



# Advocacy Update

Sent April 25, 2012

## **VAWA Reauthorization**

The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, is due for reauthorization and could come up on the floor of the Senate very soon. “By the Numbers: 1 in 3,” written by Megan Slack of the White House Office of Digital Strategy, informing us that one in three “women in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some time in their lives,” has been posted on the [The White House blog](#). Read the blog, and also review the site, which also includes important information about steps the administration has taken to address this crisis and to support VAWA reauthorization.

Read the op-ed in Roll Call that Lori Weinstein, executive director of Jewish Women International, and Judge Patricia Martin, president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, co-authored, which describes misinformation about the VAWA that opponents are using and calls on the Senate to reauthorize the bipartisan Violence Against Women reauthorization bill, S. 1925.

## **Or Ami Awardees, Continued.....**

This week we are featuring the Bronze Or Ami awardees. You will find important programming on health, child safety, and community service that could be eminently adaptable for your sisterhoods.

### **From the Heart**

#### **Temple Israel Sisterhood, Memphis, TN**

#### **Sue Pfeffer (spfeffer7@gmail.com)**

The purpose of this program, held jointly with the Memphis Beth Sholom Sisterhood, was to educate members about the risk factors for heart disease in women. The speakers included a forty-two year-old survivor of bypass surgery who is also a social worker and author and a cardiologist from the Memphis Heart Clinic. Educational materials were distributed and desserts were prepared from the author’s cookbook, WomenHeart’s All Heart Family Cookbook, were served.

### **Giving Back to our Hosts**

#### **Southwest District**

#### **Renee Roth (swdistrictprez@sbcglobal.net)**

Beginning at the Toronto Biennial, and again at the District Convention in Dallas, the district selected a Jewish charity in the host city and donated food, toiletries, and items for children. The women brought the items with them and together they created the centerpieces for their events, after which the donated items were contributed to the selected charity.

### **Let's Play It Safe - Sisterhood Meeting**

#### **Adat Chaverim, Plano, TX**

#### **Natala Assa (natala2@sbcglobal.net)**

Adat Chaverim Sisterhood planned its January meeting, "Let's Play It Safe," for parents and children, because of the importance of child safety for families. The program included speakers from the Plano Police and Fire Departments and the chance to have the children fingerprinted and ID'd for parents personal records. The children also created a large safety banner.

*For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit [www.wrj.org/social-justice-home](http://www.wrj.org/social-justice-home)*

**Temple B'nai Torah Sisterhood Pink Shabbat Program**

**Temple B'nai Torah Sisterhood, Wantaugh, NY**

**Stephanie Jacobson (snj53@aol.com)**

The sisterhood sponsored a Pink Shabbat Program. The importance of breast cancer screening, early detection, and treatment were presented through poetry readings, prayer, song, and an expert guest speaker. The program promoted breast cancer awareness and expressed compassion, solidarity, and sensitivity for congregational members and families whose lives were devastated by this disease. Literature was available and pink bracelets were sold to support breast cancer research.

**Tikkun Olam: One House at a Time**

**Temple Emanuel, Davenport, IA**

**Linda Golden (goldenlinda@sbcglobal.net)**

Believing that "repairing the world" begins with one family and one neighborhood, the sisterhood partnered with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a working family with limited resources three blocks from the temple. The sisterhood was one of the major funders for the house and members and their families provided hours of labor. They educated the congregation about housing issues and added poverty issues to the religious school curriculum.

**Make sure to review the 2011 Or Ami publication on the WRJ website. Many additional excellent programs are listed and briefly described.**