

February 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

The B'nei HaRama Synagogue in Ramot, Jerusalem, has a membership of about 50 families, representing different age groups and professions. I am on the cultural committee and the email person which organizes lectures and events throughout the year on issues and topics that are relevant to our congregation and we include other synagogues nearby.

A colleague recommended that I contact Dr. Susan Weiss, Director of the Center for Women's Justice (CWJ). Susan's work – freeing *agunot* using damage suits in civil courts, and to hear first hand the work that Susan and her colleagues are striving for.

We hosted Susan on a Shabbat in September 2014 and had a large audience of 50 people. The topic was: "What Are the Grounds for Divorce in Israel?" Susan used CWJ cases to illustrate the problem and how the damage suits were making a difference. The lecture was excellent. We only wish she could have had time to present more cases.

We feel that CWJ's lectures are extremely important for two reasons: (1) they bring Israelis face to face with a reality that is unfamiliar to most of us, but which has a devastating influence on our lives and (2) a personal account from Susan, an expert who has tremendous experience working in the system and finding solutions to these problems, gives people a clear understanding of the complexity and extent of the issues, something that is lacking in most media stories.

We applaud CWJ for the important work that it is doing - the legal precedents it is setting that protect all women, as well as its educational programs. We highly recommend supporting this essential organization so it can continue to bring about changes in Israel that advance the status and well-being of women.

Sincerely,



Annette Orrelle