

Federation Calendar
(meetings are held on Thursdays)

Meetings Held Either Virtually or in Person



104th Annual Convention
May 13, 2021

President Reception—Thursday, June 17, 2021

Opening Meeting—September 30, 2021

Dinner Meeting—November 18, 2021

Mid-Winter Conference—January 20, 2022

March Meeting—March 17, 2022

106th Annual Convention— May 12, 2022

Visit our website for more information at
jewishwomensfed.org



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The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland
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Baltimore, Maryland 21209
Info: Sylvia Katzel, skatzel@hotmail.com or C: 410-456-8128



THE FLAME

The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland
Lighting the Way for Jewish Women Leaders • Established 1916

Spring 2021

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Linda Boteach, P.P.

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THE FEDERATION OF JEWISH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS OF MARYLAND

104th Annual Convention
Thursday, May 13, 2021



"A friend may be waiting behind a stranger's face" ...Maya Angelou

Virtually Presented via Zoom

9:15am - 12:30pm

\$20 per person

Registration form and payment must be received in order to pick-up lunch on May 12th between 2 – 4 p.m. at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation's parking lot 7401 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD (Dietary Laws Observed)

Honoring Alyson Friedman with the E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award & "The Women Who Welcome" Award to women from our constituent organizations.

Message from Our President



The Federation is dedicated to providing leadership training, educational opportunities and advocacy of issues of major importance to us. In July, Linda Hurwitz talked to the leadership of our constituent organizations about "Inspiring Others Through Leadership." Other programs we offered were *Challenges of Leadership from a Woman's Perspective*, *The Supreme Court Now: How it Affects You!*, *The Great Game of Politics and Challenges for Women and Families During COVID* and all these programs were presented to you through Zoom!

Federation is continuing to build relationships with diverse groups of people and organizations. One of our board members represents us on the board of the Baltimore Jewish Council to keep us abreast of issues

affecting our community. We are also associated with MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) which is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals who provide a voice for Maryland women. I want to thank several of our members who attend these meetings regularly on behalf of Federation and keep us informed on important issues of concern that can improve the lives of women and children in our state.

During our 104th Annual Convention on May 13th, our keynote speaker, Sheela Murthy, Esq., will talk about *Welcoming the Stranger: Immigration Today*. We will be honoring Alyson Friedman, who will be presented with the E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award. Also, each of the constituent organizations will have one of its members receive the *Women Who Welcome Award*. Do not miss the opportunity to be a part of this exciting event. I look forward to seeing you at our convention.



President, Marcia Bornfriend

Federation—Legislative Update—December 1, 2020

With nine days to go, 2300 bills had been introduced into the General Assembly and about 150 had passed both houses. Between COVID relief, eviction mitigation and police reform, the legislature has had little time to spend on health care, immigration and women's issues, which have been our priority issues.

The paid family medical leave act, The Time to Care Act, was considered a shoo-in to pass this year, has been sitting in committee. It has been put on hold so as not to add to the burdens already placed on businesses during the current economic difficulties. Once passed, this insurance plan (paid into by both employers and employees) will take two years to implement and become functional.

In 2019, the legislature passed the Prescription Drug Affordability Act to set maximum drug costs to ensure that high cost drugs would be available to all at more reasonable prices. Since then the Governor has not

funded the Board established by the Act. This year the General Assembly funded the Prescription Drug Affordability Board during budget deliberations. It will still take some time for the initial work to be accomplished and implemented.



Legislative Update
by
Jo-Ann Orlinsky

The Health Equity Resources Communities Act, which would provide funding for health care providers to create or expand health services in five poor or rural underserved communities designated as equity zones, has passed both houses and must go to conference committee to work out the differences. This is one of our priorities and will be a big win if passed and signed by the Governor.

While the COVID pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another, five million women are now out of the workplace and 2.5 million will not get their jobs back. Women also own 10 million small businesses, many of which will not reopen.



Under Our Umbrella

Upcoming Events by our Organizations

The Flame is happy to highlight your organization's events.
Submit your information to Elissa Ness, easelthew@aol.com

BETH EL SISTERHOOD - VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

May 24 (Meeting at 1:30 p.m.; Speaker at 2:30 p.m.)* – Marin Alsop - American conductor and violinist. She is currently music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and chief conductor of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. Registration due by Friday, May 14. For registration, please contact: Marcia Boonshaft at boonshaftjm@gmail.com or 410-484-3112.

CHANA

Sunday, May 9, 2021 - Mother's Day Virtual Race Against Abuse. No traffic, no parking problems, no crowds. You choose the starting line, the distance and the time. TO REGISTER, Contact Dayna Leder, dleder@associated.org, 410-234-0030.

HADASSAH OF GREATER BALTIMORE

May 18, 2021-7:30 pm via ZOOM. Essential Oils 101. Moderated by Kathleen Bowling. One hour class on all things essential oils.
June 3, 2021- Spring closing meeting. Springtime in Paris. Jewish Paris Comes Alive. **May 24, June 28, July 19, August 23, October 4 and 25.** 7:00-8:30 pm Grandparent's Connection. Cost \$54 for 6 sessions. For more information, contact Roberta Greenstein Roberta.greenstein@comcast.net or Laurie Weitz at lweitz@HADASSAH.org.

KAPPA GUILD, INC.

Wednesday, June 9, 2021- Virtual Donor Event. 1:00-3:00 pm. Virtual distribution of funds to pediatric and NICU units of hospitals and camps and agencies for children with special needs. Entertainment by singer and song writer Bruce Thomas. Cost \$18 contribution. For registration contact Sheila Mentz 410-484-8215 or morahsheila@aol.com or Miriam Stern 410-602-0175 or bubbystern@aol.com. Your check will be your registration to receive the link.

SINAI MITZVAH FOUNDATION

May 6 – 7, 2021 - May 6 (approx. 9:00am – 5:00pm) / May 7 (approx. 7:00am – 3:00pm or sellout) "The Margie Katzenberg Flower Mart to benefit the Sinai Mitzvah Foundation". A variety of flowers, plants and candies will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the Flower Mart will enhance the quality of patient care at Sinai Hospital and help provide services to the greater Sinai community. It will be held at Sinai Hospital, 2401 W. Belvedere Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215 (contact Michelle Golberg, migolber@lifebridgehealth.org or call at us at 410.601.8774.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAR SINAI-OHEB SHALOM CONGREGATION

Please visit our website at www.hsosc-baltimore.org or call the temple at 410-358-0105 for information regarding ZOOM presentations. Our Women's lib has been holding ZOOM schmoozes to help reconnect during COVID. May brings our annual Women's Club Erev Shabbat service where we will induct our incoming officers: Sherri Bell and Susan Yaffe as Co-Presidents, Bonnie Block as VP, CeCe Rund as Recording Secretary, Judy Handelman as Corresponding Secretary, Ken Bell as Treasurer.

June 9, 2021: We will ZOOM with Rabbi Federow of Congregation Shaar Hashalom in Houston who will present his book *Judaism and Christianity: A Contrast*.

WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

"Fill Your Cup" Zoom Programs, every Wednesday from 1:30-2:30pm: Join on Zoom each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220200615?pwd=MEEdibXFKUVdpQ3JNdFo3b0FCSWhTQT09>

May 5 Cooking demonstration.

May 12 Baroque Art and Architecture presented by Charles Hanna.

May 19 Introduction to Zentangle presented by Kris Meyer Bring a paper, pencil, felt tip pen and a Q-tip.

May 25 Learn about SPARC presented by Susan Sherman, executive director.

June 2 Cooking Demonstration.

June 9 Virtual Tour of Discovering Baltimore's Album Quilts presented by Center for History and Culture.

June 16 Someone's in the Kitchen with Dinah (Shore) presented by Cantor Karen Webber.

June 23 State of the Bay presented by Carmera Thomas Wilhite, program manager of The Chesapeake Bay Foundation

June 30 Barbra Streisand, Diva presented by Ellen Katz.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Saturday, May 1 at 10:30am Women's Shabbat prepared and performed by Women of BHC members, D'Var Torah given by Sara Charney, President of Women of Reform Judaism, followed by Oneg Schmooze.

Sunday, May 23 at 1pm Closing Meeting and Installation; Program Rabbi Emeritus Rex Perlmeter, "Learning, Growing and Practicing: Life After BHC."

Sunday, June 6 at 10:30am World Union for Progressive Judaism presented by Rabbi Sergio Bergman, president in partnership with the BHC Brotherhood.

Recognize an Honoree with a Special "Mazel Tov"

104th Annual Convention of The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland "Women Who Welcome" Award Honorees

Add your name to a personalized "Mazel Tov" greeting that will be sent to each honoree to let her know just how special and appreciated she is!

Place a check in the box in front of the name of each person you would like to recognize -

Adat Chaim Sisterhood – Susan Ansel	Hadassah of Greater Baltimore – Barbara Fink	Sinai Mitzvah Foundation – Marcy K. Kolodny
AMIT Children – Iris Miller	Israel Bonds Maryland Women's Division – Ellen Cohen	Support for Families of Nursing Home Residents – Beth Wiseman
Associated Women – Nina Rosenzweg	Jewish Women of Howard County – Michelle Lurie	Temple Isaiah Sisterhood – Ellen Strichartz
Beth El Congregation Sisterhood – Glenda Chernoff	Jewish Women's International – Betsy Felsenberg	The Women's Club of Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation – Miriam Lavender (in memoriam)
Beth Israel Congregation Sisterhood – Cindy Bradley	Kappa Guild, Inc. – Michale Sharon Mislner	The Women's Club of Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation – Erma Sigler
Beth Tfiloh Congregation Sisterhood – Brenda Pariser	Levindale Auxiliary, Inc. – Yael Schwarzenberger	Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation – Marcia Rosenblatt
Brandeis Nat'l Committee, Baltimore Chapter – Norma Axel	Miriam Lodge, K.S.B., Inc. – Reta Zuckerman (in memoriam)	E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award – Alyson Friedman
CHANA – Joy Katzenberg	Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah Sisterhood – Shirley Carp (in memoriam)	Federation President – Marcia Bornfriend
Chizuk Amuno Congregation Sisterhood – Sheila Sandbank	Ner Tamid Greenspring Valley Synagogue Sisterhood – Naomi Lazerow	
Covenant Guild, Inc. – Estelle Bloomberg	Rodger C. Snyder Memorial, Ladies Auxiliary – Jewish War Veterans - Cheryl Mitnick	

Send \$5 or more for each honoree you want to recognize!

Make check payable to:

The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of MD

Mail check and form to:

Ann Fishkin, 6501 Trotwood Court, Baltimore, MD 21209

For additional information contact Ann Fishkin at 410-484-9604.

This form is also available on our website: jewishwomensfed.org.

<i>Your Name:</i>	
<i>Address:</i>	
<i>Phone:</i>	<i>Number of Cards @ \$5</i> _____
<i>Email:</i>	<i>Total Enclosed \$</i> _____

E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree



ALYSON FRIEDMAN

Alyson Friedman has been serving as a community volunteer in Baltimore for over 20 years in numerous capacities. Alyson currently serves as the Co-Chair of Marketing for Na'aleh: The Hub for Leadership Learning at The Associated. She is a Founding Board Member, Past Chair and Campaign Liaison for the Jewish Women's Giving Foundation (JWGF), and has served as Women's Campaign Chair for The Associated. She recently chaired J-Live, JCC's largest annual fundraiser to support children with scholarship needs. Alyson has also chaired the JCC's Hall of Fame which honors exceptional Jewish Baltimoreans who have made significant contributions to the community in various fields.

Alyson served on the National Women's Philanthropy Board of the Jewish Federations of North America for six years. At CHANA, Baltimore's response to domestic violence, childhood trauma and elder abuse in the Jewish community, she proudly served for 17 years as a helpline volunteer and served as a board member and in other various roles, including as President. She is also a graduate of ACHARAI: The Shoshana Cardin Leadership Institute's first cohort and the Presidents Circle.

Alyson graduated from The University of Michigan with a BA in Communications and Psychology and earned an MA in Counseling Psychology from Towson University. She is married to John Friedman and between them they have five adult children. Alyson is the mother of Jessica and Josh.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT OUR 104TH CONVENTION



SHEELA MURTHY

Sheela Murthy is a world renowned immigration lawyer, entrepreneur and philanthropist. She is the founder and president of Murthy Law Firm, which has been ranked as one of the world's leading U.S. immigration law firms. A committed leader and philanthropist, Murthy is recognized for her work in the United States and in her native India. Through the MurthyNAYAK Foundation, she and her husband, Vasant Nayak, support the work of organizations that share their goals.

Most recently a book, titled **Being Sheela: The Life of an Immigrant Lawyer** written by Aditi Rao, follows her journey from India to America to Harvard Law School to The Murthy Law Firm, one of the most successful immigration law firms in the world. It discusses some of her most interesting law cases and traces her life as a lawyer, entrepreneur and philanthropist. We are honored to have Sheela as our keynote speaker at our 104th Annual Convention.

Social Action Project on March 10, 2021 — MEALS ON WHEELS OF CENTRAL MARYLAND More than a meal™

On March 10, 2021, Beverly Day-Robinson, Director, Individual Giving, received our donation Social Action Project to the **Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland** program that provides kosher meals for homebound seniors in need. This exchange took place at the Weinberg Building near Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital which is the coordination site for the Kosher Kitchen where more than 75 cold meals and 150 hot meals are prepared daily for distribution to the Jewish senior community. The Meals on Wheels program was very appreciative of our support. For information about volunteer opportunities to help the Kosher Kitchen prepare or distribute kosher meals, please visit our website <https://www.mealsonwheelsmd.org/> and click on the link to the Meals on Wheels Program.

104th Annual Convention UPDATE

The theme for our convention this year is - “Welcoming the Stranger.”

Often, we are not aware of the gems and jewels that we have in our midst in Maryland. But at our Annual Convention, we will make sure that they shine brightly for all to see.

To that end, we will be recognizing and honoring 26 gems and jewels -- outstanding “Women Who Welcome” -- one from each of the 26 constituent organizations under the Federation umbrella.

Another jewel on whom we will shine the spotlight is Alyson Friedman, Marketing Co-Chair, Na’aleh: The Hub for Leadership and Learning at the Associated. She will be receiving the prestigious E. B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award. We will hear how Alyson Friedman’s leadership has impacted the Jewish community and beyond for over 20 years. We will learn about her service as a volunteer and as a president of numerous organizations, and the many wonderful connections and admirers that she has garnered through her service over the years.

Last but not least, we will hear from another jewel in Maryland, our keynote speaker, Sheela Murthy, Esquire. Mrs. Murthy is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, public speaker and an internationally recognized U.S. immigration lawyer. After growing up in a family of modest means in India, Mrs. Murthy, through fierce dedication to her goal of social justice, attained a degree from Harvard Law School. She started her own law firm and has achieved renown status as one of the world’s top immigration lawyers. Her keynote presentation will address current issues concerning the important topic of immigration today.

The 104th Annual Convention will take place on Thursday, May 13, 2021, and will be held via Zoom. While we will miss meeting in person, the good news is that we have had a year to practice Zoom conferencing to get it right! The timeframe for the Convention is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We look forward to your joining us for what will be an exciting event that is sure to lift our spirits as well as educate and inspire us.

REGISTRATION FOR CONVENTION

Reservation Link— https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlof--grzMrG9S1Mj4L9D7tsY9we9vb4_4q

Payment Link— <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLSAGTYW31SES/checkout/ER5QWYIJRKMUW5OEXLFCZXMl>

You may send your **\$20 registration fee** by mail. Make check payable to: The Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations of Maryland and mail to Ann Fishkin, 6501 Trotwood Court, Baltimore, MD 21209.

Federation Nominating Committee Report-January 20, 2021

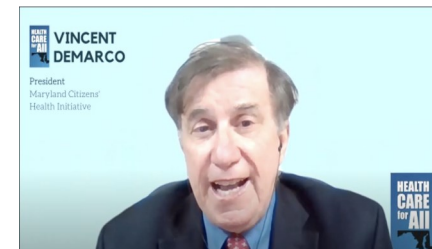
The nominating committee which consists of Jane Davis, Sheila Derman, Barbara Fink, Rae Shalowitz, Eve Vogelstein and Helene Waranch, met on Monday January 11, 2021 by Zoom.

By unanimous consent, CeCe Rund was nominated to be first Vice President and she accepted the nomination. All other officers are serving a two-year term which will be completed in May, 2022.

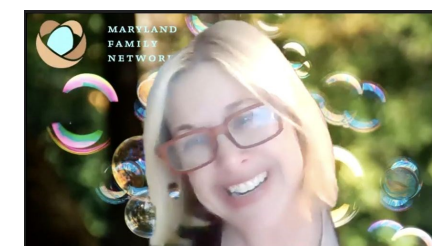
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Boteach- Immediate Past President, Nominating Committee Chair

Challenges for Women and Families During COVID By CeCe Rund

The Federation once again ZOOM’d in with over 65 participants to hear three talented and informative speakers provide information to help us better understand what has been happening during this pandemic regarding **Challenges for Women and Families During COVID**.



Vinnie DeMarco, President of the Maryland Citizen’s Health Initiative, presented information on Equity in Healthcare. He told us that our Affordable Healthcare Act has decreased the uninsured persons from 13% to 4%! There is also an increase in the overall access to healthcare in MD. His organization is working on a trifecta: an easy enrollment program that will ensure that persons get healthcare coverage (House Bill #1002/Senate #893), securing subsidies for the uninsured/low income young adults (House Bill #780/Senate # 729) and developing a Health Equity Resource Center (House Bill # 172/Senate #463). The committee is looking to increase the state alcohol tax to one cent on the dollar to fund healthcare programs.



Laura Weeldreyer, Executive Director of the Maryland Family Network, addressed *COVID: Effects on the Family Unit*, which runs programs like Head Start, family support centers and a statewide network for childcare. According to Laura, a UNICEF survey revealed that our USA is not a family friendly country in that we severely lack policies to support families and young children. Women remain the “shock absorbers” of all systems and suffer more than men as women have lost more jobs during COVID and are

the only caregiver as child care centers closed during COVID. Women are performing dual roles: caring for kids during the day and holding down some sort of employment in the evenings. Manufacturing and construction jobs, typically held by men, have not been hit as hard during COVID. Children are missing their well-care visits and vaccination visits as mothers rely on clinics but have no transportation or scheduled appointment times. Laura addressed many other issues that women face during this pandemic which will affect the entire family unit. A Maryland Family Network survey showed that 50% of child care providers would not survive this COVID shutdown. The good news is that Maryland will receive a 502 million dollar grant for child care.



Lauren Shaivitz, Executive Director of CHANA, discussed *Abuse Issues During COVID*. Just as the nation has seen an increase in abuse, so is CHANA observing increases in abuse against women in our Jewish communities during this pandemic. One caller stated, “I don’t know if I am more afraid of the virus or my abuser. I could be killed at home, but no one would know due to this lockdown.”

There is a new form of abuse that is called, Pandemic Abuse. People feel trapped. Unemployment is up. Alcohol sales have increased by 250% and this leads to more abusive behavior such as spitting on a partner, inviting persons in the home and ignoring social distancing and face mask wearing. Persons have also gone outside of the home without a mask to intimidate others and their family members or they have attended large and crowded events without taking pandemic precautions. CHANA also sees more elder abuse by either the intimate partner or by children and grandchildren. Elders have issues getting care and food.

There is a lack of resources for abused persons such as court being closed that could have handled cases and lead to help for the abused, inability to seek shelter at a friend’s house or with a relative due to COVID and even the closing of hotels that could have housed the abused.

So, what can we do? Support laws and referendums that support abused victims. And, of course, support CHANA when possible with a charitable donation.