



# THE FLAMME

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

Spring 2020

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## OFFICERS 2020-2022

### President

Marcia Bornfriend

### Vice President

Julie Bernstein

### Vice President

Karan Engerman

### Vice President

CeCe Rund

### Recording Secretary

Shulamit Finkelstein

### Corresponding Secretary

Rochelle Bohrer

### Corresponding Secretary

Ferne Rogow

### Treasurer

Ann Fishkin

### Auditor

Arlene Mazer, P.P.

### Community Representative

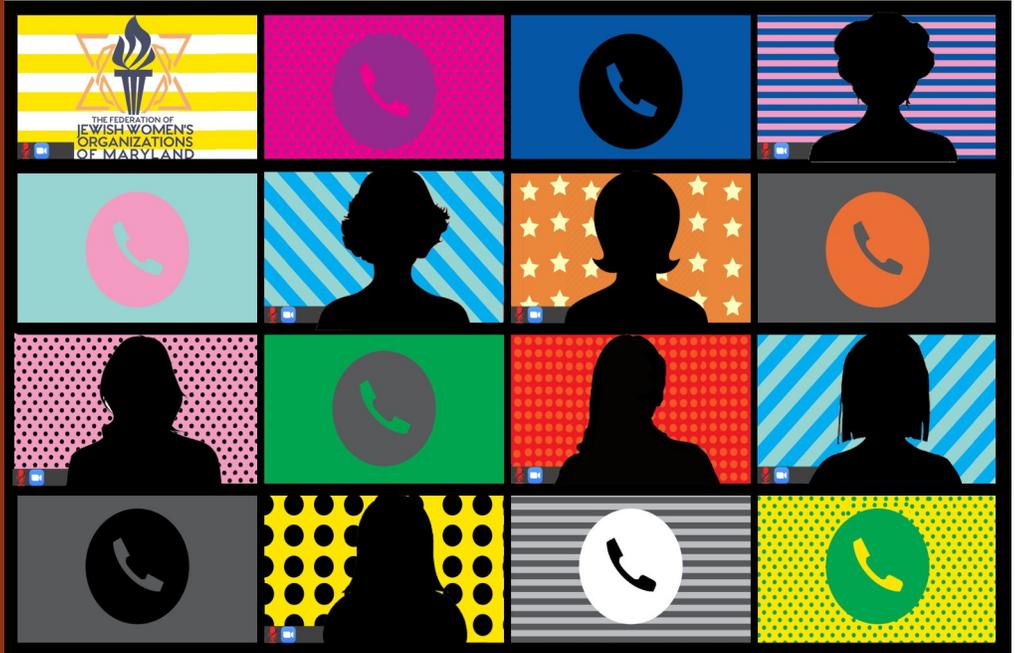
Linda Boteach, P.P.

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# Zoom Meetings



**Presidents' Reception**  
Thursday, July 16, 2020

**Opening Meeting**  
Thursday, October 15, 2020

## Message from the President



I am honored and thrilled to be the president of this organization. Many thanks to our immediate past president, Linda Boteach, for all her guidance and support and to our past presidents whose dedication makes sure the Federation continues to be a strong and vital organization.

Nine years ago, I retired from the Baltimore City School System after 27 years of teaching art and then technology. My focus, after retirement, was to commit to the Baltimore Hebrew Sisterhood which has been renamed Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. When I was working with Carol J. Caplan on a major fundraiser for our sisterhood, she invited me to attend a Federation convention meeting in which she was the chair. At this meeting I was encouraged to take on the job of creating that year's convention logo and working on the program. Since then, I have continued to be actively involved with Federation where I have met strong and gifted women. This has been a wonderful experience for me.

As many of us began to plan for Federation's events in the coming year, little did we realize that we would be dealing with the Coronavirus crisis. Thank goodness for email blasts, the Federation website, The Flame and Zoom meetings, we have been able to keep in touch with each other. Many thanks to chair Eve Vogelstein

and her committee for planning this year's installation and a big thank you to all who shared in this event with me. It is a day I will always remember.

As president, I look forward to working with the Federation Executive Board to plan and create meetings that will focus on important issues, offer educational programs and leadership training as well as continuing to support our Jewish community and advocating for current issues. We will be planning virtual meetings using Zoom as per CDC and our state's guidelines. Mark your calendars for:

- President's Reception on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Opening Meeting on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>
- The 104<sup>th</sup> convention scheduled for May 2021, where we will recognize our constituent honorees and the E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement recipient, Alyson Friedman. The convention committee, chaired by Shulamit Finkelstein, will start meeting in September.
- We are hoping to plan a trip to Annapolis to meet our legislators.

I am dedicated to arrange future, meaningful meetings and events and look forward to connecting with our membership.

Take care and be safe this summer.

Marcia Bornfriend, President

## New Officers for The Federation Inducted via ZOOM

With current pandemic restrictions, The Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland utilized technology (ZOOM) to



induct their new officers for 2020-2022. Even though we were all communicating from different locations, we were able to successfully complete our installation ceremony with panache. Our immediate past president, Linda Boteach, opened the meeting. Helene Waranch, the Nominating Chair, introduced the new slate of officers. Thank you, Helene, for your continued support.

Eve Vogelstein released all outgoing officers from their former responsibilities and then proceeded to install our new officers. A video showing Eve giving the past president's pin to Linda Boteach, and then Linda handing down the President's pin to Marcia

Bornfriend, our new President. Long-time friend of Marcia, Carol J. Caplan, gave a tribute to Marcia and Baltimore Hebrew Congregation's Rabbi Andrew Busch spoke meaningful words to Marcia, who graciously accepted her new role.

This ZOOM event was offered to all members and to any friends and family members who wanted to witness the installation. The Federation will continue to offer ZOOM presentations, educational programs and meetings until it is safe to resume in-person gatherings. (List of new officers are on page 5.)

## Message from Linda Boteach, Immediate Past President



As I pass the president's gavel to Marcia Bornfriend, I think it is important to remember all the accomplishments we made in the last two years and to thank everyone for your support and dedication.

When I started my presidency two years ago, one of the things I truly believed about Federation is that our constituent organizations must be fully engaged if we want to be vibrant and relevant. To that end, I, my officers and board wanted to improve our outreach to our membership. I think we have done that. Communication between Federation and our member organizations and constituents was improved. We formed an outreach committee to connect to our member organizations and to explain the mission of Federation as well as the importance of the organizations as members. The committee worked to personalize things and to make reminder calls before meetings. We asked our member organizations to appoint organizational representatives who could receive Federation information and distribute that information to their groups. We had a wonderful response. Thank you!

The Flame and the website allowed us to stay in touch and to serve our community in several ways. The "Under the Umbrella" column in The Flame listed our member organizations' events and appeared on the website. A liaison committee was appointed to collect the information for The Flame and website editors. These publications have been vehicles for getting other information to our members, such as: the president's message, the legislative updates (which are part of our advocacy mission), Federation meetings and events, and information about SERV-A (our long-term service project that helps support our active duty Jewish military personnel).

The number of Friends of Federation increased and makes available direct mailings about events and meetings as well as monthly email updates.

One of our goals was to provide excellent programming to educate and suggest resources to our constituent organizations. Melissa Hyatt, our new Baltimore County Police Chief, addressed us in

September. Our dinner meeting featured a speaker on Fake News and then we partnered with the Baltimore Jewish Council on a well attended program on Holocaust Education in Schools for our Mid-Winter Conference meeting. We had a wonderful March program. Unfortunately the May Convention planned by our hard working committee had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I think because of this outreach and great programming, we have seen more attendance at our meetings, and people are more aware of who we are in the community. We have had great news coverage from the Jewish Times and JMore because of our efforts.

I would like to acknowledge all past presidents who helped and guided me through this experience and my officers, executive committee and chair people who worked so well together to make things happen and helped me achieve the goals we set. I always say this and I cannot say it enough: everything we do is done by volunteers -- no paid staff. It is the people who surround you that make the difference, and I have been blessed with a great team and have made many friends. Thank you for serving with me. I am humbled by your gifts and talents that you have so generously used to make a difference in our Federation's achievements these last two years.

I don't think anyone could have anticipated the health crisis that has taken place, not just in our own community, but throughout the world. I remind myself that although there was disappointment that many things that we worked hard to make happen had to be cancelled, there are many who are suffering greatly and are losing loved ones because of this pandemic. I know that all of our Jewish community is pulling together and supporting each other.

We are learning to use Zoom and all other kinds of social media to stay in touch, to learn, to communicate and to cope. At Federation, we are busy at work using the tools to plan future events and stay in touch. We are strong and we will get through this.

I wish Marcia much success in the coming years and may everyone stay safe and continue with good health. Linda Boteach



### IN MEMORIAM

The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland deeply mourns the passing of Past President Ruth Denick. May her memory be for a blessing among the mourners of Zion. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy are with her family in their time of sorrow.

## Who Will Remember? Holocaust Education in Schools January 23, 2020 Mid-Winter Program

Over 87 attendees came to Beth Israel Synagogue on January 23, 2020 to hear speakers address “*Who Will Remember? Holocaust Education in Schools.*” Jo-Ann Orlinsky, our Federation Legislative Chair, moderated a panel of distinguished speakers that included Bruce Lesch from the Maryland Department of Education as well as Rachel Glaser and Margie Simon from the Baltimore Jewish Council Holocaust Commission. The panel addressed what is happening within Maryland regarding new legislation, including Holocaust education in school curriculums as well as future possibilities for educating our students about these horrific and unprecedented events in our world history. The USA and the world have much to learn about events that led to the Holocaust and its horrific consequences. There was ample time for the panel to address several questions from the audience, and it was felt that we may need to pursue more programs on this topic in the future.

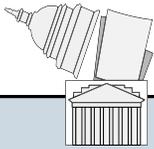
At this morning event, everyone enjoyed a traditional Jewish breakfast catered by Milk & Honey Bistro in Pikesville. For our social action activity, we collected monetary donations and female personal hygiene products. We collected five very large bags of products which were donated to female immigrants in need of such items. A BIG thank you to all who generously donated! The Federation also received two new FRIENDS during the program. Welcome and Thank You.

The Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations of Maryland is the last and only Jewish women’s organization in the Country. We strive to stay well and alive and have wonderful volunteers who are so committed and continue to give their time and efforts toward providing educational programs to our community. Please visit our website at [www.jewishwomensfed.org](http://www.jewishwomensfed.org) for more information and updates.

As you may know, our programs, including our annual convention in May, has been cancelled due to the existing, terrible Coronavirus pandemic. We are in the process of planning our future programs using Zoom. Our Opening Meeting will be Thursday October 15th and we are planning to have our convention in May 2021.



## Federation—Legislative Update



**Legislative  
Update by  
Jo-Ann Orlinsky**

The Maryland Legislature has adjourned sine die nearly three weeks early. This means that any bills that were not passed by both houses must be re-introduced in January. The special session, if called, will deal with only overrides of vetoes and any emergency

measures. At the time of this writing, the Governor has been too busy with the Coronavirus to sign many bills other than the related emergency bills. Because of the shortened session, many of the bills we support may have been passed by one house but not had time to make it through the other house. However, 660 bills did pass.

Bills which passed. -- Hate Crimes: SB 161/HB 5 - expands hate crimes law to include placing an item or symbol, including swastikas or nooses, on private property or buildings without the permission of the owner or to threaten or intimidate any person or groups of persons. SB 633/HB 541 - establishes Maryland Police Training standards for all police on hate crimes and procedures for proper reporting.

Bills which we have supported with MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women):  
HB 233 - Criminal Law-Strangulation. The bill re-designates intentional strangulation from a second degree assault to a first degree assault and provides

imprisonment for up to 25 years. SB 210 - Redefines eligibility for domestic violence and rape victims. After several years this bill has passed providing special protections of a protective order that are not included in peace orders, including removal of firearms. SB 206 - Human Trafficking- expands the number of crimes able to be vacated by the court committed by victims of human trafficking forced to commit criminal acts, other than prostitution which passed last year. HB 123 - Wage History and Wage Range prohibits employers from asking salary history or a range of salary that a job applicant would accept. Over a woman's lifetime this could cost between \$500,000 to \$1 million dollars in decreased retirement payment. SB 684 - Women's Pre-Release Facility, requires not requests, the Department of Corrections to establish a separate women's pre-release facility in the jurisdiction to which the largest number of women will return upon release.

Federal -- the Never Again Act passed the Congress. It provides grants to schools, both public and private, to create Holocaust and diversity curriculum.

**New Primary Date: June 2, 2020.**

### The Federation's Newly Installed Officers of 2020—2022

**Marcia Bornfriend, President**

**Julie Bernstein, Vice President**

**Karan Engerman, Vice President**

**CeCe Rund, Vice President**

**Shulamit Finkelstein, Recording Secretary**

**Rochelle Bohrer and Ferne Rogow, Corresponding Secretaries**

**Ann Fishkin, Treasurer**

**Arlene Mazer, Auditor**

**Linda Boteach, Community Representative and Immediate Past President**

**Congratulations to Marcia Bornfriend for being accepted into  
The Acharai: The Shoshana S. Cardin Jewish Leadership Institute.**

## Supporting Serv-A



Because of Covid-19, all military travel orders have been cancelled. The military chaplains, Jewish active duty US service members and Jewish veterans will not be able to participate in their usual and supportive “ministry of presence.” In-person gatherings have also been cancelled.

These orders affected all Passover seders this year. As a result, Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) chaplains and lay leaders hosted eight Zoom seders in six different time zones. A video seder was created and it included 14 Jewish chaplains, who represented each branch of the military (active duty and reserve), and each denomination of Judaism -- Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist. This joint effort of collaboration and mutual respect, like the JWB Siddur that preceded it, is the hallmark of military chaplaincy. JWB edited its own Haggadah for on-line distribution. This military Haggadah, with images of seders observed during WWII through to the present and stories of seders during the Civil War, was uniquely geared for service members and veterans.

Although the JWB may have changed so much about how they deliver services to our men and women in uniform, their families and veterans, it has not changed JWB’s commitment to fostering meaningful Jewish engagement for those who serve our country. Our Jewish service members continue to do their jobs to keep our country safe. Let’s continue to support them.

Donations to Serv-A, the Federation’s long term social project, go directly to the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council. Thank you for your contributions. Susan Grilli, Serv-A Chair

### Donate to Serv-A Form

Serv-A is an project of the Federation which serves the Jewish Chaplains Council, made up of sixteen rabbis and four active duty Jewish chaplains and serves over 500 military installations and VA medical centers. Your funds provide holiday supplies, religious support and chaplaincy coverage to Jewish military men and women.

I would like to make a donation to Serv-A  
**IN MEMORY OF – IN HONOR OF (circle one)**

Send to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:**

**Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations of MD**

**Mail to:**

**Ann Fishkin, Treasurer**

**6501 Trotwood Court ~ Baltimore, Maryland 21209**

**www.jewishwomensfed.org**

### Becoming a Friend

Thank you for being a Friend of The Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations of Maryland. We hope that you will continue to support the Federation in 2020-2021 with an \$18 donation. Your annual Friend contribution provides support for the Federation meetings and programs. As a Friend, you will receive copies of The Flame newsletter, invitations and a copy of our directory. This directory will list you as a contributor.

As we handle this Coronavirus situation, we all rely on our friends more than ever. Thank you again for your support of the Federation. (Form on page 8)

#### Federation is Available to Visit You

Each member organization can invite a Federation officer to visit one of your meetings to learn about Federation and what we can do for you. Call Karan Engerman for more information at 443-570-6435.



## Under Our Umbrella

*The Flame* is happy to highlight your organization's events. Submit your information to Elissa Ness, [easelthew@aol.com](mailto:easelthew@aol.com). Bring your flyers to each meeting so they can be placed on a table.

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, our constituent organizations, following CDC guidelines, cancelled events that were scheduled for the Spring and Summer. Listings for events for Under the Umbrella will start in our September issue of *The Flame*. You can still have events listed on our website.

Please send us the events your organization is planning for the fall by August 22nd.



Our thoughts and blessings are with those women and their families who have lost members during this COVID 19 pandemic.

## Time to Visit our Webpage by Eve Vogelstein

Although our webpage has been around for many years, it has become quite timely during these days of isolation. We now look for and learn information from home rather than running about from meeting to meeting. We are hoping our website can be a great source to you and your organization. Although meetings have been postponed on an in-person level, many of our organizations are learning new ways of reaching out to their members through the internet. We are here for you as a resource to list any events that you will be having virtually on our Events page. Please visit to learn the up-to-date goings on with our organizations. This has been a learning curve for all of us. Practice makes perfect so keep at it. Visit the zoom meetings and stay connected. Looking forward to "seeing" you at our next meeting. For any questions or postings, contact me at [info@jewishwomensfed.org](mailto:info@jewishwomensfed.org).

## Zoom Meetings



The COVID 19 crisis has caused almost everyone to start to use virtual sites to communicate with people for meetings, teaching, installations, playing games, workshops and just hanging out with family and friends.

This way of communicating has forced people who normally would not use technology to learn quickly how to log into Zoom. In the coming months, The Federation made the decision to plan Zoom meetings using this type of video conferencing until restrictions are lifted and our members will feel comfortable to start going to large meetings again.

We had successfully planned our installation on Zoom and the number of attendees was amazing. We are in the planning stages for our Presidents' Reception on July 16, 2020, which will start at 10:00 am. More information will be sent out to our constituent organizations' presidents. On October 15th, we will be inviting you to join us for our Opening Meeting. We are excited about this meeting and are planning to include an exciting speaker. Look for more information this summer.

Since organizations are switching to Zoom, I thought it would be a good idea to give you some information for using Zoom.

- Dress appropriately.
- Keep yourself muted unless you need to speak. This keeps distracting noise to a minimum.
- To avoid being in shadow, make sure there is not a light source behind you.
- You can always use the chat button on your screen to express your thoughts.
- When speaking at a Zoom meeting, look at your device camera not at people.



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### Federation Calendar

#### Save the Dates:

Thursday, July 16, 2020, Presidents' Reception

Thursday, October 15, 2020, Opening Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2020, General Evening Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2021, Mid-Winter Conference

Thursday, March 18, 2021, Day in Annapolis

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 104th Annual Convention

### Become a Friend of Federation



Send a check for \$18 to Ann Fishkin. Remember to designate "Friend" on your check and complete the form on your right.

#### FRIEND OF FEDERATION FORM

Thank you for being a Friend of Federation. Your contribution of \$18 a year helps Federation bring you The Flame, the Directory, as well as underwrite meetings and workshops. Membership in this group entitles you to receive all mailings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

I do not want to be included in the Federation directory

#### 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

Email: [info@jewishwomensfed.org](mailto:info@jewishwomensfed.org)  
Visit us at [www.jewishwomensfed.org](http://www.jewishwomensfed.org)



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