



WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמה

L A T I N A M E R I C A



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

In memory of Jane Siegel z'l



The leaders and volunteers of the WUPJ-LA remember Jane Siegel, of blessed memory, our mentor and supporter. A **Women Reform Judaism** (WRJ) board member for many years, Jane was an extremely active member of our global family. Specifically, Jane dedicated herself to the Jewish communities of Latin and Central America, having most recently served as the Treasurer of the WUPJ's Yad B Yad task force. Jane's straightforward yet welcoming attitude was an inspiration to many who had the benefit of working and collaborating with her.



WUPJ-LA Affiliated Congregations



Canadá
Estados Unidos

Aruba
Bahamas
Costa Rica
Cuba
Curaçao
El Salvador
Jamaica
Panamá
Porto Rico
Suriname

Argentina
Brasil
Chile
Equador
Guatemala
Peru

Brasília
Ceará
Minas Gerais
Pernambuco
Rio de Janeiro
Rio Grande do Sul
Santa Catarina
São Paulo



WRJ: Presence in Latin America



- In the celebrations of its Centennial, **Rabbi Karina Finkielstein**, from Fundación Judaica, Argentina, was one of the invited speakers.
- She emphasized the advancement of the status of women in Judaism worldwide, and underscored the challenges faced by communities in Latin America to accept and recognize the presence of female religious leaders.
- It was on this occasion that Dora Lucia Brenner, representing the Congregação Israelita Paulista –CIP/Brazil, officiated the first group, in Latin America affiliated to WRJ, referred to as “Shiriat Miriam”, which is currently coordinated by **Ruth Bohm**.
- In this monthly group women and men study Judaism from a feminist perspective enriching the Jewish narrative of women’s inclusion in the community and religious leadership position.
- Another study group named “*she-asani isha* “ was formed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under leadership of Rabbi Karina Finkelstein and Susana Perlman. This group is working on gender identity issue.



L-R: Lynn Magid Lazar, Miriam Vasserman, Dora Brenner, Erika Wolff



Rabbi Karina Finkielstein and group from Argentina

Partnership



WRJ has been active contributor to our congregations, providing education for Rabbis through scholarships, education for our youth and supporting the Social Action Projects.

In recent years WRJ has held structured programs and representation in the region.



Outreach Project *Community in Brasilia*



- Part of the mission of The WUPJ-LA is to support Congregations in small communities.
- A successful program happens monthly at Associação Cultural Israelita de Brasília, ACIB. The educator Prof. **Miriam Markus**, develops several activities with the community which includes talks for the ladies of the WIZZO with a Reform perspective.
- Since Brasilia is an important political pole, Capital of Brazil, there is a space for WRJ political presence in the community.



WUPJ presents 37th International Conference Connections 2015 "Solidarity, Simcha and Soul"



- The World Union for Progressive Judaism's 37th biennial convention, which was held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil from May 13-16, lived up to the excitement surrounding the event. 300 delegates from over 20 countries and 90 cities made CONNECTIONS 2015 something special and unforgettable.
- **WRJ** had an important presence at the conference which reinforces the link of the two organizations.



Some Special Moments...



Mifgash TaMaR in Connections 2015



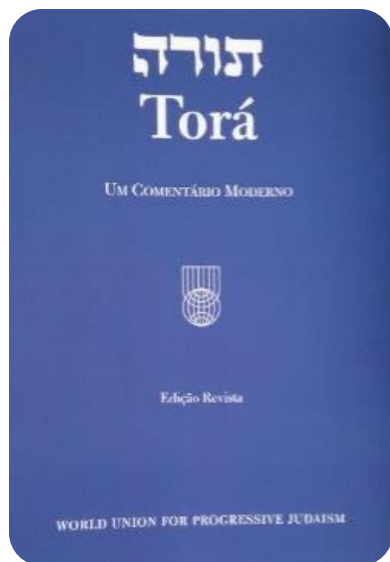
- 3rd. Mifgash of [TaMaR](#), dedicated to *Tikun Olam*, and combined study with visits to inspiring projects.
- Thirty five young adults from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Israel, Panama, Poland, Russia, Spain, UK, USA.
- Besides other sponsorship, **10 young adults sponsored by WRJ**
- Our visits featured trips to *Tikun Olam* projects that will enable us to see things through the eyes of the *cariocas* Jewish organizations:
 - *Favela do Vigário Geral*
 - *Eliezer Max School*
 - *Favela Dona Marta*
 - *Hillel - Rio de Janeiro/ Coexistence Project*
- Study sessions included panels and *chevrutot* (learning in pairs):
 - *We questioned the relevance of our ancient and modern Jewish sources and their pervasive influence on our lives.*
 - *We analyzed the wide breadth of interpretations by which we analyze our sources and their messages.*
 - *In addition, we will try to understand Jewish ethics and their application in our daily lives.*

Mifgash TaMaR



CHUMASH PROJECT

Translation Of The Torah With A Modern And Accessible Language



- The WUPJ-LA began the translation of the Chumash into Portuguese.
- The Chumash is composed of Moses' five books in the Torah as well as the Haftarot, texts written and inspired by the prophets.
- This project was idealized by Rabbi Gunther Plaut to offer an alternative for the progressive congregations. In the United States, the Chumash in English is a great success in almost one thousand congregations.
- One of the main objectives of the WUPJ in making this translation into Portuguese is to provide for the Brazilian Jewish community a book with interpretations in a modern, interesting and attractive language, which identifies with a egalitarian, inclusive and modern manifestation of Judaism.

Training Programs in Israel: Lay Leadership Training



- Programs for educators, activists, community and youth leaders within the International Organization's annual program of events. Important the presence of more women scholars as well as materials published by WRJ.
- We have encouraged the participation and sent representatives from Latin America chosen using defined criteria. These programs work to motivate people to continue their involvement in Jewish community life.
- Building a solid progressive Jewish community in Latin America begins with having a solid core of Jewish professionals, emphasizing lay leaders training and educators.
- This program often leads to sending some of these people to Jerusalem for additional study at the Saltz Center.
 - *Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators*



- *Beutel Seminar (volunteers and professionals)*



Future actions / WRJ & WUPJ-LA



How to be more effective in future actions using the structure of the two institutions:

- Ruth Bohm, lay leader from Congregação Israelita Paulista – CIP – São Paulo is the elected WRJ liaison in Latin America to reinforce the projects in the region.
- Elect a WRJ representative in each Congregation to develop programs.
- Replicate the Rosh Chodesh experience to other WUPJ-LA affiliates
- Implement participation of lay leaders and professionals to attend WRJ Conferences- London in April
- Invite Women Scholars to participate of Educational program – Scholar in Residence - that takes place once an year in LA
- Provide financial support to the existing projects: Chumash Plaut
- Provide materials to congregations
- Twinning Programs
- Organize a trip to Israel with leaders representatives- Saltz Institute WUPJ and WRJ

Learning from each other



Learning from each other will provide personal and collective growth, make our institutions stronger to serve the Jewish people around the Globe.



Presented by:

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