

Women's League Shabbat - Readings about Sisterhood

Remember Your Sisters - by Jan Poscovsky - *Covenant of the Spirit* (2000)

Remember your Sisters, the ones here before you,

They laid the foundation in place.

Their struggles and efforts date back through the ages,

Their memories transcend time and space.

They strove for equality, protested injustice,

They marched in the fight for our vote.

They started a movement that's grown through the nation

They made others stand up and take note.

Remember your Sisters, the ones here before you,

Had talents not unlike your own,

Some styles have been different, but goals all the same,

To lend support to their spiritual home.

They accomplished a lot in the time they were here

Their impact impossible to measure.

If it weren't for them, there'd be no-one to follow,

So their memories are ones we should treasure.

Remember your Sisters, the ones here before you,

Just yesterday and long ago,

They trust you to continue what they left in progress,

And hope that you always will know

That all of your Sisters have something to give you,

If you look for the good in their deeds,

Don't dwell on their failures but thrive on their goodness

And you will fill each other's needs.

Remember your Sisters, the ones here before you,

All hoped you'd continue their deeds,

May you be like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah,

As you come forward to take on the lead.

Why do we do what we do ? - by Ellen Y. Rosenberg - *Covenant of the Spirit* (2000)

Why do we do what we do ?

For our Sisterhood.

To recognize the needs of women,

Children, family

And attend to those needs through

Study, programs and social interaction.

Why do we do what we do?

For our synagogue.

To fortify the institution,

Enhance the spiritual climate

Create a community, recognize our heritage.

Why do we do what we do ?

For our community.

To service those who are less fortunate

To bring awareness of issues and concert

To take action whenever we can.

Why do we do what we do?

For the world.

To go beyond the local sphere

To repair this world and

Help make it a better, healthier,

Safer place for humankind.

Why do we do what we do ?

For ourselves.

Why not Sisterhood? - by Robin Fox - *Covenant of the Spirit* (2000)

Coming together we unite and rejoice
in the pleasure of our business
Our dreams, our plans.
We travel from near and far
we are young and we are “mature.”
We are wise and we are learning
and we have a bond
that joins us as nothing else can.

The struggles we face
with the business at hand
the pressure to do so much
in so little time...
Goals that would seem unreachable to others
become attainable to us
for we have learned to say
“YES.”

And yes, the pleasure of doing business
with hands joined in strength
is joyful beyond words.

You inspire me to reach
for places I’ve never been
You’ve been my mentor;
you are my friend.

The laughter we share
the tears, the smiles
the connections made
and the sweet embrace of parting
‘til together again.
Not why
but why not... Sisterhood?

A Song of Sisterhood - by Marbel Martel Silver - *Covenant of the Spirit* (2000)

Sisters, there is a bond between us:

One that reaches back into the past

When Sarah, Ruth and Rachel filled our lives

With song and commitment;

A bond that is both real and invisible,

Rich and enduring.

Wrapped in the comfort of the tallit

I felt your love.

Listening to the stories you shared with us

Of the inspiration of parents and grandparents

I gained in wisdom.

Seeing your flow, as you recalled past

Precious moments,

I gained in compassion

Watching you plan for the future,

For the poor, the rejected, the vulnerable,

The young and the old

I felt your strength.

I recalled the bond, that linked us

To the Jewish heroines of the past,

Which held the promise of the future.

In the company of all of you

I have been nurtured

Like a sip of cool water to the thirsty seeker

I have been refreshed.

Independent of mind but bound together with one heart and

one voice

I go forth to share your gifts with others.

Sisters, there is a bond between us.

Shabbat - by Carol Walker - From Covenant of the Spirit (2000)

On this Women's League Shabbat, we thank you, O God, for the joys of the past, for the friendships created and the accomplishments achieved.

Like a tapestry, the work of our minds, hearts and hands stands before us. We thank you, God, for helping us to fulfill a need, support a cause, extend a warm hand to a stranger. Together we have learned, worked and rejoiced; always growing, always changing.

Thank you, God, for our diversity and our ability to come together for the common good of our Sisterhood Affiliate, our Congregation and our Community.

We are grateful for our loved ones who support us and understand the significance of the contribution we make. As we look to the future, grant us strength and energy to persevere in the work we do.

When we are weary with the daily demands of the busy world in which we live, help us to find the time and the desire to contribute to the well-being of others. Help us to stand back for a moment and appreciate the "larger picture" and implant within us the drive to enhance the beautiful world which you have created for us.

Grant us, O God, the imagination, creativity and vision to approach each task with freshness and enthusiasm.

Awaken in us the sensitivity to identify needs of those who might not ask for help and prompt us to respond quickly to those who cry out in need.

Grant us courage to lend our voices in working towards truth, justice and peace in our world.

As a silver thread is carefully woven through a precious cloth, help us as a group to continue weaving our tapestry of *mitzvot*. And, as we celebrate this special moment, O God, be with us, bless us, strengthen us, guide our footsteps as we continue on our journey.

Who am I as a Jewish woman?... by - Helene H. Waranch From *Covenant of the Spirit* (2000)

Who am I as a Jewish woman?

A mother

A wife

A daughter

A friend

A boss

A volunteer

whose inner soul is searching -

searching for God within us all.

especially within myself.

To find goodness, love and understanding

To come to peace with my love of family and self

To take time to smell the flowers

To listen and to hear

To understand the hurting within me.

Searching and reaching for an equilibrium - a peace

God - give me strength

to search

to be open

to understand

to live with who I am

to move forward in my life

and to find peace.