

The Jewish Family - 1987

Issue

Strengthening the Jewish family.

Background

Since its organization in 1913, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has adopted resolutions dealing with various aspects of the Jewish family. It is so intrinsic a part of Sisterhood's mission that introducing new resolutions or affirming existing resolutions is not always required. Nevertheless, recognizing the complexity of the society in which we live and the changing attitudes and circumstances which threaten the stability of the Jewish family, NFTS through its Task Force on the Jewish Family underscores the necessity to continue to develop and implement programs and projects to strengthen family life through the following:

Resolution

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges its affiliates to:

- 1) Initiate, sponsor or cooperate with the congregation to establish or implement, programs that will encourage parents to assume full partnership responsibility in the Jewish education of their children including: observances of the Sabbath and holidays at home and in the synagogue; and pre-school Jewish learning experiences in conjunction with Jewish parenting education.
- 2) Review the day care needs of infants, toddlers and latch-key children in their congregation and community and, if found unserved, work to establish quality services in congregational or community settings.
- 3) Take an active role in relation to the temple youth group including special responsibility as the advocate for the temple youth group and its participatory role within the overall congregational program; where appropriate to provide a Sisterhood member as the youth advisor.
- 4) Sponsor programs of learning opportunities and encourage parental support to motivate our young people to pursue careers as rabbis, educators, cantors, youth and communal workers.
- 5) Encourage the congregation, particularly in urban areas, to undertake a program to serve the young unmarried; sponsor such groups through financial assistance and other support services.
- 6) Initiate or expand programs and projects that will make the congregational religious community the primary support for those with special needs, such as dual career families, families dislocated because of job loss, women who may be heads of single parent families, those facing bereavement or dissolution of marriage or are entering the Jewish community through choice.
- 7) Further, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods commends the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on establishing its Task Force on the Jewish Family, of which NFTS is a partner, and urges continued intensified focus by the UAHC and its partner institutions of Reform Judaism on the needs and future of the Jewish family.