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The Network, in Person

Dear *Colleague*,

Our organization's name WRN says a lot about us. The first two words describe who we are; the last, Network, describes what we do for each other. No matter what stage of life or career, we are a community with which to connect, finding support, commonality, and wisdom. From our earliest days and throughout our various iterations, we have created a community for each other, together. While modern technology has allowed us to bridge vast distances through our numerous webinars, active Facebook threads, and lively video meetings, nothing beats being together in person.

New and veteran members always remark how incredible it is to be together with other WRN members. I like to think it is the power of the Network which adds a distinct tone to our gatherings. Over and over, I hear how much it means to individual members to be with other women rabbis who understand their lives and rabinates. After our in-person meetings, many mention that they love the non-judgmental atmosphere, meeting other rabbis facing similar joys and challenges, and the mixture of rabbis, rabinates, and life experience. The power of the Network is that we connect to each other. I hope you have the next two gatherings in your calendar:

- **Tuesday, March 21.** WRN dinner at the CCAR Atlanta Convention. Sign-up on the CCAR convention registration to express your intention to attend the dinner, but to REALLY register [click here to reserve your place at the WRN dinner](#).
- **Sunday, June 4-Wednesday, June 7.** Join us in Baltimore as we focus on "Sh'ma Koleinu: Voices for Changes." We will explore our theme through many different modes, recognizing the beautiful, varied rabinates we represent. Whether you are a rabbinical student, new rabbi, mid-career, evolving rabinata or retired rabbi, we know you will find enrichment, restoration, and inspiration. Registration will be open very soon. **However, just so you can plan: Early Bird Registration will be \$425, Regular \$475, and late \$550.** Please know that meaningful scholarships will be available for this convention. Check out more details about the convention below in this newsletter.

As much as our virtual gatherings create an important connection, nothing compares to being together in person. I hope you will make it a priority to give yourself the opportunity to be part of WRN, the living, in-person network.

Looking forward to seeing you (in person),

Mary

maryzamore@womensrabbinicnetwork.org

NATIONAL WEBINAR

***Paid Family Leave: A Sacred Partnership Between Rabbis
and Their Congregations***
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. EST

The CCAR and WRN present this panel webinar on Paid Family Leave. During this webinar, we will hear from rabbis who have negotiated for paid family leave within the congregational setting and the allies who worked with them. We will learn what creates a successful paid family leave, as well as what challenges arise. Join the conversation to hear how far we've come and what we still have left to do!

[Click Here To Register!](#)

Rabbi Peter Berg is the Senior Rabbi of The Temple in Atlanta. A native of Ocean Township, New Jersey, Peter holds a degree in Education and Human Development, with a focus in human services, counseling, and Judaic Studies, from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He earned his MA in Hebrew Literature and his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and Jerusalem, where he was a Steinhardt Fellow. Rabbi Berg also holds a certificate in Chemical Dependency and Spiritual Counseling and is a trained Disaster, Fire, and Police Chaplain. Peter lives in Atlanta with his wife Karen and their three children.

Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus is Associate Rabbi at The Temple in Atlanta, Georgia, and VP of Social Action and Advocacy for the WRN. Raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Loren completed her undergraduate studies in science from Pennsylvania State University, and was ordained at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 2008, where she also received a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters. Additionally, she completed a Master of Education in Administration through a joint program with Xavier University in 2007. Rabbi Lapidus is married to Rabbi Micah Lapidus, who is the Director of Judaic and Hebrew Studies at The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy. They have two children Hadara and Caleb.

Martha Hausman is a mediator and negotiator specializing in clergy employment contracts. Martha practiced as a lawyer, in both Washington and New York and has also held various Jewish communal positions. In addition to her law degree, she has a MA in Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Martha enjoys bringing a combination of legal background, Jewish knowledge and rabbinic family experience to help facilitate important life transitions for her clients.

Rabbi Nicole Luna, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, received her B.A. in Cognitive Science and Jewish Studies from the University of Virginia in 2006. Nicole received a M.A. in Hebrew Literature in 2010 and ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 2011. She currently serves as Rabbi of Temple Beth El of Fort Myers, Florida. Nicole is blessed to share her life with her husband Joe and 3 year old daughter Zara.

Rabbi Jared H. Saks has been Congregation Bet Ha'am's spiritual leader since July 2011. A native of New Jersey, Jared came to Maine by way of Minnesota, where he served as an Assistant and Associate Rabbi at Temple Israel, following his ordination from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Spanish from Florida State University and lives in Portland with his husband, Kirk Boettcher their son and their pup Vegas.

-----Upcoming Webinar-----

Race and the Modern Rabbi: Embracing Holistic Engagement with Racial Diversity in Reform Judaism

Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. EST

Join Isaama Stoll and Ruth Abusch-Magder for a discussion on how we can embrace racial diversity in our Reform Jewish spaces. Together we will explore the work being done to address challenges of racial diversity and to create safe spaces for Jews of color with in our community. Through this conversation we aim to identify ways we can all work to meet the needs of an ever racially diversifying Jewish world.

Isaama Stoll is a third-year rabbinical student at HUC-JIR, originally from the Washington D.C. area. She graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. She currently serves as a student rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel of Bay City, Michigan.

Ruth Abusch-Magder is the Rabbi-in-Residence for Be'chol Lashon, an organization that advocates for the ethnic and racial diversity of the Jewish people. She holds a Phd. in Jewish women's history from Yale and is a co-host of the upcoming podcast Jewish Holidays Unbound, a spin-off of Judaism Unbound.

REGIONAL NEWS



A photo of **Cleveland area women rabbis** as they gather for their monthly lunch.

Atlanta WRN colleagues have gathered for lunch and schmoozing a couple of times over the past year. We've decided that this is an important "event" in our personal and professional lives, so we've now committed to a quarterly gathering. All it takes is an email with a couple of dates to choose from and a place "somewhere in the middle of our workspaces" to make this happen.

For February, we are going to join up at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival final night at which they are showing 'Women's Balcony'. It looks like a GREAT film - especially for women rabbis. My suggestion is that we work collectively after the film to write an OpEd piece for our Atlanta Jewish Times. We will keep you posted if that article comes to fruition, but either way, our evening at the movies promises to be funny, sweet, and inspiring. Check out the trailer for the movie here: <http://ajff.org/film/womens-balcony>.

All regions are invited to share any upcoming events or photos from past events.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Greetings from your Treasurer. I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to pay their dues if you haven't already. In order to attend our fantastic convention in Baltimore, you will need to be current on your dues. Also, I want to urge everyone, if they can to donate to one of our funds. They all support our work in a myriad of ways.

The Tzedekah fund is used to support organizations and events that affect us as Jewish women and the Jewish world in general. It is overseen by a committee that makes the allocations.

The Scholarship fund aids those women who are in small congregations, or are doing non-congregational work who might not have the funds available to attend our convention.

Although our dues support the day to day operating expenses of the WRN which are very low, they do not cover all of it. A donation to **The General fund** helps to supplement these costs.

Finally, this year, a donation to **The Convention fund** will help to offset the expenses we incur in putting together our fabulous conference.

Making a donation is easy when you visit our [website](#). Donations can be made online using a credit card or you can download the donation form if paying with a check. Send your check and the completed form to me, Lynne Goldsmith, 138 Muirfield Lane, Dothan, AL 36305.



Come add your voice to the 2017 Women's Rabbinic Network convention in Baltimore. The theme is *Sh'ma Koleinu* Voices for Change. Through study, prayer, song, social action, and camaraderie, let's learn from and support one another.

We are pleased to announce the addition of Beth Schafer and Rev. Kristen Looney to our program.



Beth Schafer likes making music, loves bringing people together through the power of music, and

feels God's presence when it all works right. She combines masterful songwriting with sensitivity to liturgy and unique insight toward text. Schafer has degrees in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Miami School of Music and is a trained and much sought after guitarist in styles ranging from Classical to Blues, Folk to Jazz.

Registration will begin soon.

Registration Costs

\$425.....Early Bird

\$475.....Regular

\$550.....Late

WRN – Membership is Overdue!

Our new membership platform manages our renewals automatically. At the end of January, the system will produce emails, notifying members that membership is overdue. (Our new fiscal year started July 1, 2016!)

If you receive this email, it means that your membership has lapsed. Please follow the directions in the email to renew. Your membership is important to us and the work we do every day to support women rabbis and the values we uphold. If you encounter any problems renewing, contact Audrey Pollack at membership@womensrabbinicnetwork.org.

No one is ever denied membership due to financial hardship. Please contact Lynne Goldsmith at treasurer@womensrabbinicnetwork.org, if you want to discuss your situation confidentially.

OYs

Refuah Shleima to **Julie Adler** for a complete and swift recovery from an accident in early December.

Our Condolences to...

Elyse Frishman and her husband Daniel Frelander, our colleague, on the death of her father, Jack Frishman, on January 10, 2017.

Emily Ilana Losben and her family on the death of her father on December 14, 2016.

Our Israeli colleague, Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon, on the death of her husband Baruch Shiryon on November 30, 2016.

Nancy Weiner whose father Jack Wiener died on November 23.

JOYs

We celebrate with **Rebecca Einstein Schorr, Alysa Mendelson Graf, Hara Person, Sally Priesand, Jacqueline Koch Ellenson, and Renee Goldberg Edelman** as their book, "The Sacred Calling" won the 2016 National Jewish Book Award Barbara Dobkin Award for Women's Studies.

Mazal Tov to...

Michelle Medwin and her husband Steve on the birth of their grandson, Julian Meyer Witriol on January 9, 2017. Also, congratulations to proud aunt and uncle Lydia and Dan Medwin.

Miri Gold who shares: "We are delighted to share the news that our daughter Eliora Leichman and her husband Gal Avizemer are proud parents of a new addition to the family: Noa Shir Avizemer, born January 2, 2017, sister to Lia and Yahav Avizemer. We are feeling blessed, all the more so because they live on the kibbutz with us." Wishing the entire family mazal tov!

Amy Perlin and her husband Gary on the birth of their fourth grandchild on September 13...Shia Wolf Perlin.

Elka Abrahamson and her husband Misha Zinkow, our colleague, as they share this great news: "Overnight (December 9, 2016), Elan and Orly became Abba and Imma by delivering to the world a little Zinkow! Well not so little...9+lbs. So Misha and I wake up very, very grateful. And grandparents!"

Sarah Smiley and Josh Leighton (also our colleague) on the birth of baby girl Eliana Alix Leighton, December 6th, 2016 at 3:45pm. Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing well!

Zoe Klein on her engagement to Scott Miles on November 20, 2016.