



# THE FLAME

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

Winter 2025

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The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland

Thursday, January 23, 2025

10:00 AM via Zoom

## "Bankrupting Terrorism-One Lawsuit at a Time!"

Guest Speaker: Nitsana Darshan-Leitner

Founder and President of  
Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Center



Click the link below by January 21st to make your reservation and receive your Zoom link.

Questions, contact Julie Bernstein

301-706-6086 or [36juliebernstein@gmail.com](mailto:36juliebernstein@gmail.com)

**Social Action Project:** In appreciation of our Israeli speaker, please consider a donation to an organization of your choice which supports Israel's quest for peace and for the successful release of all hostages.

Remember to "Be a Friend of Federation."

Website: [jewishwomensfed.org](http://jewishwomensfed.org) | Email: [info@jewishwomensfed.org](mailto:info@jewishwomensfed.org)

## Message from Our President



Dear Federation Members,  
Friends and Officers,

I hope you had a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving! While this period in our history has been difficult for the Jewish

people, we are still obligated to give thanks for the many blessings that we have had bestowed on us. Among those blessings are our families and friends, our freedoms, the opportunity to fight for and change our circumstances for the better and to right the wrongs we see in our communities.

For 109 years the Women's Federation has served as a voice and a resource for its member organizations. Among our initiatives is keeping you up to date on legislative issues that affect the daily lives of women and families. To that end, our Resolutions/Legislative Advocacy Committee members keep close tabs on what our legislators are doing. The Committee members regularly report their findings and meet with Federation members to develop resolutions that support legislative initiatives. The resolutions are sent to our legislators to help guide them to enact laws that we believe will better our communities.

The Federation's Resolutions/Legislative Advocacy Committee meets every January to develop resolutions. The meeting is hosted by Sheila Derman. Women's Federation members

are welcome to join the January meeting to help develop resolutions. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in joining the January meeting.

Last but definitely not least, we are excited to announce the guest speaker for our January 23<sup>rd</sup> Zoom meeting starting at 10:00 am! Our guest speaker is Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, President of Shurat Ha Din Israel Law Center. Ms. Darshan-Leitner, an Israeli attorney, has been called "the David of her time" for her successful efforts in going after the enormous financial resources that fund terrorists worldwide. Her method is using legal means in order to bring justice to victims of terror. She will be joining us from Israel and will describe how her worldwide cadre of attorneys win their cases. Please be on the lookout for our invitation flier to register. This is a presentation you will not want to miss!

Plans for our 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention are underway and is sure to be a great event! Please save the date: May 15, 2025. Please be on the lookout for more information.

On behalf of our Women's Federation officers, I wish you a joyous Chanukah and a happy New Year. We continue to pray for peace for Israel and the release of the hostages. Am Yisrael Chai!



**Shulamit Finkelstein, President**

*"The beauty of empowering others is that your own power is not diminished in the process."*

*...Barbara Colorose*

## Federation Legislative Update—2024

**ELECTION OVERVIEW**—We are very closely divided. We have a Republican Party under the dominance of one and a Democratic party who no longer knows who or what to do. Some of us believe that if Joe Biden had not sought re-election from the beginning, there are dozens of competent men and women 45 to 65 in state legislatures, city councils and state houses such as in MD. From Zeke Cohen, Brooke Lehrman, Angela Alsobrooks to Governor Wes Moore, each of them could have had a great challenging primary emerging with a great victory but that was not to be. Our hope is that maybe many on both sides will now join together and speak up so that democracy can flourish.

**HEALTHCARE**—The Affordable Care Act is still the best we have. There are several bills in Congress that for years control costs, give more coverage and reduce autocratic denials. Both parties have played political football. Get to know your new elected officials even if you don't like them and demand action especially for women's health. Be Pro-Choice, not just about abortion but about saving women's lives. Get involved locally.

**ISRAEL**—The country continues to maintain our support for the democratically elected government in its quest for peace and security. Continue to urge our elected officials to do the same.

**ANTISEMITISM**—EDUCATE, EDUCATE. Prepare our children and support strong hate crime laws.



**BOOK BANNING**— Work on local levels. Many states are now legislating against local book banning. Monitor these efforts and support when possible.

**IMMIGRATION** - No matter how you feel from a practical perspective, how can Trump deport millions and how can you even find them? We cannot use the military and cannot send the immigrants back to countries that won't take them. The estimated cost would be 89 billion dollars. Do you know if the people who clean and care for you and your home are legal? Maybe the companies they work for are but are the employees?

Do your homework...join others...stand up for what is right.. **BE BRAVE**

## OPENING MEETING WITH LOLA HAHN



Each September the Women's Federation hosts an opening breakfast meeting for Federation Friends and members. This September our opening meeting was held at North Oaks Senior Living Community. Lauren Plotkin, North Oaks Community Outreach Liaison and her staff were our gracious hosts. Over 60 persons were in attendance. Our morning began with a brief business meeting to update our members and Friends of Federation on Federation activities. Announcements were made regarding the Maryland Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment and the new Federation eUpdates.

**Lola Hahn**, our guest speaker and daughter of Holocaust survivors, was warmly received by our attendees. The topic of her presentation was "**Stories of Survival.**" Lola's riveting story of how her mother and two aunts survived the Holocaust moved our attendees deeply.

Our social action project for this meeting was in partnership with Kappa Guild. Attendees were asked to bring art and school supplies, toys and games for the children at Mount Washington Children's Hospital. Rochelle Bohrer, Federation's Corresponding Secretary, reported that six bags and one large box of donated items were delivered to the hospital. She reported that the hospital's staff "*was surprised, excited and appreciative to receive the contribution from Kappa and Federation.*" Rochelle added that "*it was a wonderful feeling to do the mitzvah of fulfilling the Guild's mission of helping children in need.*"





# OPENING MEETING PHOTOS



Pictured above from left to right, Shulamit Finkelstein and Lola Hahn, Harriet Robinson and CeCe Rund, Nina Rosenzweg, Eve Vogelstein, Linda Boteach and Marcia Bornfriend, Helene Waranch, Julie Bernstein, Harriett Meier, Rochelle Bohrer, Ann Fishkin, Sheila Derman, CeCe Rund, Linda Roedel and Linda Boteach.



## 109th ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 15, 2025

We are thrilled to have you mark your calendars for The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland's 109th Convention on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. The theme this year will be **"The Future of Women: Legal Ramifications."** Registration will begin at 9:30 AM with the morning business session beginning at 10:00 AM. We are honored to award our **E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award** in the morning session to **Nancy Kohn Rabin**. Nancy is a wonderful choice, showing her intelligence, competence and diligence. Her volunteerism goes back numerous years. Nancy was Chair of the Board of Achari, Associated Women's Campaign Director, Chair of Jewish Community Services and the Board of Trustees at Park School. You will just have to come so you can hear how blessed the Baltimore community is to have her to help celebrate her achievements.

After a beautiful kosher lunch, our afternoon session will start with an incredible speaker. We are pleased to announce that **Katie Curran O'Malley** will be our keynote speaker. Mrs. O'Malley served as a Baltimore City District Court Judge. She is married to Martin O'Malley, a former governor of Maryland. Currently she serves as the executive director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland, which focuses on legal representation and legislative advocacy to support and protect women. She is quite accomplished and we think she will be a welcome addition to the program. After which, we get the privilege of highlighting our constituent organizations and the volunteer honorees they have chosen to recognize with **"A Woman Who Plans For The Future Award."**

We hope you will join us for the auspicious day. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to notify Julie Bernstein, this year's chair at [36juliebernstein@gmail.com](mailto:36juliebernstein@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER MEETING WITH MICHAELE COHEN FROM MLAW



Our annual Women's Federation dinner meeting that was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> also focused on women's role in advocating for laws that improve our lives. This was a joint meeting with the Har Sinai Oheb Shalom sisterhood and held at their temple. Our guest speaker was **Michaela Cohen**, co-founder of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) and president of its Board. The Women's Federation is a member of MLAW and sends several members to MLAW's annual convention where they help select bills that are then sent to our legislators for consideration. In over 30 years, MLAW has supported 119 bills that were passed by the Maryland General Assembly – an amazing record! MLAW truly empowers women to change lives for the better in such areas as health care, child care, domestic violence, employment and sexual assault.

In addition, our social action project for the November meeting had us partnering with Covenant Guild to collect non-perishable foods for Owings Mills Elementary School's food pantry for Thanksgiving. We had great success in collecting numerous items which we forwarded to Covenant Guild. Please let us know if your organization has a social action project for which we might be able to partner with you at one of our future meetings.



## 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](mailto:easelthew@aol.com).

#### BETH EL SISTERHOOD

**Wednesday March 19, 2025 12:00 – 3:30 PM.** Spring Game Day at Beth El Congregation, Offit Auditorium, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, 21208. Come and enjoy an afternoon of playing your favorite game with your friends (Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Rummikub) and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch. \$45 pp. For more informatin, please contact Charlotte Forman, [cforman815@gmail.com](mailto:cforman815@gmail.com).

**Sunday-Monday, April 27-28, 2025 10 AM – 5 PM.** Unique Boutique at Beth El Congregation, Offit Auditorium, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, 21208. A wonderful vendor show – 30 marvelous vendors of clothing, jewelry, crafts, makeup, toys and gifts – just in time for Mother's Day! Come, browse and buy! No entry fee. For more information contact Randy Jacobs, [rbj411@verizon.net](mailto:rbj411@verizon.net).

#### BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

**Sunday, January 26, 2025 - 12:00 PM.** Plant your own tropical terrarium at Beth Israel Congregation 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mill, MD 21117. \$18.00 per planter (all supplies provided). Pre-register and pay in advance by January 2, 2025. For more information contact: Suzanne Kiewe 410-294-8411 [SuzKiewe@gmail.com](mailto:SuzKiewe@gmail.com).

**Saturday, February 22, 2025.** Sisterhood Shabbat at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane Owings Mills, Md. 21117

**Sunday, March 23, 2025.** Sustainable Seder (All information to be determined).

#### BETH TFILOH SISTERHOOD

**Thursday January 23, 2025.** Game Day - \$28 includes a delish lunch. Check BT website in January for a link to sign-up.

Starting January 6-31, 2025, 20% off sales in the BT Gift Shop

#### CHIZUK AMUNAH SISTERHOOD

**January 26, 2025 10:30 AM.** Dignity Grows -The mission of Dignity Grows is to eliminate Period Poverty in America through direct support by local community organizations to help effect social change. We will be packing bags which will be donated to local organizations who will distribute them to girls and women in need.Two options: Sponsor a Bag for \$10 and/or attend the Packing Party which is FREE - 8100 Stevenson Road. For more information, please contact Marni Kahn, [Marni\\_braunstein@yahoo.com](mailto:Marni_braunstein@yahoo.com).

**March 9, 2025 11:00 AM.** Mah Jongg Tournament FUNdraiser - Lunch included, COST To Be Determined 8100 Stevenson Road, Pikesville, MD 21208. Community Mah Jongg Tournament to benefit the Jewish Theological Society's Torah Fund which supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning. Help strengthen Jewish education and ensure the vibrancy of the Jewish people for decades to come when you join us for a FUN day of Mah Jongg. For more information, contact [Linda Eisenberg, jaismom@comcast.net](mailto:Linda Eisenberg, jaismom@comcast.net).

**April 27, 2025 12:00PM.** Askin Book Review - Lunch included, COST To Be Determined - 8100 Stevenson Road, Pikesville, MD 21208. For more information, please contact Donna Friedman, [donnagfried@comcast.net](mailto:donnagfried@comcast.net).

#### COVENANT GUILD

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025.** Covenant Guild's Card Party / Day of Games. Sign up with your friends to play Mah Jongg, cards or any game you would like to bring. Lunch will be provided as well as vendors to shop during the event. Check back to Federation's website for updated information. For more information please contact Beth Schlein, [bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com](mailto:bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com), 410-530-2055.

**Sunday, April 27, 2005 10:00 AM.** Covenant Guild's Annual Pot-of-Gold Event at Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation. We will have a Champagne Brunch and Spin the Wheel. Purchase a ticket or a part of a ticket to have a chance to win. For more information, please contact Beth Schlein, [bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com](mailto:bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com), 410-530-2055.

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:00 AM.** Covenant Guild's 70th Donor. This event will be held at the Martin's Valley Mansion. Our Annual Donor Event where we will celebrate and present the organizations with funds that we raised. Cost - \$75. For more information, please contact Beth Schlein, [bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com](mailto:bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com), 410-530-2055.

Covenant Guild also has our 2025 Lottery Calendars and Fireball Cards. If anyone is interested , please contact Beth Schlein, [bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com](mailto:bethschlein.covenantguild@gmail.com), 410-530-2055.

# Under Our Umbrella

## Upcoming Events by our Organizations Continued...

The Flame is happy to highlight your organization's events.  
Submit your information to Elissa Ness, [easelthew@aol.com](mailto:easelthew@aol.com).

### KAPPA GUILD, INC.

**January 5, 2025**- Sunday, Chinese To Go Lunch Fundraiser. David Chu's China Bistro. 7103 Reisterstown Road. Pick up 1pm-2pm.. Cost \$35. Contact Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215 or [morahsheila@aol.com](mailto:morahsheila@aol.com).

**February/March** - Winter Virtual Bingo. Date and Time TBD

**April 4, 2025** Shabat to Go Dinner Catering by Shula. For more information call Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215 or email [morahsheila@aol.com](mailto:morahsheila@aol.com)

**JUNE 18, 2025 11:30 AM -3:00 PM.**- 52nd Annual Donor Luncheon. Catering by Shula. Owings Mills Synagogue. 2905 Walnut Avenue, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. For more information

call Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215 or email [morahsheila@aol.com](mailto:morahsheila@aol.com) or Miriam Stern at 410-299-0498 or email [bubbysternmail@aol.com](mailto:bubbysternmail@aol.com).

### WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

**WBHC Wednesdays on Zoom at BHC:**

**January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM.**

**Games Galore Tuesday's at BHC, no cost. All are welcome.**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 12:00 PM** Adam Booth Storyteller, with lunch at BHC.

**January 28, March 25, 2025.** Book Circle.

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM.** Queens, Courage, and Kvelling: An Afternoon of Music with Cantor Ellerin, with dessert at BHC. \*For more information on all programs, contact

[Womenofbhc@gmail.com](mailto:Womenofbhc@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER MEETING PHOTOS



Pictured above from left to right, Michaele Cohen and Helene Waranch, Shulamit Finkelstein, Jo-Ann Orlinsky, Linda Roedel, Group, Susan Yaffe, Eve Vogelstein and Linda Boteach.



Federation Calendar  
(meetings are held on Thursdays)

Meetings Held Either Virtually or in Person

2025

Mid-Winter Conference—January 23, 2025

General Meeting—March 20, 2025

109th Annual Convention—May 15, 2025



Visit our website for more information at

[jewishwomensfed.org](http://jewishwomensfed.org)



BECOME A FRIEND OF FEDERATION

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.

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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: Ann at [annfishkin5@gmail.com](mailto:annfishkin5@gmail.com) or 410-429-5411

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