

# THE SISTERHOOD ADVISOR

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## *A Handbook for Sisterhoods*

A publication of  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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Welcome to the all new *Sisterhood Advisor* with its focus on helping build stronger and more vital sisterhoods.

While there are many different names for the groups that are affiliated with Women's League, since the majority are called *sisterhoods* we will use that term throughout the book to represent our sisters in the Conservative/Masorti movement.

Sisterhood is the place that offers women of all ages what they are looking for today: personal growth, community and fun!

While we recognize that each sisterhood is unique, we know that whether we live in the east, west, north, south, in the United States or Canada, we have much in common. *The Sisterhood Advisor* is designed to help give each sisterhood's leadership team the tools to be more successful. Everything – well almost everything – you wanted to know about sisterhoods is in these pages. And if it's not in here, we've shared resources of where to find answers to your questions.

Always start with our new website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) where you will find even more information and resources, including this book (so you can share it easily with your team). If you have not already visited, please put it on your to do list. There are pages on the site just for sisterhood members that you will want to access. If you need assistance, please contact Women's League Administrator Razel Kessler at 212.870.1263 ([rkessler@wlcj.org](mailto:rkessler@wlcj.org)).

Share *The Sisterhood Advisor* with everyone on your executive committee and let them know it is available on the website. Coming soon will be new Women's League materials to share with your membership. Combined with *The Sisterhood Advisor*, you will have the tools to lead your sisterhood in exciting new directions and make it the place to be for all the women in your synagogue.

### Did you know?

If you can't find what you need on the pages of *The Sisterhood Advisor*, be sure to look at the new [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org), under RESOURCES or call 212.870.1260.



### Start with the basics

Every sisterhood is different and changes over time. A sisterhood's structure should accommodate these fluctuations in membership to continue to be relevant.

For some sisterhoods, a traditional president, officers, and board committees work fine. For others a more flexible or creative approach may be necessary if facing loss of membership, lacking leadership, or just doing the same thing year after year without success.

While the next few pages of *The Sisterhood Advisor* describe the traditional structure of officers and committees, if your sisterhood is not traditional, you might want to try one of these to reflect the women in your community.

- **Rotating sisterhood leadership** could be done on a quarterly basis with several caveats: it should not be onerous for those who need to know who is doing what and when; and the changes in leadership should not cause confusion. Try for seamless transitions.
- **Co-president succession.** Each is elected for two years with staggered election years so that each senior co-president has a junior co-president who will succeed her in the second year (with a new junior co-president).
- **Executive committee members form working partnerships** with brand new and seasoned veteran members to allow for sharing of new ideas. There would always be a flow of new women learning about new things or doing things differently and promoting greater communication.
- **Two to three past leaders step back up, but act in a mentoring capacity** to build leadership succession and provide historical insight.
- **Committees without chairs** Create working teams of three to five women for all the important areas of your sisterhood: membership, Torah Fund, fundraising, communications, and programming. The work will get done and no one will be overwhelmed by being the specified leader at all times. Different women in the team take charge when addressing different issues within the workload.

Take a serious, strategic look at your sisterhood, its demographics, programming needs, finances, goals and aspirations in a realistic way. Determine goals for

# SISTERHOOD STRUCTURES

one and two years in the future and hold those who take the job accountable for the work promised.

Reconsider your sisterhood mission statement. If you don't already have one, invite a team of women (both active and inactive members) from your congregation to create a vision that will reflect a connection to each other, to other members of the congregation and to the community-at-large.

Women's League Training Services (see page 17) is available to help you redesign your sisterhood for results.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Some sisterhoods thrive when they facilitate special interest groups (SIGs) for the women in their congregations.

Here is just a **sampling** of topics:

Yoga Torah Night	The Israel Connection
Learn to <i>Layn</i>	Computer Literacy
Adult Bat Mitzvah	Religion in American Life
Theater Group	Women's Health
Museum Mavens	Jewish Girl Scouts
Rosh Chodesh Study	Interfaith Activities
Famous Jewish Women	On-Line and On-Time
Special Person & Me	Between the Generation
Math Skills for Toddlers	Dealing with Infertility
Kosher Cooking	On Being a Caregiver
Spa Splurge	Coats for Kids
Israeli Dancing	Bikkur Holim
Investment Club	MADD
Creating New Rituals/Enhancing Old Ones	Sharsheret
The Sandwich Generation	Book Group
News & Views	Short Story Group
Reading Readiness and Tutoring	Local Community-based Social Action/Tikkun Olam projects

## MISSION STATEMENT

A sisterhood mission needs to be reviewed every three to five years. Use one of these sample statements to help formulate one for your sisterhood.

### Sample #1

The mission of \_\_\_\_\_, affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism, is to strengthen and unite the women of the synagogue and support them in efforts to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide. We accept the Jerusalem Program, the platform of the World Zionist Organization.

### Sample #2

The mission of \_\_\_\_\_ is to provide an interactive environment for its members; support the congregation, its youth and religious school; enrich the Jewish education and ties with Israel of its members; and support and unite with Women's League in the understanding and perpetuation of Conservative/Masorti Judaism. We accept the Jerusalem Program, the platform of the World Zionist Organization.

### Did you know?

Women's League's *Divrei Hokhmah* units of study can be led by anyone, no training, skills or previous knowledge necessary! These modules were designed to open a meeting or program with brief but cogent (and sometimes provocative) discussions. All you need to do is ask one person to lead the discussion.



- Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family
- Conversation Starters
- Derekh Eretz: R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
- Hiddur Mitzvah: Enhancing Mitzvot
- Pirkei Imahot: The Wisdom of Our Mothers
- The Environment
- Kol Ishah
- Heart and Soul
- Proverbs
- The Ten Commandments

Download all of these at [www.wlcj.org/Resources](http://www.wlcj.org/Resources)

# SISTERHOOD LEADERSHIP

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## PRESIDENT OR PRESIDUM

*Your role as a Women's League sisterhood president offers many rewards and challenges. You will motivate, inspire, coordinate, supervise, encourage, and lead your sisterhood to success.*

To effectively lead, you need to prepare for the challenges ahead.

- Know your sisterhood structure through your by-laws. (Sisterhood model by-laws are available at [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org).)
- Meet with your predecessor to benefit from her experience and practical knowledge.
- If sharing the leadership position (co-president or member of a presidium), divide the responsibilities and determine the logistics. Develop your communication model.
- Meet with the members of your executive committee to discuss objectives, goals and strategies for the year.
- Familiarize yourself with Women's League materials.
- Join the Women's League PrezNet, the on-line discussion group for sisterhood president(s). Email [womensleague@wlcj.org](mailto:womensleague@wlcj.org).

To effectively lead you need to accept responsibility. Understand that you need not be without assistance. Women's League will be there with you.

- Appoint all activity chairs and teams or committees who were not elected.
- Provide good tools for your chairs or team leaders, including Women's League materials, job descriptions and the report of the person who previously held the position. The by-laws can be helpful.
- Be sure that all board members have the calendar for the year, the names, addresses, phone numbers, emails and positions of all board members.
- Read all information from Women's League and your region and **share it**.
- You are not a solo leader. Have a communications protocol with your vice presidents and/or team leaders who are your eyes and ears.
- Respond to your members in a timely manner.
- Everyone in sisterhood is a volunteer and fits their volunteering into busy schedules. Thank them!
- Time is valuable so make meetings worthwhile.

- Serve on all committees, with the exception of nominating as an ex-officio member; vote only to break a tie. Allow the chair to lead; that's why she's the chair.
- A good leader works to replace herself by encouraging future leaders.
- Be a role model; your attendance at Shabbat services, region meetings and conferences encourages others.
- Represent sisterhood on the synagogue board.
- Your role as president automatically establishes you as a member of the region board. Take advantage of all that your region has to offer.

To effectively lead you should take advantage of the many Women's League services. To do so, please:

- Complete your Women's League profile online so that information can be sent to your chairs.
- Pay per capita on a timely basis.
- Answer emails and phone calls when they come.
- Clear dates for any sisterhood event so that you do not schedule a conflict with the region or Women's League.
- Share your successes with the region; they want to *kevell* with you.
- Attend conferences, meetings and convention and encourage others to join you; they are opportunities to learn, share and teach.

What Women's League asks of your sisterhood:

- Keep your membership list up-to-date through the Women's League data base
- Pay your per capita on time
- Participate in the Torah Fund campaign
- Contribute to the Women's League Masorti Women's Project

## RUN EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

- Create and distribute an agenda prior to the meeting.
- Notify everyone who needs to make a report and ask that the report be in writing. Reports should not be read at the meeting, but rather discussed.
- Work with your parliamentarian.
- Begin and end on time.
- Stay neutral; vote only to break a tie.
- Begin with *Divrei Hokhmah*; set the environment for study, learning and cooperation.

# SISTERHOOD LEADERSHIP

## LEADERSHIP LIBRARY

Women's League has produced a substantial set of publications designed to help with every aspect of running a sisterhood.

If you do not have these, you can download them (as well as other useful materials) from WLCJ for YOU at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org). You will need to log on with a password for these titles:

- Sisterhood Planner: How to Design a Year of Programs
- Ways to the Means: A Guide for Planning Successful Ways & Means Projects
- Image Plus Public Relations Handbook
- Blueprint for Membership
- The Z'havah Planner: Attracting Younger Women to Sisterhood

Other suggested titles:

- Hiddur Mitzvah Project: A Fresh Approach to Enhancing Mitzvot
- Guidelines for Rosh Chodesh Groups
- Seasonal Materials to Enhance Your Holiday Celebrations
- Membership Magnets 1, 2, 3
- Parliamentary Guide for Sisterhoods
- Model Bylaws for Sisterhoods
- Days of Study

In addition, you should read and utilize (also at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)):

- Toward Sisterhood Success Bulletins
- Wellness & Learning Network monthly installments
- Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family materials



## Jewels in the Crown Awards

Keep track of all of your successful programs and initiatives and you might be a winner of the next Jewels in Crown awards.

Convention 2014 will include a compendium of the best of the winning original programs. Take a look for suggestions for your sisterhood agenda.

## STANDARDS OF LEADERSHIP

As a religious organization affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti movement, Women's League recognizes its responsibility to its membership to formulate ideals of leadership that can serve as a standard toward which we can all strive.

In this spirit, we set forth the following cornerstones of commitment and observance, consistent with the halakhah of the Conservative movement:

- Shabbat and yom tov observance
- Jewish study
- Kashrut
- Tzedakah
- Synagogue attendance
- Israel

Ascending achievement in personal Jewish development is the ultimate goal for our membership. It is our express hope that our leadership will provide the model for others to emulate.

## SHARING WITH WOMEN'S LEAGUE

In order to benefit from your Women's League affiliation, it is important that Women's League has an accurate picture of your membership and chairs in your sisterhood, what used to be called a Sisterhood Profile. The easiest way to do that is via the Women's League data base.

Presidents, financial officers and data managers all have access to the data base for each sisterhood.

You can name a **data manager** to maintain your sisterhood per capita list, update member information, create spreadsheets, mailing labels and email lists, etc.

Please be sure that you, or your data manager, keep your sisterhood profile up-to-date, and Women's League will then be able to share information with the appropriate members of your sisterhood.

If you need help accessing the website and data base, please contact Razel Kessler, 212.870.1263,

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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The officers and other members of the executive committee all have portfolios of responsibilities. The committee meets at the request of the president(s) who acts as chair. The committee's function is to present recommendations to the board for action.

## Who is on the executive committee?

- President(s)
- Vice presidents
- Corresponding secretary
- Recording secretary
- Financial secretary
- Treasurer
- Immediate past president
- Presidential appointments

The president may invite to an executive committee meeting any member whose presence may be pertinent to, or necessary for, the business under discussion. The president may speak and vote as any other member.

Members of the executive committee should:

- Read the sections of *The Sisterhood Advisor* that pertain to the committees under their aegis.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of any chairs under their portfolio.
- Collect all materials from their predecessors.
- Be familiar with the Standards of Leadership.
- Be familiar with the basic tenets of Conservative Judaism.
- Convey the message of sisterhood, region, Women's League, and Conservative Judaism.
- Support region and Women's League programs.
- Use the Women's League **Hebrew Word Guide** for the correct Hebrew spelling, translations, transliterations, and pronunciations.

## Responsibilities of the executive committee

- Maintain close contact with the president.
- Attend region and area meetings.
- Attend Women's League convention.
- Consult with parallel region officers.
- Represent the president in the community when asked.
- Before installation, deliver to their successors all materials.
- Perform other duties as may be required.

## VICE PRESIDENTS

A vice president is responsible for the administration of areas of activity as assigned by the president.

- Coordinate the chairs of the different activity committees that report to her
- Meet with chairs during the summer to plan and organize projects. Meet with them regularly during the year to evaluate their progress and to assess/reorganize for the future.
- Make sure that their chairs receive updated portfolios.

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Recording secretaries maintain the history of the organization by taking accurate minutes and keeping records current, to prevent misunderstandings and satisfying policy.

- Record minutes of all meetings.
- Understand how the board works and the responsibilities of the various chairs.
- Send copies of all minutes to the president before the next meeting.
- Keep records of meeting attendance.
- Maintain a policy book that records all motions passed, listed by date and subject matter. Send copies to the parliamentarian and president.

## COMMUNICATIONS (CORRESPONDING) SECRETARY

The communications secretary is responsible for sending out meeting notices, maintaining a presence on the synagogue website, and mailing bulletins and other information.

- Notify members of all meetings.
- Conduct all correspondence on official stationery or email. Update stationery, if necessary.
- Read *excerpts* of important correspondence at meetings.

## BUDGET FOR SUCCESS

One of the best gifts you can give your sisterhood is active participation in Women's League conventions, region conferences, and Leadership or Z'havah Institutes. There should be a line item on your sisterhood budget for presidents as well as up-and-coming new leaders to attend this essential events.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

It is the responsibility of the financial secretary to maintain the financial records of sisterhood.

Remember that the fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.

The financial officer has direct access to the Women's League data base for your sisterhood and can do much of the record keeping directly on the data base.

In billing dues, use the suggested statement (next page).

For help, ask the sisterhood/congregation's accountant for assistance.

- Receive all monies from members and other sources. Keep detailed records.
- Turn all monies over to the treasurer; provide her with records and retain receipted duplicates.
- Arrange for dues collection and turn them over to the treasurer, who issues a receipt for the money.
- Record dues received; bill as necessary (see Appendix I).
- Report regularly on income and status of members.
- Serve on the budget committee.
- Keep transparent records of all accounts between the organization and its members.
- Maintain a separate record of per capita dues, which are payable to Women's League by the treasurer on January 10. Any additional per capita that comes in after that date should be sent to Women's League on collection.
- Correct and update membership data on the Women's League data base.

## TREASURER

- Receive all monies from the financial secretary, record all receipts, make deposits, keep records of monies due.
- Pay all bills by check countersigned by the president, upon receipt of a voucher signed by the president.
- Disburse all monies as directed.
- Report in full regarding all monies requested.
- Cooperate with the synagogue's fiscal review procedures.
- Submit the books to the authorized synagogue accountant for audit before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.
- Serve on the budget committee.

## PARLIAMENTARIAN

The parliamentarian interprets the bylaws and advises the president, without bias, helping to assure orderly procedures. She does not make decisions. The parliamentarian is the chair of the bylaws revision and policy committee. The region parliamentarian should be consulted before a sisterhood takes any action to change its bylaws or policy.

- Facilitates the orderly transition of business.
- Protects the rights of members to propose ideas, speak, vote, serve, nominate, and be candidates.

## Resources

- Parliamentary Guide and Sisterhood Model Bylaws
- Policy for Sisterhoods
- Parliamentary Procedure in Brief
- Parliamentary Procedure: Questions & Opinions
- Guidelines for Sisterhood Nominating Committee

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Serve as the sisterhood's policy-making body.
- Represent sisterhood in the synagogue and community.
- Develop new leadership.
- Support Women's League and transmit information and materials from Women's League and region to members.

## What board members should know

- The objectives of sisterhood, its mission
- Sisterhood policies
- The relationship among sisterhood, region, and Women's League

## Duties of board members

- Approve the budget.
- Serve on committees as assigned.
- Support programming and fundraising projects.
- Attend meetings.
- Work toward the Standards of Leadership.
- Attend synagogue services regularly.
- Be active in sisterhood and region.
- Attend region and area meetings and events.
- Participate in the Torah Fund campaign.

## EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

- The rabbi, cantor and educational director or their wives, should be ex-officio members of the board with full power of voice and vote.

# BUILDING SISTERHOOD

## Make the most of your sisterhood statement

To let your members know what they can expect from sisterhood, include with the dues statement:

- Sisterhood or synagogue brochure
- List of officers with contact information
- Description of projects supported by sisterhood
- Calendar of events
- List of ongoing sisterhood activities and programs
- Show the added value of membership in Women's League
- Short survey of what they are looking for in sisterhood

### [Name of Sisterhood] Affiliated with

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues for 20\_\_\_\_/57\_\_\_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Make check payable to \_\_\_\_\_ Sisterhood

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_, Financial Secretary

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Dues include per capita to Women's League for Conservative Judaism.



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM** represents you at major Jewish, international, national, religious, and public policy organizations.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Region** offers area meetings, personnel, workshops and training services.

## Making Free Membership Profitable

Offering a new member of your synagogue a free first year of sisterhood is a wonderful way to introduce her to your organization.

By including her on the Women's League membership list and **paying her per capita dues**, she will receive CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism, (published with United Synagogue and Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs) and she will find a voice in the largest women's synagogue-based organization in the world.

Download the brochure *How To Make Free Membership Profitable for Everyone* at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

## PER CAPITA

Per capita dues fund Women's League administration, programs and materials. The per capita rate was raised in 2013:

- For 2013-2014/2014-2015: \$13 per member
- For 2015-2016 and forward: \$15 per member

Per capita is payable for each member, whether regular, life, courtesy, ex-officio, or honorary.

For your convenience, and to save mailing expenses and show respect to our environment, you should do all updates to your per capita data online.

Check the names of newly enrolled members to keep billing records complete.

Make deletions and changes of address on the data base **as they occur** throughout the year. Send per capita payment for any new members.

Sisterhoods are responsible for all members listed on the membership data base as of December 31.

# SAMPLE SISTERHOOD BUDGET

	PAST YEAR	PROJECTED
<b>SISTERHOOD INCOME</b>		
Membership dues (includes Women's League per capita)	_____	_____
Judaica Shop (net)	_____	_____
Fundraising Projects (itemize) such as donor, thrift shop, dinner dance (net)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Contributions (Funds, Tributes, Individual)	_____	_____
Other Income (itemized)	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL SISTERHOOD INCOME</b>	_____	_____
<b>TORAH FUND RECEIPTS **</b>	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	_____	_____
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>Per Capita dues paid to Women's League</b>	_____	_____
(Per capita monies should be kept in a separate account. They are due January 10.)		
<b>Torah Fund** Disbursements</b>	_____	_____
(**Torah Fund monies should be sent directly to the Torah Fund office or kept in a separate account.)		
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Stationery and printing	_____	_____
Postage	_____	_____
Supplies	_____	_____
Telephone	_____	_____
Publicity and Bulletin	_____	_____
Meeting expenses	_____	_____
Publications and books	_____	_____
Membership	_____	_____
Programming and Education	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	_____	_____
<b>PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES</b>		
Women's League Convention Fund (budgeted yearly)	_____	_____
Region Conferences and Meetings	_____	_____
Community functions	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES</b>	_____	_____
<b>EXPENSES for MEMBERS</b>		
Women's League Convention	_____	_____
Region Conferences and Meetings	_____	_____
Training (Leadership, Z'havah Institutes, etc)	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES for MEMBERS</b>	_____	_____

# SAMPLE SISTERHOOD BUDGET

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	PAST YEAR	PROJECTED
<b>COMMITMENTS TO CONGREGATION</b>		
Annual line-item congregation budget	_____	_____
Additional commitments (kiddush, pulpit flowers, etc.)	_____	_____
Special projects (itemize)		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL COMMITMENTS TO CONGREGATION</b>	_____	_____
<b>YOUTH/SCHOOL</b>		
Youth Activities (USY, Kadima, Ramah, college outreach)	_____	_____
Religious School (parent/teacher meetings, holiday celebrations, etc.)	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL YOUTH/SCHOOL</b>	_____	_____
<b>GIFTS (new members, life cycle events, illness, condolence)</b>		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL GIFTS</b>	_____	_____
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Scholarship Funds (itemize) (eg: Ramah, USY, Solomon Schechter Day School)		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Masorti Israel/Overseas Women's Groups	_____	_____
Other Women's League appeals	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	_____	_____
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
Contingency Fund	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	_____	_____
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURES</b>	_____	_____

# SISTERHOOD COMMITTEES

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Sisterhood, like Women's League, can function as either teams or committees.

- Teams: all members of the team share responsibility and lead in their area
- Committees: have a chair who is responsible

Each sisterhood is unique and has different ways to meet the needs of its membership and potential membership. Here are some suggestions for committees:

## BOOKS

- Book discussion group that meets regularly
- Enters into a partnership with Judaica shop to promote Jewish reading
- Encourages sisterhood members and their families to read books and periodicals of Jewish content

### Resources at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org):

- BookMarks
- Orpah's Annual Selections

### Other resources

- Jewish Book Council ([www.jewishbookcouncil.org](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org))
- Association of Jewish Libraries ([www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org))
- Jewish Review of Books

## BUDGET & FINANCE

Budgets help a sisterhood determine the funds needed for activities and to anticipate the income to fund them and should reflect all the needs for the year. The committee should include the treasurer, financial secretary and vice presidents affected by the budget.

The budget should be prepared at the end of the fiscal year for the next year. A balanced budget should be presented to the board of directors for approval and should include the actual expenditures and income from the previous year.

### Contributions:

All funds collected by, and on behalf of, sisterhood should be reserved for it and its congregation. Women's League requests that you set aside specific funds for Masorti Women (see next column) as well as for other causes from time to time. Contributions to organizations not related to Women's League or requested by Women's League should be limited to

token amounts and allocated only upon direction of the board of directors.

## CREATIVE JUDAIC ARTS

"Study and create" and hiddur mitzvah (embellishment of a mitzvah) are the watchwords of this activity. Your task is to encourage members to create family heirlooms and promote an appreciation of Judaic art and crafts.

### Resources at [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org):

An expansive selection of instructions for a wide variety of creative projects

## DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING

Guide the sisterhood to fundraising events that are in keeping with the ideals of Judaism; primary purposes are educational, cultural and inspirational; must satisfy the local regulations and be approved by the rabbi.

### Resources at [WWW.WLCJ.ORG](http://WWW.WLCJ.ORG):

- Ways to the Means

## ISRAEL

Women's League is committed to the support of Israel with a multi-faceted program:

- Love of Israel is inherent in our tradition, and a component of our bylaws
- Education about Israel
- Economic independence
- Political and financial support for the Masorti (Conservative movement)
- Tourism and aliyah
- Political advocacy
- Women's League supports Mercaz and the Masorti Foundation
- Support of the new bat mitzvah program for girls and their mothers

**Masorti Women International:** Sisterhoods are asked to make a contribution or \$100 in support of Masorti Women's days of study and the new bat mitzvah program in Israel. We encourage correspondence with, and visits to congregations twinned with each region to strengthen ties. Sharing with your Israeli twin can be a rewarding source of programming. A complete list of communities, with contact information, appears in the Women's League calendar diary, and on the website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

# SISTERHOOD COMMITTEES

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## JUDAICA SHOP

- To educate and to serve the community by its selection of ritual objects and gifts, educational materials and resources.
- To be a business enterprise
- Partners with other chairs to enhance sisterhood
- Should stock Women's League material

### Resources:

- Listserve (wljudaicashop@googlegroups.com)
- CJMarketplace (CJVoices.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

The role of the membership committee is to recruit, reclaim and retain new and ongoing members. Remember, all activities are membership activities... and membership is a never-ending activity!

### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- Blueprint for Membership
- Sisterhood Program Planner
- Z'havah Planner
- Membership Magnets 1, 2, 3
- How to Make Free Sisterhood Membership Profitable for Everyone!
- Reaching Out to Your Sisterhood Membership

## MITZVOT

- Programs for mitzvah-based activities that cover many interests and holidays.
- Team approach allows one woman to be responsible for one holiday.
- The Women's League Hiddur Mitzvah Project and Mitzvah Yomit: A Daily Mitzvah are invaluable resources.
- Special events could be a Women's Seder, Vashti's Banquet, Ushpizot, or a Day of Study.

### *Did you know?*

**Kolot BiK'dushah** is the cadre of Women's League members who are qualified to lead services, and read Torah and Haftarah.

For information and application, go to [www.wlcj.org/services](http://www.wlcj.org/services) to members



## NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee identifies the leadership that will direct and strengthen sisterhood. It is elected by the membership or appointed by the president. Members should be familiar with the abilities of the general members. The chair should have a copy of your current bylaws so she can be familiar with your procedures.

The committee has an uneven number of members, including the chair. Potential candidates for office should not be on the committee. The president is not a member and does not attend the meetings.

### Responsibilities of the nominating committee:

- At the first meeting, the parliamentarian should clarify bylaws and policy.
- Between elections, assist the president in filling any vacancies that arise. These appointees serve until the end of the president's term.
- Inform Women's League and your region nominating committee chair of any changes on the board during the year, or when vacancies are filled.
- Honor the confidential nature of the committee.
- Consider candidates by their performance of duties, attendance at meetings and synagogue services.
- Leaders in sisterhood should act as role models. See Standard of Leadership, on page 4.

### Establishing a slate:

- Nominate a candidate for president first.
- Consult with the current president and her nominated successor.
- Ask for suggestions from the membership.
- Provide nominees with descriptions of their schedules, obligations and exact job descriptions.
- The bylaws determine the number of officers, elected board of directors, appointees and term.

### Resources:

- The training services department is prepared to assist any nominating committee.

### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- Nominations Guide for Sisterhoods
- Creative installation scripts

# SISTERHOOD COMMITTEES

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## PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy is integral to the Women's League program. Sisterhoods should use the materials they receive from Women's League in planning activities and social action campaigns. They should also respond to action alerts. Following Women's League policy, they should participate in local and national affairs.

To keep members up-to-the-minute on issues and events of interest to them in our ever-changing world, Ba'Olam is produced as a blog with direct links to articles and commentary. Link to it via the website.

### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- Women's League Resolutions
- Guide to Writing Women's League Resolutions
- Guide to Voter Registration
- Guide to Writing Advocacy Letters

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

The public relations committee encourages the participation of your membership through brochures, invitations, flyers, bulletin ads and articles, internet, and Facebook. Public relations is a way to reach out to all Jewish women and communicate with the community about your sisterhood and its activities.

### Using social media to attract and connect:

Social media is another way to communicate to the people you value in the format they are already using. What a great way to engage people in what is happening in your sisterhood.

**Online and current:** If your synagogue has an online discussion group, be sure sisterhood has a constant presence and voice.

### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- Toward Sisterhood Success Bulletin 4 is a complete review of current social media
- Image Plus Public Relations Handbook
- Graphics and information

Follow Women's League and what's happening in other sisterhoods on Facebook.

## TIKKUN OLAM

Jewish values require us to take an active part in the community. Each sisterhood knows its community best and can choose accordingly. Suggestions include:

- working with the disabled in the synagogue;

- giving to both Jewish and community-based charities, but not as their fundraising arm.

### Resources at WWW.WLCJ.ORG:

- The Mitzvah of Bikkur Holim
- Giving Tzedakah with Thought
- Yom Yarak: Green Day

### Other resources:

- Mazon(a Jewish response to hunger)
- COEJL
- [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) and [www.ljgooders.com](http://www.ljgooders.com)

## TORAH FUND

Supporting the schools of higher education in the Conservative movement is an overarching role for Women's League and its affiliated sisterhoods.

The roles of the Torah Fund committee in a sisterhood:

- Help reach the goal set by the region Torah Fund vice president and region president
- Educate the membership about Torah Fund and the schools/programs it supports
- Inspire members to contribute to Torah Fund

**Resources:** Torah Fund provides the necessary information. For information, please call the Torah Fund director at 212.678.8876

Torah Fund contributions should be deposited in a separate account and forwarded monthly to:

Torah Fund/Jewish Theological Seminary  
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

## YOUTH LIAISON

- Between sisterhood and synagogue committees
- Keep sisterhood informed of activities and bring sisterhood concerns to the committees

## CANADIAN POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The Canadian Policy & Advocacy Committee of Women's League deals with issues relevant to Jewish life in Canada, but that is by no means its sole purpose.

Canadian sisterhoods should encourage members to join MERCAZ Canada: [Mercaz-masorti@interactivepages.com](mailto:Mercaz-masorti@interactivepages.com)

## BUILDING LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

*The mission of Z'havah is to promote and develop future leaders of sisterhoods in order to attract and involve younger women, bringing them together and enabling them to create a variety of activities directed to their interests.*

Is your sisterhood wondering how to attract younger women? Z'havah is a proven way help you do just that! Offering programs that are of interest to Z'havah women at the days and times they can attend is the way to start. Z'havah does *not* need to be a separate group. It can be a part of your membership or programming portfolio.

Women's League can help you learn how to use Z'havah to reinvent your sisterhood to make it the place to be for Z'havah aged women and their friends.

Think about sending some young women who may not yet be a part of your sisterhood to a Z'havah Institute to help them connect with sisterhood and inspire them to help reinvent sisterhood. Contact Training Services at [womensleague@wlcj.org](mailto:womensleague@wlcj.org) and learn how to make this happen.

*Z'havah* is the feminine Hebrew word for gold, the acronym for **Generating Our Leadership Development**. Let Women's League help you find gold for your sisterhood!

### Resources

- Z'havah Planner
- Sisterhood Planner
- Toward Sisterhood Success Bulletin 4: Social Media

### Did you know?

Tried & true sisterhood programs that make a difference:

- Book Groups/Orpah's Selection
- Value Our Vets
- Rosh Chodesh Groups
- Books for [your city]



### Z'HAVAH INSTITUTE



## Z'havah Institute

For women 45ish and younger

- Learn about sisterhood and Women's League
- Develop programming idea
- Master communication techniques
- Learn how to get new women involved within the existing sisterhood structure.

The Z'havah Institute enhances personal growth during a five hour workshop designed to fit into the busy lives of Z'havah women.

**Check the Women's League website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org), for the next scheduled institute.**

### LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



## ENDEAVOR DISCOVER DIALOGUE

Recognizing the importance of developing knowledgeable and energizing leaders to strengthen sisterhoods, Women's League created the Leadership Institute.

Designed to enhance personal growth, reinforce a commitment to Conservative Judaism, and strengthen leadership capabilities, the Institutes welcome new, potential and developing leaders. The mission is to return women to their communities with a renewed purpose.

Leadership Institutes are offered throughout North America on a rotating basis.

**Check the Women's League website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org), for the next scheduled institute.**

# WHAT YOUR REGION DOES FOR YOU

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE REGIONS

Sisterhoods affiliated with Women's League are organized into 13 local regions. The regions are vital links in our network.

When you connect to your region, Women's League can bring you even more services in the most effective way possible. Regions have volunteers who are available and willing to assist the chairs in your area and sisterhood.

**Every sisterhood president is automatically on the region board.** By participating in your region, your whole sisterhood benefits!

## Highlights of the region structure

Your sisterhood is part of a local area or cluster for improved communications with your members and your region.

Your region leaders can be great assets as you become comfortable in your role as president. They are experienced sisterhood women who are ready, willing and able to help you succeed. Working with this team will help you assess your sisterhood's needs and identify what services will benefit you the most.

## Who is on the region team?

- Region president
- Region area and/or sisterhood support vice president (depending on the structure of your region)
- Your local area director or a representative of the region board assigned to your sisterhood

## Your sisterhood's support team

The region leaders are part of your region's support system, your first line of defense. They hopefully live close enough so that they can provide effective and personal service to you and your sisterhood team. They are experienced in sisterhood and region and can get you the information you need quickly.

We encourage a member of your region team to communicate with you every 6-8 weeks. She will also help create networking opportunities for you with other sisterhoods in your area and region. We encourage video or conference calls, as well as face-to-face meetings when geographically feasible. If you have not heard from a representative of your region, please contact your region president. Her email can be found on the website under regions.

## Benefits of your region

Your sisterhood has much to gain from your region: assistance in building membership, speakers, training services, bulletins, and more. It is to your benefit to become an active member of your region board. Similarly, invite region officers and chairs to your programs to get to know them and so that they can become familiar with your sisterhood.

The area director or sisterhood support team is your link to your region and to Women's League but you are the one who makes this connection work! Region personnel will work with you to solve challenges and resolve issues, or put you in touch with those who can be most helpful.

## Sisterhood responsibilities to the region

- Clear sisterhood dates with the region calendar.
- Attend all region meetings and functions and encourage others to join you.
- Publicize all region events and meetings on your website, Facebook page, eblasts, and at all events.
- Encourage sisterhood members to attend region events.
- Budget funds for you and other members to attend region and Women's League events.
- Read and respond to region mail, email and calls.
- Disseminate information received from the region to your membership. Remember, in most cases you are the *only* one receiving this information and we are counting on you to share it!

## Region events

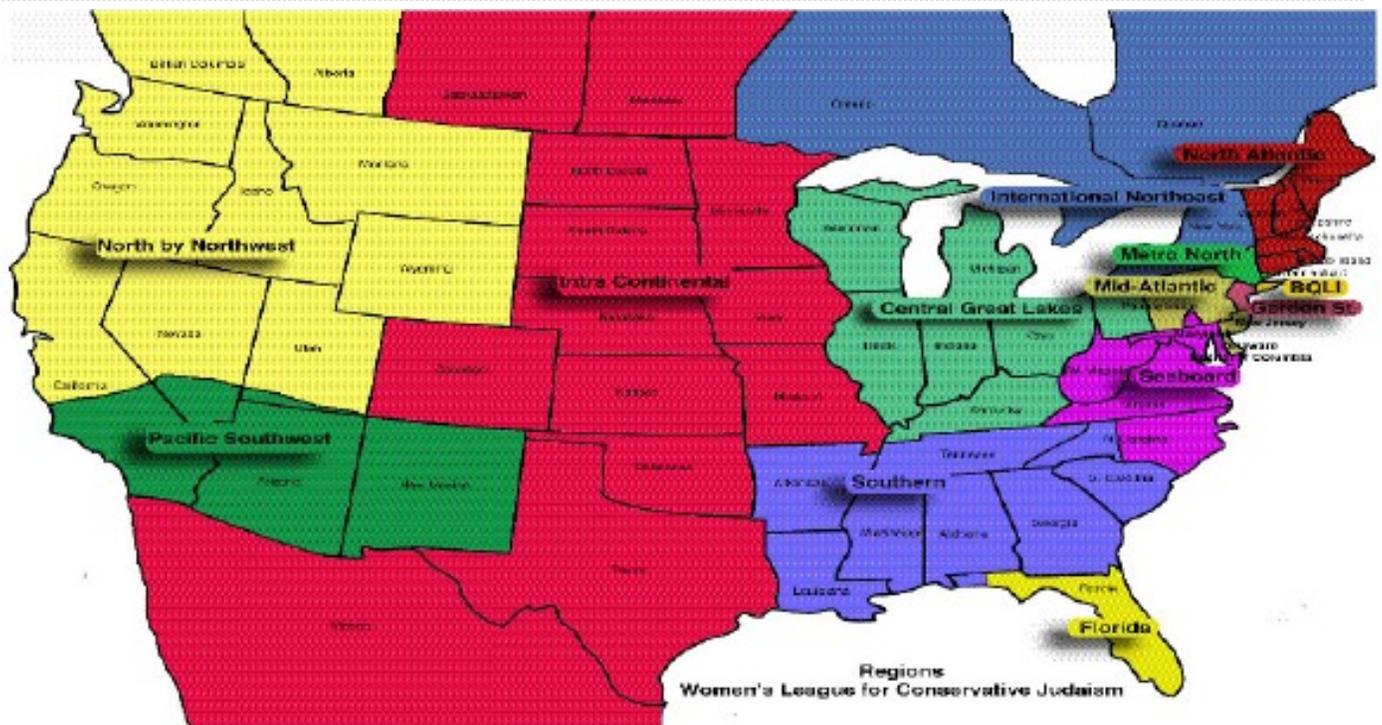
Each region provides conferences and meetings throughout the course of the year. These are opportunities for you to meet other women in your position and to share ideas and solve challenges. Be sure that you or other representatives from your sisterhood attend. These are opportunities for you to connect to your region and learn from others.

### Call, call, call

Your region is there to help you and to celebrate with you and to share some of the burdens in the bad times. Let them know what's happening in your community so they can share the news.



## REGION MAP



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REGIONS

**No one from my region is contacting me. Why would that be?**

There could be several reasons. First, you should check that your online Women's League profile is correct (login to [wlcj.org](http://wlcj.org) and click on Update My Profile) and that you have opted in to receive emails from Women's League. Women's League and your region find out who holds which position when a sisterhood president or data manager fills out the online data for your sisterhood using this information. If the profile does not have correct phone numbers and/or email addresses, then your region president and chairs can't contact you. All contact information is secure with Women's League.

Of course, as in all volunteer organizations, at times a volunteer may not be doing all that she could/should be doing. If that is the case, Women's League can help; call 212.870.1260. Our goal is to strengthen communications with each sisterhood president and her board members.

**Why should I forward our region's Shabbat email? Our women are inundated with emails.**

Each region's Shabbat emails contain pertinent information about events on the region and national levels. They include events that sisterhoods in your area/region are planning so your sisterhood women can participate. By forwarding the email to your membership you are connecting your sisterhood to the larger network of Women's League and its regions. Hopefully a member will read about something that resonates with her. It happens all the time! The more women find out about an event or project, the more they will participate.

**How does my sisterhood benefit when we attend region meetings?**

Think back to your days in a youth group. Remember the connections with others in your area, region or nationally? That connection enabled you to network, share ideas and *bring them home*. Women's League is the same. We are looking for new ideas, and those can come from the women in your region. The region structure is there for your support, whether as training services, membership or fundraising ideas, new program suggestions so that you are not planning the same events year after year, or simply to be a part of something larger. Every sisterhood has its good years and not so good years; your connections to your region ensure that you have awesome years!

# TRAINING SERVICES

Be sure that your sisterhood is getting all it can from Women's League. Put your per capita dues to work and let Women's League provide the services necessary to maintain a strong, healthy and vibrant sisterhood.

Invite a Women's League trainer into your sisterhood for an on-site seminar. These seminars are designed to energize your sisterhood by enhancing individual skills, motivating members, and expanding involvement.

Or you can choose to meet with a trainer in a smaller group or even one-on-one to troubleshoot or deal with a one-time issue.

All training services are led by professionally-trained volunteers. No remuneration is permitted. Trainer's travel and hotel expenses are paid by Women's League. Sisterhoods are responsible for meals and transportation to and from the airport and hotel.



Choose from these topics or consult with your trainer to design a seminar or the specific needs of your sisterhood

**Communication & Social Media:** The various delivery systems to help you reach *all* of your members and potential members

**Goal Setting/Strategic Planning:** Set up a committee to envision your sisterhood's future. Create a reasonable action plan for success

**Leadership Development:** Identify and develop new leaders

**Membership:** How to recruit and retain members

**Dealing with Sisterhood Challenges:** Facing challenges in a volunteer environment

**Sisterhood & Synagogue Community:** Work effectively with other leaders in your synagogue

**Team Building:** Involve more women and have them work together successfully

**Sisterhood 101:** Basic procedures for operating effectively and how Women's League can help

**Z'havah:** Attract younger women into your sisterhood structure.

## MORE ON THE TRAINING SERVICES MENU

### Mentoring

The mentoring program begins with a one-on-one telephone conversation between a trainer and a sisterhood president to provide support and ideas, to answer questions, or to help solve an issue.

### Conference Calls

Upon request, a specialized trainer or director will work with your sisterhood president, leaders or committees on a variety of topics or concerns.

### Distance Workshops

Using the technology of conference calls and webinars advice, tips & tricks, and first-hand experience come directly into your home. You will be able to apply your new knowledge in your sisterhood immediately. Check [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) for the new schedule.

### Leadership Institute

Increase your leadership skills and your knowledge and commitment to Judaism; strengthen your connection to Women's League, your sisterhood, and your community. Check [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) for the next institute.

### Z'havah Institute

The Z'havah Institute enhances personal growth during a five hour workshop designed to fit into the busy lives of Z'havah women. Check [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) for the next institute.

### PrezNet

Network with other sisterhood presidents and share information, exchange ideas and solve common problems. Join the forum open to sisterhood presidents only by writing to [womensleague@wlcj.org](mailto:womensleague@wlcj.org)

# REQUEST FOR TRAINING SERVICES

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Women's League seminars are designed for sisterhood officers, board members and future leadership whose attendance at the Seminar will benefit your Sisterhood. A Women's League Trainer will develop your Sisterhood's personal training seminar.

**A seminar requires a minimum of 2½ hours. Check two to three topics per seminar.**

Each session is customized to meet the needs of your Sisterhood. Check the topics you want included.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications & Social Media   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with Sisterhood Challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Setting/Strategic Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood & Synagogue Community   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood 101                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Z'havah                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Building                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                        |

Complete this form. **Please print.** Mail or fax it at least six weeks in advance of the dates requested.

Please list three possible dates.

[1]Date\_\_\_\_\_ Time\_\_\_\_\_ [2]Date\_\_\_\_\_ Time\_\_\_\_\_ [3]Date\_\_\_\_\_ Time\_\_\_\_\_

**Sisterhood** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated attendance \_\_\_\_\_

**Seminar to be held at** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**President/Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_ Position if not president: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Send participant kits to** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or FAX to: **Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Training Services**

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820, New York, New York 10115

*fax:* 212.870.1261

# THE ULTIMATE NETWORK: WOMEN'S LEAGUE & SISTERHOOD

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*The mission of Women's League for Conservative Judaism is to strengthen and unite synagogue women's groups and their members as well as individual members; support them in mutual efforts to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue, and community; and reinforce their bonds with Israel and with Jews worldwide. Women's League accepts the Jerusalem Program, which is the platform of the World Zionist Organization. [For a description of the Jerusalem program, go to [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org)]*

## What per capita dues do for your members

Women's League provides many intangibles, such as an international network of Conservative women, a voice in world Jewish bodies, opportunities to become leaders on the regional and national level, as well as services and materials:

- Services to sisterhoods for an effective organization
- Educational and programming material for learning and a variety of social and cultural activities
- Administrative materials such as *The Sisterhood Advisor*, *Ways to the Means*, and *Blueprint for Membership*
- CJ:Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism magazine, published jointly with United Synagogue and the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
- Training services
- Leadership Training Institutes
- Z'havah Institutes
- Publications
- Conferences, symposia, meetings, and conventions

## Your voice on the world scene

Thanks to the numbers of our membership, Women's League is a respected voice at several international organizations such as the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism. You can find a complete list of the organizations we support or which we are members of on page 22.

Over the course of a year, there are usually many calls for action from these organizations, and we share those calls with you, asking for signatures, donations or other important support. Please be sure to respond to these Action Alerts in a timely fashion.

## Managing sisterhood online with the Women's League data base

Sisterhood presidents, financial officers and data managers have direct access to the information about their sisterhood on the Women's League online data base. You can update your per capita lists and sisterhood profiles directly. You can also use the system for your internal data.

Download the most recent guide to using the data base on the home page of the website.

On the upper pink band of the homepage of [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) click on **Login** to access **WLCJ for YOU**. If it is your first time logging on or if you have forgotten your password, click on the appropriate button on the bottom. Otherwise, enter your email (the one Women's League has on file, please!) and password.

You will see two lists of options. To the left is your personal information, which should be updated.

On the right you will see **Sisterhood List Access**. This information is solely for the use of *your* sisterhood and should not be shared.

## Women's League is greening

Out of respect for our environment and in keeping with our commitment to *tikkun olam*, Women's League's preferred method of communication is through email and our website. If you would prefer to receive information via the mail, please contact Razel Kessler, Administrator, at 212.870.1263.

## Publications

For a full selection of the educational, programmatic, and inspirational Women's League materials in print, go to RESOURCES on the website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

## CONNECTIONS

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### WWW.WLCJ.ORG

The new Women's League website is getting rave reviews! It has a clean new look, is easier to navigate.

From the home page, download the guide for sisterhood presidents. The guide has all the information you need to access your sisterhood data.

On the site there are two important sections for sisterhoods, under RESOURCES:

- **Resources for Friends and Members** does not require a password. You will find most of the Women's League educational and study materials, Creative Judaic Arts patterns, resolutions, and much more.
- **Resources for Sisterhood & Region Administration** requires a password (if you don't have one, contact Razel Kessler, rkessler@wlcj.org/ 212.870.1263, immediately). This is where you will find materials designed just for sisterhoods, including Blueprint for Membership, Image Plus, publicity graphics, and useful forms.

*Women's League hosts several online discussion groups to meet the needs of our various constituencies. You are invited to participate in whichever meets your needs, but we strongly recommend the PREZNet for all sisterhood presidents. To participate in any, send an email to womensleague@wlcj.org.*

### WLCJNet

Members participate in online discussions about sisterhood and region business, share ideas, and learn how others deal with similar problems and situations.

### PREZNet

Network with other sisterhood presidents and share information, exchange ideas and solve common problems online. Open to sisterhood presidents only.

### Judaica Shops

Very active discussion of the needs of Judaica shop chairs, including affordable merchandising and recommendations for reliable vendors.

### Mothers and Friends of American Olim

Any Women's League member who is a mother of an Israeli, or a friend of one, may join this group. Discussions cover personal experiences, requests for assistance and camaraderie.

### CJ:Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism

CJ is the magazine of the Conservative movement, published by Women's League, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, and the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. It is sent to the home of every member, and you can also access it at CJVoices.org for online exclusives and additional information.

### Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family

The goal of the Mishpachah project is to recognize the diverse character of our Jewish families and to encourage our communities to be pluralistic, welcoming, inclusive and open-hearted to all.



Women's League is offering materials that focus on a variety of subjects affecting today's families: diversity, continuity, identity, conflict, and celebration. There is truly something here for everyone and sisterhoods can use any number of elements for programming, study, social action, and more.

### Wellness & Learning Network



Each month we present opportunities for women to learn about their own health and wellness as well as to engage in Jewish study.

The Wellness & Learning Network was born from understanding the complex relationship between physical and emotional/ spiritual well-being. A new set of readings is presented every Rosh Chodesh, when women are encouraged to take a minute for themselves to focus on their own health needs and to consider a complimentary piece of Jewish study on the subject.

As the project moves ahead, we welcome contributions and involvement. If you would like to participate, please email lkogen@wlcj.org. This is an organic and growing project, and your ideas are important.



The Women's League Torah Fund Campaign supports the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), and Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos

Aires). All funds raised go toward developing, strengthening and maintaining these schools.

The Torah Fund Campaign began in 1942 as a scholarship fund. In 1963 it merged with the Mathilde Schechter Residence Halls campaign that provided housing for undergraduate students. In time the campaign identified needs and raised funds for specific projects, including:

- Women's League Educational Pavilion (Kripke Tower)
- Women's League Seminary Synagogue
- Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall Renovation
- Goldsmith Hall
- Residence Halls at American Jewish University
- JTS Quadrangle
- JTS Library bookshelves
- Schechter Institute Garden

For the past several years, funds raised by Torah Fund have gone toward scholarships to all the schools. There are continuing opportunities for sisterhoods and individuals to provide support to all four institutions through Torah Fund.

### **The Role of the Torah Fund Committee**

At the beginning of each year, sisterhoods receive their fundraising goal. The goal is determined by the region president and Torah Fund vice president based on the previous year's donation and other factors. Sisterhoods should strive for 100 percent participation from their executive committee and board of directors and encourage participation from every member. Each year sisterhood Torah Fund vice presidents or chairs receive materials that include guides and examples of fundraising letters. The region Torah Fund vice president is in regular communication with sisterhood chairs, serving as a resource.

### **Benefactor's Pin for 2014-2015**

#### **Mishpachah Family and the Tree of Life**

The Mishpachah theme encourages us, as Conservative/Masorti Jews, to recognize the diverse character of our families. It also encourages our communities to be pluralistic, welcoming and open hearted.



The Jewish family, in all its configurations, is the solid system of roots that supports our Tree of Life. The community lends its strength to each family and in turn draws renewed energy, wisdom and direction from its cherished members. These Jewish family bonds have an immeasurable impact when cultivated in each new generation.

Women's League's support of the Torah Fund Campaign helps strengthen Conservative/Masorti Judaism throughout the world and enhances the Jewish community by recognizing and appreciating our diverse families.

#### **For additional information contact:**

Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, Executive Director  
Torah Fund  
3080 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

likaufman@JTSA.edu  
212.678.8876

# BRINGING YOU INTO THE WORLD COMMUNITY

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Our representation on and/or support of these organizations enables us to:

## Enrich Jewish Cultural Life

United Synagogue Teen Learning Committee  
(USY, Kadimah)  
Schechter Day School Network  
National Ramah Commission  
American Jewish Historical Society  
Girls Scouts of the USA  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Jewish Book Council  
JBI International  
The Jewish Museum  
Jewish Women's Archive

## Support Israel

Masorti Foundation for  
Conservative Judaism in Israel  
MERCAZ, Zionist arm of the Masorti Movement  
American Zionist Movement  
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish  
Organizations  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Israel Bonds  
United Israel Appeal of Federations, Canada  
*T'nuat Am* – Movement for Conservative Aliyah  
Neve Hanna Village for Children & Youth  
Masorti congregations



## Encourage Social Responsibility

Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
(JCPA)  
NCSJ Advocates on behalf of Jews  
in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia  
Religious Network for Equality  
for Women (RNEW)  
Office of Public Information of the U.S.  
United Nations Association of the USA  
Non-Governmental Organizations  
of the United Nations  
Religious Coalition for  
Reproductive Choice  
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence  
GreenFaith

## Perpetuate Conservative Judaism

Jewish Theological Seminary  
Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies  
Seminario Rabbinico Latino Americano  
Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Masorti Movement in Israel  
Schechter Institute, Jerusalem  
Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs  
Masorti Olami  
Kibbutz Hanaton  
Moshav Shorashim

As members of a sisterhood affiliated with Women's League, you are encouraged to become involved with these organizations and to call on them for materials, consultations, resources, and speakers. You can use materials from any of these organizations.

Women's League accepts the **Jerusalem Program**, which is the platform of the World Zionist Organization. Find the full description of the Jerusalem Program on the Women's League website, [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org).

## Washington Representative

A representative in Washington, D.C. represents our members at government functions as well as at meetings of national and international organizations.

# WOMEN'S LEAGUE TEAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

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Women's League is structured into departmental teams to facilitate services to regions, sisterhoods and members. The following is a list of the teams, with the name of the responsible director with her phone number and email address. The main phone number is 212.870.1260.

## **Administration**

Sarrae Crane  
(212.870.2157, [scrane@wlcj.org](mailto:scrane@wlcj.org))  
Archives  
Convention  
Nominations  
Parliamentary Procedure  
Strategic Planning  
Tikkun Olam

## **Communications**

Rhonda Jacobs Kahn  
(212.870.2154, [rkahn@wlcj.org](mailto:rkahn@wlcj.org))  
Publicity  
Internet and website services  
CJ Magazine  
Publications

## **Finance**

Sarrae Crane  
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