



THE FLAME

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

Fall 2025

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Thursday, September 18, 2025

**Registration and Breakfast 9:30 AM
(Dietary Laws Observed)**

Program 10:00 AM

Empower and Influence:



Presenter: Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin

President of the Board of Baltimore Rabbis

**North Oaks Senior Living
725 Mount Wilson Lane, Pikesville, MD 21208**

RSVP Deadline: Monday, September 15, 2025

**Questions: Contact Julie Bernstein
301-706-6086 or 36juliebernstein@gmail.com**

SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT—PLEASE BRING TO THE OPENING MEETING

Federation is happy to partner with Covenant Guild in support of the Tikva House. This facility, sponsored by the Jewish Caring Network, needs NEW toys, games and items for kids of families of seriously ill Jewish patients receiving treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Message from Our President Shulamit Finkelstein



Dear Federation Members, Friends and Officers,

As I complete my first year as president of Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland, I can attest to the fact of

what most people know: leaders have their work cut out for them!

Fortunately, I am blessed to be working with a Board of Directors, committee chairs and members who are experienced leaders in their own right, full of skill, talent, work ethic and passion for the vision and mission of Women's Fed -- to be a voice and a resource for the organizations under our umbrella. Our Board of Directors, committee chairs and members are all volunteers and organize our programs every year, with no paid staff!

What I didn't fully anticipate were the personal rewards that have come with the position. This past year I learned from speaker Lola Hahn about her courageous mother and aunts who survived the Holocaust. Michaela Cohen, co-founder and President of MLAW, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, showed how her organization has initiated legislation supporting women's needs over the last 30 years! Israeli attorney Nitsana Darshan Leightner described how she and her cadre of attorneys fight terrorists in the courts worldwide, garnering millions of dollars for their victims of terror! Don Finkelstein clarified the mysteries of AI. Katie Curran O'Malley, CEO of Women's Law Center, guided us on into legal aspects affecting the future of women.

I had rewarding experiences meeting amazing officers and members of many of the organizations under Women's Fed umbrella at our annual President's Reception. Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin inspired our wonderful leaders with leadership lessons from the Torah.

I attended uplifting programs organized by Hadassah, Israel Bonds and the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore. I had the pleasure of meeting the

remarkable members of Beth Israel Congregation Sisterhood whom our other member organizations helped to stock a local high school's free pantry. I was invited to tour Mount Washington Children's hospital and helped bring them toys and books donated by Kappa Guild and the other organizations under our umbrella.

In July, our Federation's Board of Directors were invited by our member organization, Jewish Caring Network, to tour their renovated Tikva House. I and my fellow Board members were moved and inspired by the visit. The Tikva House is a modern kosher guest house with 7 deluxe suites. Located one block away from Johns Hopkins Hospital, It welcomes Jewish patients and their families from around the world who are receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The work of the organizations mentioned above is just a sampling of a vast network of volunteer women leaders and members who work, mostly anonymously and unsung, to enhance the lives of Jewish citizens locally and abroad. We are very grateful for their important and selfless work.

Last but not least, I want to thank my fellow Board members for making it possible for me to attend the year-long Acharai program sponsored by The Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore. The secular and Torah studies were wonderfully enriching. As an unexpected bonus, a number of my classmates were members or leaders of the organizations under our Federation's umbrella!

Please mark your calendars for our Federation's Opening Breakfast Meeting. This special event will be held at North Oaks Senior Living on September 18, 2025. Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin will be our guest speaker and will be exploring Torah texts to inspire and empower us. Please look for the invitation and registration information which will be coming out soon. Also, be sure to check out our website jewishwomensfed.org for news and updates on events.

I look forward to seeing you on September 18th. We continue to pray for the release of all remaining hostages. Am Yisrael Chai!



Shulamit Finkelstein

Federation Legislative Update—2025

I encourage all to check out the [MLAW](#) website as there is too much information to include in this Program report. There were 7 important bills that passed and that affect women;

- Sexual Crimes
- Sexual Solicitation of a Minor through Child Pornography
- Affirming the Federal Equal Rights Amendment
- Residential Services Agencies-Reimbursement- Personal Assistant Services
- Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant
- Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Legally Protected Healthcare-Gender Affirming Treatment.



There are many other bills of interest that passed including: abortion care access, stalking and family and medical leave. There are also bills that did not pass, unfortunately. Please take a look and become involved.

109TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Close to 300 persons from our 23 constituent organizations attended the annual Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland 109th convention at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation on May 15, 2025. Our President, Shula Finkelstein, called the business meeting to order and officially welcomed all to the convention. Thanks to our members who participated in voting for our updated bylaws and resolutions. Helene Waranch presented the many bylaw changes that helped streamline our structure and Sheila Derman presented a summary of our ever important resolutions; U.S. Department of Education, Maternal Mortality and Protecting Women in Prison. The complete resolutions can be found in the convention program book.

The Federation's E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Nancy Kohn Rabin, an esteemed Jewish leader. Ms. Rabin has served on numerous educational and community boards, volunteered her time and talents to a variety of organizations and mentored many students as well as serving as Trustee President of the Irving Kohn Foundation. Mazel Tov Nancy on a well-deserved award!

Following a sumptuous lunch catered by the Knish Shop, we reconvened to hear our keynote speaker, Katie Curran O'Malley, CEO for The Women's Law Center of Maryland. Ms. Curran updated us on important laws, either passed or on the table regarding women's issues and how they will affect us. This enlightening talk reminded us to be aware of what is happening in our local and national governments and to advocate for women's rights.

The convention concluded with our honoree presentation. The theme for this year's honoree award was, **"A Woman Who Plans for the Future."** Rochelle Bohrer, Chair of the Honoree program, introduced the video where each honoree from our member organizations introduced herself and gave a short speech. The video was directed and produced by both Eve Vogelstein and Marcia Bornfriend. Congrats to all of the honorees!

See you in 2026 on May 14th for our 2026 Convention!



VISIT TO TIKVA HOUSE



SPOTLIGHT: The Jewish Caring Network

This past July, the Board of Directors of Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland was invited to visit the newly renovated Tikva House. The Tikva House is a project of the Jewish Caring Network, one of the great organizations under the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of MD's umbrella. The Jewish Caring Network is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a full range of support services to families facing life-threatening, life-long, and serious illnesses while preserving their privacy and their dignity. To that end, in 2012 the JCN built the Tikva House, a modern kosher three story guest house with 7 deluxe suites. It is located one block from Johns Hopkins Hospital and welcomes Jewish patients and their families who are receiving medical treatment at the hospital. When serious illness strikes, the entire family is affected. The JCN's programs include activities and services designed to help each family member. Their mission is to bring joy and support to families, as well as the knowledge that JCN is standing beside them throughout the duration of their illnesses, treatment and recovery. Each family's situation is individually assessed, and all services are provided free of charge. On July 28, Karen Traub, Director of JCN and Tikvah House, and Shiffie Novagrod, Tikva House Manager, welcomed the Board members for the tour. In the words of Rochelle Bohrer, Women's Fed Corresponding Secretary, "What a wonderful tour of the beautiful Tikva House we had! It was a heart-warming, educational and exciting experience. We learned so much, and to actually see your beautiful facility was very meaningful." Our Board of Directors is very thankful for kind hospitality we received and for the tremendously vital work you do with Jewish families in their time of great stress. For more information, you can check out the JCN website jewishcaringnetwork.org.



AFTER 109 YEARS, WE ARE OFFICIALLY A NONPROFIT !!!

You may have noticed that the word "The" has started to be missing from the name of our organization. No, it is not an error, or faulty proofreading, or an AI computer glitch! Let me explain. This past year, The Federation of Jewish Women's Federation of Maryland formed a committee under the leadership of Past President Helene Waranch. The purpose of the committee was to spearhead our organization's effort to become a formal nonprofit organization, a 501(c)(3). We understood that the change would benefit our Board of Directors, our members and our sponsors. With the assistance of attorneys from MANO (Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations) we completed the process this past spring and are now officially a 501(c)(3). As part of the process, our assigned attorney recommended, for streamlining purposes, that we drop the word "The" from our organization's name, so that now our official name is: **Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland!**

PRESIDENTS RECEPTION REVIEW

Each year the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland hosts a President's Reception. The goal of this program is to acquaint incoming Presidents and Vice Presidents of our member organizations with the Federation. We also strive to inform the current member officers with what is happening within the Federation. Following a short business meeting and updates on our activities within the Federation and community, everyone gets a chance to meet one another and relax over a full Kosher lunch. Our featured speaker this year was Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin. The title of her presentation was, **"Using Jewish Values in our Leadership."** Rabbi Cardin was able to have us bring our Jewish values to the forefront within our leadership roles. She then discussed, **"hineni"** from the Garden of Eden to the present. Where are you now? When the invitation is given, where are you? Can you participate? Show you care as a leader. Invite others in and in a meaningful way. From our Federation, we will ask you to join us, become a member and we hope that you will say, **"hineni."**



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

Sunday, October 26, 10:00 am to Noon – Shredding Day: Bring all those boxes and bags of personal papers that need to be shredded! Back parking lot of Beth El, 8101 Park Heights Avenue. \$15 / 1-3 bags | \$25 / 4-5 bags | \$5 / each additional bag. Payment by cash or check payable to Beth El Sisterhood.

Wednesday, October 29, 12:00 – 3:30 PM. Game Day: Bring your group to play Mah Jongg, Canasta, Bridge or Board games and enjoy a delicious lunch! \$45 per person. For more info, contact Esta Schein eschein@comcast.net.

BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

September 14, 2025, 1 PM-3 PM. Renew and Rejoice: A Healthy Start to 5786 Health and Wellness Fair. The event will be at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane Owings Mills, Md. 21117. This event is Free. If interested in an exhibitor table or for more information contact: Suzanne Kiewe SuzKiewe@gmail.com.

October 5, 2025, 7 PM 9 PM. Unplugged in the Hut Karaoke Night in the Sukkah. The event will be at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. This event is Free. For more information contact: Suzanne Kiewe SuzKiewe@gmail.com.

October 25, 2025, Services start at 9:30 AM followed by kiddush and conversation. The Power of Pink Meets the

Breast Cancer Awareness Shabbat. The event will be at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. This event is Free. For more information contact: Suzanne Kiewe SuzKiewe@gmail.com.

November 2, 2025, 1 PM - 3 PM. Beads & Bubbles Intention Bracelet Making Party. Handcraft a healing beaded crystal bracelet. The event will be at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. The cost will be determined. For more information contact: Suzanne Kiewe SuzKiewe@gmail.com.

BETH TFILOH SISTERHOOD

Thursday, September 11, 2025, 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, 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. 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.



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Upcoming Events by our Organizations Continued...

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BETH TFILOH SISTERHOOD...continued

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.

CHANA BALTIMORE

November 12, 2025, 6:00 PM. VOICES: Rooted in Resilience. CHANA's 7th annual fundraising and outreach event, VOICES: Rooted in Resilience, in recognition not only of Domestic Violence Awareness Month but also to honor CHANA's 30 years of service to the Baltimore community. This year's event features Dr. Naomi Baum, renowned psychologist and author of *Isresilience: What Israelis Can Teach the World*. Dr. Baum will share insights and practical tools to help individuals and communities cultivate resilience in the face of adversity. As we mark CHANA's 30th anniversary of providing vital services to victims and survivors of abuse, we will also honor our visionary founder, Brenda Brown Rever, whose leadership laid the foundation for CHANA's enduring impact. The cost of this event is : \$180 per person. It will be held at Chizuk Amuno Congregation, 8100 Stevenson Road, Pikesville, MD 21208. For more information, please contact Dayna Leder, dleder@chanabaltimore.org, 410-234-0030, website: <https://chanabaltimore.org/events/voices-rooted-in-resilience/>.

COVENANT GUILD

September 10, 2025, 9:30 AM - Covenant's Baltimore Tour, A visit to organizations who have been recipients of our philanthropy in 2024-2025. Location, Greenspring Shopping Center, \$20. For more information, please contact us at dalevitz@comcast.net.

October 5, 2025, 10:30 AM - Toby's Dinner Theatre, "Saturday Night Fever" Fundraiser. The fee for this event is \$100. For more information, please contact us at dalevitz@comcast.net.

October 19, 2025, 10:30 AM - Membership Brunch/Installation of New Members. This event will take place at the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company. For more information, please contact us at dalevitz@comcast.net.

November 11, 2025, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Card Party/Day of Games. This event will take place at the Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation. It is open to the public. The cost of the event is

\$45.00. Fee includes lunch. For more information, please contact us at dalevitz@comcast.net.

HADASSAH GREATER BALTIMORE

Sunday September 21, 2025, 12:00 PM Hadassah Greater Baltimore Construction Party. Join us for a multi-generational Construction Party and buy bricks to honor or in memory of someone to help build the unfinished floors of the Gandel Rehabilitation Center. Event will include "Construct" your own burgers, tacos and kosher sundaes, as well as Kona Ice Truck, games and crafts for children and other fun activities. The event will be at a private home in Cockeysville (address provided upon registration). The cost is \$18 pp; Family maximum \$36. Please contact bdeitch@hadassah.org for more information. Registration Link: <https://events.hadassah.org/constructionparty2025>.

Save the date -Thursday, October 17, 2025, 5:30 PM. Hadassah of Greater Baltimore Fall Meeting/Fashion Show. An unforgettable evening of fashion, food and fun! Enjoy a delicious, seated dinner! Watch a fashion show highlighting designs from Scene II by Hadassah and emceed by Deborah Weiner! Listen as our special guest and celebrated designer Ella Pritsker shares her life story and rise in the fashion world! Venue in Pikesville (exact location provided upon registration). Contact nbraverman@hadassah.org for more information. Registration link coming soon.

Save the date - Sunday, November 16, 2025, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Hadassah of Greater Baltimore Trivia Event. Join Hadassah for an exciting afternoon of trivia fun. More details to follow. Contact bdeitch@hadassah.org for more information. Registration link coming soon.

Save the date - Sunday, November 16, 2025, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Hadassah of Greater Baltimore Trivia Event. Join Hadassah for an exciting afternoon of trivia fun. More details to follow. Contact bdeitch@hadassah.org for more information. Registration link coming soon.

ISRAEL BONDS MARYLAND WOMEN'S DIVISION

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 5:45 PM - Rina L. Janet Fashion Event honoring Julie Applebaum – in person event – more details to follow. For additional information, please contact Hillary Lewis at 443-471-2783 or Hillary.lewis@Israelbonds.com



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.

KAPPA GUILD, INC.

September 28, 2025- Fashion Show and Luncheon in the Zamoiski Auditorium at Sinai Hospital, 2401 W. Belvedere Avenue. Catering by Sinai Hospital. Kosher dietary laws observed. Fashions by Taylor Marie. Doors open at 11:30 for preview shopping, 12 noon buffet lunch, 12:45 fashion show followed by shopping. For more information, contact Miriam Stern 410-299-0498 or email bubbysternmail@aol.com or Sheila Mentz 410-484-8215 or email morahsheila@aol.com.

Friday, October 24, 2025 - "Shabbat To Go Dinner Pick-Up" Pick-up will be at Beth Tfiloh Congregation, 3300 Old Court Road in Pikesville, from noon to 1 pm. Delicious menu and price to be determined. Proceeds benefit Kappa Guild's mission of "helping children in need." Catering By Shula. Dietary laws observed. For more information, contact Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215 or email morahsheila@aol.com.

December 21, 2025 – Kappa Guild Inc. will hold its first "Chanukah To Go Dinner Pick-Up." Pick-up will be at Beth Tfiloh Congregation, 3300 Old Court Road, in Pikesville, from noon to 1 pm. Delicious Chanukah adult and child menu and price to be determined. Proceeds benefit Kappa Guild's mission of "helping children in need." Catering By Shula. Dietary laws observed. For more information, contact Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215. or email morahsheila@aol.com.

December 10-December 24, 2025- Holiday Gift Wrap. Kappa Guild, Inc. will be holding their annual holiday gift wrap at The Shops at Kenilworth from Wednesday, December 10- Wednesday, December 24. Hours will be everyday from 11:00-closing. Bring us your holiday gifts and we will do the wrapping. Gifts may be purchased from anywhere, not just the mall. Proceeds benefit Kappa Guild's mission of "helping children in need."

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

October 11, 2025 at 6PM. The Women's Club and CAYA (Come As You Are) will join together under our Sukkah tent for refreshments and Israeli dancing. If interested, call CeCe Rund at 410-800-7573. There will be a small charge to cover costs.

October 26, 2025: Breakfast Speaker will feature Shelly Hettleman. If interested in attending, call CeCe Rund at 410-800-7573. There will be a charge to cover cost of breakfast.

December 14, 2025: Women's Club joins the Brotherhood for Latkes and Libations program.

WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW

Monday, September 29, 2025—Book Circle on Zoom—from book challenges to book discussions. To join the group, email Marla, cloudshl@aol.com.

Sunday, October 12, 2025 at BHC—Crafters—Knitters, Crocheters, Needle pointers, Quilters, Embroiders and Card Makers all are welcome to create together. For more information, email joykatzenberg@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 1:00PM – 4:00 PM in BHC parking Lot—**Community Shred Event**. Bring papers you longer need and leave with us for a small fee. For more information, call 410-764-1587 ext. 270.

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM at BHC—Interfaith Program: Ritual and Meaning, Beginning and End of Life, With Rabbi Busch and Reverend Ware. To register, call 410-764-1587 ext. 270.

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:30PM - 8:30 PM. Join WBHC with Rabbi Gus Buchdahl **"The Last of the German Rabbis"** on zoom. To obtain a zoom link, call 410-764-1587 ext. 270.

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at BHC—Crafters, Crocheters, Needle pointers, Quilters, Embroiders and Card Makers: all are welcome to create together. For more information, email joykatzenberg@gmail.com.

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 5:00 PM– 8:00 PM—Games Galore—From Mah Jongg and Canasta to pop-up games. To join us, call 410-764-1587 ext. 270.

Tuesday, November 20, 2025 at 7:30 PM—Grandparent Schmoose on Zoom. For more information, email Marla, cloudshl@aol.com.

Thursday, November 23 , 2025– Sunday, December 7—Online Holiday Silent Auction. For more information, call 410-764-1587 ext. 270.

**Federation Calendar
(meetings are held on Thursdays)**

Meetings Held Either Virtually or in Person



2025-2026

September 18, 2025—Opening Meeting

November 20, 2025—Dinner Meeting

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



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.

Name _____

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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

Info: Linda Boteach at linda.boteach@gmail.com or 443-570-2947

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

