



# THE SISTERHOOD ADVISOR

*Handbook for Sisterhoods*

**Women's League for Conservative Judaism**

*Engaging, Enriching, and Empowering Jewish Women*

**Women's League & Sisterhood**

*The Partnership enriching Jewish women worldwide*



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**

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# THE SISTERHOOD ADVISOR

## *A Handbook for Sisterhoods*

A publication of

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**

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FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**

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## THE SISTERHOOD ADVISOR

Welcome to the *Sisterhood Advisor* - with its focus on helping build stronger and more vital sisterhoods.

While there are many different names for the groups that are affiliated with Women's League, since the majority are called sisterhoods we will use that term throughout the book to represent our sisters in the Conservative/Masorti movement.

Sisterhood is the place that offers women of all ages what they are looking for today: personal growth, community and fun!

While we recognize that each sisterhood is unique, we know that whether we live in the east, west, north, south, in the United States or Canada, we have much in common. The *Sisterhood Advisor* is designed to help give each sisterhood's leadership team the tools to be more successful. Everything – well, almost everything – you wanted to know about sisterhoods is in these pages. And if it's not in here, we've shared resources of where to find answers to your questions.

Always start with our website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org), where you will find even more information and resources, including this book (so you can share it easily with your team). If you have not already visited, please put it on your to-do list. There are pages on the site just for sisterhood members that you will want to access. If you need assistance, please contact Women's League Administrator Razel Kessler at 212.870.1260, ext. 1263 ([rkessler@wlcj.org](mailto:rkessler@wlcj.org)).

Share The *Sisterhood Advisor* with everyone on your executive committee and let them know it is available on the website. Coming soon will be new Women's League materials to share with your membership.

Combined with The *Sisterhood Advisor*, you will have the tools to lead your sisterhood in exciting new directions and make it the place to be for every woman in your synagogue.

### Did you know?

If you can't find what you need on the pages of *The Sisterhood Advisor*, be sure to look at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org), or call 212.870.1260.



## SISTERHOOD STRUCTURES

Start with the basics

Every sisterhood is different and changes over time. A sisterhood's structure should accommodate fluctuations in membership to continue to be relevant.

For some sisterhoods, a traditional president, officers, and board committees work fine. For others, a more flexible or creative approach may be necessary if facing loss of membership, lacking leadership, or just doing the same thing year after year without success.

While the next few pages of The *Sisterhood Advisor* describe the traditional structure of officers and committees, if your sisterhood is not traditional, you might want to try one of these to reflect the women in your community.

- **Rotating sisterhood leadership** could be done on a quarterly basis with several caveats: it should not be onerous for those who need to know who is doing what and when; and the changes in leadership should not cause confusion. Try for seamless transitions.
- **Co-president succession** where each is elected for two years with staggered election years so that each senior co-president has a junior co-president who will succeed her in the second year (with a new junior co-president).
- **Executive committee members** form working partnerships with brand new and seasoned veteran members to allow for sharing of new ideas. There would always be a flow of new women learning about new things or doing things differently and promoting greater communication.
- **Two to three past leaders** step back up, but act in a mentoring capacity to build leadership succession and provide historical insight.
- **Committees without chairs** create working teams of three to five women for all the important areas of your sisterhood: membership, Torah Fund, fundraising, communications, and programming. The work will get done and no one will be overwhelmed by being the specified leader at all times. Different women in the team take charge when addressing different issues within the workload.

Take a serious, strategic look at your sisterhood, its demographics, programming needs, finances, goals and aspirations in a realistic way. Determine goals for one and

two years in the future and hold those who take the job accountable for the work promised.

Reconsider your sisterhood mission statement. If you don't already have one, invite a team of women (both active and inactive members) from your congregation to create a vision that will reflect a connection to each other, to other members of the congregation and to the community-at-large.

Women's League Consulting Services (see page 16) are available to help you.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Some sisterhoods thrive when they facilitate special interest groups (SIGs) for the women in their congregations.

Here is just a sampling of topics:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Yoga Torah Night                            | The Israel Connection  |
| Learn to Read Hebrew                        | Computer Literacy  |
| Adult Bat Mitzvah                           | Religion in American Life                                      |
| Theater Group Museum                        | Women's Health   |
| Mavens Rosh Chodesh                         | Jewish Girl Scouts   |
| Study Famous                                | Interfaith Activities  |
| Jewish Women                                | On-Line and On-Time  |
| Special Person & Me                         | Between the Generations  |
| Math Skills for Toddlers                    | Dealing with Infertility                                       |
| Kosher Cooking                              | On Being a Caregiver   |
| Spa Splurge                                 | Coats for Kids   |
| Israeli Dancing                             | Bikkur Holim   |
| Investment Club                             | MADD   |
| Creating New Rituals/<br>Enhancing Old Ones | Sharsheret   |
| News & Views                                | Book Group   |
| Reading Readiness<br>and Tutoring           | Short Story Group  |
|   | Local Community-based<br>Social Action/Tikkun<br>Olam projects |

## MISSION STATEMENT

A sisterhood mission needs to be reviewed every three to five years. Use one of these sample statements to help formulate one for your sisterhood.

### Sample #1

The mission of \_\_\_\_\_, affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism, is to strengthen and unite the women of the synagogue and support them in efforts to understand and perpetuate Conservative/ Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide. We accept the Jerusalem Program, the platform of the World Zionist Organization.

### Sample #2

The mission of \_\_\_\_\_ is to provide an interactive environment for its members; support the congregation, its youth and religious school; enrich the Jewish education and ties with Israel of its members; and support and unite with Women's League in the understanding and perpetuation of Conservative/ Masorti Judaism. We accept the Jerusalem Program, the platform of the World Zionist Organization.

### Did you know?

Women's League's *Divrei Nashim* units of study can be led by anyone, no training, skills, or previous knowledge necessary! These modules were designed to open a meeting or program with brief but cogent (and sometimes provocative) discussions, and are updated. All you need to do is ask one person to lead the discussion on one of these topics

- Chesed
- Atid/Future
- Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family
- Derekh Eretz: R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
- Hiddur Mitzvah: Enhancing Mitzvot
- Pirkei Imahot: The Wisdom of Our Mothers
- The Environment
- Kol Ishah
- Heart and Soul
- Proverbs

Download all of these at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)

# SISTERHOOD LEADERSHIP

## PRESIDENT OR PRESIDUM

*Your role as a Women's League sisterhood president offers many rewards and challenges. You will motivate, inspire, coordinate, supervise, encourage, and lead your sisterhood to success.*

To effectively lead, you need to prepare for the challenges ahead.

- Know your sisterhood structure through your bylaws. (Sisterhood model bylaws are available at [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org).)
- Meet with your predecessor to benefit from her experience and practical knowledge.
- If sharing the leadership position (co-president or member of a presidium), divide the responsibilities and determine the logistics. Develop a workable communication model.
- Meet with the members of your executive committee to discuss objectives, goals and strategies for the year.
- Familiarize yourself with Women's League materials.
- Join the Women's League PrezNet, the on-line discussion group for sisterhood presidents. Email [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org).

To effectively lead you need to accept responsibility. Understand, though, that you need not be without assistance. Women's League will be there with you.

- Appoint all activity chairs and teams or committees who were not elected.
- Provide good tools for your chairs or team leaders, including Women's League materials, job descriptions, and the report of the person who previously held the position. The by-laws can be helpful.
- Be sure that all board members have the calendar for the year, the names, addresses, phone numbers, emails and positions of all board members.
- Read all information from Women's League and your region and share it.
- You are not a solo leader. Have a communications protocol with your vice presidents and/or team leaders who are your eyes and ears.
- Respond to your members in a timely manner.
- Everyone in sisterhood is a volunteer and fits their volunteering into busy schedules. Thank them!
- Time is valuable so make meetings worthwhile.

- Serve on all committees, with the exception of nominating, as an ex-officio member; vote only to break a tie. Allow the chair to lead; that's why she's the chair.
- A good leader works to replace herself by encouraging future leaders.
- Be a role model; your attendance at Shabbat services, region meetings and conferences encourages others.
- Represent sisterhood on the synagogue board.
- Your role as president automatically establishes you as a member of the region board. Take advantage of all that your region has to offer.

To effectively lead you should take advantage of the many Women's League services. To do so, please:

- Complete your Women's League database online so that information can be sent to your chairs.
- Pay per capita on a timely basis.
- Answer emails and phone calls when they come.
- Clear dates for any sisterhood event so that you do not conflict with region or Women's League events.
- Share your successes with the region; they want to celebrate with you.
- Attend conferences, meetings and convention and encourage others to join you; they are opportunities to learn, share and teach.

What Women's League asks of your sisterhood:

- Keep your membership list up-to-date through the Women's League data base.
- Pay your per capita on time.
- Participate in the Torah Fund campaign.
- Contribute to the Women's League Masorti Women's Project.

## RUN EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

- Create and distribute an agenda ahead of time.
- Notify everyone who needs to make a report and ask that the report be in writing. Reports should not be read at the meeting, but rather discussed.
- Work with your parliamentarian.
- Begin and end on time.
- Stay neutral; vote only to break a tie.
- Begin with *Divrei Nashim*; set the environment for study, learning, and cooperation.

### LEADERSHIP LIBRARY

Women's League has produced a substantial set of publications and videos designed to help with every aspect of running a sisterhood.

If you do not have these, you can download them (as well as other useful materials) at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org). You will need to log on with a password to access these titles:

- Sisterhood Planner: How to Design a Year of Programs
- Ways to the Means: A Guide for Planning Successful Ways & Means Projects
- Blueprint for Membership
- Convention Workshops

Other suggested titles:

- Hiddur Mitzvah Project: A Fresh Approach to Enhancing Mitzvot
- Guidelines for Rosh Chodesh Groups
- Seasonal Materials to Enhance Your Holiday Celebrations
- Membership Magnets 1, 2, 3
- Parliamentary Guide for Sisterhoods
- Model Bylaws for Sisterhoods
- Days of Study

In addition, you should read and utilize (also at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)):

- Videos of previous WLCJ Programs
- Wellness & Learning Network installments
- Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family materials

### STANDARDS OF LEADERSHIP

As a religious organization affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti movement, Women's League recognizes its responsibility to its membership to formulate ideals of leadership that can serve as a standard toward which we can all strive.

In this spirit, we set forth the following cornerstones of commitment and observance, consistent with halakhah of the Conservative movement:

- Shabbat and Yom Tov observance
- Jewish study
- Kashrut
- Tzedakah
- Synagogue attendance
- Israel

Ascending achievement in personal Jewish development is the ultimate goal for our membership. It is our express hope that our leadership will provide the model for others to emulate.

### SHARING WITH WOMEN'S LEAGUE

In order to benefit from your Women's League affiliation, it is important that Women's League has an accurate picture of your membership and chairs in your sisterhood. The easiest way to do that is via the Women's League database using "Manage Positions."

Presidents, financial officers, and data managers all have access to the data base for each sisterhood. You can name a data manager to maintain your sisterhood per capita list, update member information, create spreadsheets, mailing labels and e-mail lists, etc.

In order to receive WL emails, please be sure that you or your data manager, keep your sisterhood database up-to-date and your members opt in for Women's League to be able to share this information with the appropriate members of your sisterhood.

If you need help accessing the website and database, please contact Razel Kessler, 212.870.1260, ext. 1263 or [rkessler@wlcj.org](mailto:rkessler@wlcj.org).

### JEWELS IN THE CROWN AWARDS



Keep track of all of your successful programs and initiatives and you might be a winner of the next Jewels in the Crown awards.

You can find the winners from previous Conventions and their programs at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org). Take a look for suggestions for your sisterhood calendar.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers and other members of the executive committee all have portfolios of responsibilities. The committee meets at the request of the president(s), who acts as chair. The committee's function is to present recommendations to the board for action.

### Who is on the executive committee?

- President(s)
- Vice presidents
- Corresponding secretary
- Recording secretary
- Financial secretary
- Treasurer
- Immediate past president
- Presidential appointments

The president may invite to an executive committee meeting any member whose presence may be pertinent to, or necessary for, the business under discussion. The president may speak and vote as any other member.

Members of the executive committee should:

- Read the sections of The Sisterhood Advisor that pertain to the committees under their aegis.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of any chairs under their portfolio.
- Collect all materials from their predecessors.
- Be familiar with the Standards of Leadership (p.5)
- Be familiar with the basic tenets of Conservative Judaism.
- Convey the message of sisterhood, region, Women's League, and Conservative Judaism.
- Support region and Women's League programs.
- Use the Women's League **Hebrew Word Guide** for the correct Hebrew spelling, translations, transliterations, and pronunciations.

Responsibilities of the executive committee

- Maintain close contact with the president.
- Attend region and area meetings.
- Attend Women's League convention.
- Consult with parallel region officers.
- Represent the president in the community when asked.
- Before installation, deliver to their successors all materials.
- Perform other duties as required.

## VICE PRESIDENTS

A vice president is responsible for the administration of areas of activity assigned by the president.

- Coordinate the chairs of the different activity committees that report to her
- Meet with chairs during the summer to plan and organize projects. Meet with them regularly during the year to evaluate their progress and to assess/reorganize for the future.
- Make sure that their chairs receive updated portfolios.

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording secretaries maintain the history of the organization by taking accurate minutes and keeping records current, to prevent misunderstandings and satisfying policy.

- Record minutes of all meetings.
- Understand how the board works and the responsibilities of the various chairs.
- Send copies of all minutes to the president before the next meeting.
- Keep records of meeting attendance.
- Maintain a policy book that records all motions passed, listed by date and subject matter. Send copies to the parliamentarian and president.

## COMMUNICATIONS (CORRESPONDING) SECRETARY

The communications secretary is responsible for sending out meeting notices, maintaining a presence on the synagogue website, and mailing bulletins and other information.

- Notify members of all meetings.
- Conduct all correspondence on official stationery or email. Update stationery, if necessary.
- Read excerpts of important correspondence at meetings

### BUDGET FOR SUCCESS

One of the best gifts you can give your sisterhood is active participation in Women's League conventions, region conferences, and Leadership Institutes. There should be a line item on your sisterhood budget for presidents as well as up-and-coming new leaders to attend these essential events.

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

It is the responsibility of the financial secretary to maintain the financial records of sisterhood.

Remember that the fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. The financial officer has direct access to the Women's League data base for your sisterhood and can do much of the record keeping directly on the data base.

In billing dues, use the suggested statement (next page).

For help, ask the sisterhood/congregation's accountant for assistance.

- Receive all monies from members and other sources. Keep detailed records.
- Turn all monies over to the treasurer; provide her with records and retain receipted duplicates.
- Arrange for dues collection and turn them over to the treasurer, who issues a receipt for the money.
- Record dues received; bill as necessary (see Appendix I).
- Report regularly on income and status of members.
- Serve on the budget committee.
- Keep transparent records of all accounts between the organization and its members.
- Maintain a separate record of per capita dues, which are payable to Women's League by the treasurer on January 10. Any additional per capita that comes in after that date should be sent to Women's League on collection.
- Correct and update membership data on the Women's League data base.

## TREASURER

- Receive all monies from the financial secretary, record all receipts, make deposits, keep records of monies due.
- Pay all bills by check countersigned by the president, upon receipt of a voucher signed by the president.
- Disburse all monies as directed.
- Report in full regarding all monies requested.
- Cooperate with the synagogue's fiscal review procedures.
- Submit the books to the authorized synagogue accountant for audit before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.
- Serve on the budget committee.

## PARLIAMENTARIAN

The parliamentarian interprets the bylaws and advises the president, without bias, helping to assure orderly procedures. She does not make decisions. The parliamentarian is the chair of the bylaws revision and policy committee. The region parliamentarian should be consulted before a sisterhood takes any action to change its bylaws or policy.

- Facilitates the orderly transition of business.
- Protects the rights of members to propose ideas, speak, vote, serve, nominate, and be candidates.

## Resources

- Women's League Parliamentary Guide
- Model Bylaws for Sisterhoods
- Women's League Guide for Sisterhood Nominating Committees

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Serve as the sisterhood's policy-making body.
- Represent sisterhood in the synagogue and community.
- Develop new leadership.
- Support Women's League and transmit information and materials from Women's League and region to members.

## What board members should know

- The objectives of sisterhood and its mission
- Sisterhood policies
- The relationship among sisterhood, region and Women's League

## Duties of board members

- Approve the budget.
- Serve on committees as assigned.
- Support programming and fundraising projects.
- Attend meetings.
- Work toward the Standards of Leadership.
- Attend synagogue services regularly.
- Be active in sisterhood and region.
- Attend region and area meetings and events.
- Participate in the Torah Fund campaign.

## EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

- The rabbi, cantor, and educational director, or their spouses, should be ex-officio members of the board with full power of voice and vote.



## BUILDING SISTERHOOD

### Make the most of your sisterhood statement

To let your members know what they can expect from sisterhood, include with the dues statement:

- Sisterhood or synagogue brochure
- List of officers with contact information
- Description of projects supported by sisterhood
- Calendar of events
- List of ongoing sisterhood activities and programs
- Show the added value of membership in Women's League
- Short survey asking what they are looking for in sisterhood

[Name of Sisterhood]

Affiliated with

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues for 20\_\_\_\_/57\_\_\_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_\_\***

Make check payable to \_\_\_\_\_ Sisterhood

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_, Financial Secretary

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Dues include per capita to Women's League for Conservative Judaism.



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM** represents you at major Jewish, international, national, religious, and public policy organizations.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Region** offers area meetings, personnel, workshops and training services.

### Making Free Membership Profitable

Offering a new member of your synagogue a **free first year of sisterhood** is a wonderful way to introduce her to your organization.



By including her on the Women's League membership list and **paying her per capita dues**, she will receive **New Outlook for Women's League**. Published 2-3 times a year, and she will find a voice in the largest women's synagogue-based organization in the world.

Download the brochure ***How To Make Free Membership Profitable for Everyone*** at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

### PER CAPITA

Per capita dues fund Women's League administration, programs, and materials. The per capita rate for sisterhood members is \$15 per member.

Per capita is payable for each member, whether regular, life, courtesy, ex-officio, or honorary.

For your convenience, you should do all updates to your per capita data online.

Check the names of newly enrolled members to keep billing records complete.

Make deletions and changes of address on the data base as they occur throughout the year. Send per capita payment for any new members.

Sisterhoods are responsible for all members listed on the membership database as of December 31.

## SAMPLE SISTERHOOD BUDGET

|   | PAST YEAR | PROJECTED |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| <b>SISTERHOOD INCOME</b>  |           |           |
| Membership dues (includes Women's League per capita)  | _____     | _____     |
| Judaica Shop (net)  | _____     | _____     |
| Fundraising Projects (itemize) such as donor, thrift shop, dinner dance (net)                         | _____     | _____     |
| _____   | _____     | _____     |
| _____   | _____     | _____     |
| Contributions (Funds, Tributes, Individual)   | _____     | _____     |
| Other Income (itemized)   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL SISTERHOOD INCOME</b>  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TORAH FUND RECEIPTS **</b>   | _____     | _____     |
|   |           | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>   |           | _____     |
| <br><b>EXPENDITURES</b>   |           |           |
| <b>Per Capita dues paid to Women's League</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| (Per capita monies should be kept in a separate account. They are due January 10.)                    |           |           |
| <b>Torah Fund** Disbursements</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| (**Torah Fund monies should be sent directly to the Torah Fund office or kept in a separate account.) |           |           |
| <br><b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>   |           |           |
| Stationery and printing   | _____     | _____     |
| Postage   | _____     | _____     |
| Supplies  | _____     | _____     |
| Telephone   | _____     | _____     |
| Publicity and Bulletin  | _____     | _____     |
| Meeting expenses  | _____     | _____     |
| Zoom or Constant Contact  | _____     | _____     |
| Membership  | _____     | _____     |
| Programming and Education   | _____     | _____     |
| Other _____   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| <br><b>PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES</b>   |           |           |
| Women's League Convention Fund (budgeted yearly)  | _____     | _____     |
| Region Conferences and Meetings   | _____     | _____     |
| Community functions   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| <br><b>EXPENSES for MEMBERS</b>   |           |           |
| Women's League Convention   | _____     | _____     |
| Region Conferences and Meetings   | _____     | _____     |
| Training (Leadership Institutes, etc)   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES for MEMBERS</b>   | _____     | _____     |

## SAMPLE SISTERHOOD BUDGET

|  | PAST YEAR | PROJECTED |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>COMMITMENTS TO CONGREGATION</b>   |           |           |
| Annual line-item congregation budget                                       | _____     | _____     |
| Additional commitments (kiddush, pulpit flowers, etc.)                     | _____     | _____     |
| Special projects (itemize)   |           |           |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL COMMITMENTS TO CONGREGATION</b>                                   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>YOUTH/SCHOOL</b>  |           |           |
| Youth Activities (USY, Kadima, Ramah, College Outreach)                    | _____     | _____     |
| Religious School (Parent/Teacher meetings, holiday celebrations, etc.)     | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL YOUTH/SCHOOL</b>  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>GIFTS</b> (new members, life cycle events, illness, condolence)         |           |           |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL GIFTS</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>   |           |           |
| Scholarship Funds (itemize) (eg: Ramah, USY, Solomon Schechter Day School) |           |           |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| _____  | _____     | _____     |
| Masorti Israel/Overseas Women's Group                                      | _____     | _____     |
| Other Women's League appeals   | _____     | _____     |
| Other _____  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>   |           |           |
| Contingency Fund   | _____     | _____     |
| Other _____  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>   | _____     | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>  | _____     | _____     |
| <b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURES</b>  | _____     | _____     |

*Sisterhood, like Women's League, can function as either teams or committees.*

- **Teams:** all members of the team share responsibility and lead in their area
- **Committees:** have a chair who is responsible

Each sisterhood is unique and has different ways to meet the needs of its membership and potential membership. Here are some suggestions for committees:

### BOOKS

- Book discussion group that meets regularly
- Enters into a partnership with Judaica shop to promote Jewish reading
- Encourages sisterhood members and their families to read books and periodicals of Jewish content

#### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- BookMarks
- Book Corner
- Women's League Reads
- Author Discussions on WLCJ's
- YouTube Channel

#### Other resources

- Jewish Book Council ([www.jewishbookcouncil.org](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org))
- Association of Jewish Libraries ([www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org))
- Jewish Review of Books

### BUDGET & FINANCE

Budgets help a sisterhood determine the funds needed for activities and to anticipate the income to fund them and should reflect all the needs for the year. The committee should include the treasurer, financial secretary and vice presidents affected by the budget.

The budget should be prepared at the end of the fiscal year for the next year. A balanced budget should be presented to the board of directors for approval and should include the actual expenditures and income from the previous year.

#### Contributions:

All funds collected by, and on behalf of, sisterhood should be reserved for it and its congregation.

Women's League requests that you set aside specific funds for Masorti Women (see next column) as well as for other causes from time to time. Contributions to organizations not related to Women's League or

requested by Women's League should be limited to **token amounts** and allocated only upon direction of the board of directors.

### CREATIVE JUDAIC ARTS

Encourage members to create family heirlooms and promote an appreciation of Judaic arts and crafts and *hiddur mitzvah* (embellishment of a mitzvah).

#### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- An expansive selection of instructions for a wide variety of creative projects
- *The Women's League Hiddur Mitzvah Project*
- CJA Listserv- contact [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org)

### DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING

Guide the sisterhood to fundraising events that are in keeping with the ideals of Judaism; primary purposes are educational, cultural and inspirational.

#### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- Ways to the Means

### ISRAEL

Women's League is committed to the support of Israel with a multi-faceted program:

- Love of Israel is inherent in our tradition, and a component of our bylaws
- Education about Israel
- Economic independence
- Political and financial support for the Masorti (Conservative) movement
- Tourism and aliyah
- Political advocacy
- Women's League supports Mercaz and the Masorti Foundation
- Support of the bat mitzvah program for girls and their mothers

**Just One Dollar:** Each sisterhood is asked to make a contribution equal to one dollar per member. Fundraising can involve passing a pushke at an event, or it could be a fundraiser unique to your Sisterhood. Donations will fund the annual **Masorti Women's Days of Study**, as well as vital projects for the 60+ Masorti kehillot (congregations). Sisterhoods are urged to send donations to the WLCJ office and note "Annual Masorti Donation." A complete list of kehillot, with contact information, appears in the WL calendar diary, and on the website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

# SISTERHOOD COMMITTEES

## JUDAICA SHOP

- To educate and to serve the community by its selection of ritual objects and gifts, educational materials and resources
- To be a business enterprise
- Partners with other chairs to enhance sisterhood
- Should stock Women's League material
- Listserv for Judaica shop chairs, contact [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

The role of the membership committee is to recruit, reclaim and retain new and ongoing members. Remember, all activities are membership activities... and membership is a never-ending activity!

### Resources at [WWW.WLCJ.ORG](http://WWW.WLCJ.ORG):

- Blueprint for Membership
- Sisterhood Program Planner
- Membership Magnets 1, 2, 3
- How to Make Free Sisterhood Membership Profitable for Everyone!
- Reaching Out to Your Sisterhood Membership

## MITZVOT

- Programs for mitzvah-based activities that cover many interests and holidays
- Team approach allows one woman to be responsible for one holiday
- The Women's League Hiddur Mitzvah Project and Mitzvah Yomit: A Daily Mitzvah are invaluable resources
- Special events could be a Women's Seder, Vashti's Banquet, Ushpizot, or a Day of Study

### *Did you know?*

**Kolot BiK'dushah** is the cadre of Women's League members who are qualified to lead services and read Torah and Haftarah.



## NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee identifies the leadership that will direct and strengthen sisterhood. It is elected by the membership or appointed by the president. Members should be familiar with the abilities of the general members. The chair should have a copy of your current bylaws so she can be familiar with your procedures.

The committee has an uneven number of members, including the chair. Potential candidates for office should not be on the committee. The president is not a member and does not attend the meetings.

### Responsibilities of the nominating committee:

- At the first meeting, the parliamentarian should clarify bylaws and policy.
- Between elections, assist the president in filling any vacancies that arise. These appointees serve until the end of the president's term.
- Inform Women's League and your region nominating committee chair of any changes on the board during the year, or when vacancies are filled.
- Honor the confidential nature of the committee.
- Consider candidates by their performance of duties, attendance at meetings and synagogue services.
- Leaders in sisterhood should act as role models. See Standard of Leadership, on page 4.

### Establishing a slate:

- Nominate a candidate for president first.
- Consult with the current president and her nominated successor.
- Ask for suggestions from the membership.
- Provide nominees with descriptions of their schedules, obligations and exact job descriptions.
- The bylaws determine the number of officers, elected board of directors, appointees and term.

### Resources:

- The Consulting Services department is prepared to assist any nominating committee.

### Resources at [WWW.WLCJ.ORG](http://WWW.WLCJ.ORG)

### PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy is integral to the Women's League program. Sisterhoods should use the materials they receive from Women's League in planning activities and social action campaigns. They should also respond to action alerts. Following Women's League policy, they should participate in local and national affairs.

To keep members up-to-the-minute on issues and events of interest to them in our ever-changing world, read WL Week for the Social Justice Blurb of the Week.

#### Resources at [WWW.WLCJ.ORG](http://WWW.WLCJ.ORG):

- Women's League Resolutions
- Guide to Writing Women's League Resolutions
- Guide to Voter Registration
- Guide to Writing Advocacy Letters

### PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The communications committee encourages the participation of your membership through brochures, invitations, flyers, eblast ads and articles, internet, and Facebook. Public relations is a way to reach out to all Jewish women and communicate with the community about your sisterhood and its activities.

#### Using social media to attract and connect:

Social media is another way to communicate to the people you value in the format they are already using. What a great way to engage people in what is happening in your sisterhood.

**Online and current:** If your synagogue has an online discussion group, be sure sisterhood has a constant presence and voice. Confirm sisterhood has a page on the synagogue web site and update regularly.

#### Resources at [WWW.WLCJ.ORG](http://WWW.WLCJ.ORG):

- Toward Sisterhood Success Bulletin 4 is a complete review of current social media
- Image Plus Public Relations Handbook
- Graphics and information

Follow Women's League and what's happening in other sisterhoods on Facebook.

### TIKKUN OLAM

Jewish values require us to take an active part in the community. Each sisterhood knows its community best and can choose accordingly. Suggestions include:

- working with the disabled in the synagogue;
- giving to both Jewish and community-based charities, but not as their fundraising arm.

#### Resources at [WWW.WLCJ.ORG](http://WWW.WLCJ.ORG):

- The Mitzvah of Bikkur Holim
- Giving Tzedakah with Thought
- Yom Yarak: Green Day

#### Other resources:

- Mazon (a Jewish response to hunger)
- Collision on the Environment & Jewish Life (COEJL)
- [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) and [www.ljgooders.com](http://www.ljgooders.com)

### TORAH FUND

Supporting the schools of higher education in the Conservative movement is an overarching role for Women's League and its affiliated sisterhoods.

The roles of the Torah Fund committee in a sisterhood:

- Help reach the goal set by the region Torah Fund vice president and region president
- Educate the membership about Torah Fund and the schools/programs it supports
- Inspire members to contribute to Torah Fund

**Resources:** Torah Fund provides the necessary information. For information, please call the Torah Fund director at 212.678.8876

Torah Fund contributions should be deposited in a separate account and forwarded monthly to:  
Torah Fund/Jewish Theological Seminary  
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

### YOUTH LIAISON

- Between sisterhood and synagogue committees
- Keep sisterhood informed of activities and bring sisterhood concerns to the committees

### CANADIAN POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The Canadian Policy & Advocacy Committee of Women's League deals with issues relevant to Jewish life in Canada, but that is by no means its sole purpose.

Canadian sisterhoods should encourage members to join MERCAZ Canada:  
[Mercaz-masorti@interactivepages.com](mailto:Mercaz-masorti@interactivepages.com)



# WHAT YOUR REGION DOES FOR YOU

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE REGIONS

Sisterhoods affiliated with Women's League are organized into 13 local regions. The regions are vital links in our network.

When you connect to your region, Women's League can bring you even more services in the most effective way possible. Regions have volunteers who are available and willing to assist the chairs in your area and sisterhood.

**Every sisterhood president is automatically on the region board.** By participating in your region, your whole sisterhood benefits!

### Highlights of the region structure

Your sisterhood plays an integral role in improving communications between your members and other sisterhoods in your region.

Your region team can be a great asset as you become comfortable in your role as president. They are experienced sisterhood women who are ready, willing and able to help you succeed. Working with this team will help you assess your sisterhood's needs and identify what services will benefit you the most.

### Who is on the region team?

- Region president
- Region area vice president or sisterhood support vice president (depending on the structure of your region)
- Your local area director or a representative of the region board assigned to your sisterhood

### Your sisterhood's support team

The region leaders are part of your region's support system, your first line of defense. They hopefully live close enough so that they can provide effective and personal service to you and your sisterhood team. They are experienced in sisterhood and region and can get you the information you need quickly.

We encourage a member of your region team to communicate with you every 6-8 weeks. She will also help create networking opportunities for you with other sisterhoods in your area and region. We encourage video or conference calls, as well as face-to-face meetings when geographically feasible. If you have not heard from a representative of your region, please contact your region president. Her email can be found on the website under regions.

## Benefits of your region

Your sisterhood has much to gain from your region: assistance in building membership, speakers, consulting services, bulletins, and more. It is to your benefit to become an active member of your region board. Similarly, invite region officers and chairs to your programs to get to know them so that they can become familiar with your sisterhood.

The area director/sisterhood support team is your link to your region and to Women's League but you are the one who makes this connection work! Region personnel will work with you to solve challenges and resolve issues, or put you in touch with those who can be most helpful.

## Sisterhood responsibilities to the region

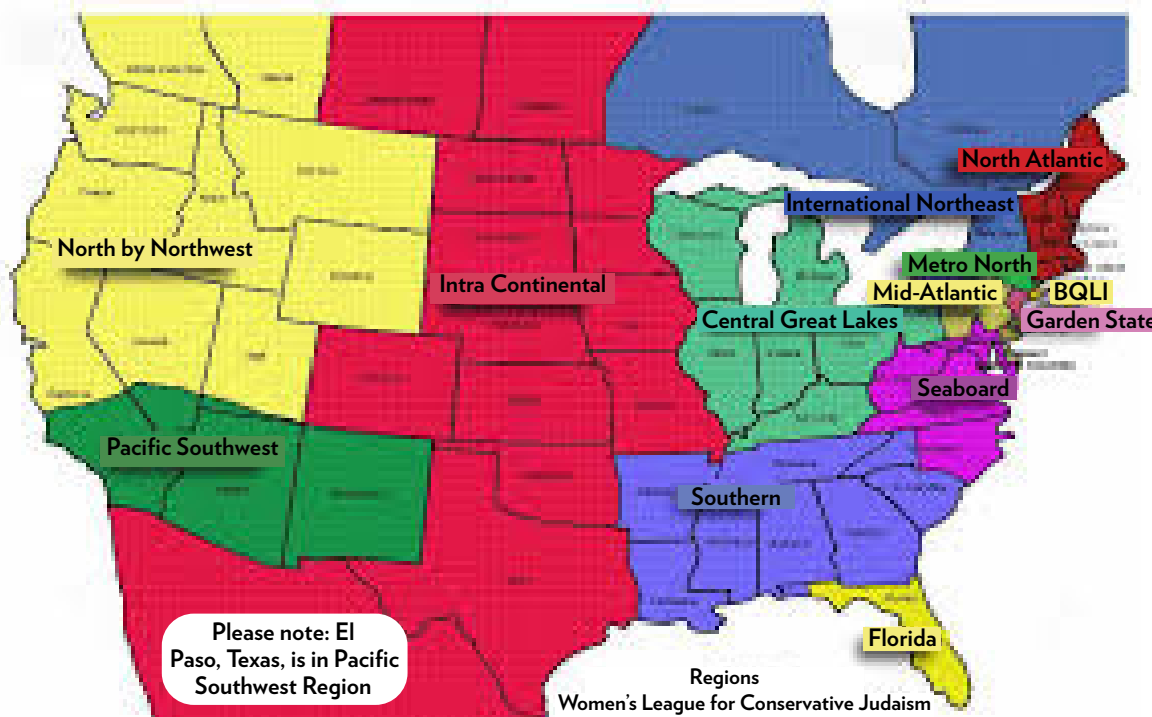
- Clear sisterhood dates with the region calendar.
- Attend all region meetings and functions and encourage others to join you.
- Publicize all region events and meetings on your website, Facebook page, eblasts, and at all events.
- Encourage sisterhood members to attend region events.
- Budget funds for you and other members to attend region and Women's League events.
- Read and respond to region mail, email and calls.
- Disseminate information received from the region to your membership. Remember, in most cases you are the only one receiving this information and we are counting on you to share it!

## Region events

Each region provides conferences and meetings throughout the course of the year. These are opportunities for you to meet other women in your position and to share ideas and solve challenges. Be sure that you or other representatives from your sisterhood attend. These are opportunities for you to connect to your region and learn from others.

Your region is there to help you and to celebrate with you and to share some of the burdens in the bad times. Let them know what's happening in your community.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REGIONS

### **No one from my region is contacting me. Why would that be?**

There could be several reasons. First, you should check that your online Women's League profile is correct (login to [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org) and click on Update My Profile) and that you have opted in to receive emails from Women's League. Women's League and your region find out who holds which position when a sisterhood president or data manager fills out the online data for your sisterhood using this information. If the profile does not have correct phone numbers and/or email addresses, then your region president and chairs can't contact you. All contact information is secure with Women's League.

Of course, as in all volunteer organizations, at times a volunteer may not be doing all that she could/should be doing. If that is the case, Women's League can help; call 212.870.1260. Our goal is to strengthen communications with each sisterhood president and her board members.

### **Why should I forward our region's Shabbat e-mail? Our women are inundated with emails.**

Each region's Shabbat e-mails contain pertinent information about events on the region and international levels. They include events that sisterhoods in your area/region are planning so your sisterhood women can participate. By forwarding the email to your membership you are connecting your sisterhood to the larger network of Women's League and its regions. Hopefully a member will read about something that resonates with her. It happens all the time! The more women find out about an event or project, the more they will participate.

### **How does my sisterhood benefit when we attend region meetings?**

Think back to your days in a youth group. Remember the connections with others in your area, region or internationally? That connection enabled you to network, share ideas and *bring them home*. Women's League is the same. We are looking for new ideas, and those can come from the women in your region. The region structure is there for your support, whether as consulting services, fundraising ideas, new program/membership suggestions so that you are not planning the same events year after year, or simply to be a part of something larger. Every sisterhood has its good years and not so good years; your connections to your region ensure that you have awesome years!

## CONSULTING SERVICES

Be sure that your sisterhood is getting everything it can from Women's League. Put your per capita dues to work and let Women's League provide the services necessary to maintain a strong, healthy and vibrant sisterhood.

Invite a Women's League consultant into your sisterhood for an on-site or Zoom seminar. These seminars are designed to energize your sisterhood by enhancing individual skills, motivating members, and expanding involvement.

Or you can choose to meet with a consultant in a smaller group or even one-on-one to troubleshoot or deal with a one-time issue.

All consulting services are led by trained volunteers. No remuneration is permitted. A consultant's travel and hotel expenses are paid by Women's League. Sisterhoods are responsible for meals and transportation to and from the airport and hotel.



### Choose from these topics or confer with your consultant to design a seminar for the specific needs of your sisterhood

**Communication: Social Media and Zoom:** The various delivery systems to help you reach all of your members and potential members

**Goal Setting/Strategic Planning:** Set up a team to envision your sisterhood's future. Create a reasonable action plan for success

**Leadership Development:** Identify and develop new leaders

**Membership:** How to recruit and retain members

**Accessing WLCJ Resources:** Program and Education

**Sisterhood & Synagogue Community:** Work effectively with other leaders in your synagogue

**Team Building:** Involve more women and have them work together successfully

**Sisterhood 101:** Basic procedures for operating effectively and how Women's League can help

**Or let us custom design a workshop for you on a variety of topics.**

## MORE ON THE TRAINING SERVICES MENU

### Mentoring

The mentoring program begins with a one-on-one telephone conversation between a consultant and a sisterhood president or leader to provide support and ideas, to answer questions, or to help solve an issue.

### Workshops via Zoom

Offered throughout the year, topics include Membership, Finances, Programming and others.

### PrezNet

Network with other sisterhood presidents and share information, exchange ideas and solve common problems. Join the forum open to sisterhood presidents only by writing to [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org).

### Leadership Institute

Recognizing the importance of developing knowledgeable and energizing leaders to strengthen sisterhoods, Women's League created the Leadership Institute. Designed to enhance personal growth, reinforce a commitment to Conservative Judaism and strengthen leadership capabilities, the Institutes welcome new, potential, and developing leaders. Leadership Institutes are offered throughout North America on a rotating basis. Check [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) for the next institute.

Register online at [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org) or fill out the form on the next page and email to [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org).

## REQUEST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

Women's League seminars are designed for sisterhood officers, board members and future leadership whose attendance at the seminar will benefit your sisterhood. A Women's League Consultant will develop your sisterhood's personal training seminar.

You can sign up for a seminar directly on the website at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) or fill out this form and return it to Women's League.

**A seminar requires 2 1/2 hours in person or 1 1/2 hours on Zoom. Check two to three topics per seminar.**

Each session is customized to meet the needs of your Sisterhood.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications: Social Media and Zoom | <input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with Sisterhood Challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Setting/Strategic Planning       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood & Synagogue Community   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood 101                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Building                         |   |

Complete this form. **Please print.** Mail or email it at least six weeks in advance of the dates requested. Please list three possible dates.

[1] Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ [2] Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ [3] Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Sisterhood \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated attendance \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar to be held at \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

President/Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Position if not president: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or Email to: **Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Consulting Services**  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820, New York, New York 10115  
email: [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org)

# THE ULTIMATE NETWORK: WOMEN'S LEAGUE & SISTERHOOD



## Engaging, Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women

*The mission of Women's League for Conservative Judaism is to strengthen and unite synagogue women's groups and their members as well as 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 with Jews worldwide. Women's League accepts the Jerusalem Program, which is the platform of the World Zionist Organization. [For a description of the Jerusalem program, go to [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)]*

### What per capita dues do for your members

Women's League provides many intangibles, such as an international network of Conservative women, a voice in world Jewish bodies, opportunities to become leaders on the regional and national level, as well as services and materials:

- Services to sisterhoods for an effective organization
- Educational and programming material for learning and a variety of social and cultural activities
- Administrative materials such as The Sisterhood Advisor, Ways to the Means, and Blueprint for Membership
- New Outlook for Women's League, sent to all members two times a year
- Consulting Services
- Leadership Training Institutes
- Publications
- Conferences, symposia, meetings, and conventions

### Social Action

Thanks to the numbers of our membership, Women's League is a respected voice at several international organizations. You can find a complete list of the organizations we support or which we are members of on page 23.

Women's League sends periodic Action Alerts via e-mail to its members on issues relevant to Conservative/Masorti Judaism and women on the world scene.

### Managing sisterhood online with the Women's League data base

Sisterhood presidents, financial officers and data managers have direct access to the information about their sisterhood on the Women's League online data base. You can update your per capita lists and sisterhood profiles directly. You can use the system as your own sisterhood data base.

### *Download the most recent guide to using the database on the homepage of [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)*

On the upper pink band of the homepage of [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) click on **Login** to access the information about your sisterhood. If it is your first time logging on or if you have forgotten your password, click on the appropriate button on the bottom. Otherwise, enter your email (the one Women's League has on file, please!) and password.

You will see two lists of options. To the left is your personal information, which should be updated.

On the right you will see **Sisterhood List Access**. This information is solely for the use of your sisterhood and should not be shared.

### Women's League is greening

Out of respect for our environment and in keeping with our commitment to tikkun olam, Women's League's preferred method of communication is through e-mail and our website. If you would prefer to receive information via the mail, please contact Razel Kessler, Administrator, at 212.870.1260, ext. 1263 or email [rkessler@wlcj.org](mailto:rkessler@wlcj.org).

### Publications

For a full selection of the educational, programmatic, and inspirational Women's League materials in print, visit [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org).

## WWW.WLCJ.ORG

From the home page, download the guide for sisterhood presidents. The guide has all the information you need to access your sisterhood data.

On the site there are two important sections for sisterhoods, under **RESOURCES**:

- **Resources for Friends and Members** does not require a password. You will find most of the Women's League educational and study materials, Creative Judaic Arts patterns, resolutions, and much more.
- **Resources for Sisterhood & Region Administration** requires a password (if you don't have one, contact Razel Kessler, rkessler@wlcj.org/212.870.1260, ext. 1263, immediately). This is where you will find materials designed just for sisterhoods, including Blueprint for Membership, Image Plus, publicity graphics, and useful forms.

*Women's League hosts several online discussion groups to meet the needs of our various constituencies. You are invited to participate in whichever meets your needs, but we strongly recommend the PREZNet for all sisterhood presidents. To participate in any, send an email to info@wlcj.org.*

## WLCJNet

Members participate in online discussions about sisterhood and region business, share ideas, and learn how others deal with similar problems and situations.

## PREZNet

Network with other sisterhood presidents and share information, exchange ideas and solve common problems online. Open to sisterhood presidents only.

## Judaica Shops

Very active discussion of the needs of Judaica shop chairs, including affordable merchandising and recommendations for reliable vendors.

## Mothers and Friends of American Olim

Any Women's League member who is a mother of an Israeli, or a friend of one, may join this group. Discussions cover personal experiences, requests for assistance and camaraderie.

## Creative Judaic Arts

Share projects and ideas that fulfill the mitzvah of Hiddur Mitzvah.

## New Outlook for Women's League

Our latest publication, New Outlook is designed for our members and features articles on hot topics, profiles of fascinating sisterhood members (let us know about someone in your sisterhood), holiday stories and much more. It will arrive in mailboxes 2 times a year.

## Mishpachah:

### The Modern Jewish Family I & II

The goal of the Mishpachah project is to recognize the diverse character of our Jewish families and to encourage our communities to be pluralistic, welcoming, inclusive and open-hearted to all.



Women's League is offering materials that focus on a variety of subjects affecting today's families: diversity, continuity, identity, conflict, and celebration. There is truly something here for everyone and sisterhoods can use any number of elements for programming, study, social action, and more.

## Personal Conversations

We present opportunities for women to learn about their own health and wellness, as well as to engage in Jewish study. Personal Conversations were born from understanding the complex relationship between physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

As the project moves ahead, we welcome contributions and involvement. If you would like to participate, please email info@wlcj.org. This is an organic and growing project, and your ideas are important.

## Weekly Words of Torah (WWOT)



Every week, WLCJ Executive Director Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields writes inspiring reflections on that week's Torah portion. For more information, please contact ewolintz-fields@wlcj.org.



## EXPANDING THE NETWORK

Get your members to be active and engaged members of the

### WOMEN'S LEAGUE NET

*The best way for your members to enjoy the added value of their membership in Women's League for Conservative Judaism is to join our online network. They will find out about the many programs, projects, materials, and more that are available. Ask your members to follow these simple steps to authorize Women's League to share with them via email. They'll be glad you did, and you will find that they just might be more involved members of sisterhood.*

1. Go to [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)
2. Click on Member Services then Services to Members and scroll down to WLCJNet.
3. Click on name of moderator.

### TIPS TO GET THE MOST FROM WWW.WLCJ.ORG



Click for our **Facebook** page. Sign in and like us



Click for our **Instagram** Page. Sign in and follow us



Click for our **Twitter** Page. Sign in and follow us



Click for our **Youtube** Page. Sign in and follow us



**Women's League for Conservative Judaism**  
Engaging, enriching & empowering Conservative Jewish women

[About](#) [Member Services](#) [Programs](#) [Resources](#) [Quick Links](#)

To get back to the home page, click on the white **Women's League logo** on the top of the page There are four menu topics with drop down choices: About, Member Services, Programs, Resources, and Quick Links. These will bring you into the heart of the website. On each page is an Index with all of the subtopics listed.



Search this website

GO

**Search box:** be specific when looking for information. If it doesn't work at first, try



different wording (Women's League Shabbat rather than Sisterhood Shabbat)



Click to reload the page when adding or changing data (e.g. on sisterhood database)



Click to go back to previous page; hold down to see complete history of what pages you already



The Women's League Torah Fund Campaign supports the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires), and Zacharias Frankel College (Germany). All funds raised go toward developing, strengthening and maintaining these schools, providing scholarships and funding programs.

### Donate to the **B'Yachad Torah Fund General Campaign**

The Torah Fund Campaign began in 1942 as a scholarship fund. In 1963, it merged with the Mathilde Schechter Residence Halls campaign that provided housing for undergraduate students. In time the campaign identified needs and raised funds for specific projects, including:

- Women's League Educational Pavilion
- Women's League Seminary Synagogue
- Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall Renovation
- Goldsmith Hall
- Residence Halls at American Jewish University
- JTS Quadrangle
- JTS Library bookshelves
- Schechter Institute Sculpture Garden
- She Plants a Seed
- Creating New Spaces

### The Role of the Torah Fund Committee

At the beginning of each year, sisterhoods receive their fundraising goal. This goal is determined by the region president and Torah Fund region vice president based on the previous year's donation and other factors. Sisterhoods should strive for 100 percent participation from their executive committee and board of directors and encourage participation from every member. Each year sisterhood Torah Fund vice presidents or chairs receive materials that include guides and examples of fundraising letters. The region Torah Fund vice president is in regular communication with sisterhood chairs, serving as a resource.

### Creating New Spaces

The on-going "Creating New Spaces" campaign supports the physical and professional needs of our students:

- Women's League Study Space in the new Undergraduate Residence Hall, part of the JTS state-of-the-art campus renovation.
- Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment, a special course of training at the

Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies to encourage safe space discussion of gender bias and harassment. We welcome all donations, no minimum! To give online now, click here: <https://inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund> For more information, contact Carol Simon, [csimon@wlcj.org](mailto:csimon@wlcj.org)

### The Torah Fund Legacy Society

The Torah Fund Legacy Society, our planned-giving initiative, provides us the opportunity to give an after-lifetime gift to Torah Fund.

Through this endeavor, we ensure that our work will meet the needs of future generations of Jewish students. Please, contact Edna Schrank, Chair, [eshrank@wlcj.org](mailto:eshrank@wlcj.org) or Marcia Toppall, co-Chair, [marciatoppall@gmail.com](mailto:marciatoppall@gmail.com) for more information and to join the Torah Fund Legacy Society.

For additional information contact:

Lisa Paule, Executive Director  
Torah Fund, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027  
[lipaule@JTSA.edu](mailto:lipaule@JTSA.edu) 212.678.8876

Each year a new Torah Fund theme is chosen. The Torah Fund theme for 2020-2021 is **B'Yachad - Together**. Our theme represents the joy of sisterhood members working **together** year-round to make important contributions to the Jewish community through their volunteer efforts at synagogues across the United States and Canada. Our pride in being Jewish shows in everything we do. We are high achievers in our professional and personal lives, and we accomplish even more **together**! Each of us is one small nugget of gold, but **together** our small gifts reflect and refract the light inside us and help each other shine. **Together**, since 1942, the modest contributions of thousands of individuals to this grassroots fundraising effort called Torah Fund, have helped to educate and train each generation of rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, summer camp directors, chaplains, campus Jewish life staff, and committed lay leaders. These are the people who guide and teach, console and uplift our people, one soul at a time, in person and remotely. We make this happen **together**.

Download **Torah Fund Campaign Materials/Resources**



## BRINGING YOU INTO THE WORLD COMMUNITY

Our representation on and/or support of these organizations enables us to:

### Enrich Jewish Cultural Life

National Ramah Commission  
American Jewish Historical Society  
Girl Scouts  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Jewish Book Council  
JBI International  
The Jewish Museum  
Jewish Women's Archive

### Support Israel

Masorti Foundation for  
Conservative Judaism in Israel  
MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ  
Canada, Zionist arms of the  
Masorti Movement  
Masorti congregations  
Kibbutz Hanaton  
Moshav Shorashim  
American Zionist Movement  
Conference of Presidents of  
Major American Jewish Organizations  
Jewish Federations of North America Israel Bonds  
Neve Hanna Village for Children & Youth



### Encourage Social Responsibility

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)  
National Coalition Supporting  
Eurasian Jewry  
Justice for Jews from Arab Countries  
Religious Network for Equality  
for Women (RNEW)  
Office of Public Information  
of the U.S.  
United Nations Association  
of the USA  
State Department of Non-  
Governmental Organizations  
Religious Coalition for  
Reproductive Choice  
Sharsheret Coalition to  
Stop Gun Violence  
GreenFaith Sharsheret  
I Support the Girls  
Fisher House

### Perpetuate Conservative Judaism

Jewish Theological Seminary, New York  
Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Los Angeles  
Schechter Institute, Jerusalem  
Seminario Rabbinico Latinoamericano,  
Buenos Aires Zacharias Frankel College, Germany  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Federation  
of Jewish Men's Clubs  
Masorti Olami  
Kibbutz Hanaton

As members of a sisterhood affiliated with Women's League, you are encouraged to become involved with these organizations and to call on them for materials, consultations, resources, and speakers. You can use materials from any of these organizations.

Women's League accepts the **Jerusalem Program**, which is the platform of the World Zionist Organization. Find the full description of the Jerusalem Program on the Women's League website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

# WOMEN'S LEAGUE PER CAPITA *and your sisterhood*

## Making the most of your membership

*Every member, and every Women's League Sisterhood or Women's Group can benefit from Women's League membership. By submitting per capita for each Member—the primary funding for all Women's League activities — you can enjoy the following array of materials and services. These are all yours for the asking! Visit [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) or call the office at 212-870-1260 for more information.*



### SERVICES TO SISTERHOODS

- Consulting Services Seminars
- Leadership Institutes
- Workshops via Zoom
- Leadership Support
- Annual Region Conferences or Events
- Triennial Convention
- Speakers from our International Leadership
- Support from Region & WLCJ

### MEMBERS LISTSERV

- WLCJ Net
- PrezNet
- Judaica Shop Chairs
- Creative Judaic Arts
- Mothers of Olim

### EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING

- Divrei Nashim
- Women's League Reads
- Kolot BiK'dushah
- Personal Conversations
- Health and Wellness
- Study and Kaddish
- Weekly Words of Torah
- Hebrew Language
- Creative Judaic Arts
- Adult Bat Mitzvah and Beyond Bat Mitzvah Program
- Life Cycle and Holiday Programs
- Social Programs
- Women's League Shabbat
- Friday Night at Home Together



### Public Policy and Social Justice

- Resolutions
- Advocacy
- Support of Israel including Masorti Days of Study
- United Nations NGO
- The Jerusalem Program

*Partnership with Sharsheret Information and programming in support of women with cancer and their families*

### Publications for Free

- Sisterhood Advisor
- Sisterhood Planner
- Blueprint for Membership
- Image Plus Handbook
- Ways to the Means
- Seasonal Materials
- Publicity Tools
- Workshop Outlines and Videos
- Installation Scripts
- Torah Fund Materials

*New Outlook for Women's League is a fresh look at hot topics, important issues and Women's League information sent to all members at no cost.*



### Publications for Purchase

- Annual Calendar Diary
- The Hiddur Mitzvah Project
- Etz Chayim He: Adult Jewish Education Curriculum
- The Mitzvah of Bikkur Holim
- Under the Wings of Sh'khinah: A Jewish Healing Service
- Judaic Handcrafts: Aleph Bet Variations & Headcoverings
- Certificates for All Occasions

### A Voice on the World Scene

*Women's League's active partnership in, and support of, these national and international organizations affords all members a voice in the worldwide Jewish community.*



- Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations
- JCPA—Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ Canada
- Masorti Olami
- National Ramah Commission
- Jewish Theological Seminary (New York)
- Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles)
- Schechter Institute (Jerusalem)
- Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires)
- Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam)



**e are Women's League**

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



## WOMEN'S LEAGUE TEAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

Women's League is structured into departmental teams to facilitate services to regions, sisterhoods and members. The following is a list of the teams, with the name of the responsible director with her phone number and email address. The main phone number is 212.870.1260.

### Administration

Team Leader: Debbi Kaner Goldich

dgoldich@wlcj.org

212.870.1260, ext. 2155, dgoldich@wlcj.org

Personnel: Terry Hartman

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Berkowitz

WL Nominations: Margie Miller

Region Nominations: Phyllis Goldberg

- Archives
- Budget & Finance
- Convention 2023
- Development
- Kol Ishah Leadership Development Campaign
- Nominations
- Parliamentarian
- Past Presidents Council
- Per Capita
- Personnel
- Strategic Planning
- Ways and Means

### Membership

Team Leaders: Meryl Balaban mbalaban@wlcj.org and

Regina Newman rnewman@wlcj.org

- Sisterhood Affiliation
- Individual Members
- Sisterhood Retention
- Services to Sisterhoods
- World Communities

### Education

Team Leaders: Ellen Kaner Bresnick ebresnick@wlcj.org

and Julia Loeb jloeb@wlcj.org

- Health/Wellness
- Personal Conversations
- Program Activity
- Books
- Creative Judaic Arts
- Jewish Studies
- Judaica Shops
- Keruv
- Kolot BiK'dushah
- Membership in Sisterhoods
- Program Activities Committee
- Program Resources
- Women's League Institutes
- Women's League Reads
- Youth

### Social Action

Team Leaders: Karen Block kblock@wlcj.org and

Ardis Wexler, awexler@wlcj.org

Special Projects: Debbie Bettan, dbettan@wlcj.org

- Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family
- Special Projects
- Communication Service
- Women's League Cares
- Public Policy
- Ba'Olam
- Canadian Public Policy
- Environment
- Social Action
- Washington Liaison
- WL Cares

### World Affairs

Team Leader: Lucy Becker, lbecker@wlcj.org

- Resolutions
- Canadian Affairs
- Partner Organizations
- Israel
- Masorti Women International
- United Nations NGO
- Anti-Semitism Task Force

### Torah Fund

Team Leader: Barbara Ezring

bezring@wlcj.org

Director: Lisa Paule

Torah Fund, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

212.678.8876 lipaule@jtsa.edu

### Consulting Services

Team Leader: Renee Ravich

rravich@wlcj.org

Vice Chair: Debbi Green

dgreen@wlcj.org

- Consulting Services
- Consulting Personnel
- Leadership Institute
- Preznet
- Region Conferences
- Sisterhood Support
- Zoom Workshops

### Region Services

Team Leader: Sandy Blumenthal

sblumenthal@wlcj.org

- Region Conferences
- Region Advisers
- Sisterhood Support
- Region Nominating
- Region Budgets

### Communications

Team Leaders: Ilene Rothman

irothman@wlcj.org

and Lois Silverman

lsilverman@wlcj.org

Website: Cathy Leonard

cleonard@wlcj.org

WLCJNet: Sherry Lynn Rubin

slrubin@wlcj.org

- Internet Services
- Marketing
- Past Presidents Council
- Publications
- New Outlook
- Social Media
- Website, region websites
- WLCJNet
- Zoom Workshops