



# THE FLAMIE

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

Spring 2025

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The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland

## 109th Annual Convention

Thursday, May 15, 2025

9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

# "Legal Aspects Affecting the Future of Women"



"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made." ...Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**PRESENTATION OF THE E. B. HIRSH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
RECIPIENT Nancy Kohn Rabin**

**PRESENTATION OF  
"A WOMAN WHO PLANS FOR THE FUTURE" AWARD  
TO A MEMBER FROM EACH OF OUR CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS**

## Message from Our President Shulamit Finkelstein



*Dear Federation Members, Friends and Officers,*

*Now that the Passover holiday has ended, I'd like to reflect for a few moments on the culmination of the Exodus story. The culmination was the gift to the Jewish people of the Ten Commandments. These became one of the pillars of not only Jewish law, but also of western civilization. If there was one theme that ran through the diverse speakers and presenters at our meetings this past year, it was how the law affects us as a community, as families, and as women; and furthermore, how we can affect the law.*

*At our November 2024 general meeting, our guest speaker was Michaele Cohen, Co-Founder of MLAW, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. We learned that for over 30 years MLAW has achieved an amazing record of supporting 119 bills that were passed by the Maryland General Assembly! Many of those bills were enacted to empower women in the areas of health care, domestic violence, employment, and sexual assault. Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations is a member of MLAW and helps to select, develop and advocate for bills of importance to women.*

*Women's Federation has as one of its core missions to be a voice for its members. For that purpose, we have a Resolutions and Legislative Advocacy Committee. This Committee keeps our members abreast of current legal developments. It also helps us advocate for laws that will improve our lives by preparing resolutions annually for our legislators.*

*As you know, our keynote speaker for our 109th Convention on May 15th will be Katie Curran O'Malley, Executive Director, Women's Law Center of Maryland. The topic of her address will be "Legal Aspects Affecting the Future of Women." We are very excited that we will be the recipients of important legal information and insights from her keynote address.*

*Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention another exciting law-related event sponsored by Women's Federation. On January 23, of this year, we had the pleasure of meeting, via Zoom from Israel, a lovely, soft spoken Israeli mother of six who has been called "the David of her time" and who has been named 5 times by the Jerusalem Post as one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner is the founder and president of Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Center, which is leading the international legal fight to stop terror financing, combat sanctions and boycotts against Israel and to defeat lawfare attacks against the Israel Defense Forces.*

*In an interview led by Julie Bernstein, Federation Vice President, Ms. Nitsana-Leitner related how she and her cadre of attorneys have secured billions of dollars in judgments against terror organizations, state sponsors of terror and the banks that support them. These judgments have resulted in compensation for the victims of terror. Her goal is to track assets of terror groups and choke off the sources of their funds. We learned the details of how she has filed mega lawsuits against Hamas's financiers, has brought legal actions against the Red Cross, UNRWA, the International Criminal Court, South Africa, Iran, Qatari charities, Harvard University, Al-Jazeera and more, all on behalf of the victims of the October 7th massacre. It was quite amazing to learn how Nitsana Darshan-Leitner is "bankrupting terrorism – one lawsuit at a time."*

*We hope to continue bringing you informative and exciting speakers and presenters in the upcoming year! Finally, as my dear mother used to say, "I hope you all had a zeesen Pesach" – a sweet Passover!*

*We continue to pray for the safe release of all hostages  
Am Yisroel Chai!*



**Shulamit Finkelstein, President**

## Federation Legislative Update—2025

Monday was cross over day. That means that any bill in the General Assembly that did not cross over to the other chamber is probably dead for this session.

Three bills which are on the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women - MLAW -have passed the Senate and now need to pass the House.

First, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act, which authorizes the existing Board to set upper limits on high cost medications for all Marylanders. SB 357 passed the Senate which the House can take up or pass the House bill HB 424. Ask your Delegates to support this bill or the Senate bill, which ever the House takes up.

Second, is the Young Adult Health Insurance Bill, which would extend the current health subsidies, past in 2025. I think the current bill serves young

people up to 25 or 26, Senate Bill 5 passed the Senate and the House can take up that bill or its own Bill HB 297. Again, ask your Delegates to support this Bill.



Third, the bill which we have now supported for several years, SB 631, passed the Senate . The House can take up the Senate bill or pass HB 1198, both of which require the Department of Corrections to move on establishing a Pre Release facility for Women. Last session the money was appropriated for planning, but nothing has been done by DOC since. Ask your Delegates to support passage of either bills.

The last item is to let you know that the State Department of Labor has postponed the start date for Family Leave until 2028. Given the current fiscal situation in Maryland it makes sense.

# 109TH ANNUAL CONVENTION HONOREES

## “A Woman Who Plans for the Future “ Award

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THESE WONDERFUL WOMEN

Adat Chaim Sisterhood – Sharon Hameroff	Covenant Guild, Inc. – Elana Katz	Rodger C. Snyder Memorial, Ladies Auxiliary JWV – Susan Klein
Associated Women – Dr. Loryn Lesser	Hadassah of Greater Baltimore – Julie Bernstein	Temple Isaiah Sisterhood – Laurie Diener
Beth El Congregation Sisterhood – Robin Kleiman	Israel Bonds Maryland, Women's Division – Nina Rosenzwoog	Women’s Club of Har Sinai –Oheb Shalom Congregation – Terry Willner
Beth Israel Congregation Sisterhood – Ellen Jachman	Jewish Caring Network – Chaya Greenwald	Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation – Marla Lipman
BethTfiloh Congregation Sisterhood – Sheila Bridge	Kappa Guild, Inc. – Sheila Saval	E. B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award—Nancy Kohn Rabin
CHANA – Maxine Seidman	Levindale Auxiliary, Inc. – Marla Friedman	
Chizuk Amuno Congregation Sisterhood – Marsha Yoffe	Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah Sisterhood – Mardi Robinson	



## 109TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



On **May 15, 2025**, The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland will hold our 109th Annual Convention at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. The Chairs for this event are **Julie Bernstein and Rosalind Asch**. Our keynote speaker will be Katie Curran O'Malley, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Law Center of Maryland. We are excited to present the E. B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award to **Nancy Kohn Rabin, PhD**, Community Professional and Volunteer. This year's convention theme is "**Legal Aspects Affecting the Future of Women.**" We are very excited to present the "**A Woman Who Plans for the Future**" Award to a member from each of our constituent organizations. Our Federation is thrilled to be able to celebrate with all of these very special women.

Due to security restraints, you must be registered to attend. The cost of the convention including lunch is \$55. Please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/Convention-Payment> or contact Ann Fishkin at 410-484-9604. Visit our website [jewishwomensfed.org](http://jewishwomensfed.org) for additional information. This promises to be a most important, timely and interesting presentation!

## MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REVIEW



Our Mid-Winter Conference was on Thursday, January 23rd via zoom and was one for the books. If you missed it, you missed an incredibly exceptional one. Our theme was "Bankrupting Terrorism- One Lawsuit at a Time!" with our guest speaker, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, zooming in from Israel. Nitsana is the founder and President of Shurat HaDin Israel Law Center in Tel Aviv. It is an Israeli based civil rights center which focuses on bringing lawsuits and legal actions on behalf of the victims of terrorism against the organizations and their supporters. As the President of Shurat HaDin, she has represented hundreds of terror organizations and has won hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation on their behalf.

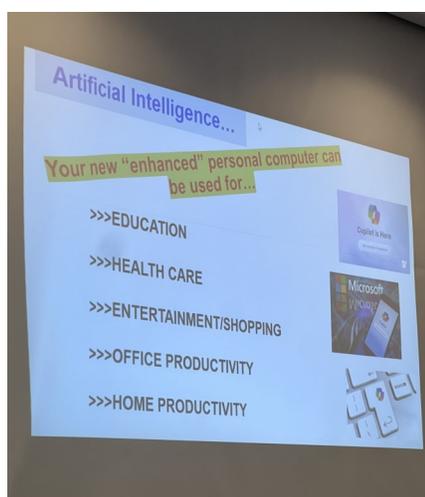
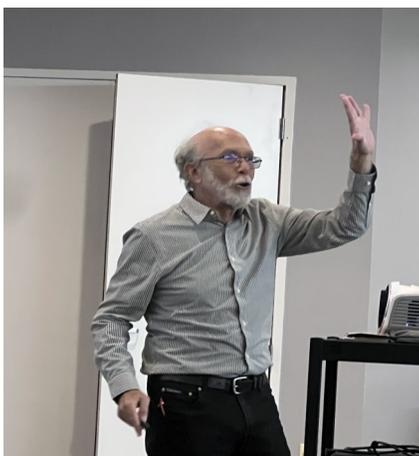
She and her team are handling civil actions against Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PLO, The Palestinian Authority, Hezbollah, Iran, Syria, Egypt, North Korea, UBS, the Lebanese Canadian Bank and now Qatari enemies. The cases allow the victims of terrorism to fight back. Nitsana is this and so much more. It left us speechless in a great way and fascinated how she does what she does and how it came into being. The question-and-answer period could have been extended for hours. Even through zoom, you could hear a pin drop and could see how focused everyone was in listening.

We felt so fortunate to have her and share her with all of you. Our social action project, being on zoom, was in honor of our Israeli speaker, which was to give back to an organization of your choice in support of Israel in its quest for peace and to successfully free all hostages. We thank Julie Bernstein for sponsoring our speaker. If you or your organization would like to sponsor a speaker or a program, please feel free to contact Julie Bernstein at 301.706.6086.

# MARCH MEETING - UNDERSTANDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Our March meeting was held on March 20, 2025 and was graciously hosted by the Beth Israel Sisterhood in Owings Mills. In the lobby we were greeted with a table filled with wonderful donations made by our Federation members to The Student Support Network. Their mission is to provide food, basic necessities, and advocacy to support the well-being of Baltimore County Public School students in need. Thank you to Rochelle Bohrer and Linda Roedel for organizing this collection for such a worthy cause. A spiritual message was given by Rachel Safman, Senior Rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation. A lovely light breakfast was served followed by our business meeting.

Don Finkelstein, our energetic guest speaker presented a talk on, "Understanding AI - Artificial Intelligence." Mr. Finkelstein, a long time educator, was filled with a vast knowledge of all the uses of AI that we have been using in our everyday life. Mr. Finkelstein shared with us that artificial intelligence plays a very big part in the field of medicine, education and in our homes. He explained that it is a system that can replicate human intelligence. The term has only been used since 1955. We are using it in Siri, Smart phones, our cars and many more devices. There are many new devices coming out, such as "The Glide" which will be useful for the sight impaired and "Jenny" the AI support dog. Don sited that there are advantages and disadvantages in using AI, so we need to be alert when using it. AI will continue to be a growing presence in our lives. It was helpful to get a better understanding on how we can work with it in the future.



Photos on top, left to right—Don Finkelstein, Julie Bernstein, Linda Roedel and Rochelle Bohrer. Photos on bottom, left to right— Rabbi Rachel Safman, slide and group picture.



## IN MEMORIAM—ARLENE FAYE MAZER



Arlene Mazer, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend passed away on January 31, 2025, at the age of 88. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Bernard (Bernie) Mazer and her eldest son, Allan Mazer. Arlene is survived by her devoted son, Dr. Millard Mazer, his adored wife, Karen Mazer, and their three cherished children, Mark, Julie and David Mazer. Arlene's life was marked by steadfast compassion and a deep commitment to her family and community. She was actively involved in countless Jewish Women's Organizations, where her leadership, dedication and prolific financial skills, made a significant impact on the lives of many. Her devotion to her faith and her community was evident in her tireless efforts to support those around her. Known for her warm heart, sharp wit and unwavering strength, Arlene left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered. She approached life with purpose and precision, demonstrating her love through consistent support—whether it was picking up her grandchildren from school, dedicating hours to the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland, Temple Oheb Shalom's Sisterhood, or being present for the meaningful moments in the lives of her family. Arlene embodied the Jewish principle of tikkun olam—repairing the world through intentional kindness. She was a true pillar of her community, always ready to lend a hand or offer a kind word. Her contributions were driven by a genuine desire to make a difference, and she taught those around her the importance of dependability, integrity, and thoughtful action. Her legacy is one of a strong family and a community enriched by her principled devotion. Arlene Mazer will be greatly missed, but her spirit of kindness and her lifetime of service will continue to inspire all who knew her.

*May her wonderful memory be for a blessing.*

## 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).



## Under Our Umbrella

### BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

**Friday, May 23, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00 PM.** Pickup. Shabbat-To-Go-Dinner Catered by Shula Star K held at Beth Israel Congregation 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, Md. 21117 The cost is \$36.00 Brisket, \$32.00 Chicken. Please contact Miriam Stern at [Bubbysternmail@aol.com](mailto:Bubbysternmail@aol.com) or 410-299-0498.

### BETH TFILOH SISTERHOOD

**Thursday, May 8, 2025 Noon -4 PM.** 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, \$28 per person. For questions and reservations, contact Ellen Karp 443-660-7690 or Brenda Pariser 410-363-8903.

### COVENANT GUILD

**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 we raised funds for. 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.

### HADASSAH GREATER BALTIMORE

Ongoing Periodic Mondays (see dates below) Lunch and Learn Spring Series:

Time: **11 AM** Cost: \$54 for the entire series. This series will be on zoom.

**5/5/25** Joyce Maynard: Author of How the Light Gets In.

**5/19/24** Rabbi Sholly Cohen: Chabad of Carroll County.

To register- <https://events.hadassah.org/LunchandLearn2024-2025>. For more information, contact Cindy Miller at [mom3dds@gmail.com](mailto:mom3dds@gmail.com).

**Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM.** Celebrate Chai Rolling for Hadassah. All proceeds support the Gandel Rehabilitation Center Israel. [REGISTER HERE.](#)



## 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).

#### ISRAEL BONDS MARYLAND WOMEN'S DIVISION

**Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 5:45 – 9 PM** in Pikesville area, location TBA. Join us for this special evening as we honor Shellye Attman Gilden and help fulfill Golda Meir's vision to keep Israel economically strong for current and future generations. For more information, please contact Hillary Lewis at 443-471-2783 or [Hillary.lewis@israelbonds.com](mailto:Hillary.lewis@israelbonds.com).

**Thursday, August 7, 2025** – Daytime event and time TBA. GAME DAY – in person in Pikesville area, location TBA. Bring your game groups of four and we will provide lunch, snacks and so much more! For more information, please contact Hillary Lewis at 443-471-2783 or [Hillary.lewis@israelbonds.com](mailto:Hillary.lewis@israelbonds.com).

#### KAPPA GUILD, INC.

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025 11:30 AM -3:00 PM.** Celebrating our 72nd Anniversary and our 52nd Annual Donor Luncheon, at Ateres Elka. Catering by Shula. Location will be at the Owings Mills Synagogue. 2905 Walnut Avenue, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. Entertainment by Bruce Thomas. 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).

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM.** Day of Games. Pappas Restaurant in Cockeysville. . Delicious lunch and fun afternoon of games. Cost is \$46. For information call Michale Misler at 410-654-0857 or email at [radgirl25@comcast.net](mailto:radgirl25@comcast.net) or [angiosm@aol.com](mailto:angiosm@aol.com).

**September 28, 2025-** Fashion Show and Luncheon 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](mailto:bubbysternmail@aol.com) or Sheila Mentz 410-484-8215 or email [morahsheila@aol.com](mailto:morahsheila@aol.com).

#### TEMPLE ISAIAH SISTERHOOD

**May 9, 2025** - Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner

**June 10, 2025** - Mah Jongg Tournament  
Please contact Julie Rosenthal for more information at [foodonthe15th@gmail.com](mailto:foodonthe15th@gmail.com).

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

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:00 PM.** Community Concert featuring Israeli violinist Noga Barlev. Noga is now 18 and has been playing violin since she was 5 years old. She is currently studying at The New England Conservatory in Boston. She has participated in masterclasses under the direction of Maestro Itzhak Perlman and is recognized for her excellence with numerous awards to her credit. Please come out to join us and support this young Israeli phenom. The event will be held at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation 7310 Park Heights Avenue Baltimore, MD 21208. The cost of event is \$36 for HSOSC members; \$40 for non-temple members; \$18 for non-temple member students; HSOSC members 18 and younger are free. For more information, please contact Rabbi Ofer Sabath Beit-Halachmi [rabbiofer@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiofer@gmail.com) (513) 802-3480.

#### WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

**Tuesdays, May 13th, June 10th from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.** Games Galore at BHC, all are welcome. Bring your own Dinner. Snacks and drinks available. For more information email [womenofbhc@gmail.com](mailto:womenofbhc@gmail.com).

**Sunday, May 4 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.** Community Shred Event - \$5 - \$10 per bag. Contact Marcia Gampel, [mathmjg@gmail.com](mailto:mathmjg@gmail.com) for more information.

**June 22 at 12:00PM.** Closing Meeting Honoring Jo Ann Widman, retiring BHC Executive Director. Contact Women of BHC for more information, [womenofbhc@gmail.com](mailto:womenofbhc@gmail.com).

Stay up to date with our Federation eUpdates  
emailed to you throughout the year!



## Federation eUpdates

Federation Calendar  
(meetings are held on Thursdays)



BECOME A FRIEND OF FEDERATION

Meetings Held Either Virtually or in Person



2025-2026

May 15, 2025—109th Annual Convention

June 26, 2025—President’s Reception

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](http://jewishwomensfed.org)

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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Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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