



The 2016 WRJ Incubator Grants supported the following programs:

Making Candlesticks with Sharsheret

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood, Reston, VA

This program will connect with Sharsheret, a Jewish organization that supports young women diagnosed with breast cancer, for an educational presentation, followed by the creation of a set of Shabbat candlesticks for fifty young women recently diagnosed with breast cancer to use in their Shabbat celebrations. Participants will stay in touch with the women throughout their treatments.

Making Music with Beth Hamon

Temple Sinai Sisterhood, Houston, TX

Beth Hamon is a Jewish recording artist and educator whose roots are in environmental awareness. During a Tu B'shevat week of learning, Beth will work with the synagogue's educator and clergy to create a framework for addressing environmental stewardship and sustainability through a Jewish lens, using music, art and worship on multiple, age-appropriate levels.

The Scotland Project

Women of SSTTE, Scarsdale, NY

The Scotland Project is intended to fight Anti-Semitism in Scotland by providing Jewish ritual objects that will be included in educational kits to be used in the thirty-two school areas in Scotland. Scarsdale temple youth will also participate in a pen pal program with Scottish students.

The Secret Chord

Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El WRJ/Sisterhood, Plantation, FL

This program will begin with a Community Read-In of "The Secret Chord." Following the Read-In, lessons from "The Secret Chord" and David's life will be infused into synagogue programming, including education, music, and the Rabbi's sermons from the bimah.

Long Term Planning for Aging Parents or Relatives

Beth Chaim Reform Congregation Sisterhood, Malvern, PA

The goals of this program are to help families accept responsibility for long-term care planning, offer educational platforms to help families plan and navigate the final years of life, and provide a forum and support network for idea sharing on the topic.

Gan Project

WRJ of Temple Emanu-El, Tucson, AZ

WRJ's grant will permit an expansion of the temple's already successful Gan Project by adding two more raised-bed gardens and an additional season of replanting and classes for temple youth. The Rabbi Educator and a gardening expert will lead classes connecting Shmita principles to the garden.

Sisters Building Bridges

Temple Rodeph Torah of Western Monmouth Sisterhood, Marlboro, NJ

This program will work to connect the Islamic and Jewish cultures by sharing traditions through cooking. The sisterhood will teach the tradition of Challah baking, and the guests will share how to prepare Na'an.

Mental Health Initiative

Sisterhood of Temple Shalom of Newton, West Newton, MA

A panel of mental health professionals will speak about mental illness to the community. The program will then provide follow-up initiatives such as counseling support for participants in Youth Education and Engagement programs, support groups led by mental health professionals, and suicide prevention training.

The Mitzvah Bus

Women of Temple Beth Hillel, Valley Village, CA

This program will transport eighty people to several different types of social action organizations to volunteer in various capacities. At each non-profit, participants will be provided with a list of volunteer opportunities with that organization for their future involvement.

Sisterhood Cook-Ins

Sisterhood of Temple Israel, Staten Island, NY

The sisterhood will expand food preparation services for the local homeless shelter from twice a year (Easter and Christmas) to six times per year, or once every other month.