



HEBREW INSTITUTE OF WHITE PLAINS

September 2011

Dear Friend,

Welcome to a new year of the HIWP Women's Tefillah. We look forward to your input and participation this coming year!

For those of you who are newer to our community, a bit of introduction. The Women's Tefillah was formed at HIWP with the support and guidance of Rabbi Chaim Marder, and through the efforts of a group of women who saw Women's Tefillah as an important part of HI's mission as a leader in open Orthodoxy. Our Women's Tefillah meets almost monthly, including our now annual Women's Simchat Torah reading, Megilah Reading on Purim, and Megilat Ruth study session on Shavuot.

Women's Tefillah has grown tremendously in the past 15 years, both in terms of our numbers and our knowledge and familiarity with leading and participating in Shabbat davening. As this year's coordinators, we are excited to carry on this wonderful tradition of encouraging the spiritual development of women through active participation in Shabbat and Holiday services. Please share with us any ideas you have that would make the service more meaningful – we are always evolving with input from our newest members.

We especially enjoy including the girls of our community in the Tefillah, both before and after they become B'not Mitzvah. Your pre-bat-mitzvah and younger daughters are invited to join the group at the end of davening to lead the closing prayers - please encourage them to come forward at that time. This year we have the bracha of having 7 b'not mitzvah celebrations in Women's Tefillah – a record year! For girls who are soon to be bat mitzvah, our Women's Tefillah Bat Mitzvah committee recently completed a manual to guide you through the process of planning for celebrating your daughter's simcha with us. It is available to you through the HIWP office.



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There are many ways to be involved in Women's Tefillah, and we invite you to be involved in whatever way you find meaningful: leading a portion of davening, leining Torah, giving a Dvar Torah, being called in an aliyah to the Torah, or helping to plan our Tefillot and events. Adina Shoulson (adinashoulson@gmail.com) and Dahna Stadtmauer (dahnar@gmail.com) are our recruiters for participants in leading the Tefillah this year. Please let them know if you would like to participate in any aspect of the Tefillah. For those of you who would like to learn to lead davening or to lein, we and our Chazzan, Yitzy Spinner, can help you by providing tapes and guidance, and by possibly forming a class to learn leining if there is enough interest.

Our calendar in Women's Tefillah for this year:

- 9/17 Bat Mitzvah of Aviva Hurvitz
- 10/21 Simchat Torah – Women's Torah Reading
- 10/22 Bat Mitzvah of Eden Gilbert
- 11/19 Bat Mitzvah of Aleeza Berkowitz
- 12/17 Women's Tefillah Service
- 1/28 **Women's Tefillah Scholar in Residence and Luncheon**
- 2/11 Bat Mitzvah of Joelle Orzo
- 3/8 Purim – Women's Megillah Reading
- 3/24 Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Feldman
- 4/28 Bat Mitzvah of Gabrielle Sadinoff
- 5/28 Shavuot – Megilat Rut study session
- 6/16 Bat Mitzvah of Ayelet Marder

We look forward to seeing you at all of these events!

Carmella and Michelle
2011-2012 Women's Tefillah Chairs

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