

Summer Newsletter 2019 - Sivan/Tammuz 5779



A Report from the WRN Convention: Renewal for Action

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

With its award-winning campus, Scripps College in Claremont, CA was the perfect location for the June WRN convention. Co-Vice Presidents of National Events, Rabbi Jessica Kessler Marshall and Rabbi Marla Hornsten engaged over 100 participants with the theme, “Renewal for Action” recognizing the need to refill our cups in order to return to our lives and rabbinate with renewed energy and vision.

Our multi-talented artist-in-residence, Rabbi Lisa Tzur lifted us in prayer, yoga, meditation, and Israeli dance. Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, PhD, offered the 3rd Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams Memorial Lecture. Rabbi Shawna and Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik led a paper midrash workshop featuring female superheroes. The CCAR’s Taskforce on Women’s Experience in the Rabbinate, Rabbis Helaine Ettinger and Ellen Nemhauser, ran an implicit bias program for us. Other teachers included Rabbis Rachel Adler, PhD, Zoe Klein Miles, Laura Geller, Rachel Shabbat Beit-Halachmi, PhD, and Mary Zamore. To offer restoration and refocus, there were chair massages, gym and pool time, in addition to Rabbi Jessica Marshall’s “*Neshama* Letters,” guided reflections and *tefilla* with an extended healing service, recognizing the too many rabbis who have lead their communities through trauma. Thanks to Rabbi Karen Bender, we enjoyed an engaging visit from Dr. Mayim Bialik.

Every WRN convention includes significant interaction with the local community. We enjoyed Tuesday afternoon filled with social justice learning and interaction, including spending time with Gemma Bulous, Director of Claremont McKenna College’s Kravis Lab for Social Impact, and learning from Allis Dru and the Faith Principles of the New Green Deal Action and Advocacy, visiting Huerta Del Valle Farm in Ontario, and Volunteering with Crossroads: Helping Women Transition from Prison to Self-Sufficiency. The day was capped off with teaching by Rabbi Andrea Weiss, PhD, Israeli dancing and a trivia game. Thank you to our local colleagues, Rabbi Jonathan Kubetz and his congregation Temple Beth Shalom of Pomona and Rabbi Danny Shapiro and the Hillel of the Claremont Colleges, for support and resources. Of course, it was especially meaningful to be together on June 3rd to celebrate the 47th anniversary of Rabbi Sally Priesand’s ordination, in addition to honoring

Rabbi Hara Person and Rabbi Andrea Weiss for their ground breaking appointments.

We are grateful to our convention committee for the hands-on work of planning, fundraising, and executing a vibrant, welcoming, engaging convention. Thank you to Rabbis Jessica Marshall, Marla Hornsten, Leslie Bergson, Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik, Amy Cohen, Sarah DePaolo, Lisa Delson, Rose Durbin, Leah Doberne-Schor , Rebecca Dubowe, Rose Durbin, Nora Feinstein, Ellen Greenspan, Patty Karlin-Neumann, Elisa Koppel, Leah Kroll , Michele Lenke, Beth Lieberman, Amy Memis-Foler, Michelle Missaghieh, Amy Perlin, Toba Shaller, Wendy Spears, Karen Strok, Kari Tuling, and Jill Zimmerman for creating such an amazing convention for us!

Rabbi Mary Zamore

WRN Executive Director

maryzamore@womensrabbinicnetwork.org

WRN Convention 2019



Reflections from Your WRN National Events Co-chairs...

Dear WRN Colleagues,

How do we begin to capture a Convention filled with such inspiration, deep connection, heart-soaring music and prayer, laughter, and the magic of others who understand so profoundly what it means to be a female rabbi?!

We thought we'd share a few of our favorite moments...

-Getting to finally meet *in person* our amazing Convention team. Developing true soul-friendships with our colleagues.

-Creating a Convention based on the values of rejuvenation, renewal, and inspiration, and playfulness. Knowing that with that foundation we can devote our hearts to pay equity, gender equality, and social justice.

-All the love notes from our closing circle which remain in the place of highest honor on my bathroom mirror. :)

- Celebrating Hara Person as she becomes CCAR Chief Executive.
- Mayim Bialik's tears as we blessed her with Birkat Kohanim.
- Storytime with Sally and celebrating the 47th anniversary of Sally Priesand becoming the first female rabbi ordained in the US. She continues to elevate each of us in our sacred calling.
- Andrea Weiss' heartfelt sharing as she steps so skillfully into her role as HUC-JIR Provost.
- Inspirational conversations with HUC-LA rabbinical students.
- A co-chair, who truly had my back every step of the way, whose shared vision enabled us to create magic, and who, most importantly, has become such a dear person in my life. That is the enduring alchemy of WRN.
- Feeling so profoundly affirmed in my unique rabbinate, without judgement, with only encouragement, to see each rabbi for her unique and powerful gifts...that is immeasurable.

And a ginormous hallelujah for Mary Zamore whose wisdom, tireless efforts, and pursuit of tzedek, carries each of us.

It was an honor and a blessing to co-create our 2019/5779 Convention.

Love to each of you,

Jessica Marshall & Marla Hornsten

Thank you to everyone who made the WRN Convention such a success!



Click [HERE](#) to see all of the photos our wonderful photographer, Jacqueline Legazcue, captured during the convention!

Thank You to Our Donors

WRN expresses deep gratitude to the many who donated to support the convention and scholarship funds. These generous donations helped make the convention accessible to all. Read the complete list of donors [HERE](#). Thank you!

WRN Receives Auspicious Grant with Reform Partners!

WRN is proud to announce that it has received a SafetyRespectEquity Coalition Capacity Building grant among a partnership of five Reform Movement organizations, ACC, CCAR, URJ and WRJ. The funds received will help support WRN's contributions to the Reform Pay Equity Initiative. To learn more about this groundbreaking work visit: <https://reformpayequity.org/>. WRN is grateful to all its Reform partners, especially the URJ for being the fiduciary for this grant. To read more about the grant, visit [HERE](#).

And read about SRE's important work at <https://safetyrespectequity.org/sre-overview/>

NEW WRN BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the WRN Board!



Co-President

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

Membership and Outreach VP

Rabbi Sarah Marion



Convention and National Events



Co-VP

Rabbi Beth Klafter

**Convention and National Events
Co-VP**

Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann



WRN Sermon Round-Up - Reproductive Rights A Resource for CCAR & WRN Rabbis

In light of recent legislation restricting reproductive rights, many have felt the call to address these events through writing and sermons. The WRN has compiled sermons and articles written by colleagues into this round-up in the hopes that it will aid your preparation for such teaching. If you have a sermon (or article, or text sheet) you would like to add to this round-up, please email it to Emily Segal: rabbisegal@aspenjewish.org

Click [HERE](#) to access the Sermon Round Up

Mazel Tov to Our New Colleagues of the HUC-JIR Class of 2019

New York

Samantha Gayler Frank
Shira Hannah Gluck
Hilly N. Haber
Jennifer L. Queen

Los Angeles

Julie Lauren Bressler
Alexis Nicole Erdheim
Lillian Sarah Kowalski
Joanne Michelle Loiben
Elana Rose Nemitoff
Leah Hillary Sternberg

Cincinnati

Jordan Faye Cohen
Rachel Ann Gross-Prinz
Allyson Resnik Jacobson

Bailey Jean Romano
Samantha Cari Schapera
Isaama Marian Goldstein-Stoll

Oys / Joys

Oys

Condolences to Lauren Blasingame-Pack Ben-Shoshan on the death of her grandparents.

Condolences to Beth Schwartz on the death of her husband Larry Washington.

Condolences to Marcia Plumb on the death of her father Richard Plumb.

Condolences to Emily Rosenzweig on the death of her father Mark Rosenzweig.

Condolences to Yael Splansky on the death of her grandmother Eudice Lorge.

Condolences to Janise Poticha on the death of her mother Revere Poticha.

Condolences to Rachel Bearman on the death of her grandmother Joy Bearman.

Condolences to Allison Bregman Vann and Charlie Vann on the death of Charlie's father Perry Joe Vann.

Condolences to Naamah Kelman and Leora Ezrachi Vered on the death of their mother and grandmother, respectively.

Condolences to Laura Rappaport on the death of her father Donald Rappaport.

Joys

Mazel Tov Barbara Goldman Wartell on the marriage of her daughter MiRit Wartell to Justin Samuels.

Mazel Tov to Beth Kalisch and Larry Levine on the birth of their (second) daughter, Eva Maia.

Mazel Tov to Miri Gold on the birth of her grandson.

Mazel Tov to Adena and Sean Blum on the birth of their son Ari Seth.

Mazel Tov to Bonnie Steinberg on the birth of her granddaughter Adira Kinneret.

Mazel Tov to Shira Joseph on the birth of her granddaughter Leah Roslyn.

Mazel Tov to Debbie Zecher on the birth of her granddaughter Libi Ruth. And Mazel Tov to Libi's great aunt Elaine Zecher.

Biennial - Save the Dates!

The WRN dinner at the Biennial will be Thursday night, December 12!

Also, WRN, WRJ and the CCAR will be offering a symposium on gender safety and equity on Sunday, December 15, 9am-1pm, at the end of the Biennial. Make sure to schedule your travel to be able to attend this important gathering. We will be especially focusing on bias, pay equity and safe space issues.



Click [HERE](#) to see our strategy for the WRN Instagram Account.

And, if you would like to be highlighted in a future post, please [CLICK HERE](#) and complete this short questionnaire.

Follow us on Instagram [@WRN Women Rabbis](#)

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