



THE FLAMIE

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

Winter 2021

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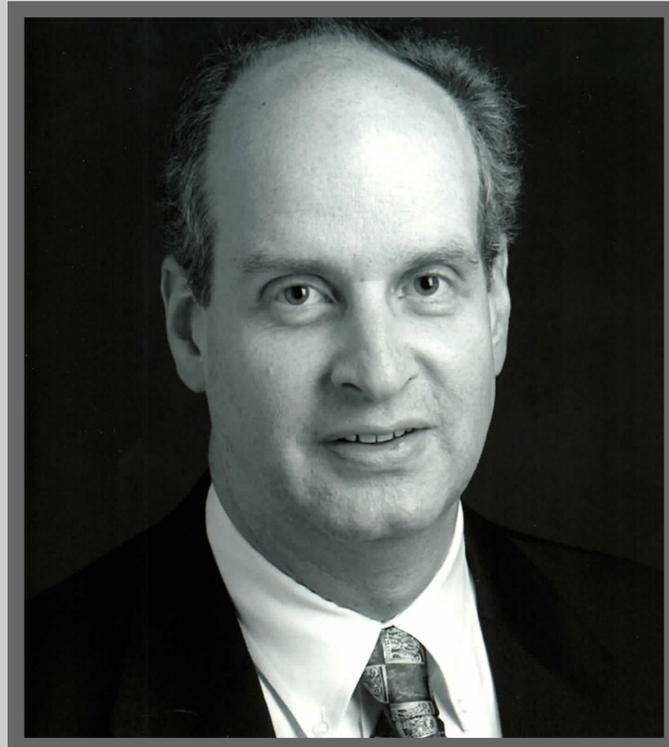
Sheila Mentz,

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The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE After the Inauguration: What Next?

**Thursday, January 21, 2021
9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.**



Featured Speaker: **Barry Rascavar**

Political Commentator

Virtually Presented via Zoom

Register by January 18 to annfishkin5@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT—

We are supporting MEALS ON WHEELS OF CENTRAL MARYLAND providing Kosher meals to home bound seniors in need. Please help and make your check payable to: Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of MD. Mail check to Linda Roedel, 113 Old House Ct., Baltimore, Maryland 21208.

Message from Our President



Who would have known that we would be meeting via Zoom for board meetings, planning meetings and events? For our organizations to be functional, we all needed to learn technology skills that a year ago would not have been used. It looks like we will not be meeting face-to-face for a long while. The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland has been training leaders of some of our constituent organizations to create and host Zoom meetings. It has been a learning experience for all. If anyone needs to have this training, let us know.

Our meetings for 2021 are interesting, diverse and important to us all. We will start off 2021 with Barry Rascovar who will speak to us about "After the Inauguration: What Next?" on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. On Thursday, March 18, 2021, our program will focus on "Women's Health Today: Changes and Challenges." Also mark your calendars for our 104th Annual Convention, "Welcoming the Stranger," on May 13th. We will be recognizing each organizations' honoree and Alyson Friedman will receive the E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award.

Two of this year's goals are:

1. To contact our constituent organizations so that the Federation can speak at a board meeting to talk about Federation and our mission.
2. To reach out to other organizations in Maryland to join us under our umbrella for mutual benefits. Using Zoom will link distant organizations to Federation and other organizations now and in the future.

Even though we cannot meet in-person, there are some positive things we have gained from Zoom. We have learned to have effective meetings on the internet. Attendance is up at meetings and we can reach more people who might not have otherwise come to Federation events. I can see using Zoom even when we can come together after the threat of COVID-19. Nothing replaces meeting face-to-face but this technology allows us to connect with each other in a very proactive and interactive way. We need to keep our minds open for all possibilities to use the new skills we have learned this year.

I wish all of you a wonderful and safe new year.
Marcia Bornfriend



UPCOMING FEDERATION MEETINGS

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 9:30 a.m. – Zoom

"After the Inauguration: What Next?"

Join us for this presentation by Barry Rascovar, a well-known Sunpaper columnist, speaker and author of [The Great Game of Politics](#). A brief business meeting will precede Barry Rascovar's program.

Thursday, March 18, 2021, 11 a.m. – Zoom

"Women's Health Today: Changes and Challenges"

Thursday, May 13, 2021 – Zoom

104th Annual Federation Convention "Welcoming the Stranger"

OUR OPENING MEETING WITH BARBARA MIKULSKI by CeCe Rund

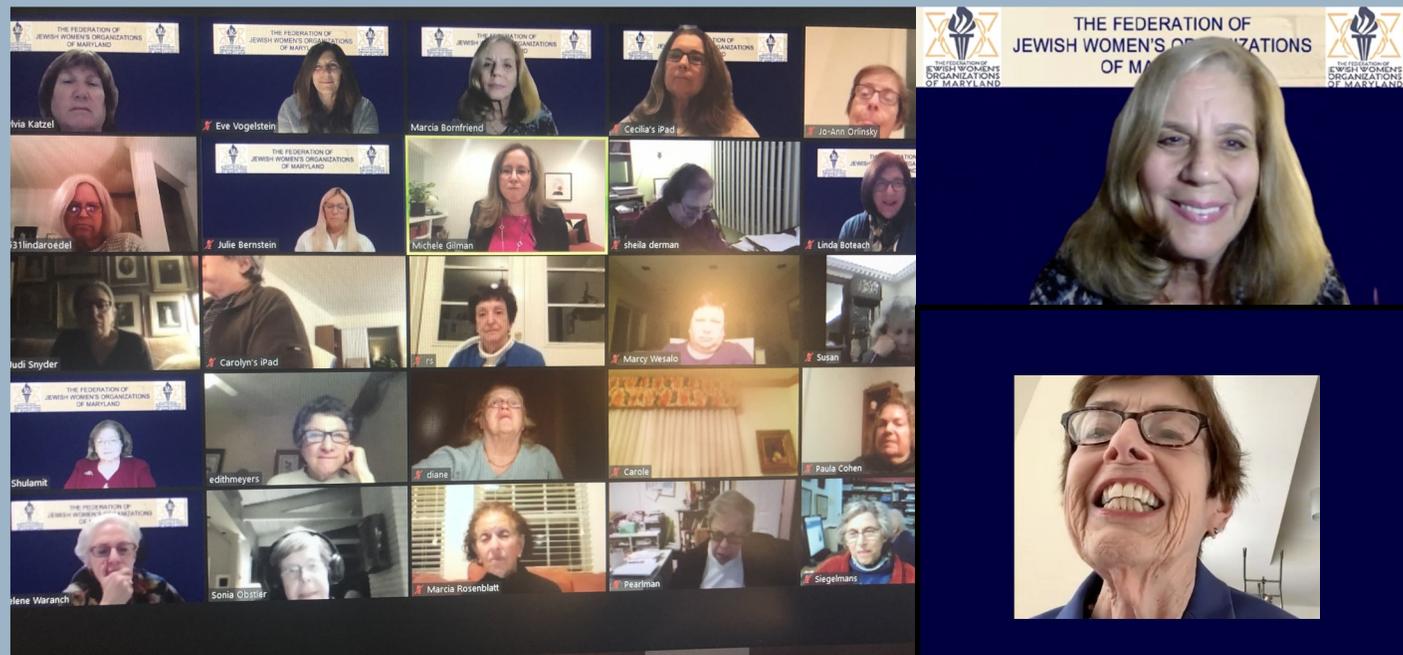


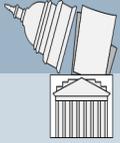
Over 130 persons signed into ZOOM on October 15, 2020 to hear and see Senator (retired) Barbara Mikulski present, "A Conversation with Barbara Mikulski: Leadership Challenges from a Women's Perspective".

Our president, Marcia Bornfriend, held a short business meeting at 9:30. Barbara Mikulski was then introduced by another well-known retired politician, Paula Hollinger. We also had Shelly Hettleman, our Democratic member of the Maryland Senate, on board to enjoy Mikulski's talk.

Jo-Ann Orlinsky, our co-chair of Advocacy and Resolutions, moderated the questions for Senator Mikulski. The former Senator reflected upon her years of service and provided us with solid information as to how a woman, in a male

dominated political arena, can work with others to get things done. She talked about her program, *Hands Across the Aisle*, which guided many Democrats and Republicans to work together for the common good. The Enoch Pratt Library will be opening a Barbara Mikulski Room in the future that will house a variety of artifacts, documents and photos which will provide a great documentary into the Senator's political career. She is an icon and we were so fortunate to have her share some of her wisdom with us.





Legislative Update
by
Jo-Ann Orlinsky

Federation—Legislative Update—December 1, 2020

DID YOU KNOW —

That after vetoing any 2020 bills that would need appropriations to be implemented, Governor Hogan let all the rest of the bills that passed the General Assembly become law without his signature?

That there were 11 anti-choice bills introduced in the 2020 Maryland legislature?

That since 2011, 450 state laws have passed in the U.S. restricting access to reproductive health?

That for the last 40 years, the Hyde Amendment has denied abortion coverage to anyone in federal health programs, including federal employees and their dependents, the military and their dependents, Medicaid, Medicare, and U.S. health programs across the world?

That legal immigrants must work 5 years before becoming eligible for health care and receiving federal funding, even though they are paying taxes?

That in 2017 the U.S. limit on accepting refugees was 110,000 and in 2021 the cap is 15,000?

That denying public aid to green card immigrants denies their U.S. born children from such programs as food assistance, housing and Medicaid?

That even with the Supreme Court decision on DACA, immigration officials are not accepting new DACA applications and the price of naturalization applications has risen to \$1,200?

That every day, 42,964 survivors of domestic violence and their children seek help from domestic violence programs across the U.S.?

That the FBI recorded more than 7,300 reported hate crimes in 2019; the highest number since 2008, and 63% targeted Jews?

That Maryland didn't ratify the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote until 1941?

We have our work cut out for us: Women's health, immigration and support for domestic violence programs are our priorities.

LOOKING FOR NEW WOMEN'S GROUPS By Linda Boteach

The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland is an umbrella group that has managed to stay in existence and thrive for over 100 years because we always adapt to the changes and trends in the Jewish community in order to stay relevant. Diversity in our groups, our backgrounds and locations is one of the strengths of Federation.

Since Maryland is part of the Federation's name, our recent leadership has begun to invite women's groups, sisterhoods and service organizations across Maryland to be part of the Federation.

This year, a committee has been formed to compile a list of groups that might be interested in joining Federation and to formulate a plan to attract these women's groups. With the help of Zoom, we feel we can easily invite other groups throughout Maryland to participate in the programs and activities of Federation. Initially our focus will be on groups in Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

If you know of any women's group throughout Maryland that you think may be interested in Federation, wherever the location, please let us know. Committee members will be happy to contact and talk with them to see if they want to be part of Federation. Contact Linda Boteach by email: Linda.boteach@gmail.com.

The Supreme Court Now: How it Affects YOU! By CeCe Rund

“The Supreme Court Now: How it Affects YOU!” This was the title for our fall evening ZOOM program held on November 19, 2020. Michele Gilman, Venable Professor of Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law, gave us a complete and concise history of our Jewish justices, past and present. She explained who appointed them, when and how they stood on issues and whether they were conservative or liberal. Professor Gilman then reviewed women’s issues at stake with the appointment to the bench of the newest conservative Associate Justice, Amy Coney Barrett. We were able to better appreciate how *Roe vs. Wade* (among other issues at stake) can affect us as women more than one may think. Professor Gilman’s complete presentation was concerning, yet fascinating. We would like to hear more from her in the future as these important issues unfold.



MICHELE GILMAN

Our March 2021 trip to Annapolis is cancelled due to COVID-19. We are currently in conversation to fill that date with another program. May 2021 will bring our annual convention via ZOOM. We also anticipate having a School-for-the day program, which is in the planning phase as well. Stay tuned!



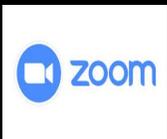
Update for the 104th Annual Convention by Shulamit Finkelstein

In early spring of 2020, the Women's Federation was excitedly putting together the finishing touches for the 104th Annual Convention. And then COVID-19 hit! Under those circumstances, and for the safety and welfare of all, we decided to reschedule the Convention for 2021.

We are now planning to hold the 104th Annual Convention on Thursday, May 13, 2021. However, the convention will be held virtually via Zoom – for the safety and welfare of all.

Our Convention theme will be “Welcoming the Stranger,” and we will be honoring the “Women Who Welcome” who were nominated by our member organizations. The E.B. Hirsh Award will be presented to Alyson Friedman and we will have a dynamic speaker who will update us on current immigration status and issues.

Now that we are well versed in Zoom, we are planning creative and interesting events for the virtual Convention and we look forward to your joining us for our virtual event. Please be on the lookout for updates and reminders. Don't forget to please mark your calendar for Thursday, May 13, 2021.



ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH ZOOM TECHNOLOGY???

Federation is happy to offer two classes to help you!

- **BASIC ZOOM INSTRUCTION** - Tuesday, January 12, 10:00 a.m.
 - **HOW TO HOST YOUR NEXT ZOOM MEETING**— Tuesday, January 26, 10:00 a.m.
- For registration and info, contact Julie Bernstein at Juliebb36@aol.com .



Under Our Umbrella

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

Upcoming Events by our Organizations

ADAT CHAIM SISTERHOOD

Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30PM - Sisterhood Appreciation Paid up Event. Sisterhood update, Chanukah Bingo, door prizes and much more.

Sisterhood Shabbat takes place on Saturday, January 16th virtually; a boxed kiddush lunch will be put together sponsored by the Sisterhood so we can enjoy some time to schmooze after services. Pick-up on Friday, January 15th from the shul or arrange for delivery if needed. RSVP by January 8th.

Save the dates:

February 10th - Scrap Yard - virtual event (more details to follow)

March 10th - Jews in Space virtual event put on by the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

For questions and to RSVP -Contact Cathy Litofsky at acsisterhood18@gmail.com

BETH EL SISTERHOOD - VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

January 4 (Meeting at 11:30 a.m.; Speaker at 12:00 noon) – Dr. David Agus - CBS News contributor, American physician, author and Professor of Medicine and Engineering at the University of Southern California. He is co-founder of Navigenics, a personalized medicine company and Applied Proteomics. Grandson of Beth El's Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Jacob B. Agus, David will join us LIVE from California.

See below for registration information

February 1 (Meeting at 11:30 a.m.; Speaker at 12:00 noon) – Melissa Hyatt - Presently, the 14th Baltimore County police chief and the first woman to lead this department. Registration due by Friday, January 22.

[continued...](#)



Under Our Umbrella

Upcoming Events by our Organizations continued...

BETH EL SISTERHOOD - VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

March 1 (Meeting at 11:30 a.m.; Speaker at 12:00 noon) – Abby Stein - American transgender author, activist, blogger, model, speaker and rabbi. She is the first openly transgender woman raised in a Hasidic community, and is a direct descendant of Hasidic Judaism's founder, the Baal Shem Tov. Abby will join us LIVE from New York. Registration due by Friday, February 19.

Individual Meeting and Subscription Costs & Registration (All meetings will be live via Zoom and by invitation only!)
Beth El Sisterhood member \$10/individual prog.; \$75/subscription. Beth El Congregation member (non-Sisterhood member) \$13/individual prog.; \$100/subscription
Non-member of Beth El Congregation or Sisterhood \$15/individual program.; \$115/subscription
To register for programs, please contact Marcia Boonshaft at boonshaftjm@gmail.com or 410-484-3112.

BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting. Speaker Edutainer, Ellen Katz Presents: "Beyond the Stratosphere: Barbra Streisand," when she will discuss Barbara's life and career with songs. Contact Edie Meyers ediemeyers@hotmail.com 410-998-9553 for Zoom information.
Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. Speaker: Melanie Berdyck, Dietitian, Giant Food, will speak on "Heart Healthy Desserts ". Contact Edie Meyers ediemeyers@hotmail.com 410-998-9553 for Zoom information.
Saturday, February 27, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Sisterhood Shabbat on Zoom. Contact Edie Meyers ediemeyers@hotmail.com 410-998-9553 for Zoom information.

CHANA

Please help CHANA clients by purchasing gift cards for Giant Food and gas and mailing the cards to Lauren Shaivitz, 11708 Greenspring Avenue, Lutherville, MD 21093. If you are cleaning closets you can drop off your unwanted clothing, shoes, linens and stuffed animals (in tied plastic bags, please) - at one of CHANA'S three clothing sheds. **Please note that we cannot accept housewares, books, toys, electronics or breakables.**
THANK YOU!

Drop-off boxes are located at Beth Tfiloh Congregation, Temple Oheb Shalom, Rosenbloom Owings Mills JCC.

COVENANT GUILD

Sunday, March 21, 2021 - Mah Jongg Tournament (location and time TBD.)

ISRAEL BONDS WOMEN'S DIVISION

Winter 2021—Annual Game Day is tentatively scheduled as a Virtual Event - More details to follow.

KAPPA GUILD, INC.

February- Virtual meeting and tour of Horizon Day Camp for Children with Cancer. Date TBD.

Wednesday, March 1- Virtual Purim Masquerade Party and Scavenger Hunt.

WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

"Fill Your Cup" Zoom Programs, every Wednesday from 1:30-2:30pm:

December 23 -Estee Lauder: Her Life and Legacy presented by Barbara Blumberg, educator.

January 6 - Cooking by chef Susan Keyser, owner of Omelet Queen.

January 13 -The Evolution of Pantyhose and the Causalization of Modern Society presented by Dr. Sara Jablon-Roberts, Associate Professor of Fashion Merchandising and Retail at Johnson and Wells University.

January 27 - Women of Reform Judaism at the United Nations presented by Leslie Brier, WRJ board member and WRJ rep to the UN.

February 3 - Cooking.

February 10 - Art in Photography presented by Marcia Bornfriend, educator in art and technology.

February 17— Let My Clutter Go presented by Cindy Bernstein, owner of Aim 4 Order.

February 24— TBA

Join on Zoom each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220200615?pwd=MEEdibXFKUVdpQ3JNdFo3b0FCStWhTQT09>

Monday, March 22, 2021 60th Interfaith Institute "Lens or Blindfold? Religious Faith and the Challenges of Our Time" presented by Rabbi Michael Marmur, Associate Professor of Jewish Theology at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, 9:30-12 noon on zoom; email Carolcja@comcast.net for more Information.

THE WOMEN OF HAR SINAI - OHEB SHALOM CONGREGATION

All of these events are via ZOOM. No cost to participants. Our congregation is changing its name so be on the lookout for a new name in the next FLAME.



Save the date
104th Federation Annual Convention
May 13, 2021



Federation Calendar
(meetings are held on Thursdays)



BECOME A FRIEND OF FEDERATION

ALL MEETINGS ARE VIRTUAL

Mid-Winter Meeting

January 21, 2021

Winter Meeting

March 18, 2021

104th Annual Convention

May 13, 2021

President Reception 2021

Date to be determined

FRIEND OF FEDERATION FORM

Your contribution of \$18 a year allows you to receive all Flames, the annual directory and all mailings. You also help to underwrite Federation's meetings. Thank you for becoming a Friend of Federation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Organization _____

Make your check payable to:

The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland
Please mail check to:

Ann Fishkin, Treasurer, 6501 Trotwood Court,
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

Info: Sylvia Katzel, skatzel@hotmail.com or C: 410-456-8128



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