



Dear Colleague,

Earlier this month, the entire board of the WRN convened in Atlanta for our annual Board Retreat. A couple of times in the past decade, we have missed holding this get together because of unavoidable circumstances for too many members. Instead, we met for an extended period of time - a few hours - by video conference. However, for those of us who have experienced both types of board retreats, we've noted that the "in-person" meeting is really invaluable to our ongoing work together. The bonding and our undistracted time as we sit side-by-side allows us to accomplish a great deal and provides us tremendous drive and inspiration as a team.

I'm happy to share some highlights from our retreat. We heard a few board members' "stories" of how they came to join the WRN. This is an agenda item we've added to our monthly board conference calls as well. It is amazing to hear the variety of ways in which women have been led to the WRN in general, and to the WRN leadership in particular. Each of us has a story, actually numerous stories, of how the camaraderie and the professional, as well as personal, support has made an undeniable difference in her rabbinate. All of us feel that this is an organization unlike any other to which we belong, though it can be hard to articulate the numerous reasons that make the WRN so unique and necessary.

We went on to review the mission of the WRN. We also reflected, both individually and collectively, how we function in our board roles to accomplish the mission of our organization. The VP of Communications, of Membership and Outreach, of National Conventions as well as the Treasurer, Secretary, and CCAR Representative each have a significant distinct role in our network. We also explored how each of our roles intersect. Understanding the dynamic between membership/outreach and national conventions is crucial to growing our network and providing in-person services to as many colleagues as possible. Likewise, our awareness of how communications and our board secretary intersect helps us streamline our work and ensure that information passes between leadership and members.

Among the other issues we discussed during the retreat, we talked about our sense of responsibility to our members regarding the vast number of women who are reacting to the #Metoo action. We determined that our most immediate response, in addition to support we offer on social media and with personal phone calls when warranted, would be an interactive webinar with WRN member, Rabbi Ellen Lewis, NCPsyA. Ellen's expertise in therapy and group work helped to guide our dialogue as we processed our experiences as women and women rabbis. Unlike our other webinars, this one was not recorded because of its sensitive nature. Please keep an eye out for future WRN webinars that address this very challenging area.

We are excited to add to our board Diana Fersko, who will serve as our National Networking VP, overseeing our webinars and regional/campus outreach. Diana is coming on board at a time when our webinars are arranged in response to specific member requests. We thank Erin Glazer for her work as National Networking VP, especially in setting up the framework of our fall/winter webinars. We wish her well, as she and her family plan for their professional transitions to the NYC area!

We are grateful to our members for the trust you place in us as WRN leadership. We strive to be responsive, sensitive, and progressive as we grow our network and answer to the needs and desire of our members as well as the demands of our day.

May we all go from strength to strength with the friendship and support of our unique, committed, and fiercely beautiful Women's Rabbinic Network.

Ellen Nemhauser
Co-President
enemhauser@me.com



[2017-2018 WRN Board Members](#) at the retreat in Atlanta, GA.

NATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Monday, November 27, 2017 at 12:00 ET/9:00 PT

Beyond the Binary: What Millennials Know about Gender **With Rabbi Nikki Lyn DeBlosi, PhD**

Language around gender and sexuality has multiplied dramatically since the early days of the early Gay Rights Movement. Enter into the cultural conversation about pronouns, labels, and more with a colleague in a "brave space" where we can ask questions without fear of offending one another or "messing up."

[Register Here For This Session!](#)

Rabbi Nikki Lyn DeBlosi, PhD, serves as Reform Rabbi and Senior Jewish Educator at NYU's Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life. She holds a BA in Women's Studies from Harvard University and an MA and PhD in Performance Studies with a focus in queer theory from New York University. She participated in the Human Rights Campaign's Religious Leaders Fellowship and was ordained by HUC-JIR/NY in 2013.

WRN webinars are both timely and instrumental in support of women in the rabbinate. We enjoyed a very well attended session in October with our colleague, Andrea Weiss called, What Do We Tell Our Daughters?": Women's Contributions to "American Values, Religious Voices based on Andrea's national initiative. The 100 Days. 100 Letters. initiative can be viewed on their website: [Values and Voices](#). WRN members can retrieve the impactful and inspiring WRN webinar session on our website under the [Members tab once you log in](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Great things are happening for WRN membership. Our Caring Committee has reached out to all 2017 ordinees; they have all been welcomed to the WRN and offered a complementary year of membership. After our WRN board retreat in Atlanta in October, board members have done their own membership to help those who need to renew. We were met with much success, but we can do more. This is why we need you!! If you haven't already renewed your membership and are reading the newsletter, you are PART of this awesomely wicked and necessary organization. Make it official! Encourage others to do the same. We are doing important, WOKE things — and will continue to do so — but we need you. Join us! No one is ever denied membership due to financial need.

Lauren Cohn, VP of Membership and Outreach

OYs and JOYs:

Our condolences to:

Barbara Symons on the death of her father-in-law Gearld.

Binah Wing on the death of her mother-in-law Cami.

Mazal Tov to:

Amy Perlin on the birth of her granddaughter Ella Pearl.

Laurie Green on the birth of her niece Ella Pearl.

Andrea Weiss on her appointment as Provost for HUC-JIR.

Hope you saw that WRN's work on Pay Equity was highlighted in this article in *The*

***Forward*: <http://forward.com/news/386291/reform-synagogues-underpay-female-rabbis-study-finds/?attribution=home-hero-item-text-2>**

FINANCIAL

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. We could not do our important work without your support. I really appreciate that so many of you did ensure that your names were on the checks. It REALLY does make my job so much easier. And thanks to all of you who take the time to say hi in a note; I really do appreciate it!

If you have not yet paid your dues, we have made it as easy for you as we could. No longer do you have to input all your information. All you have to do is go to our website: <http://womensrabbinicnetwork.org>. If you do not recall your password, please click "forgot my password." Once you are back in your account (profile), you should ensure that your information is current. Then, you can simply click on the renew button, then SAVE, and follow all the steps to the end. After that, you will be emailed an invoice, showing your updated membership status. If you choose to pay by credit card, please remember to add the \$5.00 credit card fee.

No one is ever denied membership because of financial challenges. All you have to do is contact me Lynne Goldsmith(treasurer@womensrabbinicnetwork.org) or our Executive Director, Mary Zamore (maryzamore@womensrabbinicnetwork.org) and we will gladly work with you.

If you have any questions, or experience difficulties with your payment, do not hesitate to call me or Mary.

WRN at the URJ Boston Biennial

Thursday, December 7, 2017 - WRN Dinner

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

5 Napkin Burger, 105 Huntington Ave Boston, MA, 02199

Join us for a fun and casual dinner near the convention center, as we enjoy delicious vegetarian, vegan, and fish menu options. Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages included. Other drinks available at cash bar. Registration Fee includes a donation to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Please meet us at the restaurant. This event is limited to current WRN members.

Cost: \$38. [Registration Required.](#)

Friday, December 8, 2017- WRN/WRJ Tefillah

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Kolot Nashim: Women's Voices in Prayer

with Cantor Jill Abramson, Karen Goldberg, Rabbi Amy Memis-Foler, and Deborah Radin

A special morning service highlighting the voices of women in prayers, poetry and song. All are welcome to join us as together we lift our hearts and open exciting new doors of exploration for prayer and worship from a women's perspective. We are honored to have Lesley Sachs, Executive Director of Women of the Wall, and Anat Hoffman, Chair of Women of the Wall and Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, as well as Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director of Women of Reform Judaism, and Rabbi Mary Zamore, Executive Director of the Women's Rabbinic Network, participating with us and helping to lead our morning prayers.

2 Reform Pay Equity Sessions

Wednesday, December 6, 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Gender Justice: Women and the Workplace (Strengthening Congregations)
with Rabbi Janet Offel, Martha Hausman, and Rabbi Mary Zamore

On average, professional women in the U.S. earn 85 cents to every dollar men earn. Sadly, this is true in our Reform institutions as well. We can do better than this. During this learning session, participants will discuss the gender wage gap, its causes, and achievable interventions. This is a problem that we can solve if we put Reform Jewish values to work. This session is co-sponsored by Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) and the Women's Rabbinic Network (WRN).

Friday, December 8, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Negotiation Skills for Women: Putting Reform Jewish Values to Work (Tikkun Olam)
with Rabbi Marla Feldman, Danna Greenberg, Dr. Nan Langowitz, and Rabbi Mary Zamore

This workshop will enhance your ability to navigate the complex gender dynamics of the organization and advocate more effectively for yourself in key conversations. These skills can be applied to any workplace in which you find yourself, on either side of the negotiating table. This session is co-sponsored by Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) and the Women's Rabbinic Network (WRN).