

July 2017

Dear Women's League Members,

MERCAZ USA is pleased to pay tribute to Women's League for Conservative Judaism on its 100th anniversary.

From the time of its founding by Mathilde Schechter, Women's League has been committed to the Zionist ideal and to instilling a love of Israel and the Jewish people in its members.

In fulfillment of its mission "to reinforce the bonds with Israel and with Jews worldwide," Women's League has sponsored biennial missions to Israel, connecting its leadership not only with the land of Israel, but also with the people – especially those in Masorti kehillot. This connection led to WLCJ providing annual financial support to the kehillot as they established themselves, enabling them to better serve their communities.

Women's League further expressed its commitment to our sisters in Israel by establishing and sponsoring the Women's Days of Study throughout Israel, when hundreds of Israeli women study each year in Hebrew, English, Spanish and Russian with leading scholars of our Movement, thus furthering their understanding of Conservative/Masorti Judaism. We applaud the efforts of Women's League's Israel Director, Diane Friedgut, in creating these programs.

Women's League was an early supporter of MERCAZ USA, calling upon its members to support us immediately upon our creation in 1978. Shortly thereafter, it made MERCAZ membership a requirement for all board members and urged all its members to do so as well. In every election campaign for delegates to the World Zionist Congress, Women's League has worked to bring in the votes.

We are especially proud to honor 3 of the past presidents of Women's League who went on to become presidents of MERCAZ USA – Goldie Kweller ז"ל, Evelyn Seelig, and Janet Tobin. The leadership skills they learned at WLCJ and brought with them to MERCAZ have served us well and were indeed a blessing. For them and the many WLCJ Board members who have served and continue to serve on the MERCAZ Board, MERCAZ USA is grateful.

So as Women's League prepares to enter its second century, MERCAZ USA is proud to salute you – our sister and partner in promoting engagement in Israel and Zionism and the love of the Jewish people in Conservative/Masorti Jews. We look forward to working with you for many, many more years.

Kol HaKavod,



Marilyn L Wind
President



Sarrae G Crane
Executive Director