



September 2020 - Elul 5780
Friends & Supporters Edition



Diversifying the Image of the Rabbi

As we all know, when the average person hears the word 'rabbi,' they do not automatically think of anyone who looks like a WRN rabbi. Rather, they envision a white man with a beard in a black suit. Just do an image search on Google for the term rabbi. The good news is that up to last year, one found images of one type of rabbi. Now among the monolithic sea of expected photos, there are a few new images of rabbis of different gender, racial, and religious identities. This is certainly a hopeful trend.

WRN has been working towards expanding the image of the rabbi for decades. And many of you have helped through your daily work, as well as extraordinary moments. For example, the public tide has begun to change with WRN members Rabbi Michelle Missaghieh's (WRN past co-President) TV appearance on Grey's Anatomy and most recently Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin address to the Democratic National Convention's Jewish American Community Meeting. These are just two examples, among many real and fictional diverse depictions of rabbis.

Over eleven years ago, our co-president Rabbi Leah Berkowitz created the hashtag #thisiswhatarabbilookslike to smash the rabbi stereotypes. WRN has used this brilliant hashtag to disseminate images of female rabbis. We are especially proud of the images produced by our photographers-in-residence at our last two WRN conferences at Baltimore, MD and Claremont, CA. These can be viewed on our website in the [photo pages](#). The CCAR has also used the hashtag to lift up images of female-identified rabbis.

Rabbi Stephanie Kramer reached out to me a few weeks ago with a fabulous idea to create the [WRN Elul Reflections video project](#). This project has provided amazing Elul teachings, created a share resource for our members during this crisis, and amplified women rabbis' voices and images in the public space. I *kvelled* endlessly while previewing the videos. Each rabbi offers a piece of her intellect and heart. I felt overwhelmed by the sense of appreciation for our wise and talented WRN community. And by the way, we have received fan mail from lots of people who have been deeply touched by the videos.

It is not too late to sign up to receive the videos directly by email. Register by [CLICKING HERE](#). I offer many thanks to Rabbi Kramer for her vision and hard work on the project, which has been a glimmer of light during a challenging High Holy Day season.

At this difficult time, I am so grateful for the WRN community and our supporters. Thank you to each of our rabbis and our community partners for everything you are doing to strengthen the world. I hope 5781 brings health, safety, and sweetness to each of you.

L'shannah tovah u'm'tukah!

Rabbi Mary L. Zamore
Executive Director, WRN
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Membership Renewal Season is Here

Thanks to all who have paid your dues in response to the invoices that were sent in July. To do our vital work, we need a solid financial foundation. However, we also recognize that many have had an unexpected change in professional or personal finances due to the pandemic and ensuing economic changes. Please know that no one is ever denied WRN membership on account of financial need. Just contact our volunteer treasurer Glynis Conyer at treasurer@womensrabbinicnetwork.org, our VP of Membership Rebecca Reice at membership@womensrabbinicnetwork.org, or our Executive Director, Mary Zamore at maryzamore@womensrabbinicnetwork.org. They will confidentially help you with your renewal.

To renew, visit our website and log into your profile.

If you are paying by check, please ensure that your name is somewhere on the check. It is difficult to track down who a check belongs to if the name is not there, especially if it comes from a synagogue. If you have any questions about renewing your membership, please feel free to Glynis, Mary, or Rebecca.

DON'T MISS THIS
UPCOMING WEBINAR

**HOW TO ZOOM LIKE A
VOICE ACTOR**
with Claire Fry

THE AMOUNT OF TIME
THAT WE USE OUR VOICES
HAS ONLY INCREASED
DURING THE PANDEMIC--
COME EXPLORE HOW WE
CAN USE OUR VOICES IN
THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE,
WITH EXPERT VOICE
ACTOR AND TEACHER
CLAIRE FRY!



SEPT 14TH 1PM EST

How To Zoom Like a Voice Actor with Clair Fry.

September 14th 1:00pm ET/12:00pm CT/ 11:00am /10:00 PT

The amount of time that we use our voices has only increased during the pandemic--come explore how we can use our voices in the best way possible, with expert voice actor and teacher Claire Fry!

Claire Fry is a professional voice actor who has taught voice acting techniques for GoogleArts and Stanford University. Since launching her vocal confidence business she has translated those techniques into the corporate environment for teams at Google, AppDynamics, Signifyd, and many others, teaching people across the globe how to Zoom like a voice actor.



WRN's zoom-based, drop-in gatherings of support are continuing. These are an opportunity to share in a safe space what each of us is holding in our hearts and minds during this pandemic. WRN members have been able to listen to and support each other, to be rabbis to the rabbis. Please note that each gathering has a unique zoom link. No registration is required. However, zoom now requires a password. We are varying between morning and evening slots to help make this accessible to all. Each is about an hour long. All dates with links with password will also be posted on Facebook, week by week, in the announcements section.

A NEW RESOURCE FOR WRN COLLEAGUES

We have all come to rely on the WRN as a support and a sounding board, a source for creative ideas and innovative solutions. Given the strain the pandemic has put on our lives and our work, we are creating this space to share our best (or simply our "most done") divrei Torah, text studies, children's stories and activities for Shabbat and holidays.

We have divided this by parasha (and holiday) so that our members can access it week by week. We put the double parshiyot together so as to streamline the number of folders and eliminate the need to cross-post.

It would be most helpful if you could share materials you have for the next two months' parshiyot (Nitzavim through Bereishit plus materials for Elul and the chagim). Please make sure your name is in the document so that we can quote your work b'shem omra. If your materials are on Sefaria or another site, please include the link in your document. You may also post links to blog posts and text sheets in the spreadsheet located in each folder.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR THE WRN

WRN is proud to partner with Jewitathome.com, a creation of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills. Other partners include Temple Isaiah, University Synagogue, Temple Akiba of Culver City, Congregation Kol Ami, Temple Beth Israel of Highland Park and Eagle Rock, Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue, Beth Chayim Chadashim, Sharsheret, ChaiVillage, LA, Temple Beth Am, Temple Judea, and Congregation Ner Tamid of Henderson, Nevada. In response to the isolation caused by the pandemic, they have designed this new and exciting virtual [web community](#) designed to connect and expand possibilities. This collective provides resources and activities for folks from toddler to older adults with family activities, spiritual nourishment, educational opportunities, and resources for all ages. WRN is sharing our Elul Reflections videos through this communal portal and are grateful for the opportunity to amplify our rabbis' voices and to equalize the gender balance of the images of rabbis the greater Jewish community experiences every day.



Help Identify the Root Cause of the Gender Gap

Our partners at Leading Edge have asked for our help with an important project:

Though our work has pivoted in all sorts of ways, we remain committed to addressing this gender gap. The current crisis is certainly shedding a light on the inequities that persist in our society.

With that in mind, I wanted to share [this "tree map"](#) which is the result of the first part of our process to map the root causes of the gender gap in Jewish leadership. You'll see that the issue is broken down into ~75 root causes.

Now we're trying to hone in on the highest-leverage points for change and would love for you to play [this game](#) to help us do that.

The more people who play the game -- representing many different Jewish professional contexts, experiences, and perspectives -- the richer the data and the more robust the analysis that will emerge.

Please play the [game](#) and please share/forward this email to relevant people in your networks and organizations. And feel free to reach out with any questions!

Thanks so much!

Mordy Walfish
Chief Operating Officer
www.leadingedge.org

HHD Resource for Accessibility for All

Enjoy this resource [Opening Your Virtual Gates: Making Online High Holiday Celebrations Accessible to All](#) from Respectability.org. WRN is proud to be a sponsor of this guide, making it available to our membership. There many important resources for all year round [here](#).



Opening Your Virtual Gates: Making Online High Holiday Celebrations Accessible to All



Save the Dates!

June 6 - 9, 2021

Our virtual 2021 Convention events will be held during these dates.

Watch for more information about the specific days and times of our gatherings.



Oys

Loving condolences to Nadia Gold, her husband Igor Gonta and their children on the death of our colleague Rabbi Manuel (Manny) Gold, z"l (JTS'60).

Loving condolences to Jill Berkson Zimmerman and her family on the death of her mother Marlene Marks Kornick.

Loving condolences to Sue Levi Elwell and her wife Nurit Shein on the death of Sue's mother Claire Levi.

Loving condolences to Shirley Idelson on the death of her mother Dr. Paulette Idelson.

Loving condolences to Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus and her husband Dr. James Dreyfus on the death of Jim's mother Marianne Dreyfus, wife of our teacher and colleague Dr. Stanley Dreyfus, z"l.

Loving condolences to Elyse Goldstein and her husband Baruch Sienna on the death of Baruch's mother D'vora Polisky.

Loving condolences to Jennifer Frenkel and her sister Dayna Frenkel on the death of their father Kenneth Frenkel.

Joys

Mazal tov to Ayala Ronen Samuels on being appointed as the new chair of MARAM.

Mazal tov to Debbie Prinz and our colleague Mark Hurvitz on the birth of their grandchild, Yonah Adele Nachum Wolk. Proud aunt is Rabbi Rachel Gross-Prinz.

Mazal tov to Karen Perolman and her beloved Liz Glazer on their (zoom) wedding.

Mazal tov to Jen Gubitz and her beloved Matan BenYishay on their (zoom) wedding.

Mazal tov to Samantha Schapera and her husband Jason on the birth of their daughter Miriam Yael, who was named by our colleague Meredith Kahan Flowers.

Mazal tov to Naamah Kelman and Elan Ezrachi on the birth of their grandson Yehonatan Zeev. More mazal tovs to our colleagues Leora Ezrachi Vered and Great Uncle Levi Weiman-Kelman.

Mazal tov to Sonja Keren Pliz and her husband Daniel on their (zoom) wedding.



Don't forget to sign up for the rest of the WRN Elul Reflections!
[CLICK HERE](#)



LET'S BE SOCIAL!

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.