



WRJ Southeast Newsletter

Women of Reform Judaism-Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

Our Link to Each Other! Share your News!

President's Message



As I sit down to write my final article as your District President, it is hard to believe that so much time has passed since our District Convention in Marietta, Georgia.

The past 2 years have been a joy, an honor, and a privilege. Together, we have seen our district continue to grow and reach out to many members of our congregations. Your District Board, a dedicated and hard working body of women, has also reached out and helped many of our Sisterhoods. Our district is blessed to have such wonderful women lead us.

As you will read in another part of this newsletter, the Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods will officially be changing its name to WRJ Southeast District. Leaders within Women of Reform Judaism recognize the need to be more unified, in both purpose and process, among its international, national, district and local member groups.

One change being implemented is the re-naming of districts. We are still the same women from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Eastern Tennessee and we will be welcoming the congregations in Puerto Rico to our District. Our "sister" World Union congregation in Costa Rica is still part of the district as well. Nothing else has changed! Your District is still there for guidance, support, and answers.

I hope by now that you have heard about our District Biennial Convention being held October 26-29, 2006 in Boca Raton, Florida. Andrea and her committee have flooded your mailboxes and made many phone calls to make sure everybody has the information they will need to register for this exciting weekend. Speak to your Sisterhood Board and plan to register soon so you will be on time for our "early bird" registration fee.

Please join us as we come together to worship, to learn, and to celebrate our accomplishments. Remember "together we bring promise" to the future of WRJ and to the continuation of our faith.

One of the highlights of our Biennial Convention will be the installation of our new District Board. I know we will continue to flourish under the leadership of Wendy Adamson and her new Board. It will be a fulfilling, rewarding and fun experience for all of you.

One of the memories that I will always cherish was visiting our local Sisterhoods and getting to know women from all over the Southeast. You guys are the best!! My sincere thanks to everyone in our district for entrusting me to serve these past two years. This has been an experience that I will always remember.

May you all have the sweetest New Year with those who are near and dear to you.

Barbara Shub, WRJ Southeast President

The Torah: A Women's Commentary

A Groundbreaking Publication by WRJ and the URJ Press

At WRJ's 39th Assembly in San Francisco in 1993, Cantor Sarah Sager challenged Women of Reform Judaism delegates to "imagine women feeling permitted, for the first time, feeling able, feeling legitimate in their study of Torah." WRJ accepted that challenge.

Working with the URJ Press, WRJ has commissioned the work of the world's leading female Bible scholars, rabbis, historians, philosophers, and archaeologists to create *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, which will debut at our 46th Assembly in San Diego in December 2007. Their collective efforts will result in this first comprehensive commentary, authored only by women, on the Five Books of Moses, including individual Torah portions as well as the Hebrew and English translation.

The Torah: A Women's Commentary will finally give dimension to the women's voices in our tradition. The importance of a comprehensive women-authored commentary commissioned and financed by WRJ, cannot be overstated. This landmark volume will be a beacon for all future Bible study.

Please challenge your sisterhood to lend its financial support to this project. Urge women in your congregation to become the "Mothers" of the generation that gives the gift of women's voices in Torah to all future generations. For more information about naming opportunities and sponsorship levels, or making a contribution, call WRJ at 866-975-5924.

Mark your calendar for November 18, 2006, WRJ's Day of Study

WRJ will provide materials from *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* for the study of Parashat Chayei Sarah. Join your congregants for Torah Study or set up a special study session for your sisterhood! Sisterhoods, study groups, and Reform congregations around the world will have a chance to experience a taste of this innovative commentary. If your sisterhood or your Rabbi has not yet reserved these materials, please request them from Shelley Lindauer (at slindauer@urj.org) today!

The Torah: A Women's Commentary belongs to all of us. Share ownership and pride in this historic book. Talk about it and support its production. Our daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters will speak with pride about our generation, the Women of Reform Judaism who brought the voices of women from the margins to the center of the Torah.

Israel: A Women's Journey

WRJ Mission to Israel

You are invited to join WRJ for our unique women's experience.

Rediscover Israel with us no matter if your passport is brand new or already filled with Israeli visa stamps!

Here is your opportunity to see Israel from the point of view of women, to bond with liberal Jewish women from around the world as together we travel, study, pray, share, and ENJOY being together.

We will participate in visits to a number of sites of those special projects which WRJ supports throughout Israel, making our ongoing commitment to the YES Fund come alive. We will meet and study with the women Rabbis of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism.

We will meet with top women politicians.

And don't tell a soul! we will take time just for ourselves at the Carmel Forest Spa. How about a massage, or a facial, or a leisurely walk through the Forest of Mount Carmel?

During the WUPJ Convention we may choose to have the opportunity to extend our experience by participating in the sessions devoted to women's issues around the world.

Want more details? Please go to: http://wrj.urj.org/news/israel_mission_2007.html and check out our entire itinerary including dates and costs. (NOTE: the \$3855 price increases by \$100 if you register after December 15, 2006)

Then decide that you absolutely must REGISTER for this combined, entirely unique Israel experience: the WRJ pre-tour and the WUPJ Convention.

DO NOT WAIT!!! WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE AND WILL HAVE TO CLOSE OUT THE TRIP WHEN WE REACH 40 PARTICIPANTS.

Any questions? For more information, please call Arza World Travel at 888- 811-2812 or drop an email to Resa Davids at resa@davidfamily.net or contact Sharon Paley at 212-650-4065 or spaley@urj.org



**ATTENTION:
WRJSOUTHEAST AWARD-WINNING SISTERHOODS!**

**It's time to be acknowledged at the next Biennial in Boca Raton,
for your outstanding programs.**

CATEGORIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Synagogue
Program/Project | 4. Religious Education |
| 2. Community Service | 5. Fundraising |
| 3. Membership/Leadership
Development | 6. Outreach/Inreach |
| | 7. Special Category (programs or
projects not included in above) |

PLEASE NOTE:

- The program or project must have occurred between 2004 - 2006.
- The deadline is October 1, 2006.
- You may submit multiple entries.

**Winning Sisterhoods must be present at the Southeast Biennial
in Boca Raton, FL to receive their award(s).**

APPLICATION FORM

Sisterhood Name	_____	
Address	_____	
Number of Members	Name of Person Submitting Entry	_____
E-mail address for contact person	Telephone number for contact person	_____
Category and Date of Program/Project	_____	

Please attach program/project information and return via email or U.S. mail to:
Diane James (djames8000@hotmail.com)
664 Cain Drive
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
843-884-4159

DEADLINE: October 1, 2006 ... SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

Membership

To be a successful sisterhood you must run a successful membership campaign. Increasing membership will create a stronger financial base for your sisterhood and will also enhance your programming. New members generate new ideas. A larger membership will also lighten the workload. More hands ensures programs are run efficiently and no one is overwhelmed, and is thus willing to commit to future projects.

There are a number of guides and materials that can help your sisterhood recruit, retain, and involve new members. They may be ordered on the Women of Reform Judaism website (<http://wrj.rj.org/>). Consider ordering the following:

- The Mitzvah of Membership – \$10.00
A guide to help Sisterhoods launch successful membership campaigns
- Membership Brochure – Complimentary
Covers the history of Sisterhood accomplishment and the influence each individual member attains as part of WRJ. Sisterhoods may use the brochure as part of their own membership campaign.
- Membership Card – Complimentary
Wallet-sized card for members upon payment of dues
- Certificate of Appreciation – \$3.00 each
Certificate to acknowledge an individual's service

A few ideas that have worked well for recruiting and retaining members are:

- Insert a sisterhood welcoming letter and a calendar of events into the Congregational Welcoming Package to New Members.
- Follow up with a phone call to new synagogue members, encouraging attendance at the next sisterhood function.
- Attend the Congregation's New Member function, wear a very visible sisterhood nametag, and hand out an upcoming events calendar.
- Sisterhood officers and committee chairs may wear a sisterhood nametag (available at <http://wrj.rj.org/>) for Shabbat Services. The more visibility, the better.
- Send thank you letters to all new sisterhood members. Enclose a membership card, a calendar, and a list of sisterhood officers and committee chairs with their phone numbers.
- Integrate new members quickly into sisterhood. Call and invite her to a function and encourage her to get involved in a task with a sisterhood member.

Remember to make use of our own district web site at <http://wrjsoutheast.org/> for information on available resources, calendar of events, contact information, and ongoing action projects.

Reva Sandler, Chair, Membership

Education/Family/Parenting

Summer is just about over and we all are looking forward to cooler weather. Our sisterhoods are looking ahead to the many programs available from Women of Reform Judaism .

Within our communities, families are ever more diverse and frequently are confronted with today's complex social issues. Women look to their synagogue communities for support and caring. Creating a caring sisterhood will enrich your relationships, generate meaning in your life, and develop positive Jewish values.

Sometimes we rack our brains to see what new ideas we can come up with. Will it be interesting? Will anyone attend? Having the Presidents' listserv available as a resource is a godsend. We just have to ask a question and the response is always gracious and forthcoming. If you are not familiar with the listserv, I encourage you to sign up. The listserv is only for presidents or a designated person from your sisterhood. Simply email Pat Cwiekalo at PCwiekal@urj.org and ask to be put on the listserv.

Many of us go to the WRJ web site (<http://wrj.rj.org/>) for a wealth of information about various programs, Jewish education, families, and parenting. From the main page, look for the WRJ Online Catalog, a comprehensive guide to the WRJ materials.

Going through the infamous sisterhood box I came across a few interesting ideas. The following two involve our youth together with the family as a whole.

One program is called "Stop the Violence". This program, a joint Havdalah service with NFTY, is a short service, but fitting for today's situations.

The second article is "A Litapayach Tikvah: To Nourish Hope." This booklet on eating disorders addresses the growing problem of eating disorders among Jewish youth, the majority of whom are young women, with perceptions and perspectives relevant to Jewish life today. It is extremely enlightening, with sample workshops included. This could be a fantastic program for your whole congregation. The booklet came from the UAHC department of Jewish Family Concerns (<http://urj.org/jfc/>).

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed to try to come up with something new. However, with a little thought and perseverance, this feeling can be overcome.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Joni Hankin, Chair,
Jewish Education/Family/Parenting

Proposed Constitutional Revisions

Our District has a Standing rule that our By-Laws and Standing Rules shall be reviewed every 4 years with the next Committee on Constitutional Revisions slated to fully review these documents in 2008. This past Board Meeting, WRJ has made changes to the Districts that require us to make minor adjustments to our District Constitution. Please review the proposed changes that will be voted on at our District Biennial in October.

Proposed Constitutional Revisions

BY-LAWS of WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM, ~~District 13~~ *Southeast District*

Article 1 – Name

Section A The name of this organization shall be Women of Reform Judaism, The Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, ~~District 13~~, *WRJ Southeast District*, Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

Article 2 – Object

Section B To bring Sisterhoods of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina ~~and~~ Eastern Tennessee and *Puerto Rico* into closer cooperation and assistance with one another, and to further their respective activities.

At our Executive Board meeting at Camp Coleman this past April, the Executive Committee passed the following change to the standing rules. Standing rules may be changed by a vote of the Executive Committee and do not need to be voted on by the District membership at the Plenary in October.

Approved Change to our Standing Rules

11. Transportation, hotel expenses *and registration* shall be paid by SEFTS for the First Vice President to attend the Interim Meeting and the District Biennial Meeting, and any special call meeting of the Executive Committee.

At the meeting in April, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to write a policy book for the District Treasurer to have that will clarify what expenses will be paid by the District. This committee consists of Blair Marks, Jo Thompson and Barbara Shub (the past 3 District Treasurers). This book is slated to be ready for the Biennial in October.

Slate of Officers

*I'd like to thank the members of the nominating committee for their help. My appreciation goes to Anita Rosenberg, Susan Eisen, Cathy Glassman, Marilyn Ernst and Joni Hankin. And thank you to all of you who said YES when you were called. It looks like our District will once again be in good hands. The WRJ Southeast District Nominating Committee would like to present the following Slate of Officers for the 2006-2008 Term of Office. See you all in October in Boca!
-- Jo Stamler Thompson*

Slate of Officers

President ..Wendy Adamson...Clearwater, FL
1 VP...Blair Marks...Marietta, GA
VP...Joni Hankin...Madison, AL
VP...Andrea Cannon...Boca Raton, FL
VP...Alison Schlenger...Marietta, GA
VP...Donna Spencer...Mt. Pleasant, SC
Rec. Sec...Madelyn Davidson...Lutz, FL
Corr. Sec...Reva Sandler...Jacksonville, FL
Treas...Sherry Schwimmer...Mt. Pleasant, SC
Parliamentarian...Ronni Udoff...Marietta, GA
Chaplain...Tammy Gerson...Athens, GA
Immediate Past President...Barbara Shub...Plantation, FL

Area Directors

Georgia Solomon...Dothan, AL
Kathy Starr...Roswell, GA
Cheryl Raskind-Hood...Marietta, GA
Cindy Chassen...Boca Raton, FL
Cathy Glassman...Coral Springs, FL
Judy Goren...Tamarac, FL
Sheila Holtzman...Parkland, FL
Denise Kirschbaum...Largo, FL
Rhoda London...Jacksonville, FL
Wendy Saltzberg...Miami Shores, FL
Cathy Swerdlow...Longwood, FL
Judy Wilson...Gainesville, FL
Annette Goldstein...Columbia, SC

“TOGETHER WE BRING PROMISE”
SOUTHEAST REGION 31ST BIENNIAL
OCT. 26th-29th, 2006
BOCA RATON FLORIDA

Dear Sisterhood Presidents,

The Southeast Region 31st Biennial is three months away and we are in the planning process.

As you are aware a Hospitality Suite is open the majority of the weekend offering snacks and drinks.

Would your Sisterhood like to donate snacks, drinks and paper goods for the Hospitality Suite or would your Sisterhood be interested in making a donation to help defray the cost?

If you are interested in donating specific items please list them on the next page or if you prefer to send a monetary donation, please complete the bottom of the next page, include your check, and return in the self-addressed envelope by September 1st.

We thank you in advance for your donation and look forward to seeing you and your Sisterhood at the Biennial! Any questions please email Andrea or Marjie.

Sincerely,

Andrea T. Cannon
Biennial Chair
redsisboca@aol.com

Marjie Stern
Hospitality Suite Chair
Bocamarjie@aol.com

Hospitality Donation

YES, I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DONATING DRINKS, PAPER GOODS AND SNACKS FOR THE HOSPITALITY SUITE.

PLEASE ADVISE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE. THESE ITEMS WILL NEED TO BE DELIVERED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY OCT. 26th. ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE PRIOR TO THIS DATE.

MIXED DRIED FRUIT _____

FRESH FRUIT _____

BANANAS, APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES

(seasonal fruits)

MIPIATURE CHOCOLATE BARS _____

ASSORTED GRANOLA BARS _____

MINI-COOKIES ASSORTED _____

ASSORTED CANDIES _____

NUTS IN SMALL BAGS _____

WATER BOTTLES _____

SODA (DIET COKE, SPRITE - DIET AND REG)

Caffeine free would be appreciated as well

ICE TEA BOTTLES/CANS _____

PAPER PLATES _____

PAPER/PLASTIC CUPS _____

PLASTIC UTENSILS _____

NAPKINS _____

OUR SISTERHOOD WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION OF

\$_____.

SISTERHOOD NAME AND PRESIDENT'S NAME

Phone number _____ email address _____

**Mail your check made payable to WRJSE Biennial to Marjie Stern,
Congregation B'nai Israel, 2200 Yamato Road, Boca Raton, FL33431**

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Temple Shalom Sisterhood, Naples, FL

The sisterhood of Temple Shalom will begin their season with a joint luncheon with the Men’s Club on October 25 at the Temple. Our program will feature our two new Rabbis who came to us in June. Rabbi Brad Bloom, Senior Rabbi, is from Sacramento, California, and Rabbi Baht Weiss, Assistant Rabbi, was recently ordained at the New York School of the Hebrew Union College. They will share their experiences and their goals for the coming years.

In December we hold our Annual Chanukah Dessert Social. We do this with nine other Jewish women’s organizations. It is a wonderful time to bond with outstanding organizations in our community. The program features the Temple Shalom Pre-School children as they perform Chanukah and Hebrew songs. Proceeds are donated to the Jewish Federation of Collier County Family Services.

Plans are underway for a fund raising event in December including a Penthouse Tour, Concert, and Martini Party. The theme will be “Sunset on the Gulf”. The proceeds go to the Abraham Shusterman Religious School Endowment Fund. This fund was established in 2002 with a donation of \$30,000. To date, sisterhood has contributed \$70,000.

Our program in January will be a brunch honoring all new members who joined since July 2006. The meeting is open to all members and will be held at a local Country Club.

This year, I am sharing the President’s position with Miriam Ross as my Co-President. Miriam moved here from Atlanta less than a year ago. We are fortunate to have her enthusiasm and creativity to move sisterhood to a new plateau.

One of my objectives as President these past two years has been to encourage and nurture younger sisterhood members to become involved in leadership positions. We are fortunate to have a multi-generational membership. Those members with years of experience will be able to serve as mentors to promote our objective of having an active and dynamic sisterhood.

Helene R. Weiss, Co-President

Temple B’Nai Sholom, Huntsville, AL

By the time you read this newsletter, our Membership Tea will have already occurred. This year we featured the Singing Sisters musicale, “One Sisterhood Sensation”. Everyone loved it. This is always a well attended program. Everyone is eager to hear what we are planning for the coming year.



Women's Interfaith Seder

This November we will be having an encore of our highly successful Mah Jongg tournament. We are trying to come up with some different programs. Sometimes it is hard to be creative and keep everyone’s interest.

We will try to get input from our members as to what they might be interested in doing this coming year. Our Women’s Interfaith Seder last year was very well attended and will be repeated this spring.

I am looking forward to the Biennial in Boca Raton this October and hope to see many of you there.

I would also like to wish my “Sisters” a good, healthy New Year.

Joni Hankin, Co-President



Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation of Reform Judaism, Orlando, FL

CRJ/Sisterhood is ready to kick-off a new year of programming in Orlando. This past year we were able to increase our membership to 160 members – an all-time high number. One of our popular activities is “Chicken Soup for the Shul”. Soup deliveries are made to congregants who are recovering from illness or have suffered a loss in their family.



Jeannie Finkelstein, Shaina Spector, Judie Rosenbluth, Jami Spector and Judy Godorov cooking “Chicken Soup for the Shul”.

Another highlight of the year was our fourth annual Women’s Seder, attended by more than 200 women who enjoyed the singing, dancing, and camaraderie of the evening. One of the highlights of the Seder is the L’Dor V’Dor blessing of women who have attended 75 or more years’ worth of seders in their lifetime. Chuppah holders are members of our youth group.



The L’Dor V’Dor blessing of women who have attended 75 or more years’ worth of seders in their lifetime.

We hope to build on this enthusiasm with some innovative ideas and improvements to programs we have done in the past.

Our kick-off program is a wine-tasting at a lovely shop in scenic Winter Park called Olive This, Relish That. In conjunction with our brotherhood we are planning a ballroom dancing evening in January. This will get everyone in the groove for the Temple’s Gala fundraiser in February! In support of Israel and her economy we are selling honey and spreads from Israel in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in BOCA!

Cathy Swerdlow, President

SOUTHEAST 31ST REGIONAL BIENNIAL OCTOBER 26 - 29, 2006 HOSTED BY CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

Please join us as we host the 31st Biennial in Boca Raton, Florida. There is so much for all of us to gain by participating in the WRJ Biennial ... spiritually, educationally, and emotionally, in addition to having fun and seeing old friends and making new friends. You will attend services and seminars with other “sisters” from all over our district.

There is nothing better than studying and learning about our faith with other women. Relationships born at biennials are priceless and will last forever!

Our guest speaker for the Awards Luncheon on Saturday is Rebecca Kohn, author of the best selling 2004 novel, *In the Gilded Chamber: The Story of Queen Esther*, and her new book *Seven Days to the Sea*, an epic novel of the women behind the Exodus: Miryam and Tziporah.

We look forward to seeing you in October. Early Registration is \$220.00 before Sept. 1st, thereafter \$250.00. Remember you can download all the forms directly from the WRJ Southeast website.

We are 45 minutes from either the Fort Lauderdale or the West Palm Beach airports.

Any questions, please email me at redsisboca@aol.com or call 561-703-6004.

Andrea T. Cannon, Biennial Chair

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Temple Shir Shalom, Gainesville, FL

Our sisterhood had a very busy, successful year 2005 - 2006. A year end annual membership meeting was held Sunday, June 25, with a Sisterhood Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, to plan for this and start thinking about 2006-2007. The photos are from our year end election of officers, pot luck, membership event.



The 2006-2007 year will begin with a welcome back program, *Every Woman a Sarah Bernhardt*, on Sunday, September 17, followed by a dynamite garage sale Sunday, October 22.

The annual Paid-up Membership Event with an international food theme and entertainment will be held Sunday, November 5, 2006.

2007 will begin with a discussion led by Sisterhood member, Deborah Jervis, *If you have your health, you've got it all*.

Our annual Tu B'Shevat Seder will be held in February, 2007, and a matinee theater party with dining out will follow in March. May, 2007 will find us holding the annual Sisterhood Shabbat.

Judy Cohen Wilson, President

Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, FL Host of the WRJ Southeast District 31st Biennial October 26-October 29, 2006

It is with great pride that I write and tell you that the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel will be hosting the 31st Women of Reform Judaism Southeast Biennial Convention. The convention will be held October 26 through October 29, 2006.

Andrea Cannon, Biennial Chair, and her committee have made extensive plans to ensure a wonderful weekend of study, worship, fellowship, fun, and education. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find much information about the who, what, where and when. I want to tell you about the why.

Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood is the voice of Women in Congregation B'nai Israel. Our sisterhood is blessed to be welcoming women who are leaders in synagogues around the country. These women who attend make a difference by dedicating themselves to the worthy causes espoused by the Women of Reform Judaism. We expect over 200 women and want you to be one of them. By attending and participating in this biennial convention, we will get to hear your voice. The collective voices of all of us make Women of Reform Judaism stronger together.

Studying and learning about our faith with other women is invigorating. The biennial is an opportunity to get new ideas, share similar ones, and make new friends. Please join us. Relationships born at biennials are priceless and last forever.

Back to our regular news, WRJ/Sisterhood initiated a Circle of Service Campaign in May, 2006. This was the brainchild of Susan Stein-Chiesa, Vice-President of Membership. We sent out a letter introducing all of our sisterhood members to the Circle of Service and YES Fund. We had a very successful campaign raising over \$1000. Thirty women responded to our appeal. Thank you, sisterhood members of Congregation B'nai Israel!

Katherine Fleishman, Sisterhood President

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple), Jacksonville, FL

Greetings from the Jacksonville area! We are getting ready for another exciting year building on the successes of the last few years. We have started a Rosh Chodesh group, a book club, and a Torah study group that meet regularly to enhance our Jewish awareness. On a personal basis, Marilyn Ernst's mah jongg starter sessions have spawned groups meeting all over town! In addition, others have learned to knit and are getting together for knitting bees.

The latter part of the year proved to be very special with a spirituality retreat shared with special sisterhood guests from Palm Coast. Our inspiring women's seder was once again led by Cantor Margaret Bruner and our new addition to the clergy, Rabbi Holly Cohn. It was the second year using our newly revised Haggadah, which continued to be a success.



Renee Weinstein (VP of Ways and Means), Marilyn Ernst (Sisterhood President), and Stacey Beyer, entertainer, during the Assembly in Houston.

Stacey Beyer was the talented entertainer at Donor this year. Many of you may remember her refreshing, versatile style, which most of us first heard at the Assembly in Houston. Cantor Bruner was especially delighted with her mix of country and Jewish and the way she interacted with the Temple children's chorale, which sang several numbers with her.

The year ended with two exciting events. First, Sisterhood women helped purchase a shiny new black baby grand piano for the sanctuary. It was played when two of our distinguished members, Rhoda London, Immediate Past President, and Anne DePaul, volunteer extraordinaire, were honored at Temple's Lifetime Achievement luncheon in June.

The two Gift of Life drives you read about last fall were very successful and even motivated other congregations to have their own. Although a bone donor was not found in Jacksonville for Sharyn Allen's husband, Glenn, a donor was found from another area of the country. Glenn's recuperation took a very long time, but they are now back in Jacksonville and would like to thank you for your prayers and letters of concern. Recently it was revealed that one of the people swabbed in Houston at the Gift of Life booth was a perfect match and just weeks ago became a donor for someone Jewish in need of a bone marrow transplant! How exciting that the publicity generated on Glenn Allen's behalf was able to benefit some-one else — we know not where!

In July some of our members went to the Temple in Brunswick, Georgia with Gail Jarrett, NRJ National Board Member, to help support the group there. They have a very active although small congregation. They are having to decide whether to pay Sisterhood dues or have programs for their members, and cannot afford to do both.

We are looking forward to another successful year and to sending as many delegates as we can to the October convention.

Mindy Grinnan

Also contributing to this article:

Rhoda London, Immediate Past President

District Dues

Congratulations to Temple Mickve Israel of Savannah for being the first to pay their 2006-2007 district dues!! Dues are \$1.50 per person and should be mailed to Blair Marks at 4507 Woodhaven NE, Marietta GA 30067.

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation Beth Am, Tampa, FL

Our last event before summer was a lovely Chai Tea. All who participated had a wonderful afternoon of friendship. Our Mitzvah Project for this event was to write Uniongrams to our servicemen. We want them to know how proud we are of them and how grateful we are for their service to their country.

This summer our Executive Board and the Programming Committee have been diligently planning a year of exciting events. Our first get-together will be a lesson on drumming. We are in the midst of our Membership Drive and are planning a Café Sisterhood to welcome old and new members alike.

Our Judaica Shop, run by the sisterhood of Congregation Beth Am, is flourishing. Thanks to Harriet Katz for her merchandising skills and Doris Baer for her personnel skills. A HUGE thank you goes to all of our women who volunteer to staff our shop!

We, your sisters from Congregation Beth Am, wish you and your families a very happy and healthy new year – L’shana Tova Tekateyvu!

Dianne Baruch, President

WRJ 5767 Calendars and Cards Now Available



With the New Year just around the corner, it is time to order your Jewish calendar from the Women of Reform Judaism. These beautiful calendars list all major Jewish holidays and events for the year to come, and feature vibrant mixed-media collages by Flora Rosefsy. High Holiday cards and blank cards are also available.

For orders and information, visit the WRJ site at <http://wrj.rj.org/artcal.html>.

Temple Beth Orr, Coral Springs, FL

This summer saw us again hold our Summer Retreat this year at Howard Johnson’s in Deerfield Beach. This annual one-to-two day event focuses on developing leadership skills and is the kickoff for planning the next programming year.



Temple Beth Orr Sisterhood at our Summer Retreat.

Upcoming events will include a Breast Cancer Awareness program and our annual Welcome Luncheon for new members in October. We’re also gearing up for our annual major fundraiser, a Brunch & Boutique, to be held next January. This year’s theme is Caribbean Casual with wonderful music & shopping. Last year's inaugural event with a Jazz Theme was a fantastic success even with the hurricane wreaking havoc with our ad revenue.

TBO Sisterhood/WRJ is looking forward to a terrific year!

Nancy Pottruck, President

Temple Judea, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

We are holding an organizational welcome meeting on Sunday, August 27, at 10:30 a.m. to greet Temple women and get them interested in joining our group. We will hold our catered Paid-Up Dinner on October 17 at the Temple.

Contact Cheryll Plotkin at (561) 775-1881 for additional information.

Cheryll R Plotkin, Co-President

WRJ Southeast Upcoming Events

October 26-29, 2006 WRJ District Biennial Convention, Boca Raton, FL

November 18, 2006 Chayei Sarah Study Day

January 21, 2007 Uniongram Day

February 11, 2007 Sisterhood Sunday

March 10-20, 2007 WRJ Mission to Israel

April 13-15, 2007 Sisterhood Leadership Conference

May 19-21, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

Visit us on the web at <http://wrjsoutheast.org/>

Please copy and share the WRJ Newsletter with others in your Sisterhood