

Women's League Shabbat 2026

Executive Director Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields

The theme for our Torah Fund Campaign for Women's League for Conservative Judaism this year is *Oseh Shalom*, Maker of Peace. The *Kaddish* prayer ends with the words, *Oseh Shalom B'moromav Hu Ya'aseh Shalom Aleinu v'al Kol Yisrael v'imru Amen*—May the maker of peace grant peace to us and all Israel and let us say Amen. This is truly an aspirational plea for peace, which is needed so greatly in the world we live in today. Although many of us rallied to bring our hostages home, for example, it was not truly in our individual hands to bring them home, but rather our gathering, our words, our marches, our appeals that helped. We cannot individually bring peace to the Middle East, but we can educate people about what is taking place there.

How can we as individuals bring peace? Perhaps by bringing more kindness into this world. Instead of saying something mean or spiteful, restrict some comments, and compliment instead of complain. Be positive, not negative. Hold the door for other people, even if you do not know them, even if you need to wait a few minutes. Listen to someone whose opinion you may not agree with, as the act of listening can be a sign of respect. We can agree to disagree respectfully.

A very wise woman once told me there is chocolate, vanilla, and swirl, because not everyone sees things in just vanilla and chocolate—black and white. Just as a box of crayons has many shades, we are not all the same, and that is truly a blessing. Look around at our incredible Women's League sisters; no one is the same, and that is a blessing. We all come to Women's League with a unique history, background, thoughts, and opinions. That helps create an atmosphere to enrich, engage, and enhance each other's lives, all through our membership in Women's League. Together, we can make peace in our own part of the world through nurturing and appreciating all the unique values we bring to our Sisterhood Affiliate.

Kol HaKavod to all the women who have participated today in Women's League Shabbat. May our continued support of each other, and our appreciation of all the blessings each and everyone one of our Sisters brings to our Sisterhood Affiliate and our Congregation, bring greater peace to our part of the world.