

INSTALLATION ADDRESS

THANK YOU RABBI ARTSON FOR THOSE BEAUTIFUL WORDS. I VALUE OUR FRIENDSHIP AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE WORK WE DO TOGETHER. AND, I THANK MY SISTER ELLEN FOR HER LOVE. WELCOME CHANCELLOR EISEN, CHANCELLOR SCHWARTZ, RABBI PERETZ, HAZZAN POMERANTZ BORO, MY OWN RABBI, JONATHAN KREMER AND ALL THE OTHER CLERGY AND GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY.

AND HELLO TO ALL MY WOMENS LEAGUE SISTERS,

I KNOW YOU ARE ALL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN ZOOMBURG!

ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM THAT I AM STANDING IN THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE SEMINARY SYNAGOGUE,

THROUGH THE MAGIC OF ZOOM, I AM JOINING YOU TODAY FROM MY HOME IN BLUE BELL, PENNSYLVANIA. IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT THIS SYMBOL OF OUR COMMITMENT TO TORAH FUND IS MY BACKDROP.

NO ONE, ESPECIALLY ME, WOULD HAVE PREDICTED AN INSTALLATION LIKE THIS. AS JEWS, WE HAVE SURVIVED MANY TRANSFORMATIVE MOMENTS AND THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ONE IN OUR LONG AND STORIED HISTORY. FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, OUR PEOPLE HAVE RELIED ON OUR GREAT LEADERS AND SCHOLARS, LIKE THOSE YOU HEARD SPEAK EARLIER TODAY.

AS WELL AS DEPENDING ON OUR SCHOLARS AND LEADERS, WE HAVE RELIED ON OUR TORAH FOR WISDOM AND DIRECTION. THE WOMEN OF WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM, CONTINUE TO DO THE SAME.

DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS OUR MOVEMENT STRUGGLED AND SOME EVEN QUESTIONED OUR FUTURE. WE TOLD OURSELVES, "WE NEED TO CHANGE".

WELL, WOMEN'S LEAGUE HAS FOUND A WAY TO MOVE PAST THAT.

THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN'S LEAGUE HAS ALREADY ADAPTED FROM "WE NEED TO CHANGE" TO "HOW DO WE CHANGE" TO "HOW CAN WE CHANGE **MORE?**"

WE NOW KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

THE ANSWER IS THAT WE NEED TO KEEP CHANGING AS OUR WORLD KEEPS CHANGING. WE NEED TO STAY CURRENT.

BUT, HOW DO WE CHANGE?

MY GOAL AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO CONTINUE TO KEEP US RELEVANT AND MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF CONSERVATIVE JEWISH WOMEN, NO MATTER WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

WE WILL ADAPT AND CONTINUE TO CHANGE EVEN MORE!

WE WILL CHANGE BY FINDING NEW TECHNOLOGICAL WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL OUR WOMEN IN NORTH AMERICA AND ISRAEL.

WE WILL SEARCH OUT NEW COMMUNITIES OF JEWISH WOMEN WORLDWIDE. TO ALL OF THEM, AND OUR EXISTING COMMUNITIES WE WILL PROVIDE NEW AND VARIED JEWISH EDUCATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THAT ONLY WE IN WOMENS LEAGUE CAN PROVIDE.

WE WILL WORK TO INSPIRE OUR MEMBERS TO BE JEWISHLY KNOWLEDGABLE LEADERS WHO UNDERSTAND AND VALUE THE PURPOSE OUR ORGANIZATION. I HOPE TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THOSE SAME LEADERS TO WORK TOWARD AND MAINTAIN THE ORGANIZATION'S SUCCESS.

WE NEED TO CREATE NEW TYPES OF TRAINING TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP BUT TO ALSO INSPIRE OUR MEMBERS TO TAKE ON THOSE LEADERSHIP ROLES AT EVERY LEVEL OF OUR ORGANIZATION. WE WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO EVERYONE WHO WANTS ONE.

THAT LEADERSHIP WILL THEN BE ABLE TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE AS THE LARGEST SYNAGOGUE BASED WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION.

IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS, WE HAVE OFFERED OUR WOMEN INCREDIBLE EDUCATIONAL ZOOM PROGRAMMING. OUR ORGANIZATION HAS USED ZOOM FOR OVER TWO YEARS BUT RECENTLY WOMENS LEAGUE PROVIDED BEGINNER AND ADVANCED TRAININGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS ON HOW TO USE THIS TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENTLY.

SIMILAR TO THE ZOOM TRAINING, WE WILL PROVIDE NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT RELATE TO US AS 21ST CENTURY WOMEN AND ALSO AS JEWS. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WILL PROVIDE A HEVRE, A COMMUNITY, A VILLAGE AND A SAFE PLACE FOR THOSE IN OUR ORGANIZATION. WE WILL OPEN OUR HEARTS AND OUR TORAH TO THOSE WHO NEED US AND WANT US.

WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THAT SPECIAL JOURNEY OF OPENING OUR HEARTS. WE HAVE CREATED A HOLY COMMUNITY! WE NOW OFFER A DAILY OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE PSALMS, SAY THE MISHEBERACH PRAYER AND RECITE MOURNER'S KADDISH.

THIS SERVICE IS LED BY OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RABBI ELLEN WOLINTZ-FIELDS. WE ARE BEING TAUGHT BY A WOMAN RABBI WHO STUDIED IN ONE OF THE FIVE CONSERVATIVE SEMINARIES THAT WE SUPPORT THROUGH TORAH FUND.

EVERY DAY BUT SHABBAT AT 1 O'CLOCK, ALMOST 100 WOMEN GATHER TOGETHER ON ZOOM. WE HAVE SAT SHIVA ON ZOOM WITH WOMEN WHO WERE UNABLE TO BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC. WE HAVE MOURNED WITH THEM AND COMFORTED THEM, AS ONLY WOMEN JOINED AS SISTERS CAN DO.

THIS HOUR SERVICE HAS GIVEN US THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND PRAY TOGETHER AND BY DOING SO, WE HAVE CONQUERED THE ISOLATION THAT SOME FEEL AT THIS TIME. AND, WE HAVE BECOME FRIENDS WITH TOTAL STRANGERS. THAT WAS AN EASY TRANSITION BECAUSE OUR WOMEN HAVE

NEVER CONSIDERED THEIR WOMANS LEAGUE SISTERS TO BE STRANGERS

GOING FORWARD, WE WILL SHARE ALL OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE WITH A GENERATION OF WOMEN WHO GREW UP WITHOUT THOSE ADVANTAGES AND TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN WHO REPRESENT OUR FUTURE.

WE WILL SHARE WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL TO THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THAT WE ARE THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN TOWN. I AM DETERMINED THAT WE DO NOT KEEP THAT SECRET ANY LONGER. I WANT EVERYONE IN OUR MOVEMENT TO KNOW WE ARE HERE AND HERE TO STAY!

WE GO FORWARD DURING THESE TIMES WITH GREAT UNCERTAINTY BUT WITH EVEN GREATER POSSIBILITY.

HODOO L'ADONAI KEY TOV! KEY LI'OLAM CHASDO!

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR GOD IS GOOD AND GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

JUDAISM TEACHES US THAT EVERY MOMENT IN LIFE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FEELING GRATITUDE AND THANKING GOD. TODAY, I FEEL SO GRATEFUL AND I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR MY FAMILY AND FOR THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT. MY SONS MATTHEW, RUSSELL AND MITCHELL AND THE DAUGHTERS THEY BROUGHT ME THROUGH LOVE, ROBYN AND SAMANTHA.

MY GRANDCHILDREN GRAHAM AND SYLVIE WHO ARE WATCHING.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, ELLEN AND BILL, MICHAEL AND BARBARA AND PAUL. MY MOTHER IN LAW DOLORES WHO IS SO LOVING AND SPECIAL TO ME.

I AM BLESSED WITH SPECIAL LONGTIME FRIENDS WHO ALLOW FOR MY CRAZY SCHEDULE AND UNDERSTAND MY PASSION FOR THIS ORGANIZATION.

MOST OF ALL, MY HUSBAND BOB WITH WHOM I SHARE ALL OF THIS. THANK YOU BOB, FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE THIS LOOK EASY AND HOW YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME LOOK GOOD.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

YOU ARE MY WORLD AND I LOVE YOU.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS. ALL OF YOU CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR ME STANDING HERE. YOU APPOINTED ME TO MANY POSITIONS, SHARED, TAUGHT, MENTORED AND HELPED ME PREPARE FOR THIS DAY. I KNOW YOU WILL CONTINUE TO BE THERE FOR ME.

I WANT TO THANK MARGIE MILLER. THANK YOU FOR MY PRESIDENT'S PIN.

BEING IN ZOOMBURG TAKES NOTHING AWAY FROM MARGIE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. MARGIE, YOU HAD A VISION TO VISIT EVERY SISTERHOOD AND HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE PANDEMIC, YOU MIGHT HAVE MADE IT. THIS IS A REMARKABLE DAY AND NOT HOW EITHER OF US WOULD HAVE WANTED TO CELEBRATE.

IT MAY SEEM AS THOUGH TODAY, MARGIE, YOU AND I ARE A SMALL PART OF THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM , BUT THIS CONVENTION HAS HAD A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S LEAGUE IN OUR LIFETIME. DURING THIS PANDEMIC UNDER YOUR ADMINISTRATION, OUR BELOVED ORGANIZATION WAS

RESHAPED AND THAT IMPACT WILL BE FELT FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

THANK YOU MARGIE! CLAP

I WANT TO THANK MY SISTERS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT. ALL MY SISTERS AT SHIRAT HAYAM, VENTNOR, NEW JERSEY AND TEMPLE SINAI, DRESHER, PENNSYLVANIA. YOU MAKE ME PROUD TO BE A MEMBER. AND, I WANT TO THANK MY SISTERS IN THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION WHO TOOK ME IN EIGHT YEARS AGO WITH LOVING ARMS AS ONE OF YOUR OWN. PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF BETH EL CONGREGATION, PHOENIX AND OR TZION IN SCOTTSDALE WHERE I AM A PROUD MEMBER. HERE IS MY SHOUT OUT TO MY SISTERS IN ARIZONA.

AND, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO MENTION AND THANK MY PARENTS, OF BLESSED MEMORY, WHO UNDERSTOOD HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO RAISE JEWISH CHILDREN.

AS FIRST GENERATION AMERICAN JEWS, MY PARENTS' PRIORITY WAS TO MOVE TO A TOWN WHERE WE COULD WALK TO SHUL

SO THAT WE COULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED. AND, WE WERE. MY MOTHER WAS A LIFELONG MEMBER OF TEMPLE SHALOM SISTERHOOD IN MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS. SHE ENSURED MY SISTER AND I RECEIVED AN EXTENSIVE JEWISH EDUCATION IN A TIME WHEN OUR MOVEMENT WAS NOT EGALITARIAN.

MY PARENTS REMINDED US REGULARLY THAT WE WERE THE GRAND DAUGHTERS OF TWO PROUD STRONG WOMEN NAMED SARAH AND REBECCA. MY MOTHER TAUGHT US THAT WE HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY ON THEIR LEGACY OF HACHNASAT ORCHIM AND THE GIVING OF TZEDAKAH WITH A FULL AND LOVING HEART.

I ALSO UNDERTAND I HAVE THE ETHICAL OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY ON MY MOTHER'S LEGACY TO BE A PROUD JEWISH WOMAN.

I KNOW SHE WOULD BE PROUD OF ME TODAY. HER MEMORY BLESSES ME EVERY DAY.

MY JOURNEY AS THE 23RD PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM IS JUST BEGINNING. I AM SURE THERE WILL BE DAYS IT FEELS LIKE WANDERING THROUGH THE DESERT, BUT, I WILL KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU, MY WOMENS LEAGUE SISTERS, ARE THERE JOURNEYING WITH ME.

I THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME ON THIS JOURNEY TODAY. STAY CLOSE-LET'S FEEL THE SAND IN OUR TOES TOGETHER! AND, BE IN TOUCH, CALL OR EMAIL ANYTIME!! SERVE YOU.

I THANK YOU ALSO FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT AND FOR ALLOWING ME TO REPRESENT YOU AS PRESIDENT OF THIS WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION.

THE SISTERS OF ZELOPHCHAD LOOKED ONLY TO THE FUTURE AND THEY WALKED WHERE NO OTHER WOMEN WALKED BEFORE.

WE- MUST DO THE SAME! THANK YOU

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