

WOMEN'S LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

The following narrative is excerpted from a longer article written by former Women's League Education Director, Lisa Kogen. It encapsulates the role Women's League publications have played in accomplishing one of its primary missions, the "self-education" of its membership. The full article may be found at [LINK](#).

In the earliest days of Women's League, its leadership, comprised of a cadre of uncommonly well-educated Jewish women, became an army of peripatetic teachers fanning out into far-flung communities across the United States and Canada to teach members of newly established women's groups, auxiliaries and sisterhoods about Jewish ritual, prayer and practice. But the needs of a vastly growing complex of women's organizations far exceeded the episodic appearance of this rarified but dedicated corps of teachers. And thus began the commitment of the League to the production and dissemination of written resources that could be made readily available and to its members.

From the early 1950s through the end of the century, Women's League embarked upon an ambitious publishing agenda, in no small part the result of post-war improved social and financial status for Jews. The League's publishing output would reflect, through its readership, both its influence and reach into the Jewish community, and would also reflect the more aspirational individual goals of its membership for self-education. During this half century, publications focused on an extensive array of subjects: Women's League history, Jewish ritual and religious practice, Jewish homemaking, theology and ethics, books for and about children, and a sizable collection of divray Torah and scripts, the latter numbering well into the hundreds.

*Appreciate the remarkable educational trajectory of Conservative Jewish women in the twentieth century. It begins with **The Three Pillars** – that instructed women with little to no knowledge of the most basic, fundamentals of Judaism to its conclusion with the **Etz Hayim** participants -- Hebraically and Judaically literate women; women who know the difference between the TANAKH, the Talmud and Shulchan Arukh; women who can explain the text included in tefillin. While these twin towers of Women's League history were separated by a scant hundred years of extraordinary advancement, when women finally arrogated to themselves the obligation of self education, it was embraced as a task which, according to Pirkei Avot "we are not mandated to complete, but from which we may not desist."*

Almost all of the Women's League publications listed below can be found in the Women's League Archives housed at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

PUBLICATIONS LISTING

GENERAL READING

In Memorium: Mrs. Solomon Schechter, 1925

Three Pillars: Thought, Worship and Practice for the Jewish Woman , Deborah M. Melamed, 1927, 1931, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1954

Modern Problems of Jewish Parents, Jacob Kohn, 1932 (*a study in parental attitudes*)

Jewish Home Beautiful , Betty D. Greenberg, Althea O. Silverman, 1945 (*guidance to the Jewish homemaker on the loving preparation for celebrating the yearly cycle of Jewish holidays*)

Our Baby , Sadie Rose Weilerstein, 1950 (*Jewish baby book*)

How Beautiful Is Our Heritage, 1952

Faith through Reason, Charles Schwartz, 1954 (*a modern interpretation of Judaism*)

Altars of My Fathers, Mignon L. Rubenovitz, 1957 (*Jewish ideals and ethics*)

A Time for Choosing: The Purim Square, A Musical, Charles Davidson, 1958

Across the Threshold, Guide for the Jewish Homemaker, Shoni B. Levi & Sylvia R. Kaplan, 1959 and 1964 (*basic techniques of Jewish homemaking*)

Builders of the Conservative Movement, Mrs. David A. Goldstein, 1964

They Dared to Dream (1918-1968), 1968 (*the history of Women's League from its founding until 1969*)

Justice by the Book: Aspects of Jewish and American Criminal Law, Helene Schwartz, 1976 (*an introduction to Jewish and American criminal law*)

The Sixth Decade, 1978 (*the history of Women's League from 1968-1978*)

Love and Sex: A Modern Jewish Perspective, Robert Gordis, 1978

Welcome to the World: a Jewish Baby's Record Book, Glenn Wolff, Illustrator and Carol Isaak, Art Director 1980 First Edition (*full color illustrations, convenient record charts, room for personal reflections, naming certificates*)

75 Years of Vision & Voluntarism, 1992 (*a 75 year retrospective of the achievements of Women's League*)

Tree of Life: An Ecological Cantata, Charles Osborne, Hadassah Blocker, 1993 (*the Jewish perspective current environmental problems and their solutions*)

Interdating : a Jewish Parents Guide, Rabbi Alan Silverstein, 1994 (*ten questions and answers*)

Beauty Brains & Brawn: The Regional Histories, 2004 (*350 years of Jewish life in North America and regional histories*)

With Strength and Splendor: Jewish Women as Agents of Change, Lisa V. Kogen, 2008 (*Meet 47 women who have forged new paths to enrich our world. A wonderful gift for adult bat mitzvahs, high school and college graduate, teachers, counselors, friends, and family*)

YOUNG READERS

Friday Night Stories (4 series), 1919, 1928, 1946, adapted by Sulamith Ish-Kishor; translated by Henrietta Szold, illustrated by Todros Geller (*adapted for children from "The Legends of the Jews" by Louis Ginzberg*)

Prayers for Young Children, 1923

K'tonton Books by Sadie Rose Weilerstein (*the adventure stories of K'tonton, a thumb-sized, exuberant and irrepressible child*)

Adventures of K'tonton, 1935

K'tonton in Israel, 1964

Best of K'tonton, 1980

Singing Way, Sadie Rose Weilerstein, 1946 (*poems for Jewish children*)

What the Liberty Bell Proclaimed, Leon Spitz, 1951, 1975 (*stories depicting Jewish episodes in American history*)

Ghosts of Camp J, Robert Garvey, 1955 (*an adventure with Jewish patriots in American history*)

Join Us for the Holidays, Lillian S. Abramson, Jessie B. Robinson, 1958 (*an activity book for children under 10, combining the narration of Jewish festival adventures*)

Debbie in Dreamland, Dorothy Kripke, Bill Giacalone, 1960 (*Debbie's holiday adventures*)

Bas Mitzvah Treasury, Azriel Louis Eisenberg, , 1965 (*a collection of folk tales and poetry presenting Jewish life with human warmth and pathos*)

Let's Talk About Loving, Dorothy Kripke, Jesse B. Robinson, 1980 (*written from a Jewish religious point of view*)

Shabbat at Home

INSTRUCTIONAL

Kosher Cookery Unlimited, Ruth and Milton Perry, 1960

Kosher Parties Unlimited, Ruth and Milton Perry, 1968

Calendar Diary, 1962 - present (*pocket calendar diary; 2022- plus 8.5" x 11" version*)

An Introduction to Daily Worship, Rose Goldstein, 1966

Sex and the Family in the Jewish Tradition, Robert Gordis, 1967

A Time to Pray: A Personal Approach to the Jewish Prayer Book, Rose Berman Goldstein, 1972

Basic Booklist for the Home Library, 1974 (*suggested list of books for the Jewish home library*)

Birkat Hamazon, Joint Conservative Movement, 1977, 2004 (*folio of abridged version for use at sisterhood and congregational events*)

Aleph Bet Variations for Needlecraft, Rita Chase, 1978, 1982 (*patterns for crafting the Hebrew alphabet*)

Capsule Descriptions of Judaica (*descriptions of Judaica to be used by Sisterhood Judaica Shops as handouts when specific items are purchased*)

Count Your Blessings, 1972, 1978, 1992, 2007 (*a booklet of frequently used blessings*)

Doorway to Understanding, Dvorah Rosenberg, 1984

Time to Pray + Instruction Guide, Rose Goldstein, 1972 (*a personal approach to the Jewish prayer book*)

Tree of Life: Ecological Cantata

Have Pots Will Travel, Dvorah Rosenberg, 1988, 1994, 2000 (*how to make your kitchen kosher, a step-by-step guide*)

Head Coverings (*a Judaic creative arts activity*)

Heart and Soul

Hebrew Word Guide, Evelyn Garfiel, 1960, 1969, 1982, 1990 (*basic Hebrew vocabulary and usage in Hebrew, English and transliterations*)

Divray Torah, 1970's – 2003 (*annual publication of divray Torah – words of Torah - written by Women's League members*)

Services for the Tu B'Shvat Seder: The Fruits of Our World, 1978

Mitzvot B'maalot, Devorah Rosenberg, 1980's (*an inspirational guide for ascending the ladder of observance*)

Quantity Kosher Cooking, 1984

Women in the Bible: A Study Course, Marcia Cohn Spiegel, 1984

I'dud L'Ray'Im 1990's (*a guide to caring for one another*)

Quantity Kosher Cooking II, 1992

Simhat Bat Kit 1992 (*An introduction by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin; scripts and readings to create a ceremony welcoming a newborn daughter. Includes: Jewish Prayer, The Mitzvot, Shabbat, Rosh Hodesh, The Holidays, Jewish Theology, Women in Judaism, Tallit and Tefillin, Making Midrash, The Israel Connection*)

Leket Divray Torah, 1992, 2002 (*selection of divray Torah written by Women's League members over the years*)

Under the Wings of the Sh'khinah: A Jewish Healing Service, 1997 (*a resource for those seeking comfort with prayers, reflections, techniques, and song*)

Mitzvah of Bikkur Holim, 1998 (*guide to forming a committee to visit the sick*)

Environmental Sabbath 2000's (focus on the environment)

Etz Ha'yim He, Dr. Lisa Grant, 2000 (*a two-year study curriculum for adult education prepared by the Melton Research Centre for Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary*)

Women's League Cyber Kitchen, 2001. (*a cookbook compiled by members of the WLCJNet, an online group*)

Leket Divray Torah Bet, 2003 (*selection of divray Torah written by Women's League members over the years*)

Days of Study Kits: 2005 – 2012 (*member-led programs that focus on biblical texts with detailed study guides*)

Eikhah

Esther Adult

Esther Family

Kohelet

Ruth

Song of Songs

Tehillim Study Guide

Yom Yarak-Green Day for Tu B'Shevat. 2010 (*Torah vs Nature, programs for Tu B'shevat and the environment*)

ProverbsDivrei Hokhmah: 2012 – 2017 (*to replace the divray Torah providing an interactive vehicle for women to approach study*)

Heart and Soul

Kol Ishah

Pirkei Imahot-Wisdom of Our Mothers

Proverbs

The Ten Commandments

Guidelines for the Contemporary Jewish Woman – English and Spanish

Environment 2015 (*resources for the observance of Tu b'shvat*)

Hiddur Mitzvah (*to enhance the observance of mitzvot at home and in our communities*)

An Introduction to Daily Worship

Kiddush for Sabbath Evening

Mitzvot Yomit – A Mitzvah A Day (*Mitzvah Yomit cards, study and activity guide to add a mitzvah a day*)

What Every Jewish Mother Should Know About Her Home and Synagogue

HOLIDAY MANUALS

Celebration Hanukkah., 1990

Celebration: Pesah, 1990

Celebration: Purim, 1992

Celebration: Rosh HaShanah/Yom Kippur, 1991

Hanukkah Manual., 1972

Pesah Manual., 1974

Purim Manual, 1976

Shabbat Manual, 1978

Shavu'ot Manual., 1980

Sukkot Manual, 1978

PERIODICALS

Women's League Outlook., 1930-2007 (*magazine published 6, 4 or 3 times per year*)

Ba'Olam, 1975-2009 (*social action newsletter*)

CJ: Voices of Conservative Judaism, WLCJ, FJMC, USCJ, 2007-2015 (*jointly published magazine, 3-4 times per year*)

New Outlook for Women's League, 2016- (*newsletter published periodically*)

Chadoshot, 2019- present (*a quarterly Torah Fund newsletter circulated via e-mail to all WLCJ members*)

ORGANIZATIONAL

Blueprint for Membership (*a comprehensive guide for building your sisterhood membership*)

Directions and Directives for Sisterhood Presidents, 2001-2015 (*a comprehensive guide to administering a successful sisterhood*) (*revamped in 2015 for all sisterhood leadership and renamed "Sisterhood Advisor"*)

Directory of Judaica Shop Providers, 1990s, updated periodically (*listing of Judaica and outlets for use by sisterhood Judaica shops*)

Elections Activity Guide for Sisterhoods, 2008

Handbook for Jewish Women's Organizations, Deborah M. Melamed, 1924, 1938, Sara Kussy, 1947 (*directions in the organization and conduct of a sisterhood or women's auxiliary*)

Image Plus Public Relations Handbook, (*complete guide to publicity, brochures, social networking, the media, and more*)

Membership Magnets 1, 2 & 3, 1999 – 2003 (*description of membership programs for sisterhood*)

Parliamentary Guide (*a guide to understanding and using parliamentary procedure*)

Parliamentary Q & O (*Parliamentary questions and opinions*)

President to President, 1975 – 2010 (*communication newsletter from the WLCJ president to the sisterhood presidents*)

Sisterhood Planner, 2006, updated periodically (*how to design a full year of programs, activities and projects*)

Ways to the Means, 2003, updated periodically (*a guide for planning successful ways & means projects; more than 200 proven fundraisers, with suggestions for procedures, personnel and supplies*)

Z'havah Planner 1998-2016, updated periodically (*a fresh approach to programming for younger women*)

RECORDINGS.

Birkat Hamazon (teaching cassette), Women's League, 1987

B'rakhot (Blessings) for Torah (teaching cassette) 1990 (*a teaching tool with printed transliteration*)

Ḥanukkah at Home, Robert Segal, 1960

K-tonton on Kibbutz (audio cassette), Sadie Rose Weilerstein, 1964

Shabbat at Home

Shir Hashaḥar: Song of the Dawn , Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, 1974

Torah and Haftorah Blessings (teaching cassette)

Visit with K'Tonton (audio cassette)