

A Remembrance of Our Mothers

An Installation

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Description: This Installation seeks to connect the Sisterhood woman of today with the women of Judaism who have gone before.

In each case, the individual women are called up as daughters of their mothers and (maternal) grandmothers, in order to further emphasize the connection. Because the “message” for each officer is brief, you may want to add a personal word or two about the woman being installed, her past service to Sisterhood, etc. In each case, use the words of the script to begin or end the installation.

AN INSTALLATION

Welcome to all who have come to celebrate with us as we install new officers of the Sisterhood.

Welcome in the name of:

Eve, the mother of all living things.

Welcome in the name of:

Sarah and Hagar who shared a tent in the desert.

Welcome in the name of:

She who turned to look back.

In the name of:

Those Hebrew and Egyptian women who saved a wailing baby from the papyrus basket and called him “He who is pulled out”.

Welcome in the name of:

The first singer of all, Miriam.

In the name of:
The 7 daughters of the Priest of Midian.

In the name of:
The Bird Woman, Zipporah, wife of Moses.

Welcome in the name of:
Deborah – Judge and Warrior.

In the name of:
Ruth who pledged to follow Naomi.

In the name of:
Jephthah's nameless daughter.

The women at the wall.

The sisters, mothers and forebears who taught us to care for one another.

WELCOME TO YOU ALL!

What is the presence that envelopes us – that sets us apart and gives us the strength and the will to do the deeds we do – to accomplish the hard goals we set for ourselves?

What is the presence that inspires and encourages us year after year to fulfill promises and keep faith with those who have gone before?

Is it the *Shekbinah* – mystical and elusive, who, as she watches over us, infuses us with the will to ever do more? Or do we stand, in a less poetic way, simply in the paths of our mothers?

We are the fruit of our mothers.

We are rooted in their strength and amplitude.

Let us take them for a covenant.

And may their lives be inscribed upon our hearts.

[TO DISCHARGE ALL OUTGOING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS]

We ask all the outgoing officers and members of the Board of Directors to please stand.

We thank you for the conscientious and effective way in which you accomplished your tasks; for the way in which you worked together in union and harmony; and for the way you have set standards that all will wish to emulate.

We discharge you from your duties, acknowledging our debt and grateful for your hard work.

May you be blessed the wings of the *Shekbinah*.

Be blessed with love.

Be blessed with peace.

[DISCHARGE OF PRESIDENT]

We now call on _____ to come forward.

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____.

As we discharge _____ from here term of office as President of our Sisterhood, we recognize and praise her skills of leadership and powers of mind.

She is a woman created! Had she been created from the head, perhaps her mind would have been finite and unable to soar; had she been created from the eyes, perhaps she would have looked only as far as the horizon and not beyond; had she been created from the heart, perhaps she would have felt only one rhythm in her soul and so missed the music contained in all the world; and had she been created from the hand, perhaps it would have prevented her arms from opening in a grander gesture.

But she was created from a rib – and so she has, with good humor, set forth to change the world.

But she was created from a rib – and so she has, with good humor, set forth to change the world.

May you be blessed beneath the wings of the *Shekhinah*.

Be blessed with love.

Be blessed with peace.

[INSTALLING THE NEW BOARD]

In the way of our foremothers who, with great care, creative imagination and skillful needle designed, wove and embroidered curtains and Torah mantles to adorn their synagogues, we know that you will serve this Sisterhood with equal skill and devotion in your deliberations and duties.

You are hereby installed. *MAZAL TOV!*

May you be blessed beneath the wings of the *Shekhinah*.

Be blessed with love.

Be blessed with peace.

[EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE]

We now call on members of the Executive Committee to be installed individually.

Recording Secretary:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

Make a new path – write and recite history – and in the best sense create something new. Bring to it our joys and sorrows, our values and our politics – let it be a beginning and a continuum.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Corresponding Secretary:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

For a journey into history, take along other women. Be a correspondent, an archivist, an accompanist for their stories. Record all the change-makers, the prophets, the women of honor who abominate injustice and go forth to speak the truth.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Financial Secretary:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

Conserving our resources you will keep promises made to the future, to our children and to those who achieve ripe maturity. In every generation, woman keeps her promise.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Treasurer:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

In our Sisterhood, which is solvent and prospering, you as treasurer will prudently execute your duties. With clarity and prudence, you will guard our monetary possessions.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Administration Vice President:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

She has to be of the years to contain it all;
She has to be of the mind to know it all;
She is here now to teach us all;
And we will go forth with her as our guide.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Education Vice President:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

From the lore and wisdom of our mothers to the dissertations of our daughters – those who educate are the change-makers, large or modest. Knowledge shared is knowledge amplified.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Membership Vice President:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

With a gift of melody,

With a gift of beads,
Banishing absence, silence and omission
We offer a new song.
Come sing with us.

You are hereby installed. **MAZAL TOV!**

Torah Fund Vice President:

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

If I do not learn of the roots, how can I find my way through the wilderness, through the thicket, through the storm? But give me my name, my genealogy and I can make my way under the hottest desert sun to home.

You are hereby installed **MAZAL TOV!**

[PRESIDENT]

_____, daughter of _____, granddaughter of _____

She is the one of wise counsel.
She is the one who hears what is said.
Whether good or bad, she heeds it.
She is the one who rises above it;
Turns it around with a sweet tongue,
With wise words.
She heals, and is proclaimed a wise woman.

May you all be blessed beneath the wings of the *Shekinah*,

Be blessed with love.

Be blessed with peace.

CLOSING:

May our hands give us strength to do the work of each day.

May our vision light our path.

May we honor our women leaders, that their days be long in the land.

May we educate our daughters and honor them as we do our sons.

May we go forth with timbrel and song to right the ancient wrongs.