



January Newsletter 2020 - Tevet 5780

MESSAGE FROM KELLY LEVY, WRN CO-PRESIDENT

A few months ago, I posted my personal heartbreak on the WRN private Facebook page. I was immediately enveloped in so much support and love that I became truly overwhelmed with gratitude. I knew that sharing my own story would be triggering for some, and for others it would stir up deep sadness. And yet, each and every person who reached out wrapped their virtual arms around me and picked me up from my own despair, even if it was painful to do so. Because of this incredible organization, I have been able to maneuver through this dark moment in my life with strength and the determination to move forward with a new sense of purpose.

My connection to the WRN began as a student at HUC-JIR in New York. I was thrilled to attend the Memphis convention in 2013, and my love for this organization has not wavered since. As a student, I felt prepared to enter the rabbinate, because I knew my colleagues were ready to offer guidance, words of wisdom, and a wealth of knowledge on dealing with various situations. As an ordained rabbi, I continue to feel that same sense of confidence because of the support and leadership of the women involved in this organization.

I know that the support I have received time and time again extends to all members of the WRN. Whether through a post on the Facebook page, via email, phone call, or text, and most especially in person, the WRN has proven to be a consistent and vital part of many rabbinate. No matter what type of guidance or help is needed, we are here to offer someone to lean on, resources and materials for various teaching opportunities, assistance with negotiating difficult or challenging moments within our multi-faceted rabbinate, and so much more.

As we leave the Chanukah season, I am reminded of the many lights in my life that help guide me through the dark. WRN has continued to burn bright for me as I navigate the rabbinate and my personal life. In this season of gratitude, I want to extend my deep appreciation and thanks to every single person who is connected to the Women's Rabbinic Network. Thank you for mentoring me, for providing constant encouragement, for your creativity, for your warmth, and most importantly, for your friendship.

Kelly Levy, Co-President

presidents@womensrabbinicnetwork.org

AN INVITATION FROM HUC-JIR

Participate in Yael Kanarek's "The Regendered Bible" at HUC-JIR/NY

The WRN is cordially invited to a special viewing and learning experience with contemporary Israeli artist Yael Kanarek, in conjunction with the upcoming exhibition of her visual midrashim in **Yael Kanarek: The Regendered Bible**, at HUC-JIR/NY during February 4 – 28, 2020. Kanarek is rewriting the Torah in Hebrew and English and reversing the genders of all of the characters, thereby unsettling habitual perception of these ancient stories and responding to the void of women-centered sacred text. Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus have been completed in first draft during her residency at Romemu, and she is currently working on BaMidbar (Numbers) with an objective to complete the Torah and prepare it for publication. In collaboration with Lab/Shul, she did the first ever aliyah utilizing the regendered text for the story of the Akedah. Her work has been exhibited at the Jewish Museum, Whitney Museum, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. To schedule exhibition tour and text study experience with the artist for yourselves, your colleagues, and your communities, please contact Jean Rosensaft at 212-824-2209 or jrosensaft@huc.edu.

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT THE WRN BOARD

Whether they are moving to new positions or joining the board for the first time, we are so excited that these women are a part of our leadership team!



ELISA KOPPEL - NETWORKING VP

Elisa Koppel is the Director of Lifelong Learning at Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington, DE where she partners with lay leadership to direct the Religious School, coordinate Adult Education, and work with the Director of Youth Programs on informal education, in addition to other rabbinic responsibilities.

Rabbi Koppel grew up in Westfield, NJ, where she was very active from a young age in Jewish life at Temple Emanu-El. Following her graduation from Brandeis University, she worked as a Program Assistant in the URJ Youth

Division and as the Assistant Director of the College Education Department before entering Rabbinical School.

Since being ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2001, Rabbi Koppel has served in a number of positions, including as the Assistant Rabbi at The Community Synagogue in Port Washington, NY; Dean of Jewish Life at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, NC, the nation's first pluralistic, Jewish boarding school; Regional Director of Youth Programs for the Greater New York Council of the Union for Reform Judaism; Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough, NJ; and Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, TX.

Follow Rabbi Koppel's blog at <http://rabbiisa.wordpress.com/> and she can be found on twitter as @rabbiisa.



HEATHER MILLER - SECRETARY

An award-winning spiritual leader and social justice advocate, Rabbi Heather Miller was named the 2018 Giant of Justice by CLUE-LA (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), appointed Commissioner on the first-ever Los Angeles County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission in 2016, selected as a Jewish Federation Edah Community Leadership Fellow in 2016, and identified as a Leader to Watch by the Liberty Hill Foundation in 2013.

In 2019, Rabbi Miller released her first book, [ReSOULutions: A Practical Guide](#)

[for Self-Repair](#). Her actions and ideas have been featured in more than 15 publications including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Jewish Journal*, *The Orange County Register*, *Orange County Jewish Life Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Sh'ma Journal*, ReformJudaism.org, InterfaithFamily.com, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and the *Episcopal News Service*.

She has served as spiritual leader of several congregations across the United States including the world's first LGBT-founded Jewish synagogue. She has designed dynamic and accessible learning programs for four religious schools, the largest pluralistic Jewish Day School in the United States, and the American Jewish University Graduate School of Education.

Born and raised in an interfaith family in Los Angeles, California, Rabbi Miller received her B.A. from Wellesley College (2001) and her M.A. in Hebrew Literature (2007) and Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (2008). She is a proud member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Women's Rabbinic Network, and the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis.



CONVENTION 2021: JUNE 6TH-9TH

The search for the perfect venue continues! In the mean time, please make sure that you've added June 6-9, 2021 to your calendars! We'll be kicking off a year of celebration that will culminate in the 50th anniversary of Sally's ordination!

Whether you are one of our Vatikot or were ordained only recently, your presence will make our convention even more amazing. So please plan on attending!



MESSAGE FROM LYNNE GOLDSMITH, WRN TREASURER

How is it possible that we've started 2020? Wasn't it just 2009? Or in my case, it feels like the 20th century just ended!

At this time of year, we look at the calendar and wonder if we have remembered to do everything we needed to do before the year ends. One question you might want to ask yourself is, "Have I paid my WRN dues for the 2019-2020 fiscal year?" If you cannot remember, all you have to do is log into the [WRN website](#), and click on My Profile.

If it says your renewal is due in July of 2020, you are current. If not, it is easy to renew your membership. Here is a [helpful video](#) if you need guidance. Of course, I am happy to help, too.

Please know that no one is ever denied membership because of financial challenges. Just reach out confidentially to our Executive Director Mary Zamore, maryzamore@womensrabbinicnetwork.org, or me, Lynne Goldsmith, treasurer@womensrabbinicnetwork.org.



OYS

Condolences to Corrie Zeidler-Moll and her family on the death of her father Yehuda ben Avraham.

Condolences to Lucy Dinner and her husband Jeff on the death of their son Jacob Dinner.

Condolences to Rebecca Einstein Schorr and her parents Robin and our colleague Stephen Einstein, on the death of Robin's father, Rebecca's grandfather, Bernard Kessler.

Condolences to Rebecca Shinder and her father, our colleague Fred Pomerantz, on the death of Fred's mother Marcia Levy Pomerantz.

Condolences to Ariel J Friedlander on the death of her mother Evelyn Friedlander. At this time, we remember her father z"l, Rabbi Alfred Friedlander.

JOYS

Mazal tov to Hilly Haber and her wife Rabbi Rachel Marder, as well as our colleagues grandparents Rabbis Janet and Shelly Marder, on the birth of Oze Baldwin Rafael Marder (Oz Baruch Refael).

Mazal tov to Estelle Gottman Mills on the engagement of her son Rafi to his beloved Helena.

Mazal tov to Ruth Abusch-Magder and her husband David on the engagement of their son Oren to his beloved Emma Carter.

Mazal tov to Ruth Adar and her wife Linda Burnett on the birth of their first grandson Oliver Oso Lopez Scott, to their son Jim and daughter-in-law Marisa Lopez.



Don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!

If you would like to be highlighted on the WRN's Facebook and Instagram accounts, please [click here](#) and complete this short questionnaire.