

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT SPEECH, JANUARY 22, 2005

I want to thank of you for attending the Women's League Anniversary Shabbat also known as Sisterhood Shabbat and for your support of our Sisterhood. I would like to read to you a letter from Gloria B. Cohen, International President of Women's League as to why Sisterhood Shabbat is celebrated at this time of year.

"Each year, Women's League for Conservative Judaism marks its anniversary on the Shabbat closest to the date in 1918 on which Mathilde Schechter founded our organization. This year, women across the continent will be celebrating Women's League Anniversary Shabbat on January 21 and 22.

Our weekend this year occurs on Shabbat Shirah. It is a memorable Shabbat with lovely melodies that we sing just as our ancestors did when they were crossing the Sea of Reeds. Like the Jews of the desert, we too often take miracles for granted. I hope that we can take the time to appreciate the many miracles that have occurred in our lives: the miracle of family, friends and the most memorable of our lifetime, the miracle of the modern State of Israel.

May this Anniversary Shabbat be one of peace and tranquility. May this Anniversary Shabbat be the time when you will commit to revere God, as did our predecessors; and may this Anniversary Shabbat be an uplifting experience for you and yours.

From my home to yours,
Shabbat shalom. Gloria B. Cohen, International President"

My goals for this year, was to see Sisterhood grow in membership and volunteerism, continue having more educational and social programs, and have some fun along the way.

Some of our goals for this year are well on their way. We had very successful fund raisers so far. A huge TODAH RABBAH to Nellie Foster for single-handedly taking charge of "Our Honey for the Holidays" sales and making sure that everyone countrywide received their honey order in time for Rosh Hashanah. Speaking of Nellie, Sisterhood wants to thank her for being such an excellent presenter of Sisterhood's gift of Tenuachs to each Bar/Bat Mitzvah child as well as adding her special touches to each presentation. If you are the parent of Bar/Bat Mitzvah child, Sisterhood would like to remind you that we would enjoy your membership and support even after your child's accomplishment.

Todah Rabbahs also go to Lois Zeidman and Judi Missel for publishing our New Year's greeting booklet and to Gloria Windmiller who headed and baked scrumptious honey cakes to sell for the holiday. We also had our "Dime A Dip" and "Pizza in the Hut" events. All of the projects and events have allowed us to donate money to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for Hanukkah gifts for the less fortunate children; to bring in donations for "My Sister's Place" a shelter for women of domestic violence which was May Schneiderman's Mitzvah Day Project and to cover the cost of unsponsored Onegs and Kiddushim. A special Todah Rabbah goes to Gloria Windmiller who prepares the unsponsored Onegs and Kiddushim and without her help there would be none.

This year Sisterhood became more active in participating in Women's League Torah Fund and this is chaired by Elly Johnson. The money for the Torah fund goes to training conservative Rabbis, cantors and lay persons so that Conservative Judaism will continue for years to come. In addition, to being supportive of this training you can also receive some beautiful jewelry for your donations. Todah Rabbah to Elly for all her hard work.

We have 61 members so far this year. We had a wonderful time at the game night in December which was co-sponsored with Men's Club. We have schmoozed and enlightened ourselves and have gotten to make some wonderful new friends.

Our Judaica Shop is having wonderful ongoing success. Without our wonderful and dedicated volunteers it would not so successful. Todah Rabbah to Melissa Hirschl for her work as a Shop Volunteer on Wednesdays and to Lynne Sgro and Beki Kendrick for their work on Sundays as Shop Volunteers as well as their time behind the scenes as Co-Managers/Buyers.

An important reminder to all our "sisters" that Sisterhood's Nominating Committee is meeting on January 24, 2005 at 6 p.m. in Rabbi's library in the Temple Office. The 2005-2006 Slate is being put together and ANYONE wishing to be more active should contact me (Barbara Tricoci) or any Board member as soon as possible to be included on the slate. Elections will be held in April.

I would like to thank Kay Levy for coordinating today's service and to all the women who have participated in this service. Thank you to Isaac Levy, Jeremy Marwil, Alan Ziv, Paul Mittman, and Kay Levy for such wonderful Torah reading and their help in keeping this service running smoothly.

A huge thank you to May Schneiderman for shopping for the wonderful food that we will enjoy at today's Kiddush. Thank you to Beki Kendrick and Kay Levy for preparing the food to be served and to Ian Katzman and his Men's Club members for serving and cleaning up after the Kiddush, and for keeping us ladies out of the kitchen. You are all very special people who are dedicated volunteers, and when I think of you, I think how lucky I am to have all of you as my friends.

Thank you to Rabbi Bonnie for all of her support and encouragement to me as well as to the Sisterhood.

Thank you to all of my Board members and chairpersons: Maggie Diamond, Lynne Sgro, Miriam Libman, Beki Kendrick, May Schneiderman, Lois Zeidman, Gloria Windmiller, Kay Levy, Loretta Wernick, Elly Johnson, Nellie Foster, Bev Kamchi and Evelyn Lustig. If I missed anyone else, please come up to me so

that I can personally thank you. Without the encouragement, support and dedication that you have given me, Sisterhood and I could not accomplish our goals.

We ask for God's blessing. May we have the strength to continue the work we have started and may God bless us with many generations of "women of valor".

Please join us for the Kiddush following the service. Shabbat Sholom.