

Debbie Reynolds remembers

Stage and screen veteran fears that younger, newer, hotter stars are making Hollywood forget seasoned performers. [D2]



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SECTION

Former chemist to lead Sisterhood

By EILEEN C. SPRAKER
Staff reporter

More than 100,000 Jewish women will look to Constance Savat Kreshtool of Wilmington for leadership during the next two years when she becomes president of the Reform-Jewish Federation of Temple Sisterhoods at sessions Dec. 7 in Boston.

The group is a coalition of 640 local sisterhoods in this country, Canada and 13 other countries, devoted to philanthropy and political and social action.

"The women's groups have always been organized separately in the Jewish congregations," said Mrs. Kreshtool. "The synagogue has maintained the Jewish community through history. Women organized as a group within the synagogue strengthen not only synagogue life, but also the Jewish community."

Contrary to those who would do away with separate women's organizations and "operate as one big happy family," Mrs. Kreshtool believes "women's groups are even more important today than ever."

"There are many destabilizing influences in the Jewish community today," she said. "The use of our talents strengthen synagogue life and ultimately the Jewish community and Jewish people. I believe the more organizations there are in the synagogue, the more opportunity there is for leadership development."

Originally from Worcester, Mass., Mrs. Kreshtool came to Wilmington to work for the Du Pont Co. With degrees in chemistry from the University of Illinois and Cornell, she was employed by the textile fibers department in research and later in that department's patent section.

She married a Delaware dentist, Dr. Bernard Kreshtool in 1953.

In addition to her Temple Sisterhood work, she has been involved with numerous community groups — the United Way, the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Jewish Family Service, Pacem in Terris, Wilmington Public Schools Home and School Association and the Jewish Braille Institute of America.

In 1972, long before it was generally accepted for a woman to lead a synagogue board, she was elected president of Beth Emeth, the Reform congregation in Wilmington.

Mrs. Kreshtool said she never could have been so active in community work "without the coopera-

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Constance Savat Kreshtool

Wilmingtonian to lead Jewish women's group

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tion of my husband. He never felt that caring for children was only a mother's responsibility."

She reciprocates periodically by helping out in his office when an extra hand is needed.

The couple have three sons. Jeffrey is an architect in Baltimore; Danny is studying dentistry at the University of North Carolina; and Rickie is a first year graduate student in architecture at Columbia University.

Of her two-year term as president of the federation, she said, "I personally believe we must deal as a group with the global issues of nuclear disarmament and hunger. They seem like tremendous issues, but we have to deal with them."

Her own sisterhood at Beth Emeth will pay her tribute in a luncheon at noon Dec. 15, when a program has been planned featuring Barbara Moskow, stage and television personality, in "Songs of Yesterday and Today." Reservations, at \$4, can be made through Rae Goldenberg at 798-1929.

In addition, a new reading room at Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion, Brookdale Center, N. Y., is being endowed in her honor by the Federation of Temple Sisterhood.