

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

# THE HUPPAH PROJECT

BIENNIAL CONVENTION

1996

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The plan for this project was suggested by the National Creative Handcrafts Committee in Summer 1995. With full support from our President Evelyn Seelig, Executive Committee and National Board, guidelines for *huppah* construction were distributed to the 25 Branches. Each Branch was to create a *huppah* which it would keep and use after displaying it at our Biennial Convention '96.

We are very proud of the *huppah* that our Sisterhood women have created. They are beautiful and celebrate our Women's League advocacy of Jewish marriage under a traditional wedding canopy. The wedding ceremony is one of our oldest traditions. More than a religious act, it is a legal act in a religious setting. It has been said that this ceremony goes back to the giving of the Torah, with God as the *hatan* (groom) and Israel as the *kallah* (bride), standing under the *huppah* (canopy shadow) of Mount Sinai.

There are no specific regulations as to the design or construction of *huppah*. They may be any size. Our requirements were that these had to be 4' wide x 6' long to accommodate our needs for this exhibit. Many Branches have utilized special fabrics and techniques, and/or artistic representations of the flora and fauna of their region.



We salute the special women who put their talent, time and artistry into these beautiful *huppah*. Thank you to coordinators Gilda Hecht and Ellyn Sheidlower for providing expertise and problem-solving for many of the handcrafters throughout design and construction of the *huppah*.

Following is a catalog of the 23 *huppah* created by Sisterhood artists in 23 Branches of Women's League across the United States and Canada.



### CENTRAL BRANCH

**FABRIC:** white and gold velour

**TECHNIQUE:** applique, embroidery

**HEBREW:** front valence: "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"; back: "Be thou consecrated unto me"; one side: "Let there be heard in the towns of Judah, the city of Jerusalem..."; other side: "...the voice of joy and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride"

**THEME:** wedding rings and life cycle - ceremonial wedding ring (18th & 19th century, European style) with notable buildings of the Chicago skyline: Hancock Building, Sears Tower, Stone Container Building and the Water Tower; Judaic symbols: wine decanter, *kiddush* cup, *hallah*, spice box and candlesticks on the center part of ring; wheat and corn are agricultural products of the Central Branch states: Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin; life cycle events are depicted in the 4 corners

**ARTISTS:** Myrna K. Schwartz, Chair; Matty Shechtman; Anna Blumenthal; Barbara Weiss; Debbie Frager





## CENTRAL NEW JERSEY BRANCH

**FABRIC:** silk moire, silk, satin, velvet, gold metallic ribbon

**TECHNIQUE:** applique

**HEBREW:** "My soul is entwined with thine"

**THEME:** blue iris expresses all the joy of a wedding celebration; the rich flower and ribbon motif creates a festive aura which reminds the couple of their special day

**ARTIST:** Janice Hymanson, Chair



## CONNECTICUT VALLEY BRANCH

**FABRIC:** lace, silk moire

**TECHNIQUE:** applique, needlepoint

**HEBREW:** "Spread over us Your shelter of peace"

**THEME:** inspired from an earlier time when weddings took place outdoors so that the marriage should be blessed with many children as stars in the skies; stars in the design converge to form a central *Magen David*; the *Shekhinah* or Divine Presence is manifested; the light shining through lace on the bridal couple and the shimmering blues of the sky

**ARTISTS:** Ethel Marcus, Branch Chair; Pam Finer, Ricki Leiter; Bobby Sanofsky





## EASTERN LONG ISLAND BRANCH

- FABRIC:** antique satin
- TECHNIQUE:** applique, embroidery, trapunto
- HEBREW:** "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"
- THEME:** contemporary design of Hebrew letters in a *Magen David*
- ARTISTS:** Rena Papierno, Branch Chair; Helene Aimbinder; Pat Schriro; Marcie Schechter; Sylvia Wishner; Marilyn Rosenthal; Linda Zung



### EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton quilting

**TECHNIQUE:** curved piecing using freezer paper templates, beading, quilting, metallic thread

**HEBREW:** "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"

**THEME:** It is customary for the ceremony to be under the stars, reminding us of God's promise to Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars. In Israel, a *cedar* tree is planted when a boy is born and an *acacia* tree when a girl is born. Branches of these trees are used to support the *huppah*. The *huppah* symbolizes the home the couple will share. This *huppah* depicts trees, sky, flowers and brings to mind the Garden of Eden.

**ARTISTS:** Ilene Cetlin Lipow, Chair; Jill Die; Beth Heyman; Barbara Katzman; Lisa Raider; Shirley Ravitz; Debbie Rubin; Karen Shapiro; Sue Schoolman; Ardie Smackey





## FLORIDA BRANCH

- FABRIC:** silk, cotton, muslin (some recycled fabrics used)
- TECHNIQUE:** applique, hand painting and dyeing, embroidery
- HEBREW:** "Many waters cannot quench love", "Praise the Lord, for He is good", "Sing unto the Lord a new song", all on borders; words in central Eden setting: "And behold, it was very good"
- THEME:** Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden - "first love"; lush, tropical flora and fauna of Florida depicted in jewel tones
- ARTISTS:** Terry Loebenberg, Chair and designer; Lee Neufeld, Branch Chair



### HUDSON VALLEY BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton

**TECHNIQUE:** applique, embroidery, computer

**HEBREW:** "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"

**THEME:** computer design in style of traditional "Baltimore Album Quilt" with scalloped border and each block being different; Jewish motifs: *Shabbat* candles, *kiddush* cup, *hallah*, *m'norah*, etc.; Biblical motifs: dove (Noah), rose of Sharon, lyre; blue of scalloped border is reminiscent of Israeli flag

**ARTISTS:** Susan Lazaroff, Chair; Lorna Saul; Roseann Lempke; Marianne Parnes; Barbara Horn; Mina Koslow; Tina Spergel; Betty Grossman; all of Temple Beth El, Port Jervis, New York.





### **METROPOLITAN BRANCH**

**FABRIC:** unbleached muslin, cotton *tallit* (made in Ethiopia), silver ribbon

**TECHNIQUE:** ribbon to carry silver to border

**HEBREW:** none

**THEME:** beauty in simplicity

**ARTIST:** Miriam Korman, Chair



### MICHIGAN BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton blend

**TECHNIQUE:** fabric paint, acrylic paint and mixed metals

**HEBREW:** none

**THEME:** flowers of Jerusalem

**ARTISTS:** Marilyn Gordon Dresser, Branch Chair; Samantha Dresser; Beth Cook; Anneke Burke; Ruth Blumenstein; Sara Blumenstein; Erica Gale





### MIDWEST BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton blend

**TECHNIQUE:** applique

**HEBREW:** *shalom* (peace)

**THEME:** environment of Midwest Branch - Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and 2 Provinces of Canada: Manitoba and Saskatoon; representative products and flowers of the Midwest; includes a *Magen David* and peace dove

**ARTIST:** Barbara Donen, Branch Chair



### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton blend, polyester

**TECHNIQUE:** applique

**HEBREW:** "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"

**THEME:** pomegranates, grapes, and doves - all native to Northern California

**ARTISTS:** Judith Krongold, Chair; Ann Tavan, designer; Hillary Farkas; Natalie Schriger; Rita Smith





### NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

- FABRIC:** cotton and gold lame
- TECHNIQUE:** quilting, applique, strip piecing, gold piping
- HEBREW:** "Grant perfect joy to these loving companions..." "as You did for the first creatures in the Garden of Eden" (side valances);  
"...who creates the joy of bride and groom" (front panel)
- THEME:** *Magen David* (colors range from gold to pale cream) on sky blue
- ARTISTS:** Beatrice White, Branch Chair; Marcia Rowe



### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

- FABRIC:** slipper satin, silk, glimmer tulle, crystal sequins, velveteen
- TECHNIQUE:** applique, embroidery, sequins, fabric paint
- HEBREW:** "The voice of joy and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride" (side valances); "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (front valance)
- THEME:** *L'dor vador* - from generation to generation; state flower of New Jersey, purple violet; wedding rings; *Magen David*, stars, doves
- ARTISTS:** Hedy Belman, Branch Chair; Joy Cramer; Mickey Cohen; Marilyn Horn; Sue Levy; Susan Lubliner; Anne Moiseev; Renee Savitz; Emma Schottenfeld; Gail Weis





### NORTH SHORE LONG ISLAND BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton, recycled silk, satin, ultrasuede

**TECHNIQUE:** piecing, hand and machine applique, quilting

**HEBREW:** "I will take refuge in the cover of Thy wings"

**THEME:** wings of doves representing refuge, protection, love, care, concern; jewel-toned colors of background are mentioned in Exodus when God specifies what colors the Sanctuary should be: red, blue, purple, twined linen, and gold

**ARTISTS:** Gilda Hecht, Branch Chair; Ellyn Sheidlower



## NEW YORK STATE BRANCH

**FABRIC:** Battenburg lace, ribbon

**TECHNIQUE:** fabric paint, ribbon roses

**HEBREW:** "Like a rose among thorns, so is my darling among the maidens"

**THEME:** Hebrew phrase from Song of Songs 2:2-3 incorporates the symbols of the New York State apple and rose

**ARTISTS:** Rita Kanter, Branch Chair; Hannah Anbar, Dolly Fishman; Esa Jaffe; Rachel Kanter; Barbara Sher; Lois Silverman





### PACIFIC NORTHWEST BRANCH

**FABRIC:** cotton blend, cotton damask

**TECHNIQUE:** applique, quilting, beading, embroidery

**HEBREW:** none

**THEME:** regional flora with Jewish symbols (*kiddush* cup, Torah)

**ARTISTS:** Robin Rogel-Goldstein, Chair; Terri Eichen; Linda Brenner; Nancy Elman; Lorri Feldman; Andrea Milman; Beverly Ross; Rhoda Sherman



## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST BRANCH

**FABRIC:** satin, aida cloth

**TECHNIQUE:** counted cross stitch, embroidery, beading

**HEBREW:** "The voice of joy and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and voice of the bride"

**THEME:** field of sunflowers represents the People Israel; above 7 birds represent the 7 blessings of the wedding ceremony; free style *Magen David* with Torah in center and representations of 12 Tribes of Israel

**ARTISTS:** Bonnie Vorspan, Chair; Maxine Adelson; Sylvia Bechinsky; Rhoda Blecker; Rose Chaplan; Marilyn Conrad; Marcy Delbick; Roslyn Druyan; Charlene Feldman; Sarah Felman; Monica Feuerman; Myrna Gale; Debbie Geffen; Aliza Goland; Jude Hawes; Sue Hoffman; Arielle Jacobs; Erica Kane; Karen Hoffman-Karchem; Charlene Kazel; Laura Kedem; Gert Lorman; Elaine Lazarus; Rhoda Lipsig; Paula Loomis; June Lorch; Heather Mann; Stephanie Mednick; Jodi Melcher; Michelle Oerlemans; Lois Piade; Judy Podolsky; Kathy Robinson; Judy Schear; Louise Schmidt; Marion Schwartz; Sue Schweitzer; Debbie Sipos; Maralyn Soifer; Alisha Vorspan; Maureen Wessler; Jerri Wilson; Debbie Winderman; Judy Yaniv; Mitzi Yuda





## PHILADELPHIA BRANCH

- FABRIC:** fine quality muslin
- TECHNIQUE:** fabric paint, applique, embroidery, quilting, beading, metallic thread, sequins
- HEBREW:** "Splendor and blessing are upon everything" (from *Mi Adir*, wedding prayer)
- THEME:** roof panel: double ringed circle with Hebrew and English; inside circle is *Magen David* enclosing crescent moon and stars, symbols of woman; two doves hold a ribbon with wedding band; valences: Philadelphia historic landmarks: Independence Hall, Carpenters Hall; flowers of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania: azalea, dogwood, mountain laurel and rose of Sharon. When suspended on poles, bell shaped corners with gold tassels suggest the Liberty Bell.
- ARTISTS:** Rita Altman, Branch Chair; Elsa Wachs, Co-Chair; Sharon Benveneste; Theresa Butkovitz; Michelle Cornfield; Ruth Galpern; Mildred Kline; Clara Kolodner; Susan Lodish; Ellen Manson; Aimee Miller; Karen Moses; Bernice Oswald; Marlene Snyder; Arlene Spector; Shirley Tattar; Elka Zibman



### SEABOARD BRANCH

**FABRIC:** raw silk, felt

**TECHNIQUE:** applique, embroidery, beading, metallic thread, color dyes, gold couching, quilting

**HEBREW:** "May the bridegroom and bride rejoice in each other" (center - Hebrew letters form shape of bride and groom); "Love and friendship, peace and harmony" (words below bride and groom - from 7th wedding blessing); "Blessed are You, O God..." (in arc of sun); "Who makes Zion rejoice with her children" (rear flap - from 5th wedding blessing); "mirth, exultation, pleasure and delight" (front flap - from 7th wedding blessing)

**THEME:** foundations of a good marriage: bride and groom stand upon words of 7th wedding blessing; *Shabbat* candles, *kiddush* cup, intertwined wedding rings are formed in Hebrew letters; beauty of nature seen in plants, flowers; radiant sun containing opening words of the 7 blessings represents a new Jewish home established in presence of Creator; grapes, corner of front: we are commanded to plant a grapevine at the time of marriage; the grapes also represent continuity to the next generation

**ARTISTS:** Shirley T. Waxman, designer; Charlotte Zeidman, Branch Chair; Ruth Achter; Bernice Albert; Carol Lee Bloom; Ellen Bridge; Ethel Goldberg; Judy Goldberg; Gail Goldfarb; Madeline Guzman; Susan Hankin; Dunia Hecht; Doris Kalman; Barbara Leibowitz; Eva Miller; Sandy Myers; Ellen Novack; Eleanor Stone; Rita Wertlieb; Robin Wilpon





### SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

**FABRIC:** cotton blend, cotton knit with petite lacy design, white brocade, blue polyester, sequins, gold lame, silk flowers

**TECHNIQUE:** applique

**HEBREW:** "May there be peace in their home; confidence and security in their hearts"

**THEME:** cedar and cypress trees planted at birth of male and female respectively; branches are cut from trees at time of marriage and incorporated into their *huppah*; 12 stars represent 12 tribes of Israel; sun represents the joy and brightness the future holds for the couple; 2 doves are symbolic of bride and groom and the Hebrew phrase reflects the hopes for them

**ARTISTS:** Marsha Wasserman, Chair; Gussie Aaron; Perri Dash; Carole Eckstut; Athena Ellner; Elaine Emmer; Rhoda Freedman; Lois Goldberg; Rita Landau; Selma Lesitsky; Elaine Lewis; Ethel Reback; Enid Serebransky; Myra Tyson



### SOUTHERN BRANCH

- FABRIC:** silk
- TECHNIQUE:** paint on silk with silk dyes
- HEBREW:** sides: "Like a lily among thorns, so is my darling among the maidens. Like an apple tree among trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the youth;" top and bottom: bride and groom; across center: marriage; all letters in gold paint
- THEME:** Biblical flowers depicted as in phrase from Song of Songs 2 : 2-3
- ARTIST:** Ruth Sacks, Branch Chair





### SOUTH SHORE LONG ISLAND/BROOKLYN BRANCH

**FABRIC:** polished cotton

**TECHNIQUE:** fabric paint, trapunto, beading, sewing and love

**HEBREW:** "Behold, thou art consecrated unto me by this ring," Top valance: "The voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride," Hebrew lettering design from the alphabet in "The New Work of Our Hands"

**THEME:** 2 wedding rings with vows above

**ARTISTS:** Ida Gold, Branch Chair; Jerry Korman; Maxine Mohr



## SOUTHWEST BRANCH

- FABRIC:** silk
- TECHNIQUE:** applique, metallic embroidery of Hebrew letters
- HEBREW:** "Count the stars, and if you can count them, so shall be the number of your children"
- THEME:** blue heaven with 16 stars representing the 16 Sisterhoods of Southwest Branch with blessing for fertility as one embarks on a Jewish marriage
- ARTISTS:** Debbye Zanerhaft, Branch Chair; Debby Raskin; Hilary Zarrow