



THE FLAME

Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland

Lighting the Way for Jewish Women Leaders • Established 1916

Spring 2026

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Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland

110th Annual Convention

Thursday, May 14, 2026

9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Women's Healthcare:

Expectations

Challenges

Changes



**"A WOMAN'S HEALTH IS HER GREATEST ASSET;
INVEST IN IT WISELY." ...Author Unknown**

Program

"Women's Health: Expectations, Challenges and Changes"

Keynote Speaker

**Leslie Simmons, RN, FACHE, System Chief Operating Officer and
Executive Vice President of LifeBridge Health.**

Presentation of the

**E. B. HIRSH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Recipient Lee M. Hendler, Community Leader**

Presentation of

**"A WOMAN WHO PROMOTES WELL-BEING " AWARD
TO A MEMBER FROM EACH OF OUR CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Message from Our President Shulamit Finkelstein



I am coming to the end of my second term as president of Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland. It has been a wonderful experience! I've had the privilege of working with some of the most dedicated and talented women in the Jewish community. Our Board of Directors are nearly two dozen strong, and people are always amazed that we are all volunteers! We have no paid staff, and yet we provide educational and inspiring programs four times a year for our member organizations, plus a convention each May for the 23 Jewish women's organizations under our umbrella. We also are available to partner with the organizations under our umbrella for their social action projects.

Our Board members' talents and skills run the gamut of financial expertise, auditing, technology expertise, graphic design, publishing, writing, videography, secretarial skills, event planning and decorating and legislative advocacy.

Our Board members are dedicated to the mission of Women's Federation to serve as a resource and a voice for the organizations under our umbrella. For 110 years, our organization has

supported women's organizations that enhance the lives, health and well-being of Maryland's Jewish community and beyond. Women's Federation also works to foster communication and connections among our organizations under our umbrella in order to learn from and support each other. We believe there is strength in numbers. Among our wide array of amazing constituent organizations include synagogue sisterhoods and women's groups, Hadassah, Israel Bonds, JNF, philanthropic guilds and organizations and auxiliaries that serve the needs of children, adults, the infirmed and their families and the elderly.

On a personal level, serving as a member of the Women's Federation has deepened my love for our Jewish heritage through the many in-depth educational opportunities it has offered. Please consider becoming a Friend of Federation. The yearly dues are \$18 and you can apply through jewishwomensfed.org which is our website.

Also, volunteers for our various programs are always welcome, or if your Jewish women's organization is not yet a member of Women's Fed, contact me at shulamitf44@gmail.com for more information.



Best wishes,
Shulamit Finkelstein

110TH ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 14, 2026



Join us for our **110th Annual Convention** as we honor our wonderful volunteers and explore **Women's Healthcare: Expectations, Challenges and Changes** with our Keynote speaker, Leslie Simmons, RN, FACHE, System Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of LifeBridge Health. We will also be presenting our **"E.B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement" Award** to Lee Hendler and our wonderful honorees with the **"A Woman Who Promotes Well-being" Award**. Our event will be held at Ateres Elka, 2905 Walnut Avenue, Owings Mills. Our convention will also include a delicious Kosher lunch, Catering by Shula.

You may register online or by mail. All information can be found on our website at Jewishwomensfed.org. You also have the opportunity to honor your organization's honoree with a Mazel Tov card.

Thank you to our wonderful co-chairs, Rosalind Asch and CeCe Rund, as well as our very talented convention committee. We hope to see you there!

Federation Legislative Update—2026

Information from Maryland General Assembly website and Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) website.

The Maryland General Assembly legislative session in Annapolis ended on Monday, April 13, 2026. At the time of this writing (April 7, 2026), some of the following legislation regarding women’s issues is or has occurred.

You may have been notified via email to support bill **SB 187** “*as amended*.” This amended bill backs the state’s promise to create a **Gender Response Pre-release Center** for women and will provide community-based services needed for successful re-entry into society.



Other bills that needed support include:
SB 81: Resource Officers Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students

It is sad that we have to even consider such a bill, but this is reality.

SB 294: Criminal Procedure-Protection of Identity of Victims of Sexual Assault or Stalking.

This bill prohibits a court or party in a criminal or juvenile case from disclosing or allowing inspection of certain court filings relating to a victim of sexual assault or stalking that would appear in a court record unless the court finds clear and convincing evidence that there is good cause to order otherwise.

Mgaleg.maryland.gov, Mdlegagendaforwomen.org

110TH ANNUAL CONVENTION HONOREES “A WOMAN WHO PROMOTES WELL-BEING “ Award CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THESE WONDERFUL WOMEN

Adat Chaim Sisterhood – Linda Boteach	Covenant Guild, Inc. – Bluma Jed	Rodger C. Snyder Memorial, Ladies Auxiliary 117 JWV – Sandra Fisher
Associated Women – Jodi Moskowitz	Hadassah of Greater Baltimore – Carol Wynne	Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation— Leslie Glickman
Beth El Congregation Sisterhood – Harriet Weiner	Israel Bonds Maryland, Women's Division – Sharon Zuckerbrod	Women of Temple Isaiah Sisterhood – Doris Geisler
Beth Israel Congregation Sisterhood – Suzanne Kiewe	Jewish Caring Network – Rivka Bogart	Women’s Club of Har Sinai- Oheb Shalom Sisterhood— Dr. Ellen Taylor
BethTfiloh Congregation Sisterhood – Shelley Kaye	Kappa Guild, Inc. – Marcia Markowitz	E. B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award—Lee M. Hendler
CHANA – Gail Kandel	Levindale Auxiliary, Inc. – Marcy Wesalo	
Chizuk Amuno Congregation Sisterhood – Jayne Gerson	Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah Sisterhood – Rosalind Asch	

Add your name to a personalized “Mazel Tov” greeting that will be sent to each honoree during the summer to let her know just how special and appreciated she is!
 (Forms are available on our website: jewishwomensfed.org) or call Ann at 410-484-9604



110TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



On **May 14, 2026**, Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland will hold our 110th Annual Convention at Ateres Elka - Owings Mills Synagogue. The Chairs for this event are **Rosalind Asch and CeCe Rund**. Our keynote speaker will be **Leslie Simmons**, RN, FACHE, System Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of LifeBridge Health . We are excited to present the E. B. Hirsh Lifetime Achievement Award to **Lee M. Hendler**, Community Leader. This year's convention theme is **"Women's Health: Expectations, Challenges and Changes."** We are very excited to present the **"A Woman Who Promotes Well-being " 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 for additional information. This promises to be a most important, timely and interesting presentation!

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REVIEW by Shulamit Finkelstein

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

This past January 29th, we had the pleasure of hosting guest speaker Daniel Taub for our Mid-Winter Zoom general meeting. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Taub has served as an Israeli diplomat, peace negotiator and ambassador to the UK. He is also an author and much sought-after speaker. In these volatile times when disagreements among friends, family members, colleagues, neighbors and acquaintances are causing unnecessary and often irreversible rifts, Daniel Taub showed us how our 2000 year-old Jewish tradition of argument can guide us in navigating difficult conversations that too often lead to hurtful divisions. That tradition led to the creation of the Talmud and other great Jewish works.

Mr. Taub explained that in Western society, argument is handled in two ways. It is either perceived as a conflict where one side wins and the other loses, or is something to be avoided all together. In stark contrast, after the destruction of the Temple, our Rabbis reinvented argument as a search for truth. Complete truth was understood as coming from heaven, but each individual person is capable of perceiving only a part of the truth. Through argument, however, can we get closer to complete truth. In relating to us the importance of argument, Mr. Taub used many interesting stories, examples and allegories from the Talmud, personal experience and elsewhere.

He noted that we have to approach argument with "confident humility" so that we can get to the truth, but also with necessary humility and honesty about any position we have at the moment. Argument helps us re-examine what we think, therefore we should not dismiss people who think differently, but actually seek them out. Another interesting point Mr. Taub stressed was that we should seek out an arguing partner who can make his or her case as strong as possible. Furthermore, that we are even capable of living with two opposing opinions at the same time!

Mr. Taub's video presentation can be found on our website under past events. He is also the author of [Beyond Dispute: Recovering the Jewish Art of Constructive Disagreement](#) which can be found on Amazon.

Many thanks to Julie Bernstein who arranged our January guest speaker.

MARCH MEETING - ANNAPOLIS TRIP REPORT by CeCe Rund

We finally made it to Annapolis! On March 19, 2026, thirty-five ladies represented our Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland at the State House. We started by observing a legislative session in the Senate from the observation gallery. Senator Hettleman then recognized us from the floor.

Following the Senate session, we walked to the Miller Building where we enjoyed a dairy lunch catered by Naval Bagels. Senator Hettleman stopped by and we were able to get a group photo with her. Unfortunately, despite our invitation, other legislators were unable to break from their sessions as they were backlogged with many bills (over 1,000 this session) to be discussed and voted upon.

Over lunch, we discussed two important bills that are being considered for a vote. Both are unimaginable and antisemitic.

Bill HB 1148: Not on Our Dime Act. This would allow the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland to file a civil lawsuit to any charity that supports Israel or Israeli citizens. This bill is sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero, Democrat, District 39, Montgomery County.

Bill HB1455: This bill is calling for the pension system to divest from Israel. Howard Libit from the BJC alerted me that several dozen anti-Israel activist signed up to testify. Fortunately, the committee includes many supporters to counter this bill. However, this bill is in the House Appropriations Committee for consideration. The bill is sponsored by Delegate Caylin Young, Democrat, District 45, Baltimore City.

Our lunch discussions resulted in the following suggestions for our Federation:

- Add updates on current legislation that affects our Jewish community to our online site.
- Include actions that our members can take to speak out against antisemitic proposed legislation.

Following lunch, we hiked back to the State House for a guided tour, It was a beautiful day and the cherry blossoms were out in full color. As we walked, we were approached by young pro-Palestinian protestors who were repeating the rhetoric of genocide and asking that we sign petitions for peace.

What I learned :

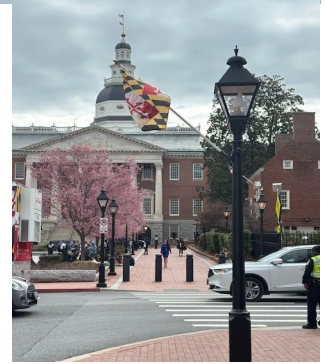
The environment in Maryland is seriously tainted with pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel legislators and people in general. Many young people are being influenced by others who do not understand the facts of this current war and are easily swayed by fake news and think that they are protesting for peace but really targeting Israel as evil.

Pay attention to who is sponsoring these outrageous antisemitic bills and call or write to them, expressing your opinions. Do not support them in the next election.

Support our Jewish government representatives in Annapolis.

I thank all ladies who took this trip. It was a wonderful opportunity to be together, to witness our state government in action and to learn that there is no rest regarding antisemitism.

PICTURES FROM ANNAPOLIS



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

ADAT CHAIM SISTERHOOD

May 3, 2026, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Bingo at Adat Chaim Sisterhood. The event will be held at Adat Chaim Synagogue 11421 Cronhill Drive, Suite H, Owings Mills 21117. \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. There will be prizes. No outside food will be allowed. For questions call Tina Asher at 410-913-1416. RSVP to acsisterhood18@gmail.com. Send checks made out to Adat Chaim Sisterhood to the address above.

BETH EL SISTERHOOD

Monday, May 11, 2026, 1:00PM. Sisterhood Closing Meeting/ Installation and Luncheon, Program with David Rubenstein following. Join the Beth El Sisterhood for a special program featuring David Rubenstein—renowned investor, author, philanthropist, and co-founder of The Carlyle Group. This special event, on May 11th at 1pm, is open to the public. Friends, family and community members are warmly invited to attend. Registration is required. This event will be held at Beth El Congregation 8101 Park Heights Ave. Baltimore MD 21208. The cost is \$18-\$25. Please contact: Gayle Glick- ggayle56@aol.com for more information.

BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 11:00 AM. End of year Brunch & Fashion

Show. Brunch followed by Fashion Show by Taylor Marie Fashions. This event will take place at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. The cost is \$40.00 Sisterhood Member and \$45.00 Guest or Non-Sisterhood Member. Please contact: Suzanne Kiewe SuzKiewe@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 9, 2026, 9:30 AM. Sisterhood Shabbat at Beth Israel Congregation, 3706 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. Please contact Suzanne Kiewe SuzKiewe@gmail.com.

BETH TFILOH SISTERHOOD

Sunday, October 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Beth Tfiloh Shop 'Til You Drop Boutique will be held at Beth Tfiloh. Lots of wonderful vendors, free balloon animals for kids, food, and a silent auction. More details to follow.

COVENANT GUILD, INC.

May 3, 2026 2:15 PM. Enjoy a matinee FUNDRAISER showing of "Devil Wears Prada 2" at the AMC Owings Mills 17 Theatre, 10100 Mill Run Circle, Owings Mills, MD 21117, Contact Co-President Dale Levitz, 410-484-0609 or dalevitz@comcast.net before April 15.



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.

COVENANT GUILD, INC. continued...

May 20, 2026 11:00 AM. Covenant Guild's 71 st Annual Donor Luncheon, Martin's Valley Mansion, 594 Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030, Contact Co-President Sharon Stadd, 443-838-4285 or shrnspen4271@yahoo.com.

June 7, 2026 10:30 AM. Covenant Guild's annual closing meeting and installation of officers. Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company, 40 E. Sudbrook Lane, Pikesville, MD 21208, Contact Co-President Elaine Minkove, 410-655-7762 or mommomm47@gmail.com.

HADASSAH GREATER BALTIMORE

Selected Mondays from January - May 2026 from 11 AM to 12 PM 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>.

May 6, 7:30 PM - Legislative De-Briefing with Maryland State Senator, Shelly Hettleman. Maryland State Senator Shelly Hettleman (District 11) provides an overview of the successes and challenges of the 2026 Maryland General Assembly. Senator Hettleman is the Chair of the Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus and a lifetime member of Hadassah. This event will be on Zoom (registration link coming soon). The cost is Free. For questions, please contact Nancy Braverman nbraverman@hadassah.org.

Tuesday, May 12, 1-3 PM. Building Healthy Habits : Bite by Bite in Pikesville, MD (exact location to be disclosed upon registration. This event will promote foods to boost immunity, reduced inflammation and lower disease risk. The menu will incorporate a variety of vegetables, legumes and fruits that are high fiber, less sugar and minimally processed. The cost is \$18. For more information, please contact Carol Wynne at Cfwynne@gmail.com. Registration link coming soon.

Tuesday, May 26, 5:30 PM. Jewish Heritage Night at Camden Yards held at Oriole Park at Camden Yards: 333 Camden St Baltimore, MD 21201. Join Hadassah Greater Baltimore as we celebrate Jewish Heritage Night and the start of a new season at Camden Yards. This is an intergenerational event, so bring your family out to the ballpark for some fun! The cost is \$50. To register: <https://hwzoa.networkforgood.com/events/97700-mid-atlantic-hadassah-greater-baltimore-celebrates-jewish-heritage-night-at-camden-yards-2026>. For more info contact Nancy Braverman nbraverman@hadassah.org.

KAPPA GUILD, INC.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 Donor Luncheon Celebrating our 73rd anniversary and 53rd donor. Ateres Elka 2905 Walnut Avenue. Catering by Shula. 11:30-3:00. Cost TBD. Entertainment by Vintage Entertainment- The Great American Songbook. For more information call Sheila Mentz at 410-484-8215 or email at morahsheila@aol.com or Miriam Stern at 410-299-0498 or email at bubbysternmail@aol.com.

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 Day of Games. Pappas Restaurant in Cockeysville. 11:30-4:00. Delicious lunch and fun afternoon of games. Cost TBD. For information call Michale Misler at 410-654-0857 or email at radgirl25@comcast.net or angiosm@aol.com.

THE WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISAIAH SISTERHOOD

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 8:45 AM-4:30 PM. Temple Isaiah Mah Jongg Tournament sponsored by The Women of Temple Isaiah. This event will take place at Temple Isaiah, 12200 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, Md. The cost is \$70 per person/\$60 if you agree to be East. Please contact: Doris Geisler timahjongtournament@gmail.com or Sharon Nussbaum 443-538-1787. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/WoTI-MahjonggTourn-2026>. **Flyer.**

WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAR SINAI OHEB SHALOM SISTERHOOD

May 3 at 2:00 PM - Wine Tasting at Black Ankle Vineyard in Mt. Airy, MD. Contact: Diana Hegmann, dhegmann.dh@gmail.com.

June 12 at 6:15 PM - Friday night Women's Club Erev Shabbat Services with the presentation of our Lillian E. Shusterman Woman of Valor Award.

WOMEN OF BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

May 3, 2026, 1:00 PM - 4 PM, Shred Event & Electronics Recycling Sunday, \$5/bag for paper and \$5 per electronic item. Located in the BHC parking lot.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 and Tuesday June 9, 2026 - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Game Galore at BHC. Contact womenofbhc@gmail.com.

May 14, 2026, 7:30 PM. Grandparents Schmooze, via Zoom. Contact womenofbhc@gmail.com if interested.

Tuesday, June 1, 2026, 7:30 PM. The Book Circle, via Zoom. Contact womenofbhc@gmail.com if interested.

Federation Calendar
(meetings are held on Thursdays)

Meetings Held Either Virtually or in Person
2026-2027



May 14, 2026—110th Annual Convention

September 24, 2026—Opening Meeting

November 19, 2026—Dinner Meeting

January 21, 2027—Mid-Winter Conference

March 18, 2027—March Meeting

May 20, 2027—111th 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 _____

Address _____

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Zip code _____ Phone _____

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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: Ann Fishkin annfishkin5@gmail.com, 410-484-9604

THE FLAME

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