

URI! URI! – AWAKE! AWAKE!

An Installation Script adapted from Convention 2012

Welcome. Together, as we focus on a new dawn, we are reminded of the call to arms in the Song of Deborah:

“Awake, awake, O Deborah. Awake! Awake! Strike up the chant.”

Tonight is our sisterhood/region installation -- an exciting occasion at which we pay tribute to the devoted women who have served us so well these past years, and install those who are assuming new responsibilities for the upcoming administration.

We call now upon the outgoing Board of Directors to rise.

For the past two years, you were leaders who never allowed sisterhood/region to stagnate. You rose to meet the relevant challenges of the day. We thank you for your service and work on behalf of sisterhood/region. You are officially discharged. You may be seated.

Will the outgoing recording secretary, **NAME**, Financial Secretary, **NAME** and treasurer, **NAME** please step forward.

You three women have borne the tremendous responsibility of maintaining communication with our membership base and balancing the books -- two functions that are essential to the effectiveness and stability of an organization. Without funds to provide services, our efforts would be impossible; and without direct communication our message would have little impact. We express our thanks and gratitude for your service. You are officially discharged. You may be seated.

Would the vice presidents please rise as I call your name: **NAMES**

For two years you have served our organization well. You have been active partners in all of our successes, working together in harmony, dignity and dedication to the high ideals of sisterhood/region and of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Your contribution of time, energy and talent are greatly appreciated.

May you continue to serve our community for many years to come. You are hereby discharged from office. You may be seated.

Will **PRESIDENT NAME** please step forward.

Rising head and shoulders above the crowd is a difficult position for anyone. But such is the place of the sisterhood/region president. **NAME** has brought three qualifications to her particular leadership:

1. an inquiring Jewish mind
2. a pure Jewish soul
3. and a true commitment to Jewish life --- through which she has made an important contribution to sisterhood/region and to Women's League.

We discharge you with deep appreciation and confidence, knowing that you will continue like Deborah, to be a standard bearer for our sisterhood/region.

Pt. II [New Officers]

In *Lechah dodi*, the beloved song from the Kabbalat Shabbat liturgy, we find an echo of the passage from the Song of Deborah:

*“Awake and rise to greet the new light
For in your radiance the world will be bright
Awake, awake, proclaim your song.”*

Reflecting on this imagery, as the previous administration stands down, we turn to our new leaders who will stand up, together, during the new term.

Board of Directors

Will the incoming Board of Directors please rise.

As we install you, we are aware of the challenges which lie ahead, none of which can be taken lightly. During this convention we will confront the realities of our changing world that compel us to greet tomorrow with conviction and the vision to shape the future of our organization. Your enthusiasm and support will be essential in achieving the goals of this new administration.

You are officially installed. Please be seated.

[Line Officers]

Will the following women please come forward as I call your name.

Recording Secretary: **NAME**

Financial Secretary: **NAME**

Treasurer: **NAME**

You have been assigned the tasks of communication and finances which are two essentials in maintaining the vitality of an organization.

We know that you will use your talent, skills and vigor to carry out the responsibilities of your respective offices, bringing dedication to your position, enhanced by your optimism and organizational expertise.

You are hereby installed. Please take your seat.

[Vice Presidents]

Will the following women who have been elected vice president for the 2012-2014 administration please come forward as I call your name.

NAMES

In the text from the Book of Judges from which our theme, Uri! Uri! is taken, Deborah implores Barak to go and defeat Sisera. Barak responds: *“I will go, but only if you go with me.”* And Deborah agrees.

Like Deborah, you have agreed to support our president. As leaders you will be required to distinguish between what needs changing and what should be retained. Your combined skills can create a partnership that will guarantee success.

You are now officially installed. You may be seated.

[Installing the President]

Will **NAME** please step forward.

In Emily Dickinson's poem "We Never Know How High ..." she writes:

*"We never know how high we are
Til we are called to rise
And then if we are true to plan
Our statures touch the skies."*

In her work Dickinson writes about the limitations we impose on ourselves – and how we have the capability to overcome them, meeting – *and exceedingly* -- expectations of others. This is our blessing for your presidency.

PRESIDENT speaks

[Closing Installation]

The imagery of dawn invokes an awareness and an eager anticipation of the challenges that lie before us. It infuses us with energy to address them.

With the upcoming administration, we begin anew....we will work to improve on what went before us, and at the same time build on those strengths.

We conclude with this anonymous imagined dialogue between God and some earthly creature:

“ ‘Your task is to build a better world,’ God said.

‘I answered: how?

The world is so vast and complicated now,
and I am so small and useless -- there's nothing that I can do.’

But God in all his wisdom said,

‘Just build a better you.’ ”

To all of our new officers of sisterhood/region:

“Uri, Uri! Awake, awake! Strike up the chant!”

Mazal tov to you all.