



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Women's League Shabbat 2015/5775

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the words of Sister Sledge, "We are family, I got all my sisters with me..."

We are each sisters in the Women's League family. We *are* family because we are joined by bonds of caring and a mutual commitment to the preservation and continuation of our Jewish heritage and traditions.

Membership in our Women's League mishpachah is energizing and deeply rewarding.

And how remarkable that on this Women's League Shabbat, we are able to participate fully in the public prayers of our community. How far we have come from the days -- not so long ago -- when women celebrated the anniversary of the founding of Women's League mostly from the side-lines. The services were lead by the men of the congregation; women's participation was usually limited to a few English readings.

Today, in most Conservative congregations, women enjoy full participation, reading Torah, teaching and leading services -- from P'sukei D'Zimrah and Shacharit through Musaf.

Imagine if our founder, Mathilde Schechter, could appear, magically, at this service. What would she say about the evolution of the Women's League Shabbat? She might, perhaps, utter a small prayer of thanksgiving that we have remained steadfast in preserving and even expanding her vision of an organization of Judaically educated and committed Conservative/Masorti women. It would be a moment of great pride.

A special *yasher koachken* to our sisters who are reading Torah or Haftarah for the first time, or who have taken an aliyah for the first time, or who are participating at all for the first time.

May we all continue to grow, learn and strengthen the Women's League mishpachah, here and around the world.