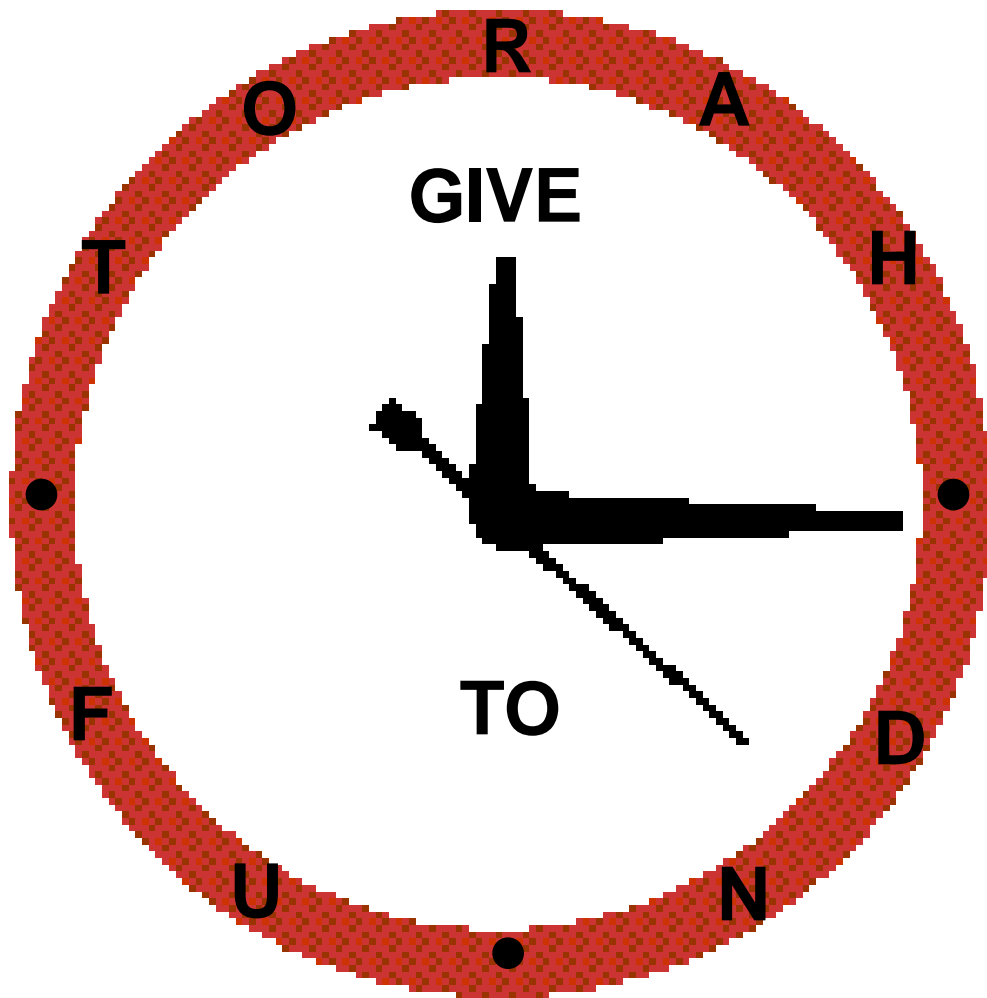


Torah Fund Telethon

By Lois Silverman



Women's League for Conservative Judaism

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820, New York, NY 10115

This program can be customized according to the needs and resources of each Sisterhood by leaving out sections.

Time: 15-20 minutes for the whole, unedited script.

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ANNOUNCER: I'm Jerry Lewisky, and I'm thrilled welcome to the 5th annual telethon to aid the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. To help, you can call, 1-800.CAN.HELP (that's 1-800.226.4957). Do it now!

As you go to the phones, we have many celebrities here today to entertain and tell you why you should support Torah Fund.

So let's get started. Our first guest is that comedienne *extraordinaire* as well as the one of best dressed ladies in show business, Joan Rivers.

JOAN: Hello, everyone. Can we talk? I mean REALLY talk? A funny thing happened on the way to this telethon, I stopped at Bloomies and bought a new pair of shoes by Ferrangomo. When I put them on I knew they were me, and so I called my daughter to tell her who I was wearing. And you know what she told me, me her mother? "Ma, you can't wear those shoes. They're made of leather from an endangered species!" And I told her, "Endangered? Schmendangered? As long as they're happy!"

Speaking of endangered. Every year we Conservative Jews lose more and more of our rabbis, cantors, and lay professions to retirement, and there doesn't seem to be enough of these people to go around—these people who are so important for our Jewish wellbeing. What can we do to help? We can personally encourage all the people we know—young people starting out or older people who have a desire to change their careers—to become a rabbi, cantor or lay profession. And each of us can contribute to Torah Fund to help the Seminary and the Ziegler Rabbinical School train our professions so we Conservative Jews can continue passing on our heritage.

(yelling to camera and not present daughter) Melissa, was that OK?

ANNOUNCER: Thank you, Joan, for everything. Now let's look at our tote board. Drum roll please... \$1.000. That's a good start, but you've got to get those phones to keep on ringing for the survival of Conservative Judaism. The number to call? 1-800.CAN.HELP (that's 1-800.226.4957). Now I am so happy to introduce our first musical guest. She one of the greatest divas of all times, Miss Barbra Streisand.

BARBRA: [*People (from Funny Girl) by Lois Silverman*]

People, people who help people
Are the luckiest people in the world.
We're Jewish—trying to stay Jewish
Not letting the world outside
Stop all we feel inside
That makes us more like *mensches* and human.

Lovers of all that is our tradition
Are the luckiest people in the world
With our Torah and our very special learning
It's a feeling deep in our heart
That says we're set quite apart
We've been chosen and choose
To be people who help
People who help people
Are the luckiest people in the world.

Thank you, all. I'm so happy to be here for this great cause—the Conservative Movement. Please give as much as you can to Torah Fund.

[When You Give to Torah Fund (to the tune of "When You Wish Upon A Star") by Julie Steinschriber]

When you give to Torah Fund,
Here are some things that you've done:
You have helped to train rabbis
And cantors, too.
Scholarships at Ziegler in L.A.,
In New York a place to pray.
When you give to Torah Fund
Dreams will come true.

You'll ensure
The future of all Jews,
Con-tin-u-a-tion of
Our sa-cred hist'ry.

Benefactors get a pin-
Donate now and we all win!
When you give to Torah Fund
Dreams will come true.

ANNOUNCER: Thank you, Barbra. Now I'd like to present the first lady of TV journalists, Barbara Walters.

BARBARA WALTERS: It seems you have an abundance of Barbara's here today, except I spell my name with that added "a."

Today I am thrilled to bring you a short film about Torah Fund. (no monitor available)

1934 - the year the educational fund of National Women's League to benefit the Jewish Theological Seminary of America was launched; its annual goal: \$2000, a great goal in the midst of the Great Depression.

The educational fund was renamed and became Torah Fund in 1942; the annual goal was set at \$10,000, a sacrifice for everyone during World War II!

The Torah Fund pin for the Benefactor and higher levels of giving was initiated in 1957, the year of Eisenhower's second inauguration and federal troops going into Little Rock, Ark., to enforce integration of black students

At its 1958 Biennial Convention, Women's League endorsed Torah Fund's new project to build the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall for women. This was the year that Explorer I, first American satellite, was launched. Although the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall was not realized until 1976 (the year of the US Bicentennial), it still serves the Jewish Theological Seminary community as a co-ed residence hall.

The Torah Fund Campaign was expanded to support all Seminary schools in 1963, the year that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech and President Kennedy was assassinated.

Over the years Women's League, through its Torah Fund Campaign has initiated other special projects including shelves for the JTS library, beautifying the Seminary's quadrangle, dedicating a residence hall at the University of Judaism, and constructing meeting rooms and classroom in the Tower of the Jewish Theological Seminary to establish the Women's League Educational Pavilion. [insert updates and new projects here]

Women's League and Torah Fund continue to support the Institutions of learning of the Conservative Movement.

ANNOUNCER: Thank you, Barbara Walters. A toteboard check. Drum roll....\$50,000. We've got to keep this pace up.

And now a group that has been recording hit after hit...here they are Destiny's Kinde.

DESTINY'S KINDE: [*You Light Up My Life—from Ramah Rhapsody (200.21) by Lora Lee Spiro*]

Verse:

So many years I searched for an answer
Something was missing, but what could it be?
So many dreams were growing inside me
Then one special summer they all were set free.

Chorus:

Ramah changed my whole life
In ways that I could not foresee
The teachers I had opened my eyes, to see.

Verse:

While I was there I formed lasting friendships
All of them Jewish—I felt so at home.
Living this way, among my own people
I fin'ly acknowledged what I'd always known.

Chorus:

Ramah changed my whole life
In ways that I could not foresee
The teachers I had opened my eyes, to see.

DESTINY1: You really got to support this fund, you know what I mean.

DESTINY2: Right. It's for, you know, all of us. It helps not only the seminaries and schools, but it also helps the kids. I mean it's a chain from the beginning.

DESTINY3: Yeah, from Abraham and Sarah and George and Martha.

DESTINY1: So just give!

ANNOUNCER: Thank you, Destiny's Kinde. I think it's time for a drum roll—tote board: \$50,000.
Now it's equal time for us older set. Here is Linda Richman.

LINDA: I'm so happy I'm here. I mean, I'm so *fahkleempt*—please talk amongst yourself. I'll give you a topic—TF—it's not about writing a scroll, but it's as important—discuss.

I feel better now. You didn't know I could do anything but kvetch, but I do sing. Maestro, a c chord please: [*Pretty Baby from Torah Fund Triumphant (800.29) by Zelda Wolf Jacobs*]

When you need another method to make Torah Fund come true.

Try a pushke, try a pushke.

Send a letter, make a phone call, pick an honoree or two.

Try a pushke, try a pushke.

If you find your funds are lagging and your quotas not met

And you're running out of time,

Call the TF office, have them send a package on to you

Pretty pushke of mine, pretty pushke of mine.

ANNOUNCER: Thanks, Linda. Now a surprise. We have the divas here singing together for the first time: Edie Gorme, Ethel Merman, and Bette Midler

EDIE GORME: [*We Need Cantors (To the tune of "Old Man River") by Julie Steinschriber*]

We need cantors, and we need rabbis,

And we need teachers, to teach the children.

To keep Con-ser-va-tive Ju-da-ism strong.

We need Torah Fund, to help raise money
To train lay leaders, solemn or funny,
We need Torah Fund, to keep Ju-da-ism strong.

Ziegler school, seminary, too,
Provide so much 'cause of all of you.
“pledge those funds!” “get those pins!”
With all your hard work, ev'ry body wins,

Don't get weary, an' sick of tryin',
On all your efforts, we are relyin'
To keep Con-ser-va-tive Ju-da-ism strong.

ETHEL: *[Everything's Coming up Roses (from Gypsy) from Torah Fund at 50—and Still Growing by Selma Weintraub]*

The pin looks swell
The pin looks great
Gonna have our campaign on a plate
Starting here
Starting now, honey
Everything's coming up Torah

Clear the deck
Clear the books
We have nothing to do but collect
Write a check
Take the cash, honey
Everything's coming up Torah

Now's our inning
Stand the campaign on its ear
Set it spinning
That'll be just the beginning.
Here's the new pin
Wear it proud
We can sing Torah Fund praises loud
We'll be swell
We'll be great
I can tell...just you wait
That lucky star I talk about is due
Honey, everything's coming up Torah
Fund for me and for you!!!

BETTE: *[Circle of Life (from the Lion King) by Lois Silverman]*

From the day we arrive on the planet
And blinking, come into the sun
There's more to be seen than can ever be seen
More to do than can ever be done.

Some say eat whatever can be eaten
Some say live however you want to live
But we've all got to see that's not how it should be
We should never take more than we give.

It's the circle of life
It's the wheel of caring
It's no leap of faith
It's our ageless hope
It's our Torah way
On the path of mitvot
In the circle, in the circle of life.

Some of us fall by the wayside
And some of us soar to the stars
And some of us sail through our troubles
And some have to live with the scars.

There's far too much to take in here
More to find to go through it alone
But if all of us here
Try to adhere,
To the teaching that we have been shown

It's the circle of life
And it moves us all
Through despair and hope
Through trust and love
It's Torah way
On the path of mitzvot
In the circle, the circle of life.

ANNOUNCER: Drum roll. \$125,000. We're so happy. Imagine such a big one-day total.

Will all the performers come on stage. Women's League and all the people who will be helped through its Torah Fund campaign wish to thank you for making this show possible. And to close it out remember that although we're going off the air, you can still give. As we give the credits, let's all sing one last song.

ALL: [*Hooray for Hollywood from Why Torah Fund?* by Jerry Korman & Mildred Schoffel after a song in *Torah Fund Review and Other Things* (800.35) by Zelda Wolf Jacobs]

Hooray for Torah Fund, that job we love to do called Torah Fund.
Where different women with all kinds of interests become the greatest,
Develop talents galore.
You'll find it charming and not alarming.
If you make the effort, there's fun in store.
Hooray for Torah Fund, where you're terrific and you'll do some good.
Where there's a spot for you from cook to actor, age is no factor
It always is understood.
We're glad you're here today; we hope you'll like your stay.
Hooray for Torah Fund.

Hooray for Torah Fund, that job we do for love called Torah Fund.
Where you will find a place to call your own spot you'll find your own slot,
You'll get much more than you give.
Our aims are noble, our interests global.
We make Ju-da-ism survive and live.
Hooray for Torah Fund, where everything we do for Torah Fund.
Today we're singing praise for all the money we hope to raise.
We plan to make it look good.
We're glad you're here today; we hope you'll like your stay.
Hooray for Torah Fund.