

# *Advancing Reproductive Health and Rights*

- Goal: Educate, inform and take action on current Reproductive issues
- Date/time: Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, 1:30-3:30pm
- Location: Temple B'nai Torah, Bellevue, WA
- Committee members: Kristina Chamberlain (chair), Robin Plotnik, Carole Jevons, Michael Hafken (TBT Social Action chair)



**Notice in Temple Weekly Email Newsletter – this ran for 3 weeks**

Advancing Reproductive Health & Rights

Saturday, February 29

1:30-3:30 PM at TBT

Sponsored by TBT's Sisterhood and Social Action Committee

What will 2020 hold for a woman's access to reproductive health and her right to choose? Come learn from a representative of Cedar River Clinics for an insider's perspective on the issues and challenges faced every day to keep their doors open to provide needed care. They will also address current local, state and federal efforts to limit reproductive rights.

There will also be a brief update about the Women of Reform Judaism-Religious Action Center Reproductive Health & Rights Campaign and how to participate.



TBT's Social Action committee will help us take action to make a positive difference by leading a postcard/letter writing campaign. It is important that our elected officials hear from us, especially if they support these rights.

Please bring a donation of menstrual cycle products to donate to the women of The Sophia Way who stay overnight at TBT in the Emergency Shelter.



## *Dr. Anuj Khattar (Cedar River Clinics)*

Our program began with our guest speaker leading a round table discussion.

Dr. Khattar is an MD from Cedar River Clinics who spoke about the current state of daily work providing abortions and comprehensive women's health care at their clinics (they have 2 in the state of Washington). While we have progressive laws still here, he spoke of the difficulty in providing care without the Title X funding making delays for women and often requiring multiple visits. We had a good discussion and education on care options and his work as he travels to other states.



## *Robin Plotnik (TBT Sisterhood past president/WRJ NA Board)*

Our program continued with a discussion of the work of WRJ.

Robin then spoke about the WRJ/RAC Campaign and the Reproductive Justice cohort. She created a resource sheet based on much of the information WRJ has provided for us, such as the Toolkit, websites, blog post regarding Roe, webinar regarding the SCOTUS hearing this week.

She also gave an overview of WRJ's long history of advocacy and gave examples of some of the many resolutions passed over our 100+ year history.

# *Resources shared with group*

- Women of Reform Judaism -WRJ <https://wrj.org/>
- WRJ Reproductive Health & Rights Campaign <https://wrj.org/repro>
- This also lists federal, state, local partners with links
- WRJ Reproductive Toolkit [https://wrj.org/sites/default/files/rhrc\\_toolkit.pdf](https://wrj.org/sites/default/files/rhrc_toolkit.pdf)
- Religious Action Center – RAC <https://rac.org/>
- RAC-WRJ Reproductive Brit Olam Cohort <https://rac.org/brit-olam-reproductive-health-rights-cohort>
- RAC Brit Olam <https://rac.org/brit-olam-covenant-our-world-0>
- Ally Karpel's Blog post about Roe <https://www.lilith.org/blog/2020/01/roe-still-stands-but-not-for-everyone/>
- WRJ Webinar on March 4 Supreme Court hearing (for those on WRJ Yammer network) <https://www.yammer.com/womenofreformjudaism/threads/514603313668096>
- Center for Reproductive Rights <https://beta.reproductiverights.org/>



## *Michael Hafken (TBT Social Action chair)*

Our program finished with action.

Michael Hafken provided information about two specific bills currently in the state legislature. Since we are in a progressive district, all our representatives are in support of the bills. We discussed the importance of thanking them and writing postcards of support. Michael provided the postcards, stamps and addresses and mailed the cards.

We had an interesting discussion about the bills so that we understood the meaning and implication before we wrote the postcards.



## *Donation*

Our fourth component was Tikkun Olam.

At the time of the program, Temple B'nai Torah was hosting the emergency women's night shelter, The Sophia Way. We asked participants to bring menstrual supplies for donation to these women.

A large amount of menstrual supplies were collected and distributed.



## *Evaluation*

### What worked well:

- Speaker was very informative – nice casual discussion with lots of good questions answered and information about the reality of operating in the current social climate.
- People seemed to like the postcard writing and Michael provided good information such as Legislators' names, addresses, bill information and #s.
- Large amount of menstrual supplies collected.

### Challenges:

- It's hard to present the WRJ information and keep people's interest. It's important to inform people of the work being done on the national level.
- Hopefully the resource sheet will reinforce the information.



## *Evaluation*

- Participation: 10 including presenters
- Expenses: \$100 donation to Cedar Rivers Clinic
- Income: None
- Cost to participate: None, asked for menstrual supply donations  
# scholarships and amt: N/A
  
- Suggestions: Repeat the event marketing to our Temple Youth Group now that we have a relationship with the clinic.
- The full program evaluation is submitted with this application.



# WRJ Reproductive Justice Campaign

*#WRJWomenAct*

*Organized women  
inspired by faith can  
change the world!*