



Advocacy Update

Sent February 29, 2012

Or Ami Awardees Continued

During January and February we presented the sisterhood programs that received the gold Or Ami awards at WRJ's 48th Assembly in December. Now, in March, we are featuring the programs that received the silver Or Ami awards. WRJ is proud that the programs receiving awards at all levels address important social concerns.

Birth Kit Project

Congregation Beth Israel, Austin, TX

Gloria G. Litt (gloria.litt@gmail.com)

The sisterhood's social action chair organized an event that incorporated the traditional women's celebration of Rosh Chodesh with a program about the dangers of giving birth in the isolated parts of developing countries and the assembly of birthing kits. Each birthing kit contained vital supplies for women giving birth in areas without hospitals, clinics, or medically-trained personnel. The kits have been shown to help reduce the rates of infant and maternal mortality in these areas. At the sisterhood's inaugural birthing kit assembly event, more than one-hundred and fifty kits were created.

Bullying: A Critical Issue

Touro Synagogue Sisterhood, New Orleans, LA

Stacey Weinreb (sjwinnola@att.net)

In response to pervasive current concerns about bullying, the sisterhood and the congregation's LGBTQ group and Social Action Initiatives co-sponsored an educational forum, "Bullying, a Critical Issue," which was open to the public. Panelists included Jewish and secular experts, clergy, mental health professionals, educators, and both gay and straight representation and perspectives. The event was presented in the context of Jewish traditional views of bullying and a mental health approach, while focusing on various perspectives, such as those of the child, parent, administrator, and educator.

Go to the [RAC website](#) to take action on this issue today!

Grandparent-Tot Tea Party

BJBE Sisterhood, Deerfield, IL

Barbara Offenberg (johnandbarbie@sbcglobal.net)

The Grandparent-Tot Tea Party is a multi-generational bonding experience that enables the youngest congregants to enjoy activities with their grandparents in a Jewish setting. Activities include: a craft project, large group grandchild/ grandparent song and game activities, fancy tea settings in a room lined with books, and time with questions provided to spark conversation between the children and their grandparents. The sisterhood noted that such parties help familiarize the youngsters with temple life while recruiting new sisterhood members among the grandmothers in attendance.

Look through WRJ's publication [Programming Possibilities for additional multi-generational ideas you can adapt for your sisterhood](#). Your sisterhood president can access [Programming Possibilities on the leadership dashboard of the WRJ website](#).

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

Reminder – Help to End Childhood Hunger

Do the [URJ webinar](#) "Fighting Hunger One School at a Time: Backpack Buddies" to learn how to establish partnerships between your sisterhood, local food banks and schools to provide food for children in need. "Backpack Buddies" programs provide meals for children from food-insecure homes. Each Friday afternoon, students receive a backpack filled with balanced meals and healthy snacks for the weekend, when they don't have access to free or discounted school meals. Your sisterhood can become a sponsor and coordinator of this program in your community!