



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- This year the Central District is focusing on Membership
- Find ideas and resources to utilize in your own sisterhood!
- See what's cookin' at WRJ
- Mark your calendars for Toronto - details inside!

**INSIDE  
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# Isha L'Isha

## Woman to Woman

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM  
CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009  
NISAN/IYAR 5769

### A Membership Message...

*From District President Royalyn R. Vert*

"To be a successful sisterhood YOU MUST GROW! That means every member of your sisterhood ...officers, committee chairs, and individuals must be involved in a year round membership campaign." As I read this statement from an old publication, *More About the Mitzvah of Membership*, from Women of Reform Judaism, I thought how is this possible? We have so many other meetings, activities, and programs to plan. Most of us are involved in fundraising for the temple and for the religious school. There are Onegs to organize for Friday evenings, not to mention family dinners, and congregational Seders for Passover. And let's not forget, the board meetings we plan to handle the business end of sisterhood. However, the more I thought about it, I realized that every sisterhood event, program, and activity must be geared to bring in new members. They must be exciting, so that the women of your congregation will want to belong to this wonderful group of women.



Why is sisterhood important? A strong sisterhood has a greater voice in congregational and community affairs. There are greater opportunities for women to be involved. The more women who are involved, the stronger our sisterhoods become by sharing the workload and increasing our financial resources. The more sisterhood members there are, the greater our influence. Without new members, our sisterhoods will eventually cease to exist. Think about this! What would our temples do without us? I know that in my own congregation, sisterhood plays a very important role. Now, ask yourself, where would your temple be without sisterhood?

The first step needed to increase your membership is to set up a membership committee. Each sisterhood should have a committee, whose sole priority is to increase membership. These women should reflect the demographics of your sisterhood. Also, if there is a segment of your temple membership that you want to attract, such as the younger women, try to recruit someone from that group as well. Your committee should have specific areas of responsibility. They will need a complete listing of current sisterhood members, of prospective members, and of new temple members. Once this information is gathered, they will need to decide how to best reach and recruit these women.

One of the best sources for ideas is our WRJ website at [womenofreformjudaism.org](http://womenofreformjudaism.org). In addition, sisterhood presidents have access to a listserv designed for them to share ideas. They also have access to materials on the web site not available to the general public. For our affiliated sisterhoods there is a wealth of information available. It is just a click away on your computer.

Whether you decide to do a phoneathon, a mailing to all women in the congregation who are not members, or plan a new member program such as a tea or luncheon; remember to follow up with a personal telephone call. Find out what each woman wants from sisterhood and how they might like to be involved. Make sure they understand that sisterhood is grateful for whatever they can do, even if they only have a short time available. If they have no time available, let them know what activities are supported by the payment of dues. Don't forget to publicly honor your leaders and volunteers by saying, "Thank You for all that you do for sisterhood."

This is just a sample of the ideas you can get from going to the WRJ web site. In addition, sisterhood presidents can contact their area director for ideas. Another resource is our Central District Membership Chair, Peggy Behrens. Past president Bette Jo Stempel is working on a packet of membership materials that will be sent to every sisterhood. Last, but certainly not least, WRJ is currently working on a new publication dedicated to membership, which is scheduled to be released in the next few months.

*B'Shalom,  
Royalyn*

*Kathy Schlaeger  
The Valley Temple Women  
Cincinnati, Ohio*



Zoe Klotz and her Grandmother Rita Clark making Hamantaschen

*"Sisterhood is more than one. Sisterhood is one woman joining with another woman and another to do together more than one could do alone."*

*-Dolores Kosberg  
Wiltenfeld*

Ella Schlaeger enjoying her Hamantaschen at The Valley Temple



The Valley Temple women have been doing a program called Chai Life for five years. Originally called Jewels, the program began as a way for WRJ members to include their daughters ages 18 and younger in Jewish programming. Almost immediately we discovered that many of our sons also wanted to participate, encouraging us to re-name our group Chai Life and include all of our children and grandchildren.

Our programming has included making fleece blankets for Project Linus, decorating

## *Chai Life~ Multi-Generational Programming*

pots to plant parsley for the Passover plate, designing art with Jewish calligraphy, making Hanukkah cards for elderly congregants and community members, as well as many others. However, we have found that our most successful program of the year happens just before Purim.

Member Clare Deutsch organizes the adult crew of bakers who make 1000 hamantaschen cookies for our Purim dinner and carnival. The adult group works while the children are in Sunday school. Then at noon, we have a pizza lunch

together and the kids make hamantaschen cookies in the afternoon. They roll the dough, place the fillings, and create new flavor combinations every year. This year we had over 50 people at the lunch and cookie making program.

We have found that the Chai Life program is another way to bring women into our sisterhood membership who have not been members of our group in the past. It is also a great way to engage our children in Jewish activities that they enjoy and look forward to from year to year.

*Abby Pook  
Sisterhood President  
Temple Kol Ami, West Bloomfield, MI*

In the past year Temple Kol Ami Sisterhood has grown from 81 members to 115 and counting! How did we accomplish such a feat? One of our main steps toward increasing membership was to offer free membership until Oct. 15th and we had 30+ families come on board. As president, my goal is to make sure they love Kol Ami so much that they will be paying members next year, our new Temple members auto-

matically get a free sisterhood membership.

Another new step we are taking is to send out dues requests in June and by the end of August the Executive Board will personally call all women that have not sent in their dues. We will also start our program planning meeting in April/May so we have a definite program to present to members when the dues statements are sent out.

## *Membership on the Rise*

Temple Kol Ami has "Gone Green" and we are no longer doing any mailings for sisterhood programming. Instead we are utilizing our Temple Newsletter, our weekly e-mail and the Temple website! One of our most successful programs this past year was accomplished with these "green" methods of promotion. It was a program with the Detroit Institute of Arts, and without a direct mailing we had over 20 women attend.

## *Calling all Sisterhood Presidents...*

WRJ is in the process of putting together a new membership publication, *Membership Matters*. AND, sisterhood presidents, we need your help!

Many of our sisterhoods have existing brochures and other mem-

bership marketing pieces that they are willing to share. Please DO continue to post your terrific work on the listserv....we're here, and we're collecting it. Then, when *Membership Matters* is released, many of the FABULOUS samples from our wonderful sisterhoods will be available in the Leadership Materi-

als, secured portion of the WRJ website. So ladies, keep those samples flowing!

Susan C. Bass  
WRJ VP, Service to Sisterhoods and Districts  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Houston, Texas

## Sisterhood Shabbat Brings Warmth from the Snow at IHC



January 30 fulfilled its annual threat of bitter cold as Indianapolis recovered from a major snowstorm. However, the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation sanctuary was filled with a warm and inviting spirit as sisterhood members, their families and guests celebrated a

Temple Sisterhood Shabbat along with other members of the congregation.

Coordinated by Religious Living Vice President Leslie Joseph-Lybik, the service was beautifully led by our sisterhood board members and past presidents. Karen Sim, who serves on the executive board of WRJ as Vice President of Development and Special Projects was the guest speaker. She spoke of WRJ's continued commitment to enhance the quality and ideals of contemporary Jewish living to ensure the future of Reform Judaism in North America, Israel and around the world.

IHC Sisterhood was also pre-

sented that evening with many awards they received at the Central District Biennial in Louisville last November. In addition past Sisterhood President and District Board Member, Mimi Cohen Dell received recognition for her service and commitment to sisterhood with the coveted Deborah Award.

Following the service, 135 sisterhood members and their families enjoyed a delicious Shabbat dinner cooked entirely by sisterhood members. It was a wonderful, spiritual and memorable evening for everyone. We were especially grateful to have Karen Sim with us to share the event.

*"When I pray, I speak to God; when I study, God speaks to me."*

*-Rabbi Louis Finkelstein*

### SAVE THE DATE:

47th Assembly • TORONTO, ON\*  
NOVEMBER 4-8, 2009



### Join us in Toronto to:

- Connect with women who share your interests, concerns, love of Reform Judaism, and the special bonds of sisterhood
- Learn from renowned scholars, rabbis, and professionals
- Enhance your leadership skills and Jewish knowledge
- Enjoy a lively and inspirational Shabbat worship service with nearly 5,000 Reform Jews

-Registration for the assembly will open in early summer. Please check [womenofreformjudaism.org](http://womenofreformjudaism.org) for details or write [wrjregistrar@urj.org](mailto:wrjregistrar@urj.org) for more information.

-Find out more about the [2009 Or Ami awards](#) or download an application at [womenofreformjudaism.org](http://womenofreformjudaism.org)

-Passports are required to enter Canada. Answers to your passport questions, as well as applications, can be found at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

## Alumni Corner

With  
Tori Wucher

~ Marlene Goodman, a former president of her congregation, has been married to her husband Harvey for 40 years. She is very proud of her two daughters and four grandchildren. Marlene is very active in the National Council of Jewish Woman, and for the past five years has served as one of their vice presidents.

~ Helene Zukof has been given a life time seat on the Foundation Board of the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates. She served as the Special Projects Chair for the foundation and during her first year in that position giving rose 273%! (Way to go Helene.) Also, the Board named the Helene and Walter H. Zukof, MD Memorial Scholarship in mem-

ory of her beloved husband Wally and in honor of Helene. Tikun Olam is alive and present for many of our alumni, perhaps because, as I quote Helene, "you never forget what you learn in sisterhood."



Tikun Olam is alive and strong in many of our Alumni's everyday lives

## WRJ Hits The Big Easy!

By Royalyn R. Vert

Sisterhood Leadership Conference 2009  
January 23 – 25, 2009



The WRJ Central District Girls livin' it up in The Big Easy!

*"Not only were sisterhood leaders from across the country inspired by the conference, but it gave us the opportunity to network with one another."*

*~Royalyn R. Vert  
President WRJ  
Central District*

What's cookin' at WRJ?



Women of Reform Judaism held its biennial Sisterhood Leadership Conference in New Orleans, LA. A record-breaking 160 women from across North America attended the conference this year. As expressed by WRJ President Rosanne M. Selfon, "Regardless of where they began their journey to New Orleans, all the women found common ground: successes to share, challenges to discuss, information to learn about WRJ, and additional skills to facilitate their leadership."

On Friday, twenty five women participated in an optional hands-on mitzvah project. Following breakfast at New Orleans' world famous Cafe Du Monde, the group spent the day at the Lafayette Academy Charter School. The women read Don Freeman's book, *Corduroy* to a group of second graders in the morning and a group of kindergartners after lunch. Among the twenty five readers there were three women from the Central District. Participating with me were Rochelle Barchick and Barbara Goldberg, from Congregation Shomer Emunim Sisterhood in Sylvania OH.

Shabbat services were led by Cantor Joel Colman from Temple Sinai. The evening continued with a gracious dinner. Following dinner, three local women told their personal stories of how their lives were changed by Hurricane Katrina. Although their stories were different, their message was the same in that they were able to return to New Orleans and move on in their lives by doing such things as volunteering at a public school and helping their synagogue "come back to life."

Saturday was a full day of worship, learning, and meeting with old and new friends. Following uplifting Shabbat Morning services led by Cantor May from Congregation Gates of Prayer, there were two guest speakers. The first, Dr. Benjamin Sachs, Senior Vice President of Tulane University and Dean of the School of Medicine discussed the impact that Hurricane Katrina had on the health care system in New Orleans and the development of neighborhood health centers. Then, Jonathan "J. C." Cohen, director of the URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, MS spoke about the many people who, during the hurricane, fled to the camp, which welcomes people in times of crisis. Saturday afternoon was filled with workshops, including "Running an Effective Meeting," "Prioritizing Membership," "Advocacy in Action," and "Sisterhood Financial Health." Later in the day, each person was able to attend a "Sisterhood Schmooze" session according to the size of their congregations. A creative Havdalah service was held on the buses while on the way to a fun filled riverboat cruise on the Mississippi River. Each woman received her own WRJ flashlight (Havdalah candle) and scratch n' sniff stickers (grape for wine and cinnamon for v'sa-mim or spices). Truly a unique service!

On Sunday morning, Shelley Lindauer, WRJ's Executive Director, led a tutorial of the new WRJ website. We all learned how to navigate the website to get the most out of it. Later, the four WRJ vice presidents, Susan Bass, Karen Sim, Sharon Benoff, and Katie Roeper participated in a panel discussion moderated by Lynn Magid Lazar. Each vice president gave a brief description of their department, which was followed by a Q & A session. The day continued with a buffet luncheon and an exciting YES Fund program which raised over \$10,000. I am pleased to report that the Central District made a donation to the Circle of Service. Our sisterhood circle ended the conference with each woman picking one word that would express how she felt about her experience. Some of the words used were, "inspired, enthusiastic, spiritual, fun, exciting....."

Not only were sisterhood leaders from across the country inspired by the conference, but it gave us the opportunity to network with one another. We exchanged ideas and stories and gained valuable information about WRJ and the many services that are available to local sisterhoods. I want to thank the ten women from the Central District for taking the time from their busy lives to attend the conference. Attending the conference along with me were: Rochelle Barchick from Congregation Shomer Emunim Sisterhood in Sylvania, OH; Laura Beasley from The Valley Temple Sisterhood in Cincinnati, OH; Pamela Chambers from Temple Israel Sisterhood in Columbus, OH; Bonnie Foster from Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood in Indianapolis, IN; Barbara Goldberg from Congregation Shomer Emunim Sisterhood in Sylvania, OH; Hillary Handwerker from Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood in Ann Arbor, MI; Beth Lande from Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood in Indianapolis, IN; Karen Sim from Isaac M. Wise Temple Sisterhood in Cincinnati, OH; and Christina Zimmer from Temple Israel Sisterhood in Columbus, OH.

# Say YES!!!

Karen Stern  
YES Fund Chair, WRJ Central District



One of the many YES Fund Cards to choose from!

Shalom -My name is Karen Stern, and I am happy to be serving as WRJ Central District's YES Fund Chair for 2008-2010. I am excited to work to inspire you and your sisterhoods to give generously to the YES Fund. The YES Fund –Youth, Education, and Special Projects is the oldest and most vital project of Women of Reform Judaism.

The YES Fund represents the collective financial efforts of our members and donors to strengthen the institutions of Reform/Progressive Judaism and ensure the future of Reform Jewish leadership.

## YOUTH

- \*Funding for high school (NFTY) and college-age (KESHER) programming
- \*Support for Eisendrath Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center in Washington, DC

## EDUCATION

- \*Rabbinic scholarship aid for students studying at three HUC campuses
- \*Grants to outstanding cantorial students at the School of Sacred Music HUC-JIR New York campus
- \*Scholarships for future temple administrators and educators studying at HUC-JIR

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- \*Special services to local sisterhoods for programming, membership and leadership development
- \*WRJ grants are given to recognize and prevent abusive behavior in youth
- \*A Reform Conversion center in Israel
- \*Program encouraging Israeli girls to become a Bat Mitzvah
- \*Outreach programs to Israeli preschool families teaching about Reform Judaism

*In the last year over \$500,000 was raised for the YES Fund thanks to your sisterhood's!*

All YES Fund contributions come from your local sisterhoods . Last year thanks to your sisterhood's efforts over \$500,000 was raised.

Individual sisterhood members may contribute annually to Circle of Service making a personal gift directly to the YES Fund. Your annual gift helps to strengthen Liberal Judaism in your community, in Israel, and around the world. Here are some ideas to raise funds for these vital projects.

Have Uniongrams and cards available at every meeting. At board meetings, always have a listing of congregants having life cycle events for your board to make their donations. Purchase cards from WRJ for all occasions –our WRJ cards are beautiful and your YES Fund Chair can mail them out for the donors!

Please check out the WRJ website for many more suggestions for projects to promote YES Fund and Circle of Service programs. Did you know that you can send an e-card (\$2.50 charged to your credit card) by going to the WRJ website! [www.womenofreformjudaism.org](http://www.womenofreformjudaism.org)

I encourage each of you to continue making contributions to YES Fund. The need has never been greater due to the current economic situation. Together we are able to achieve what no one individual or sisterhood can accomplish alone. If I can assist you in anyway, please contact me at 317-222-1170.

Karen Stern  
Central District YES Fund Chair  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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Due to a 20% decrease in YES Fund card sales and donations, WRJ needs YOUR help more than ever. Go to [womenofreformjudaism.org](http://womenofreformjudaism.org) to find information on the 2009 YES Fund Initiative. Just think...if each of us purchased one package of Uniongrams, we could raise over \$300,000...Imagine the possibilities!  
~Royalyn R. Vert, WRJ Central District President



Uniongrams are a great way to raise money for the YES Fund!

## Area Directors ~ The Lifeline to

### Sisterhoods

What is an Area Director?

An Area Director is a vital position on the WRJ Central District Board. Area Directors are the lifeline between a local sisterhood and their district as well as WRJ. Area Directors are the women who sisterhood presidents can call for information and advice on numerous things such as membership, leadership, fundraising and many others.

One of the most important responsibilities of an Area Director is organizing and

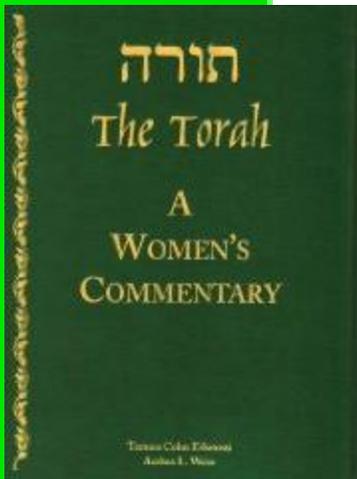
implementing Area Days for the sisterhoods under their care. Area Days are events in which sisterhood presidents, as well as other members, have an opportunity to come together for leadership training. It is a wonderful way to network with your fellow sisters!

Area Directors can also help in many other ways, they can direct you to the correct district committee chair or vice president for a specific issue or concern for your sisterhood. They keep in

regular contact with all of their assigned sisterhood presidents via telephone, e-mail and by attending local events as often as possible.

So...contact your Area Directors, they are there to help!

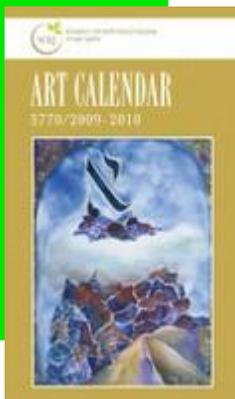
You will find a list of the Central District Area Directors on page 7, along with their contact information.



Great for Area Day Torah Study!

*An Area Director is a vital position on the District Board, they are the lifeline between local sisterhoods, the district and WRJ*

Order your 5770/2009-2010 WRJ Art Calendar at [WomenofReformJudaism.org](http://WomenofReformJudaism.org)



### Tuesday Mornings at Anshe Chesed

*Lenore Bletcher  
Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple  
Fairmount, Ohio*

Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Fairmount, Ohio has several programs that have proven to be very successful. On Tuesday mornings, the sisterhood hosts a project that is not only fun, but also one that helps those in need.

Currently, two of the biggest Tuesday morning projects are making huggable dolls which are then given to children in shelters in the city of Cleveland and making lap robes for residents of one of the nursing homes in the area.

To gain new interest in membership, the sisterhood mails out a letter in June to all of the women in the Congregation (current sisterhood members and non-members) as well as to women in the community who may not be affiliated with a Congregation. There are many women who belong to Anshe Chesed's Sisterhood who belong to other congregations, or to no congregation at all. Along with the letter that is mailed, there is a folder with information about sisterhood and a poem telling of their activities. This is also the time when the dues bills are mailed.

Early in the Summer, the sisterhood's programming committee begins meeting and puts together a comprehensive booklet with all of the programs from their opening to their closing luncheons. The booklet has everything you need to know about the up-coming year's activities, including contact people and event hours. Women eagerly await their directory of events for the coming year.

In addition to the Tuesday morning programs, the sisterhood has many other programs on Tuesdays, including buffet luncheons (\$6 for paid up members - otherwise \$8) followed by a speaker or a music program.

When there are women new to sisterhood who have paid their dues with the initial mailing, they are contacted in December and invited to a special noon luncheon as sisterhood's guest. This is the opportunity for Anshe Chesed to show new members what their sisterhood is all about!

### Sisterhood Questions???

*Contact...*

- 1) Your Area Director
- 2) The appropriate Central District Committee Chair
- 3) Rachel Jurisz, WRJ Manager of Service to Sisterhoods @ 1-800-WRJ-5924 or [rjurisz@urj.orj](mailto:rjurisz@urj.orj)

## 2008-2010 WRJ Central District Board

|                                |                        |                                      |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                      | Royalyn R. Vert        | Shaarey Zedek/ East Lansing, MI      | <a href="mailto:lrvrt@michcom.net">lrvrt@michcom.net</a>                             |
| Immed. Past Pres/Nom. Chair    | Bette Jo Stempel       | Temple Israel/ Columbus, OH          | <a href="mailto:stempel.1@osu.edu">stempel.1@osu.edu</a>                             |
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| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Hilda Glazer           | Beth Shalom/New Albany, OH           | <a href="mailto:hglazer@sbcglobal.net">hglazer@sbcglobal.net</a>                     |
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| VP Programming/Advocacy        | Cathy Gorwitz          | Shaarey Zedek/ East Lansing, MI      | <a href="mailto:cgorwitz@yahoo.com">cgorwitz@yahoo.com</a>                           |
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| Treasurer                      | Liz McOsker            | Wise Temple/Cincinnati, OH           | <a href="mailto:mco@fuse.net">mco@fuse.net</a>                                       |
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| Area Director –W. Michigan     | Tina Bissell           | Beth Emeth/Ann Arbor, MI             | <a href="mailto:tbissell@umich.edu">tbissell@umich.edu</a>                           |
| Area Director –Southwest       | Sheilah Abramson-Miles | Temple Shalom/Louisville, KY         | <a href="mailto:sheilah@pipeline.com">sheilah@pipeline.com</a>                       |
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| Area Director –Central Ohio    | Ellen Half             | Temple Israel/Columbus, OH           | <a href="mailto:halfems@yahoo.com">halfems@yahoo.com</a>                             |
| Area Director –West            | Charlene Pfenninger    | Indianapolis Hebrew Cong./Indpls, IN | <a href="mailto:charlene@indianacollections.com">charlene@indianacollections.com</a> |
| Area Director –Northern Ohio   | Clarice Goldstein      | Temple Emanuel/Cleveland, OH         | <a href="mailto:cgwomen@aol.com">cgwomen@aol.com</a>                                 |
| Area Director –East            | Marilyn Goldfein       | Temple Emanuel/Cleveland, OH         | <a href="mailto:marilyn.goldfein@gmail.com">marilyn.goldfein@gmail.com</a>           |
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| Membership                     | Peggy Behrens          | Anshe Chesed/Cleveland, OH           | <a href="mailto:behrensw@sbcglobal.net">behrensw@sbcglobal.net</a>                   |
| Speakers Bureau                | Debbie Lecours         | Kol Ami/West Bloomfield, MI          | <a href="mailto:dlecours@comcast.net">dlecours@comcast.net</a>                       |
| Alumnae                        | Tori Wucher            | B'nai Shalom/Huntington, WV          | <a href="mailto:wucher@comcast.net">wucher@comcast.net</a>                           |
| Awards                         | Pam Levine             | Temple Emanuel/Cleveland, OH         | <a href="mailto:greeneyes21@roadrunner.com">greeneyes21@roadrunner.com</a>           |
| Jewish Family Concerns         | Susie Strom            | Tiffereth Israel/Cleveland, OH       | <a href="mailto:eight2253@yahoo.com">eight2253@yahoo.com</a>                         |
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| YES Fund/Circle of Service     | Karen Stern            | Indianapolis Hebrew Cong./Indpls, IN | <a href="mailto:jerrykaren@iglide.net">jerrykaren@iglide.net</a>                     |
| Parliamentarian                | Martha Horrar          | Temple Shalom/Louisville, KY         | <a href="mailto:mehorrrar@gmail.com">mehorrrar@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Historian                      | Abby Pook              | Kol Ami/West Bloomfield, MI          | <a href="mailto:abby.denise@hotmail.com">abby.denise@hotmail.com</a>                 |
| Convention Facilitator         | Debbie Leasure         | Beth Shalom/New Albany, OH           | <a href="mailto:debbie0972@earthlink.net">debbie0972@earthlink.net</a>               |



Contact Beth Goldstein at [beth@bethgoldstein.com](mailto:beth@bethgoldstein.com) for information

### Up-Coming Isha L'Isha Topics

*Summer 2009 ~ Leadership*

*Fall 2009 ~ Communication*

*Winter 2010 ~ Sisterhood Projects & Jewish Education*

*Spring 2010 ~ WRJ Projects*

*Summer 2010 ~ Spirituality*

*Fall 2010 ~ Fundraising*

*Winter 2011 ~ Convention Highlights*

To submit articles and pictures or for more information, contact  
Lisa Elyn Bass @ [ahava1978@yahoo.com](mailto:ahava1978@yahoo.com)  
or 517-230-0111



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**Women of Reform Judaism...Stronger Together**

**Women of Reform Judaism, an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, is the collective voice and presence of women in congregational life. Stronger together, we enhance the quality and ideals of contemporary Jewish living to ensure the future of progressive Judaism in North America, Israel and around the world.**

**[www.womenofreformjudaism.org](http://www.womenofreformjudaism.org)**



# ***Giving Back to Those in Need***

2009 has brought us many concerns, challenges, hopes and dreams. As the economic crisis in our country trickles down to each and every one of us at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation it warms my heart to be able to have our sisterhood make a difference not only within the walls of IHC, but our community as a whole. We did just that on February 14 – Valentine's Day.

Sisterhood's Social Action Director, Sandy Adland had a vision she drew from a previous experience at her Temple in Lexington, KY to pamper and indulge women at the Julian Center in town. These women and their children are living here in a shelter to escape from an unsafe situation in their home or a life

crisis. For two hours on Valentine's Day we took them away from their world into a fairy tale moment.

For the first hour, 30 plus women were pampered with hair, make up and manicures- all volunteered services by Aveda Beauty



***Social Action brings joy to both volunteers and those they care for***

School and Walker Career Center. Afterwards they enjoyed a delicious candlelit dinner, home-made by the social action committee.

While this was occurring, all of the women's children, ranging in age from a few weeks to young teenagers, munched on pizza, did arts and crafts and played games with sisterhood volunteers.

It truly was a memorable day in many ways. What we were able to give to the ladies of the Julian Center was immeasurable. In addition, our sisterhood had 24 women who volunteered their time and hearts to make a difference. We were a community both inside and out and it will long be remembered.