

Salute to Jewish Educators

The annual Salute to Jewish Educators took place on Sunday afternoon, February 26. CJL Director and Jewish Education Community Planner Tzipi Altman-Shafer and Advisory Board Chair Roger Carp presided over the festivities. The event, held at the Harry & Rose Samson Jewish Community Center, honored excellence, innovation, compassion, and commitment in local formal and informal Jewish education.

EDUCATOR of the YEAR

by Roger Carp

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:

The highlight of the event was, without a doubt, the selection of Cantor Marsha Fensin as the CJL Grinspoon Jewish Educator of the Year. The more than 200 Jewish educators and family members, clergy, and students in attendance paid tribute to their distinguished and beloved colleague. During a career spanning 40 years, Cantor Fensin has been affiliated with the faculties of many congregations and now serves as Hebrew Coordinator at Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha. Two generations of her family cheered as she was honored, with her husband, Lee, offering a look back at Marsha's lifelong devotion to Jewish learning and her eagerness to share her knowledge, especially of Jewish music, with her students.



GIFT AWARD: Two dedicated and forward-thinking educators were honored with Gill Incentive for Teachers GIFT Awards for projects demonstrating innovative and exciting teaching plans and principles: Diane Boland of Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid (left) and Yoni Schluskel of Torah Academy of Milwaukee (right).

MITZVAH AWARD:

Three projects and programs designed to advance social justice were recognized with Rabbi Emanuel and Deborah Lifshutz Mitzvah Awards. The honorees (left to right) were Phil Musickant of Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha, Rabbinic Chaplain Aggie Goldenholz of Congregation Sinai, and Mara Kleiman of Milwaukee Jewish Day School (shown with her student, Matan Steigman).



INSPIRATION AWARD: The newest among the prestigious awards presented at the Salute to Jewish Educators went to Josh Richman of RUACH (shown with his son). He was presented with the Inspiration Award for Informal Education in recognition for years of outstanding and caring teaching held beyond traditional classrooms.

CHAI AWARDS:

A powerful commitment to Jewish teaching, whether in congregational or day schools or various informal settings, inspires long careers. Nine individuals who have participated in Jewish education for 18 years received Chai Awards. Three rabbis whose careers each span 36 years were honored with Double Chai Awards. Their names, along with those of educators and supporters provided by a host of local institutions, brightened the annual tribute book, sponsored by advocates of Jewish education in Milwaukee and its outlying communities.

