CYLALERT

March 14, 2011

Author and columnist Sarah Darer Littman is flanked by Hana Glasberg (left) and Lexy Brown (right), members of the Senators Community Foundation's Executive Committee.

No More Secrets

Campaign encourages teens to speak up

Our *No More Secrets* campaign started when one of our members sang a Lucinda Williams song as part of our classroom presentation about violence. Here are some of the lyrics:

"Love got all confused with anger and pride, so much abuse on such a little child / Someone you trusted told you to shut up, now there's pain in your gut that you can't get rid of / No one heard your screams when you were nine, when bad dreams filled your summertime."

Several of our members have often wondered about the students in Norwalk who walk around with a "...pain their gut;" with shame and guilt about an incident that was not their fault; or about the adults who knew a loved was being abused, but did nothing to stop it.

We were reminded about the importance of the campaign by Sarah Darer Littman. A noted author and columnist, Ms. Littman spoke last week to more than 100 members of our Senators Community Foundation about the abuse she experienced as a child, and the reactions of the adults in her life.

"She was so honest," said Kristen McGuire, a member of the Senators Community Foundation. "The one thing that really got to me was when she said that secrets hurt her family. We've had a lot of people talk to us about their lives, but Sarah was one of the best because she was so open."