



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
PACIFIC DISTRICT



Tuesday Chai Line

November 15, 2016 | 14 Cheshvan 5777

2016 Pacific District Convention Opening Prayer by Erika Barnathan, Temple Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood, Northridge, CA

The Why

Why are we here?

Why are we part of this organization?

Why do we want to take time from our busy lives

to come to a Women of Reform Judaism Pacific District Conference?

Take a moment.

Close your eyes.

Think about the women in your life who influenced you in your Judaism. Is she your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, maybe a family friend? Was this woman strong, was she enthusiastic, was she a doer? What was it that made you think about her?

Now, take a moment and think about the young women in your life. It could be a daughter, granddaughter, niece, or someone in your synagogue. How can you influence her for the future of Judaism? What can you do to help her grow up to be a leader, to love and respect the traditions that are so precious to us? How can you be the one that she thinks about one day, when she is at a Jewish leaders convention of her own?

Everyday is a new beginning. Our convention is a new beginning. How can we, the women of Reform Judaism, the leaders in our communities, pass on the love of Judaism, of traditions, of b'yachad - togetherness to future generations of Jewish Women?

We are grateful to be here. We are grateful to be part of such a strong and exciting group. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be the shoulders that the next generation can stand on.

We ask G-d, to be with us and watch over us as we come together this weekend to learn, to grow, to develop into leaders. For those of us who have been leaders for a long time, we ask for guidance on how we can continue to make our mark in our sisterhoods and in our synagogues. We ask that we find ways to be strong, yet gentle. To be assertive, yet loving. To teach, yet to be willing to learn alongside one another. We ask for the ability to open our eyes, our ears and our souls to new ideas and yes, even the idea of creating what can become a new tradition.

Please grant us the strength to be able to accept this great responsibility and privilege.

Grant us the understanding of WHY we are here.

Amen