

## WHAT IS WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM?

The mission of Women's League for Conservative Judaism is to strengthen and unite synagogue women's groups, their members and individual members; support them in mutual efforts to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community; and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.



Women's League for Conservative Judaism has grown significantly, both in size and status, from the group first organized by Mathilde Schechter in 1918 when 100 women, many the wives of prominent rabbis and scholars affiliated with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, looked to *perpetuate traditional Judaism in the home, synagogues and communities*, a task they saw *for American Jewish women*. The early leaders disseminated their message through educational materials, written in English, designed to guide young women through the process of acculturation and Americanization.

After World War I, an impressive collection of publications was prepared for the growing membership for use in study circles and at home. Over the following decades, new departments and programs were initiated to meet the needs of the women of the burgeoning Conservative movement.

In the 1970s, Women's League became a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, World Jewish Congress, World Council of Synagogues, World Zionist Congress, and 27 other agencies devoted to Jewish communal service. In the following decade, its voice grew consistently stronger in Israel where it has forged indispensable relationships with the congregations, as well as with the women of the Masorti movement.

As women have found equality both on the pulpit and in the workplace, the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen the establishment of the Leadership Institute, International Days of Study, Orpah's Book List, as well as increased efforts to serve sisterhoods and individual members.

Answering the challenge of relevance for today's Conservative Jewish woman, developing an educated Jewish laity, and appealing to younger women are all part of the challenges being met by Women's League today. Through volunteer programs and projects, members expand their knowledge of, and commitment to, a vibrant and vital Judaism. Participation in contemporary issues, community service and social action is encouraged and supported.

Through its Torah Fund campaign, Women's League provides support for the students of the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), and Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires).

Women's League is as dedicated today as it was in 1918 to the creation of a vibrant American Jewish community that nurtures the individual, family and community with the values of Jewish tradition.

We are extremely proud that **(name of sisterhood)** is affiliated with this phenomenal organization, Women's League for Conservative Judaism!