

Resler H, 5757

11/15/1996

Marie Weisler

Over the past few weeks we have studied the Torah portions which recount the stories of the patriarchs, the founding fathers of our people, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But while some might suggest that the Torah gives too much credit to the male role in the founding of our faith, in fact their wives, our Matriarchs, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah operate on a level of virtual equality with their husbands.

For example when Abraham's wife, Sarah wishes to expel her servant, Hagar, and Hagar's son Ishmael from their house, the Patriarch is very upset and refuses to do so; but God intervenes, and says: " Whatever Sarah tells you, do as she says." A few chapters later, the Torah makes it clear that Rebecca has far better insight into the character and destiny of her sons Esau and Jacob, then her husband Isaac does.

When I heard of the passing of Marie Weisler my first thought was that another of our community's and our Synagogue's Matriarchs was gone. The Weisler name is inscribed forever in the records and on the walls of our synagogue for their part in the construction of our beautiful sanctuary on Jasper Avenue. The beautiful stained glass window celebrating the holiday of Chanukah is dedicated to Hymie and Marie Weisler. The theme chosen because of the proximity of the holiday to Marie's birthday. She loved to sing and was an active participant in the Beth Shalom choirs, as well as our Sisterhood. Perhaps some of her involvement was because she knew how much the synagogue meant to the life of her husband but it is the model of women like Marie Weisler who made her voice heard that led to the changes in our synagogue today that see women take an equal role in all - aspects of synagogue life.

Over the past years when illness has kept Marie away from the synagogue her guidance has been missed. Those of us who have

taken on the mantle of synagogue leadership today are grateful to our modern Patriarchs and Matriarchs such as Marie who have inspired us to reach for the highest spiritual values and to use everything in the material world to serve our souls. They have transmitted to us the intuition to see what is truly meaningful and good, the knowledge of how to achieve it, and how we can develop the means to transmit this legacy to others.

It is fitting then that so many of her family and friends wish to share a few memories and thoughts on her life and how her legacy affects each of us.

The family has asked that in lieu of floral tributes those wishing to remember Marie consider charitable donations in her name to Beth Shalom Synagogue, the Beit Horim Senior's project or a charity of your choice.

Following the graveside service friends are welcome to visit the family at 13817 Summit Drive. We will have an afternoon prayer service at approximately 3:30 pm today.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings prayers will be said at the home at 7:15pm. There is also morning minyans at Beth Shalom on Monday and Thursday at 7:30am.