

Women's League Shabbat 5783 - Generic Message

Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields, Executive Director, Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Asher Zvi Hirsch Ginsberg, Hebrew essayist, and founder of cultural Zionism, better known as *Aham Ha'Am*, said, "More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews."

More than the Conservative Movement synagogues have had Sisterhoods affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Women's League for Conservative Judaism has kept the Conservative Movement and synagogues fruitful and thriving!

Women's League Shabbat each year is one of the most special Shabbatot of the entire year, when members of our Women's League Sisterhood Affiliates lead services, teach, preach and *leyn*, or read from the Torah.

Since 1918, Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the efforts of our women connected on the Sisterhood/Affiliate, Region, and International levels have engaged, enriched and empowered Jewish women in the home, synagogue and communities and kept these institutions alive and prospering. Women's League for Conservative Judaism provides a wide array of opportunities to embrace, engage and empower our members, such *Makom B'Yachad*, a virtual program of Women's League, that meets three days a week and provides our members the opportunity to recite prayers of healing, learn and recite Kaddish together; Women's League Reads; Personal Conversations; Health and Wellness; Mishpachah; Archives (How to Live Forever); Environmental Sustainability; Women and Film, and many other programs and initiatives. Women's League for Conservative Judaism will hold its Triennial International Convention, July 16-18, 2023, in Schaumburg, Illinois, with the theme *Sisters Celebrating Together*, when we will honor our outgoing and incoming International Board and leadership and will celebrate the b'not mitzvah of WLCJ members.

Founded in 1942, Torah Fund, the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, preserves, promotes, and perpetuates Conservative/Masorti Judaism through Torah Fund's support of the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York, NY), Ziegler School of Rabbinic

Studies (Los Angeles, CA), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam, Germany). We are marking our 80th anniversary of Torah Fund this year. The Torah Fund Campaign this year, *Chazak v'Ematz*, Be Strong and Courageous, celebrates the strength of Torah Fund and its supporters for the past 80 years.

Yasher Kochechen to all of our Women's League sisters for participating today in Women's League Shabbat and thank you for all that you do! May we continue to be strong and courageous, *Chazak v'Ematz, together!*

Shabbat Shalom!