

THE SIXTH DECADE

1968-1978



Women's League for
Conservative Judaism

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Women's League for Conservative Judaism
48 East 74th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021

A Word of Introduction

On the occasion of its golden anniversary, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism — then known as the National Women's League — appropriately entitled its history "They Dared to Dream." The title correctly bespoke the commitment and determination of the leading women of the Conservative Movement to make a reality of their vision of a vibrant American Jewish community in which the values of tradition would nourish the family, the community, the national membership and in turn be nourished by them. It was these pioneering ladies who provided the framework and the materials that introduced countless women — and through them, their families and friends — to the ideals of Torah, to Jewish practices, to the Seminary and to the significance of Jewish learning and scholarship. They dared to dream of mobilizing Jewish women across the face of the continent in support of Torah, Israel, social causes of merit.

Today, a decade later, we may give thanks to the Almighty for a dream that has been translated into reality and that has indeed shaped and immeasurably enriched our Jewish environment in the United States. The history of Women's League is now a story of accomplishment on the local as well as national levels that gives promise of a continued willingness to face new challenges and take them on.

Let me confine myself to what Women's League has done for Torah at the fountainhead of Jewish learning in the United States, namely at the Seminary. Were it not for the Torah Fund, the Seminary and the University of Judaism, its Branch on the West Coast, could not possibly have grown as they have and conducted the programs they do. Thanks to the Women's League, the academic year 1976-77 was a revolutionary one in undergraduate education at the Seminary. The Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall, for which so many of our revered leaders fought and worked indefatigably, became the impressive reality which it is and thereby fulfilled the dream of giving our students — men and women — a Jewish environment of a quality befitting the educational standards of the Seminary College. The Residence Hall provides more than a dwelling place; it is, thanks to its environment, the major component of a revitalized student community and is thus a major element in the Jewish education the Seminary seeks to impart.

We have just recently celebrated the festival of Hanukkah, which commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in their struggle to revitalize the Jewish religion and Jewish nationalism. They triumphed because they had not only a vision, but also the conviction that the future of Judaism depended on the fulfillment of that vision. The vast membership of Women's League, and particularly its leadership, has proven that it has that crucial conviction. As we congratulate you on this milestone in your history, we are confident that you will accept the challenge to continue to dare to dream. May God bless all of your efforts.

GERSON D. COHEN, *Chancellor*
The Jewish Theological
Seminary of America

EVELYN HENKIND



1966 – 1970

Evelyn Henkind, Women's League President from 1966 to 1970, was born in New York but spent her childhood in Denver, Col., Atlanta, Ga. and Washington, D.C. She studied at George Washington University and the City College of New York before embarking on a career in office management.

She taught Sunday School in Washington and in New York City, where she also became an early officer in the Conservative youth movement, serving as secretary of the Young People's League of Temple Beth Elohim in the Bronx.

Upon her marriage to Sol Henkind, who is both a business man and a Jewish scholar, Evelyn served on the Mt. Vernon, N. Y. Board of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. She has been an active UJA worker for over a quarter century. During World War II, she was executive secretary of a Civilian Defense Volunteer office.

After serving as President of the Women's Auxiliary of Congregation Emanu-el of Mt. Vernon, she was elected President of the newly-constituted Westchester-Rockland Branch of Women's League, later becoming its Honorary President. Elected to a National Vice-presidency in 1962, she served as Program Chairman in charge of production for the 1964 Biennial Convention, as Program Chairman for the 1965 Israel Convention Tour, and as Program Chairman of the 1966 Jubilee Convention. Concerned with Sisterhood education, she has written scripts, introduced new program ideas, and contributed significantly to League publishing projects. Completing her term as League President, she moved on to the National Chairmanship of Torah Fund-Residence Hall.

In 1974, Evelyn received the Louis Marshall Award from The Jewish Theological Seminary; she serves on its Executive Committee and Board of Overseers, and on the Board of the World Council of Synagogues.

The Henkind's are parents of a son, an attorney living in Scarsdale, N. Y., and a daughter, a University teacher in Israel, who lives in Jerusalem with her artist husband. Sol and Evelyn have three grandchildren, one a sabra.

SELMA RAPAPORT



1970 – 1974

Selma Rapaport, President of Women's League from 1970 to 1974, has made the world her community, travelling extensively in public service before and during her term of office.

An accomplished amateur sculptor, interested in the work of the Jewish Museum, she was educated at the Fieldston School in New York City and at the School of Fine Arts and Architecture of New York University. In her home community, White Plains, N. Y., she is a Past President of the Sisterhood of Temple Israel Center, former Chairman of the Synagogue Adult Education Committee, Honorary Trustee of the Center, and a member of its Ritual Committee.

Selma also is a Past President of the Westchester-Rockland Branch of Women's League. As a National leader, she covered broad areas, in her role as Chairman of Cooperation and Community Service.

A member of the Board of Overseers of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, she received the Seminary's National Benefactors Award for Community Leadership and holds honorary membership on its Board of Directors. She also serves on the Boards of the United Synagogue of America and the World Council of Synagogues.

As National Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board's Women's Organizations Services, Selma represented the League and the Conservative Movement at overseas seminars which the Board sponsored for families of servicemen stationed in Germany. As President of Women's League, she attended the first Brussels Conference held on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and was a delegate to the Prime Minister's Conference held in Jerusalem. In 1973, she met with government officials and Synagogue women of the Conservative Movement in Israel during a trip that also included contact with Russian emigrés en route to Israel.

While National President of Women's League, Selma served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Braille Institute. She is currently a member of both the Leadership Conference of National Jewish Women's Organizations and the plenum of the Synagogue Council of America. Her newest window on the world has opened through her designation as NGO (Non-Governmental Observer) at the United Nations for the World Council of Synagogues.

Selma's husband, Henry, was President of United Synagogue of America from 1965 to 1969. He and the couple's three married sons are all attorneys. Their family tree is rounded out with four grandchildren.

RUTH PERRY



1974 -

As Women's League enters its seventh decade, Ruth Perry, National President since 1974, is completing a term of office that has brought her to Washington, D.C. for President Jimmy Carter's inaugural ball and to Jerusalem, where Israel's Prime Minister met with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The Valedictorian of her graduating class at Beth El Hebrew High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Ruth Perry majored in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. She began her organizational leadership career as a member of Sigma Omega Pi sorority, which she served as National President in 1951. Her vital interest in education is evidenced by her service with the Philadelphia Board of Jewish Education, the Cyrus Adler Regional High School Executive Committee, and the Poconos Camp Ramah Commission.

Ruth has spent all of her adult years in Synagogue service, advancing to the Sisterhood Presidency at Temple Sinai in Philadelphia in 1964. She served four terms as the only woman officer of her Congregation and as Chairman of the combined Temple Sinai-West Oak Lane Religious School Board. In her Women's League Branch, she was CEAC Vice-President. The only woman officer of the Philadelphia Region of United Synagogue, serving from 1968 to 1972, she is currently a member of the National Board of Directors of the United Synagogue of America, a member of the Board of Overseers and the Board of Directors of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and a recipient of its National Benefactors Award for Community Service.

For Women's League, Ruth has served on the National Publicity Committee and National Torah Fund Cabinet, edited the Jubilee Convention Hi-Lites in 1966, held the portfolio of Jewish Family Living, coordinated the 1972 and 1974 Conventions, and for four years served as Coordinator of Educational Activities and a National Vice-President.

Ruth also is the author, with her husband, Milton, of two League publications, *Kosher Cookery Unlimited* and *Kosher Parties Unlimited*. She has assisted, as well, in the revision of several of the League's holiday manuals.

Active in the League of Women Voters, Hadassah, Women's Technion and Wadsworth Book Review Club, Ruth was recently elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Leadership Conference of National Jewish Women's Organizations and a Vice-President of the World Council of Synagogues.

The Perrys are parents of a son in college and daughter in law school.

The Sixth Decade

Women's League entered its sixth decade looking forward to the realization of many dreams, while realistically recognizing that their achievement would bring added responsibilities. Lightning social changes and continuing world crises rapidly brought new challenges.

Lifestyles were being reshaped by the Vietnam War, Watergate, assassinations, soaring crime rates, ecological problems, a changing demographic curve resulting from lower birth rates coupled with longer life spans and, dramatically, the militant women's liberation movement. The threat of Quebec separatism was an additional challenge in Canada.

For Israel, to which we are so closely linked, the pendulum swung between hope and despair, with the bitterness of two wars in a single decade, the horror of the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics, the farcical equating of Zionism with racism at the United Nations and the surge of new spirit resulting from the successful rescue of hostages at Entebbe. As world dependence on Arab oil threatened to stall the machinery for peace in the Middle East, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's courageous journey to Jerusalem in November 1977 brought new hope for momentum to achieve true *shalom* in international relations between Israel and her neighbors.

Women's League has always met the challenge of change within the framework and with the guidance of the patterns set down by its founders. That this last difficult decade was no exception is demonstrated by a long list of achievements, among them a new name, a new headquarters, new Women's Groups in Israel, expanded educational and world affairs programs, fulfillment of a decades-long dream with the opening of the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall, and a new annual high of a million and a quarter dollars for the Torah Fund-Residence Hall campaign.

The women's liberation movement spurred a re-examination of women's role in Judaism, in the context of the times. It also brought changes in Sisterhood membership approaches in an era when women of every age are entering or returning to the work force in large numbers. Flexibility in meeting schedules was recommended, programs were adjusted to meet the interests of women whose horizons had become broader through their continuing education and more varied life experience.

Celebrating the Jubilee

The Jubilee event celebrating the League's fiftieth anniversary began the decade, with the bestowal of a high honor by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Dr. Louis Finkelstein, the Seminary's beloved Chancellor (now emeritus), lauded the League's role in preserving Jewish tradition, and, presenting a citation, raised Women's League's 200,000 members to the status of "alumnae". Dr. Bernard Mandelbaum, President of the Seminary, added that from its earliest beginning, the League's program has been dedicated to the basic needs of man and society: justice, truth, and peace.

At Jubilee Day events, held concurrently on the east and west coasts, the League presented Sisterhood Achievement Awards to 36 affiliates, plus an additional large number of honorable mentions. The League also paid tribute to three of its own outstanding women — Rose Goldstein, Evelyn Garfiel Kadushin and Sadie Rose Weilerstein —bestowing upon them the YOVEL Award, a once-in-a-half-century acknowledgment of unusual accomplishment.

The study in which the women engaged at the Jubilee Day events anticipated the challenge of changes to come. At two sessions in New York, 700 members considered "The Paradox of Jeremiah" and "A Study of Parable" from the works of S. Y. Agnon. In Los Angeles, 300 women explored "The Ethics of Our Fathers—Are They Really Ours?".

Immediately after the Jubilee, an intensive effort was undertaken to find a new home for the League, long in need of more office space than the Seminary could make available. A capital fund, which had been sequestered over the years, with untouched compound interest, financed the acquisition of the present headquarters on East 74th Street.

A New Name, a New Address

Another important move was made at the Biennial Convention in 1972 when the name "National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America" was changed to "Women's League for Conservative Judaism", reflecting the identity and ideology of the organization. The League now is a member in its own right of such significant organizations as the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, The American Section of the World Jewish Congress, the World Council of Synagogues, and the World Zionist Organization. Women's League is represented at 27 other national agencies, as well. In 1976, the League's Non-Governmental Observer at the United Nations became the first member of a Jewish religious organization to sit on the Executive Committee of the Council of NGO Representatives of the United Nations Association of the United States.

Women's League Biennial Conventions continued to be held on the east coast, for reasons of budget and available facilities for the large numbers of people attending. In non-Convention years, National Board Meetings, with attendant Conference days, were held in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Toronto, and St. Louis. Two Special National Board Meetings were convened in Jerusalem, in which Women's League Israel Groups participated.

Each Branch held a Conference in the Spring of every year, exploring such relevant themes as "Sisterhood at the Crossroads" and "The Time is Now—The Time to Do". Many Conferences included Torah Teach-Ins.

Expanding Education

Annual Women's League Study Days at the Seminary, begun in 1974, were soon oversubscribed. The initial event presented Judith Hauptman, the first woman Talmud instructor at the Seminary, who taught from Talmud texts on marriage. Ms. Hauptman, now Assistant Dean in the Seminary College of Jewish Studies, returned in 1976, sharing the teaching assignment with Helene Schwartz of the Rutgers-Camden Law School faculty. Ms. Schwartz's book, *Justice By the Book: Selected Aspects of Jewish and American Law*, a Women's League Bicentennial publication, provided the text material. Other teaching sessions were led by Milton Himmelfarb in 1975 and by Rabbi Shaye Cohen and Mrs. Ruth Zielenziger in 1977.

Increasingly sophisticated material was developed to guide Sisterhoods and Branches in their educational programs through CEAC (Coordinated Educational Activities Committee).

In 1972, the Creative Handicrafts Department was separated from the Jewish Family Living Department, of which it had been a subsidiary for five years. Printed, rather than mimeographed instructions were circulated, and several packets of related handicraft materials were made available. The United Synagogue was presented with a needlepoint of its seal for its new building, and the Women's League seal was needlepointed on a Torah mantle and a reading table cover, for use at National Conferences and Conventions.

The Program Department expanded its guidance through socio-dramas to serve as introductions to discussions, and through releases encouraging the use of multi-media techniques. Music, which had been a subsidiary of Program, became a Department itself, providing information on sources, scripts, and musical material for the increasing number of interested League Music Chairmen.

The Bookshop, Library and Publications Department developed a remarkable demand for books by Jewish authors as well as those of Jewish content, with such programs as the Family Home Reading Roundtable and the Jewish Home Library.

Publication of Jewish Family Living Manuals for holiday observance continued, with a new edition of the *Shabbat Manual* issued in 1969, *Pesah* in 1974, *Purim* in 1976. *Kosher Parties Unlimited* appeared in 1968; *Kosher Cookery Unlimited* went into its fifth printing in 1971. Several Departments updated their Guides for Sisterhood Committees; Sisterhood School Relations issued its first Guide, in experimental, mimeographed form.

Conferences on the Jewish Family were co-sponsored with the Department of Education of the United Synagogue, in 1975 and 1977.

Increased Service

A change in focus was reflected in the name change from "Cooperation and Service to Other Organizations", to the "Cooperation and Community Service" Department, evidencing the emphasis on *direct* service by Sisterhoods to the ill, the aged, the handicapped, people in the armed forces, etc. A record amount of braille for the blind was produced; additionally, many women became involved in taping "talking books" and preparing large-type manuscripts. Among those aided by the League's work with the Jewish Braille Institute was the first blind rabbinical student to prepare for ordination at The Jewish Theological Seminary.

During the ten year period, the Training Services Group (including Field Service, Speakers Training and Leadership Training) also was redesigned to encourage greater emphasis on the behavioral sciences, stressing human relations and interaction. As the roster of accredited Discussion Leaders grew to over 200, this innovative approach to leadership development became an effective tool for exploring, clarifying and enhancing Jewish consciousness and commitment. A colorful new representation of the Totalscope of Women's League activity was developed for training uses.

The Social Issues

The League's relationship to the world at large expanded, as increased efforts were undertaken to keep Sisterhoods informed on major national and international issues. In 1967, the League began issuing "Action Alert" bulletins to direct attention to such concerns as the undermining of civil rights, Polish anti-semitism, Vietnam, the Kent State shootings, the urban crisis, and Biafra relief. The Canadian Public Affairs Committee began sending its own "Alerts" in 1970 (a recent mailing treated the Quebecois Separatist issue).

Biennial Social Action/United Nations Conferences explored such topics as "The New Left and Other Trends—Jewish Youth Speaks Out", "Facing Up to the Turmoil of the Cities", "Soviet Jewry", "Drug Abuse" and "Human Potential and Human Rights."

In 1976, Social Action, Israel Affairs, United Nations and Canadian Public Affairs, cooperating as the World Affairs Group, began publication of a newsletter, "Ba'Olam" (In the World) to disseminate a digest of current information received from the many agencies working in these fields.

Social Action Resolutions adopted at the last five Biennial Conventions reflect the concerns and interests of Sisterhood women throughout the continent: Southeast Asia, Equal Opportunity, Jewish Elderly and Poor, the Equal Rights Amendment, Pollution, Federation Support of Jewish Education, SALT Talks, Resources of the Sea, Ecology, Peace in the Middle East, Arab Propaganda, Jews in Arab Countries and the Conservative Movement in Israel. Separate sessions for Canadian Public Affairs were instituted at the 1974 Biennial Convention and Canadian Resolutions were separately adopted.

In June of 1968 the League contributed to the Jewish Peace Fellowship, aiding conscientious objectors to the Vietnam War. For the past several years, in target cities, Women's League has provided Sisterhood personnel to serve as Convenors for the annual Human Rights Day Plea For Soviet Jewry. The program, sponsored by the reactivated Leadership Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations was administered for Women's League by the Departments of Social Action and Cooperation and Community Service.

Israel Projects

The Six Day War at the beginning of the decade found the League well equipped to inform its membership speedily of the urgency for quick and intelligent identification of and response to Israel's needs. Women's League was lauded by the United Jewish Appeal as the first organization to urge its affiliates in the United States and Canada to send capital funds to safeguard Israel's existence.

In 1968, the Israel Affairs, Social Action and United Nations Departments published "Questions and Answers: Toward an Understanding of the Arab-Israel Conflict". The pamphlet, which makes clear the validity of Israel's claim to *Ha-Aretz*, has been widely used by Sisterhoods, youth groups and outside organizations. It was revised and reprinted in 1972.

In 1969, Women's League's Conference Tour of Israel was concluded in England, where a meeting took place with the Women's Group of the New London Synagogue. In 1973, a similar tour included a visit with Russian emigrés at the Schonau Reception Center in Austria, and a stopover in Prague, Czechoslovakia. In 1969, Selma Rapaport was the League's official observer at the Prime Minister's Conference in Israel. In other years, Women's League representatives attended biennial conventions of the World Council of Synagogues in Jerusalem.

When the Women's League became a member in its own right of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in 1973, the President began to meet with many influential world leaders. In December of 1974, Ruth Perry traveled to Jerusalem with other Conference members to confer with the Prime Minister. She went again in 1975, when the Conference responded to the infamous United Nations Resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Despite the atmosphere of crisis and response which has marked so much of the last decade, Women's League's relationship with Israel has been one of enlightenment and enrichment. The first Conservative Movement building in Israel was the American Student Center at Neve Schechter, where Rabbinical School and Teachers Institute students live and study for a year. Each Women's League meeting in Israel has been an occasion to make a gift to the students at the Center. Gifts have also been made to several of the Conservative Congregations developing in *Aretz*.

When the World Council of Synagogues acquired a headquarters at 2 Agron Street in Jerusalem in 1972, the League gave a sizeable gift to furnish its Library-Lounge, reception area and offices. Also underwritten, by individual contributions, was the lovely garden on the grounds, a memorial to the late Leah Treiger Schimmel, who served Women's League as Executive Director for a number of years before making Aliyah. Most recently, Women's League has contributed the funds to furnish the Resource Center Library in the Bernstein Youth Center, another in the complex of Conservative Movement buildings at the Agron Street address.

Another landmark in League relations with the Conservative Movement in Israel was established at the World Council of Synagogues Convention in 1970, when the women's groups of Congregations in Haifa and Ashkelon formally affiliated with the League. Three years later, the women's groups of Natanya and Jerusalem affiliated, dramatically increasing the League's small but growing presence in Israel.

Everywhere in the World

Always represented on the Board of the World Council of Synagogues, Women's League became an independent member when the umbrella organization affiliated with the World Zionist Organization. In 1977, Selma Rapaport represented Women's League at the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization, the first official WZO meeting at which the Conservative Movement was represented.

The concern of Women's League for Jewish women elsewhere in the world was structured through the Overseas Women's Groups Department, chaired by Helen Sussman, which was created immediately after our 1972 Convention. Some 100 letters were dispatched to

Jewish communities in English-speaking countries, explaining the program of the League and offering assistance. As a result, League materials have been sent to Calcutta, Delhi, Thana and Bombay in India; Teheran, Iran; Wellington, New Zealand; Victoria and Melbourne, Australia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Anatolia College in Thessalonika, Greece. Materials have also gone to Jewish personnel at the weather station on Guam, and to U.S. Chaplains in Japan and West Germany.

Members of the League's Executive Committee sent funds to help the United Synagogue of India purchase vitamins for children there. Responding to a request of the Jewish community in Guatamala City, League members contributed money to replace a house in Senerape, Guatemala, after the devastating earthquake in that country. The League has also made contributions to assist the Falashas in Ethiopia, and for ongoing programs to support educational activities for women's groups in Israel.

The Issue of Women's Rights

Women's rights, a paramount issue in the general community in the last decade, had substantial impact on the Jewish community as well. It did not seem so powerful in 1969, when League representatives attended a meeting of Church and Synagogue Women at which the prediction was made that the women's liberation movement would become the trend-setting force in women's groups. At that juncture, the movement had had minimal impact upon the League.

In May 1971, however, the Women's League Board considered the topic "Women's Liberation and the Jewish Tradition". The following year, a President's *OUTLOOK* column discussed women's rights in general and *Ezrat Nashim*, a recently established Jewish women's group, particularly. *Ezrat Nashim's* pamphlet, "Jewish Women Call For Change" was quoted extensively. The November 1972 Biennial Convention featured a debate on "Women's Rights in Judaism", followed up with an "Opinion Poll". Nearly 1,000 women responded. Age distribution was:

21-30	2
31-40	237
41-50	419
51-60	177
over 60	74

On the issues, they answered:

Question #1 Women should be elected to Congregational Boards of Directors

883 YES (99%) 8 NO (1%)

Question #2 Women should be called for *aliyot*

595 YES (66%) 308 NO (33%)

- Question #3 Women should be counted in a *minyan*
 542 YES (62%) 338 NO (37%)
- Question #4 Women should be able to institute proceedings to
 secure a *Get* (religious divorce)
 872 YES (98%) 17 NO (2%)
- Question #5 Women should be permitted to read from Torah
 613 YES (75%) 252 NO (25%)

A year later, the winter 1973 issue of *OUTLOOK* featured an article by the Seminary's new Chancellor, Gerson D. Cohen, on "Women in the Conservative Movement", eliciting comment from all over the continent. A few months later, at another National Board Meeting, Past President Helen Sussman reported on "The Changing Status of Women in Jewish Law and Synagogue Practice".

That the wheels of change were turning became even clearer a year later, when *OUTLOOK* reported on the Women's League survey of Presidents of 800 affiliated Sisterhoods, undertaken to determine to what extent their women were participating in administration, education and ritual. More than fifty percent replied, reporting that on the administrative level women had been elected to significant chairmanships and important offices, including a small number of Congregation presidencies. In the Congregations of about 25% of those who replied, women were being given *aliyot* and counted in the *minyan*.

The League's commitment to women's rights extended to issues outside the Synagogue. In 1968, after consulting the Rabbinical Assembly with regard to *halakhah*, Women's League became part of the New York State Committee of Organizations for Abortion Law Reform. In 1974, after a Social Action Resolution was adopted at Convention, the League joined the National Religious Coalition on Abortion Rights which includes Catholic, Protestant and Jewish groups.

The decade's emphasis on women brought additional honors. Syd Rossman Goldstein, a Past President of Women's League, and long a devoted Torah Fund-Residence Hall worker, became the first woman elected to the Seminary's Executive Committee. At the Seminary's 1975 Commencement, Adele Ginzberg, a tireless worker since the early days of the League, was made an Honorary Fellow (a distinction not previously accorded to any woman) on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Torah Fund-Residence Hall

The growing devotion of Women's League members to the total Seminary program was reflected in the results of the annual Torah Fund Campaign, which increased from \$848,000 in 1967 to \$1,250,000 in 1977, with more than 5,500 members wearing Benefactors' pins (denoting contributions of \$100 or more) and the National Women's Patrons Society, for donors of \$1,000 or more, continuing to grow.

An event which culminated many decades of Women's League campaigning was the opening, in 1977, of the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall, providing, for the first time, living facilities for women students at the Seminary.

In December 1974, a feasibility study indicated that Schuyler Hall, owned by Columbia University, could be renovated for use as a student residence. Located on 120th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive, the building was purchased by the Seminary and renovated with funds contributed entirely by members of the League. In May 1976, the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall was formally dedicated with a series of events attended by Women's League members from all over the country, city officials, faculty and students.

A dream for so many years, the Residence Hall is in use throughout the year, accommodating summer session students and full time undergraduates. A film, "What We Have Created", which the League co-sponsored with the Seminary, has brought the Residence Hall to those unable to pay a visit to the site.

The U.S. Bicentennial

Another highpoint of the decade was the American Bicentennial. In addition to publication of *Justice By the Book*, already noted, the League celebrated with a Family Tree Contest designed to encourage research into family history. Winners received their awards at the League's Convention '76, which also featured a pictorial salute to "Jewish Life in America", tracing American Jewish history. A special issue of *OUTLOOK* was devoted to Bicentennial material.

Women's League Conventions are, perhaps, the greatest single source of inspiration for the individual Sisterhood woman. They serve as models for program planning in Branches and Sisterhoods throughout the year. Convention 1976, the largest in Women's League history, with over 2,000 delegates, launched the celebration of the 60th Anniversary year, using the theme "Hazak Ve'ematz Me'od", Be Strong and Very Courageous.

During the decade, Convention speakers included Dr. Louis Finkelstein, then Seminary Chancellor, and his successor Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, Israel Ambassadors Yitzhak Rabin and Simcha Dinitz, Abba Eban, *Saturday Review* editor Norman Cousins, psychologist and author Dr. Bruno Bettelheim, news commentators Rod MacLeish and David Schoenbrun, and Seminary Professor Dr. Robert Gordis whose talk, "Sex, Love and Judaism", became the basis for the League's major 60th Anniversary year publication, *Love and Sex—A Modern Jewish Perspective*.

At the 1970 Convention, the League presented an illuminated scroll to Israel Ambassador (later Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin "for his

outstanding contribution to advancing the cause of American-Israel friendship". In 1972, Dr. Finkelstein was presented with the Mathilde Schechter Award, a rare honor given only once before (to Golda Meir) and once since (posthumously in 1974 to Professor Abraham J. Heschel).

Our leadership changed twice during the decade, the presidency transferring from Evelyn Henkind to Selma Rapaport at the 1970 Convention and from Selma Rapaport to Ruth Perry in 1974.

Marking the Sixth Decade

As the decade came to a close, the League pledged a once-in-a-lifetime gift to permanently endow the world-famous Seminary Sukkah. Special events of the 60th Anniversary Year included the Annual Study Day, a Cultural Arts Day on "The Artist as a Jew", a special Israel briefing day, a special issue of *OUTLOOK*, presentation of Community Service Citations, and publication of this *Sixth Decade* history.

Planned for the culmination of the Anniversary was an ambitious celebration to take place concurrently in New York City, Miami, Chicago, and Los Angeles, on January 18, 1978, followed by a National Board Meeting and Conference in Jerusalem on February 15. Appropriately, the Torah Fund Benefactors pin for the year was in the shape of a *Samekh*, the Hebrew designation for 60.

Reflecting upon the many ways in which Women's League chose to celebrate this 60th Anniversary, it is apparent that the organization embraces the totality of Jewish living, attracting women of all ages and levels of Jewish cultural background. Largest Synagogue women's organization in the world, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism rightfully is characterized as "the international organization of women concerned with every aspect of Judaism and with the welfare of the entire community."

COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ACTIVITY CHAIRMEN

1968 - 1978

ADULT EDUCATION	Hadassah Nadich (Mrs. Judah), 1966-70 Connie Reisner (Mrs. Nathan), 1970-72 Vice-Chmn: Tziporah Heckelman (Mrs. Joseph), 1970-74 Ruth Bernards (Mrs. Solomon), 1972-74 Sarah Lewis (Mrs. Albert), 1974-
AFFILIATION & RETENTION (formerly Sisterhood Affiliation & Retention)	Helene Wagenheim (Mrs. Joseph), 1966-70 Marian Weisenfreund (Mrs. Alexander), 1970-74 Gloria Davis (Mrs. Jerome), 1974-
BICENTENNIAL	Evelyn Auerbach (Mrs. Rubin), 1975-76
BOOKSHOP, LIBRARY & PUBLICATIONS	Bertie G. Schwartz (Mrs. Charles), 1966-76 Vice-Chmn: Alma Lang (Mrs. Leon), 1966-76 Chana Simckes (Mrs. H. Joseph), 1976-
BRAILLE & RELATED SERVICES (formerly Braille)	Adele Ginzberg (Mrs. Louis), 1966-74 Vice-Chmn: Edith Perman (Mrs. Paul), 1972-74 Edith Perman (Mrs. Paul), 1974- Consultant: Adele Ginzberg (Mrs. Louis), 1974-
BUDGET & FINANCE	Helen Sussman (Mrs. Louis), 1966-68 Esther M. Dretel (Mrs. Samuel), 1968-72 Evelyn Henkind (Mrs. Sol), 1972-76 Goldie Kweller (Mrs. Murry), 1976- Investments: Evelyn Henkind (Mrs. Sol), 1974-
CANADIAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Miriam Shuchat (Mrs. Wilfred), 1972-74 Liaison: Ida Krohn (Mrs. Theodore), 1972-74 Doris Magil (Mrs. William), 1974- Vice-Chmn: Betty Nitkin (Mrs. Irving), 1976-
CEAC COORDINATOR	Rose Goldstein (Mrs. David A.), 1966-70 Acting Coordinator: Priva Kohn (Mrs. S. Joshua), 1969-70 Ruth Perry (Mrs. M. Milton), 1970-74
CEREMONIAL OBJECTS & GIFT SHOP	Sylvia Lehman (Mrs. Louis), 1974- Edith Blumfield (Mrs. Leon), 1966-70 Hortense Siskind (Mrs. Leo), 1970-72 Lola Jessel (Mrs. Erwin), 1972-74 Mildred Schoffel (Mrs. Murray), 1974-76 Anita Weinreb (Mrs. Sol), 1976-
COOPERATION & COMMUNITY SERVICE (formerly Cooperation with Other Organizations)	Selma Rapaport (Mrs. Henry N.), 1966-70 Adele Leaf (Mrs. Harold), 1970-74 Ella Berman (Mrs. Gerrard), 1974-
CREATIVE HANDICRAFTS	Estelle Epstein (Mrs. Joseph), 1970-76 Anita Levine (Mrs. William), 1976-
ISRAEL AFFAIRS	Bertha Derby (Mrs. Josiah), 1966-70 Rosalie Leon (Mrs. Benjamin), 1970-74 Jay Coral (Mrs. David), 1974- Vice-Chmn: Dorothy Turker (Mrs. Robert), 1976-
JEWISH FAMILY LIVING	Ruth Perry (Mrs. M. Milton), 1966-70 CREATIVE ARTS: Annabelle Argand (Mrs. Leo), 1968-70 Anita Levine (Mrs. William), 1970-72 Connie Reisner (Mrs. Nathan), 1972-76 Dvorah Rosenberg (Mrs. Yaakov), 1976-

LEADERSHIP TRAINING	Sadie Astor (Mrs. Rudolph), 1966-68 Vice-Chmn: Edith Perman (Mrs. Paul), 1966-68 Edith Perman (Mrs. Paul), 1968-72 Claire Rogoff (Mrs. Irving), 1972-76 Vice-Chmn: Annette Blitzer (Mrs. Abraham L.), 1972-76 Annette Blitzer (Mrs. Abraham), 1976- Hortense Siskind (Mrs. Leo), 1966-70 Lillian Hoffman (Mrs. Sol), 1970-72 Nona Levin (Mrs. Harvey B.), 1972-76 Vice-Chmn: Ernestine Hammel Urken (Mrs. Karl), 1974-76 Ernestine Hammel Urken (Mrs. Karl), 1976- Janet Goldberg (Mrs. Max), 1976- Helen Sussman (Mrs. Louis), 1968-70 Helen Fried Kirshblum (Mrs. I. Usher), 1970-72 Evelyn Henkind (Mrs. Sol), 1972-74 Selma Rapaport (Mrs. Henry N.), 1974-76 Sadie Astor (Mrs. Rudolph), 1976- Zillah Kohn (Mrs. Sylvan H.), Editor, 1953-1970 Rose Kiesler (Mrs. Harry), Editor, 1970- Etta Kamsler Mrs. Harold M.), Managing Editor, 1957- Helen Sussman (Mrs. Louis), 1972- Isabelle Gichner (Mrs. Henry), 1966-68 Vice-Chmn: Billie Rubinoff (Mrs. Edward), 1966-68 Billie Rubinoff (Mrs. Edward), 1968- Vice-Chmn: Anita Horowitz (Mrs. Ben), 1976- Esther M. Dretel (Mrs. Samuel), 1966-68 Henrietta Adler (Mrs. Barney), 1968-70 Evelyn Henkind (Mrs. Sol), 1970-72 Hortense Siskind (Mrs. Leo), 1972-74 Goldie Kwellner (Mrs. Murry), 1974- Claire Jacobson (Mrs. Nathan), 1966-70 Edya Arzt, 1970-72 Anita Levine (Mrs. William), 1972-76 MUSIC Vice-Chmn: Janet Goldberg, 1974-76 Phyllis Haas (Mrs. Gerald J.), 1976- Alice Oberfest (Mrs. Abraham), 1973-74 Dolly Moser (Mrs. Bernard), 1974-76 Debbie Poplack (Mrs. Kenneth), 1966-70 Gert Peters (Mrs. Abram), 1970-74 BULLETIN Vice-Chmn: Zillah Kohn (Mrs. Sylvan H.), 1972-74 Ethel Mohl (Mrs. Emanuel I.), 1974-76 Sylvia Landow (Mrs. Joseph), 1976- Henrietta Adler (Mrs. Barney), 1966-68 Sylvia Lehman (Mrs. Louis), 1968-74 Zelda Dick (Mrs. Jerome), 1974-76 Yvette Rosenberg (Mrs. William), 1976- Edya Arzt, 1966-70 Sonya Schlosser (Mrs. Sidney), 1970-74 Joyce Shenker (Mrs. Martin), 1974- Helyn Berger (Mrs. Martin), 1977-78
MEMBERSHIP	
MUSIC NOMINATIONS	
OUTLOOK	
OVERSEAS WOMEN'S GROUPS PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, POLICY REVISION & BYLAWS	
PERSONNEL	
PROGRAM	
PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR FOR BRANCHES & SISTERHOODS PUBLICITY	
READING & EDITORIAL (formerly Reading & Editorial Production)	
SISTERHOOD SCHOOL RELATIONS	
SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY	

SOCIAL ACTION

SPEAKER TRAINING (formerly Branch Speakers Training)

TORAH FUND-RESIDENCE HALL

TRAINING SERVICES COORDINATOR

UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

VISUAL TECHNIQUES

WAYS & MEANS

WORLD AFFAIRS COORDINATOR YOUTH

Rosalie Leon (Mrs. Benjamin), 1966-70
Ella Berman (Mrs. Gerrard), 1970-74
Ethel Schwartz (Mrs. Melvin), 1974-76
Vice-Chmn: Bernice Balter (Mrs. Shlomo),
1974-

Evelyn Sherry (Mrs. Robert), 1976-

CANADIAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Rosetta Elkin (Mrs. F. Victor), 1966-68
Norma Rotenberg (Mrs. Cecil L.), 1968-72
Helen Fried Kirshblum (Mrs. I. Usher),
1966-68

Sadie P. Astor (Mrs. Rudolph), 1968-72
Vice-Chmn: Florence Bell (Mrs. Gerald),
1970-72

Florence Bell (Mrs. Gerald), 1972-76
Mildred Schoffel (Mrs. Murray), 1976-
Syd Rossman Goldstein (Mrs. Louis E.),
1966-70

Assoc. Chmn: Jessica Alexander
(Mrs. Bernard), 1966-68
Pearl Krauss, 1966-68

Evelyn Henkind (Mrs. Sol), 1970-
Nat'l Women's Patrons Society:
Jessica Alexander (Mrs. Bernard), 1968-72
Syd Rossman Goldstein (Mrs. Louis E.),
1972-

Sadie Astor (Mrs. Rudolph), 1972-76

Claire Rogoff (Mrs. Irving), 1976-
Ella Berman (Mrs. Gerrard), 1966-70
Alternates: Helen Fried Kirshblum
(Mrs. I. Usher), 1966-67

Jay Coral (Mrs. David), 1967-70
Jay Coral (Mrs. David), 1970-74
Alternate: Vicki Wimpfheimer
(Mrs. Seymour), 1970-74

Adele Leaf (Mrs. Harold), 1974-
Vice-Chmn: Evelyn Sherry (Mrs. Robert),
1974-76

Helyn Berger (Mrs. Martin), 1976-
Alice Oberfest (Mrs. Abraham), 1966-70
Ruth Corson (Mrs. Maurice S.), 1970-74
Bert Order (Mrs. Albert), 1974-

Terry Freilich (Mrs. Harry), 1966-68
Beatrice Horowitz (Mrs. Joseph), 1968-70
Helyn Berger (Mrs. Martin), 1970-74
Edith Shapiro (Mrs. Sidney), 1974-76
Acting Chmn: Helyn Berger (Mrs. Martin),
1974-76

Clara Levinson (Mrs. Milton), 1976-
Dolly Moser (Mrs. Bernard), 1976-
Estelle Epstein (Mrs. Joseph), 1966-70
Vice-Chmn: Doris Borger (Mrs. Sol), 1966-68
Blanche Meisel (Mrs. Philip L.), 1970-74
Vice-Chmn: Dorothy Brown (Mrs. Arthur),
1970-74

Helen Cytryn (Mrs. Samuel), 1974-

and

thou

shalt

love...



HINENI



Exodus 3:4

YEAR

PLACE

1968	Kiamesha Lake, New York
1970	Kiamesha Lake, New York
1972	Kiamesha Lake, New York
1974	Kiamesha Lake, New York
1976	Kiamesha Lake, New York

CONVENTION THEMES

"Hineni — Here Am I"

"Ve'ahavta —
And Thou Shalt Love"

"Na'aseh — We Will Do!"

"Layv Hadash Veru'ah Hadashah —
A New Heart and a New Spirit"

"Hazak Ve-ematz Me'od! —
Be Strong and Very Courageous"

Chairmen

Miriam Teplitz (Mrs. Saul)
Miriam Teplitz (Mrs. Saul)
Ruth Perry (Mrs. M. Milton)
Ruth Perry (Mrs. M. Milton)
Goldie Kweller (Mrs. Murry)

