

# Preparation for Shabbat Together

## HaChanah L'Shabbat B'Yachad

### הכנה לשבת ביחד

**Introduction:** Preparation for Shabbat Together is designed for our Sisterhood affiliates to use as either a stand alone program on a Friday night of its choosing or as an add-on to the Women's League Sisterhood Shabbat as a way to build *ruach* (spirit) and connectivity going into this special weekend. Those Sisterhoods that hold their Shabbatot on Friday would need to select another day for this program or may consider running this program before or in lieu of the traditional Friday night service.

The theme of this year's HaChanah L'Shabbat B'Yachad is *B'Yachad* (together). We've selected meaningful, powerful and spiritual readings and interspersed them between the traditional Friday night blessings and rituals.

**Note:** This program may be adapted for use in Saturday's Shabbat service by eliminating the traditional Friday night blessings and songs. Additionally, you may choose to use select some of these readings to enhance your Sisterhood's Women's League Shabbat service.

#### **Implementation:**

1. Being mindful of the timing of Shabbat, select a date that allows for completion of the program before sundown, unless your synagogue allow you to Zoom on Shabbat.
2. As you would begin planning for any event, 2 or 3 months prior to your confirmed Friday date, your Sisterhood should begin to advertise the program, while at the same time, soliciting volunteers to read the

selections. Most of the readings are in English, the blessings may be in Hebrew, and one is a responsive reading.

3. The program chair should keep a list noting who has been assigned what reading. She should be prepared to fill in for anyone who may not be able to login at the last minute.
4. While there are 24 readings, the program can be adapted as per the needs of each Sisterhood. Longer selections can be split between two readers to allow for greater participation. Or, readings can be eliminated if a shorter program is preferred.
5. Suggest that all participants have Shabbat candles ready to light (at the conclusion of the Zoom call), a challah for *Motzei*, and a glass of wine for *Kiddush*.
6. This program is easily adapted to a Zoom format. Be sure to encourage all Sisterhood members to Zoom in whether or not they have a reading. And, send the readings to EVERYONE in attendance. This may be done via email by forwarding the link, which will be provided to you. Being able to follow along definitely enhances engagement!
7. If there were a budget allowance available, printing and mailing a booklet would be fabulous. Alternatively, each member can print out her own copy.
8. To begin, the program chair or the Sisterhood President should welcome all Zoom participants and briefly explain the flow of the program.
9. If your Sisterhood prefers all Zoom participants to be muted, be sure to explain that everyone can unmute to sing *Shalom Aleichem* and to read responsively. Likewise, each reader can unmute herself when it is her turn to read.
10. You may reach out to Grace Schessler, [gschessler@wlcj.org](mailto:gschessler@wlcj.org) with questions and for support.