

AWARDS PROGRAM

2010 CENTRAL DISTRICT CONVENTION CLEVELAND, OH NOVEMBER 12-14, 2010

WRJ Central District takes great pleasure in announcing the 2008-2010 Award winners.

These Awards recognize Sisterhoods for their talent and ingenuity. Winning programs and/or projects are stimulating, resourceful and successful whether within their Sisterhoods, temples, or greater communities. We hope you will take these booklets back to your individual Sisterhoods to use already proven and successful ideas for future programming.

Awards entries in Innovative Programming are separated by size of Sisterhoods: small (1-99 members), medium (100-299 members) and large (300+ members). Each winner of the Innovative Programming Award, The President's Award and The Emerging Leader Award will receive the CHAI FIVE. The CHAI FIVE is a \$90 credit toward a District event to be used on or before the next District convention.

These Awards are funded by the Central District Baker/Egelson Recognition Fund, a combination of monies from District 10, District 11, and funds initially endowed by Anita Baker, Augusta Egelson and other Past Presidents of District 9.

This year's nominations presented thoughtful projects and inspiring people. The Awards Committee congratulates the Chai Five winners and Deborah Honorees.

The 2008 – 2010 Awards Committee:

Pamela Levine, Chair

Laura Beasley, Programming Chair

Cathy Gorwitz, Vice President Programming and Advocacy

Karen Sim, Vice President Marketing and Communications

Karen Smith, Vice Chair Nominating

Karen Stern, YES Fund Chair

2010 AWARDS CATEGORIES

Innovative Programming Award

This award recognizes a Sisterhood in each of the categories of small, medium, and large for an innovative, energizing, and original program.

President's Award

The Central District President determines the theme of this award. This biennium, the President's Award recognizes a Sisterhood in each of the categories of small, medium, and large for a unique campaign/event that increased membership by at least 10%.

District Emerging Leader Award

One Sisterhood woman from within Central District will receive this award. A Sisterhood may nominate a woman who exemplifies the strengths and has shown the skills, abilities, and willingness to accept a leadership role in her Sisterhood, Central District, or WRJ.

Deborah Honor

This award recognizes **one** woman from each Sisterhood who has demonstrated extraordinary service and commitment to both Sisterhood and Judaism based on criteria established by the Sisterhood.



**WRJ CENTRAL DISTRICT AWARDS HONOREES
2010 DISTRICT CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OH, NOVEMBER 12-14, 2010**

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARDS

Small Sisterhood

The Valley Temple Sisterhood, Cincinnati, OH

Kathy Schlaeger, President kschlaeger@fuse.net

“Great Girls to Wonderful Women: Raising Confident Daughters”

With the help of a grant from the Jewish Women's Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, collaboration with Isaac M. Wise Temple Sisterhood and guest speaker, Rabbi Edythe Mencher, a powerful program was presented. Successful community advertising and strong attendance produced giant results from this small sisterhood.



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARDS

Medium Sisterhood

Temple Israel Sisterhood, Akron, OH

Audrey Baker, President avbaker@neo.rr.com

“Hope for Homeless: Caring Connection Cart”

A commitment to the Family Promise of Summit County to shelter and transport homeless families wasn't enough for this Sisterhood. The Sisterhood assembled carts to donate to the Sisterhood's Caring Community Fund. These carts, containing books, toys and art supplies, will be used during leisure time when Temple members interact with resident children for entertainment and to give their parents a needed respite before bedtime. Realizing these children have few possessions, one of the carts will contain books and supplies from which each child may choose something to keep. Materials are purchased using profits from a Sisterhood fundraiser.



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARDS

Large Sisterhood

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis, IN

Bonnie Foster, President bfoster3@indy.rr.com

“Platter Project”

Initially supporting the Interfaith Hunger Initiative, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood teamed up with their Social Action Committee to support feeding the hungry both here in the US and in Africa. For the price of \$30, women attended one of two platter parties to paint pottery platters. In addition, they co-sponsored the 7th grade religious school class which painted the platters, as well. Not only were the painting parties fun, they strengthened community and friendship. Platters not purchased by the original artist were then auctioned off at a pancake breakfast, which was cooked by Brotherhood. Over \$2,000 was raised to support the Interfaith Hunger Initiative. They split the funds between Gleaners Food Bank in Indiana and the Umoja project in Kenya. The Platter Project incorporated community, included other groups in the Temple, was lots of fun and raised money for a very worthy cause.



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Temple Beth Shalom, Hudson, OH

Lisa Singer, President lisasinger@aol.com

Under the leadership of Lisa Singer, Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood increased their membership 350% in three years. What began as a Sisterhood of 9 members in 2007 grew to a dynamic group of 31 by 2010. WRJ recognized this Sisterhood at the 47th Assembly in Toronto for their substantial membership increase. The Sisterhood considered each event or meeting a venue for membership. Members personally invited new women to join activities and talked about Sisterhood from the Bimah. The Temple President announced upcoming events and current members directly asked others to join. Programs are very varied, such as cooking latkes for a fundraiser, hosting and cooking the first congregational dinner in their new building, holding annual Sisterhood Shabbat services, revising their service to make it more female-friendly, having dinners out for socializing and kibbitzing, cleaning the Temple kitchen, and getting together for fun Saturday nights. This Sisterhood met their membership goal by challenging vigorously at all opportunities, persisting in their growth as “the place to be with the greatest ‘Sistas’.”



DISTRICT EMERGING LEADER AWARD

LORI ROSSIO

Temple Israel Sisterhood, Columbus, OH

Lori was brought into the Sisterhood fold in 2007 as a reluctant Membership Co-Chair. She is responsible for recruiting an impressive number of Religious School mothers for membership and is the driving force behind the "Sisterhood Month," encompassing a membership drive and activities. "Always ready with an innovative idea or new approach to an age-old goal, Lori's input on the Board continues to be spot-on and refreshing." She will serve as Sisterhood Co-President for programs, 2011-2013.



THE DEBORAH HONOR

INDIANA

BETH LANDE

Temple Sisterhood of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

Beth served as President of our Temple Sisterhood of IHC from 2008-2010. As President, she had many accomplishments:

- Reinstating our Sisterhood Shabbat, which we hadn't done in a number of years;
- Spearheading a Shabbat Dinner held following the Sisterhood Shabbat service for all Sisterhood members and their families;
- Naming a Communications Director who produced an e-newsletter for our membership;
- Naming a Social Action Director who developed and supported several programs for the community including a Valentine's Dinner and Pampering Program for a local shelter for victims of domestic violence;
- Encouraging congregants' involvement in Sisterhood through an enhanced committee structure; and
- And fostering enthusiasm and commitment to Sisterhood.

Prior to her presidency, Beth served our Sisterhood as Co-Vice President of Programming where she co-chaired an intergenerational fashion show for the Fall Opening Program. She also served as Assistant Treasurer and was one of the Co-Chairs of the 2006 Central District Biennial in Indianapolis.

Beth has been a great asset to IHC apart from Sisterhood, Co-Chairing the Membership Committee and with continued involvement with youth group activities and the PTA (Prime Time Adults) social group. We couldn't ask for a more supportive and engaged Immediate Past President to help the current President. Beth Lande is a very deserving recipient of this honor.

KENTUCKY

ELAINE CUMMINGS ***Women of Temple Shalom, Louisville, KY***

Elaine Cummings joined Temple Shalom about four years ago and she immediately became an active volunteer for the Sisterhood (Women of Temple Shalom).

If there is a project or special event, Elaine will be there and will lend her support.

For two years, she served as Religious Action Chairwoman. In this role, she planned two very successful Merry Mitzvah Days at Maryhurst, which is a residential home and locked-down facility for severely troubled teen-age girls.

Women of Temple Shalom, as well as other members of Temple Shalom, traditionally serve a brunch at Maryhurst on Christmas Day as part of the local Jewish Federation's Merry Mitzvah program of support for those from the Christian community who have to work on Christmas Day. This past year, Elaine coordinated 20 volunteers who prepared food for 40 teens and staff at Maryhurst and arranged for games to be played with the teens. She also personally donated and filled gift bags for the girls.

She has coordinated two lovely Sisterhood Shabbats, preparing and copying a personalized service and organizing a luncheon for those attending.

Elaine also has supported special events that the Sisterhood held at Gilda's Club Louisville, a cancer support center, and the new women's facility of The Healing Place, a center for those who are homeless and struggling with addictions.

For Temple Shalom, she served as a member of the Membership Committee, bringing refreshments and appetizers to services and welcoming the Synagogue's newest members as an Ambassador.

Finally, Elaine has embraced a new role with Sisterhood. She is Co-Vice President of Membership, and in this role she already is acting on many new ideas to increase Sisterhood membership.

MICHIGAN

SUZETTE CHAIKEN

Temple Beth El Sisterhood, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Suzette was the Co-Chairperson of our major fundraiser, Party Planning Showcase. She also Co-Chairs the operation of our gift shop. Shortly after accepting these positions, her Co-Chair was in a terrible car accident and Suzette stepped up to the plate and did the major part of both projects to which she devoted many days a week. While doing this she tried to always be aware of her Co-Chair's feelings and included her as much as she could. Throw into the mix that Suzette's daughter was a Bat Mitzvah this past June (she did an exceptional job). Suzette is a very capable and creative woman. Our Sisterhood greatly appreciates everything Suzette did to help make last year very successful.

ROSLYN COVEY

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood, East Lansing, MI

The list of ways Ros works for and enriches our sisterhood is endless. She is a Vice President on our Board. She coordinates our Break-Fast dinner each year and all our Onegs, and also coordinates our participation in the twice-yearly Youngers Community Days Sale. Ros is always on our donor event committee. Whenever something needs to be done, Ros is usually there.

MICHIGAN

SHEILA HENKLE

Congregation Shir Tikvah Sisterhood, Troy, MI

Sheila's kindness, good humor, creativity and hard work have contributed to the success of our Sisterhood in ways that are immeasurable. Sheila often volunteers to help with Sisterhood functions, and we are always happy to have her on any project because of the positive energy she brings to the task. For the last several years, Sheila has chaired the Planning Committee for many of our special dinners. Without exception, she and her committee have created beautiful, comfortable, memorable evenings of good food and friendship. Even great personal difficulty has not kept her from performing this wonderful service to CST Sisterhood. This past spring, she managed to head up the End-of-Year Dinner Committee while, at the same time, traveling back and forth to Canada to be with her ailing sister. When we offered to relieve her of her duty, she politely declined, and then proceeded to create (along with her committee) one of the loveliest events we have ever had. It's a cliché to say that Sheila is the kind of Sisterhood member of whom we wish we had more. She makes us all better, and for this reason, we wish to name her our Deborah for this year.

FLORENCE VINSKY

Temple Kol Am Sisterhood, West Bloomfield, MI

Florence is steadfast in her support of Sisterhood and its programming and projects. Whether it's preparing her special *charoses* for our Women's Seder or responding to a last minute call to help with a mailing, Florence can be counted on to lend a hand. She has led our chaplaincy efforts with nursing home programs on all holidays, much to the delight of the residents. She recently served on the planning committee of our very successful Membership High Tea. She has served as ARZA chair on the WRJ District Board. She has been a contributing member of our TKA Sisterhood general board and we are proud to recognize her with this award.

OHIO

CINDY CRONIN

The Valley Temple Sisterhood, Cincinnati, OH

Cindy Cronin is a wonderful member of our Sisterhood. She organizes our beginning of the year and end of the year picnic for Religious School. She is one of the co-organizers of our Annual Rummage Sale. Cindy created and designed the decorations for our Denim and Diamonds fundraiser this year. She can be found most Sunday mornings selling items in our gift shop. We are grateful for all she does.

SUE VOOS

Isaac M. Wise Temple Sisterhood, Cincinnati, OH

Sue has stepped up to do every task we have asked of her. She has taken on huge responsibility in a short period of time. Her dedication to our Sisterhood has been amazing!

BARBARA SMITH

Oheb Shalom Temple sisterhood, Sandusky, OH

Barb has been an amazing woman living the spirit of Sisterhood and WRJ. She served 12 years on the WRJ Board, has served as President of our Temple and of our Sisterhood. Her dedication and service reflect the best traits of being a Jewish woman.

OHIO

CLARICE GOLDSTEIN

Women of Temple Emanu El, Orange Village, OH

Clarice Goldstein has worked tirelessly for Women of Temple Emanu El. She has held numerous positions including: President, Executive Vice President, Membership Chair, Fundraising VP, and Co-chair, Gift Shop. She is always there to chip in to help everyone in the Sisterhood. She works promoting Sisterhood in the community and in our temple. She was a Temple board member as well as Recording Secretary and still works with membership retention. She has been on the Central District Board and held numerous positions including: Historian and Area Director. She attends Central District conventions and board meetings. She has also attended the WRJ Assembly.

DEBORAH LOWENSTEIN

Rockdale Temple Sisterhood, Cincinnati, OH

Meet a woman of Reform Judaism: Deb Loewenstein. Deborah L. Loewenstein was born in Norwich, New York, and has lived in Cincinnati since June 1997. She and her husband Joe, a pilot, joined Rockdale in 2002. Their three children: Michael - now in college, Andrew - now 18, and Hannah - 11, have all attended Religious School at Rockdale and are always at their mother's heels when she is doing one of many "good deeds" at Temple.

Since her choice to convert to Judaism in 1994, and more recently to become an adult Bat Mitzvah, Debbie has been committed to both Jewish and secular community service in a big way. She has served 8 years as Treasurer of Rockdale Temple WRJ and, concurrently, as Treasurer for the Sisterhood Gift Shop. She has championed our commitment to the local Ronald McDonald House to serve Holiday dinners there for up to 300 family members. Today she is not only a Co-President of Rockdale WRJ but also on the Rockdale Temple Board. Debbie gives new meaning to Tikkun Olam!

OHIO

BERNICE GOLDMAN

Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, OH

Bernice is very dedicated to our Sisterhood. She has inspired others to create and enhance programs that bring younger women to participate. She recently helped in putting together a group of women to work with third graders and their parents from our Religious School to bake cookies. These cookies will be included in a New Member Welcoming Basket.

When the person in charge of making Chocolate Seder Plates retired from the project, Bernice made sure that others took her place to create these delicious edible plates.

She is always available to take over when needed, no matter how large or small the job. She encourages others to do the same.

For these reasons, and many more too numerous to mention, Bernice is deserving of the Deborah Honor.

SHERYL LEVIN

Temple Shomer Emunim WRJ Sisterhood, Sylvania, OH

Sheryl has for numerous years been involved with Sisterhood in some level. For the last ten years at least, she has held a board position. She presently serves as the House Chair: taking care of any needs the Temple has, such as items for the kitchen, new flags for the sanctuary/chapel, helping with the remodeling of the small kitchen, recruiting helpers for various Temple/Sisterhood events, etc. She also serves as the Gift Shop bookkeeper. Not only does this include doing taxes, doing monthly reports and inventory, but also spending numerous hours helping in the gift shop (wo)manning it, cleaning and going through catalogs to purchase merchandise and doing returns. She is amazing! She goes well above the call of her duty and responsibility. The Temple and Sisterhood are lucky to have her as an active participant.

OHIO

PAM CHAMBERS ***Temple Israel Sisterhood, Columbus, OH***

Pam Chambers was invited 10 years ago by a friend to join Temple Israel Sisterhood. Since then, she has served as a member of the Nominating Committee, Programming Committee, Vice President of Programming and currently serves as the VP of Religious Living. She has been the driving force behind our Sisterhood's very successful Women's Seder program for a number of years.

Pam dedicates innumerable hours to Sisterhood and the betterment of the Temple Israel community. Whether it is to serve on yet another committee, jump in to provide decorations for an event or provide encouragement for our new member, Pam is an integral piece of our Sisterhood's puzzle. We would not run as well or as efficiently without Pam. Her dedication, creativity and humor serve to raise the level of everything Temple Israel Sisterhood does.

Since 1991 Pam has worked as nurse manager of a busy surgical practice, being promoted to division manager for Central Ohio Urology Group in 2008. She has also been an instructor for adult education classes at Fort Hayes Career Center. Although she wears many hats, she feels the best job titles have been mom to Tyler (17) and Arek (12) and wife to Ken.

TENNESSEE

HONERLIN DEL MORO **Temple Beth El, Knoxville, TN**

When Honerlin Del Moro joined the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El two years ago, she was a shy new member, not really sure what kind of meaningful contribution she could make. She started helping in the kitchen, cooking and hosting at every Temple event where volunteers were needed.

Working alongside her Sisterhood community, she co-chaired the Chanukah Craft and Food Fair, the Chili Cook-off to benefit Mazon and Second Harvest Food Bank (Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser), and became the Sisterhood Vice President Membership Co-Chair.

Honerlin gained the confidence to become an active member of several Temple Beth El committees including the Social Committee, Auction (Temple's largest fundraiser), Social Justice, and became the Sisterhood representative for the Knoxville Family Justice Center against domestic violence. As a member of the Jewish Family Services volunteer team and the Caring Committee at Temple Beth El, she helps members of the community by preparing and delivering Mitzvah Meals to home-bound seniors, visits residents of nursing homes, provides and serves shiva food and visits members who are ill or in the hospital. She takes great pride in working alongside other Sisterhood members on the local Hadassah Board and most recently became a member of the Temple Beth El Board of Directors.

When asked about her extensive volunteering at Temple Beth El, Honerlin replied, "With the strong and passionate women of Sisterhood leading by example, I have been able to realize my own potential to be a caring and active member of Sisterhood, Temple Beth El and the Jewish community. Needless to say, I am not shy anymore!"

With members like Honerlin our Sisterhood will flourish and grow for many, many years.