



WRJ Southeast District Newsletter

Women of Reform Judaism-Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

Listen Sisters! Our Link to Each Other! Share your News! שמענה אחיה

President's Message

The following is excerpted from the President's Installation Speech at the WRJ Southeast District Biennial, Boca Raton, Florida on October 28, 2006. The complete text is available on the District website.



Thank you, Barbara, and thank you, Rosanne, for being here to make this weekend so special and a big thank you, Andrea, and your wonderful sisterhood for all your hard work bringing us to Boca. Many people are responsible for my standing here tonight and I want to thank just a few of them, including my mother, Phyllis Shapack, Rachel Ward, my mentor and friend, of blessed memory,

Anita Rosenberg, Natalie Pritikin, Susan Stahlman Bass, Ilayne Finklestone, Jo Stamler-Thompson, and Barbara Shub. Every one of them has played and continues to play such an important role in my life. Thanks to my sons, Bryan and Corey, who used to say, "Mom, if you got paid for all the volunteer work you did, we'd be rich," and finally, to my wonderful husband, Pat, without whose support I could not have accomplished all that I have during our 30 years of marriage. He's always there for me no matter what, making it possible for me to be part of this amazing group of women and more.

Tonight we celebrate the Women of Reform Judaism, as "Together We Bring Promise" for the future. We honor our past and the history of our sisterhoods that brought us to where we are today. I need you to join me in building our future — a future where we are more connected to one another and provide support and encouragement so that we all may grow and flourish.

Over the past two years, under the leadership of Barbara Shub, we have held six Area Days, which is a wonderful beginning to bring sisterhoods and our District together. Over the next two years, my plan is to increase the number of Area Days to at least eight.

Now, if you are sitting here tonight, asking, "Area Days ... what are Area Days?," well, that's my point. Area Days are tools to help you as individual sisterhoods learn about the resources, programs, and services of WRJ and of the District. Area Days help get the word out, not just to the two or three women who can attend an event like this District Convention, but to many more involved women in each sisterhood. Area Days provide opportunities to gather

together in smaller groups in a convenient location to create a sacred community of women joined together by a shared mission and common values and goals.

WRJ develops and makes available many tools to help our sisterhoods increase their membership rolls. "Sisterhood Sunday" is a program developed as a membership campaign for individual sisterhoods. The materials and the suggested strategy are sent out to all affiliated sisterhoods, to use in their drive to increase their numbers, which in turn grows our District. The materials for Chayei Sarah are terrific and offer just a taste of the soon-to-be published *Torah: A Women's Commentary*. These are just two examples of the resources available to you, as affiliated sisterhoods.

We can't overlook the best communication tool we have: one-on-one contacts. Emails are a quick way to keep in touch, ask and answer questions, send reminder messages, and so on, but if you really want to connect with someone, you must do it in a more personal way. It is more effort, yes, but in the end, it makes our sisterhoods better. Nothing takes the place of person-to-person contact. My vision for our District is to have each woman within our sisterhoods feel more connected: to each other, to the District, and to WRJ. We need to speak to them to share our enthusiasm and information. We need to listen to them, to their successes, and their challenges. We need to see them at our District and WRJ events, to surround them with the richness of our sacred community of women.

Coming to any District or WRJ event is one of the most important things you can do for yourselves and for your sisterhood. What you have learned this weekend and the friendships you have made will be strengthened if you share your experience with those back home. I urge you to spread your enthusiasm from this weekend. Talk to all who will listen. Ask your Rabbi if you can tell it from the Bimah at a Shabbat service. Ask your Congregational President to let you give a report to your Board. Of course you will tell your own sisterhood board about this weekend! Let them know just how important it is to make connections with not just your own sisterhood women, but with sisterhoods in your surrounding areas.

Not only do the District and WRJ exist to help with our sisterhoods, temples, and communities, they help us with our day-to-day personal lives. We are "Stronger Together" and "Together We Bring Promise".

Wendy Adamson, President

Circle of Service

The Circle of Service is the individual sisterhood member's link to a worldwide network of Reform Jewish women who make an annual commitment to the vital needs met by the Youth, Education and Special Projects (YES) Fund. Membership in the Circle of Service strengthens Judaism in the community, in Israel and throughout the world through an annual donation of \$75 or \$36. Lifeline membership - \$1,000 payable in one, two or four segments - contributes to a special endowment, the annual interest of which is used to support the YES Fund.

Through their contributions, sisterhood women can be part of a never-ending Circle of Service to Reform Judaism, helping to ensure the future of the Jewish people.

Go to <http://womenofreformjudaism.org/> to join online. Click on "Development and Special Projects". For further information, contact me at djames8000@hotmail.com, or contact your local sisterhood president.

Diane James, Chair, Circle of Service

District dues

District dues are now due. Sisterhood presidents have been sent the dues letter along with the Treasurer's worksheets. Please pass this on to your current treasurer. Dues are \$1.50 per member. Please make checks payable to WRJ Southeast. Send your payment with completed worksheet to:

**Sherry Schwimmer
910 Randall Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464**

You can contact me by phone at 843-884-0199 or by email at ss29464@yahoo.com. Thank you.

**Sherry Schwimmer,
WRJ Southeast District Treasurer**

Camp Coleman

Imagine yourself atop a hill, dressed in white. There are mountains surrounding you. It is summer and there is a gentle breeze. All of a sudden you hear what sounds like music. Wait! It certainly is music, the music of several hundred children, singing! Then, through the trees you see them. All are dressed in white. They are following the pied pipers: the counselors and song leaders strumming their guitars, leading this incredible group of Jewish children to the Hadar Ochel (Dining Hall).

This is the start of Shabbat at Camp Coleman in the glorious North Georgia mountains.

And I have been one of the lucky parents to have worked at and experienced what Camp Coleman has to offer. I have seen firsthand what it does for our children, for their connections to Jewish living and Israel. It is truly an incredible place where these children learn about Judaism through what I call an informal, non-pressured environment. You hear campers infuse Hebrew words into their conversation; perhaps say they need to go to the Misrad (Office). It's all done very naturally.

Aside from the usual activities (swimming, soccer, white water rafting, art, etc.), these campers have the opportunity to spend quality time with young Israelis who come to work at camp as counselors, specialists, unit heads (some for many years!). The bonds these campers have made with each other and their role models is unique. As a matter of fact my daughter still keeps in touch with her counselor from over 6 years ago!

I guess I am rambling on and on about Coleman simply because I love it! The camp experience comes with a hefty price tag — no heftier than any other sleepaway camp. But I can assure you that it will be the best spent money on your child's informal Jewish experience as well as a start to living independently from us (yes, folks, they DO grow up!) in a controlled environment. Yes, there are scholarships available (your Temple, Federation, local Jewish groups and agencies, and maybe even your sisterhood).

If you want to contact me directly please feel to email me at colemanmom4evr@hotmail.com

Lydia Hollander, Chair, Camp Coleman

Michtav M'Yerushalayim—November 7, 2006

The winter rains have started here in Jerusalem. They came quietly, without a heralding chorus of thunder claps or howling winds. The skies turned grey, grew heavier, and then with stubborn gentleness began the process of bringing fresh life to the parched ground. May b'racha: the waters that bring blessing.

But there is also fire abroad in the land. For the last several nights there have been mini-riots, blocked intersections and burning garbage dumpsters in the ultra-Orthodox, anti-Zionist, Mea Shearim section of Jerusalem. The inhabitants of Mea Shearim, whose clothing proudly proclaims their wearers' preference for 18th century Eastern European Shtetls over a modern Jewish state, are gearing up to protest the possibility of a parade of pride for gays and lesbians in Israel's capital city. The protesters have formed an alliance with conservative Muslim leaders in order to block the 'abomination,' and they probably will succeed.

Interesting how history repeats itself as anti-Zionist Haredim ally themselves with Conservative Muslims to fight against what is perceived to be a violation of the will of God – to which both sides claim exclusive access. It happened in 1948 as well.

Fire also burns at the very heart of the Israeli political establishment. The charges alleging sexual misconduct by Israeli President Katzav may in the very near future force the president to resign. The campaign to replace him is already well underway. Shimon Peres is in the running, though not officially and not formally. Despite his age, Peres still dreams of reversing his most recent political defeat (among many) when Katzav was an upset victor over him several years ago. Colette Avital, former Counsel General in New York, is making a strong run as well. No matter what the final outcome of the court process, the presidency has been diminished and soiled by all of the charges and countercharges.

And charges and countercharges also mark Israel's extraordinarily public effort to grapple with what went right and what went wrong with this summer's Second War in Lebanon. In order to restore stability to his once powerful coalition, PM Olmert has reached out to Avigdor Lieberman, head of the "Yisrael Beytenu" ("Israel is our Home") party, and brought him into the cabinet. Lieberman has in the past supported what many would call a racist and deluded policy of transporting Palestinians and Israeli Arabs out of Israel's sovereign

territory. But he also embraces a pluralistic vision of Israeli society – though it seems that this pluralism is mainly intended for Jews only.

Several days ago, David Grossman, one of the triad of Israel's most widely read authors, a man of the left whose son was killed in battle during the most recent war, addressed a rally of 100,000 in Tel Aviv in the annual commemoration of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Grossman, emphasizing that he claims no special right to speak out just because he is a grieving father, nevertheless found a rich and powerful vocabulary to renew his passionate plea for Israel's leaders to pursue every possible initiative to bring a mutually respectful and fully secured and just peace to the Middle East. But even as he spoke, battling continues in and around the Gaza Strip.

Viable solutions are not easy to discover. Resa and I find that for the first time in decades our political perspectives are moving in sharply different directions. One of us has plainly 'had it' with an Israeli government that seems unwilling to focus on doing whatever needs to be done to ensure that the Jewish State escapes the specter of the disappearance of the option of a two state solution – leaving what might quickly become an apartheid state. The other clings to the belief that statecraft can still find a way to bring Palestinians to the bargaining table with a desire at long last to reach a negotiated end to what has become a bitter, brutal and dehumanizing struggle. We leave it to you to figure out who believes what ...

These last few weeks in Israel have been marked by the meetings that typically follow the holiday season. With the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, Stan visited a Druze village right on the Lebanese border, and learned how the suffering of the Second War in Lebanon was shared by all of Israel's citizens. We also participated in seemingly endless conversations about how to renew the World Zionist Organization. There were also some interesting opportunities to see whether Reform/Progressive Judaism ought to seek out some more official and structured relationship with an Israeli political party. Stan spent five hours in the Knesset one day, meeting one on one with MK's, testing the waters.

Resa and Rabbi Stanley M. Davids
resa@davidfamily.net

This fascinating article is available in full on the website.

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Our Mitzvah of Thanksgiving

Hospice Savannah—An Active Way to Give Thanks

If you are looking for a meaningful way to translate the idea of Thanksgiving into action, feel free to borrow an idea used annually by Congregation Mickve Israel's Chapter of Women of Reform Judaism. Under the leadership of Co-Presidents Toby Hollenberg and Barbara Bart, the sisterhood again provided food, volunteers, and funds for their sixth annual Hospice Thanksgiving Project.

The members planned and executed a Thanksgiving Dinner for the staff and families of Hospice House patients. This special project attracted male and female members of Mickve Israel and their children, their friends from other congregations, and even their neighbors from other communities.

They started out hoping for just a few volunteers to cook some turkeys and serve some side dishes as a luncheon buffet for about 50 people before they went off to spend the day with their own families and friends.

Getting a core group to volunteer on a holiday seemed like it might be difficult, but the response was overwhelming. People donated products or money to purchase the groceries, people cooked during that week, and people volunteered to reheat and serve on Thanksgiving. There was even a tasting party and recipe exchange.

But each year, instead of getting easier, there seemed to be new challenges. The work became a little more difficult when Hospice underwent renovations for two years and had no kitchen facility. The chore was even more impossible when both Hospice House and Mickve Israel were remodeling at the same time and there was no commercial kitchen to use for the preparation the day of the event. A local non-Jewish service organization, wishing to remain anonymous, came to the aid of the sisterhood, and dinner for approximately 75 family members and staff was served to the delight of all.

For information on how you can adapt this program to your sisterhood, contact Toby Hollenberg at tobyjanemail@aol.com or 912-233-1547.

Carol Greenberg



Mitzvah Corps volunteers Larry and son Shane Plapinger, Norman Hirsch and visitor Susan Friedman all volunteered to help sisterhood members get the work done.



Some of the many volunteers from Sisterhood and their friends who actually came on Thanksgiving Day to show appreciation by participating in a wonderful mitzvah. Co-President Toby Hollenberg is third from the left.



A Story from another Sisterhood

Knitzvah and its Mitzvahs

A year ago, the Women of Reform Judaism Sisterhood of Beth-El Congregation, Fort Worth, TX, started a knitting group that meets monthly at the Temple. The secretary in the office dubbed the group “Knitzvah,” and the title stuck. The rabbi wrote a special benediction recited at Knitzvah meetings: *“Look with favor, O God, upon the gifts which your children bring in humility and reverence. We consecrate to Your holy purposes these hand-made items. May they, in their little way, bring comfort to your children and honor to your name. Amen.”* Usually the women make caps for preemies. Lately, some of their former sisterhood presidents have been gravely ill or have had surgery. The group decided to pay sick calls and give each patient a handknit prayer shawl. Along with the shawl is a poem that they type on gold paper.

Below is the article that appeared in their December, 2006 Temple Bulletin:

When a close friend and fellow congregant is gravely ill or recovering from surgery, how can we truly convey our concern? The women in Knitzvah — the knitting group that meets the last Thursday evening of the month at Beth-El — have started delivering handmade prayer shawls along with a poem, typed on gold paper, that expresses their concern. To date, they have delivered five shawls. The recipients were surprised and quite moved. They could not get over the fact that the group was thinking of them and that two members of Knitzvah took the time for a house visit. The prayer that accompanies the shawl reads:

*This healing shawl is a gift to you.
Each time we picked up the yarn to work on it,
We prayed to God that this shawl be a sign of God's healing
presence.
We prayed that God would warm you when you are weary,
Surround you when you are in pain,
And reach out to heal you in body, mind, and spirit.
This shawl is to snuggle into when you nap,
Read a good book,
Or enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.
We hope that the warmth of this shawl will bring you a sense
of God's presence
As well as the love and caring of a friend.*

WRJ Sisterhood, Beth-El Congregation, Fort Worth, TX

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Temple Judea, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

We celebrated the beginning of our WRJ year with a gourmet paid-up breakfast on Sunday, November 20, at the Temple. Our guest speaker was Dr. Jana K. Rasmussen, who spoke on “Non-surgical Tips for Facial Rejuvenation”, and we also enjoyed a Jewish musical program.

Members will be participating in the “Race for the Cure” in West Palm Beach in January, and we are holding a Pot Luck Havdalah at a member’s home.

Our group has supported our Youth Education Program with woman power, cash, and merchandise donations. Our Temple sponsored a family affected by Hurricane Katrina. We also operate the Temple Gift Shop, and promote YES Fund cards through the website and shop.

Cheryll Rabin Plotkin, Co-President

Temple Israel, Melbourne, FL

Our little sisterhood of 70 women is very alive and active in Melbourne, Florida. At least once a month we hold one function or another, and we have varied programs that appeal to all ages.

Our Chanukah bazaar on December 4th was a smashing success. We had so many adults as well as children shopping. Our “Judaica” lady, Helen George, has done a wonderful job for sisterhood in fully servicing our temple’s Judaica shop.

On December 30th, we will hold our annual “Covered Dish Menorathon”. We expect a full house of about 150 people with sisterhood supplying turkey, brisket, and fried chicken. Sisterhood does this as a service for the temple and it is not a money making project.

Marilyn Feinber, President

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation of Reform Judaism, Orlando, FL

This new year has been one of tremendous growth and renewal for our sisterhood. After several years of dormancy, sisterhood has burst on to the scene in our congregation. This is due to the enthusiasm of a new board comprised of many novices to sisterhood. Our motto is "We'll try it!"

What have we tried so far? Well, first was to ASK! We looked at our stagnant membership numbers (approximately 80 members in a congregation of 700 family units) and decided that the first order of business was to increase membership. We started very simply. We asked people to join and they responded! Our membership is now just over 160 and many of those are at higher than basic dues levels.

Our first event was an evening program at a chocolate factory. Two hours of chocolate making (we got to take home a pound of our own creations) and champagne was a great ice-breaker! Word of how fun this event was spread like wildfire through the congregation and many asked us to repeat it in the spring!

In November we held our paid-up Membership Brunch and were honored to have Wendy Adamson come and be our guest speaker. She was wonderful and the approximately 70 women who attended had a very positive experience. Our annual Thanksgiving Raffle was drawn and that fundraiser raised about \$1,500. This is a raffle that has been done for years – I guess you could say we mixed a little of the old with the new!

As I write this article we are relaxing and marveling at our greatest accomplishment to date – the success of our first Chanukah Bazaar. The chairperson, Dorey Wolf, had never done anything like this before and was very anxious. But it turned out to be wonderful and we made over \$2,500! Not only that, but we were instrumental in coordinating a Gift of Life drive for a young man in our community in need of a bone marrow transplant. That screening was held on the day of the Bazaar and over 200 people were entered into the registry.

It has been an amazing year so far and I'm sitting here smiling as I write this. Thank you to all the district officers who have been so helpful and supportive.

Cathy Swerdlow, President

Temple Shir Shalom Sisterhood, Gainesville, FL

We have had a busy fall 2006. We started off on September 17, with a program called "Every Woman a Sarah Bernhardt" with fun and games and lots of laughter. Led by our Program Chair, Estelle Aden, we acted out skits with many hilarious moments. Sunday, October 22 was a garage sale at the home of sisterhood president, Judy Cohen Wilson. There were more than enough items donated and we made somewhat over \$200. We decided we wouldn't have a garage sale next year because we didn't take enough money in for all the work we put into it.

Our November 5 *Red, White and Blue All American Paid-up Membership* event was very successful with excellent attendance. The social hall was decorated beautifully with a red, white, and blue theme. The food was pot luck and the entertainment was provided by an a cappella quartet with mainly all American songs. December 6 was a program called "Follow the Money" led by Sue Dudley, whose talk would help us to understand what we are paying for and why. Sue talked to us about the various taxes we pay and why. Tricia Churnick, our Treasurer, provided cookies decorated with various money symbols.

Our first event in 2007 will be a talk by Deborah Jervis, a health professional who is also a sisterhood member. She will talk about various health concerns that we all face.

Judy Cohen Wilson, President

"Women of Reform Judaism: Stronger Together."

Our mission statement says: "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 support the ideals and enhance the quality of Jewish living to ensure the future of progressive Judaism in North America, Israel and around the World."

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation Beth Am, Tampa. FL

Sisterhood has been busy this year. We had a wonderful program about drumming, which had everyone beating their drums!



Our artistic ladies spent an evening at The Bead Cafe creating lovely pieces of jewelry. In December our Judaica Shop held their annual Judaica Fair and Bake Sale. It was wonderful to see the great support of our Congregational community.

We are looking forward to our annual paid-up Membership Dinner in January, along with our Sisterhood Shabbat. Our evening Book Club is vibrant and meets monthly to hold lively discussions about the "Book of the Month" and to share a wonderful potluck dairy dinner. *Cafe Sisterhood* returned with a wonderful breakfast cooked by our own sisterhood chefs. Our Membership and Programming Vice Presidents, Eileen Levine and Robin Maier, are planning many more wonderful events for the second half of our year.

We wish you a very Happy and Healthy 2007!

Dianne Baruch, President

Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater. FL

Congratulations to our own Wendy Adamson, a former sisterhood president and currently a board member at TBI, on her installation as president of WRJ Southeast District at the district Biennial in Boca in October.

We are having a busy, lively year. At our luncheon meeting on November 14th, we had a cookie exchange where everyone brought cookies and their recipes to share. The cookies were our dessert for the luncheon, and the remaining cookies were distributed to a local agency called Everybody's Tabernacle which helps feed and clothe the indigent. The response from the Tabernacle was overwhelming.

Additionally, as part of our ongoing Mitzvot at home and abroad, we wrote Uniongrams to our men and women in the Armed Services. To date, we have sent off about 100 greetings. We will have more to send as one of our members will be sharing this activity with her family on the first night of Chanukah.

Everyone looks forward to our annual Chanukah party, held at a member's home. Many of the women bring their favorite menorahs, which we light all at one time, and all join in to say the prayers. We enjoy a delicious potluck dinner after the menorah lighting. Everyone brings a wrapped gift and after dinner we have a gift exchange, a fun highlight of the evening.

Iris Shalit, President

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Congregation Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, FL

The New Year started with a bang, with the incredible edible food for the Break the Fast and the children enjoying the Tashlich service at the park with our singing and dancing Cantor and Rabbis.

The year continued with a wonderful paid-up membership program on the history of Jacksonville. The moderator from the Jacksonville Historical Society talked in character and wore costumes for each of the women she depicted. For each character she changed costume by removing a layer of clothing, changing hats, and adding jewelry. The whole program had us spellbound (as well as trying to figure out how she could have had that many clothes on!). It was interesting to hear about the women who came before us, who campaigned for suffrage for Florida women, began the shops we have come to love, and performed charitable works.

Sisterhood is actively working on preparing for our upcoming Spirituality retreat President's day weekend in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Co-chairs Laurie Simmons and Marla Dahlenburg are planning to make this a weekend to remember. Some women from the Ormond Beach Sisterhood are planning to attend again, having sent letters about the great time they had at last year's retreat. The weekend always proves to be memorable and we are all looking forward to it! We would love to invite one and all for the retreat and if you are interested in the details, please contact Marla at mrd7040@bellsouth.net so she can tell you more about it.

Mindy Grinnan

Temple Shalom Sisterhood, Naples, FL

The sisterhood of Temple Shalom has had very busy fall. Our major fund-raiser "Sunset at Le Parc" included a tour of a penthouse suite overlooking the gulf, a concert from members of the Naples Philharmonic, and a martini bar. We raised \$6,000 that will be donated to the Abraham Shusterman Religious School. It was a wonderful evening and everyone who attended really enjoyed the event.

This January we decided to hold two events in honor of our new members. One will be a "chocolate fondue" event on a Sunday and the other a brunch held at a country club the following Tuesday. This year we are putting forth a major effort to reach the members who are not able to attend lunch programs. We held a phone event in November where we contacted temple members who had not joined sisterhood and asked them why. We found that many potential members needed evening/weekend events. The other discovery was that some people were more than willing to join; they just had not been personally invited.

We are planning a joint venture with Hadassah next month. We will be taking a bus over to the east coast to visit the Jewish Museum of Florida and take a guided tour of the Art Deco Historical District.

As the rest of our season unfolds, our calendar will include a sunset cruise, visit to the Naples Holocaust Museum, and a women's Passover Seder.

I look forward to working with our board and committees to make this year's programming interesting for all of our membership.

Miriam Ross

GOOD & WELFARE

☆ Who's a Nana! Mazel tov to Jo Stamler Thompson!

On Monday, October 30, 2006 at 9:08 am, Daniel Ira Soloman was born, a month early, weighing in at 6 lbs 13 ozs. and 19 1/2 inches long. Mom Mandy and baby are doing great.

Good wishes may be sent to:
Jo & Roger Thompson
103 Altamont Terrace
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

And also to the proud parents:
Amanda & Jonathan Solomon
414 Russet Hollow Road
Hoover, AL 35244

☆ Who's a mother-in-law!

Mazel tov to Betsy Garfield and husband Jeff on the marriage of their son Max to Heidi Padawer Garfield on November 11, 2006 in St. Louis, MO. Max and Heidi are both attorneys and currently live in New York City.

Stories from our Sisterhoods

Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, SC

Our sisterhood continues to be an active, visible support system for our Congregation. In August, we joined with Brotherhood to kick off the fall with a Barbeque & Boogie. This event served as our annual paid-up membership function and was very well attended. We again welcomed the Religious School students with *A Taste of Honey – The Sweetness of Jewish Learning* to let them know how important we believe that their studies are.

In September, Faye Seigel presented an informative creative workshop entitled *Journaling Your Travels*. Jane Norris led a group of volunteers in packaging more than 30 High Holy Day gift boxes for our college-aged congregants. Our kids enjoy receiving South Carolina grown dried apples and honey straws.

We recently kicked off recipe collection for the fourth edition of our cookbook, *Shalom Y'all – KKBE Cooks! Favorite Recipes from North America's 1st Reform Jewish Congregation*. This book will take a historical bent, featuring vignettes of KKBE women who have made significant contributions to the congregation and the greater community during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries.

Our 56th Sisterhood Bazaar was held on Sunday, November 19, from 9:30 until 3. This year, we dedicated the Bazaar to the past president under whose leadership it began. We are excited that this Bazaar was our most successful in history, netting more than \$13,000. We re-introduced the Dreidel Shop for children in grades K through 6 during the Bazaar, giving our young congregants an opportunity to shop for holiday presents for family and friends. All merchandise was donated and the proceeds were given directly to the Religious School.

We are looking forward to our Menorah Madness program led by District Treasurer, Sherry Schwimmer. This year we will bring a favorite menorah along with a photo of ourselves as a child. A gift will be given for the member who correctly matches the most menorah/photo combinations. In the months to come, we will hold Mah Jongg Magic for group play and learning. In February we will hold our first Matriarch's Luncheon (donor) and our Sisterhood Retreat. In March, we will sponsor the Great KKBE Kugel Cook-off.

We continued our efforts to fill in the gaps for the Synagogue, purchasing new folding tables for the boardroom, an Ellison Die Cutting Machine for the Religious School, and the first 100 copies of Mishkan Tefilah.

Marty Jackson, President

Jewish Ladies Aid Society of Temple Israel, Columbus, GA

With 2007 fast approaching, the Jewish Ladies Aid Society is gearing up for its largest Deli Day ever. Thanks to marvelous publicity, delicious goodies, and tremendous cooperation from our membership, we made and sold over 2000 corned beef sandwiches with all the trimmings, plus we baked hundreds of cakes, pies, and cookies too numerous to count. Our goal for 2007 is 2500 sandwiches. For this event, every member participates, young and old, in one way or another.

In preparation for what has become a "Columbus happening", JLAS is completely remodeling the Temple kitchen to bring it up to date and make it more user-friendly.

As many of you know, Columbus is the home of Fort Benning, the largest infantry training center in the United States. We, along with The Jewish Federation, sponsor a weekly service and Oneg plus holiday celebrations for all of the Jewish trainees on the post. We are now seeing 200 recruits attend these weekly services each Sunday morning (the time designated by the Army for all religious activity!). As trainees are not allowed to make phone calls or leave the post during their training, this time of fellowship is greatly appreciated by the recruits and their families.

As a spin-off from this program, our religious school sent Thanksgiving and Chanukah packages to Afghanistan and Iraq to "our" soldiers now serving overseas.

Our membership is getting smaller as the Temple family decreases in size, but JLAS remains a vital, active partner in our Temple family.

Jean Kent

New WRJ Website

The beautiful new WRJ website is a must-see. It not only looks elegant but it puts all the resources of WRJ in one easy to find location, and offers some very cool new features.

Check out the new, artistic e-cards and the beautiful redesigned Uniongram. Send them the 21st century way: by email, and get your YES fund credit too: <http://womenofreformjudaism.org/e-cards>

Look around the new site now and be sure to bookmark it: <http://womenofreformjudaism.org/>