

Centennial Ideas

Talk it up on the Bimah

Here's a simple way to bring awareness to your congregation of our centennial:

Mention a fact about WRJ history and our centennial every time you are on the bimah giving out a kiddush cup or other item to a bar or bat mitzvah.

Thanks to Karen Gilman and Enid Sperber, Women of Temple Israel of Hollywood

Celebrate a Special Birthday

Do you have a sisterhood member who is celebrating a special birthday?

"Every birthday is a cause for celebration - landmark ones even more so. My suggestion would be to initiate a special acknowledgement using the Centennial as a background. You might creatively write a few verses such as "'WRJ's looking mighty good at 100...so do you at (whatever year the person is)' Mazel tov on your landmark birthday." You can use the centennial logo and create a certificate and consider making a donation to the centennial fund or the YES Fund in that person's honor."

Thanks to Roseanne Selfon, Immediate Past President of WRJ

Honour Past Sisterhood Presidents

As part of the Centennial Erev Shabbat service, we will **honor our past presidents with a blessing under a chuppah** made by one of our members. We will have a buffet dinner. And we will also have a program book in which Sisterhood members can put their names and the names of family members who have been sisterhood members. Since most of us in Albuquerque come from somewhere else, we will be listing the congregations around the country where our family members belong. Each listing will be five dollars. We will use the funds to cover the cost of the dinner and to make a donation to WRJ.

Thanks to Marcia Rosenstein, Centennial Ambassador, Congregation Albert, Albuquerque, NM

Find & Display Sisterhood Mementos

WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood of Portland, OR, is asking their sisterhood members if they have photos or **mementos from sisterhood events or outings**, flyers from a sisterhood fundraiser, or something from the rummage sales it used to run or the Braille group it used to assist. It is collecting items for a display of its history as we begin the celebration of WRJ's 100th birthday.

Documents, photos, programs and brochures, buttons and news clippings, our cookbook, sisterhood-made pottery, and awards, as well as letters from past leaders and copies of minutes from its founding meeting in 1917 will be on display at its Sisterhood Shabbat, and will stay up for the senior school students to see. It will have volunteers there to explain the items and the work of WRJ and its own 96-year-old sisterhood.

Thanks to Kate Royston, WRJ Beth Israel Sisterhood, Portland, OR

Group Adult B'Not Mitzvah

We are having a **group adult *b'not mitzvah*** followed by a bang-up kiddush, with a blessing of all sisterhood members and (hopefully) something about our own 100-year history.

Anna Singer, co-president of Temple Emanu-El, Tuscaloosa & former Sisterhood president

Tikun Olam - Collect 100 Items

We are planning a number of collections of 100 items, starting now with 100 baby bibs to be donated to the abused women's shelter. We will follow this with 100 pairs of socks, bars of soap, etc., to be donated to various shelters and the Interfaith Nutrition Network locally.

Also, we are starting on a quilt to be made up of 100 squares that will be sold at \$5 per square for folks to write, draw or whatever they choose to do. These will be put together to make a WRJ Centennial Quilt to be prominently displayed.

All publicity on these collections are being done with the WRJ centennial logo prominently displayed. We're having fun with this! I am blessed with a great crew of women!

Thanks to Barbara Stern, Past President D3, WRJ Board Member, Centennial Ambassador, Temple Am Echad, Lynbrook, NY

Centennial Speech

My co-president, Susan Board, and I kept our speech short.

The script is below, which I hope will be of some use to you. Susan and I alternated paragraphs, but feel free to adapt to your own needs. We're both retired teachers, and we had lots of fun with our props and being quite dramatic about it all.

Thanks to Rhoda London, Cong. Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, FL

Centennial Installation Speech

(Take out hatbox and put on hat.)

This Shabbat we'd like to welcome each of you to our official beginning of the Women of Reform Judaism's 100th year. The theme is "Inspired by the past, committed to the future."

Imagine this: a small group of women in 1913, each looking in her mirror before leaving home. They fix their hats, smooth their collars and put on their gloves (MOTIONS), getting ready to journey across the country by horse and buggy, train and other means of transportation to found a new organization- the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

Within just a few years they supported war efforts during WW I and aided causes on behalf of the needy during the Depression. In 1935 they brought German rabbinic students to study in the U.S. after Hitler closed the doors on their studies. These students lived in a Sisterhood dorm and Sisterhood paid their tuition. Rabbi Leo E. Turitz, Rhoda's father, (your rabbi and/or cantor?) was also a recipient of their generosity. The money you donate to purchase Confirmation Uniongrams goes to WRJ's YES fund to continue that tradition, as well as support many, more modern issues.

Sisterhood women urged governments to open borders to refugees before and during WW II and advocated for allowing Jews to resettle in Palestine after the war. They also actively participated in the formation of the United Nations and are still active participants there - particularly in UNICEF.

With the help of rabbis and local congregations opening their homes, NFTY, of which Temple's JAFTY is a part, was founded to encourage Jewish youth to learn about their religion and ensure the future of Reform Judaism as rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders.

(Take off hat)

We could go on and on until next Shabbat about what Sisterhood has done, but will fast forward to a milestone event. One of those German rabbis, Gunter Plaut, of blessed memory, wrote Torah commentary that has been integral to discussions by Jews all over the world. Yet the voices of women were not considered in that commentary. In 2008, the Women of Reform Judaism published a landmark *Women's Torah Commentary*. It was written over a period of about 10 years by women rabbis and cantors. You'll also note that the name was changed along the way. We still use both: WRJ and Temple Sisterhood.

Looking back in that mirror, the faces of the women have changed, but the love of Judaism and determination to secure its future has not. This coming year you will learn more about the 100th anniversary from Ruthie Nachman, our Centennial Ambassador, who was chosen to represent us, since she was both a former Sisterhood and Temple President. In honor of all our newly installed board members, a donation has been made to the Centennial Fund, which has been set up to ensure the future of WRJ's mission

Mirrors can also reflect light- from daylight streaming through the window to the dark places of the world and into the hearts of people. Each of our board members has been given a small mirror tonight with a Centennial sticker. May the light of wisdom and compassion reflect on each of you as our leaders, as we depart almost 100 years later on our journey together. You can leave the hats and gloves behind, but remember: now we are the faces of the Women of Reform Judaism as, inspired by the past and committed to the future, we embrace a new century of service.

Thanks to Rhoda London & Susan Board, Congregation Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, FL

Centennial Celebrations Take the Cake!



Temple Israel
Tulsa, OK



Temple Beth Shalom
Hudson, OH



B'nai Yehuda Beth Shalom
Homewood, IL



Temple Beth Shalom
Hudson, OH

Purse Fundraiser in honour of the WRJ Centennial

On Thursday, April 18th at 7pm, we are thrilled to have Cantor Roher and Rabbi Shawna come speak. We will also be having **a purse fundraiser in honor of the WRJ centennial**. Of course, as usual, we will have yummy snacks to eat. We will also hear the proposed slate for the Sisterhood 2013/2014 board.



Donate your unwanted, new and gently used, purses and wallets to the event. Each item will have a number placed inside. Every person will be able to purchase one or more items for \$10 each (whether you brought items or not). That item's number will be matched with an envelope full of 100 items. It could be 100 quarters or 100 buttons. The fun is in seeing who gets what. So join us for some great information from the clergy, some shopping and some fun while fundraising and going home with something new.

Erika Barnathan
Sisterhood President
Temple Ahavat Shalom
Northridge, CA