

Share:

-
-
-
-



MIDWEST DISTRICT M'KESHER מְקֶשֶׁר

July 2018 | Av 5778

A Message from Janet Buckstein
Midwest District President

Greetings!

Michelle Scheinkopf, who is responsible for our convention, is providing the lion's share of this month's newsletter, but I thought I would offer an introduction.

As you are probably aware, the convention theme is "Our Tapestry of Values Creates the Fabric of Community". For a year and a half, I have been talking with you about community, but how does one do that? It seems to me that weaving together our values into one tapestry is a great way to accomplish that goal. Consider the following excerpt from a prayer in Covenant of the Heart.

OUR TAPESTRY OF VALUES



CREATES THE FABRIC
OF COMMUNITY

The strength of a piece of cloth is in the threads of which the whole is woven.

The tapestry of our Jewish heritage has in it threads of many colors. Echoing the events of the times, this tapestry was begun many thousands of years ago. It's weaving will continue for the many thousands of years to come. The first strands slid through the fingers of Sarah, Rachel, Leah and Rachel. Their thread was strong; their

color was brilliant. The pattern grew, the length increased, and their stories... their deeds and their lives...were woven into a cloth of beauty and lasting strength.

Our Jewish Women, from the beginning of history, have been the warp and the woof,

*the sum and the substance, that bound our tapestry together.
Audrey Lurie, Temple Israel, Stockton, CA*

So too do we, as Women of Reform Judaism, add through our deeds and actions based on Jewish values, to a growing tapestry. The fabric that is our community!

Many thanks to MarySue Austin who used this prayer in her comments as the newly installed Sisterhood President at Temple Beth-Israel in South Bend, IN; and to Sharon Kalling for helping me locate it!

See you all at convention!

L 'Shalom ,
Janet Buckstein
President, WRJ Midwest District

Convention is Coming! Convention is Coming! **A note from Michelle Scheinkopf**

"The strength of a piece of cloth is in the threads of which the whole is woven". This quote from the piece Janet just shared with us couldn't be truer when it comes to this year's convention.

2018 WRJ Midwest District Convention: "Our Tapestry of Values Creates the Fabric of Community". Registration is Open for Business!

I am excited to tell you that with the expertise of our registration maven Laura Cooper, on-line registration through Eventbrite will soon be open. Our convention-co chairs were able to keep the registration cost the same as 2016! Our convention hotel the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee and reservations for the hotel are separate from the registration fee. Breakfast and parking are included in the hotel single and double occupancy rate of **\$140.00** /night plus taxes. Once you register for convention, you will receive the information to reserve a room at this rate.

For those of you who have never attended a WRJ Midwest District Biennial Convention, we are offering once again, a first-timer incentive. **\$100.00** will be subtracted from the **\$295.00** early bird registration price. Scholarship assistance based on financial need is available. Please contact WRJ Midwest District President, [Janet Buckstein](#) with questions regarding scholarships.

What Can You Expect!

So, what can you expect from this bi-annual event from our District?

- Optional pre-convention activities suggested by our local events chair, Sarah Acker.
- Our WRJ guest, Vice President of Programs and Education, Julia Weinstein

will be joining us to lead workshops, share news from WRJ, and spend time bonding with her Midwest sisters!

- Workshops presented by knowledgeable and charismatic leaders in their fields.
- Shopping for Judaica and one of a kind artisan crafts created by our very own Midwest women at our Judaica Shops and Artisan Market.
- Delicious food at receptions, Shabbat dinner, YES Fund Brunch, Kavod Luncheon, Board Installation celebratory dinner and treats in the hospitality room.
- Social action programming and project on the issue of human trafficking in the world today.
- Shabbat service at Congregation Shalom in Milwaukee, Shabbat morning service, Havdallah and the installation of the 2018-20 WRJ Midwest District Board at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee
- Entertainment and of course late night smoozing with games galore with your new and cherished Midwest district sisters.

The strength of the 2018 Midwest District convention lies in the dedicated and thoughtful work of our co-chairs, Sandi Firsell, Cheryl Stern, Linn Ullenbrauck, Judy Wexler and local events chair in Milwaukee, Sarah Acker. These women are the weavers that created a stellar lineup of speakers and programming for 4 days this coming October that quite simply provides our district women with an extraordinary opportunity for inspiration, leadership development, learning, networking, recognizing and honoring, prayer, and the blessing of being together as a sisterhood community of dedicated Jewish women.

What to do next!

Registration is coming soon! You will be receiving updates on the convention through email over the course of the next few months. Please pass along this information to your sisterhoods/women's groups and plan on attending with your friends as we celebrate together and grow *"our tapestry of values and the fabric of our community"*!

**Creating Our WRJ Community...
Are You Stepping UP?**

by Janet Buckstein





Congregation in Sioux Falls, SD.

May through June was a time for many sisterhoods and women's groups to come together, and we were thrilled that you invited WRJ District leadership to join your celebrations.

We joined sisterhoods at services and closing meetings at Beth El Sisterhood in Munster, IN; Temple B'rith Shalom (TBS) Sisterhood in Springfield, IL; Temple Sinai Sisterhood in Michigan City, IN; and Mount Zion

We installed new leadership at Women of Oak Park Temple (WOPT) in Oak Park, IL; Temple Beth-El Sisterhood in South Bend, IN; and Women of Temple Chai (WTC) in Long Grove, IL.

We love bringing your members our message of WRJ community and look forward to being with our Twin Cities sisters later this month!

Please [click here](#) to view a slideshow of photos from all these events

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!



WRJ Women Act: RAC + WRJ = Every Vote Counts

On June 5, the [Religious Action Center](#) (RAC) held a unique Virtual Town Hall, with more than 300 "in attendance," launching a new and powerful, non-partisan civic engagement campaign, in advance of the 2018 elections. WRJ has partnered with the campaign: [Civic Engagement Campaign](#) : **Every Congregation Counts, Every Vote Counts.**

Designed for action and to maximize voting opportunities for all, especially 18-year-olds and the disenfranchised, this effort is grounded in Jewish text and practicality. As noted in Deuteronomy: when our nation, world and Jewish values are challenged, we can neither turn away nor hide.

The RAC is seeking commitments from congregations, organizations and individuals to register and turn out voters; host or attend a non-partisan candidate forum; and support ballot initiative work in your state.

For more details, tool kits, [please visit the RAC's website](#)

Articles & Information

Child Marriage WRJ Resolution: March 2018



WRJ has a long history of issuing resolutions and statements that address the health, education and welfare of women and children. Through these resolutions and statements, WRJ has harnessed its members' collective voice to fight abuse, poverty, lack of healthcare, pornography, and exploitation of women and children. In 2009, WRJ issued a Board Statement on Child Marriage, that urged support of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2009, which focused on diplomatic and programmatic initiatives to fight child marriage primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The bill received unanimous bi-partisan support in the Senate yet failed to pass in 2009 and failed again after being reintroduced in 2011.

Marriage, whether voluntary or involuntary, involving girls and young women is a problem, both internationally and domestically. Child marriage is defined as marriage or cohabitation before the age of 18. [i] UNICEF states that "Marriage before the age of 18 is a fundamental violation of human rights. [ii] Human Rights Watch notes that "The emerging consensus of international human rights standards is that the minimum age of marriage should be set at 18". [iii] A minimum age of 18 provides an "objective rather than subjective standard of maturity, which safeguards a child from being married when they are not physically, mentally or emotionally ready ... and will also help ensure that children are able to give their free and full consent to marry." [iv] Child marriage affects boys and girls but girls are disproportionately affected. [v]

In 2015, the United Nations made ending child marriage one of its 17 Sustainable

Development Goals for the period 2015-2030. [vi] Yet, the United States does not have a federal law establishing a minimum age for marriage. State laws also have failed to protect against the dangers of child marriage. Only twenty-three states have established a minimum age for marriage. Even in those states, children may marry at a younger age when there is parental consent or with the approval of a judge [vii] . In the case of child marriages based on parental consent, the child is rarely asked whether they are being pressured into the marriage and “[e]ven when a girl sobs openly while her parents sign the application and force her into marriage, the clerk has no authority to intervene.” [viii]

Since 2011, Canada has committed significant resources to ending child marriage and has become a leading advocate for ending global child marriage. [ix] In Canada, the federal minimum legal age for marriage is 16, with no exceptions. Some provinces have raised the age to 18 or 19 allowing for certain exceptions for marriage below that age. [x]

[Click here to read full article.](#)

Leadership Change

Sisterhood/Women's Group Presidents: Please be sure to fill out the Midwest District's [Sisterhood Leadership Change Form](#) when your leadership changes. Don't Forget to also fill out WRJ's [Sisterhood Leadership Change Form](#) and receive WRJ news, events, access to Yammer and more! Questions, please contact Peggy Kipp, Data Management/Directory Chair at pegk56@comcast.net .

Midwest District Alumnae

Are you an outgoing president who would like to remain connected to the district? Become an Alumna! The Midwest Alumnae Association was created to help former district board and past sisterhood and women's group presidents stay in touch with the district and with each other.

[Click here](#) to enroll using an online form.

[Click here](#) to enroll using a printable form. Questions? Contact Mae Schwab at maewashes@gmail.com .

Upcoming Midwest District Events

[Mah Jongg, Canasta &
Games Weekend](#)

Registration is live!

[Click here](#) to register

September 14-16, 2018

OSRUI, Oconomowoc, WI



**Our Tapestry
of Values
Creates the
Fabric
of Community**



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.

Sisterhood Temple Beth

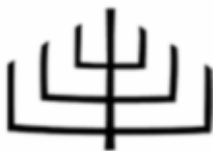


Mah Jongg Tournament Sunday, July 29, 2018

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(Registration 12:30 - 1:00)

A fun afternoon of maj, snacks & p



BETH TIKVAH SISTERHOOD'S

4th Annual Mah Jongg Tournament: Mangia

Sunday, August 26, 2018

10:30 am - Registration 11:00 am - Italian-themed lunch 12:00-3:

RAFFLES! PRIZES! SNACKS! MOF

Good & Welfare

Yom Huledet Sameach (Happy Birthday!)

to our Midwest Board Members and Alumnae

July:

- 1 Joni Abramowitz - ohav@aol.com
- 9 Adina Sutlin - asutlin11@gmail.com
- 10 Marilyn Glazer - Marilyn@MarilynGlazer.com
- 11 Sheila Schulman - sheilab711@aol.com
- 14 Sharon Sabin - sharonsabin714@aol.com
- 21 Barbara Berman - bbermana@comcast.net
- 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



Mazel Tov!

Lauren Levrant, President of Women of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL on the birth of her granddaughter Ariella Lynn, born on June 10, 2018. Congratulations may be mailed to Lauren at 505 Fair Oaks, Oak Park, IL 60302. Lauren's email is slevr@aol.com.

Connect With Us



Useful links ►

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

[WRJ Sisterhood Leadership Change Form](#)

(This is WRJ's Leadership form)

[Midwest District Sisterhood President Info Form 2018](#)

[Speakers Bureau Request Form](#)

[Expense Reimbursement Form](#)

[District Deposit Form](#)

[Alumni Association Registration](#)



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

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.

Sign up for our Eblast

Visit our Midwest District website

Like and follow us on Facebook

Contact: Ashley Burbul, M'Keshet Editor
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.