

**Women of Reform Judaism — Southeast District**

Listen Sisters! Our Link to Each Other! Share your News!

שמענה אחיה

President's Message

Spring is here and everyone is busy enjoying the beautiful weather, spring events within our sisterhoods, installations, closing year-end events, graduations, and starting our vacations!!

The Southeast District attended the District Camp Coleman Kallah, and are planning Area/All Sisterhood Days, and planning the upcoming 33rd Biennial in Orlando, Florida!!!

On April 16th to 18th the Southeast District held our District Kallah at Camp Coleman in the mountains of Cleveland, Georgia. The weather was beautiful for the 52 women who attended. WRJ First Vice President Blair Marks led a day long workshop on Friday focusing on Leadership, WRJ 101 and the YES Fund. Edith Caplan, our WRJ guest speaker from the Pacific District, who is the Vice President of the Programming and Advocacy department of WRJ, was also present. Edith led several workshops including Membership, Advocacy – Social Action Rings Program and the YES Fund. Ronni Udoff organized a wonderful YES fund program and raised \$837.00. Our rabbi for the weekend was Alana Wasserman from Temple Israel in Greenville, SC, who led us in prayer along with Donna Spencer and Tammy Gerson. Six women became B'not Mitzvah at camp. Jo Thompson and the women from Temple Israel in Greenville, SC, along with Madi Hoesten from Temple Kol Tikvah in Parkland, Florida, led us in the celebration for the six women who became B'not Mitzvah on Saturday evening.

Tammy Gerson previewed the Southeast District's Prayer Day program. The completed program will be presented in Orlando at our 33rd Biennial in October, 2010. We began the creation of the WRJSE Torah. Each woman who attended the Kallah wrote a story that related to a special moment in their lives and drew a picture related to the story. The story and picture will become part of the WRJSE Torah. All of you will have the opportunity to write a story and draw a picture at the WRJSE Biennial which will be included in the WRJSE Torah. Dara Amram, Area Director for Georgia and a first grade school teacher, is busy organizing the Torah and will have it ready for viewing in October.

We made new friendships, renewed old friendships, worshiped, sang, danced, learned, laughed and enjoyed each other's company. The weekend was not long enough and everyone who attended the Kallah is looking forward to our next event together.

The Importance of your District

Your district serves as a direct link between your sisterhood and WRJ. District leadership provides ongoing training, support, and

hands-on assistance for your sisterhood in many areas including leadership development, programming, and organizational planning. The district also implements many WRJ programs and projects throughout the year.

Each Sisterhood is assigned an **Area Director** who serves as a designated liaison between you and the district. Your area director will check in with you regularly to see how your sisterhood is doing, find out what resources and assistance you need, and update you on what's happening in the district and WRJ. Please speak with your area director and develop a line of communication with her. You will soon be receiving a phone call from your Area Director who will be sharing information with all of you. If you are installing new officers for the new year please share the names and contact information with your Area Director. If you have questions as to how to handle a situation or need guidance on a particular WRJ program, please share these questions with your Area Director, and if she cannot guide you she will be in contact with the Vice President, First Vice President or District President and we will be happy to work with you to resolve the situation or provide you with the programming you require.

The **Speakers Bureau** is one of the best tools your sisterhood can use. Your sisterhood is allowed one speaker from WRJ every two years and one speaker from your district in the alternate year at no charge. You can request a speaker for your general membership meeting, installation, board training, or for a joint meeting with other affiliated sisterhoods in your city or local area, known as an Area Day. We have found local Area Days are a wonderful vehicle to have sisterhoods within a two hour driving distance get together on a Sunday to meet for workshops and to meet the District Leadership. We will provide you with the agenda and materials and I will attend along with a local District leader to lead the day. Your responsibility is a continental breakfast and light lunch with snacks. If you are interested in hosting an Area Day/All Sisterhood Day please let me know.

The Speakers Bureau request form is on the WRJSE website. Just download the form, complete it and follow the instructions to send to Lynn Friedman, the District's Communication Coordinator. Lynn will make arrangements for a District Speaker. Please provide us with at least 30-60 days notice to make arrangements.

WRJSE District 33rd Biennial October 28-31, 2010 Orlando, Florida**Heart to Heart, LEV LE'LEV is our theme**

Save the Dates are being emailed to all Sisterhood Presidents soon. Early Registration forms and informational materials should be emailed to all Sisterhood Presidents by the end of June. Early Registration is due on or before September 1st. The Registration forms will also be on the WRJSE website for your convenience.

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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

The Biennial will begin Thursday evening with dinner and a wonderful guest speaker. Our host sisterhood, Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando, Florida has been busy planning the four days. I am so pleased to announce that Lynn Magid Lazar, the WRJ President, will be our guest speaker, as well as Blair Marks, the First Vice President of WRJ. They will lead Board training workshops, Area Director workshops, and Sisterhood President workshops.

One of our main areas of focus will be Membership. There will be a workshop for everyone to attend, focusing on Membership. On Friday evening we will be transported to Congregation of Reform Judaism for Shabbat Services and Shabbat dinner.

The four days will be filled with Workshops, Shabbat Services and Havdallah Services, Plenarys, a YES Fund Luncheon, the premiere of the WRJSE Prayer day, the WRJSE Torah art project, and a viewing of the film "Praying In Her Own Voice", sharing the story of the Women of the Wall. There will also be an installation of your new District Board and a joyous celebration on Saturday evening featuring Cantor Stephanie Shore and her band, from Congregation B'nai Israel of Boca Raton Florida, and so much more!

I am also pleased to announce Rabbi Miri Gold, from Kibbutz Gezer in Israel, will be another guest speaker. Rabbi Gold will lead our Saturday morning Shabbat Service, be a guest Speaker at one of our Plenarys bringing us up to date information on happenings in Israel, and will lead a workshop. Our District is Twinning with Rabbi Gold's Sisterhood and we are ready to begin our communications with her Sisterhood!!

As you can see the WRJSE Biennial will be an event not to miss!!! I hope to see everyone in October at the WRJSE Biennial.

**Save the Date for the Women of Reform Judaism
Sisterhood Leadership Conference in San Francisco,
February 4th — 6th, 2011!!!**

**Please remember to create a line item in your Budget
for Leadership training.**

**Save the Date for the Women of Reform Judaism
48th Assembly in San Diego
December 14th — 18th, 2011!!!**

**Please remember to create a line item in your Budget
to attend this Assembly!!!**

Have a wonderful summer!!!

Shalom,

Andrea T. Cannon

Sisterhood Report Card

Now is the perfect time to take a look back on this past year's activities and recognize all of your sisterhood's accomplishments. A great way to do this is by creating and publishing a year-end "sisterhood report card".

So what is a sisterhood report card?

A report card is a list of projects and services that a sisterhood provides for the temple and community throughout the year. Compiling and sharing this list is crucial in order for the role and impact of sisterhood to be fully understood and appreciated by its members, the congregation, and temple board.

Publishing a sisterhood report card serves several important functions:

- **Marketing** – Put your report card in the temple's annual report or year-end newsletter bulletin to inform the congregation of the vital importance of sisterhood and the wide range of programs and services that you provide.
- **Membership Recruitment** – Include your report card in a membership mailing or an informational packet to educate potential members about all of the things that sisterhood does and why they should be part of this important group.
- **Celebration of Accomplishments** – Send your report card to all of your current members, which will help enhance their commitment and pride in belonging to sisterhood. Plus, it's a nice "thank you gesture" to those women that spearheaded your sisterhood projects and events throughout the year.

To create a sisterhood report card, simply review your activities from the 2009-2010 activity year. It's also helpful to take a look at your sisterhood's budget to see what programs and initiatives your sisterhood supported. Then put together a list of things that your sisterhood did for the temple, youth, the local and worldwide community, etc.

A sample sisterhood report card can be found here on the WRJ website: <http://tinyurl.com/266pjty>

To view this report card, you will be asked to provide your username and password in order to gain access.

Rachel Jurisz
Manager, Department of Service to Sisterhood and Districts

(From Strategies for Success April 12, 2010)

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM SOUTHEAST DISTRICT 33RD BIENNIAL

LEV LE'LEV HEART TO HEART

**We've got a special event and it's coming soon,
We're announcing it now although it's only June!**

**The Women of Reform Judaism, known as WRJ,
Is holding an October Biennial starting on a Thursday.**

**It's Thursday, October 28th - mark the date down,
And before you know it, it will come around.**

**It lasts four days and should be interesting and lots of fun.
We invite you to join us for an amazing weekend
to Share, Study, Dance, Laugh and Learn!**

Who: All Women of Reform Judaism Southeast District Sisterhoods
Your entire sisterhood is invited!

What: The 33rd WRJ Southeast District Biennial

When: October 28th to 31st, 2010

Where: Orlando, Florida

Why: To have an opportunity to:

- celebrate and honor your fellow WRJ members
- renew friendships and make new ones too
- attend informative workshops
- listen to motivating speakers and clergy
- enjoy special events including a special Shabbat, Havdalah, Installation of your new Board, a Banquet and a Concert by Cantor Stephanie Shore of Boca Raton

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

The following changes in the By-Laws of Women of Reform Judaism Southeast District, Revised November 2008, have been recommended by the Executive Committee of the Board. These changes shall be discussed and voted on at the WRJ-SE Biennial in Orlando, October 28-31. Please discuss these changes within your local Sisterhoods so that your delegates will be prepared to properly represent your Sisterhood when casting their votes:

From Standing Rule #19:

The Committee on Constitutional Revisions shall review the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the District every four (4) years. *{ADD: or more frequently as needed, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.}* Forms for suggested changes to the By-Laws and Standing Rules shall be sent to all local Sisterhood Presidents, and Officers and Chairs of the District sixty (60) days prior to the meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall be appointed by the President.

From Article 5 – Officers

Section A In the event of the death of, or inability of, the President to serve her full term, the First Vice President shall succeed to that office.

Section B If the office of the First Vice President becomes vacant, a successor to that office shall be chosen from the four Departmental Vice Presidents *{SUBSTITUTE: Executive Committee}*. Selection shall be made by the Executive Committee at a meeting to be called by the Communications Coordinator.

Section C If the office of a Departmental Vice President or any other office becomes vacant, it shall be filled immediately from the members of the Board of Directors. Officers thus chosen shall hold office for the balance of the unexpired term. Selection shall be made by the Executive Committee.

Section D Fulfilling an unexpired term does not disqualify a person for election to the same office.

From Article 12 - Amendments to the By-Laws

Section A Amendments to the By-Laws must be proposed by:

1. A local Sisterhood
2. The Board of Directors
3. The Executive Committee *{ADD: or}*
4. The Committee on Constitutional Revisions

Section B Amendments shall be acted upon at a Biennial Assembly of the District. Board Members and each Sisterhood shall have received sixty (60) days written notice of the proposed changes. A two-thirds (2/3) vote *{ADD: of said Assembly}* shall be required to adopt any amendments.

Ronni Udoff,
Parliamentarian

Leadership Transition

During the next few months many of you will experience a transition of leadership in your sisterhood. In order to ease this transition, you should start to gather and organize your sisterhood's records and books to be passed along to your successor. You should also ask your sisterhood officers to do the same if their term is ending as well.

Preparing materials for your successor will help the new sisterhood president begin her role from a position of knowledge and confidence. Put together a special binder, folder, or flash drive (if you are computer savvy) for her. That way all of the materials are together and can be passed along from one sisterhood president to the next.

Below are some items that you should include:

- Job descriptions for her and all board positions
- Historical information about the sisterhood and congregation
- Sisterhood budget from the past two years
- Reports on activities and events from past year
- Responsibilities to the temple (programmatic and financial)
- Contact information for:
 - Past sisterhood presidents
 - WRJ North American office
 - District leadership, including your sisterhood's area director
 - WRJ resources and publications:
 - (found on the secure portion of the WRJ website)
 - Stronger Together: A Guide for Sisterhood Presidents
 - Programming Possibilities
 - FUNdraising FUNdamentals
 - Membership Matters
 - Your First 100 Days as Sisterhood President

Also, encourage the incoming president to sign up for WRJ's sisterhood presidents' listserv by sending an e-mail to Pat Cwiekalo at pcwiekalo@wrj.org. This will help to ease her transition, allow her to network with other sisterhood presidents, and bring her up to speed on the most current WRJ programs and initiatives.

Knowing what is expected, what has been done, what works, and what didn't is important for new leaders. Just think back to when you first started your role as sisterhood president. What information would have been helpful to you back then?

Rachel Jurisz
Manager, Department of Service to Sisterhood and Districts

(From *Strategies for Success* May 3, 2010)

Candidate's Nomination Form

The Candidate's Nomination Form is posted on the website here: <http://wrjsoutheast.org/nominationform.pdf>
The instructions for how to complete the process are on the form, but if you have any questions feel free to contact me at wadam412@aol.com.

I look forward to receiving the nomination forms from all of you before the June 30 deadline.

And then bring lots of your sisterhood ladies and come celebrate the installation of this new board at our District Biennial in Orlando, FL (details elsewhere in the newsletter) and on our fabulous District web site (www.wrjsoutheast.org)!!

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Wendy Adamson



Save the Date and Budget Now: Leadership Conference 2011

Mark your sisterhood calendar and budget for the next sisterhood leadership conference on February 4-6, 2011. The cost to attend will be similar to that of 2009, which was \$250. Hotel rooms will run approximately \$169 per night.

For more information on the conference, please visit www.wrj.org/leadership2011.

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Temple Emanu-El, Atlanta, GA

Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood is finishing a great year! Our programming has ranged from celebrating holidays, social action projects, continuing education, to fun and creative social gatherings.

In January we held our “Get Glam Brunch”. Everyone brought a brunch item to share and everyone received hair, makeup, and nail consults by professional leaders in those fields. One of the highlights was that everyone shared a “tried & true” beauty tip.

Everyone had a fabulous time at the Annual Paid Up Event. This year we showed “The Gefilte Fish Chronicles” followed by a discussion with Rabbi Schwartz. Everyone was able to connect with this movie on so many levels. Everyone laughed, cried, and shared memories about their own Seder preparations.

We had a great time making “Thinking of You Boxes” for Easter Seals of North Georgia. This program brought many members and their children to share in this mitzvah. We made over 50 boxes!

The book club is going strong! Since January they have read: Shanghai Girls by Lisa See, The Help by Kathryn Stockett, People of The Book by Geraldine Brooks, The Sunflower by Simon Wiesenthal, and Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum.

Our Women’s Seder was a spiritual and engaging evening. It is always wonderful to have three and four generations of families participating. A special highlight of the evening is the charoset sampling. Members make a variety of charoset and the recipes are posted on the temple website.

We are looking forward to Clergy and Staff Appreciation Week. This year the theme is “You all bring Music to Our Lives”. This committee has planned a week full of treats and pampering for the clergy and staff.

This was a year of living the WRJ motto “Stronger Together”.

As the year is wrapping up we are now looking to the next programming year. We are busy evaluating and brainstorming new ideas for 2010-11. We are very excited about the year to come!

Dara Amram, President
Georgia Area Director, SE Board Member
WRJ Executive Committee Board Member
WRJ 48th Assembly Programming Chair



Photos by Dara Amram

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater, FL

Our sisterhood is getting ready to start our new year. We have a few new board members this year, and a few just changed jobs. Our sisterhood will focus on membership this year. We had a wonderful increase last year and looking forward to even better this year. We are meeting over the summer to plan our Fall events. Successful events in the past such as our Kick-Off in August are back on the calendar with some exciting new twists. Many of our Sisterhood members went on our Temple's First Congregational trip to Israel and as we celebrate Sukkot this year, we have invited many of them to share their experiences while we enjoy Israeli food, music and dancing.

Last fall we had a well received outreach program called "Nashim: A Symposium for Today's Jewish Woman." Nashim are Jewish women who learn, study, and share ideas together. This year we are repeating the Symposium with new and different topics designed to stimulate and strengthen the power within each woman to make her a more effective individual, partner, friend, and leader.

Our programming committee is also planning a Sisterhood Retreat and we are inviting a guest speaker from District to join us.

We are looking forward to an event filled Fall that will include our District's Biennial Convention as we continue to strive toward increasing our membership.

Wishing everyone all the best for a wonderful summer.

Ellen Petracco, President

Temple Ahavat Shalom, Palm Harbor, FL

As outgoing president of Temple Ahavat Shalom's Sisterhood in Palm Harbor Florida, I take great pride in the success of our Sisterhood over the past two years. Our Sisterhood Board was concerned about the congregation's ability to participate in and support our programs given the current economic state. As we brainstormed different ways to include people of all means, some of our best programs evolved.

To begin with, our board agreed to hold as many events as possible in our own synagogue. Through the years, Sisterhood had worked very hard to update and beautify our social hall. We had hoped that this would encourage more use of our own Temple for simchas, bringing in revenue. Why shouldn't we do the same? This began a cycle of creating some of the most imaginative and enjoyable programs we have ever had! We started the year off with our New Member Brunch inviting the "Deal Divas" to speak to our members about fashion and encourage the concept of "Looking great doesn't necessarily have to cost a fortune!" It left us feeling positive and motivated! Our only fundraiser, "Blast from the Past" was not only one of the most memorable evenings in our Temple history, it was also one of the most successful fundraisers we have ever had! The necessity of keeping costs down so we could keep the event affordable brought about so much fun for this committee coming up with so many great ideas!!

Our Purim Brunch, a "4 Corner" theme of health, beauty, philanthropy, and flower arranging, had something for everyone. At this point, the congregation was really enjoying socializing in our own Temple.

Another of our goals this year was to encourage the concept of all arms of the Temple working together. The women in the new positions of Brotherhood, Religious School and Pre-School liaisons worked to make this happen. We all worked together on enhancing our temple and doing projects together. Some of the best were making 1500 latkes from scratch in our temple kitchen and "A Night at the Races" with Brotherhood.

For the first time in many years, our installation ceremony and dinner took place in the Temple. Having the ceremony in the Sanctuary was beautiful and inspirational! Our Hebrew and Religious School leaders presided over the installation making it very warm and meaningful.

In closing, I would like to thank our fabulous Sisterhood Boards 2008-09 and 2010-11 who gave their time and their hearts. I would like to thank WRJ for their continued support and for helping us be the best that we can be!!

Irene Lipensky, President

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Tree of Life, Columbia, SC

Our 2009-2010 sisterhood year has come to end. What a successful year this has been! I want to thank the Board members for all of their hard work, creativity, and support, and all Tree of Life sisterhood members and volunteers for their participation and dedication to Women of Reform Judaism. It has been an honor to serve as sisterhood president over the past year. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with and get to know such strong, wonderful women – I was inspired! I look forward to remaining actively involved with sisterhood.

Let's look back at some of our activities and accomplishments during 2009-2010:

For Tree of Life

- Helped send youth to Jewish summer camps
- Helped Temple membership committee with annual Ice Cream Social
- Rosh Hashanah Oneg
- Coordinated Shabbat Onegs and WRJ Bimah representation
- Sisterhood Shabbat
- Gifts for special celebrations from Judaica Shop
- Purchased new tablecloths for Temple events
- Yearly bulb sales
- Bereavement meals and donations

For Sisterhood and Guests

- Hosted All Area Day program
- Temple Sisterhood Members' Meeting
- Breast Cancer Education Program
- Nutrition Education Program
- Yoga & Meditation Night
- Non-event Fundraiser
- Women's Seder

For the Community

- Donations to WRJ YES fund, Camp Coleman, World Union, Columbia Jewish Federation, Jewish Braille Institute, Jewish Family Services, Columbia Jewish Film Festival, Cooperative Ministries, Epworth Children's Home, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Sistercare
- Contributed blankets and non-perishable food items to Columbia Jewish Family Services

Congratulations and welcome to next year's board members.

Daniela Friedman, President



Tree of Life All Area Day Program



Tree of Life Women's Seder

Congregation Beth Yam, Hilton Head, SC

This is my last column and I am sad to be leaving the Presidency. I will, however, be the Treasurer so will keep busy and that is good.

We have had a fabulous year – we had a new member luncheon, a progressive dinner, a symphony/dinner event, a sweetheart luncheon, a community and women's seder, break the fast. We ran the gift shop, the two libraries, the onegs, bereavement. We outfitted the new kitchen with top of the line appliances and equipment. To top off a productive and successful year we went to Camp Coleman, had a few Bat Mitzvahs, spent the weekend with the unbelievable girls of the Southeast District, and came home pumped to start another year.

Thank you to the District leaders for always being available to guide me and teach me and give me strength when needed. I am sure Helen Hauer and her board will be equally successful if not more so in the coming year and know that the listserv and the district is always there to help if she needs it. Thank you for all the love you gave me and all the support both personally and as President, and I look forward to many more years of serving Sisterhood and WRJ.

Elaine Lust, President

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation Schaarai Zedek, Tampa, FL

Congregation Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood has just completed a very full schedule. In February, Ann Rubin and Jane Bray chaired Sisterhood's Hamantashen project, which raised \$2,500 for audio-visual equipment for the Religious school. In addition, Barbara Goldman hosted the Past Presidents' brunch in her home. Sisterhood also raised \$300 for Youth Group projects by selling Passover candy.

Sisterhood Shabbat on February 19 and the Sisterhood Retreat on February 20 highlighted February's activities. Cindy Minetti, Lisa Rohatiner, and Jill Neuman planned a terrific service for the Sisterhood Shabbat around the theme of "Mothers, Daughters: Generations of Love." Grandmothers, mothers, and daughters took part in the service. Alison Schlenger, Vice-President of the Southeast District of Women of Reform Judaism, spoke about the traditions of sisterhood and WRJ at Schaarai Zedek. Then Rabbi Richard Birnholz went into the audience so that congregants could share traditions in their families. Alison facilitated the Retreat on Saturday with the theme of "Improving Mind, Body, and Spirit." Those attending also participated in the Gary Rosenthal Woman of Valor Create for the Cure project and put together glass mosaics that Rosenthal fused into Judaica items. A percentage of the profits from the items sold went to breast cancer treatment and research here in Tampa in honor of Rosenthal's close friends, Gail Holtzman and Franci Rudolph. In addition, the participants made three Rosenthal items for our twinned sisterhood, Kehillat Natan-Yah. The day ended with Marilyn Moss leading the participants in simple exercises that can be done at any time to improve metabolism and posture.

March began with sisterhood providing and helping with the Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 6 for 250 teens attending the NFTY-STR Spring Kallah. Then on March 10, Diane Slakter, Cindi Koch, and Cindy Minetti chaired sisterhoods Women's Seder, with the service being led by Cantor Riselle Bain. Those attending brought their favorite Passover dishes along with recipes to share. On March 13, Sisterhood sponsored one of three of its Tot Shabbats under the leadership of Stephanie Tannenbaum.

The April 19th Circle of Service luncheon, that was chaired by Jamie Blumenthal and which took place in the home of Beth Franzblau, honored Judy Rosenkranz. At the luncheon, \$5,496 was raised for Circle of Service, five Lifelines were completed, one new Lifeline was begun, and three Lifelines are in the process of being completed. In addition, at the luncheon, travel size toiletries were collected and sent to women serving in the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, as part of one of the Social Action projects that sisterhood has undertaken under the leadership of Lyris Newman.

Sisterhood's Installation Luncheon, chaired by Jamie Blumenthal and Judith Mish, took place on May 3. Outgoing officers included Andrea Dolgin, who served as treasurer for the past five years; Linda Bogner-Norton, who served as Membership Vice-President for the past three years; and Beth Franzblau, who served as Administrative Vice-President for this past year. New members of the Executive Board included Patty Schreiber as the Administrative Vice-President, Faith Alexander as the Membership Vice-President, Laura Salzer as Treasurer, and Angela Sokol as the Treasurer's Assistant. Thanks go to Jamie Blumenthal and Judith Mish for putting together this wonderful and talented group of women to serve on the 2010-2011 Executive Board.

The year concluded with a planning meeting on May 10 of the full Board, including all outgoing and incoming officers and committee chairs; with the final Lilith Salon of the year on May 11 at the home of Arlene Lewis; and with a Tot Shabbat pajama party on May 21st. During the summer, the Sisterhood Book Club will continue to meet for lunch, and the Star Event Committee, with Deborah Rosenthal as chair, will meet to plan this year's Star Event, which is sisterhood's major fundraiser.

Have a nice summer!

Paula Zielonka & Sharon Ravner, Co-Presidents



More of Paula's photos can be viewed at
<http://gallery.me.com/paulazielonka#100419/>

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Temple of Israel, Greenville, SC

We try to sponsor at least one blood drive during the year on a Sunday morning when lots of people might be around the Temple for an event. The bloodmobile comes to us. We support our local area Meals on Wheels with an annual donation. We sponsored art supply collections at the beginning of the year for teachers in low income schools, collected pet food for the animal shelter, and always bring excess food from events to a local shelter that appreciates the donation. We've also collected blankets during the winter months to bring to a local homeless shelter.

Most area United Way agencies also collect school supplies in late summer for kids that can't afford all the supplies needed to start their school year. The United Way will give you all the information you need to do so.

We are a Temple of about 170 members with 63 Sisterhood members, so we try to spread these things out through the year so it doesn't seem like we're always asking.

At Shabbat services on February 5 we celebrated sisterhood, our members, and our supporters. Thanks to all who participated in this beautifully creative service with a special thank you to Maris Steinberg for organizing it. We presented the "Annual Dotty Gold Award for Service to Sisterhood" to Donna Perlstein. For many years Donna has been a great asset, someone who always offered to help before being asked ... a true volunteer. Please join us in congratulating her: Mazel Tov, Donna!

Jo Stamler Thompson, Co-President

Congregation Sinai, Sumter, SC

Sinai Sisterhood was host to Elaine Lust, Southeast District's South Carolina Area Director, on May 3 for the installation of a new president. After five years as president, Sue Scouten handed the ceremonial gavel to Miriam Gordin from Summerton, SC. Along with Miriam, Florence Feldsott was installed as vice-president.

Elaine spoke to the members about the YES fund and all the great things WRJ does with our financial contributions. She conducted a lovely installation service with participation of the membership. Past presidents Patty Barnett, Jo Kramer, and Molly Ross were acknowledged for their continued service to our sisterhood.

Susan Scouten

Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, FL

WRJ of Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton instituted a new program this year called Birthday and Anniversary Greetings. Through the Judaica Shop we purchase a collection of small gifts in the \$5 or under range from one of our Judaica vendors and once a month on Shabbat, Rabbi will invite individuals who are celebrating a Simcha to come to the Bima, share in a blessing, and pick a small gift from the gift bag. It is our small way of making a personal greeting to our members during this tough economic time.

Our "Blanket Project" is a huge success. We have over \$900 in our Blanket Fund and recently made and delivered a handmade blanket to a teenage girl that was very badly beaten by another teenager and hospitalized with quite serious injuries. Her blanket gave her some comfort and let her know the community is thinking about her and wishes her a full recovery. Our Blanket Project meets monthly. We make and deliver blankets to many groups of people; some are hospitalized, in treatment units, and long term care facilities.

This is my final year as President and Amy Seidman's final year as Treasurer. We wish the new incoming Board for 2010-2012 much success.

Katherine Fleishman, President

Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, SC

The Sisterhood at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim in Charleston, SC started 2010 with our Second Annual Progressive Dinner. The proceeds from this event were used to purchase a lifeline for our retiring Rabbi, Anthony Holz. We finished the month of January with our Sisterhood Retreat. We enjoyed a spiritually uplifting service led by our chaplain, Robin Shuler. After lunch, Julie Klapper, an artist and new Bat Mitzvah, shared her art series based on the Hebrew Alphabet. February was a busy month: we had a light supper at the Matriarch's event with speaker Dr. Loren Frankel who talked about bio-identical hormones, and our Tri-Sisterhood event.

In March we enjoyed a small group luncheon and participated in the "Women who Make a Difference Award" where our own Naomi Gorstein, Vice President of Programming, was honored. We had a general Sisterhood meeting in April and elected our new trustees. Our speaker was a survivor of melanoma and discussed her journey with us and went over the signs and symptoms of melanoma and the importance of sun protection. The first weekend of May was the Chai Tribute for Rabbi Holz, and over 40 of our sisters baked treats for a very special Oneg Shabbat. May 26th we will have the installation of our new trustees at a lunch meeting. The installation will be followed by a container gardening program. June 16th we will have a light supper at a sister's pool, and then have a general meeting to approve our budget for 2010-2011.

Nadine Chavin, Co-President

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, FL

The Sisterhood of Congregation Ahavath Chesed in Jacksonville, Florida, held their Annual Women’s Seder in memory of Rabbi Julie Spitzer, on March 18, 2010. This was the 17th year that sisterhood has been having the seder. All proceeds of the seder were donated to Hubbard House, a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence here in Jacksonville.

The theme for the seder this year was “Passover Foods from Around the World”. This delicious vegetarian meal was lovingly prepared by sisterhood members. Over 125 women attended and enjoyed a wonderful seder filled with love, laughter and new friends.

Temple Institute of Religion and WRJ Temple Sisterhood of Jacksonville spent Lag B’Omer on May 1 in a traditional but exciting new way. After a festive meal and Havdalah, the evening was spent studying Torah with family and friends of multiple generations and creating colorful panels for our new Illustrated Youth Torah. As each panel was created, a sisterhood mentor lead an interactive discussion of that parshat. We painted, colored, and embellished panels for every weekly Torah portion. The Torah will be completed this summer and presented at Simchat Torah this fall. The completed project will be used not only by today’s children, but also by future generations. All the money raised will go to support TIR and Camp Coleman Scholarships for our youth.

Morleen Berlin, Co-VP of Membership and Communications



Temple Beth El, Pensacola, FL

Once a month, a member or two will provide dinner at the local Ronald McDonald House. I just did that for the first time and for 18 people. I chose the easiest thing to make, spaghetti and meatballs (from Sam’s), made salad, bought dressings, bought rolls and garlic butter spread, and a huge jug of ice cream. I wanted sherbet, but the store didn't have it. I included parmesan cheese and threw in a box of Mediterranean matzo I had found. It was fun making it and putting it together, which surprised me. Normally, it would tire me out to do all that. When I delivered it, everyone was quite thrilled.

Sisterhood is currently collecting used sheets, blankets, towels for the elderly in assisted living facilities. The State of Florida cut their budget for the elderly and these items now need to be provided by families, some who can ill afford it. One of our members works at our local Council on Aging and she is always informing us of needs. At holiday time, for several years now, we buy gifts for the elderly. A social worker gives us a list of names and what they want. I am always surprised at how little most ask for. It is wonderful when we deliver the gifts. One year, I took my granddaughters with me, and the experience was good for them.

We also help out at a local inner-city school, providing several thousand dollars each year as discretionary funds for the principal to help feed families. This means she doesn't have to go through any channels or bureaucracy to use the money, which is very important for her to be able to do. One of our members shops once a month for the food. We recently featured speakers from the school at our monthly luncheon and as a result, several members volunteered to be mentors.

This year we started having our luncheons catered by Appetite for Life; previously, members cooked. Appetite started out as an agency that fed and helped AIDS patients, but now helps others in need. We love their catering, and their chef and staff.

We also have a Relay for Life team, which is chaired by a member who raises money for this cause.

Pat Langnau, Co-President

Highlights from Camp Coleman Kallah

Picture the serene Lake Shalom at Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA. Imagine the women of WRJSE arriving by car, van and yes ... even a Hummer stretch limo. It was a most amazing week-end, successful by any stretch of the imagination. After being welcomed by our District President Andrea Cannon, we started the weekend with a Leadership workshop led by our own WRJ 1st VP Blair Marks. We talked about problem solving, "What is WRJ?", and why the women in our congregations should join our organization, among other things. And this was just the beginning.

We were blessed to have Rabbi Alana Wasserman of Greenville, S.C. as our spiritual leader for the weekend and Edith Caplan, a WRJ VP from California, as our WRJ guest. Shabbat evening services were filled with beautiful prayers and music in the outdoor chapel at camp. What an awesome way to begin our Shabbat. We were thrilled to gather on Shabbat morning as six women made their Bat Mitzvah at a service that inspired each and every one of us in attendance. Mazel Tov to Sharon Bass, Arlene Schwartz, Susan Fritz, Helen Hauer, Elaine Lust, and Wendy Saltzburg. The rest of the day was spent in Torah Study, working on an amazing art project (which you'll see at the Biennial in Orlando in October ... don't miss it), learning more about Shabbat as an experience, talking about membership, and the premiere of the SE District Women's Prayer Day.

We were also able to watch the incredibly moving "Praying In Her Own Voice" about the Women of the Wall. Havdalah was held on the patio of the dining hall and followed by a lovely wine and cheese reception to honor our B'not Mitzvah women. After dinner we celebrated these women with a RED CARPET welcome of the CHAI-est proportions, followed by a touching candlelighting ceremony and then again with songs written just for them. Paparazzi recorded the event for posterity.

Sunday morning found us discovering our spiritual side with Rabbi Alana and culminating with a little business at our plenary. And did I mention the food? Nelly, the camp cook, fed us with the most wonderful food all weekend long and then shared her famous Apple Brown Betty recipe with us too. This District knows how to gather to learn and pray and nourish one another.

I would highly recommend that you join us for our Biennial in Orlando, October 28-31.

Jo Stamler Thompson

The Story of the WRJ SE District Kallah
Presented Sunday, April 18, 2010
By The Committee on Thanks
(Sung to "The Brady Bunch")

Here's a story of our days at Coleman,
A camp in a little Georgia town,
It all began in a Hummer,
And we ended up with toilet paper crowns.

It's on the web – wrj.org
It's on the web – wrj.org
Everything you need is on the web – wrj.org

We have a leader, Her name's Andrea,
She spent many months planning this event,
With Allison, Jo, and Dara,
We can tell a lot of time was spent.

chorus

Now back to Andrea,
who was worried about the schedules from the start,
So she canceled the smores and campfire,
All we can say is bless her heart.

chorus

There are two people, Who left us early,
They taught us a whole lot of stuff,
Blair and Wendy - all about the YES Fund,
Too bad they didn't think we heard enough.

chorus

Now wait there's Edith, all the way from Cali,
To fill us in on raising the YES Fund tally,
She also helped us to increase our numbers,
And recruit more volunteers.

chorus

When it was time to begin Shabbat,
We went down to the chapel by the lake,
the birds and bugs felt free to join us,
And a dragonfly hit the Rabbi by mistake.

chorus

All the services were very lovely,
They were full of music, spirit, and dance,
Tammy and Rabbi put them together,
And Donna lead the music from her kindle.

chorus

Our next chapter is the lovely ladies,
Who had the courage to read from the Torah,
There were six women who became Bat Mitzvah,
And we give them all a big hurrah.

chorus

We know Wendy's real name is Saltzburg,
We shared from our hearts during the Day of Prayer,
Ronni helped us raise an awful lot of money,
For what – THE YES FUND!

It's Sisterhood,
It's Sisterhood,
That's the way we do it in the 'hood!
WRJ YEAH!

YES FUNd Raiser

A YES FUNd Raiser – Circle of Service Project

Here is a simple project that you can do to raise some YES Fund money!

Most of us have a YES Fund event, or several events, that are a distinct part of our yearly fundraising in our individual Sisterhood programming. But we can also contribute **individually** to the YES Fund, and that's where Circle of Service comes in. We can donate individually to Circle of Service to help WRJ's ONGOING projects continue, because those donations go in as cash. And we can contribute to the Lifeline Endowment Fund to ensure that FUTURE projects get funded from the interest that the endowment fund earns.

Now let's think specifically about Circle of Service. I was thinking of how this fundraising vehicle got its name – CIRCLE of service – and how the shape of a circle can be so satisfying: circles are something without a beginning or an end. There's the circle of life. We know about Family Circles; and we have circles of friends; perhaps a mah jongg or bridge circle. Maybe we belong to a reading circle or a knitting circle or a babysitting circle. There are circle games and circle skirts. We have our Sisterhood circles, and our circle of Temple friends. Maybe we live on a street that's a circle. Our community is a circle of neighborhoods and towns. And the world is one big circle. We sometimes feel like we're driving around in circles; our heads can be spinning in circles; and we often *circle* things we think are important.

So today I would like each of us to consider the importance of making a donation to Circle of Service. For \$36 – double Chai – we can each become Circle of Service donors. And for the first time we're also going to receive jewelry for joining Circle of Service. It won't be a shiny pin, like the Lifeline pin; it's just a strip of colored paper and tape that we'll make into a – CIRCLE. You can wear it as a bracelet, you can link the circles together to make a necklace, or a garland for your head, and we're going to WEAR our jewelry proudly.

And there's another component here too that's really the exciting part. Our jewelry will contain messages. On each strip of paper, you can write a message of thanks, of congratulations, of encouragement, a good wish, a healing wish (we could all use that!), a prayer for yourself or someone else – be creative! You can keep the message (and the circle) for yourself, or give it to someone else and add to their chain. You can wear the message on the outside of the circle, or keep it to yourself and turn the message inside. And as we build our circles, we'll be raising money for the YES Fund.

Because for becoming a Circle of Service Donor for \$36, you will get 18 strips of paper to make into message circles for yourself or others. Individual message circles can be purchased for \$2 each. And just to add a competitive edge to

this, let's have some fun because the 3 women who have the most circles at the end of today's program will receive a genuine piece of jewelry – a circle necklace with crystals. (Choose your own prize for the top winners.)

So let's encircle ourselves with good feelings, build circles of understanding, and raise money for the YES Fund this weekend!! Cash and checks accepted.

Postscript:

We raised \$837 in one hour during dinner at Camp Coleman. The 3 winners had 80, 64 and 28 circles on their necklaces.

Tips and tools for this project:

- It helps to have the YES Fund cards (available from WRJ) on each table so that women can fill in their names and information and so that you can keep a record of the donors.
- You will need construction paper, several rolls of tape, and pens or markers for writing the messages.
- I cut one inch strips along the length of 8x11 sheets of construction paper.
- Bundle the paper strips in groups of 18 prior to event, for ease of distribution!
- I went around to each table during dinner and sold the strips. It was fun, slightly competitive, and everyone had an opportunity to contribute as little or as much as they could.

Ronni Udoff, Temple Kol Emeth, Marietta, GA



Highlights from Camp Coleman Kallah



Photos by Nadyne Ulicny
More photos can be viewed at
<http://tinyurl.com/2v7glsf>

Good & Welfare

A hearty mazel tov to Stan and Resa Davids who welcome Grandchild #8. They are thrilled to announce the arrival on Thursday, April 29, 2010 of Hannah S. Davids, daughter of Ronn Davids and Nicole Deddens. Hannah weighed in at a hearty 8lbs. 8ozs.

A hearty mazel tov to Wendy Adamson on the graduation of son, Corey Adamson, with a degree in Political Science, from the University of South Carolina-Aiken on May 6, 2010.
2209 Palmetto Street
Clearwater, FL 33765
Email: wadam412@aol.com
(H) 727-796-7919

Wishing a Refuah Shleimah to Ellen Petracco for her recent hospitalization for tests.
12910 90th Avenue
Seminole, FL 33776
Email: epetracco@aol.com
(H) 727-593-9705

Wishing a Refuah Shleimah to Betsy Brody on her knee replacement followed by inpatient rehab. Betsy returned home May 1, 2010.
8772 SE 136 Place
Summerfield, FL 34491
Email: eb501@embarqmail.com
(H) 352-347-5597

Wishing a Refuah Shleimah to Vernon Starr, husband of Kathy Starr, who had quintuple bypass surgery on May 6, 2010.
460 Hembree Grove Overlook
Roswell, GA 30076
Email: kcsrdh@bellsouth.net
(H) 770-753-4014

Sincere condolences to Elaine Lust on the death of her mother, Bertha Sklak, on March 14, 2010. May her memory be for a blessing.

11 Royal Pointe Drive
Hilton Head, SC 29926
Email: elainelh@hargray.com
(H) 843-837-1639

Sincere condolences to Dr. and Mrs. Eric (Ronni) Udoff on the death of Eric's mother, Esther Udoff, on April 24, 2010 at age 96. May her memory be for a blessing.

5605 Asheforde Lane
Marietta, GA 30068
Email: rcudoff@yahoo.com
(H) 770-992-4181

Sincere condolences to Adena Whitman Zamora on the death of her mother, Toby Schneider Whitman, on April 29, 2010 after a courageous battle with cancer. May her memory be for a blessing.

5537 Heatherbrae Lane
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Email: Adena13@mindspring.com
(H) 205-462-9993

Sincere condolences on the death of Ruby Perlman, Sisterhood Co-President, Congregation Mickve Israel, Savannah. Dear Ruby passed away peacefully at home May 11th, 2010, and the funeral was held on Friday, May 14, with Rabbi Belzer conducting the service. May her memory be for a blessing.

Phillip M. Perlman (Ruby's husband)
1426 Queensbury Street
Savannah, GA 31406

Uniongrams

Remember to use Uniongrams for all your greetings. Uniongrams support WRJ's YES Fund (Youth Programs, Education, and Special Projects).

With the YES Fund, WRJ provides scholarship assistance to rabbinical, cantorial, and Jewish education students at Hebrew Union College. The YES Fund also supports high school and college youth activities through NFTY.

For local sisterhoods, the YES Fund supports special and innovative projects for religious education and leadership development.

Facebook

Wow! WRJ has a Facebook page. Become a fan!

Not familiar with Facebook? Set up an account for free. Once you have an account, search for "Women of Reform Judaism (official)" and sign on as a fan.

**ATTENTION:
WRJ SOUTHEAST DISTRICT AWARD WINNING SISTERHOODS!**

**It's time to be acknowledged at the next Biennial in Orlando Florida
for your outstanding programs
October 28th to 31st 2010**

CATEGORIES

1. Synagogue Program/Project
2. Community Service
3. Membership/Leadership Development
4. Religious Education
5. Fundraising
6. Outreach/Inreach
7. Special Category (programs or projects not included above)
8. Strive for Five Membership program – achieving 5% increase in your Sisterhood.

PLEASE NOTE:

The program or project must have occurred between 2008-2010

The deadline is October 1, 2010.

You may submit multiple entries.

**Winning Sisterhoods must be present at the Southeast Biennial in Orlando, Florida
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 US mail to:
Andrea Cannon, redsisboca@aol.com, 17686 Foxborough Lane, Boca Raton, Fl. 33496
561-218-1977/ 561-703-6004 cell

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2010

WRJ Southeast District

The Editor: Betsy Garfield
email WRJNewsletter@yahoo.com

The Assistant: Madelyn Davidson

WRJ Southeast Upcoming Events

May 15-17, 2010
WRJ Board Meeting, New York, NY

October 28-31, 2010
WRJSE 33rd Biennial Convention
Orlando, FL

February 4-6, 2011
WRJ Sisterhood Leadership Conference
San Francisco, CA

December 14-18, 2011
WRJ 48th Assembly
Washington, DC

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

Please email the WRJ Southeast District Newsletter to others in your sisterhood!