



Engaging Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Women's League Shabbat 5781
B'Yachad Torah Fund message
Barbara Ezring, International Torah Fund Chair

In the Book of Exodus, Moses convened the entire Israelite community and gave them instructions for building the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. This Mishkan became the religious center for the people in the wilderness. Moses directed the Israelites to bring their gifts – gold, silver, copper, yarns, fine linen, goats' hair, tanned ram skins, acacia wood, oil, spices, lapis lazuli and other stones. Those who were skilled were asked to use their talents to build the ark and its poles, to create the cover, to assemble the lamps, manufacture the table, and sew the garments. “All the men and women whose hearts moved them...brought it as a freewill offering...” (Exodus 35:29) The artisans who were engaged in all the tasks of the sanctuary said to Moses, “the people are bringing more than is needed...” Moses proclaimed to all the Israelites, “men and women, don't bring anymore.” So, the people stopped bringing. Their efforts had been more than enough for all the tasks to be done. (Exodus 36:5-7) What a successful fund-raising effort!

The Israelites worked B'Yachad, Together, combining all their skills, talents and gifts. Together they contributed to create the religious center of the Israelite community.

B'Yachad, together, our Torah Fund contributions support the religious learning centers of our world-wide Conservative/Masorti community, our seminaries. Our students continue to study remotely, the need for technology rises, the students continue to pay their tuition. The B'Yachad General Torah Fund Campaign funds scholarships and programming for students at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, and the Zacharius Frankel College in Potsdam.

B'Yachad, together, our Torah Fund contributions to Creating New Spaces promote safe physical and spiritual spaces for our students - at JTS, the Women's League Study Space in the new undergraduate residence hall, at Ziegler, the Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment. The Gender Bias and Harassment Institute has expanded. Now, congregations may participate in this course as part of their search for a new rabbi or cantor.

B'Yachad, together, through the Torah Fund Legacy Society, our planned-giving initiative, we will ensure that the needs of future generations of students at our seminaries are met.

May our hearts move us to bring our skills, our talents, our gifts to continue the legacy of Jewish scholarship. May we be as successful as our ancestors in the wilderness ensuring that the future leaders of our communities – rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, chaplains, Hillel directors and lay leaders – can study Torah, engage in social justice and pursue their dreams.

Shabbat Shalom