

List of Educational Programs

A Reference Guide of **WLCJ Education Sub-Committee Programs** **and** **Education Programs suggested by other** **Sisterhoods/Affiliate Members**

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Ellen Kaner Bresnick

Education Co-Chair
ebresnick@wlcj.org

Julia Loeb

Education Co-Chair
jloeb@wlcj.org

WOMEN'S LEAGUE
FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820
New York, New York 10115

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212.870.1260
EMAIL: info@wlcj.org
WEBSITE: www.wlcj.org

PART ONE: EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

Information about each committee is included as well as the chair-person's contact information and the dates of future programs. In addition, information about past programs that have been recorded and are posted on the WLCJ website is also available here.

A. The Archives Committee:

The function of this committee is to collect, organize, and make accessible the Women's League archives. Additionally, this committee educates and assist members, sisterhoods and regions in creating and organizing their own archives. Finally, it creates programs for members.

This past year, the committee created a Zoom Series entitled "How to Live Forever - Sharing Your Story with Future Generations".

Four sessions have been completed and are available for viewing on the Women's League Website. These four sessions are:

- a. Overview of family/personal archiving
- b. Writing my legacy and finding my voice
- c. How do I make it sound the way I want
- d. Dealing with pictures and documents

The final two sessions will take place:

October 28, 2021: What to Do with Your Family Heirlooms

December 16, 2021: Creative Ways to Share Your Archives

Contact Information:

Cory Schneider

cschneider@wlcj.org

717-574-1807

B. The Environment Committee:

The function of this committee is to educate Affiliates and Synagogues on the importance and relevance of preserving the environment. There are plans for a major sustainability project which I am hoping everyone will be able to take part in. I'm looking for help so if you would like to plan some programs, please contact me.

Contact Information:

Corinne Hammerschlag

Corinneh@rogers.com

416-258-0083

C. The Mishpachah Committee:

The Function of this committee is to present programs that relate to the modern Jewish family. Each program will focus on a topic – a challenge or an issue - that impacts the family in some way. The other aspect of our committee is to provide information that can be accessed and to provide support to regions and affiliates.

This is a brand new committee.

The first program should be in December or January. The second program in the spring.

Some of the topics under discussion:

- Gender identity and transitioning
- Sexual Preference
- Jews of Color and Mixed-Race Families
- Intergenerational families living together
- Effects of the Pandemic on communication between parents/ children and grandparents/ grandchildren

Contact information:

Fran Hildebrandt

fshildebrandt@gmail.com

248-661-4179 (h) / 248-318-8301 (c)

D. The Personal Conversations Committee:

The function of this committee is to develop 3 to 4 programs a year, to explore current issues of concern to us and to help us digest complex matters that are part of our everyday existence.

We try to relate topics with other WLCJ program themes, find engaging presenters from our Movement, and provide avenues for WLCJ members to actively contribute to the program.

The committee's programs from this past year have included:

- 1) What's Good About Aging?
- 2) If a Loved One Comes Out as LGBTQ, Will You Be Responsive and Open-Hearted?
- 3) Keep Your Family Emotionally and Spiritually Healthy During Covid-19
- 4) Organ Donation: Out of the Shadows; Are We Each Responsible

Upcoming programs for this year include:

November 4, 2021 - 7:30 PM ET: Creating New Communities Without a Partner
- Two women rabbis with different life experiences will explore how to live life fully after becoming "uncoupled," overcome social challenges, and form new supportive communities. Watch for the Registration Announcement by end of September.

Members are invited to share their own stories (send to Vivian Leber) in the form of an essay (about 1 page length) to be distributed following the program. Sisterhoods might develop related programs and be mindful of singles in their practices.

Contact Information:

Vivian Leber
vleber@wlcj.org
516-578-4153

E. The Tefilot Committee:

The function of this committee is to serve as the Tefilla chairs for Convention and Makom B'Yachad. Its role is to help administrate and lead Makom B'Yachad, our three time a week prayer/study program. This committee organizes and updates the Sign Up sheet and creates and administers special holiday programming.

During this past year, committee members have helped to run the daily program, provided special programming, including ways to make the High Holy Days special from home, introduced poems and readings for special services, led Hallel for Sukkot, Hanukkah, and other holidays, and designed special presentations for Purim, Passover, Shavuot and other holidays. These special presentations included a play, holiday song parodies, Rosh Chodesh readings and a game show.

We will be providing special programming on the following dates:

Friday, September 3 - Rosh Hashanah readings

Friday, September 10 - Remembering 9/11 with personal stories and readings

Tuesday, September 14th - Yizkor for Yom Kippur

Friday, September 24th - Yizkor for Sukkot

Wednesday, October 6th - Hallel for Rosh Chodesh

Contact Information:

Debbie Lempert
dlempert2@gmail.com
513-236-1037

Toby Holtzman
tbholtzman@gmail.com
202-360-7140

F. Women's League Reads:

The function of this committee is to provide:

- 4 or 5 virtual author interviews per calendar year to members of WLCJ.
- A Google Group to announce these events and to share the summary of the event, along with the link to the recording
- the opportunity to contact us via email to seek suggestions for individual affiliates' book discussion groups.
- During the 2020 – 2021 program year, we organized these virtual events. The recordings of these events are archived on the WLReads page on the wlcj.org web site.
- October 2020, an interview with the Israeli author, Miryam Sivan, about her novel, *Make It Concrete*.
- January 2021, an interview with the American author, Sarah Blake, about her novel, *The Guest House*.
- March 2021, a poetry reading, featuring: Alicia Ostriker, Alicia Jo Rabins, Erica Dreifus, Erika Meitner.
- May 2021, a panel discussion about the traits of Jewish literature so as to be able to identify it. Panelists were Rachel Kamin, Becca Kantor, Aileen Grossberg, Nora Gold, and Lisa Silverman.

Future WLReads virtual events include:

Thursday, November 11th - R.L. Maizes, *We Love Anderson Cooper*

Thursday, January 27th - Elyssa Friedland, *Last Summer at the Golden Hotel*

Sunday, March 13th - Julia Zuckerman, *Book of Jeremiah*

Thursday, June 2nd - Zhanna Shor, *At the End of the World Turn Left*

Please note that these books should be available through public library collections.

Contact Information:

Merle Carrus

merleoffice@gmail.com

Susan Farber

farberschevrah@gmail.com

G. The Health and Wellness Committee:

The function of this committee is to present health topics that concern women.

Program topics from this past year were contemporary mikvahs and also stress reduction. There were also ongoing monthly messages in WL Week regarding Covid and other health topics.

On **October 21, 2021**, there will be an Alzheimer's Disease program through the Alzheimer's Association.

On **February 24, 2022**: Women and Heart Disease with Dianna Milewicz MD will be the topic.

May 5, 2022 program TBA

Contact Information:

Mindy Steinholtz

msteinholz@wlcj.org

914-806-3985

H. The Creative Judaic Arts Committee:

The function of this committee is to provide the members of all regions with programming and crafting ideas that will beautify the holidays and the mitzvot. This committee has created the WLCJ Hiddur Mitzvah list serve for the members of WLCJ to share crafting theme and program ideas.

The list serve email address is:

wl-hiddur-mitzvah@googlegroups.com

Contact information:

Jody Glass

glass.jody@gmail.com

954-263-6778

I. The Special Programs Committee:

The function of this committee is to bring special programs to our women. The first program is the Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael Grant Program which is titled "Sichot beyn Achayot: An Open Dialogue Between Diaspora aIsraeli Sisters". It will take place over three meetings. This program is designed to foster a deeper mutual understanding between the members of WLCJ in North America and the Masorti Olami women of Israel. It addresses the question, "How are we the same, and how are we different? Each of the three workshops will address this question by concentrating on one specific issue that is both relevant and timely to us all, and will include presentations from two speakers, one from each side of the Atlantic.

The date of the initial meeting is
Sunday, October 17, 2021 from
1:00 – 2:30 PM, ET

Topic: Conservative/Masorti Conversion
Speakers: Rabbi Elana Zelony, Congregation
Beth Torah, Richardson, TX
Masorti Olami: Rabbi Diana Villa, Schechter
Institute and Rabbinical School, Jerusalem

Date of Second Meeting:
Sunday, November 14, 2021
Topic: Davening as Conservative/Masorti
Women

Speakers:
Rabbi Debra Cantor, Congregation B'Nai
Tikvoh, Bloomfield, CT
Masorti Olami: Rakefet Ginsberg, Executive
Director Masorti Movement in Israel

Date of Third Meeting:
Sunday, December 12
Topic: Conversations Between Conservative
and Masorti Sisters
Speakers:
Ellie Kremer, WLCJ Israel Chair
Debbi Kaner Goldich, WLCJ International
President

Masorti/Olami: Yaarat Dvash Yehoshua,
graduate student, Jerusalem
Sophie Fellman Rafolovich, National
Chairperson Masorti Movement in Israel
Alexis Silverman, IPP Kehilat Moreshet
Avraham (KMA), East Talpiot

The October and November meetings will be followed by a Q&A session in which all attendees will be encouraged to participate. The December program will conclude with breakout rooms in which participants will have an opportunity to join the conversation.

Other special programs that are scheduled :
January 6, 2022—Tu B'Shevat Seder . We will be hosting an early Tu B'Shvat Seder, with full instructions and tips on how to conduct one for your own Sisterhood or affiliate. Come and participate in this beautiful mitzvah, which ties in strongly with a celebration of the environment and of Eretz Israel.

March 24, 2022— Getting Into Pesach ... Once Purim is done and the costumes and groggers are put away, most of us get wrapped up in preparing for Pesach—cleaning, shopping, cooking—and for the last 2 years, also preparing the Zoom link— so much so that we don't take time to prepare our heads and hearts for the seder. This program, which takes place exactly 3 weeks before Pesach, is designed to help us do just that. Together we will explore the meaning of the holiday—through memories and stories and hopes for the future.

Contact Information:
Rabbi Margie Cella
Educational Programming Coordinator
mcella@wlcj.org

PART TWO:

EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUGGESTED BY OTHER SISTERHOODS/ AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Information about each education program is included as well as one person's contact information. This person was actively involved in planning this program and is willing to help you and answer any questions that you might have as you adapt this program for your sisterhood/affiliate.

A. The name of the program is "Meet The Author"

The program is done under a membership with the National Jewish Book Council. This organization prepares a list of touring authors and new books which have Jewish content and/or are written by Jewish authors. A committee gets together and reviews a selection of books and chooses authors and books that are expected to be of interest to the synagogue and community at large. The membership is underwritten by a grant from a foundation within our synagogue. In person, we charged a minimal fee to cover refreshments.

This is the fifth year of the program and we have had many excellent authors/speakers in the past. Authors do not charge an honorarium, only travel expenses. There are no charges for a Zoom presentation.

The sessions are usually either on a weekday evening, usually Thursday, or on a Sunday morning. Before Covid, we were serving brunch in the morning and dessert in the evening. We moved the programs to Zoom last July. In person, we were doing 3-4 programs a year. Last year we did 6 and this year we plan on 7.

We publicize it in our temple bulletin, local newspaper and other media outlets. We also put flyers in the community libraries, and publicize on social media. (Note: post-covid, we hope to have the ability to do hybrid programs - live and simultaneous livestream or Zoom)

Publicity looks like this:

Series Kickoff - Ron Balson returns to talk about his new book *Defending Britta Stein*
Thursday, October 14th, 8:00pm

In his newest novel, *Defending Britta Stein*, Ronald Balson returns to his expertise as a litigator, presenting us with a thrilling courtroom drama that explores current day Chicago, wartime Denmark, and his most popular protagonists, the attorney Catherine Lockhart and private investigator Liam Taggart.

Themes of courage, betrayal, and redemption are woven into this amazing story which chronicles the extraordinary bravery of the Danish people and their quest to save their Jewish brethren during WWII.

Defending Britta Stein will be published on September 7, 2021. Reserve your copy by pre-ordering the book from Bookshop.org (to support independent bookstores) or Amazon.com (remember to use your Amazon Smile account if you have one that supports your local congregation.)

There is no charge for this event but registration is required.

Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email. You will also receive an event reminder the week of the event. Both will include the Zoom link and password!

Contact Information:
Congregation Torat-El
Garden State Region
Susan Sferas
suesfer@aol.com
732-239-0750

B. The Name of the Program is “Once a Girl, Always a Boy”:

Once A Girl, Always A Boy is the story of Jeremy Ivester’s journey from childhood through coming out as transgender. This is not only Jeremy’s story, but also that of his family, told from multiple perspectives- those of his siblings who struggled to understand the brother they once saw as a sister, as well as of the parents who ultimately joined him in the battle against discrimination. This is a story of acceptance in a world not quite ready to accept.

The speakers and their contact information:
Jo Ivester and Jeremy Ivester.
Jo@joivester.com

This was a one time Sunday morning program that took place over zoom.

It was publicized through our Sisterhood email blasts, our WLCJ MidAtlantic Region email blasts, and The Jewish Voice.

Contact Information:
Temple Beth Shalom in Cherry Hill, NJ
Debbie Zimmerman
debrazimmerman1@gmail.com
856-912-3709

C. The Name of the Program is “Getting to Know You”:

GETTING TO KNOW YOU is an Ice breaker that is used to meet new members in our sisterhood. Eight new members were chosen and each prepared three statements about themselves: Two were true and one was a fabrication. Everyone in the group was tasked with choosing the false statement. This was done by asking two questions of each new member. This was also a way in which the other members got to know the new members. It took one meeting for preparation with the contestants.

The new members/contestants received an invitation that said, “As a relatively new sisterhood member, we thought this would be a fun way to get your sisters to learn about you.”

The deal is: you will say three things about yourself, but only one would be true. The fun part is tricking the members to vote for which one is true. So, you can see this will be a good way to meet and learn something about you all, our newest sisterhood members. You will then have a few moments to share some things about yourself. What a fun way of “Getting to know YOU”. Please reply to this email **as soon as possible** to let us know if you will be a part of this program.

Contact Information:
Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
Clearwater, Florida
Cyndi Silverman
cyndisilv@gmail.com
813-244-6484

D. The Name of the Program is “JEWISH WOMEN PIONEERS OF THE EARLY WEST”:

A dramatic presentation written by Naomi Rubenstein giving the history of the immigration to the West. Contact Naomi for the dramatic presentation. The stories of three western women from the past and their contributions to the settlement process were also presented. There was also a video presentation of the Jews in New Mexico called CHALLAH RISING IN THE DESERT. The program ended with a Western Dancing (You-tube).

Contact information:
Congregation Beth Shalom
Clearwater Florida
Naomi Rubenstein
bobbie.darling@yahoo.com
774-991- 0176

E. The Name of the Program is “COMING TO AMERICA-SOUTHERN STYLE: SHALOM Y’ALL”:

This program is slated for a November meeting. Naomi wrote the script and three southern women are depicted. Their stories will be presented by sisterhood members. In addition, three of our own members, also SOUTHERN BELLES, will tell their own stories of growing up Jewishly in the South.

Contact Information:
Congregation Beth Shalom
Clearwater Florida
Naomi Rubenstein
bobbie.darling@yahoo.com
774-991- 0176

F. The Name of the Program is “TRADITION-THE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE”:

This program is in lieu of Sisterhood Shabbat. It is to be a multi-generational presentation of women and children telling of their experiences related to Shabbat. Topics to be discussed include: Preparing for Shabbat; baking challah; setting the Shabbat table; blessings over the candles, kiddush, and challah; zemirot; Oneg Shabbat; Shabbat service; Havdalah, and Shabbat heirlooms. A drive-by pick up of a Kosher box of chicken soup mix, 2 Shabbat candles and a small challah roll will be provided for those who signed up.

Contact Information:
Congregation Beth Shalom
Clearwater Florida
Naomi Rubenstein
bobbie.darling@yahoo.com
774-991- 0176

G. The Name of the Program is “A Synagogue Member’s Journey With an Eating Disorder”:

The Program is Scheduled for November.

We will hear from a clinician who specializes in this disorder. It will take place over one session. We hope to appeal to a younger demographic in the sisterhood.

Contact information:
Beth El Congregation of the South Hills
Pittsburgh, PA
Joan Granowitz Charlson
joancharlson@gmail.com
412-398-3785

H. The Name of the Program is “Hear My Voice”:

This program is in collaboration with our Sisterhood Book Club. This book was written by Marcia Rudin who will speak to us about her book. We will follow with a panel of three women clergy who represent the three major faiths that are described in her book. A women’s group from a church with whom the sisterhood does faith partnering during the year has also been invited. There will be time for Q and A After.

Contact information:
Beth El Congregation of the South Hills
Pittsburgh, PA
Joan Granowitz Charlson
joancharlson@gmail.com
412-398-3785

I. The Name of this program was “Coronahood – Sisterhood in the Time of Covid-19.”

Every few weeks, we held a Zoom Shmooze and discussed a variety of topics, including: “Did I really do that in college?” “Did you have a Bubbe?” and “Surviving Holiday Mishaps with Humor.”

Contact Information:
Women’s League Temple Emanu-El
of Palm Beach, FL
Maureen Wise
maunbw@gmail.com
561-798-9606

J. The Name of the Program is Virtual Tour of the Jewish Museum of New York: “Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevich: The Russian Avant-Garde in Vitebsk, 1918-1922” exhibit. (This was originally a Sisterhood program. We opened it up first to Seaboard Region and then to all of WLCJ.):

For a few heady years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, artists and Jews, including Marc Chagall, enjoyed freedoms they had never had under the czar. Among the standouts of this elegant exhibit: “Double Portrait With Wine Glass,” a joyous painting of the newlywed Chagall sitting on the shoulders of his bride, Bella, raising his glass as a man — possibly an angel — floats above them. Other paintings show a world gone topsy-turvy, with landscapes turned on their side, blown sideways by new freedoms.

Our tour guide, Jenna Weiss (JWeiss@thejm.org), and IT specialist, Theresa Hioki (THioki@thejm.org) were both great. They were provided by the Museum. The cost of the tour was \$250 for up to 100 people or \$350 for 101-500 people. I made the arrangements with:

Suzanne Koppelman
Manager of School and Educator Programs
The Jewish Museum
1109 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10128
T. 212.423.3270 F. 212.423.3232
E: skoppelman@thejm.org

This took place over one session on a **Sunday afternoon at 4pm** on Zoom.

We publicized the event in our Sisterhood and synagogue email newsletters and websites, and in the Seaboard Region Weekly message and in WL Week when we decided to open it to all WL members.

Contact Information:
Congregation Olam Tikvah Sisterhood
Fairfax, Virginia
Barbara Finkel
barbarafinkel16@gmail.com
703-323-4640

K. The Name of this program is Tour the Riches of the Galilee (This was our Paid-up Membership Event):

We invite all Sisterhood members to join us on a custom online tour of the Galilee from the comfort of your home! Our licensed Israeli tour guide, Gadi Ben-Dov, will help us explore the Galilee’s ethnic diversity as well as its cultural richness, including the artist colony in Safed and works of the famous poet “Rachel” Blaustein. By coincidence, Gadi is a native of the Galilee.

Gadi Ben-Dov
Licensed Tour Guide
+972-58-640-4884
gadi@bendovisrael.com
www.BenDovIsrael.com

The fee for our “custom built tour” was \$250. They are committed to finding ways to make it work to fit your budget.

This took place over one session on a **Sunday morning at 11am** on Zoom.

We publicized the event in our Sisterhood and synagogue email newsletters and websites.

Contact Information:
Congregation Olam Tikvah Sisterhood
Fairfax, Virginia
Barbara Finkel
barbarafinkel16@gmail.com
703-323-4640

L. The Name of this program is Travel with Sisterhood to Paris in Springtime! :

Join us for a virtual tour of Jewish Paris (Le Marais) with Karen from the Sight Seeker's Delight Team. Charming sights of synagogues and other Jewish landmarks in the City of Light await us! This event takes the place of Sisterhood's annual Spring Brunch and will include Elections of our officers for 2021-2023. Cost is \$10.00 for each Zoom connection. Don't miss it!

Karen Rudel (info@sightseekersdelight.com or karenrebrudel@gmail.com). The fee was 250 Euros for unlimited screens.

This took place over one session on **Sunday afternoon at 3pm** on Zoom. We publicized the event in our Sisterhood and synagogue email newsletters and websites.

M. The Name of this Program is Israeli Music Through the Ages, with Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia Shaliach Shy Ashkenazi:

Shy will be speaking about the history and evolution of Israeli music through the ages, and what the Israeli music scene is like today. His presentation will include a performance of some of his favorite songs. We'll also be holding our election for Sisterhood's new slate of officers during the Brunch. Bring your bagel & coffee and join us for this fun and free event.

Shy Ashkenazi (shy.ashkenazi@thej.org)

This took place over one session on a **Sunday morning at 11am** on Zoom. We publicized the event in our Sisterhood and synagogue email newsletters and websites.

Contact Information (*for L & M*):
Congregation Olam Tikvah Sisterhood
Fairfax, Virginia
Barbara Finkel
barbarafinkel16@gmail.com
703-323-4640

N. The Name of this Program is Fall Brunch: We're Number One-Now What? Virginia Jewish Demographics and the Way Ahead. This is a good example of how to take advantage of resources in your specific Jewish community to address a current issue of general interest:

Our speaker, Gil Preuss, has been CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington since August 2017. We invited him to tell us about the results of the 2017 Greater Washington Jewish Community Demographic Study. We had a wide-ranging discussion about issues ranging from building Jewish long-term care facilities in Virginia to opening a kosher deli in Fairfax! Gil asked us to continue the discussion and to provide input about how to increase Jewish engagement in Virginia. One question to ponder is: If you were to make initial incremental investments in the NOVA Jewish community, where would you start?

This took place over one session on a Sunday morning at 10 am in the Social Hall, with brunch. The whole congregation was invited to attend. We publicized the event in our Sisterhood and synagogue email newsletters and websites and with flyers.

Contact Information:
Congregation Olam Tikvah Sisterhood
Fairfax, Virginia
Barbara Finkel
barbarafinkel16@gmail.com

O. The Name of this Program was “Chaverot Circle”:

Our book club continued to meet on Zoom each month for lively discussions about Jewish literature. We also created the a group of younger, working women who met on one evening each month to get to know each other and engage in volunteer projects and enjoyable activities.

P. The Name of this Program is “What Every Woman Needs To Know---Balancing Your Financial and Legal Concerns”:

In times of strife, stress and surprise, we may find ourselves in need of professional advice. Our experts advised zoom participants on how to prepare for the unexpected and make informed decisions. Following their presentation, they answered questions from the audience.

Guest Speaker Dvora Lange Callahan, CFP®, CRPC® is Vice President at Morgan Stanley; a Certified Financial Planning Specialist; and a Comprehensive wealth planning strategist. Jami L. Huber, PA is an Attorney in private practice specializing in probate, trust and guardianship litigation; estate planning; and estate, guardianship and trust administration

Q. The Name of this Program is “TAMAR & JUDAH: Were They Deceitful, Desperate or Daring?”:

This original courtroom play, a dramatization of the story of Judah and Tamar, invited the audience to evaluate the testimony and determine the trial’s ending. Although the facts and many of their statements were culled directly from the pages of the Hebrew Bible, poetic license was taken in retelling the story of their unusual relationship and re-imagining the thoughts that may have influenced their words and deeds. The audience served as the jury for this “trial. “ As they heard the testimonies of Judah and Tamar, they drew their own conclusions and, ultimately, decided her fate.

R. The Name of this Program is “The Intersection of Fashion and Feminism as Seen in the Netflix Series ‘The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel’ ”:

At our first-ever zoom Membership Event, Jennifer Mae Becker, Visual Merchandising Manager for Chanel in the NYC area, presented a fascinating visual overview of the topic. Guests received a box lunch and a swag bag and had the opportunity to purchase Chanukah gifts at a drive- by holiday boutique courtesy of the WL Gift Shop.

S. The Name of this Program is “From Esther to Wonder Woman: Unmask Your Super Powers”:

We honored our Immediate Past President as our Woman of Achievement at the annual Torah Fund Luncheon. Special guest speaker Leora Isaacs, a renowned educational psychologist, challenged guests to achieve personal growth with her innovative zoom presentation: “From Esther to Wonder Woman: Unmask Your Super Powers.” For more than five decades, Dr. Isaacs has been an educator, administrator, researcher, organizational consultant, and life coach. She served on the senior staff of the Jewish Education Service of North America for nearly 30 years. While at JESNA, Leora worked with our honoree, Rhea Zukerman. Throughout her career, Leora has gained a reputation as a visionary leader and a master teacher at all levels of Jewish and secular education. She and her husband, Rabbi Ron Isaacs, are nationally recognized as field leaders in Jewish Family Education and teen Jewish education, and have co-authored several seminal books and publications. Their most recent book is Seder in Motion: A Haggadah to Move Body and Soul.

Contact Information (*for O through S*):
Women’s League Temple Emanu-El
of Palm Beach, FL
Maureen Wise
maunbw@gmail.com
561-798-9606

T. The Name of this Program is “An Afternoon at the Parisian Salon of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas”:

Stein was an astute collector of modern art, a mentor to artists and writers, and a successful author. She held strong, often controversial, political views and lived an openly gay life a century ago. Toklas, Stein's life-partner, was also a woman of many talents.

Four Women's League members researched and presented an in-depth look at Stein's life, her literary works, her political views, and the influence she wielded over the greatest artists and writers of the early 20th century. More than 50 photographs enhanced this remarkable story, which was presented on Zoom.

U. The Name of this Program is “THE “ISRAELI SISTERS” PROJECT.....A HISTORY”:

In May 2020, our Program Committee reached out to the Women's Circle of Bet Israel, suggesting that we might collaborate on future programs and share holiday celebrations and cultural exchanges. The project's goal was to culminate in a joint Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration for April 2021. Now – a year later - not only have we managed to plan an incredible Israel Independence Day event – but we have forged a true friendship across the seas.

For more than five decades, Women's League for Conservative Judaism Regions around the United States have enjoyed “Special Relationships” with the Masorti congregations in Israel. How fortunate we are that our groups have been paired! At our monthly “Israel Sisters” zoom committee meetings, we have discussed families and backgrounds; learned about each other's interests and activities; delved into current events; and become familiarized with our mutual synagogues and communities.

We have been able to share programs and special events throughout the year. Despite the seven hour time difference, our Israeli

sisters have tuned in to watch Women's League monthly programs, book reviews and Shmooze sessions. In turn, we have joined them for virtual guided tours of Israeli sites as well as special lectures, concerts and holiday commemorations.

This year's cultural exchange culminated in our “B'Yachad- Together” Yom Ha'Atzma'ut zoom celebration. As we marked this annual milestone in our shared history, representatives of both congregations came together for a special tribute to the State of Israel and our people. We all agreed that this was just the beginning of an extraordinary “Special Relationship.”

V. The Name of this Program is “EXODUS 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation: A 3-part Eyewitness Account by Rabbi Dr. Ervin Birnbaum”. Three weeks prior to the Yom Ha'Atzma'ut event, we presented a zoom series of three evening lectures by Beit Israel's Rabbi Emeritus, who sailed on The Exodus.:

Rabbi Dr. Ervin Birnbaum, Rabbi Emeritus of Bet Israel Masorti Synagogue in Netanya, is one of Israel's most respected spiritual leaders, educators and community activists. Now 91 years “young,” Rabbi Birnbaum shared his personal story as a teenager who led a group of 90 orphans on board the largest refugee ship to land in British Palestine. In remarkable detail, the Rabbi described daily life aboard the ship among 4,500 Holocaust survivors and explained why the Exodus earned the title, “The ship that launched a nation.”

The story of “Exodus 1947” and its passengers focused world attention on the British Mandate. One year later, the State of Israel was created.

Contact Information (*for T through V*):
Women's League Temple Emanu-El
of Palm Beach, FL
Maureen Wise
maunbw@gmail.com
561-798-9606

W. The Name of this Program is: Yom Ha'Atzma'ut - Israel independence Day - B'Yachad – Together:

A Special Tribute to the State of Israel and our People Music.... Dance.... Inspiring Stories. On April 12, 2021 at 12 noon in Florida and 7 pm in Israel, Women's League of Temple Emanu-El, Palm Beach and Women's Circle of Bet Israel Masorti Synagogue, Netanya presented on zoom:

Program

1. Marjie Konigsberg, Emanu-El Women's League President - Welcome
2. Hillary Wohl, Israel Committee Chair – Introductory Remarks
3. Rabbi Michael Resnick, Temple Emanu-El - Invocation
4. Guest Entertainer - Bat ella - Israeli Song Medley
5. Hadar Mehl - “A Story Shared”
6. Bat ella - “Embracing the Elderly” – A Pandemic Project Video “Wings of Spirit” - based on a poem by HaRav Kook
7. Bet Israel Dance Troupe Performance - “Eretz, Eretz”
8. Hazzan David Feuer, Temple Emanu-El - accompanied by Claudio Waisgluss on keyboard - “Avinu She-Ba-Shamayim”
9. Midge Elias - “The Prayer for the State of Israel”
10. Rabbi Dr. Ervin Birnbaum, Rabbi Emeritus Bet Israel - A Drash
11. Bat ella - A Tribute to American songwriter Debbie Friedman z'l “L'chi Lach”; “Tefillat Haderech” (“Traveler's Prayer”)
12. Debbie Efron, Bet Israel Women's Circle President - Remarks
13. Maureen Wise, Women's League Program VP - Closing Remarks
14. Bat ella - “Hatikvah”

Contact Information:
Women's League Temple Emanu-El
of Palm Beach, FL
Maureen Wise
maunbw@gmail.com
561-798-9606

X. This program is called “Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories”:

The “Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories” were explored by award-winning historian Marcia Jo Zerivitz at Women's League's May program. The zoom presentation highlighted the State's Jewish history through stories and 100 photographs from Zerivitz's recently published book. This beautifully illustrated 434-page narrative is the first comprehensive overview of the Jews of Florida from colonial times to the present. Zerivitz spoke about pioneers who impacted history beginning 257 years ago as well as contemporary Floridian Jews who contribute much to the quality of life in Florida and beyond.

After serving in leadership positions at major Jewish organizations, Zerivitz observed that the Jewish community in Florida had a major challenge—its continuity. She resolved to focus on collecting and preserving, for future generations, the stories and material evidence of the contributions of Jews to the Sunshine State and beyond. From 1984 to 1992, Marcia Jo traveled 250,000 miles throughout Florida, conducting grassroots research and retrieving the state's hidden, 250+ year Jewish history, resulting in a major archive and the MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida exhibit that traveled to 13 cities (1990–94). In 1995, under her direction and planning, this project evolved into the AAM-accredited Jewish Museum of Florida (JMOF) on Miami Beach. As Executive Director, she developed the Collections and presented more than 70 exhibits with 500 educational programs in 16 years.

Contact Information:
Women's League Temple Emanu-El
of Palm Beach, FL
Maureen Wise
maunbw@gmail.com
561-798-9606

Y. The Name of the program is “Too Jewish to be Black ,Too Black to be Jewish”:

The speaker, Riva Campbell, is a Jew of Jamaican descent who spoke virtually for 1 hour to approximately 75 members of Beth Tikvah Women in Toronto Ontario, in Sept.2020. We had a Q and A at the end.

Rivka Campbell can be reached at
rivka@hotmail.ca.
Her fee was 150.00.

This was held one session in the evening on a weekday.

The program was advertised with a flyer in our synagogue’s daily email, a month before the event.

Contact Information:
President Beth Tikvah Women
Toronto Ontario
Adele Weinstein
adelew@rogers.com
416-845-5430

Z. The name of this program is “Everything You Wanted to Know About Ketubot but Were Afraid to Ask.”:

The first part of this three part program involved reading the book The Marriage Artist by Andrew Winer. After a discussion of this book, we then looked at and studied and discussed the art of the ketubah during a second session. We viewed older ketubot as well as newer ones. The third program had one of our rabbis giving us all kinds of information on “What is a ketubah and why is it important.”

Contact Information:
Education VP, NxNW Region
Toby F. Blake
Tblake1610@gmail.com

AA. The name of the program is “Spirits in the Sukkah:

It is held outdoors on the Saturday night of Sukkot on the official shul Sukkah plaza. This year is scheduled for Saturday night, Sept 25th after Shabbat has ended and in time for Havdalah.

No fees charged, Entrance requirement—must bring an unopened kosher bottle of Scotch or bourbon

We provide. Light savory bites (cheese, crackers, upscale pretzels, grapes) and desserts such as kosher cheesecake, brownies and cookies.

The program is a discussion of each of the supplied scotches and bourbons and nuances about their flavors. There are small tastings of each alcoholic beverage provided. The discussion includes where each was made, its proof, materials of barrels, alcohol proof, and more

All leftover Scotch and bourbon is donated to our morning minyan bar for morning minyan participants to enjoy!

Usually get around 60 or 75 participants depending on month, weather, etc.

Contact information:
Adath Israel Sisterhood President
Marlene Ostrow
aisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com