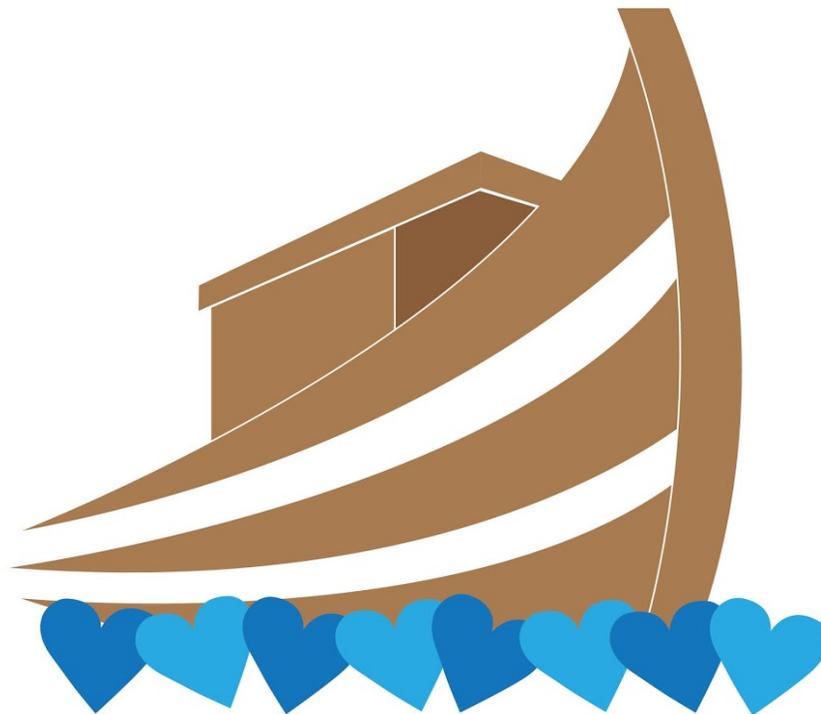


**WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
CENTRAL DISTRICT**

AWARDS PROGRAM



WRJ CENTRAL ROCKS THE BOAT

**2016 Biennial Convention
November 3-6
Louisville, KY
Sandy Adland, President**



**WRJ CENTRAL DISTRICT AWARDS PROGRAM
2016 CENTRAL DISTRICT CONVENTION
LOUISVILLE, KY
NOVEMBER 3-6, 2016**

WRJ Central District takes great pleasure in announcing the 2014-16 Award winners.

These Awards recognize Sisterhoods for their talent, ingenuity and commitment to the Women of Reform Judaism. 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 and President's Award are separated by size of Sisterhoods: small (1-99 members), medium (100-299) and large (300+ members). These Awards are funded by the Central District Baker/Egelson Recognition Fund, a combination of monies from the old District 10, District 11 and funds initially endowed by Anita Baker, August Egelson and other past presidents of District 9.

This year's nominations presented thoughtful and innovative projects and inspiring people. The awards committee congratulates all the winners and the Deborah Honorees.

Many thanks to the 2014-2016 Awards Committee for all their work and dedication.

The 2014-2016 Awards Committee:

Jan Muhlbaum – Chair

Rachel Lambermont – Vice President Marketing/Communication

Beth Lande – Vice President Development/Special Projects

Sue Korn – Advocacy Chair

Pamela Feldman-Hill – YES Fund Chair

2016 AWARDS CATEGORIES

District Emerging Leader Award

One Sisterhood woman from within the 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 in the recent time frame.

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.

Applicants not receiving an award will receive an honorable mention listing in this booklet.

President's Award

The President's Award theme is determined by the Central District President. This biennial, the President's Award recognizes a sisterhood in each of the categories of small, medium and large for an outstanding program or event on the theme "**Limdu Heiteiv – WRJ's Anthem**". This anthem is based on the words of Isaiah 1:17 "*Learn to do good, seek justice; relieve the oppressed. Uphold the orphan's rights; take up the widow's cause.*" Examples of programs illustrating the above biblical verse could include but are not limited to aiding under-served populations, social justice issues, women's and children's issues, etc.

Deborah Honor

This award recognizes one woman from each Sisterhood who has demonstrated extraordinary service and commitment to both Sisterhood and Judaism based upon criteria established by the Sisterhood. Each woman nominated by her Sisterhood to receive the Deborah Honor will be given a Deborah certificate.

DISTRICT EMMERGING LEADER

SUZANNE SINGERMAN

The Temple Women's Association
Temple-Tifereth Israel, Beachwood, Ohio

Suzanne Singerman and her husband Egon joined our temple when their children were young. Since that time, Suzanne has participated in numerous temple and affiliate projects and activities, exemplifying her belief in the importance of giving back.

Suzanne was asked to join the TWA board in 2010. After serving on the board for her first two-year term, she was asked to be the Corresponding Secretary for the next two-year term. She graciously accepted the nomination and was responsible for sending and receiving personal notes to/from TWA and temple congregants regarding their personal simchas and condolences.

In 2013, Suzanne was asked to chair a special program for the temple for visiting Israeli artist Mordechai Rosenstein. She orchestrated the artist's five-day visit which included working with children in Gannon Gill Pre-School, the Temple Religious School children, members of the Temple Affiliates, and members of the entire congregation. During Mordechai's visit, Suzanne also helped plan his involvement at our TWA Retreat entitled, "The Rhythm of the Hebrew Alphabet." Rosenstein presented some of his female-themed pieces and engaged everyone in a project celebrating the creativity and spirituality of our sisterhood. This was a tremendous undertaking. Suzanne's organizational abilities and inclusive nature resulted in an outstanding visit not only for the women attending our TWA Retreat, but also for the entire temple community.

In 2015, Suzanne was asked if she would serve on the TWA board as the Executive Vice President. This was a 4-year commitment as the usual progression is Executive VP to President. Suzanne was again willing to accept another huge responsibility. During her first year, she was elected as our delegate to the 2015 Orlando Biennial. Suzanne returned excited and ready to share new ideas with our fellow board members. When asked if the board would support her, they positively responded to also join her in the endeavor. Suzanne will also be our delegate to the Central District Convention in Louisville, KY.

Over the last few months, Suzanne has willingly accepted extra responsibilities for co-chairing our new Fundraising Committee, helping to organize a new check - processing program through the temple, and revising our TWA membership dues materials. Her insight, encouragement, and leadership have assisted in making valuable improvements on the initial ideas that were presented.

Suzanne always exemplifies the importance of giving back, not only to one's temple, but also to various organizations, and the larger community itself. It is not unusual to see her family exhibiting this belief in giving of yourself to help others. She has been involved in the Temple's Family Promise Program where twice a year homeless families lived at the temple for one week. She, her husband, and their three sons volunteered, providing food and supervising the children's evening activities. Suzanne was also supportive of Rabbi Stacy's Schlein's Mitzvah Days Program where she helped organize projects and activities for the community. Recently she accompanied the Social Action Committee to the Hebrew Cultural Gardens to help clean up the area.

Our Executive Vice President, Suzanne Singerman has definitely shown the skills, abilities, and willingness to accept leadership responsibilities in our Sisterhood and in the Central District of WRJ, as well as in The Temple and greater area community. She is extremely deserving of this award.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARDS

SMALL SISTERHOOD

TEMPLE KOL AMI SISTERHOOD

West Bloomfield, Michigan

“DINNER’S ON US”

On March 13, 2016 Temple Kol Ami’s Sisterhood presented Dinner’s On Us, an innovative idea in programming and fund raising. The idea grew out of the generosity of Sisterhood members to support our Temple and our greater community. With the understanding that each year Sisterhood makes donations to a wide variety of causes it was decided to not on raise money but to find out what was really meaningful for our members at the time.

The Plan

What do people like to do? Eat, of course? What’s more conducive to good conversation than a good meal in a comfortable setting? And so the plan was hatched; have a good meal in the comfort of a member’s home. What kind of meal would our members like? Going with the idea that we should always treat people well, it was decided to have a sit down, white tablecloth, china, crystal all out dinner cooked fresh and served by three of our members who warmly became known as “The Kitchen Help”. What would you charge for something like this? We’re a rather small, modest Temple, and so we figured if we went out for the evening we would easily spend \$25. And so the cost was set, \$25, with 100% of the proceeds to be donated to a cause chosen at the dinner because, as “The Kitchen Help” said: “Dinner’s On Us”.

Gears in Motion

Each member of the committee chose a cause they thought was worthy of receiving the entire proceeds of our dinner. One was Social Action, Project Night-Night: a literacy project providing bags with books, blankets and stuffed animals to homeless children. Another was Relay of Life, a community wide event raising money and supporting breast cancer research. The third was a donation sponsoring a foundation being established to support our clergy, a Rabbinic Chair. A key member from each of those groups was personally invited to speak at our dinner, explaining

their cause and why it was important. Members of Sisterhood and the greater Temple membership were encouraged to attend. A lovely invitation was sent to all.

Not an Empty Seat at the Table

After holding our breath and saying some prayers, the evening arrived. The house was full: not an empty seat at the table. The dining room sparkled with china and crystal on a freshly pressed white tablecloth. The kitchen hummed with last minute touches as our guests chattered away. Hors d'oeuvres were served, the guests seated and dinner began: first salad, then entrée. After the entrée, while everyone took a breather from eating, each representative from a cause explained their cause and why they should be the benefactors of our event. Questions were asked and answered, discussions were held. By each person's plate there was a note-card and a pen for people to write down their choice for the donation. Dessert was served, cards collected and at the end of the evening our benefactor was announced.

Upshot

Needless to say the evening was a success. New people from Temple and sisterhood came to our dinner. We engaged in excellent, interesting discussion. People were abuzz about our dinner. Talk of our next dinner was in the works right away. And we made money. Not only the \$25 charge either; some people wrote their checks for more than the \$25 and some people sent us money with a note saying they couldn't attend. At a Shabbat service in the spring, it was a very proud moment to present the Rabbinic Chair with a heartfelt check from Sisterhood!

Jacquelyn Zameck
Fundraising VP

Medium Sisterhood

The Temple Women's Association The Temple-Tifereth Israel, Beachwood, Ohio

"LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE"

The 2015 Adult B'nai Mitzvot group was called to Torah on May 29, 2015. It was so meaningful to watch and hear the women chant their Torah portions. After their special service, our TWA President realized that these women had developed a strong religious bond to the temple and to each other. To carry this bond further, our program chairs asked if they would be interested in chairing our next retreat. Five women said they would co-chair the event and the others said they would help. Bonnie Rogoff was the inspiration throughout, pulling the group together as the leading chair. Helping her were co-chairs Lynn Harris, Maude Shafron, and Ronna Sherman. Sandy Fox, Harron Hartig, and Leah Stroom also helped.

Because the retreat, scheduled for February 6, 2016, would be held in midwinter, the chairs selected the topic "Laughter Is the Best Medicine." A day to celebrate smiles, laughter, and having fun! Often with the gloomy winter months, people need something to cheer them up. The fun-filled, light-hearted co-chairs met, and the ideas started flowing. They were going to plan a day filled with laughter. Our TWA sisters would be participating in spiritual, emotional, service-oriented activities that would lift their hearts on that first Saturday in February.

Delightful emails were used to interest and encourage sisterhood members to attend. The first, the retreat invitation, was a Blue Mountain musical email with the words from Pharrell Williams "Happy." Little sheep danced across the screen as Pharrell's words mesmerized the email recipients. The sheep were joined by pigs, chickens, and a cow; all dancing to the music.

The Point East Condo Party Center was the perfect location. It had spacious areas on different levels allowing for the planning of various activities.

When our attendees entered the party center, they received a nametag with colorful smiley faces as well as a pill bottle with their name and their assigned group for the first activity. (Names were related to laughter – GRINS, SMILES, SMIRKS, GIGGLES, CHUCKLES). On the pill bottle cap was a colorful smiley face sticker. All the bottles contained 7 *Laugh Savers or Slogans to Share*, which recipients could read each day for a good laugh. Examples: "Give yourself permission to laugh." "Find someone who needs a smile and share yours," "Open your heart to love and laughter," "You make a difference one laugh at a time."

While everyone was checking in, attendees delighted in the delectable breakfast goodies, such as bagels and cream cheese, homemade pecan tassies, mandel and banana breads, fresh fruit, and a selection of beverages. Ronna Sherman had a great idea for our first activity, an ice breaker. Small groups met in a circle. Each participant introduced herself with a story about the funniest thing that ever happened to her. Then one person from each small group retold the funniest story of her group to all the participants sharing the laughter! To continue our "Laughter Theme," our TWA Advisor, Rabbi Rosie Haim, invited Jim Kline, a temple member and comedian to be our retreat comedian for the morning. Jim told personal stories about his own life and the life of his mother, whom many members knew well. Even if you didn't personally know Jim or his mother, Jim's storytelling prowess was very successful. Giggles! Laughter! More Stories! More Giggles! More Laughter!

The Retreat Chairs wanted the attendees to be involved in a special service project for the community. With laughter in our hearts, we were invited to participate in the most enjoyable service project. Lap blankets made of colorful felt patterns of all kinds! Working on this project lifted everyone's spirit. The room looked like a sea of brightly colored flowers. Making the project easy to complete during the short time period, co-chairs Bonnie and Maude did all the cutting of the felt. This guaranteed our ladies had sufficient time to tie the strips to the blanket's edges. We had THE perfect combination, two to four women sitting around the table, casually chatting as they completed their lap blanket. This activity was successful in building new relationships and fostered camaraderie among TWA members and nonmembers. Fifteen lap blankets were donated half to Menorah Park, a long term senior care facility, and half to the Transplant House of Cleveland,

a nonprofit facility that provides temporary housing for organ transplant patients and their families.

In addition to the lap blankets, Lynn Harris made huge colorful flower centerpieces out of felt. These were also donated to the Transplant House. Both organizations were delighted with their cheerful gifts.

An enjoyable lunch of Deli sandwiches, fruit, and pastries, was interrupted with a visit from Bubbe, alias Leslye Arian. Dressed like a grandmother from the 1940's with a strong Jewish accent, Bubbe, also known as Ida Nudelman charmed the group with her in-the-moment comments about herself and our day. She brought smiles to everyone; not only for her performance but also for the fond memories we have of our own Bubbles. After lunch, we retired to a sitting area with chairs in semi-circular rows. Here Lori Dreskin, a Laughter Yoga Instructor had us laughing in and out of our seats. With a quiet "ho, ho ho," a little louder "he, he, he" and then a belly laugh "YEAH!" We were rolling off our chairs with laughter. Lori also circulated among the chairs, teaching us how to laugh inwardly and outwardly. Creating that happy spirit within, the room once again filled with laughter and smiles!

The last scheduled activity for the day was led by Rabbi Haim. She spoke about Humor and Laughter in the Torah. She discussed Proverbs, Psalms, and parts of the 5 books of Torah, such as: Proverb 17:22, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Psalm 12:62, "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'"

Finally the traditional retreat closing ceremony – The Havdalah Service. Lighting the Havdalah candle, dancing the Horah to Hava Nagila, the final Blessing. A perfect end to a perfect day!!!!

The 2015 Adult B'not Mitzvah Group Co-Chairs with TWA Program Co-Chair Rochelle Marx. Bonnie Rogoff, Maude Shaffron, Program Committee Co-Chair Rochelle Marx, Sandy Fox, Leah Stroom, Ronna Sherman, and Lynn Harris.

Large Sisterhood

Temple Israel Sisterhood

Temple Israel, Bloomfield, Michigan

“WOMEN’S FREEDOM SEDER”

Temple Israel Sisterhood hosted a Women’s Freedom Seder on April 5, 2016 that underscored human trafficking as the modern-day form of slavery. About 85 women from both Temple Israel in West Bloomfield and Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit attended and participated in a social action interfaith Passover Seder.

Rabbi Marla Hornsten and Rabi Arianna Gordon conducted the Seder, and the Sisterhood’s Social Action Committee organized the event. Sisterhood members brought homemade Passover foods that accompanied a catered meal. Each table was adorned with seder plates and candlesticks that Sisterhood women brought from home. The four cups of wine became social action-oriented cups of awareness, human dignity, hope and action.

Participants watched a video that told the story of Theresa Flores, a former student at Groves High School in Beverly Hills, MI, who was sexually trafficked as a 15-year-old. Many years later she started S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution), an initiative that provides bars of soap to be labeled with the national human trafficking hotline number and placed in motels. Donations were made to S.O.A.P and to Atzum (a social justice agency that helps human trafficking victims in Israel).

The program was so well received that it was written up and published in the [Detroit Jewish News](#).

Enclosed with the nomination were:

Invitation

Haggadah

S.O.A.P. Table Tent

Atzum Table Tent

Volunteer thank you note

Contribution envelopes

[Detroit Jewish News](#) article

INNOVATIVE AWARDS HONORABLE MENTIONS

Small Sisterhood

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel, IN
"Multi-Generational Tea and "old bag" Silent Auction"

As a new congregation and sisterhood we strive to reach all age groups. This event was created for two reasons – (1) to connect with the older generation in the congregation and (2) to raise money for our newly formed sisterhood. The event was hosted and planned by Rita Rose, a grandmother who is one of 3 generations of her family at Beth Shalom. Rita and her friends baked amazing sweets added to homemade tea sandwiches and fruit. Rita served the food on china with her silver tea set to over 20 women. As it turned out we had all ages from 20 year olds to 80+ year olds. After enjoying delicious food and teas, Beth Lande discussed and handed out a summary/report card of what Beth Shalom sisterhood had accomplished in just 6 short months and also a list of future events and opportunities to get involved in. During this whole time a silent auction was going on in the other room. Everyone brought at least one lightly used purse with a surprise inside that you could not see as you bid on each via a silent auction. The purse auction raised \$225.00 but just as important everyone had a great time. We received several new members and all generations interacted for a wonderful afternoon. October 2015

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel, IN
"Sisterhood Kick off Brunch and Program"

Congregation Beth Shalom is a new congregation in Carmel, IN, which was founded in October of 2010.

Our kick off program to start our Sisterhood was held on May 3, 2015 at the home of Kathy Gross. Over 35 women attended with ages ranging from the 20's to 70's. The brunch was cooked by a core group of women that had been meeting to start the sisterhood. Most of the women had never been a part of a sisterhood but were eager to learn and meet people. Besides the delicious food our program was put together to create a bonding of the women and to move forward with a clear purpose and direction of our Sisterhood. To accomplish this we all introduced ourselves and shared our prior involvement in a congregation and specifically a Sisterhood or woman's group. From that point we did story boarding to come up with our goals, desires and plans for the future. Story boarding is a technique created by Walt Disney to be inclusive in a group and share ideas and then prioritize them using sticky notes and a large board. As people share their ideas they are put on notes and then put on the board. These ideas are then organized and prioritized. Although this was not a

program with someone brought in from the outside of our congregation, this was a life changing event for our congregation, the women who attended and future women who joined. From this day we created meaningful programs throughout the year to connect more women, support social action projects, support our congregation and the community and we joined the Women of Reform Judaism. It was a memorable day and one that established our foundation for success and growth. It was a baby step but now we are much "Stronger Together" and growing each month. May 2015

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel, IN
"Heart Health Women's Evening"

Women's Heart Healthy Evening – Congregation Beth Shalom sponsored an evening of women's heart education for not only Beth Shalom but also the community. We partnered with a Conservative Congregation in Indy- Shaarey Tefilah and invited the community. The evening was at the home of Charlene Pfenninger with heart healthy snacks and drinks. Our guest speaker was Dr. Elisabeth Von Der Lohe who is a worldly renowned professor of cardiology in Women's heart health. She is at Indiana University hospital and the Krannert Cardiology Institute. The evening was educational, inspiring and eye opening along with bringing a very important topic to our community for adult women of all ages. It really hit home that night when one of the women who RSVP'd did not show up. We later found out she was in the hospital and had just suffered a heart attack, which was totally unexpected for a very healthy, fit woman. The was an extraordinary night in so many ways both for Beth Shalom and establishing ourselves more in the community as a brand new Sisterhood. We know it educated and connected women of our community in many ways. February 2016

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood
Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel, IN
"Hanukah Shabbat"

Hanukah Shabbat with dinner was an amazing night for Congregation Beth Shalom. Sisterhood organized the entire event, which supported our congregation in many ways. Our Shabbat service was a memorable night - we were presented with our official charter as a new member of the Union For Reform Judaism by Alec Harris (a lay leader for the Union from Chicago.) After services, Brotherhood cooked Latkes from scratch that was served with chicken and sides. The evening continued with Hanukah music, singing and games. Hanukah decorations were on the tables and it was an overall wonderful evening with close to 100 people of all ages attending. We also had a food collection for Popsie's Pantry that night to support families in need in the community. This was one of the first events that Sisterhood hosted. That plus receiving our URJ Charter made it an evening. December 2015

Congregation Shir Tikvah Sisterhood
Congregation Shir Tikvah, Troy, Michigan
"Mitzvah Day"

Mitzvah Day at our Shul is held on a Sunday in January each year. This year, our Sisterhood, along with parents and children from the religious school, prepared Birthday Boxes for children of homeless and shelter-bound families. Many children of families living in shelters or low-income situations do not have the luxury of birthday parties or receiving birthday gifts. Birthday Boxes contain all of the ingredients to give a child a special birthday party.

Sisterhood members and parents of religious school children were asked to donate small gifts such as books, colored pencils, crayons, coloring books, etc. for children of various ages. Cake mixes, frosting, candles were also donated. The gifts were packaged in donated shoe boxes, and the shoeboxes were wrapped with birthday paper. Sisterhood members and children participating on the Sunday assembled the boxes, wrapped them, and labeled each package with a card that indicated age range and whether the gifts were for a boy or a girl. This year, more than 75 boxes were donated to a local shelter, and we have plans to increase that number next year.

Women of Temple Shalom
Temple Shalom, Louisville, KY
"Kentucky Racetrack Chaplaincy at Churchill Downs"

Alcoholism and drug use is prevalent among, especially the itinerant, backside workers at Thoroughbred racetracks. Formed to help combat substance abuse and to give workers much needed support, the Kentucky Racetrack Chaplaincy at Churchill Downs provides counseling and non-denominational Christian church services in both English and Spanish. It also acts as a collection site for non-perishable foods, clothing, linens and toiletries. Christ Chapel, or lovingly, "Track Church", is built on the racetrack grounds near the barns and dormitories for easy access.

As racing is held on Sundays, the Chaplaincy conducts church services Monday evening when the track is dark. During most evenings, about 100 track workers and others attend services followed by a dinner provided usually by a church. Yet, the Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) became the first non-Christian entity to partner with them. As a Tikkun Olam project, our first introduction to Track Church was so fulfilling and fun, WOTS provided dinner a second time June 2015. Some members joined the English service, while other shared the lively Spanish one. Before dinner, we shared a

HaMotzi and Christian prayer of thanks. WOTS members served dinner and enjoyed interaction with children and adults. Many attendees took home leftovers. The remaining cooked food was taken to a soup kitchen, as it could not stay at the church. Sisterhood members provided so many cookies and treats that we also stocked the refreshments for several movie nights and Thursday morning men's meetings.

Our Tikkun Olam with the Racetrack during November 2014-November 2016 extends beyond Monday night dinner. We collected scores of children's books as well as hair accessories, toiletries and school supplies. Although not an official request, WOTS members donated much needed men's clothing. We also donate remaining linens and some household items for our indoor yard sale.

Women of Temple Shalom are generous in both heart and spirit. Through our programming efforts, we learn more of each other and the community around us.

Women of Temple Shalom
Temple Shalom, Louisville, KY
"Family Emergency Shelter"

Volunteers of America's Family Emergency Shelter (Tingley House) provides safe, decent emergency shelter for families who become homeless due to a wide range of factors, including eviction, domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment or underemployment, lack of affordable housing, and lack of money management and/or life skills. Building on strengths, professional staff works with families to develop a specific plan with short-term and long-term goals for ending homelessness and returning to self-sufficiency. Clients may stay up to three months in the shelter. For the last two years, Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) has sponsored one of Tingley House's monthly birthday parties. We collected much-needed toiletries and baby supplies to take as part of our effort. The children's birthday party entertained the youngsters and their parents. Decorations livened up the common area. WOTS members interacted with and guided each table group through several activities. Busy hands created paper jewelry, flowers, and headgear. Older children laughed as they glued googly eyes and feathers to small woodcraft charm necklaces. Parents and children decorated their own cupcakes with icing and colorful toppings. Some children really enjoyed some story time with one of our members. Remaining craft supplies from the project were donated to the shelter.

Medium Sisterhood

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood

Congregation Shaarey Zedek, East Lansing, Michigan

78th Annual Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood Luncheon

Donor Fundraising Program

L'Dor V'Dor

We are proud of ALL the women who came before us. We wanted to use this Donor opportunity to reflect on the inspirations of our "Sisters;" past and present. The theme of our luncheon was *"Standing on the shoulders of those who came before us."*

We opened the program with the lovely sounds of violin music by Zoe Weinstein, the daughter of one of our board members. We were also blessed by the beautiful voices of three Sisterhood members singing, inspiring, and delighting everyone with, *"Somewhere over the rainbow."*

The first part of the program was a tribute to two fine women who together made our Sisterhood Stronger! They both passed away this year (may their memories be for a blessing). Kay and Marge were finer than rubies and will always be missed and not too far from our hearts. Lisa Bass wrote a version of *"A Woman of Valor,"* specific to both women. We read the tribute together and it was so deeply heartfelt. We presented Kay's daughter with a pin of two women, arm in arm, and we told her that her "Sisters" would always be by her side. Marge's daughter could not attend, but we gave her the same pin and she loved it!

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch including wonderful fruits and desserts. We then started the focus of our program. Staying true to our theme, *"of those who came before us,"* we asked nine women to speak on different aspects of their Judaism. The inspiring part of this idea was each "Sister" came from a different decade. Their ages were: 13, 22, 34, 46, 55, 68, 75, 86 and 91. We came up with specific questions for each woman to answer based on their age. We asked each person to speak for three to five minutes. Everyone we asked was thrilled and honored to participate.

The nine questions we asked were the following:

- 1) Teen: How did studying for your Bat Mitzvah impact your Jewish identity?

- 2) 20's: How did your experience in youth group/Jewish camps help shape you as a young adult?
- 3) 30's: What Jewish woman impacted your Jewish journey?
- 4) 40's: What are some challenges raising Jewish children in today's world?
- 5) 50's: Who was a guiding force behind your Judaism?
- 6) 60's: What was an obstacle for you growing up Jewish?
- 7) 70's: What lifecycle event most influenced your Judaism?
- 8) 80's: How has Jewish music influenced your life?
- 9) 90's: What was it like growing up as a Jewish woman at the following ages:
Teenager, 50, Now.

The answers from each speaker were personal, poignant, funny, and honest. We discovered more about each woman in a deeper, more meaningful way. At the close of the program, everyone said what a fantastic event it was; well thought out and that they couldn't wait to have us do it again. The best part is, we can. This unique idea can be a totally fresh program with new questions and different speakers every time! The Donor program was a tremendous success. The creative minds behind this event were; Amy Shapiro, Karen Weinstein, Ann Hughes, Ros Covey, Debbie Richmond, Lisa Bass and Shawn Olds.

...PUT YOUR HEART INTO SISTERHOOD...

The Temple-Tifereth Israel Women's Association

The Temple-Tifereth, Beachwood, Ohio

"Rita Lurie Purim Luncheon"

Rita Lurie, a long time active member of our TWA, is the "Founding Mother" of this annual Purim Luncheon. Its purpose is to invite clients of the Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA), who often are isolated from the community, to an afternoon outing with lunch and entertainment. Though it is meant to be a treat to our guests, we have found that volunteering at this event gives us as much pleasure as it gives them. It is a "Mitzvah Day" for all.

Weeks before the luncheon, the event Co-chair Cookie Hartman contacts the JFSA representative. This year, Volunteer Services Manager Sandy Waterhouse made up a flier that had all the information she received about the luncheon on one side. But she created everything in Russian for the other side. There are many people who attend

this program that are from Russia. In addition to knowing they were going to have a delicious lunch with entertainment, many of the guests were excited because of the Russian flier. Several clients have been attending this annual luncheon for many years so although we cannot speak to them in Russian, we recognize each other and appreciate their smile and their "Thank you" throughout the afternoon.

TWA Ladies and Temple staff arrived early to set up tables with Purim decorations and prepare a traditional dairy plate lunch. This includes a scoop of homemade egg and tuna salad, a large half of canned peach with a scoop of cottage cheese on top, a piece of homemade kugel, and a soft roll. Many members dropped off their favorite homemade noodle kugel earlier or the previous day. Sometimes we have between 12-20 kugels warming in the oven. For dessert each table received a plate of chocolate, cherry, apple, poppy seed, apricot, and blueberry Hamantashen. Our team of volunteers often prepares plates for up to 100 guests, taking into account the additional drivers and Family Service staff.

The Big Day was here and everyone was excited to enter the temple's Social Hall! Those who arrived early enjoyed chatting with their friends on the soft sofas in the lobby or having a drink of apple juice and munching on little goldfish. This year was the first time Barbara Shane was able to help with the luncheon. She greeted our guests as they arrived with appetizers and a big smile. After everyone had received their plate, our TWA President and Rabbi Haim visited each table to welcome the group. Ellen Rossen and others brought coffee and tea to guests patiently waiting for their caffeine fix.

After their delicious lunch, the men and women enjoyed listening to the music of Cantor Gary Gelender. Cantor Gelender played familiar Yiddish and Israeli songs. The women usually start to sing along right away and some frequently start to dance. This year we were thrilled to see the men joining their spouses or friends in dancing. We were amazed at how much they truly appreciated this afternoon. Just listening to the music or dancing alone, as a couple, or in a group, everyone smiled! Those smiles on everyone's face were so wonderful and rewarding.

TWA continues the tradition of giving Shalach Manot bags as our guests leave. Each attendee is handed a bag beautifully decorated by the Temple Religious School children with symbols of Purim. The bags are filled with a fresh hamantaschen and small candies. "Thank you" and hugs are easily exchanged between our proud guests and our TWA members. It is truly a special day for everyone!

The Valley Sisterhood
The Valley Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio

“Valley Temple Cares, Care Package Fundraiser Program”

Valley Temple’s Sisterhood collaborated with Goldman Union Camp Institute [GUCI] to offer their campers’ families the opportunity to send care packages to their children, while at camp this summer. Packages filled with sundry of items were offered for \$18. Families could indicate male/female and age range of child. Care packages were filled with items purchased and delivered to camp. Our sisterhood made approximately \$12 per package. While planned to sell 25, we sold more than 50 for our inaugural year. All proceeds raised went directly to our campership funds to send more kids to camp.

Women of Fairmount Temple
Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, Ohio

“World Union Luncheon”

For many years, we have held an annual World Union Luncheon. This year, the WFT decided to involve more temple members. There were many suggestions as to how best to accomplish this, so we held a vote to decide which the majority of our women preferred. This turned out to be a plan/program held on a Sunday morning, which consisted of a Brunch, a good musical program that would appeal to everyone and which would be open to the whole congregation. The event was held on Sunday, March 20, 2016. Many members of our congregation as well as people from the community attended. Not only was this a great opportunity for those considering joining of our congregation to see what we're about, but as the speaker, Rabbi Chernow - Reader, was our newest member of the Clergy, it was also an excellent opportunity for her to meet many members of our congregation. During her career, she spent time living in Europe, and thus was able to share many interesting stories and other information gathered from her own experience - providing those in attendance with a unique perspective regarding the positive impact made by the World Union. I have attached the invitation from this year's event. Ultimately, the program went over so well that we are going to do something similar next year.

The Women of Temple Beth El
Temple Beth El, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

“Ice, Water and Climate”

The program, entitled **“Ice, Water and Climate”** was a very special dinner and lecture event featuring guest speaker, Dr. Henry Pollack, a world-renowned expert on climate change and a recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice-President Al Gore.

As one of the world’s leading experts on climate change, Professor Pollack’s innovative and informative lecture provided an accessible, comprehensive survey of ice as a force of nature and the potential consequences as we face the possibility of a world without ice. Through the use of a power point presentation, he was able to convey just how very important of a subject this is and noted the need to consider its’ implications on our future.

Dr. Pollack is the author of *A World Without Ice* and *Uncertain Science, Uncertain World*.

Large Sisterhood

Temple Israel Sisterhood
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, Michigan

“Mishloach Manot Packages”

In celebration of Purim, Temple Israel Sisterhood honored its 96 General Board members by giving them beautiful Mishloach Manot packages. In addition, each board member had the opportunity to honor and thank their fellow sisters, while fulfilling the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot. Each Sisterhood General Board member could participate by contributing \$36 to have their name included on all 96 packages or they could choose to include their name on only a few board member packages for \$5 per person. Our Board members embraced this initiative and we had over 60 women contribute \$36 or more.

We met at Temple on Monday before Purim and in assembly-line fashion we put together the packages. Hamantashen, candies and homemade baked goods were lovingly placed in a festive Purim box. We were able to keep the costs down by purchasing the boxes and hamantashen in bulk and having some members bake and contribute candy. We attached a personalized gift tag to each package that included the names of the participating Sisterhood members.

Every General board member received a package whether they contributed financially or not, and the packages were hand-delivered by Sisterhood women. We received personal notes from members saying that it reminded them of packages received when they were young and how touched they were to be remembered in such a thoughtful way. Others felt bad that they had missed the chance to contribute and said they would definitely participate in the future. Our new Purim fundraiser was truly a "friend-raiser". For us this was a win, win, win...we attracted new women to the project, raised significant dollars for our Sisterhood and had a lot of fun doing it.

Enclosed with the submission:

Invitation to participate

Photo of a Mishloach Manot package

Personalized note

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Small Sisterhood

Congregation Shir Tikvah Sisterhood

Congregation Shir Tikvah, Troy, Michigan

"Soup for Song and Spirit"

CST Sisterhood, through our Tikkun Olam Chairs Gail Said and Karen Sage, has joined forces with a Metropolitan Detroit interfaith organization called Song and Spirit to help feed homeless and low-income families in the greater Metro Detroit area. Homeless women with small children often avoid shelters and soup kitchens where they may feel unsafe, and they therefore go hungry more often. School age children who are homeless or living in poverty often receive free or reduced meals at school during the school year, but go hungry on weekends and in the summer. So, once a week Sisterhood members and other interested congregation members gather in our Shul kitchen to prepare 2-4 gallons of soup, pasta salads or other entrees in summer, or snack bags for kids (containing fruit/vegetables, protein/breakfast bars, juice/milk boxes, and other healthy, portable snacks). These foods are then collected by and distributed through Song and Spirit's "Care'avan."

The supplies for the meals have initially been funded each year out of the Sisterhood budget, as well as "Soup for Soup" bake-sale type sales with proceeds being earmarked for soup making, but supplies are increasingly supplemented over the course of the year through donations of money and food items. These donations initially came primarily from Sisterhood members, but this has extended to the whole congregation as the program has continued. The preparation of the food has become a way for Sisterhood members and other congregants to gather and work on a project that gives personal satisfaction and a feeling of participating in a worthwhile cause, and members who are not able to help prepare the food still participate in the mitzvah through donation of supplies.

Medium Sisterhood

Women of Fairmount Temple

Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, Ohio

“Interfaith Day”

Women of Fairmount Temple and Fairmount Presbyterian Church Women's Guild hold an Interfaith Day every year. Given the focus and discussion this year regarding infant mortality, the group felt that this would be a very relevant topic to cover. We met on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, and prior to beginning our discussion, we spent time informally greeting each other over coffee. It is always comforting to discover how much people from seemingly different backgrounds have so much in common. We then gathered to hear from Dr. Arthur Lavin, who provided us with a detailed presentation regarding the factors responsible for the majority of cases of infant mortality. He finished by discussing what those in the healthcare fields and the rest of society are doing - and could be doing - to decrease the mortality rate, among this vulnerable population. Our next speaker was the president of the Cleveland City Council, who shared some of the current programs and grants the council actively sponsors, specifically aimed at improving this situation. After the council president spoke, we were entertained thoroughly by our preschool children. Our last speaker was Rebekkah Darmon, PhD, and director of the Cuyahoga County 'Invest in Children' organization. She shared a number of programs they are involved in that are either directly or indirectly aimed at decreasing the infant mortality rate. Additionally, she shared descriptions and contact information regarding programs needing volunteers - and how doing that benefits everyone. Following our last speaker, participants enjoyed a 'Salad Bar' Luncheon - continuing with the 'meeting and greeting' we were involved in at the beginning of the program. All in all, it was an extremely informative meeting and a nice social lunchtime.

Flyer attached

Large Sisterhood

Temple Israel Sisterhood
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, Michigan
"Women's Freedom Seder"

Temple Israel Sisterhood hosted a Women's Freedom Seder on April 5, 2016 that underscored human trafficking as the modern-day form of slavery. About 85 women from both Temple Israel in West Bloomfield and Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit attended and participated in a social action interfaith Passover Seder.

Rabbi Marla Hornsten and Rabi Arianna Gordon conducted the Seder, and the Sisterhood's Social Action Committee organized the event. Sisterhood members brought homemade Passover foods that accompanied a catered meal. Each table was adorned with Seder plates and candlesticks that Sisterhood women brought from home. The four cups of wine became social action-oriented cups of awareness, human dignity, hope and action.

Participants watched a video that told the story of Theresa Flores, a former student at Groves High School in Beverly Hills, MI, who was sexually trafficked as a 15-year-old. Many years later she started S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution), an initiative that provides bars of soap to be labeled with the national human trafficking hotline number and placed in motels. Donations were made to S.O.A.P and to Atzum (a social justice agency that helps human trafficking victims in Israel).

The program was so well received that it was written up and published in the [Detroit Jewish News](#).

Enclosed with the nomination were:

Invitation

Haggadah

S.O.A.P. Table Tent

Atzum Table Tent

President's Award Honorable Mention

Small Sisterhood

Temple Kol Ami Sisterhood

Temple Kol Ami, West Bloomfield, Michigan

"Support Literacy"

It is with great pride for our sisterhood that I write about temple Kol Ami's social action theme last year, "Support Literacy!" Among projects in this endeavor we chose to support a national organization, Project Night Night. The believe of Project Night Night mirrors that of our own small sisterhood, "We believe that small actions can make a big difference in the lives of our children.

The mission of this organization is to provide free Night Night Packages to homeless children ages birth to preteen to help ease the anxiety of living in shelters, automobiles, or staying with relatives and friends. These children may not know where they will lay their heads down the next evening, but they will have the security of ownership of their own special tote bag, which they get to carry with them wherever they go. Project Night Night provides each child with an adorable lamb logo tote containing an age-appropriate new book, a fluffy fleece blanket and a fuzzy stuffed animal. These provide a concrete sense of security, comfort and exposure to high quality literature during their time of upheaval.

The statistics we learned are that one in 30 American children will face homelessness sometime this year. There are approximately 298,000 homeless families in the United States. 25,000 Night Night Packages are donated each year to homeless children and 25,000 children's books annually to children in need.

The Project Night Night organization was founded in 2004 by am mom, Kendra Stitt Robins, who was trying to calm her own one-year-old son while they were away on vacation. When they were away, he didn't sleep well, but Kendra found that her son's blankie, stuffed monkey and reading of Good Night Moon was a great comfort to him at bedtime. She developed a plan, her idea was hatched and this nonprofit began. When she moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to the San Francisco Bay, the project went with her. Nationally, this past year, volunteers assembled and delivered over 100,000 Night Night Packages.

Temple Kol Ami Sisterhood learned of this amazing organization and our sisterhood social action VP, Sue Ehrlich contacted the Michigan Community Coordinator for Project Night Night, Leah Silverman Gawel. In turn, we learned of the needs and desires of this worthy project and decided to offer our support. It was our desire to support these helpless children and delight them with a new book (our support of literacy).

At Temple Kol Ami, our year began with a paid up membership tea. Each participant was asked to bring a new children's book and/or stuffed animal. The response was truly overwhelming! At Hanukkah time, sisterhood facilitated a social action project with the religious school. We asked for donations of children's books, stuffed animals and fleece blankets. We received 138 books, 27 the stuffed animals and 8 fleece blankets. We also donated \$85 in monetary donations to this organization!

Throughout the year, we continued to request our sisters to bring in a children's book to our events and general board meetings. Temple members learned of this project and made donations. Notably, the social action project also had wider community implications. A non-temple member was thrilled to donate an entire pristine Nancy Drew book Collection. A sisterhood member brought the idea to her book discussion group. The request was to each bring in one book (in memory of a member who had recently passed away. She was also a member of Temple Kol Ami.) The response again was simply overwhelming! Most members brought in several high quality books. This book group plans to continue to support Project Night Night on a yearly basis. Another sisterhood member brought in 8 fleece blankets, which were made by teens at the International School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Our sisterhood makes a yearly charitable donation to special cause. We elected to make our cash donation to Project Night Night. Upon her recent retirement, Sue Ehrlich had donations made to Project Night Night in her honor.

The Temple Kol Ami Sisterhood is proud to have supported this worthy cause. What began as a project for literacy grew in many other ways and we know that ultimately, we helped improve the lives of some very special kids. We also taught others in our community, including the impressionable children in our religious school, that we can always make a difference in someone's life, no matter how small. That is meant both literally and figuratively; our small group of dedicated sisters plans to continue to support Project Night Night, collecting books and offer nighttime comfort to homeless children. We hope that in submitting this application it can further the awareness of children's homelessness and offer a special venue in which to help by supporting Project Night Night.

Women of Temple Israel
Temple Israel, Columbus, Ohio
“Tzedakah Collective”

The Women of Temple Israel launched our pilot Tzedakah Collective in June 2014, and we are now in our third year. A Tzedakah Collective is a way for individuals to pool their money in order to have a greater impact, and disburse funds to worthy organizations and causes. Our goals are to maximize donation power for smaller donations, to encourage women to become philanthropists at any level, and to empower women to support causes that are important to us.

Each participant has committed to a \$5 monthly contribution (a total of \$60 per year.) All contributions are tax deductible, as checks are made out to our sisterhood and grantees must have 501(c)(3) status. We gather every other month to learn about different potential grant recipients, and we incorporate Jewish learning and social time during our 2-hour gatherings. Our Kick off and Inaugural meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, June 1, 2014 with our guest speaker Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director of the Women of Reform Judaism, who shared with us her thoughts on Women’s Philanthropy. This was a fun and relaxed social event, with a chocolate fountain and various treats, including time for socializing and meeting each other informally. This combination of education, philanthropy and socializing with like-minded Jewish women has been our goal for every gathering.

During our first term we explored our own Reform movement initiatives (WRJ-YES fund, WUPJ, NFTY, RAC, HUC, IRAC, IMPJ, and ARZA.) **We have since focused on local agencies that support women and families.** In 2015 we explored Jewish Family Services Safe Dates Initiative and Purple Teen Party project, Choices: a shelter for Battered Women, You Will Rise Anti-Bullying Project, Kaleidoscope after school program for LGBTQ Youth, Center for New Directions (helps empower women toward economic self-sufficiency), St. Vincent Family Center (mental health support for families and children), Dress for Success (supports economic independence for disadvantaged women), and Ronald McDonald House (supports families with children staying at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.) In addition to grant consideration, we supported all these agencies by raising awareness through sharing their missions and wish lists to our full sisterhood lists and in our temple bulletin.

In 2016 we have chosen to continue exploring local agencies that support women and families, and to date have looked at the Pleasure Guild (supports Hospice program at

Nationwide Children's Hospital) and Girls on the Run and Hearts and Sole (empowering young girls through social action, small support group activities and physical exercise.) We have also decided to incorporate a "hands-on" element this year; we gathered for a social outing to support the fundraiser production of the Pleasure Guild, and we plan to walk together/volunteer in a 5K to support the Central Ohio Ovarian Cancer Alliance in September.

We meet in homes bi-monthly, and group members volunteer to research an agency, bring in a speaker, and/or present Jewish learning on a related topic. As a few examples of how we incorporate Jewish learning, we have studied the traditional concept of "tzedakah" in Torah and rabbinic literature and how this differs from a Christian concept of "charity," we have studied Jewish rabbinic sources on issues in adolescence, and we have explored our WRJ history of advocacy on LGBTQ issues.

Information is disseminated electronically to those who are unable to attend the group gatherings, and about half of our members participate "virtually," receiving all information through email. In 2014 we began with 17 members and raised \$1020 (donated to the YES Fund), and in 2015 we had 20 members and raised \$1200 (donated to Kaleidoscope – LGBTQ after school program, and You Will Rise – anti-bullying arts program). Our current 2016 Tzedakah Collective has 25 women participating from all three Central Ohio Reform synagogues, including active sisterhood Board members and non-sisterhood members*, empty nesters, women with young children, elderly and retired women, and professional career women.

The monthly contribution is intentionally small, so as not to interfere with any dues commitments or official fundraising efforts undertaken by our sisterhoods and synagogues. Our aim is to inspire women to be able to make significant donations and valuable contributions through communal philanthropy, and our increased awareness about these agencies and education about Jewish issues is equally important to us as the amount that we raise.

As attributed to our great sage, Hillel: "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? ***And if not now, when?***"

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Feldman-Hill

**Some members of the tzedakah collective, who were NOT sisterhood members, have since joined.*

THE DEBORAH HONOREES

BETH LANDE

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood

Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel, Indiana

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood would like to submit the name of Beth Lande as our Deborah Honor winner. Our very new sisterhood in a somewhat new congregation was the dream of Beth and a few others. But Beth almost single handedly worked and planned to make it a reality. She has continued to make sure this sisterhood works and that it will live on. We are all very proud of her and find this a wonderful way to honor her.

KANDY RAWL

Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood

Congregation Rodef Sholom, Youngstown, Ohio

I, Sally M. Blau, President of Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood would like to nominate Kandy Rawl for the Deborah Honor. Kandy has more than demonstrated her dedication and commitment in catering for our two kitchens at Congregation Rodef Sholom. From 2014 to 2016, Kandy prepares a savory light dinner for every Friday Shabbat Oneg. Kandy takes care of all table settings and directs all outside catered functions. Her own catering includes family Shabbat Dinners, Brotherhood events, Sisterhood events, and all Special events occurring at the Temple. Sisterhood members answer the call to help Kandy by setting tables and assisting her in the kitchen. While doing all of this, Kandy generously shares her recipes and cooking techniques with Sisterhood members. All of the women enjoy the camaraderie of cooking with Kandy. Last, but not least, Kandy also leads our Sisterhood in fulfilling large orders for her Hamentashen for the Jewish Holiday of Purim. To our Congregation, Kand's philosophy is: "Food is inseparable from sharing. A great meal is only great if it is shared with family, friends, and her Sisterhood members when everyone is gathered at Temple."

PATTY REHFUS

Congregation Shir Tikvah Sisterhood
Congregation Shir Tikvah, Troy, Michigan

Throughout the last decade, Patty Rehfus has been a driving force in the CST Sisterhood. She has served as treasurer, president twice, immediate past president twice, and program chair. While serving on our Sisterhood board she also served on WRJ's Central District Board. Patty has volunteered for numerous Sisterhood projects and her always-positive attitude has been a mainstay. For the past few years she has organized our Sisterhood Shabbat, creating inclusive and interesting programs. Patty has lead the way in the revision of our by-laws. She has served as chair of our nominating committee. As the developer of our social media sights and our Sisterhood Update emails she has allowed us to significantly improve our communication with our membership. Patty has also developed our Sign Up Genius Site for volunteer registration. While serving on our sisterhood board she also served on the CST Search Committee as we searched for a new rabbi as our past rabbi of 28 years retired. We are grateful for all of the quality work and time Patty has given to our sisterhood. We are very fortunate to have her. Patty is an outstanding candidate for the Deborah Award.

SUZANNE VOOS

Isaac M. Wise Temple Sisterhood
Isaac M. Wise Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio

It is my pleasure to nominate Suzanne Voos (Sue) for the Deborah Honor. I came to know Sue 5 years ago, while volunteering together. As I was a new Sisterhood Member, Sue acted as a mentor when I chaired my first program. Since that time, I enjoyed serving as a Vice President, during her Sisterhood Presidency. In the time I've known Sue, she has always been exceptional; although over the years, I've watched her grow into an even more poised and accomplished volunteer and leader. Her efforts leave a strong impression, and have brought praise not only from me, but also from other Sisterhood Members, Sisterhood Board Members and Temple Administration and Staff.

CHRIS CRAIG

Oheb Shalom Temple Sisterhood
Oheb Shalom Temple, Sandusky, Ohio

Our current Sisterhood President, Chris Craig, is a woman who truly deserves the Deborah Honor. She has become a true leader of our congregation. Chris is a person who volunteers to help before being asked. She frequently attends regional events on our behalf. Last year after completing two years as our Temple President, Chris became our Sisterhood President. Her dedication to Judaism and our congregation has been as inspiration to us all.

LISA ELYN BASS

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood
Congregation Shaarey Zedek, East Lansing, Michigan

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood is nominating, Lisa Elyn Bass for the Deborah Award. This honor is highly deserved. Like Deborah, Lisa is a true leader, dedicated to her people, her faith and her community around her. Deborah is most famous for being an impartial judge, demonstrating her strength and conviction in the most difficult situations. So too has Lisa risen to the occasion when we have needed her most.

Lisa is someone you can truly count on. She suffers from a terrible condition, the one most of us share, the one where she can't say the word "NO!"

Whenever I have called upon Lisa to lead a program, design a flyer, write a Shabbat service, attend an event, help in the kitchen, order for the gift shop, organize an activity, chair a committee, pick up a "Sister" for an event, drive someone home, and so much more, she has always said "YES!"

Lisa has served on the WRJ District Board as *Isha L'Isha* Editor, Historian, Corresponding Secretary and Convention Facilitator. Lisa has filled in as "Rabbi" at our Temple and has chanted Torah beautifully on several occasions. Lisa has this warm, shining light inside her that draws people to her. It makes everyone feel comforted, understood and special.

This award, this special honor is a distinguished way to let Lisa know how much her "Sisters" appreciate her, look up to her, value her advice, and connect with her spirit! Lisa is beautiful on the inside and outside. Her winning smile is disarming. She is both generous and thoughtful. She is one of the key ingredients to our successful Sisterhood recipe!

DEBORAH SEDERS

Sisterhood of Temple Israel
Temple Israel, West Lafayette, Indiana

Deborah Seders has served our Sisterhood as the Secretary (corresponding and recording) and (under our new structure) Recorder over the past six years. Deb has been an enthusiastic participant in many district events, such as the Fried Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, the two Kallahs at GUCI in Indianapolis, and the Central District convention in Cincy. She has served Sisterhood well, especially during the last three years when we had no board. She and I made up the group's leadership.

However, Sisterhood is not the only reason why she deserves the Deborah Honor. Deb practices her Judaism in many ways through our congregation. She rarely misses Friday or Saturday services, and during the onegs, approaches anyone who she does not recognize to welcome them to Temple and sit with them to answer any of their questions. She also gives rides to and from Temple to anyone, especially a member who has MS. Deb has served as the summer oneg coordinator for as long as I can recall, and I've been a Temple member for 24 years. What this means is she purchases easy snacks that can be pulled together quickly, leaving services a bit early to put on coffee or fill pitchers with cold drinks for the service attendees. She is often the only one left to clean up and consequently, locks up the building at night.

Deb enjoys others and has a great sense of humor, despite her being a serious introvert and not liking the spotlight. Regardless, our Deborah unequivocally deserves the Deborah Honor.

DEBBIE MASTERS

Temple Adath Israel Sisterhood
Temple Adath Israel, Lexington, Kentucky

I would like to nominate Debbie Masters. Debbie is a bit of an unsung hero in our Sisterhood. She has been a longtime member as well as longtime board member of our Sisterhood. Debbie is always ready and willing to lend a hand, help with a program or simply attend a program for support. Sisterhood would not be where it is today without Debbie Masters!

JENNIFER KORNBLUM

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood
Temple Beth Shalom, Hudson, Ohio

Jennifer has served as our Sisterhood Secretary. Her willingness to help out whenever needed has been integral to successful programming this year. We would like to honor her service to our Sisterhood and our temple and hope to continue to have her smiling, enthusiastic presence with us for many years to come.

BERNICE FRIEDMAN

Temple Israel Sisterhood
Temple Israel, Canton, Ohio

Bernice Friedman was President of Temple Israel Sisterhood for the past 13 years. She took an ailing sisterhood and brought it back to a vibrant chapter. Her guidance helped to make our community strong and vibrant and relevant. Under her Presidency, we rejoined WRJ, held very successful Donor drives to support our Sunday School (Chadash), joined forces with our conservative synagogue to start a successful joint Donor initiative and continued with many other successful programs during her tenure.

JUDY WAYNE

Temple Israel Sisterhood
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Temple Israel Sisterhood is proud to nominate member Judy Wayne for the WRJ Central District Deborah Honor. Judy has been an important member of our Sisterhood for many years. For the past twelve years Judy has coordinated our Sisterhood's visits to the West Bloomfield Nursing & Convalescent Center to play BINGO with the patients on a monthly basis. The patients look forward to our Sisterhood members coming to spend that hour with them helping them to play BINGO and distribute prizes. Judy recruits our members to participate by sending around a sign-up sheet at our monthly board meetings.

Judy also encourages our members to knit and/or crochet lap blankets that are distributed to patients at our annual Holiday Party. She invites one of our cantors to perform holiday songs and brings potato latkes for all to enjoy. The annual party is one of the highlights of the year for the patients and our members as well. We can't think of a more deserving Sisterhood member to receive this honor.

NATHALIE CONRAD

Temple Kol Ami Sisterhood
Temple Kol Ami, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Temple Kol Ami Sisterhood is blessed to be the beneficiary of a loving and devoted role model and friend in Nathalie Conrad. Nathalie is the wife of our Temple's founding Rabbi Ernst J. Conrad, of blessed memory. Nathalie and Rabbi Conrad founded Temple Kol Ami along with a small group of families 50 years ago. Since its inception, Temple Kol Ami has stood for social justice and dignity for all people, carrying out the tenets of Reform Judaism in word and action. As our founding Sisterhood member, Nathalie has served as our Rebbitzin, our friend, our source of music and joy, and always our go to person for all things Jewish.

As an accomplished pianist, composer and music director, Nathalie has enhanced every Sisterhood service, religious observance and celebration with beautiful music, perfect for the occasion. She has written pieces for us to use at Sisterhood Shabbat Services, and she has added joy to our Annual Women's Seder as well. An accomplished musician, Nathalie has coordinated much of the music heard at Temple Kol Ami. She is a member of the Guild of Temple Musicians.

Born in Baltimore, Nathalie began playing piano as a child and graduated from the Peabody Conservatory of Music there in 1954. Over the years as Kol Ami's Music Director, she has directed the Temple choir, composed and arranged music for services, played at numerous life cycle events and worked with Bar/Bat Mitzvah families to prepare the musical portion of the ceremony.

Nathalie has been generous with her time and her love of Sisterhood. Her generosity in earmarking donations in memory of Rabbi Conrad for Sisterhood enabled us to equip our Temple's kitchen with dinnerware and silverware, so that we would no longer have to use disposable products. Her commitment to the environment and the earth translated into action.

She is a wonderful source of information. At our Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh gatherings, Nathalie often provides valuable insight regarding rituals, beliefs and practices that we were not aware of. She adds the color commentary, a sense of history and always a good joke.

Nathalie Conrad is a treasure that our Sisterhood is honored to acknowledge through this Deborah Award which we lovingly bestow upon her.

VIRGINIA (GINNY) SUKENIK

Temple Women's Association
Temple-Tifereth Israel, Beachwood, Ohio

Ginny has been a lifelong member of Temple Tifereth Israel in Beachwood, Ohio. She has served in many capacities in Temple Women's Association, including President for 3 terms. (The term was extended after her second term for the benefit of our group.) She is an inspiration to all of us.

As a result of Ginny's support, efficiency and caring nature, TWA has grown and thrived. Her organizational skills, perfected through her "real life" event planning profession, sincere devotion to our members and the Temple as a whole, learned through her devotion to her family and friends, has been a gift to our sisterhood.

Ginny is always will to step in – she serves on most committees, ushers at the Temple for Bar and Bat Mitzvah Services, works in our gift shop, mentors ne members, and much more. Her generosity, enthusiasm, and ability to lead, are all qualities that make Ginny deserving of the Deborah Honor.

ALLISON SCHNEIDER

The Valley Temple Sisterhood
The Valley Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio

Allison is being nominated for her untiring work as our fundraising VP. She has found and implemented several successful fundraising programs. Our women have worked well with Allison and we raised funds for our campership.

PHYLLIS BERLAS

Women of Fairmount Temple
Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, Ohio

Phyllis Berlas has been a long - time active board member of the WFT. She has served as recording secretary several terms, and has always been there whenever anyone needs help. For the last few terms, she has acted as our parliamentarian - ensuring that all the rules, regulations, bylaws and actions are up to date. For the past 4 years, Phyllis has co - chaired our annual inter - generational Women's Passover Seder, which brings families, members and guests for a wonderful evening, where all are encouraged to participate. Several years ago, we restarted our 'Touch & Tell' project. The WFT make large, tactile alphabet books for blind and partially blind students at the local 'Sight Center'. Upon starting one of our Interfaith programs, Phyllis immediately joined the group. During the program, we worked with a number of individuals from the Fairmount Presbyterian Church Women's Guild, providing a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. Observing how much our members enjoyed this creative project, and also how much it meant to the children who received the 'Alphabet Books', Phyllis suggested creating a 'Mitzvah Project Morning', which would meet one Sunday a month. Not only would this provide the benefits mentioned previously, but would likely attract some of the 'mothers' in our congregation to join the WFT. Given the 'go ahead' by the WFT, Phyllis oversaw the implementation of the monthly Mitzvah Project Morning, eventually expanding it to provide 'lap - robes' for nursing home patients, pillows for cancer patients and protective vests for epileptic children. Finally, in addition to benefiting the aforementioned constituencies within our community, the project culminated in providing 'lap - robes' for a number of homeless children. The Touch and Tell Mitzvah Project is an excellent example of Phyllis's ability to 'champion' a project, and with her persistence - carry it through - ever widening the circle of people whom it benefits.

DELORES GOLDFINGER

Women of Rockdale

K.K. Bene Israel/Rockdale Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio

Delores Goldfinger has been a force within Women of Rockdale and at Rockdale Temple. She lives a life of giving to others. A perfect example of her volunteerism is our soup kitchen program in Cincinnati. She has chaired this for close to 20 years. Dolores and her volunteers travel to the Over the Rhine Soup Kitchen where they prep, cook and serve meals for upwards of 200 people. She makes sure that the meal is well balanced, healthy and warm. She has such a passion for others and has made it her mission in life to help others. Delores is a role model to all of us and we are grateful to call her a sister.

CINDY BOLOKOFSKY

Women of Temple Beth El
Temple Beth El, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Cindy Bolokofsky is a “dynamo,” and it is our good fortune that much of her energy and skill is focused on the work of The Women of Temple Beth El (formerly the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El) and the Temple’s many activities.

Cindy’s contributions to The Women of Temple Beth El span several years and many different endeavors. Cindy was co-chair for two years, and then chairperson for two more years, of our most successful fundraiser “The Party Planning Showcase.” The, then, Sisterhood made over \$35,000 from “The Party Planning Showcase” before we had to discontinue the fundraiser because internet shopping made this approach obsolete.

As a leader of the organization, Cindy served as a co-president for two terms (4 years), among other positions. Cindy, also, has co-chaired several events, including “Wine and Chocolate,” our signature event for Temple members and the broader community. (A portion of the proceeds of each “Wine and Chocolate” event is donated to a community charity and/or a Temple program. Another significant program Cindy co-chaired was last spring’s Donor Dinner, with an exceptional program “Ice, Water and

Climate,” featuring an accomplished speaker Dr. Henry Pollack. ** In addition to excelling in all her specific leadership responsibilities, Cindy is the person who is guaranteed to “make things happen.” Whatever needs to be done, Cindy is they’re working hard and assisting others in fulfilling every task.

It is important to note the impressive contributions Cindy makes to Temple Beth El. Cindy has chaired, or co-chaired, almost every significant event in the last few years – the installation of a Rabbi, the celebration of the 40th year after a Rabbi’s ordination, a fabulous congregational gala, and most recently, the transition of a Rabbi into Emeritus status. There is no doubt that Temple Beth El is a better place because of Cindy Bolokofsky’s involvement. A few years ago, Cindy’s excellent work within the Temple was recognized when she was the recipient of the President’s Cup (perhaps the highest award a congregant can receive).

It seems more-than-appropriate that we nominate Cindy Bolokofsky for the Deborah Award in 2016, with sincere appreciation of her commitment and for her amazing contributions!

JERRI MOBLEY

Women of Temple Shalom
Temple Shalom, Louisville, Kentucky

The Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) are proud to nominate Jerri Mobley for this term's Deborah Award. Jerri currently serves WOTS as Recording Secretary, and was installed as a WRJ board member in Orlando at the 2015 Assembly.

She will be serving on the WRJ Central District board beginning this November, as Area Director for South Area, and helping with YES Fund. Jerri has jumped into leadership with both feet, and is always helping out at temple and with WOTS projects.

She previously served WOTS as Membership Vice-President. When someone else expressed interest in doing the job, Jerri graciously turned it over, but continues to be an invaluable help to the current Membership VP. She regularly conducts team-building exercises with the WOTS board at our monthly meetings, and is always willing to help when asked with all sorts of projects. She also has served on Temple Shalom's fundraising committee, and the committee that planned the functions surrounding Rabbi Miles' recent retirement.

Jerri will tell you that she is a "schlepper," but her role in WOTS and Temple Shalom involves much more. Her profession as a nurse educator serves her well in the volunteer arena, as she is great at galvanizing people around a project or cause. Always enthusiastic, she is constantly thinking ahead to the next project or initiative. She has boundless enthusiasm and creativity, great organizational skills and works well with many different people. Her passion is contagious, and she is certainly a worthy recipient of the Deborah Award.

WRJ CENTRAL DISTRICT, 2014-2016

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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YES Fund/World Union	Pamela Feldman-Hill*	Temple Israel, Columbus, OH
Convention Facilitator	Susan Glazer	Temple Shalom, Louisville, KY

*WRJ Board Member

Additional WTJ Board Members are: Lisa Singer, Liz McOsker, Jerri Kaye Mobley (Passo) and Sally Blau