

## Small Groups That Make a Big Difference: A Model Seder Raises Support for High School Students

A little creativity goes a long way – especially in Delray Beach, Florida! The Sisterhood of Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, sponsors of two high school students through the NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School Sponsorship Program, has found a unique way to inspire its members about Ethiopian Jewry and enlist their support.

At the annual Sisterhood Women's Pre-Passover *Seder*, the theme of Exodus is expanded to include stories of women from throughout Jewish history who were part of an exodus, from ancient to modern times. Sheila Firestone, the coordinator of the Sisterhood's Special Events, makes the connection between the Biblical Exodus and the exodus that Ethiopian Jewish women experienced and still experience.

At this year's *seder*, the focus was on Biblical mothers and the relevance to the NACOEJ high school program was a natural. As Sheila noted, the *seder* community is invested in this program because "we're all mothers!" Part of the celebration includes reading stories of Ethiopian-Jewish life from NACOEJ newsletters. The choice to sponsor two Ethiopian-Israeli high school students reflects the group's interest in building personal relationships with the Ethiopian community. Updates about the group's two high school students were given.

As an added program component, three NACOEJ embroideries were raffled off and proceeds from the event and raffle more than covered two student sponsorships for the upcoming school year! Always a time of hope, this Passover gave two more Ethiopian girls in Israel a reason to celebrate!