

Women's League *for* Conservative Judaism



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Shabbat Shalom

If we have all learned anything from the past eight months, it is that we cannot take anything for granted. We cannot just leave our homes without a mask - an item most of us never thought about before.

Let's think back - when did we start learning about the importance of wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID? Ironic isn't it that we started wearing masks soon after, if not during, Purim, the Jewish holiday when we put on masks to hide our identities. The hero of the Purim story, Queen Esther, wore a mask to hide her identity in order to save the Jewish people. Now we wear a mask to help save our lives and the lives of others.

Although we are physically apart, we, as sisters of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, have been even more spiritually and emotionally together. Since March 15th, we have joined together, *B'Yachad*, to pray for healing, to study and to read Psalms and *Pirkei Avot*, and to remember those who have passed, with the recitation of the Mourner's *Kaddish*. Today we join together for Women's League Shabbat to raise our voices in prayer. We are grateful for all of our sisters here today. We praise God each day, and we have learned to not take each day for granted. We join together realizing that whatever we do is enough. Let us not think of what we cannot do, nor dwell on plans that may not have come to fruition. Rather, let us thank God, and each other, for the strength, courage, and perseverance to learn to accept our new times. Let us cherish the time we have together, now, at this moment, today, *Hayom*. We cannot control what happens. What we can do is enjoy the moment, take a deep breath, be grateful for that breath, and thank God for that breath. May we appreciate all we have, and live in the moment, loving today, cherishing *HaYom*, this precious Shabbat, We celebrate together, *B'Yachad*. We cherish the present moment and we also look hopefully to the future, when one day we will be able to hug and embrace each other.

Together, *B'Yachad*, we are stronger.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields
Executive Director, WLCJ