

Women's League Shabbat 5783
Torah Fund Greetings
Barbara Ezring, International Torah Fund Chair

What does it take to be Chazak v'Ematz, strong and courageous?

Women of strength and courage are in the book of Exodus. Midwives, Shifra and Puah, faced fear and acted without delay to save newborn Israelite baby boys from infanticide. Yocheved, mother of newborn Moshe, trusted God as she placed her baby into a basket in the Nile. Miriam, the baby's sister, acted decisively, suggesting a plan for the mother to nurse her baby. Pharoah's daughter acted independently, taking the newborn to raise in her father's household. Miriam, always the planner, made sure the women were ready with their timbrels to dance and sing and thank God for their freedom and safety on the other side of the sea.

We, members of Women's League, have a history of being strong and courageous.

In 1918, Mathilde Schechter spoke to the all-male United Synagogue to found Women's League as an independent organization. In the midst of a World War and an influenza pandemic, Mathilde and her Women's League leaders made sure that rabbinical students had a place to live and food to eat. Eighty years ago, Dora Spiegel, Women's League president, and her colleagues founded Torah Fund. In the midst of a second World War, they raised funds for scholarships and housing for rabbinical students.

We continue the legacy of strength and courage. During a global pandemic, we created new ways to stay connected, maintain relationships, and support our future Conservative/Masorti leaders, now studying at five global institutions of higher Jewish learning.

Thank you for recognizing the relevance of furthering educational opportunities for students at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Schechter Institutes in Israel, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Argentina, and Zacharias Frankel College in Germany. We appreciate your donations to the Chazak v'Ematz Torah Fund General Campaign.

Thank you for understanding the importance of providing the Women's League Study Space in the new JTS residence hall, and the Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment at Ziegler. We are grateful for your gifts to the Creating New Spaces Campaign.

Thank you for ensuring the education of future Conservative/Masorti rabbis, cantors, educators, and lay leaders with your membership in the Torah Fund Legacy Society.

With your strength and courage, we assure the future of Conservative/Masorti education.