

This script is ideal for a Shabbat installation

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Installation Script

KABBALAT SHABBAT

(Adapted from Convention 2014.)

Presider: Please join me in welcoming the outgoing and incoming officers.

[Officers march in, and all go onto the stage, seated by administration.]

Presider: This evening, as we prepare ourselves for Shabbat, we also mark new time for our sisterhood. As Solomon Schechter said, *"The Sabbath is a living reality, to be welcomed after six days' absence with that expectant joy and impatient love when the groom meets the bride."* The anticipation of something new can often be exhilarating. Certainly, for the past ____ years, members of our sisterhood have looked to each new administration with a sense of joy and expectation.

DISCHARGE OF OUTGOING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presider: Will the members of the outgoing Board of Directors please rise and stand at your places.

In Pirkei Avot, that we study on Shabbat, we learn: *"Do not be like servants who serve their master expecting to receive a reward; be rather like servants who serve their master unconditionally, with no thought of reward."*

As you, volunteer members of the sisterhood Board of Directors who have served over the past year, attending meetings in rain and sun, deliberating thoughtfully on major issues -- your thoughts were never about reward or recognition, but only about the welfare and collective good of our sisterhood and congregation. We thank you for your service. You are now officially discharged and you may be seated.

DISCHARGE OF OUTGOING OFFICERS

Presider —I now call upon the outgoing executive officers, and ask each to rise as I call your name:

Financial Secretary:

Recording Secretary:

Treasurer:

Vice President:

Presider: In the first stanza of *Lecha Dodi* that we sing at *Kabbalat Shabbat*, we are enjoined to “keep and remember the Shabbat.” [*Shamor v’zachor bi dee-bor echad*] You are the leaders who have “kept and remembered” Mathilde Schechter’s foundational challenge to perpetuate traditional Judaism in the home, synagogue, and communities. As the [suggested] executive committee that oversaw such programs as _____, you helped maintain a strong connection to the mission of our sisterhood and of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. We thank you for your vision, dedication and service. You are officially discharged from office and you may be seated.

DISCHARGE OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Presider: I now call upon the president of _____ Sisterhood, [Name]

As it says in *Pirkei Avot*: “*Rabbi Tarfon taught: The day is short, the task is great You are not obliged to finish the task, neither are you free to desist from it.*”

As the outgoing president, your tireless work of long hours, nights, weekends and even during your vacations has been an inspiration. You presided over _____. Rabbi Tarfon would suggest that although your presidency is concluding, your commitment to the organization should remain steadfast and – personally -- knowing you, it will. It is now my honor to discharge you, [Name], as the president of _____ Sisterhood . We thank you for your service. [Present gift, if there is one.]

[President speaks.]

INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presider: I now call upon the incoming board of directors to please rise and stand at your places. The words of *Lecha dodi* instruct: “*break out of your confines to the left and to the right.*” We ask that each of you as members of the sisterhood board to embrace the possibilities in our future, while you are respectful but not constrained by the past. You -- a diverse group of dedicated, productive and dynamic women -- will serve as a link to our broader membership. You are hereby installed, and you may be seated.

INSTALLATION OF INCOMING OFFICERS

Presider: I now call upon the incoming executive officers and ask each to rise as I call your name:

Financial Secretary:

Recording Secretary:

Treasurer:

Vice President:

Presider: Psalm 96 recited during *Kabbalat Shabbat* invokes in us the desire to “*Sing a new song to the LORD, renew yourselves, all people on earth.*” We are asked to let go of whatever has dominated our week and find a new song, a new melody for Shabbat. With you -- the new executive officers -- we hope, as we embrace each Shabbat with a sense of renewal, that you approach your new position as sisterhood officers, similarly and enthusiastically.

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRESIDENT

Presider: _____[Name], you are about to be installed as president of _____ Sisterhood. What better introduction for you than these words from our sages. As it says in *Pirkei Avot*: *Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai posed this question to his students: ‘Look about you and tell me, how should we live our life?’*

Rabbi Eliezer said: ‘with a generous eye’

Rabbi Yehoshua said: ‘with a good colleague’

Rabbi Yose said: ‘with foresight’

Rabbi Elazar said: ‘with a generous heart.’

Rabbi Yochanan said to them: ‘I prefer the answer of Elazar ben Arakh, for his view includes all of yours.’

[Add personal words about the new president.]

[President speaks.]

Presider: Thank you, _____. In closing, I want to share the poem “*Sabbath Prayer*” by Ruth Brin:

Dear God, help us now to make this a new Shabbat.
After noise, we seek quiet;
after crowds of indifferent strangers,
we seek to touch those we love;
after concentration on work and responsibility
we seek freedom to meditate,
to listen to our inward selves.
We open our eyes to the hidden beauties
and the infinite possibilities
in the world You are creating;
we break open the gates of the reservoirs
of goodness and kindness in ourselves and in others;
we reach toward one holy perfect moment of Shabbat.