

Find out how WRJ can help your Sisterhood reach out to the women of your congregation



Women of Reform Judaism

Southeast District

News

December 2017

Please circulate this newsletter to the women in your congregation



Presidents Message January 2018

I want to take this time to wish each of my WRJ Southeast District sisters a Happy New Year. I hope you enjoy a year of happiness, health and laughter.

The Southeast District has had an awesome year and I see it getting even better in 2018. Some members of our District attended

the URJ Biennial in Boston last month. I am sure they will share all that they learned and experienced over the next few months at some of our district events. I've heard the speakers, workshops and plenary sessions were wonderful and that the services and music were spiritual and amazing.

We are also looking forward to the Fried Leadership Conference (FLC2018) coming up March 1-4th in Nashville, TN. We are honored that some of our SE District Board Members will be presenting – some will be presenting for the first time!

Or Ami "Light of My People" Programming Award

Programming is such an important part of our sisterhood life. Our District is so proud of our Or Ami Award winners. I want to give a shout out to our SE District sisterhoods who will be honored. These awards will be presented in Nashville at FLC2018. Below are our SE District Award Winners – A hearty Mazel Tov to each sisterhood for their hard and innovative work on these programs. There will be detailed information on these programs and all the other award winning programs available on the WRJ website (WRJ.org). These programs are there for your sisterhood as a resource for future programming ideas.

SE District Or Ami 2017 Awards

[For more information about the awards, click here.](#)

GOLD

Challahpalooza

Temple Beth Torah, Wellington FL

BRONZE

Religious Programming With A Twist

Schaarai Zedek, Tampa, FL

Warriors Rising

Temple B'nai Israel

Clearwater, FL

Women's Seder

Kol Ami Emanu-El Plantation, FL

SE District Kallah 2018 – Camp Coleman

In April 2018, the SE District will have its Kallah at Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA. The date is April 20–22, 2018. Our camp Kallah has many special memories for me personally. Four years ago I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah at camp with Judith Mish and Paige Williams. Sharing this special weekend with these amazing women was something I will never forget. As we each chanted our parashiyot, the memories of being in the mountains, with the sunlight peering through the trees and shining on our Torah will live with me forever. To be able to celebrate an important part of my Jewish journey with my SE District sisters is something I will always cherish deep in my heart. I am so excited to say that three SE District women will be called to the Torah at our upcoming Kallah. They are now working hard so they too can have this wonderful experience, and they are looking forward to sharing this with all of us at camp. But, of course, there is so much more to Kallah. Cheryl Raskind-Hood, our SE District 1st Vice President is working on a terrific program. She wants you to "Imagine a weekend of relaxation, communing with nature, feeling G-d's presence around you, growing spiritually and most of all, sharing it with amazing women from the WRJSE District!"

As you can see, there are many different ways to get involved with the SE District and WRJ. The important thing is that no matter what interests you there is a place for you with WRJ and the SE District. Whether you are interested in social programs, religious or spiritual experiences, advocacy and social justice programming there is something for you. I was lucky to find WRJ and the SE District and I can only hope you can too.

I have been so honored and privileged to represent the SE District this past year. I am looking forward to seeing many of you over the next months at our SE District events, FLC and at your own local sisterhood programs. Please look into the many things WRJ and our SE District has to offer. To take advantage of the Speakers

Bureau, visit our website at <http://www.wrjsoutheast.org/resources.html> and submit your request. Now is the time to schedule a SE District or WRJ Speaker for your installation of officers, leadership Board Retreat, or as Bima guest for a sisterhood Shabbat. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat feel free to call, text, or email me. I would love to talk.

Again, Happy 2018...

L'Shalom

Ellen Petracco

WRJ SE District President



Fried Leadership Conference-- March 1-4, 2018

FLC is intended for current, rising, and experienced sisterhood leaders, WRJ Board members and Board alumnae, new WRJ members, and any woman interested in WRJ and the Reform Movement. There is something for everyone at FLC: it is the perfect opportunity to gain and fine-tune skills, strengthen sisterhoods, broaden Jewish knowledge and spiritual horizons, and learn about and connect (or reconnect) with WRJ. Attendees will participate in workshops and learning sessions, create connections and network with other Reform women, experience a meaningful Shabbat worship, learn from experts and from each other, and enjoy time together with WRJ leaders and friends. FLC attendees will leave feeling rejuvenated and, with the support of their WRJ sisters, be better prepared to guide their own sisterhoods and serve as leaders in their communities.

[Register here.](#)



Dear WRJ Southeast District Women,

Imagine a weekend of relaxation, communing with nature, feeling G-d's presence around you, growing spiritually and most of all sharing it with amazing women from the WRJSE District! It's time to mark your calendars for the WRJ Southeast District's interim Kallah at Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA on April 20–22, 2018. We hope you save this weekend for yourself because you do not want to miss this unforgettable time together! This will be a weekend that enhances and solidifies your WRJ life with the works of G–d, but most importantly, it will be a weekend for YOU!!! Come with comfortable clothes to wear for the weekend including Shabbat. If you are interested in becoming an adult bat mitzvah, you have the opportunity at this Kallah to fulfill this desire. Please contact Lori Corley at lscorely63@gmail.com. The "doubled-up" Torah portions for April 21, 2018 are:

Torah Portion Name Chapter & Verse

Tazria / Metzora Leviticus 12:1–15:33

Friday – begins at 4pm with a spiritual nature–focused workshop, followed by dinner and worship. We are planning to have either a purse or jewelry auction. All proceeds will go toward the YES Fund. Saturday – begins with a beautiful worship service with an adult B'not Mitzvah. Camp Coleman is a spiritual setting; it's a perfect place to celebrate. Our WRJ speaker for the weekend is Sandy Adland, a Central District Past President and newly elected WRJ Executive Committee member. Sandy's home synagogue is Temple Israel in Canton, OH.

Saturday will be day of spiritual self–study/group discussion and growth – workshops will bring the essence of nature into your life.

Saturday Night – begins with a delicious dinner that feeds the spirit followed by Havdalah with lots of music. We will have a social action project with wine (or tea).

Sunday – begins with brunch followed by a special nature-based program. The bus will pick up those returning to the Atlanta airport at noon.

It will be a unique and unforgettable weekend that you won't want to miss!!! We are looking forward to seeing many new faces as well as "old" friends! WRJ Southeast District is stronger together!!! Come experience the amazing spirit of women in G-d's peaceful heaven of Camp Coleman!

Note. Sisterhoods from around the SE traveling into Atlanta will rendezvous at the Atlanta Airport and we will take a bus TOGETHER to Camp Coleman.



The WRJ SE District Presidents Scholarship Fund

Do you know the Southeast District has established a Presidents Scholarship Fund to help send YOU to the District Biennial in Miami, FL, October 18–21, 2018? The district leaders want to make sure that many women have the opportunity to attend the Biennial to socialize, study, pray, make new friends and get involved in the SE District. This new fund is accepting donations now. As the Biennial gets closer, we will publish information on applying for the scholarship. For donation information contact Madelyn Davidson at 813–928–5330.

CHARTING OUR COURSE



SAVE THE DATE

*WRJ Southeast District
37th Biennial
Convention*

OCTOBER 18-21, 2018 • MIAMI

DESIGNING OUR JOURNEY

My WRJ Journey

I was asked to write an article and share my WRJ journey. If you would have told me in my younger days that I would be a part of a Jewish women's organization, I probably would have laughed out loud and told you that you must be crazy. It wasn't until I had my own children that my Judaism became important to me. I moved to Florida and had very few friends. I found a

Mommy-and-Me program at my temple that was sponsored by the sisterhood. I met some very friendly women with children around my daughter's age. I started volunteering at the religious school, and the rest is history. The current sisterhood President at the time reached out to me and when she saw how willing I was to help out with whatever task or chore needed to be done.,She gave me a job on the sisterhood board that worked well with my life situation; the phone committee!



I loved being involved with the women on the sisterhood Board. I held many positions before I became the sisterhood President. Once I became sisterhood President, I learned about WRJ. We had a line item in our budget for conventions and since our by-laws encouraged the President to attend, I did. So, off to Dallas I went – and that experience was the real game changer for me. I saw the big picture of what it meant to belong to the Women of Reform Judaism. Since then, my sisterhood has sent many women to the various WRJ conventions and leadership conferences. These meetings have been quite beneficial for our sisterhood and to many of our women on a personal level.

I am currently serving our SE District Board which has further deepened my connection to WRJ. I've made many lasting friendships and I love contributing to this great organization. Thank you for the privilege to serve on the Board, and I look forward to more great times ahead.

Shalom,
Marlene Wain

Outreach Grants

WRJ has been receiving some wonderful applications for our Outreach grants but there is still space for a few more programs.

Applications for WRJ Outreach Grants are still open. These grants of up to \$1000 are for sisterhood programs that reach out to interfaith families, unaffiliated Jews and non-Jews who are seeking information about Jewish life. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis so if you have a program idea that encourages Jewish learning and engagement be sure to apply here:

<https://wrj.org/wrj-outreach-grants>.



If you have any questions concerning your application or program ideas feel free to reach out to WRJ Program Associate Micaela Sheinhait at msheinhait@wrj.org or 212-650-4060.



WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism)

Southeast District Area Day
Sunday January 28, 2018
9:30—2:30 PM

9:00 AM Special Added Bonus

We've been invited to attend Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El's Sunday Morning T'filia Service.
This is a wonderful way to kick off our day with a short Spiritual Musical Service

Hosted By: Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El
8200 Peters Road, Plantation FL 33324
8200 Peters Road Plantation, FL 33324 954-472-1988
tkaesisterhood@gmail.com

So, What's an Area Day?

- ✧ It's a delicious taste of what WRJ is all about
- ✧ A highlight of a biennial for a fraction of the cost
- ✧ An opportunity to get answers to questions
- ✧ A chance to learn about leadership, fundraising, and programming

Rabbi Nicole Luna will be leading us in a short Torah Study

Only \$20 & Includes
Continental Breakfast

All Supplies and Materials

RSVP By January 22nd:

Make your checks payable to WRJ SE and Lunch
mail to Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El
Attention: WRJ/Sisterhood
8200 Peters Road Plantation, FL 33324
954-472-1988
tkaesisterhood@gmail.com

-Learn from our WRJ District Leaders

-Programs You Can Take Back

- ✧ Advocacy
- ✧ Social Action Project
- ✧ Chai Mitzvah
- ✧ Programming

Social Action Project

We will be collecting items for Women In Distress
WID is a local women's shelter where many of the women and children are victims of domestic strife and violence.

Please Collect & Bring With You:

- ✧ Toiletries—Hotel Shampoos, Conditioners, Soaps, Toothbrushes and Toothpastes
- ✧ NEW Underwear for girls & boys including bras for teenage girls.

We'll pack them up to be delivered!!

Guest Speakers:

Ellen Petracco
WRJ Southeast District President
Madi Hoesten
WRJ Southeast Immediate Past President
Andrea Cannon
WRJ Southeast District Past President
Denise Levine
WRJ Northeast District Immediate Past President

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
AREA DAY



Saturday February 3, 2018
9:30am-3:00pm

Hosted by Temple Kol Emeth Sisterhood

WRJ Area Day?

- a delicious taste of what WRJ is all about
- like a Biennial Convention at minimal cost
- an opportunity to get answers to questions
- a chance to learn about leadership & programs

LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS
FROM OUR WRJSE DISTRICT LEADERS
 Advocacy * Social Action * Chai Mitzvah

Costs:

- \$18 for cash or check or
- \$19 for PayPal www.kolemeth.net/WRJ
- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- Supplies & Materials

Send checks made out to **WRJ@TKE** to:
 WRJ@TKE AREA DAY
 1415 Old Canton Road
 Marietta, GA 30062

Questions, incl. lodging: **Illyse Sheaffer**
 678-446-7129 wrjcopres@gmail.com

RSVP by Friday, January 26th



1415 OLD CANTON ROAD
 MARIETTA, GA 30062
 770.973.3533 / WWW.KOLEMETH.NET



Guest Speakers

Blair Marks
WRJ President
Susan Bass
WRJ 1st VP

Ellen Petracco
WRJ SE District President

Madelyn Davidson
WRJ SE District Treasurer

with Special Guest
Beth Shafer
Singer, Songwriter, Cantor

SAVE THE DATES:

- AREA DAY at Temple Beth El in Ft. Myers, FL Saturday, March 24, 2018 9:30am-2:30pm
- WRJSE District Interim Kallah: April 20-22, 2018 at Camp Coleman, Cleveland, GA. Join us for a spiritual weekend nature retreat. Become a bat mitzvah in a beautiful setting. The parsha is Metzora (Leviticus 14:1-15:33).

- [WRJ Southeast District Biennial, October 18–21, 2018 in Miami, FL at the Dadeland Marriott Hotel](#)

<http://www.wrjsoutheast.org/>



Temple Kol Emeth | 1415 Old Canton Rd. | Marietta | GA | 30062