

JEWELS IN THE CROWN AWARDS

MAZAL TOV to our terrific Women's League Jewels in the Crown winners! Our members provide important educational and social activities in their synagogues as well as participate in a myriad of community service activities. This booklet is just a tiny fraction of their accomplishments, showcasing the width and depth of the programs, activities and interests of our affiliates – all impressive representatives of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. The applicants detailed many enriching and innovative programs and projects, just a few of which are highlighted here. *Todah rabah* for being an inspiration to our members!

Harriet Merkwowitz and Renee Ravich
2014 Jewels in the Crown Co-Chairs

Rita Wertlieb
President



Lisa Kogen
Program Director

Rhonda Jacobs Kahn
Communications Director

Sarrae Crane
Executive Director

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Women's League Jewels in the Crown Award was established five years ago to recognize our affiliates who have demonstrated excellence in education, cultural programming and social action, and who exhibit a strong Women's League identity
- There are 121 award recipients this year
- There are 47 three-time winners (2014, 2012, 2010), representing 39 percent of the applicants
- There are 36 first time winners, representing 30 percent of the applicants
- Every region is represented
- The ages of the members in recipient affiliates range from early 30s to mid 90s
- Participating sisterhoods come in every size, from small to large
- Leadership structures range from solo president to committees and presidium-run groups

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS FROM THE 2014 JEWELS IN THE CROWN RECIPIENTS

A high level of creativity and substance in programming is clearly evident in this year's award recipients. While there are, quite literally, dozens of excellent and innovative programs, these are among the most noteworthy. A number involve intergenerational activities and others are multi-part series.

Changes in Marriage Laws – What You Should Know

Discussion with an attorney regarding marriage, gay marriage, co-habitation and divorce

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom, Roslyn Heights, NY

Putting King David on Trial

King David, long celebrated as one of Israel's great heroes, is put on trial for adultery (with Bathsheva) and murder (Uriah, her husband). An extraordinary night of courtroom drama and history.

Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Overland Park, KS

Charoset Tasting Bar

A wide variety of ingredients and recipes from around the world, representing many different culinary traditions.

Adat Ari El Sisterhood, Valley Village, CA

Digital Traditions

How to create your own cookbook or hagaddah on a computer

Sisterhood of First Hebrew Congregation, Peekskill, NY

Forgive Yourself

On Rosh Chodesh, members wrote cards to themselves to be more forgiving for mistakes they had made. Discussion followed on the importance of self care.

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom, Clearwater, FL

Secrets

As an icebreaker, one person collected unusual and little known facts about attendees coming to the opening meeting. The secrets were shared at the meeting and people tried to guess whose was whose.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, Cranford, NJ

Bread Making Workshop

Featuring traditional Jewish breads: bialys, corn bread, rye, with discussion about the process and history of these breads.

Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, VA

Multi-generational Programming

Bubbe's Brigade

Mentoring for women in the conversion class

Women's Connection of Beth El, La Jolla, CA

Z'havah/family activities

- Purim Party for a Purpose: for children under 5, with proceeds benefiting Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
- Tot Sukkah Party for children under 5 with holiday arts and crafts, music and hands on learning about Sukkot
- Tot Book and Author event for nursery and Hebrew school students with illustrator Ann Koffsey

Sisterhood of East Meadow Jewish Center, East Meadow, NY

Midrash Manicures

Manicures, makeovers, Karaoke, games, dancing, and discussion of Torah and nail art. Program included teen girls.

Shaare Tefila Sisterhood, Olney, MD

Multi-session Programs

Interfaith Luncheons:

- Exploring Refugee and Human Rights with a human rights lawyer
- Human Trafficking- showed film "Red Light, Green Light"

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Lunch and Learn Series

- History of the pickle
- Odd vegetables and uglifruit
- History of Jews & chocolate

Sisterhood of B'nai Jesurun, Pepper Pike, OH

Seminar on Technology

How-to's for the cloud, digital photo management, browsers, iPad, apps, etc. Summer series of 3 classes

Jacksonville Jewish Center Sisterhood, Jacksonville, FL

PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS & MORE PROGRAMS

The 2014 class of Jewels in the Crown Award recipients offered dozens of interesting and successful programs that reflect a wide diversity of subjects (including the new WLCJ Mishpachah and Wellness and Learning initiatives), issues, social action projects, celebrations, and personal enrichment activities.

Mishpachah

- Protecting our children from cyber bullying; preventing our children from becoming bullies
- Family hikes on local nature trail
- Inventing new family rituals
- Jews of Italy-based upon family experiences
- Mental health professionals discuss mishpachah-related issues
- Panel discussion on Jews by choice
- Program on the nurturing and developing abilities of disabled people within the family
- Speaker on homelessness
- When the unexpected happens – panel focusing on legal, financial and spiritual issues of loss and bereavement
- Wine, Women and What's Nu?: a program about women
- Writing an ethical will
- Ye*she*va – multi-generational academic and social series involving multi-dimensional families

Wellness

- The Eyes Have It: eye health from birth through life
- Awareness of glycogen storage disease
- Jewish biggest loser: exercise and nutrition
- Jewish genetic diseases
- Laughter: text study to burn calories and exercise
- Panel on Affordable Care Act
- Program on reflexology and nutrition
- Hang posters on BRCA1 & 2 in women's restrooms
- Safe use of over-the-counter drugs
- Speaker on colon and digestive issues
- Strengthening the Inner you: self-defense, karate and relaxation breathing techniques
- Health Fair
- Tranquili-Tea health fair and tea party
- Heart health speaker

Shabbat/Holiday Celebrations

- **Rosh Hashanah:** apple and honey tasting
- **Sukkot:** Midrash in the Sukkah: Lilith, Eve and today's women
- **Shabbat:** "Twister sister" challah and hair braiding
- Crockpot **Shabbat**
- Intergenerational service on **Shabbat** before Mother's Day
- **Tu B'Shevat** Seder with the Hebrew School
- **Pesach**
 - Community women's seder
 - Chocolate seder
 - Digital traditions: how to make your own Haggadot
 - Using a variety of haggadot at your seder
 - Fair trade chocolate sales for Passover
 - Passover charoset bar
 - Passover Family Feud/Passover Jeopardy
 - Dairy pot luck pre-seder at home to share recipes and ideas for sedarim
- **Rosh Chodesh:** Skype with Israeli Masorti kehillah
- **Rosh Chodesh** Tea Party: Purim based

Women's League Shabbat celebrations

- Friday night through Shabbat afternoon multi-generational Shabbat
- Friday night Shabbat: prayers to popular music with a theme (Carole King songs; family songs)
- Combine Women's League Shabbat with volunteer appreciation program
- Women's League Shabbat and Deborah Meyer, "Moving Traditions," a traveling exhibit on history of the bat mitzvah
- Women's League Shabbat, original script "Holy in the Holy Land" by Julie Steinschreiber
- Sponsor morning of Simchat Torah or chol hamoed Pesach as Women's League Shabbat

Tikkun Olam, *the mitzvah that commands us to repair the world, is an important focus of our Women's League affiliates today. The breadth and depth of outreach to and for the larger community is impressive.*

Community Involvement

- Bams for Mams: Mahjong day to raise funds for Susan B. Komen
- Baby shower for crisis nursery
- Blankets for Project Linus

- Braille groups
- Celebrate Hanukah with a nursing home and a homeless shelter
- Collect art supplies for special needs children
- Collect items for soldiers, homeless, shelters
- Collect prom dresses for those who can't afford them
- Collect tzedakah at monthly board meeting for community projects
- Collect used eyeglasses and shoes and coats
- “Comedy for a Cause”: proceeds to charity
- “Cook for a Friend” who is ill or caregiving
- Cook soup for hospice patients
- Crime prevention seminar; CPR workshop; Self defense class
- Dinner for Ronald McDonald House
- Donate blood
- Collect for “Dress for Success”
- Embroidering a portion of a Torah scroll (multi-community program)
- Free lecture about identity theft and elder and child abuse
- Gary Rosenthal Glass Ribbon Project
- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteer for and support local food banks
- Advocate for legislation against human trafficking
- IDF programs/sponsorship
- Knitting for senior home, hospitals, servicemen, NIC-ICU
- “Leading the Way”: Jewish women’s voices in politics
- Promoting literacy
- Make pillows for cardiac patients
- Make sandwiches for after school program
- Make honey cakes for community with no kosher bakery available
- Meals for homeless shelters
- MedWish International (recycle med supplies)
- Mitzvah of the Month
- Offer rides to and from doctor appointments
- Provide shiva meals
- Rosh Hashanah programming at nursing home
- Shared meals: weekly kugel delivery
- “Some of my best friends are Christians and Jews”
- Special Needs B'nai Mitzvah in Israel
- “Stop the Violence” anti abuse program
- Synagogue composting

- Synagogues as shelters during cold weather
- Interfaith Good Deeds Day
- Interfaith teas
- Tallitot for foster children
- Thanksgiving baskets with treats and supplies for those in need

World Affairs

- Sending packages to men and women in the armed forces
- Adopt a National Guard Unit in Afghanistan
- Knitting for the Masorti kehillot in Israel
- Adopt a community in Ukraine
- “Are the Jewish Settlements an Obstacle to Peace?”
- Entrepreneurial opportunities for women in Israel
- Interfaith luncheons: human rights and human trafficking
- Speaker on Hezbollah threat
- Tallit making for Abayuda community in Uganda
- Women of the Wall with Silver Thread

Book Club Selections

In our hundreds of book clubs throughout North America, our members have read these titles over the past several years:

A Guide for the Perplexed • Dreamers of the Day • Girl From Foreign • Hush • I Am Forbidden • In the Garden of Beasts • In the Image • Jacob's Folly • Jewish Threads • Margo • Me Before You • Moloka'i • Motherless Brooklyn • Murder at Stone's Cove • Murder in the Marais • My Beloved World • My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq • My Life • My Promised Land • My Race: A Jewish Girl Growing Up Under Apartheid • My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner • Nemesis • Once We Were Brothers • Outwitting History • Precious Objects: A Story of Diamonds, Family and a Way of Life • Rav Hisda's Daughter • Sacred Trash • Second Person Singular • Spring: The Laws of Gravity • The Aleppo Codex: In Pursuit of One of the World's Most Coveted, Sacred and Mysterious Books • The Book Thief • The Brothers Emanuel • The Fortune Teller's Kiss • The Glass Wives • The Golem and the Jinni • The Invisible Wall: The Story that Broke Barriers • The Kitchen House • The Ladies Auxiliary • The Little Bride • The Lost Wife • The Middlesteins • The Midwife of Venice • The Other Half of My Soul • The Paris Architect • The Plot Against America • The Postmistress • The Secret of the Nightingale Palace • The Status of Women in Jewish Law: Responsa • The Story Teller • The Woman Who Defied Kings • The World Without You • Tomorrow There Will Be Apricots • Unchosen: The Hidden Lives of the Hassidic Rebels • Unorthodox • Wendy and the Lost Boys • What We Talk About When We Talk About • When We Danced on Water

Movies

Fill the Void • *Footnote* • *Foreign Letters* • *Gentlemen's Agreement* • *Growing Up in Jewish Amsterdam* • *Hannah Cohen's First Communion* • *Life of Ra* • *Making Trouble: Three Generations of Female Jewish Comedians* • *Miss Representation* • *Nicky's Family* • *O Henry* • *Portrait of Wally* • *The Perfect Turnover* • *Yidl Mitn Fidl* • *Enchanted April*

Special Interest Groups

- Book Club: day and/or night
- Bowling groups
- Chicks Who Stitch
- College boxes
- Conversation circle with rebbetzin
- Game Day
- Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation
- Knitting
- Lunch bunch
- Mahjong
- Rosh Chodesh
- Skype with authors
- Stitches Judaic handcrafts
- Walking clubs
- Yiddish class
- Yoga

Popular Program Themes

- Domestic violence
- Electronics and general recycling
- Genetics
- Growing up in other countries
- Health/Nutrition
- Learn with the rabbi
- Lunch and Learns, Shabbat Conversations
- Memory issues
- Multi-interest day
- Weekly classes
- Self defense
- Theater and museum trips
- Pink-themed programs for breast and ovarian cancer awareness

Popular Food/Cooking programs

- Candy and truffle making
- Challah braiding
- Chinese food and movie
- Get in the “Spirits” and mixology
- Cookbook publication
- Sushi making
- Cheesecakes and blintzes for Shavuot
- Making spring rolls
- Mixology
- Selichot “Coffee Shop”
- Truffle making
- Charoset varieties
- Honey cake projects for fundraising or senior and homeless facilities
- Hammentaschen projects

2014 JEWELS IN THE CROWN RECIPIENTS

BQLI REGION

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El of Bellmore (2012, 2010)

North Bellmore, NY

Sisterhood of Shelter Rock Jewish Center

Roslyn, NY

Temple Gates of Prayer Sisterhood (2012)

Flushing, NY

Sisterhood of North Shore Jewish Center (2010)

Port Jefferson Station, NY

Sisterhood of East Meadow Jewish Center

East Meadow, NY

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom (2012, 2010)

Roslyn Heights, NY

Sisterhood of Plainview Jewish Center (2012)

Plainview, NY

Sisterhood of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor – Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center (2012, 2010)

Little Neck, NY

Manetto Hill Jewish Center Sisterhood

Plainview, NY

CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

Beth Judea Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Long Grove, IL

Sisterhood of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

Highland Park, IL

Park Synagogue Sisterhood (2012)

Pepper Pike, OH

Congregation Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood (2010)

Southfield, MI

Adath Israel Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Cincinnati, OH

Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Wilmette, IL

Sisterhood of B'nai Jeshurun (2010)

Pepper Pike, OH

Sisterhood of Beth El Congregation of the South Hills

Pittsburgh, PA

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom

Oak Park, MI

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom (2012, 2010)

Northbrook, IL

FLORIDA REGION

Rodeph Sholom Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Tampa, FL

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom

Clearwater, FL

Temple Israel Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Winter Springs, FL

Women's League of Bnai Torah Congregation (2012, 2010)

Boca Raton, FL

Sisterhood of Temple Torah of West Boynton Beach (2012, 2010)

Boynton Beach, FL

Women's League of Temple Emanu-El of Palm Beach (2010)

Palm Beach, FL

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom (2012, 2010)

Sarasota, FL

Bet Shira Sisterhood

Miami, FL

B'nai Israel Sisterhood (2012)

Gainesville, FL

Jacksonville Jewish Center Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Jacksonville, FL

Congregation Kol Ami Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Tampa, FL

Kol Isha of Congregation Shaarei Kodesh

Boca Raton, FL

GARDEN STATE REGION

Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom Congregation (2012, 2010)

South Orange, NJ

Sisterhood of B'nai Shalom (2012, 2010)

West Orange, NJ

Sisterhood of Congregation Torat-El

Oakhurst, NJ

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim (2012)

Cranford, NJ

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom

Livingston, NJ

Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Staten Island, NY

Sisterhood of Pine Brook Jewish Center (2010)

Montville, NJ

Sisterhood of Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation Anshe Emeth (2012)

Highland Park, NJ

Sisterhood of Congregation Ahavat Olam

Howell, NJ

Sisterhood of Morristown JCBY (2012, 2010)

Morristown, NJ

Sisterhood of East Brunswick Jewish Center

East Brunswick, NJ

INTRACONTINENTAL REGION

Beth El Synagogue Women's League

St. Louis Park, MN

Women's League of Congregation Etz Chayim (2012)

Winnipeg, MB Canada

Beth Shalom Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Overland Park, KS

Adath Jeshurun Congregation Women's League (2012)

Minnetonka, MN

Sisterhood of Shaarey Zedek (2010)

Winnipeg, MB Canada

Congregation Ohev Sholom Sisterhood

Prairie Village, KS

Sisterhood of Shaar Hashalom

Houston, TX

B'nai Amoona Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

St. Louis, MO

Sisterhood of Congregation Anshai Torah (2012)

Plano, TX

Shearith Israel Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Dallas, TX

Brith Shalom Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Bellaire, TX

Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood

Houston, TX

INTERNATIONAL NORTHEAST REGION

Women's Network, Agudat Achim (2012)

Schenectady, NY

Temple Beth El Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Rochester, NY

Sisterhood of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am (2012, 2010)

North York, Ontario Canada

Sisterhood of Temple Adath Yeshurun (2010)

Syracuse, NY

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Tzedek (2010)

Buffalo, NY

Shaare Zedek Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Montreal, Quebec Canada

METRO NORTH REGION

Sisterhood of Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale
(2012, 2010)

Bronx, NY

Sisterhood of Congregation Habonim

New York, NY

Sisterhood of First Hebrew Congregation (2012)

Peekskill, NY

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Sisterhood of Tifereth Israel (2012, 2010)

Bensalem, PA

Sisterhood of Beth Sholom Congregation

Elkins Park, PA

Adath Jeshurun WA Sisterhood (2012)

Elkins Park, PA

Sisterhood of Ohev Shalom of Bucks County (2012, 2010)

Richboro, PA

Sisterhood of Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El (2012)

Elkins Park, PA

Sisterhood of Beth Israel of Chester County (2010)

Unchland, PA

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El (2010)

Voorhees, NJ

Sisterhood of Beth Tikvah-B'nai Jeshurun (2012)

Erdenheim, PA

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Tikvah (2012, 2010)

Marlton, NJ

Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Jacob (2012)

Phoenixville, PA

Sisterhood of Har Zion Temple (2010)

Penn Valley, PA

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom

Cherry Hill, NJ

Temple Sinai Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Dresher, PA

Sisterhood of Temple Har Zion

Mt. Holly, NJ

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Torah

Holliston, MA

Sisterhood of Temple Emunah

Lexington, MA

Sisterhood of Ahavath Torah Congregation (2012, 2010)

Stoughton, MA

Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel

Newton, MA

Sisterhood of Adath Sharon

Sharon, MA

Sisterhood of Temple Ner Tamid

Peabody, MA

Sisterhood of Temple Israel of Natick (2012, 2010)

Natick, MA

Sisterhood of The Emanuel Synagogue

West Hartford, CT

Sisterhood of Or Shalom

Orange, CT

NORTH BY NORTHWEST REGION

Beth Shalom Women's League (2012)

Edmonton, Alberta Canada

Sisterhood of B'nai Shalom (2012, 2010)

Walnut Creek, CA

Sisterhood of Congregation Neveh Shalom

Portland, OR

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Sisterhood of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center

Pasadena, CA

Women of Aliyah (Temple Aliyah) (2012)

Woodland Hills, CA

Temple Ramat Zion Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Northridge, CA

Shomrei Torah Synagogue Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

West Hills, CA

Sisterhood of Tikvat Jacob Beth Torah (2012, 2010)

Manhattan Beach, CA

Sisterhood of Adat Shalom (2012)

Los Angeles, CA

Sinai Temple Sisterhood (2012)

Los Angeles, CA

Adat Ari El Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Valley Village, CA

Women's Connection of Congregation Beth El (2010)

San Diego, CA

Women's League of Temple Beth Shalom (2012)

Las Vegas, NV

SEABOARD REGION

Kol Shalom Sisterhood

Rockville, MD

Sisterhood of B'nai Israel (2012)

Rockville, MD

Sisterhood of Tikvat Israel (2012, 2010)

Rockville, MD

Sisterhood Har Tzeon -Agudath Achim

Silver Spring, MD

Sisterhood of Kehilat Shalom (2012, 2010)

Gaithersburg, MD

Sisterhood of Congregation Olam Tikvah (2012, 2010)

Fairfax, VA

Sisterhood of Congregation Har Shalom (2012, 2010)

Potomac, MD

Sisterhood of Beth El Congregation of Baltimore (2010)

Pikesville, MD

Sisterhood of Shaare Tefila

Olney, MD

Beth Shalom Sisterhood

Columbia, MD

Beth Israel Mikro Kodesh Sisterhood (2012, 2010)

Owings Mills, MD

SOUTHERN REGION

Sisterhood of Temple Israel (2012, 2010)

Charlotte, NC

Sisterhood of Emanu-El (2012, 2010)

Charleston, SC

Congregation Etz Chaim Sisterhood (2012)

Marietta, GA

Sisterhood of Adas Yeshurun Synagogue (2012)

Augusta, GA

Sisterhood of Heska Amuna (2012)

Knoxville, TN

Sisterhood of Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem (2012, 2010)

Montgomery, AL

Sisterhood of Beth Shalom Synagogue (2012, 2010)

Memphis, TN

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom (2012, 2010)

Atlanta, GA

Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Torah (2012)

Atlanta, GA

Sisterhood of Ahavath Achim (2012, 2010)

Atlanta, GA

Sisterhood of West End Synagogue (2012)

Nashville, TN