

WRJ Northeast District Virtual Convention 2020

TIME	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
Wednesday, October 28	PRE-CONVENTION		
8:00 PM	Welcome to WRJ Today	Learn more about Women of Reform Judaism, who we are, what we do, and the resources available to you as a member. It's the perfect opportunity to hear more about WRJ and prepare yourself to gain even more out of your experience at the Virtual Convention.	
Friday, November 6	CONVENTION DAY 1		
2:00- 4:00 PM	<i>Welcome to Convention & Keynote Speaker Pamela Nadell</i>	Convention kicks off with greetings, a little bit of business, and an amazing keynote speaker, noted historian and professor Pamela Nadell. Pamela Nadell is author of <i>America's Jewish Women: A History of Colonial Times To Today</i> , winner of the 2019 National Jewish Book Award Book of the Year. She will be interviewed by Susan Weidman Schneider, editor of Lilith Magazine.	Keynote: Pamela Nadell and Susan Weidman Schneider
	WORKSHOP BLOCK A		
4:15 - 5:30 PM	The Politics of Abortion: Advocacy for Reproductive Health and Rights	Moderators: Robin Krieger, WRJ NE vice president and WRJ Board member; plus Arlene Pressman, women's health nurse practitioner. Panelists: Ally Karpel, Reproductive Health & Rights campaign associate at the Religious Action Center; and Cheryl Hamlin, MD, an OB/GYN who travels monthly to Mississippi to the state's only abortion clinic.	Panelists: Ally Karpel, The RAC, and Cheryl Hamlin, MD
4:15 - 5:30 PM	Sisterhood Stories and Communication: Telling Stories to Personalize and Humanize Sisterhood	Using Personal Narrative to Build Relationships with Miriam Brosseau, founder of Tiny Windows Consulting, a creative communications strategist dedicated to helping us ask bigger questions and tell smaller stories.	Miriam Brosseau
5:45 PM	<i>Shabbat Service & Sing Along</i>	Kabbalat Shabbat service including Cantorial Student Ilana Goldman followed by a special song time. WRJ NE District members will assist in leading the service. If you wish, have your Shabbat candles ready so we can welcome Shabbat together. Feel free to bring your juice/wine and challah too.	Ilana Goldman, Cantorial Student

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Saturday, November 7	CONVENTION DAY 2		
	Choose how you would like to start your day		
8:45 - 9:30 AM	Morning Meditation/Yoga	Stretch and relax your mind and body, a revitalizing way to begin the day!	Suzy Gelman, WRJ NE Board Member
8:45 - 9:30 AM	Breakfast and Schmooze	Bring your breakfast and begin the day sharing your biggest program/fundraising successes and hear your sisters' ideas.	Vivian Blumstein, Past President of WRJ NE and current WRJ NA Board Member
9:45 - 11:00 AM	<i>Torah Reading & Torah Study</i>	Rabbi Julie Bressler, assistant rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, MA (the congregation of our current/outgoing WRJ Northeast District president, Trina Novak), will lead us in an exploration of this week's Torah portion. The session will also include "live" Torah readings by WRJ NE District members.	Rabbi Julie Bressler
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	<i>Plenary</i>	Our WRJ Guest Julia Weinstein, vice president of WRJ Programs and Education, shares WRJ History/Stories With Us. Bring them back to your sisterhood.	Julia Weinstein, WRJ VP, and Trina Novak, WRJ NE President
12:30 - 1:30 PM	<i>Say Yes to the YES Fund Lunch!</i>	Bring your lunch and learn more about the YES Fund with Abby Fisher, WRJ vice president of Philanthropy. Hear about WRJ's philanthropy projects.	Abby Fisher, WRJ VP of Philanthropy

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Saturday, November 7	CONVENTION DAY 2, continued		
	WORKSHOP BLOCK B		
1:45 - 2:55 PM	Writing and Celebrating Our Jewish/Family Stories	Meryl Sussman writes award-winning historical fiction based on her family's stories under her pseudonym, Ezekiel Nieto Benzion. She will lead us in preserving our own family tales so our ancestors' heroism, struggles, love and memories are not lost. Bring a family artifact or photo with you to the session to inspire your creativity and to share with others. For additional inspiration, visit Meryl's author website, http://tellingourtales.net/your_stories.html to see where your story can find a home.	Meryl Sussman, author under her pseudonym, Ezekiel Nieto Benzion
1:45 - 2:55 PM	Virtual Programming for Your Sisterhood	Learn how to support and connect to your members by strengthening your virtual programming with Michelle Rosen, WRJ Board member, WRJ Northeast District incoming vice president, and sisterhood president, B'nai Israel, Southbury, CT; plus Heather Lorgeree, WRJ manager of Engagement.	Michelle Rosen, WRJ NA Board Member, and Heather Lorgeree, WRJ Manager of Engagement
	WORKSHOP BLOCK C		
3:00 - 4:15 PM	Anti-Semitism and Racial Injustice: Systemic and Interpersonal Responses	Beth Quinn, educator and creator of a proactive anti-bias program "Meeting Hate with Humanity" and Dana Sussman, deputy commissioner for Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy at the NYC Commission on Human Rights.	Beth Quinn, WRJ NA Board Member; and Dana Sussman, NYC Commission on Human Rights
3:00 - 4:15 PM	Did You Really Just Say That? Moving From Divisive to Respectful Communication	A skills workshop led by Deborah List, MA, MPH, PhD, adjunct professor, Fairfield University, and principal, Access College & Beyond LLC; plus Mara Gottlieb, PhD, LMSW, president, Talking Changes.	Deborah List and Mara Gottlieb

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Saturday, November 7	CONVENTION DAY 2, continued		
	WORKSHOP BLOCK D		
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Sisterhood Leadership Stories: Continuing the Leadership Legacy	How to find and nurture your next generation of leaders, led by Sara Charney, first vice president of WRJ, and Julia Weinstein, WRJ vice president of Programs and Education.	Sarah Charney, First VP of WRJ NA, and Julia Weinstein, WRJ NA VP of Programs and Education
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Membership Stories: Creating Connections	Listen to a panel of three different-sized sisterhoods inspire you with ways to invigorate and increase sisterhood membership. Bring your own sisterhood membership stories as well.	Bronte Abraham, Temple Isaiah, Lexington, MA; Lani Dunthorn, Temple Concord, Binghamton, NY; Suellen Eshed, East End Temple, NYC
5:45 PM	<i>Installation, Havdalah, and Closing Ceremony</i>	Our new officers and area directors will be installed for the coming term. Following installation, Cantor Harriet Dunkerley, spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Chaim in Georgetown, CT (the congregation of our incoming WRJ Northeast District president, Sharon Sobel), will lead us in Havdalah. If you have a Havdalah set, have it available, so we can join in this ritual together. We will separate from Shabbat and our awesome Convention experience.	Cantor Harriet Dunkerley