

## ***Lev v'Nefesh***

Heart and "Sole" Board Installation

Originally presented by Congregation Etz Chaim Sisterhood  
Marietta, Georgia

Good evening ... (fill in names/categories of guests) \_\_\_\_\_.  
It is a pleasure to be here with everyone at this installation tonight, to celebrate another milestone along the journey that is our sisterhood.

***Lev v'Nefesh -- Heart and Soul.*** This has been the Women's League programming and Torah Fund theme for the past year.

**Heart and Soul** – the physical and the spiritual – dual aspects that make up our entire being. Tonight we celebrate the heart, both in our programs and afterwards, and the connections between past, present and future. The women, as our Women's League logo represents, are the keepers of the flame – we are at the heart of our families, our homes, our synagogue, and our community.

Tonight as we honor our volunteers and install our new sisterhood board – know that all of you are at the heart of our organization; you keep it vibrant and thriving. But this installation is about heart **and** soul. Where is the soul? That is the piece we will celebrate now during our installation ceremony.

I'm sure you noticed the different spelling of sole on our invitation. Sole – s-o-l-e – the bottom surface of a shoe, boot, etc. The lower part of a thing, or the part on which it rests when standing.

Our officers are not only the heart of the organization but also the sole, the part of a thing that supports the rest. Just like the book, *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* – where the pants come to represent the foundation that they provide for each member of the sisterhood – so the sole of our shoe is the support system upon which our sisterhood rests.

Tonight we are gathered to honor the s-o-l-e-s of our sisterhood, our outgoing and incoming officers. We express our gratitude to an outgoing administration that has brought honor to our congregation through your achievements and actions – and we welcome in our new administration, pledging to them our cooperation for the coming year.

As I call the names of our **outgoing officers**, will you please come join me (announce offices and names of outgoing officers):

You are a truly marvelous group of women who have assumed leadership positions demanding much time and effort. You have given of yourselves with all your heart and soul and have fulfilled your duties loyally. As we look around the room tonight, we know

that our sisterhood has been successful due in great measure to the leadership and concern shown by all of you and your predecessors, and feel confident that you will pass this devotion on to those who follow in your footsteps.

Please accept the sincere thanks and deep appreciation of your entire sisterhood family. We pray that you have been strengthened by the knowledge that you have carried out your responsibilities nobly and we know that sisterhood has been strengthened by your presence. On behalf of sisterhood, *todah rabbah* and I do officially discharge each of you from your duties.

I would ask everyone to be seated at this time except our **outgoing president or co-presidents** \_\_\_\_\_.

It is hard to believe that our time together on the sisterhood board is coming to an end. It is clear that sisterhood is an important part of your life/lives, that it is truly in your heart/s and that is something that you have shared with us, that has inspired us. It is with love and respect that we say thank you (both) for all you have done for sisterhood and now officially discharge you from the office of president/co-president. Mazal tov!

We cannot forget the highly coveted title and the pin that recognizes you as a past-president/s. [Give past president's pin and take back president's pin.]

### **[outgoing presidential speech]**

And now we can get to the bottom of things, the sole of sisterhood, as we welcome and install our next sisterhood board of officers. You are the base, the sole upon which sisterhood rests; your capable and devoted leadership will ensure the continued growth and success of our sisterhood.

As I call your names, please join me.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, **recording secretary and corresponding secretary:**

You are both involved in communication. \_\_\_\_\_, as recording secretary you will document our meetings and keep a history of our sisterhood, most likely *tapping* away on the computer keys [Give recording secretary one tap shoe.]

\_\_\_\_\_, as corresponding secretary, it is your responsibility to keep our members and the synagogue community up to date on what sisterhood is doing. You will be our liaison, writing letters, hopefully in your beautiful script rather than *tapping* them out in Morse Code, as our congregants go through different life experiences [Give corresponding secretary one tap shoe.]

\_\_\_\_\_, you are hereby charged with the duties of recording secretary.

\_\_\_\_\_, you are hereby charged with the duties of corresponding secretary. Mazal tov. Please add your shoes to the shelf.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, **financial secretary and treasurer.**

You are the protectors of the money, each of you handling a different task to be sure that our finances are accurate and well maintained. \_\_\_\_\_, you will be responsible for collecting and depositing sisterhood money – even if you have to count *every penny* [Give financial secretary one penny loafer].

\_\_\_\_\_, you will watch over the sisterhood budget and be sure that our *pennies* are spent wisely as you write checks and keep us balanced [Give treasurer a penny loafer.]

\_\_\_\_\_, you are hereby charged with the duties of financial secretary.

\_\_\_\_\_, you are hereby charged with the duties of treasurer.

Congratulations. Please add your shoes and be seated.

\_\_\_\_\_(or/and) \_\_\_\_\_, **vice president or co-vice presidents of membership.** Our members are the reason we put our hearts and souls into all we do for sisterhood. They keep us vital and strong and relevant. As you may know, our membership has declined a bit in recent years. So, as I charge you (both),

\_\_\_\_\_(or/and) \_\_\_\_\_, with the duties of president/vice-presidents of membership, I also challenge you to *pump* it up and to inspire the women of our synagogue to become a part of our beloved sisterhood. [Give a pair of black pumps.] Good luck. Please add your shoes and be seated.

\_\_\_\_\_(and) \_\_\_\_\_, **vice president/co-vice presidents of ways & means.** You are our money maker/s, you have the task of raising the funds needed to support our worthy commitments and obligations. Sisterhood supports so many programs for our synagogue and the larger community and your capable leadership will make that possible. Sometimes you are all planned out, and other times you just *wing* it – but whatever you do, we know it will always be tip top. [Give a pair of wingtip shoes.]

\_\_\_\_\_ or/and \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby charge you with the duties of vice president/s of ways and means. Todah rabah. Please add your shoes and be seated.

\_\_\_\_\_(or/and) \_\_\_\_\_, **vice president/co-vice presidents of programming.** This is perhaps the most diverse of our vice-presidencies. You are responsible for doing vibrant, relevant programming for our entire membership. Our largest programs, kick off and installation, fall under your capable leadership. But then, you must *flip* your whole portfolio as you oversee High Holiday babysitting and the care of our children, our future. We know that you are going to be great assets, but you will not flip flop or waiver in your devotion to sisterhood. [Give a pair of flip flops.]

\_\_\_\_\_ or/and, I hereby charge you with the duties of vice president/co-vice presidents of programming. Welcome and mazal tov. Please add your shoes and be seated.

\_\_\_\_\_ or/and \_\_\_\_\_, **president/co-vice presidents of education and Jewish living.** You have a very important role as it is under your watchful eye that we will pass on our values and traditions, the things that we hold dear to our hearts, as we educate ourselves, our children and the greater community. When I think of education, one shoe pops into my head, the shoes we wore as schoolgirls – when we were taught the 3 R's as well as values that are a part of our present lives. You have many committees under your vice-presidency but I know that you will not be *saddled* by them and that you will help to develop and nurture our educational and Jewish pursuits. [Give a pair of saddle shoes.]

\_\_\_\_\_ or/and \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby charge you with the duties of vice president/co-vice presidents of education and Jewish living. Please add your shoes and be seated.

\_\_\_\_\_ or/and \_\_\_\_\_, our **incoming president/co-presidents.** It is truly an honor and a privilege to be able to install you as president/co-presidents for the next two years. You are certainly well prepared to take this journey, this wonderful *hike* on which you (or) and \_\_\_\_\_ will lead our sisterhood board and membership. [Give each a hiking boot.] Our sisterhood is fortunate to have you.

I know that you will bring new energy and passion to this role just as you have to the many other positions you have held. (Name of president/co-president) has been involved in so many ways, as (name of offices held) \_\_\_\_\_.

(Name of co-president) \_\_\_\_\_ has served our sisterhood in many capacities as well, as (name of offices held) \_\_\_\_\_. I hope that the coming years are rewarding for you (both) and that sisterhood continues to nourish your heart/s and soul/s just as you do for all of us. I hereby charge you with the duties of president/co-presidents of sisterhood and am pleased to present you with this/these president's pin. Wear it proudly as you represent sisterhood with honor and dignity. Todah rabah. Please add your shoes and be seated.

\_\_\_\_\_, **parliamentarian.** For you I do not have a shoe. Rather, your position is symbolized by the *shoe rack* that has become the resting spot for everyone. Just like this rack, it will be your task to keep order and unity among the members of the sisterhood board. I hereby charge you with the duties of parliamentarian. Congratulations. Please be seated.

And to all the women of sisterhood...we know that we can always count on you to support the endeavors of sisterhood with all your heart and soul *and* sole.

We have an incredible group of women ready to lead our sisterhood into the next year. The *Shema* instructs us daily to love God with all our heart and all our soul – our whole being. These dual aspects come together in harmony through the performance of mitzvot. So this is my wish for all of you, that your heart always leads you to perform at least

mitzvah yomit, a mitzvah a day – and that your heart and your soul will always be nourished and fulfilled. Mazal tov to all of you.