

**Power of our Voices**  
**Women's League Shabbat Greetings**  
**Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields, Executive Director, WLCJ**

True story - A newborn baby was brought to her mother, after crying in the nursery for a very long time. The nurses could not calm the baby, and so finally decided to wake the exhausted new mother and see if she could try to nurse the infant. The drowsy new mother said, "Just one minute my little one. I will feed you." The mother had her eyes closed while speaking and did not get to see the amazement on the nurse's face, when the minute the newborn heard her mother's voice, she instantly calmed down. The infant was only a few hours old, yet immediately recognized her mother's voice, and was instantly soothed by her mother's voice.

Our voices are so powerful. Just think about all the zooms that we have been on over the past almost two years, that we may have not been able to find the face on our zoom screen attached to a voice, but we immediately knew who the voice was. How many of you can identify someone just by their voice? And how many of you have siblings who sound just like you, so when you make a phone call, you need to identify yourself because someone might not know if they are speaking to you or to your sibling?

Have you thought about how you use your voice? What does your voice mean? Our voices are the most important part of ourselves. Today, Women's League Shabbat, is a Shabbat to raise our voices together with the voices of women in our communities. Another story - often when I travel to Israel, or other places with metal detectors, I am often asked - do you have a weapon? And each time I am asked, the thought comes to my mind - Yes - My Voice!

Today on Women's League Shabbat, let us raise our voices, in song or in speech - for the betterment of all ! We each have a voice! And Women's Voices are most important! Since 1918, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, has been providing knowledge to women, to enhance, empower, and enrich women's lives, so we can use our voices with strength and confidence! *Yasher Kochechen* to all our wonderful women who have been participating in Women's League Shabbat!

Shabbat Shalom!

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