



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

PACIFIC DISTRICT



## 2020 Pre-Convention Schedule

(all times are PDT)

rev. 8-14-2020

**Links will be sent out to registrants before Pre-Convention Events and before Convention begins. Also, look for them in the Chai Line and in Yammer.**

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|-----------------------------|---|
| August 20, 2020, 7:00 pm    | <b>White Fragility Engaging in Difficult Conversations About Race and Racism in America</b> - Discussion of Robin Di'Angelo's book , <b>White Fragility: Why Is It so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism</b> . White Fragility is a term coined by the author to describe any defensive instincts or reactions a white person experiences when questioned about race or made to consider their own race. Di'Angelo considers "racism in the United States as systemic and often perpetuated unconsciously by individuals." <b>Robin Boehler; Rabbi Jill Perlman</b> |
| August 27, 2020, 7:00 pm    | <b>Proposed WRJ PD Bylaws Revisions Presentation</b> - Review of proposed Pacific District Bylaws and discussion of changes. This is designed as an information session, to allow you to go back to your sisterhoods to discuss and send comments or questions to Lois Fried and the Bylaws Committee. <b>Lois Fried</b>  |
| September 3, 2020, 7:00 pm  | <b>How to Make a "No Sew Blanket"</b> - Instructions on how to make no-sew fleece baby blankets to be donated to your local organizations. This effort, organized by the Action and Advocacy Committee is designed to help families in need. Homeless services and healthcare centers are trying to meet the current increased demand and will accept donations of baby blankets. <b>Flo Cohen</b>  |
| September 24, 2020, 7:00 pm | <b>Presidents Open Discussion</b> - Open discussion with sisterhood Presidents/Councils on their presidency, concerns, questions they may have, and successes they want to share. <b>Sandy Anderson</b>   |
| October 1, 2020, 7:00 pm    | <b>Zoom 102 Q &amp; A</b> - The basics, <b>Zoom 101 How to Use Zoom</b> , is recorded and posted for your viewing on <b>Yammer</b> . This Zoom 102 session will provide additional tips as well as answers to your specific questions. This workshop is designed to make your Convention experience better. <b>Shoshana Lewin Fischer; Lori Glasky</b>  |
| October 15, 2020, 7:00 pm   | <b>Convention First Timers Info Session</b> - If you haven't attended Convention and want to know what to expect and how to enjoy the programs even more, this is the place for you. <b>Robyn Blachman</b>  |
| October 22, 2020, 7:00 pm   | <b>Getting to Know Your Sisters Through Interactive Q&amp;A</b> - Interactive question and answer studio designed to give you a chance to meet others. <b>Stacy Nagel</b>   |



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## 2020 Convention Saturday October 24 Schedule

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8:30 am - 9:00 am	<b>Morning Meditation and Chair Yoga</b> - Start your day the right way. This class is for all levels and no previous experience is necessary. <b>Michelle Azar</b>
9:00 am - 9:30 am	<b>Welcome Chat Rooms with Breakouts</b> - Begin the day with friends, new and old, in virtual meeting (Chat) rooms. The size of the rooms will be limited to allow you more opportunities to talk. Each room will have a facilitator to help keep the conversations flowing.
9:45 am - 10:45 am	<b>Welcome to Convention</b> - Convention kicks off with greetings from the Pacific District and WRJ, featuring special guest and Keynote Speaker <b>Natalie Grumet</b> on <b>Being a Warrior</b> .
10:45 am - 11:00 am	<b>Break</b>
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Shabbat Morning Sessions:</b>  <b>Deborah: A Woman's Leadership: To Be Praised or Denounced?</b> - Deborah is the only female judge in the early Iron age of Israel. We will look at how she is portrayed in the Bible and through the rabbis' lens in midrash. Were women judged differently than men in the past? How about today? <b>Rabbi Nancy Myers</b>  <b>Finding the Word in a D'Var Torah</b> - A D'var Torah? What's that? Well, it's NOT a sermon!! It is a brief exploration of that ONE word in the Torah portion which you find interesting, compelling, or intriguing. Come learn about how to find that "word" and how NOT to be afraid of giving a D'var Torah. <b>Dr. Madelyn Katz</b>  <b>Remind Me, Who Was Mrs. Noach?</b> - The Essential (and Often Overlooked) Role of Women in Navigating Deep Waters and Storms. <b>Rabbi Na'ama Dafni-Kellen</b>  <b>The Role of Tehom</b> - The Primordial Female Presence. <b>Rabbi Molly Weisel</b>
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	<b>Break/Chat Rooms/Lunch</b> - Another wonderful chance to meet with friends, new and old.
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> - Pacific District business will be conducted: updates on what is happening in the Pacific District and WRJ, approval of the Bylaws previously reviewed, election of new Pacific District officers and leaders, and announcement of the 2020 Eleanor Kretzer Kavod Award winners.

2:05 pm - 2:30 pm

**Break**

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Workshop Block A:**

**Queen Bees and Wannabees: How to Take the Sting Out of Conflict** - Learn how to deal with "difficult people" and listen to build allies and create a stronger organization. **Nicole Villalpando**

**Don't Be Afraid of the Numbers: Sisterhood Finance** - Whether you are the treasurer or a board member, you need to understand the financial workings of your sisterhood. We will talk about bookkeeping options, day-to-day management of finances, and show you how to generate income and expenses to reflect your mission statement. The goal is to help you feel empowered to build a strong financial foundation for your sisterhood. **Lisa Singer**

**B'tzelem Elohim and Human Dignity: Hot Topics in Social Justice** - In these turbulent times, anti-abortion lawmakers across the country continue to attack women's reproductive freedom. It is more important than ever for us to reaffirm the Jewish community's commitment to ensure all who need it have access to information and reproductive health care, especially those marginalized by racism and discrimination. What is the effect of the current pandemic on women, especially the victims of domestic violence, what are the challenges for survivors, and how are organizations shifting to meet current needs.

**Becoming Mindful, Compassionate and a Positive Source for Good** - This session will demonstrate how to use Mindfulness as a tool for being compassionate for yourself and for others and to become a positive, even, radical force for good. **Lindie Henderson**

**Shalom: How Hospitality is a Psychological Necessity** - Cultural tradition, divine law and the golden rule all rely on hospitality. Yet, in this culture of hostility, hospitality has been commercialized, dehumanized, and McDonaldized™. Informed by mythology, psychology and theology, Dr. Stacey Zackin looks through a Jewish lens at *"The Psychology of Hospitality: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments"* to lead an interactive program celebrating the role of hospitality in Jewish life and community building. Participants will leave with a better understanding of and stronger connection to hospitality and with their talents for being both a nurturing host and generous guest. **Dr. Stacey Zackin**

3:45 pm - 4:15 pm

**Afternoon Chats:**

**Kavod Award Winners** - This year's Kavod Award winners will present and discuss their programs. **Facilitator: Peggy Martin, 2020 Kavod Award Chair**

**Continuing the Conversation About Racism** - We are beginning the conversation in August by discussing Robin Di'Angelo's book **White Fragility**. [Click here for more information about the August 20 book discussion](#). Now we will continue evaluating our perceptions about what we are doing to understand racism. **Facilitator: Deb Lechuk**

**General Chat Rooms** - Open chat rooms with facilitators.

4:30 pm - 5:45 pm

**Installation, Havdallah & Music** - The Incoming Pacific District Board will be installed by our **Past Pacific District Presidents** and by **Rabbi Mark Goldfarb**. The Havallah Service will be led by **Temple Beth Or Sisterhood**.

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**Dinner Break**

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Evening Activities:**

**Treasure, Trivia, Talk** - If you want to get up and away from your screen for a bit, join us in a fun and active treasure hunt interspersed with some intriguing trivia questions. It'll be silly and crazy and you may even learn a bit as well. ***Stacy Nagel***

**Cozy Klatches** - Remember how you go into a room with your sisters and talk? We'll give you links to different rooms where you can meet with others from your sisterhood or new friends you've met to informally visit.

**Continue the Conversation** - Meet **Keynote Speaker Natalie Grumet, Breast Cancer Survivor and Gun Violence Victim**, and chat about breast cancer survival, gun violence and being a warrior. She'll answer any lingering questions you may have after her keynote talk.



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## 2020 Convention Sunday October 25 Schedule

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8:15 am - 9:00 am	<b>Israeli Dancing with Miriam Nash</b>
9:15 am - 9:45 am	<b>Interest Group Chat Rooms</b> - There will be several interest groups you can choose from to meet with others who share your passion.
10:00 am - 10:10 am	<b>CREATING OUR FUTURE STARTS TODAY</b> - Our Pacific District Incoming President will share her vision and plans for the future of our district, engaging us all in working together toward a stronger and caring district. <b>Incoming WRJ Pacific District President Cher Krichmar</b>
10:10 am - 10:20 am	<b>Our Leadership Journey</b> - Connection and personal growth through involvement in our Sisterhoods, the Pacific District, and WRJ. <b>Julia Weinstein, WRJ Vice President Programs and Education</b>
10:20 am - 11:15 am	<b>Say YES!</b> Ensuring the future begins with the programs we support through the <b>WRJ YES Fund (Youth, Education, Special Projects)</b> which provides the financial strength that will allow WRJ and the Reform Movement to continue to thrive. Winners of <b>Chance to Win</b> will be revealed.
12:30 am - 1:30 pm	<b>Workshop Block B</b>  <b>Communicating with Kavod</b> - Learn to effectively communicate with kindness and empathy, whether in person or in writing, during board meetings, by email, one on one, or in bigger groups. No matter your previous experience with learning to communicate with <i>kavod</i> , you will leave with tools not only to speak but to listen more effectively. Participants will be led by experienced facilitators, through discussion and small-group exercises, to understand, practice and master this important skill. <b>Deb Radin</b>  <b>Reimagining the Future: Leadership in Time of Covid 19</b> - In this moment, we live in a volatile and uncertain world. We will discuss how you can imagine the possibilities of a hybrid society, experiment and innovate, and rebuild for new realities. <b>Amy Asin, URJ Vice President, Strengthening Congregations</b>  <b>Membership Across Generations</b> - Learn ideas for both recruitment and retention of Sisterhood members across the generations. Learn ways to attract and keep women of all ages as well as the two "best" lifecycle stages for Sisterhood recruitment. <b>Stacy Nagel</b>

**Beyond Welcoming: Addressing Racism and Other Forms of Oppression** - Audacious Hospitality utilizes the principles of equity and inclusion, to enable our communities to incorporate the diversity of the Jewish people. Audacious Hospitality is the URJ's transformative spiritual practice rooted in the belief that we will be a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community when we fully embrace the diversity that is the reality of the modern Jewish landscape. This session will help participants start building stronger communities and transform the ways our institutions recognize the essential practices of equity and inclusion. *Rachel Hall*

**Been There, Done That, What's Next?** Use your knowledge and experience to build future leaders. *Dana Adler*

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**Break**

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**WRJ PD Stronger Together: Closing Ceremonies** - As we look forward to the future, we celebrate our District and our Convention and that we have been blessed with the leadership of many amazing women. Our WRJ Guests will share the **Top Ten Convention Takeaways**; we will hear the Call to the next Convention; and finally we will be transported to a very special closing circle led by **Beth Schafer, Spiritual Leader, Composer, and Musician. WRJ PD Incoming President Cher Krichmar and WRJ PD Outgoing President Dana Adler**



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## 2020 Post-Convention Schedule

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October 29, 2020, TBD

**WRJ Lifeline Reception** - Join this celebration designed especially for you if you have completed a WRJ Lifeline or are working on one. **Tracey Poitier**

November 1, 2020, TBD

**Area Director Training** - Designed to help strengthen our Sisterhoods by having trained facilitators to help. The Training is for Incoming Area Directors and Area Vice Presidents. **Carol Schuster**

TBD

**Nashim Society** - Are you a Sisterhood past president or WRJ or PD Board member? Do you want to stay involved in the District? Join the Pacific District Nashim Society at this meeting and help plan the future of this important committee. **Margie Meadow and Erika Barnathan**