

From WRJ Northeast District President Vivian Blumstein

(November 2016) My husband and I joined a temple shortly after we were married. That was the first temple I ever belonged to. When we bought a house and moved to Long Island, we joined another temple and luckily, met lots of people our age. Within a couple of years, I was on the sisterhood board and after MANY years, became sisterhood president. I learned a lot during those years from other sisterhood board members and from the many women I met at District conventions and WRJ assemblies.

Our fabulous WRJ Northeast District Convention, *Kol Isha – Voices in Harmony*, was just a few weeks ago. We had a very successful convention and I know that those who were able to attend learned a great deal. It is always wonderful to be able to mix with women from other sisterhoods and find out what they are doing – what their successes are and what hasn't worked. This was part of our theme – communication.

One of the many balls WRJ and the districts juggle is keeping in touch with our sisterhoods. We do this in several ways on the district level. Our area directors call specific sisterhood presidents several times a year and are always available to answer their questions and/or help with a problem. We have area events during the biennial period where women from different sisterhoods meet, share ideas and learn from each other. We send out an e-blast once a month to keep you up to date about what is going on in the district. We post information and pictures on our Facebook page and on our website. In addition, we have a wonderful Speakers Bureau.

Your sisterhood is entitled to a speaker! Here's a commercial: Each sisterhood in the Northeast District is entitled to a district speaker, without expense to the sisterhood, once every two years **and** a WRJ speaker once every two years on alternate years with district. This is a wonderful way help educate your women about WRJ and the exciting things we do.

When someone becomes District President, she usually has some idea of what she would like to try to accomplish during her two-year term. I have given this a lot of thought and what I came up with has a lot to do with the theme of our convention – communication. I would like us to become really good friends. Please invite us to come to your sisterhood. We'd love to get to know **you** and your members and we'd also love you to get to know **us**.

I mentioned the Speakers Bureau before, but you don't have to go the whole formal route. Let's have breakfast together. Or meet for lunch. Invite me as a guest to one of your programs or events. I don't have to be there to give a talk or lead a program but just to meet everyone and have a good time. Tell us what's going on with your sisterhood, and we'll tell you what's going on with WRJ. If I can't come, there are lots of others of us who will. My aim is to have someone from District come to EACH sisterhood. Will this work? I don't know, but we're going to try.

Let's join our voices together in harmony. I can't wait to work and play with all of you.

– Vivian