



Advocacy Update

Sent March 14, 2012

Or Ami Awardees, Continued

WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood's program, "Sisterhood Shabbat/Eishet Chayil Award," one of the Or Ami award winners featured this week involved a complex integration of study, worship, recognizing Jewish women's contributions, and honoring their past president. The second, We Meet at Last - Connecting with Rabbi Ayala Miron of our Twin Sisterhood in Israel, enabled the sisterhood to get to know the rabbi of its twin sisterhood in Israel, thus potentially strengthening the twinning relationship.

Sisterhood Shabbat/Eishet Chayil Award WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood, Portland, OR Kate Royston (kroyston@webmd.net)

For its 2009 Sisterhood Shabbat, the sisterhood collaborated with the clergy and the Jewish Women's Archive to create a worship service that honored American Jewish women's contributions. The event also posthumously honored their own past president with the first Eishet Chayil award for all she had accomplished for their sisterhood and the Portland Jewish community. They engaged members over an eight month period in learning about Shabbat liturgy as well as Jewish women's history in great detail. The creative service taught the congregation about Jewish women's history.

The [WRJ website](#) includes a wealth of resources for study and worship. You can find materials under "WRJ Torah Commentary," "Programs," and "Advocacy." In addition, your sisterhood president can access successful sisterhood scripts and services for you on the website's leadership dashboard, and several useful study guides are available for purchase in the website's catalog.

We Meet at Last - Connecting with Rabbi Ayala Miron of our Twin Sisterhood in Israel, North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL Amy Duque (fourduques@gmail.com) and Pamela Faulkner (pfaulkner@gmail.com)

NSCI Sisterhood invited and hosted Rabbi Ayala Miron from its twin women's group in Israel to a weekend Shabbat retreat. In addition to helping lead worship services, Rabbi Miron attended their late-night pajama party, participated in their spirituality exercises, and told them about her journey in becoming a Progressive woman rabbi in Israel and the struggles of her congregation. The highlight of the retreat was the presentation of a Torah cover made by one of their members to Rabbi Miron for her congregation's use. They made plans for the twinned sisterhoods to hold a Virtual Share-a-Shabbat dinner.

Information about the "WRJ—Israel Twinning" program is available on the [WRJ website](#).

Disaster Relief

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home

Once again, devastating storms and tornados have battered central and southern sections of the U.S., causing death, injury, and destruction. If you would like to help, URJ recommends that contributions be made to the following local partners:

- Nechama: A Jewish Response to Disaster: Relief teams are currently on-the-ground in Henryville, Indiana. Nechama is collecting funds and accepting volunteers.
- Jewish Community of Louisville is currently accepting donations to support tornado relief efforts in Southern Indiana.

For more information, please go to the [Nechama website](#) or that of the [URJ](#).