop and frisk" program as being legal and effective in a presidential debate on September 26, 2016. "Stop and frisk" is a policing tactic that allows police officers to search anyone they encounter. Data shows that 85% of the people who were stopped under the New York City program were black or Hispanic while those groups made up only 52% of the city's population. **The program was declared unconstitutional in 2013 .**

The **American Civil Liberties Union has collected data** that demonstrates that communities of color are policed excessively and inequitably. In one study, it found that blacks in one Midwestern city, who made up 19% of the population, were 25 times more likely to be arrested for loitering with intent to commit a narcotics offense. The same study showed that black drivers were nine times more likely than white drivers to be arrested for an active driving violation during daylight hours but only two times more likely when conditions made it difficult to identify the race of the driver. **A Canadian study** showed that police in one eastern Ontario city were 3.7 times more likely to stop a black person than a white person and 1.4 times more likely to stop an aboriginal than a white person.

Racial profiling is as ineffective in protecting the public as it is inequitable. A study of San Francisco police data showed that black people accounted for 15% of police stops but 42% of non-consensual searches following stops. Whites, however, were two times as likely to be found to be carrying illegal contraband. In a study done in Ferguson, Missouri, blacks were more than twice as likely to be searched during vehicle stops than white drivers, but they were 26% less likely to be found with illegal contraband than whites. Similarly, **a Chicago study** showed that blacks and Hispanics were searched approximately four times as often as White drivers but contraband was found on white drivers twice as often as on black and Hispanic drivers.

In 2016, the Governor of Maine declared that he had collected data on arrests of drug dealers in his state and claimed that 90% of them were black or Hispanic. At a press conference the Governor referred to drug dealers entering the state as the "enemy," suggested that it is appropriate to "shoot at the enemy," and stated that "the overwhelming majority of people coming in, are people of color or people of Hispanic origin". The **Governor's own data** , however, showed that at least 55% of the people arrested in the state for drug offenses were white.

A lack of trust between law enforcement and the public is both a cause and a consequence of racial profiling. **Law enforcement agencies can address the problem** by providing training to raise officers' awareness of implicit bias in policing, implementing clear policies regarding the circumstances under which stops, frisks, searches, and chases are performed, and encouraging the building of positive relationships among communities and the law enforcement personnel that serve them, a concept that is called community policing.

In the tradition of WRJ's strong voice against racial discrimination and in light of

overwhelming evidence that racial profiling leads to inequitable treatment of minorities and is an ineffective policing tool, *We, the Board of the Women of Reform Judaism, call on our members to :*

1. Become educated on the existence, harms, and inefficacy of racial profiling;
2. Support local organizations that monitor police actions and combat racial profiling;
3. Advocate for local, state, provincial, or national legislation that requires the collection of data and supports the training of police in equitable policing tactics;
4. Participate in community-based dialogues pertaining to race and community-police relations; and
5. Advocate for community policing programs.

## 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.

**Please join the Women of NSCI  
for a Wine & Cheese Reception  
to support the YES Fund  
and to honor our**

**Women Leaders of  
North Shore Congregation Israel**

**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Tross Family Education Center at NSCI



# BJBE SISTERHOOD

*for women and men*

**GAMES**

Canasta  
Scrabble  
Chess  
Poker  
Gin Rummy  
Trivial Pursuit  
MAH JONG

**Wednesday  
May 9, 2018  
BJBE  
1201 Lake Cook  
Deerfield  
dinner 5:30 - 6:45 pm  
games 6:45 - 9:00 pm**

*Refreshments, Raffles, Gourmet Desserts*

*Plus more!*

**GALORE**



*Women of Temple Chai*  
17<sup>th</sup> annual

# Mah Jongg Tournament



*Sunday*  
*June 3<sup>rd</sup>*

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Registration

11:30 - 12:15 p.m.

Luncheon

*FOLLOWED BY THREE FUN FILLED HOURS OF MAH JONGG,  
WITH GREAT RAFFLES, THEN GAME PRIZES,  
AND MUCH MORE!*

*\$45 Sisterhood Member / \$47 Non-Member*

## Good & Welfare

### Yom Huledet Sameach (Happy Birthday!)

to our Midwest Board Members and Alumnae

#### April:

- 3 Harriet Krasnoff -- [hrkras@comcast.net](mailto:hrkras@comcast.net)
- 4 Michelle Dloogoff -- [m\\_dloogoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m_dloogoff@sbcglobal.net)
- 11 Peggy Kipp -- [pegk56@comcast.net](mailto:pegk56@comcast.net)
- 21 Sheila Rosenfeld -- [srosenfeldtbi@gmail.com](mailto:srosenfeldtbi@gmail.com)
- 22 Esther Schak -- [ers@schak.com](mailto:ers@schak.com)
- 27 Judy Katz -- [katzinmn@gmail.com](mailto:katzinmn@gmail.com)
- 28 Joanne Merritt -- [joannem@wicresoft.com](mailto:joannem@wicresoft.com)
- 28 Lynn Mesirow -- [lmesirow@gmail.com](mailto:lmesirow@gmail.com)
- 29 Sheila Schuman -- [sschuman@frontiernet.net](mailto:sschuman@frontiernet.net)
- 30 Lisa Taran-Maddy -- [lisatm@comcast.net](mailto:lisatm@comcast.net)

#### May:

- 1 Judith Geleerd Kitzes -- [jdgshopgirl@aol.com](mailto:jdgshopgirl@aol.com)
- 4 Carol Berger -- [ponderer4552@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ponderer4552@sbcglobal.net)
- 6 Eileen Schur -- [eschur4285@cs.com](mailto:eschur4285@cs.com)
- 7 Janet Olson -- [Jlolson2011@gmail.com](mailto:Jlolson2011@gmail.com)
- 10 Jill M. Binder -- [jbinder@larkinhoffman.com](mailto:jbinder@larkinhoffman.com)
- 10 Carol O'Neil -- [caroljo@tds.net](mailto:caroljo@tds.net)

Yom Huledet



Same'ach!

- 13 Gigi Green -- [dbleggreen@yahoo.com](mailto:dbleggreen@yahoo.com)  
16 Marlen Frost -- [minyfrost@aol.com](mailto:minyfrost@aol.com)  
19 Matilda Oppenheimer -- [mountziontemplesisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:mountziontemplesisterhood@gmail.com)  
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26 Lisa Greene -- [wgreene61@comcast.net](mailto:wgreene61@comcast.net)  
27 Mae Schwab -- [maewash@aol.com](mailto:maewash@aol.com)  
28 Karen Harlan -- [kbh1224@comcast.net](mailto:kbh1224@comcast.net)  
29 Florence Kesselman Slavick -- [flosla@earthlink.net](mailto:flosla@earthlink.net)  
30 Alyce Heman -- [alyceheman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alyceheman@sbcglobal.net)  
30 Marci Kops -- [530tfn@gmail.com](mailto:530tfn@gmail.com)  
30 Carrie Morris -- [carriemorris55@gmail.com](mailto:carriemorris55@gmail.com)
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### Mazel Tov!

[Cheryl Stern](#) , Metropolitan Chicago Area director on the recent birth of her grandson, Jake Murphy Reynolds, born March 9, 2018 to Alyssa and Patrick Reynolds. Congratulations can be sent to Cheryl at 402 E. Hackberry Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

[Sheila Schuman](#) , Life Member of the Board, on the upcoming marriage of her daughter, Bari Resnick to John Orozco. Congratulations can be sent to Sheila at

6568 157th Street West, Apt. 322, Golden Valley, MN 55124.

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### Well Wishes!

[Judy Lohr-Safcik](#) , Greater Illinois/Northwest Indiana Area Director on her recent surgery.

[Carol Berger](#) , VP Service to Sisterhoods & Programming on her recent surgery.

[Marcy Frost](#) , Past District President and Bylaws Revisions chair on her surgery.

[Zabe Williams](#) , VP Development & Special Projects on her upcoming surgery.

GET  
WELL  
SOON

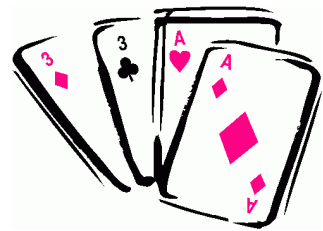
DeeComments.com

**Save the Date!**

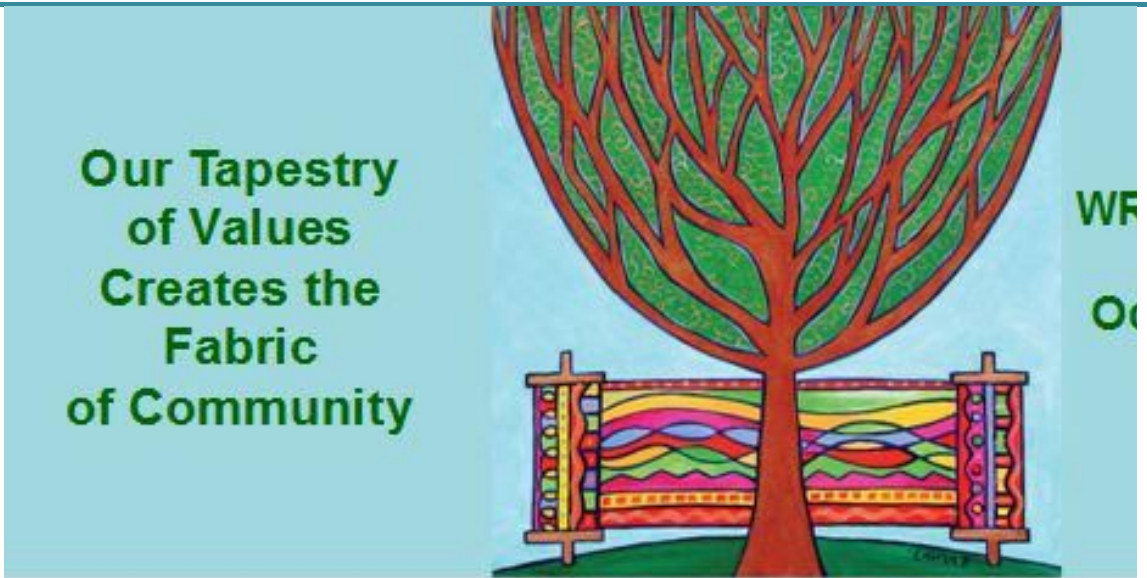
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**WRJ Midwest District Metropolitan Chicago**  
**Saturday, June 23, 2018**

8:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.


Temple Beth Israel  
3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, IL 6007



Mah Jongg and  
Canasta Weekend  
**Note New Date:**  
**September 14-16,**  
**2018**  
OSRUI,  
Oconomowoc, WI



**Connect With Us**

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

## Useful links ▶

### 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](#)



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

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](mailto:gloria@kaizs.com).

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Visit our Midwest District website

Like and follow us on Facebook

**Contact: Ashley Burbul, M'Keshar Editor**  
[msashleymarieb@gmail.com](mailto: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.