



# THE FLAME

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

Winter 2026

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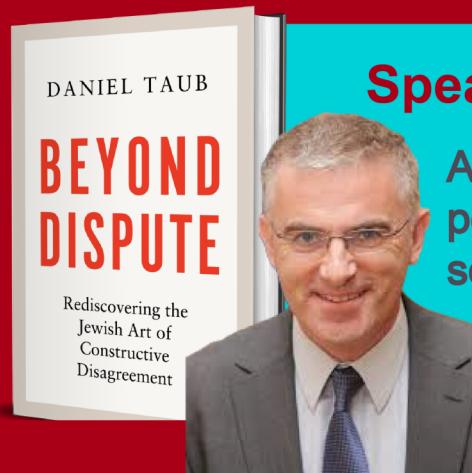
## Change of Date

from Thursday, January 22, 2026 to

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

**10:00 AM via Zoom**

**"Don't Argue Less, Argue Better:  
Jewish Wisdom For Challenging Times"**



## Speaker: Daniel Taub

An Israeli diplomat and peace negotiator who has served as Ambassador to the UK and lectures widely about conflict resolution.

**Make your reservation by January 21st.**

**For Reservations, please contact Julie Bernstein at  
301-706-6086 or email at [36juliebernstein@gmail.com](mailto:36juliebernstein@gmail.com)**

**SCAN CODE TO REGISTER**



**Remember to "Be A Friend of Federation"**

## Message from Our President Shulamit Finkelstein



Dear Federation Members, Friends and Officers,

This past year, beginning in September, our general programs revolved around a special theme. Under the guidance of outstanding rabbis, we explored the Torah and other sacred texts to discover new ways to elevate our everyday lives. At our September opening meeting, held at North Oaks Senior Living, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin engaged us in discovering how, as Jewish women, we can be "empowered to unleash our potential." At our November meeting, Rabbi Dana Saroken explored Talmudic wisdom with us to teach us how to embrace our gifts and impact the world. At both of these meetings, attendees also enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share ideas with each other, and to get to know more about the amazing organizations under the Women's Fed umbrella. Our exploration of Jewish wisdom continues with our January Zoom program which will focus on the theme of "Don't Argue Less, Argue Better: Jewish Wisdom for Divisive Times" presented by Israeli diplomat and peace negotiator Daniel Taub.

We are very excited to announce our long-awaited opportunity to resume our annual trip to Annapolis this coming spring. First the COVID epidemic

prevented us from going; then construction activities at the state government buildings also made it difficult to visit. Happily, on March 19, 2026, we will be boarding a bus to Annapolis at 8:30 a.m. at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. Many thanks to State Senator Shelly Hettleman for helping to arrange our visit. We will have the opportunity to observe and to meet our state legislators over lunch, visit a special Annapolis site and then return by 4:00 p.m. Please look for announcements and details to come.

If you have not done so yet, please become a Friend of Federation and enjoy the perks that come with being a valued Friend. Your Friend dues of \$18 help support our free breakfast programs, cost for speakers and more. Friends receive our invaluable Directory, and all communications. Payment can be sent to Ann Fishkin, 6501 Trotwood Court, Baltimore, MD 21209. You can also go to our website, [Jewishwomensfed.org](http://Jewishwomensfed.org) and look under "Forms."

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I thank you for your support, look forward to your joining us in Annapolis on March 14, 2026, and seeing you at our exciting 110th Annual Convention on May 14, 2026!



Shulamit Finkelstein, President

## 110th Annual Convention is coming!

### SAVE THE DATE—MAY 14, 2026

Our Annual convention is coming up soon. This year we will be celebrating 110 years! The theme this year is, "Women's Healthcare: Expectations, Challenges and Changes." We are honored this year to have the dynamic Leslie Simmons as our keynote speaker. Leslie is the Executive Vice President of Lifebridge Health and System Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Simmons will be discussing, **Women's Healthcare: What We Can Expect and What Needs to be Changed**. We will also be awarding a member from each of our constituent organizations with the, **"A Woman Who Promotes Well-being"** Award. The convention will be held at Ateres Elka (formerly Har Sinai Congregation) 2905 Walnut Avenue, Owings Mills. Stay tuned for more information to follow!

## Federation Legislative Update—2025

A look forward. The outlook for the coming months and for 2026 are covered with fog and we are not fortunetellers.

Five things that stand out as we go to press: Peace in our time? What will be the outcome of the peace initiatives for the Israeli-Hamas continuing war? What will be the outcome of the Ukrainian-Russian war? Can the United States stay out of either war if the negotiations continue to fail?

There is growing concern over recent polls among the American population showing that support for Israel is slowly decreasing. The U.S. Congress and Senate also show small shifts in positions as the media photos of starving children play on the heartstrings of the American public.



We need to continue to be extra vigilant in responding to antisemitism in K-12 schools and college campuses.

And here in Maryland we are watching to see the effect of last session's attempts to balance the budget by raising fees not taxes. Will other actions to "cut taxes for the middle class" actually make a difference? How will the federal budget cuts affect Maryland's many programs to sustain the poorest of us and assist the middle class? The coming legislature will again face budget, budget, budget.

We will continue to monitor these and many other areas as we go forward.

**Save the DATE:** MARCH 19, 2026 for our trip to Annapolis. More to come....

## DEVELOP A MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

Part of the Federation mission states: "...an umbrella group of nonprofit organizations and sisterhoods committed to leadership training....". Based on our long-time responsibility to provide leadership and organization development, we can provide workshops and/or personal discussions on the following topics:

- Advocacy: Making an Impact
- Board Responsibilities
- Budgets and Accounting
- Creating Working Committees
- Effective Nominating Committees
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Mentoring Future Leadership
- Parliamentary Procedures and Bylaws
- Public Speaking
- Strategic Planning for the Future
- Succession Planning
- Use of Social Media

If you or your organization is interested in exploring any of these training opportunities, please contact Helene Waranch at [hhwaranch@gmail.com](mailto:hhwaranch@gmail.com).



OF MARYLAND



## OUR SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT!



Federation has had two very successful Social Action Projects in September and November of this year. First, we partnered with Covenant Guild, Inc. to collect toys and games for the children seeking medical treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital and staying at the Tikva House, built by the Jewish Caring Network. I'm glad to report that our Federation collected 7 bags of wonderful toys and games that were delivered to the JCN in November.

Next, we partnered with Rodger C. Snyder Memorial Ladies, #117, JWF Auxiliary to collect items for our country's veterans receiving treatment at the Maryland Veterans Hospital. Our Federation members gave various clothing items, word search books, food items, toiletries and shaving products to help our veterans. I'm happy to report that 10 bags of these donated supplies were collected and delivered to them in December.

Your generosity and kindness has greatly enriched the lives of many children and our Nation's veterans, spreading happiness and joy to them during this holiday season. Thank you so, so much!

Gratefully,  
Rochelle Bohrer and Linda Roedel,  
Social Action Project Committee

## MARCH MEETING—TRIP TO ANNAPOLIS

Come to Annapolis! Board the bus at BHC at 8:30 AM to observe and meet our Maryland legislators in action. Enjoy a full dairy lunch. Our Annapolis greeters will also provide us with a comprehensive booklet that contains all that we need to know about our state government and our voting district. Bus will return about 4 PM. Stay tuned for registration information.



## FRIENDS OF FEDERATION



Did you know that we are now an official 501c3 organization? So, when you make your contribution as a Friend of Federation, you receive double benefits! As a Friend, you support our free breakfast programs, cost for speakers and more. You also will receive our informative Directory and all communications and invitations. Only \$18 will make you a valuable and recognized Friend of Federation. Payment can be sent to Ann Fishkin: 6501 Trotwood Ct, Baltimore 21209. Or, go to [Jewishwomensfed.org](http://Jewishwomensfed.org).

## OPENING MEETING WITH RABBI NINA CARDIN



The theme for our September 2025 opening meeting was **“Empower and Influence: Unleash Your Potential.”** Nina Rosenzwog, Vice President, opened the meeting with a spiritual message. Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin led us in a lively discussion of the concept of Machloket Le’Shem Shamayim – Sacred Arguments or disagreement for the sake of Heaven. The Rabbi explored with us writings from Tiferet Yisroel, Rambam, Abarbanel and Meiri. We also enjoyed a sharing activity among many of the representatives from of our constituent organizations.

## NOVEMBER MEETING UPDATE



The theme for our November 2025 lunch meeting was **“Talmudic Wisdom: Embrace Your Gifts, Impact the World.”** Rabbi Eden Glaser graciously opened the meeting with a spiritual message. Rabbi Dana Saroken led us in a lively analysis and discussion of a story from the Babylonian Talmud, Bava Metzia 84-ab. The Rabbi’s lesson focused on the relationship between Rabbi Yohanan and Reish Lakish. The themes of repentance, personal identity and a person’s creative capacity were delved into. We also had time for a sharing activity and learned about the numerous volunteer projects that the organizations under the Women’s Federation’s umbrella undertake to add value to our communities.



## SERV-A CONTRIBUTION CARDS



Serv-A is an arm of the Jewish Welfare Board, Chaplains Council. This Council was founded in 1917. The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council consists of sixteen rabbis, four each from the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), plus four active duty Jewish chaplains representing the Chaplains Advisory Group (CAG).

Please consider ordering a Serv-A Card to send for any occasion. This beautiful card will be mailed by our corresponding secretaries and will help support our service men and women at the same time.

**To Order—Contact Rochelle at 410-922-9672 or Fern at [fvrog@aol.com](mailto:fvrog@aol.com).**



## Under Our Umbrella

### Upcoming Events by our Organizations

The Flame is happy to highlight your organization's events.

Submit your information to Elissa Ness, [easeltthew@aol.com](mailto:easeltthew@aol.com).

#### BETH EL SISTERHOOD

**Monday Evenings-January 12, 2026, February 9, 2026, March 16, 2026 at 7:30 PM.** Meet the Author- We have again partnered with the Jewish Book Council, which promotes books with Jewish content, to offer 4 evening programs where well known authors will speak to us live via Zoom about their books and their life journeys. Purchase a series subscription or register for individual programs at: <https://bethelbalto.shulcloud.com/form/MTA-25-26> on ZOOM. Contact/Questions? Contact Julie Bernstein at 301-706-6086 or [36juliebernstein@gmail.com](mailto:36juliebernstein@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 12-3:30 PM.** Spring Game Day. Bring your friends, partners, card games, board games, and Mah Jongg sets for a fun afternoon of games. If you're playing bridge, we will provide you with a quiet space. Enjoy a buffet lunch, sweets, and munchies, along with hot and cold beverages. Cost- \$45. Beth El Congregation, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Pikesville, MD 21208. Contact Charlotte Forman, 410-591-6842 or [charform@verizon.net](mailto:charform@verizon.net).

**April 12, 2026 and April 13, 2026 at 10 AM-5 PM** both days. Unique Boutique - The Sisterhood of Beth El Congregation annually sponsors a two-day show, known as Unique Boutique. This event features vendors who sell clothing, jewelry, gifts, toys, crafts, stationery, flowers, accessories and more. We are fortunate that many of our vendors return annually and because of our reputation we typically have more than 1,000 shoppers attending this popular annual event.. Beth El Congregation 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Pikesville, MD 21208. Contact name: Randy Jacobs: 410-486-3693 or [rbj411@verizon.net](mailto:rbj411@verizon.net).

#### BETH ISRAEL

**January 4, 2026 at 7PM - 8PM** on Zoom. Bend, Breathe, and Be: A Mindful Sisterhood Yoga Night with Melissa Wohlberg. For more information contact Suzanne Kiewe [SuzKiewe@gmail.com](mailto:SuzKiewe@gmail.com).

**February 15, 2026 at 1PM-3PM.** Steps and Simchas: Line Dancing with Sarah Eckhardt at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more information contact Suzanne Kiewe [SuzKiewe@gmail.com](mailto:SuzKiewe@gmail.com).

**April 12, 2026 at 1PM -3PM.** Quarter Auction with Aortic Hope at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more information contact Suzanne Kiewe [SuzKiewe@gmail.com](mailto:SuzKiewe@gmail.com).

#### BETH TFILOH SISTERHOOD

**Thursday, January 15, 2026, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM.** Day of Games. Afternoon of Fun and Games. Enjoy soup, rolls, salad bar, dessert, snacks and beverages. Reserve your table for games of your choice: Mah Jongg, Bridge, Canasta, Scrabble. We provide the tables, you bring your games. The cost is \$28 per person. For questions and reservations, contact Ellen Karp 443-660-7690 or Brenda Pariser 410-363-8903.

**Thursday, April 23, 2026, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM.** Day of Games. Afternoon of Fun and Games. Enjoy soup, rolls, salad bar, dessert, snacks and beverages. Reserve your table for games of your choice: Mah Jongg, Bridge, Canasta, Scrabble. We provide the tables, you bring your games. The cost is \$28 per person. For questions and reservations, contact Ellen Karp 443-660-7690 or Brenda Pariser 410-363-8903.

#### COVENANT GUILD, INC.

**January 21, 2026 at 7PM** on Zoom. Enjoy an evening of Bingo and Trivia from the comfort of your home! ZOOM Bingo and Trivia, \$10.00 for 3 cards. Proceeds benefit Cat's Closet. To register before January 15, contact Lois Balser at 410-486-2113 or [lbalsler7@verizon.net](mailto:lbalsler7@verizon.net).

**March 15, 2026 Doors open at 8:30 AM.** Covenant Guild's Mah Jongg Tournament takes place at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation. The cost of \$65 includes lunch and cash prizes. Proceeds benefit the Covenant Guild Philanthropic Fund. To register, contact Sharon Stadd before March 1, 2026 at 443-838-4285 or [Covenantmahjongg@yahoo.com](mailto:Covenantmahjongg@yahoo.com).

**April 12, 2026 at 10:30 AM.** Covenant Guild's annual Pot-of-Gold Drawing. Event takes place at Har Sinai- Oheb Shalom Congregation, Tickets are \$100/sold in \$10.00 increments. The "Jackpot" of \$4000.00 will be divided between 4 winning tickets. Proceeds benefit the Helping Up Mission Women's and Children's Center. Contact Jodi Hoffman at [hoffman410@verizon.net](mailto:hoffman410@verizon.net) or Jo Ann Kotik at [jokotik617@gmail.com](mailto:jokotik617@gmail.com).



## 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).

### HADASSAH GREATER BALTIMORE

**Selected Mondays from January - May 2026 from 11 AM to 12PM** on Zoom. Lunch and Learn Online sessions cover a wide range of topics including gardening, Lowes Vineyard Jewish history, Jewish Museum of Baltimore, I love Lucy Sitcom discussion, Baltimore County Public Library Resources and much more! \$45 Spring Session. Visit us at <https://events.hadassah.org/baltimorelunchandlearn2025-2026>.

**Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 7:30 PM.** Hadassah Repro Shabbat and Havdallah Service on Zoom. There is no cost. This Havdallah Service will include a briefing on reproductive freedom as a Jewish value and priority for Hadassah. Contact Nancy Braverman [nbraverman@hadassah.org](mailto:nbraverman@hadassah.org) (registration link coming soon.)

**Sunday, March 22, 2026 from 4 - 5 PM.** "Shmoozing with the Word Mavens" Program. This program celebrates Jewish traditions, holidays, beloved foods and the Yiddish and Hebrew words that describe them. This program – which includes everything from fun facts about bagels to why there is no substitute for a good "Oy!" – rekindles childhood memories and makes audiences laugh out loud. Location in Pikesville to be disclosed upon registration. Contact [nbraverman@hadassah.org](mailto:nbraverman@hadassah.org) Registration link coming soon.

**Sunday, April 19, 2026 from 5:50 PM - 8 PM.** Celebrate Gala 2026! Location in Pikesville to be disclosed upon registration. Contact [nbraverman@hadassah.org](mailto:nbraverman@hadassah.org).

### KAPPA GUILD, INC.

**Sunday, February, 22, 2026**, Chinese To Go Lunch Fundraiser. Food from David Chu's China Bistro. 7103 Reisterstown Road. Pick up 12 PM-1 PM. For information, contact Sheila Mentz 410-484-8215 or [morahsheila@aol.com](mailto:morahsheila@aol.com).

**April 17, 2026**- Shabbat To Go. Catering by Shula. Friday, Pick up at Beth Tfiloh Congregation in front of the main entrance 12-1:00 PM. Choice of three entrees. All entrees come with chicken matzah ball soup, three sides, challah roll and dessert. Price TBD. For more information, contact Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215 or [morahsheila@aol.com](mailto:morahsheila@aol.com).

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

**January 25, 2026 evening.** Trivia Night at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation conference rooms. Cost: (TBD) Contact Julie Padden at [julieblockpadden@yahoo.com](mailto:julieblockpadden@yahoo.com).

**February 4, 11, 18, 25 7:00 PM** Mah Jongg Lesson series in the Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation conference rooms. Cost TBD. Contact: Tamara Kravitz at [tamarakrav@gmail.com](mailto:tamarakrav@gmail.com).

**February 22, 2026 2:00 PM.** BINGO in the Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom library. Cost: TBD. Contact: [dhegmann.dh@gmail.com](mailto:dhegmann.dh@gmail.com).

### WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

**WBHC Zoom Wednesday at 7:30PM:**

- **January 7th, 2026** Cooking With Bernice Perazzo.
- **February 4, 2026** Sarah Jablon-Roberts: "Jackie, Twiggy and Janis—Fashion in the 60's.
- **March 4, 2026** Rabbi Busch: "Preparing for Your Passover Seder Discussions."

**January 18, 2026 at 9:30 AM** Concert with Cantor Ellerin and Alex Baker at BHC.

**January,11 February, 8 March 8, 2026 10 AM to 12PM** Crafters on Sunday's form at BHC.

**January 13, February 10, March 10, 2026 5 to 8PM** - Games Galore on Tuesdays at BHC.

**January 15, March 19, 2026 7:30PM on Zoom:** Grandparent Schmooze on Thursday.

**January 17, March 24, 2026 7:30PM on Zoom:** Book Circle on Tuesdays.

\*Interested in any of Women of BHC's programs: email: [womenofbhc@gmail.com](mailto:womenofbhc@gmail.com).

### **THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS**



**Federation Calendar  
(meetings are held on Thursdays)**©Johnny Sajem - illustrationsOf.com/1687110**January 22, 2026—Mid-Winter Conference****March 19, 2026—March Meeting****May 14, 2026—110th Annual Convention**

Visit our website for more information at  
[jewishwomensfed.org](http://jewishwomensfed.org)

**BECOME A FRIEND OF FEDERATION****FRIEND OF FEDERATION FORM  
(July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026)**

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:

Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland

Please mail check to:

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

P.O. Box 29, Severn, MD 21153-0059  
The Federation of Jewish Women's  
Organizations of Maryland

