

Learning for Jewish Living - 1977

Intrinsic in living a full Jewish life is an educated mind as well as spirit: Rabbi Gamaliel said, “Excellent is the study of Torah when combined with a worldly occupation...” Rabbi Hillel said, “Do not say ‘When I have leisure I will study.’ Thou mayest never have the leisure.” The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods assembled in San Francisco, in fulfilling a basic premise of Sisterhood and its commitment for continuing education:

1. Affirms the primacy of the Synagogue and its congregational community as the instrumentality of Jewish education of its own members as well as for providing leadership to the Jewish community.
2. Affirms the responsibility of each Sisterhood to undertake and maintain continuous programs of Jewish education. It notes with pride the development of Bat Kol: Voice of Learning, as a basic program to meet the various needs and circumstances of today’s highly educated and sophisticated Jewish woman. We further urge all Sisterhoods and their members to accept a commitment for continuous learning in order to participate fully as members and leaders in the religious and secular Jewish community.
3. Calls upon Sisterhoods to intensify or undertake specialized study programs to meet the special needs of Jewish family living, including preparation for Jewish marriage and parenthood. We believe that the Jewish home is a primary arena for learning and living and that parents must assume the first responsibility for the Jewish education of their children. We urge all Sisterhoods to include within their programs opportunities for women to secure the knowledge and understanding to fulfill these responsibilities and to undertake programs of Jewish learning and experiences for preschool age children. We further urge the Sisterhoods to cooperate with synagogues in programs of study and action so that parents share in a partnership responsibility when children reach the age for formal religious school education.
4. We commend the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, its Department of Jewish Education, its affiliated synagogues and religious schools for their continuing excellent efforts in developing and creating concepts and curricula that motivate and educate children for Jewish life. We commend the growing opportunities for Reform Jewish day schools and parents who, if they choose private education, select opportunities for concurrent excellence of Jewish and secular studies.