

Annual Report Card 2023-2024
Celebrating Over 100 Years of Women of Reform Judaism/ Beth Israel
Susan Berniker, President

The mission of Sisterhood is to bring women, and all who identify as women, together to support and benefit Congregation Beth Israel and the community by providing opportunities for friendship, service, spiritual growth and learning

The Numbers

198	WRJ/Beth Israel Members
50	Winter Care Packages sent to college students and military personnel
60	Attendees at Fall Membership Brunch and museum tour held at OJMCHC
105	Jars of honey sent at Rosh Hashanah via Honey from the Heart
69	Large print prayer books purchased for the synagogue

Highlights

Philanthropic:

- \$7,500 donated to the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation to open charitable youth funds for each participant in the CBI Religious School's 6th grade class upon their B'nai Mitzvah
- \$5,000 contributed for Cantor/Kim Schneiderman/CBI Youth Choir Music Recording Project
- \$4,000 donated to CBI religious school from Gift Shop profits
- \$2,000 contributed to CBI website redesign for accessibility
- \$1,000 donated to URJ Camp Kalsman and Camp Newman
- \$3,767 donated to CBI to purchase prayer books and large print prayer books
- \$990 donated to Women of Reform Judaism YES Fund (Youth, Education, Special Projects)
- \$1,800 donated to sponsor and coordinate the Special Community Seder for 64 members of the greater Portland Jewish community who would otherwise not attend a Seder, partnering with JFCS (13 members of our sisterhood and 3 congregants served the meal or drove guests)
- \$1,800 donated to CBI Women's Seder (and served as greeters at the event)

Social Action:

- Wrote over 100 postcards for reproductive rights in Ohio (17 participants) as part of RAC's *One Voice One Vote* Campaign, with sisterhood providing postage & postcards
- Held donation drive for Portland Refugee Support Group (PSRG)
- PSRG Director of Policy and Operations spoke at White Elephant Chanukah Party
- Collected additional donations for PRSG leading up to refugee shabbat (diapers, wipes, hygiene)
- Collected 5 bags of clothing for Rose Haven and 2 bags of clothing to PRSG at Naked Lady Clothing Swap
- Collected leggings and deodorant for Rose Haven during Sisterhood Shabbat collection drive
- Baked hamantaschen for, prepared and delivered 100 mishloach manot to Jewish seniors living in various retirement homes (with Sisterhood Religious Programming Committee)

- Collected additional diapers and wipes for PRSG At CBI Women's Seder
- Wrote 90 get-out-the-vote postcards as part of RAC's *One Voice One Vote* Campaign, with sisterhood providing postage & postcards, as part of the sisterhood annual meeting (over 20 participants)
- Packed 100 hygiene kits for Rose Haven as a sisterhood-sponsored Mitzvah Day activity
- Provided free menstrual products to CBI restrooms

Spiritual Growth & Religious Programming:

- Led monthly Shabbat Services for residents and families at Cedar Sinai Park
- Organized annual Sisterhood Erev Shabbat service with Cantor Cahana and sponsored the Oneg
- Co-sponsored Havdalah at Rose Schnitzer Manor, led by Cantor Green (over 60 participants)

Friendship, Fundraising & Community:

- Sent E-Newsletters to over 600 recipients monthly
- Baked and coordinated Rosh Hashanah Sweets Table
- Organized quarterly programs to bring congregants together including a *Sisterhood Brunch and Museum Tour* at OJMCH, a *Wine, Women & White Elephant Party* (30 participants), *Mindfulness through Jewish Yoga with Cantors Cahana and Green* (25 participants),
- Presented a virtual book talk featuring author Joanne Greene (15 participants)
- Held 3 Membership *Schmoozes* for new CBI members (20 attendees)
- Organized Naked Lady Clothing Swap/Fundraiser (28 attendees)
- Organized spring Mahjong Lesson/Fundraiser
- Sponsored 2 *Shabbat on the Plazas* serving ice cream to all attendees (June 2023 and 2024)

Service, Learning & Accolades

- 2 attended WRJ's Leadership Conference in New Orleans, LA
- Organized and served pancake breakfast for CBI Mitzvah Day participants
- Operated & Staffed CBI Gift Shop providing the CBI & PDX community with Judaica, tallit, & more, and "pop-up" shop in the CBI Administration Office
- 3 members served on the WRJ Board of Directors including 1 Past Pacific District President
- 1 member served as Vice President of Area Directors/Pacific Northwest WRJ
- 1 member served on WRJ PD Social Action & Advocacy Team
- Awarded WRJ/Pacific District Kavod Award for Distinguished Achievement in Programs