

Generic Women's League Shabbat Message
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In the poet Zelda's epic poem, "Each Of Us Has a Name," *L'Chol eish yesh shem, shenatu lo aviv v'emo ...* she states,

Each of us has a name
given by God
and given by our parents

Each of us has a name
given by our stature and our smile
and given by what we wear

Each of us has a name
given by the mountains
and given by our walls

Each of us has a name
given by the stars
and given by our neighbors

Each of us has a name
given by our sins
and given by our longing

Each of us has a name
given by our enemies
and given by our love

Each of us has a name
given by our celebrations
and given by our work

Each of us has a name
given by the seasons
and given by our blindness

Each of us has a name
given by the sea
and given by

our death.

Names are so important - it is how we identify people, one from another. As the poem states, we may be given one name, and be known by another name. But if your name is Sarah, you probably won't respond to Rachel. Calling someone by their correct name is a sign of respect.

That is why I am always so puzzled when people do not have the correct words to go with WLCJ - We are Women's League FOR Conservative Judaism. Our mission is in our name - Women's League for Conservative Judaism is proud to be the network FOR all Conservative Jewish women, whether we join through Sisterhood Affiliates, or directly as individual members. First organized by Mathilde Schechter in 1918, to "perpetuate traditional Judaism in the home, synagogues and communities," we continue to thrive today, over one hundred years later.

Through the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Women's League continues to provide essential support for the students of our five Conservative/Masorti Seminaries: the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York; the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles; the Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem; the Seminario Rabinico Latinamericano in Argentina and the Zacharias Frankel College in Germany. Our 80-plus years of the ongoing Torah Fund campaign exemplifies our name - that we are FOR Conservative Judaism. The members of Women's League FOR Conservative Judaism put our money where our mouths are - and make sure that our philanthropic activities truly perpetuate the future of Conservative Judaism. All that we do is for our continual commitment to Jewish education on all levels and in every venue.

We stand FOR a vibrant, worldwide Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

We stand FOR nurturing the individual, family and community with the values of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

All we do, we do FOR the past, present and future of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

We are Women's League FOR Conservative Judaism - Engaging, Enriching and Empowering Conservative/Masorti Women.