



Sam Heller, left, with Sema Heller-Netivot Shalom student interns Rachel Straus, Ahuva Furst, and Miriam Brukner, and Sharsheret's executive director Eillene Leistner.

Local students intern for Sharsheret

Three Teaneck college students joined the Sharsheret staff this summer as Sema Heller-Netivot Shalom student interns.

The program was established by Sema Heller's husband, Sam, along with family and friends at Cong. Netivot Shalom in Teaneck, in memory of his wife, Sema, who died in 2004 at the age of 50. Sharsheret is a national not-for-profit organization, based in Teaneck, for Jewish women facing breast cancer. The Hellers have two children, Jessica, a kindergarten teacher at Noam Yeshiva, and Russell, a senior at Rutgers University. Sema Heller was a preschool teacher and artist, a bookkeeper at Temple Shalom in River Edge, and a volunteer bookkeeper at her synagogue, Cong. Netivot Shalom.

This summer's interns, Miriam Brukner, Ahuva Furst, and Rachel Straus, worked with the Sharsheret staff on national programs, which include peer support for Jewish women affected by breast cancer, tailored support for children with a parent who has been newly diagnosed, individual counseling for younger women living with advanced breast cancer, and education and outreach initiatives to Jewish women and families facing breast cancer.

According to Sharsheret's executive director, Eillene Leistner, "We have been privileged to work closely with Sema Heller's husband, Sam, and daughter, Jessica, in establishing and developing this vital scholarship."

To apply for internships, send résumés with cover letters to resumes@sharsheret.org.

For more information about the Sema Heller-Netivot Shalom Scholarship Fund, e-mail Rebecca Schwartz, the manager of volunteer services, at rschwartz@sharsheret.org.