

SALUTE



to JEWISH
EDUCATORS

2024 TRIBUTE BOOK

A yellow oval containing a white dotted background. In the center, the words "thank you teachers" are written in a purple cursive font. The text is surrounded by small blue flowers with yellow centers and green hearts, arranged in two rows above and below the text.

thank you teachers



Coalition for
Jewish Learning

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION



Mazal tov, Chava!

Your exceptional dedication as a community leader and educator shines through, evident in the loving way you instill Jewish pride and foster a sense of community. Your commitment to unlocking each child's potential reflects a profound passion for education, shaping lives with love and dedication. L'Chaim to a beautiful long life, adorned with continued success, health, and joy! You are an inspiration to all of us.

*With love and admiration, Your Wisconsin
Sister Shluchos and Lubavitch of Wisconsin*



2024 PROGRAM

SALUTE to JEWISH EDUCATORS

Sunday, February 25 • 4:30 pm • MilwaukeeJewish.org/Salute

Reception And Registration	
Musical Performance	A Band'n All Hope: <i>Tzur Chassidi; Tzadik Katamar; Ush'avtem, Mayim</i>
Welcome	Sherry Malmon, <i>Coalition for Jewish Learning Advisory Board Chair</i> Tziporah Altman-Shafer, <i>VP of Jewish Communal Life and Learning</i> Nicole Boico, <i>Coalition for Jewish Learning Associate Director</i> Joan Lubar, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Federation Board Chair</i>
D'var Torah	Sarah Yonas, <i>Regional Director BBYO Wisconsin</i>
Double Chai Awards	Gilah Saltzman, <i>Yeshiva Elementary School</i> Joyce Gutzke, <i>Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun</i> Tziporah Altman-Shafer, <i>Coalition for Jewish Learning</i>
Video	
Lifetime Impact Award	Cantor Karen Berman, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>
Teacher Impact & School Support Awards	Supplementary Schools - Preschools - Day Schools
Musical Performance	A Band'n All Hope: <i>Hallelujah</i>
Gill Incentive For Teachers (Gift) Award	Cindy Cooper, <i>Congregation Sinai</i> Yonina Schlüssel, <i>Mara Kleiman, Bobbie Ehrlich,</i> <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i>
Jerry Benjamin Inspiration Award For Informal Jewish Education	Rabbi Dov Ber Smith, <i>Every Jew is Awesome</i>
Video	
Binah Graduates	Nicole Boico, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> Shelly Eiland, <i>Gan Ami Whitefish Bay</i> Karen Faust, <i>Gan Ami Mequon</i> Cindi Hammel, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> Mandy Singh, <i>Gan Ami Mequon</i>
Levy Family CJL Jewish Educator Of The Year	Chava Edelman, <i>Milwaukee Community Hebrew School</i>
Closing Prayer	Rabbi Wes Kalmar, <i>Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah</i>
Musical Performance	A Band'n All Hope: <i>Star Spangled Banner; Hatikvah</i>

2024 PROGRAM

SALUTE to JEWISH EDUCATORS

The Coalition for Jewish Learning takes great pride in the participation of the Milwaukee area Jewish schools in today's program. Special thanks are due to the educational directors of these 18 schools as their cooperation was essential and greatly appreciated.

Agudas Achim-Chabad Pelz Hebrew School	Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun Religious School	Jewish Beginnings Jewish Kids Club	Shalom Religious School
Bader Hillel Academy Bader Hillel High School	Emanu-El of Waukesha Religious School	Mequon Jewish Preschool	Sinai Religious School Torah Academy of Milwaukee
Beth El Congregation (Sheboygan)	Gan Ami Early Education Programs (Whitefish Bay & Mequon)	Milwaukee Community Hebrew School	Yeshiva Elementary School
Beth Israel Ner Tamid School of Jewish Studies		Milwaukee Jewish Day School	

Special thanks to the Synagogue Educators Council and the Salute to Jewish Educators planning committee.

CJL Advisory Board

Dr. Sherry Blumberg	Rick Paler
Roger Carp	Susie Rosengarten
Beth Clement	Nadine Sieman
Leon Cohen	Yael Stein
Yael Gal	Karen Torem
Molly Beth Kranitz	Nancy Weiss-McQuide
Sherry Malmon	Laura Wickov

Past Chairs

Leon Cohen	Cindy Levy
Roger Carp	Susie Rosengarten
Debbie Carter	Jennifer Saber
Berkson*	Bonnie Shafrin
Eve Dicker Eiseman	Louise Stein
Moshe Katz	Karen Torem
Molly Beth Kranitz	

**Of blessed memory*

CJL Staff

Tziporah Altman-Shafer, *VP of Jewish Communal Life and Learning*
Nicole Boico, *Associate Director*
Dalilah Bernier, *Director of Teen Initiatives*

Synagogue Educators Council (SEC)

Brian Avner, Natalie Black, Carrie Barbakoff, Allie Berry, Chava Edelman, Debbie Intraivaia

CJL thanks the Committee that Planned the Salute to Jewish Educators:

Carrie Barbakoff, Allie Barry, Natalie Black, Leon Cohen, Chana Friedman, Dana Hartenstein, Debbie Intraivaia, Molly Beth Kranitz, Sherry Malmon, Karen Torem, Nancy Weiss-McQuide

The Coalition for Jewish Learning (CJL), the education department of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, promotes and advances Jewish education in the greater Milwaukee community, provides a support system for the community's institutions of Jewish learning, and forges coalitions to ensure excellence in Jewish education.



Coalition for
Jewish Learning
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

Mazal Tov

MJDS Staff!

MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

**Yonina Schluskel,
Mara Kleiman and
Bobby Ehrlich**

**Gill Incentive for Teachers Award
(GIFT)**

Empowering Successful Jewish Studies Culture

Your dedication to academic excellence and Jewish values prepares children for a lifetime of success, leadership and engagement with the world.



Linsey Kimmel
Teacher Impact Award
Fifth Grade Teacher,
Learning Partner



Susan Gray
School Support Award
Lunch and Catering
Specialist

From your **MJDS** family!

MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

2024 Levy Family CJL Jewish Educator of the Year

ABOUT THE AWARD

Our community is blessed with superb Jewish educators and CJL wishes to highlight their contributions and thereby elevate the status of Jewish educators in Milwaukee. This annual award enables our community to show gratitude for all the time, effort and care our best educators give to their students.

The award recognizes nominees who:

- 1. Have been engaged in Jewish education for a minimum of five years in Milwaukee.*
- 2. Demonstrate leadership within the field of Jewish education.*
- 3. Inspire students with a love for Jewish learning.*
- 4. Personify the Jewish ideals of love of learning and search for knowledge.*
- 5. Have contributed to the elevation of the status of Jewish educators within the Jewish community.*
- 6. Engaged in the delivery of Jewish content on an ongoing basis.*

This award is sponsored by Mark and Cindy Levy, who have been dedicated to Jewish education for many years. Cindy was a long time member of the CJL advisory board. Mark and Cindy are very involved at their synagogue, Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha. As supporters of Jewish education in Milwaukee, they wanted to elevate the status of our high quality educators in Milwaukee by funding this Jewish Educator of the Year Award. The Levy Family CJL Jewish Educator of the Year Award comes with a \$1,000 cash gift.

Mazel Tov to all the well deserving award recipients! We are lucky to have you in our community!

Sue and Allan Carneol

Chava Edelman brings so much love, kindness, teaching into our Community.

Mitchell Lechter

2024 Levy Family CJL Jewish Educator of the Year

Chava Edelman

Chava Edelman grew up in Seattle, Washington, as the daughter of a Chabad rabbi and rebbetzin, where she developed a passion for Jewish community building and education. Inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe's renowned love for every single Jew, Chava decided at a young age that she wanted to dedicate her life to the Rebbe's mission and vision of reaching out to every Jew with love. Since the age of 14, Chava has worked in Jewish supplementary schools and day schools, and takes great joy in working with students to find fun ways to make their Judaism come alive - the most rewarding part of teaching is seeing the students' excitement and pride in their heritage.

From serving as assistant director of education at the Jewish Children's Museum in New York, to establishing a Jewish Discovery Center in Olympia, Washington, Chava has enjoyed many opportunities to learn about building



Jewish community and creating Jewish educational experiences.

The Edelmans were hired in 2016 by Lubavitch of Wisconsin to serve as directors of The Shul Center in Bayside. Chava initially focused on The Shul's programming, and then became the director at The Shul's Milwaukee Community Hebrew School in 2017. Chava and her husband, Rabbi Cheski Edelman, live in Bayside with their five children - Sender, Rosie, Fishel, Fayga, and Mushka.

Former Levy Family CJL Jewish Educator of the Year winners: Page 28

2024 CJL Lifetime Impact Award

ABOUT THE AWARD

Six times before, the Coalition for Jewish Learning has recognized a member of the Milwaukee Jewish Community with a Lifetime Impact Award. This award is given to someone who has dedicated his or her life to improving Jewish Education. People receiving this award have contributed to Jewish education throughout many decades of work.

Cantor Karen Berman

In addition to her 35-year association with her beloved Congregation Shalom, Cantor Karen Berman has had the privilege of teaching and singing in the Milwaukee Jewish Community since 1970. A graduate of the UW - Milwaukee, she has a B.S. in Geography and Hebrew studies and a master's degree in education. She used those skills to help create some of the first Hebrew classes designed for students with learning challenges. Cantor Berman is a past recipient of CJL's Educator of the Year Award.

Her tenure at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun spanned 16 years, during which she had the chance to work under the tutelage of her mentor, Michael Fefferman. Cantor Berman was equally fortunate to teach at other congregations, including Cnesses Israel Synagogue in Green Bay, Temple Menorah, and Congregation Sinai. She



also spent more than a decade on the Milwaukee Jewish Day School faculty, teaching Hebrew to kindergarten students.

Throughout her long career, Cantor Berman has enjoyed working with learners of all ages, from toddlers to octogenarians. She feels blessed to have worked with and learned from hundreds of educators, rabbis, students, and parents of this wonderful community.

Former CJL Lifetime Impact Award winners: Page 28

2024 Jerry Benjamin Inspiration Award for Informal Education

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Coalition for Jewish Learning recognizes that important Jewish education also happens in INFORMAL settings. Informal education includes camps, youth groups, art programs, environmental education, Jewish travel programs, and all other types of Jewish education happening outside of a classroom environment. This award is named after Jerry Benjamin, past president of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, co-founder of CAJE, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. This award is a tribute to his passion about Jewish education.

Rabbi Dov Ber Smith

Every Jew is Awesome

Rabbi Dov Ber Smith was born in Long Island NY and moved to Israel at six months old. He grew up in the Old City of Jerusalem. He studied at the Rabbinical Seminary of America and received his Rabbinic Ordination from Aish HaTorah in Jerusalem. He is the father of five children. He is passionate about spreading the joy of Judaism to every Jew he meets. His hobbies include running and kiting. He hopes to one day make sure that every Jew in Milwaukee knows how awesome they truly are!



Former Inspiration Award for Formal Education winners: Page 28



Coalition for
Jewish Learning

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

PROGRAMS OF THE COALITION FOR JEWISH LEARNING

LOMED (Learning Opportunities for Milwaukee Educators)

Professional development classes for teachers in all our Jewish schools. Teachers can earn a \$300 stipend each year for participation.

BINAH (Building Inquiry-based Network through Hevruta)

a yearlong intensive cohort learning program for teachers, currently in its fifth cohort.

Teen Philanthropy

A community-wide program that engages Jewish teens in a communal giving and learning effort to achieve our goal of Tikkun Olam, "repairing the world."

School Census

Annual school census to track the population getting a Jewish education in Milwaukee.

Salute to Jewish Educators

Annual event to celebrate all our local educators.

One Happy Camper

Supporting first time campers from Milwaukee at Jewish overnight camps nationwide. (Funded by the Jewish Community Foundation)

Monthly Newsletter

Providing Jewish and educational resources for the community.

2024 Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) Award

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) is an award designed to stimulate and encourage teachers to translate their unique educational ideas and initiatives into effective classroom projects. This award is for a project completed during the current school year in one of these areas:

- School/classroom culture
- Teaching/learning materials
- Creative lessons
- Enrichment activities, including special one-time class/school projects

MAZEL
TOV!

To all the winners of
this year's Salute to
Jewish Educators!

*With gratitude,
Your friends at Ovation Communities*

ovation
communities
Jewish Home | Chai Point | Kavod Terrace

2024 Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) Award

This year's first GIFT award goes to Cindy Cooper of Congregation Sinai for her project, *Yahrzeit Luminaries*. Through this project, students learned about the importance of honoring loved ones who have passed as well as encouraged them to perform the ritual of lighting a yahrzeit candle as a way of honoring them. Students discussed terms like kavod and zachor as well as various Jewish symbols that could be etched into their luminaries. This project not only taught about important Jewish values, but also brought out artistic talents in the 6th and 7th graders in Sinai's religious school.

Cindy Cooper

Congregation Sinai
(Yahrzeit Luminaries)

Cindy Cooper taught Sunday School for 2 years in Appleton, Wisconsin at Temple Moses Montefiore. For the last 40 years, she has been teaching at Congregation Sinai and during that time, Cindy also taught art at the CBINT religious school for 5 years. Because of her stint as Creativity Center artist at Coalition for Jewish Learning, she spent 28 memorable years getting to know many other Jewish teachers from the day schools and supplementary schools. Cindy is a past recipient of the CJL Educator of the Year Award.



2024 Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) Award

This year's second GIFT award goes to Yonina Schlusel, Mara Kleiman and Bobby Ehrlich of Milwaukee Jewish Day School for their project, ***Empowering Successful Jewish Studies Culture***. Through this project, students grew their appreciation and motivation to engage in their Jewish studies learning. The project included a multi dimensional approach in which the team facilitated a variety of experiences that helped the students gain a better appreciation of Jewish values and how meaningful they are to them and their families. They also invited the parents to learn alongside their children in school and created opportunities for ongoing continued conversations about Jewish values in their homes.



Yonina Schlusel, Mara Kleiman, Bobby Ehrlich

Milwaukee Jewish Day School (Empowering Successful Jewish Studies Culture)

Yoni Schlusel: An artist, writer, and a teacher at Torah Academy of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Jewish Day School. She also directs the women's programming for Congregation Beth Jehudah and is on the Community Planning and Allocations committee of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Her writing has been published in the Jewish Press as well as Binah and Ami magazines. She also has had her art

displayed in the Var Gallery. She is passionate about helping teachers bring their best selves to their classrooms and providing women with support and programming that inspires them to be their best selves. She lives with her family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mara Kleiman: Mara has worked at the Milwaukee Jewish Day School for 9 years in variety of roles, and is currently the

2024 Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) Award

Director of Jewish Life and Learning. She is also an alumni and graduated in 2002. One of her latest projects includes leading the Jewish Studies team in writing a 3K-8th grade spiraled scope and sequence. Mara also spends a great deal of her time in Jewish music, including co-leading Shabbat Sing at MJDS and singing in the Milwaukee Jewish Community Chorale. Mara's most important role is being lma to her three children, Rafi, Ari, and Orli, who she shares with her husband Matthew.

Bobby Erlich: This is Bobby's second year working with MJDS and first full year as a part of the Jewish Studies team! He enjoys working to reinvigorate

his student's connections with Judaism. Before MJDS, he spent three years as a 3rd and 4th grade teacher in Brooklyn, New York, as well as one year teaching English in Haifa. His current classes at MJDS are focused on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He loves engaging with middle schoolers on these complex issues and giving them tools to navigate this conflict. Additionally, he helps coordinate the Repairing Together program at MJDS, which brings together Jewish, Latinx, Black and Native students from across Milwaukee to break down barriers. In his free time, he coaches baseball and enjoys watching movies with his cat, Hobbes.

Mazel Tov!

CHAYA SCHECHTER
School Support Award

MASH! MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY Hebrew School

TOVA TORNEK
Teacher Impact Award

Mazel Tov!

THE SHUL
Welcome Home

You Shul family thanks you for your contributions to the Jewish Community and Jewish Education!

Mitch Lechter
Border Hill High School Sederot Award

Chaya Schechter
Border Hill Associates School Support Award

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Teacher Impact Award is given to a teacher who has made a special impact on their school community. This is not a "best teacher" award but rather recognition of a teacher who has made special contributions in an area such as mentoring, innovating, or helping others.

The School Support Award is given to a non-teacher (administrator, volunteer, high school aide) who has provided something special to their school.

The recipients of these awards were chosen by each school. The Coalition for Jewish Learning expresses its appreciation for the extraordinary support that these individuals give to Jewish education.

BADER HILLEL ACADEMY

Brittni Clark

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

In recognition of your creative energy, leadership, and ability to connect with students.

Chaya Schechter

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

For her creativity, kindness, professionalism, and general ability to handle any task that comes to her desk! The school wouldn't be possible without her.

BADER HILLEL HIGH

Mitchell Lechter

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

For coaching with a full heart and belief in Bader Hillel High boys on the court and in the hallways.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL NER TAMID SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES

Jodie Honigman

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

For her leadership and contributions to our educational programming at CBINT, including but not limited to our Kehillat Yeladim program.

Michael Johnson

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

For his support for all of our programming, educational and otherwise. Without Michael, we would not be able to do what we do, for our students, families, and our community.

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL B'NE JESHURUN

Jess Plotkin-Sell

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Jess is truly an excellent teacher and a reflective practitioner. Her love for Jewish learning is lifelong. Jess exceeds expectations in her dedication, time, and energy she applies to her teaching and her relationships with the learners.

She created quality curricula and lessons that integrated social, emotional and spiritual learning, and Jess inspires her learners to go deeper in their learning.

Audrie Berman

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Audrie, a dedicated Adult Learning Committee chair, and current co-chair of our Lifelong Learning Committee, is instrumental on all adult learning, especially planning for Scholar-in-Residence. She makes herself available to help out when there are gaps in coverage at all levels of the school.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF WAUKESHA

Andi Patz

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

In recognition of her support of Congregational Emanu-El of Waukesha's religious school, especially this year with your art therapy project allowing our students to express and share their feelings regarding Israel and Jewish symbols.

Deb Hacker

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

In recognition of her support of Congregation Emanu-El Waukesha's religious school, last year with our Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel cafe and this year with the Chanukah bakery making sufganiyot.

CONGREGATION SHALOM

Nicole Boico

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

In recognition of her outstanding mentorship of new teachers and dedication to creating a strong community in her classroom as part of her curriculum.

Mandy Wienke

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

In recognition of her 23 years of care, support, and dedication to the teachers, students and families at Congregation Shalom. Mandy has touched and improved the lives of so many people and will be sorely missed in her retirement.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

CONGREGATION SINAI YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Lori Fisher

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Lori Fisher comes with a vast background in Jewish education. It is clear to anyone that Lori's priorities are her students and their education. When a student comes into class, and may not be in the best of spirits, it's almost guaranteed, that the same student will walk out of class at the end of the day, with a big smile on their face. Thank you Lori for being a shining star at Sinai.

Bennett Friedman

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Bennett takes his Jewish education seriously. Bennett is a quiet, yet strong and grounding role model for all students at Congregation Sinai. His passion for music and leadership are clear to anyone who sees him in action. This year, Bennett has stepped into a different role of managing the school office when school is in session. Thank you Bennett for being an inspiration to everyone. You are a kindhearted person and a true role model for all students at Sinai.

GAN AMI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM JCC

Jessie Piraino

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Jessie's love for teaching has made a positive impact on the children she serves at Gan Ami Early Childhood Education. She is passionate about creating exciting dramatic play experiences in her classroom each month. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and creative educator here at the JCC.

Amy Pequignot

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Amy Pequignot is the backbone of Gan Ami Early Childhood Education.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

Her dedication to serving families and staff is incredible. Her attention to detail benefits our program in a multitude of important ways. We are so fortunate to have such a strong leader here at the JCC.

GAN AMI MEQUON

Mariela Guerreo

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

In recognition of her dedication to support the growth and development of young minds at the Linda and Fred Wein Family Center for Gan Ami Early Childhood Education in Mequon.

Ryliee Boeck

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

In recognition of your dedication to support the growth and development of young minds at the Linda and Fred Wein Family Center for Gan Ami Early Childhood Education in Mequon.

JEWISH BEGINNINGS LUBAVITCH PRESCHOOL

Kerri Bergren

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

For providing the new teachers with an orientation session.

Rivka Abuya

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Rivka makes sure to support every staff member at Jewish Beginnings with any administrative help needed in a very efficient, caring and out of the way manner.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

JEWISH KIDS CLUB

Breiny Lipskiern

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

For being an outstanding educator.

Shaina Brownstein

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

For her care for every student.

Aliya Porrus-Diamond

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

In recognition of your time and dedication to helping students reach their goals.

MEQUON JEWISH PRESCHOOL

Cassie Tompkins

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

"The true guardians of a community are the teachers!" — Talmud

Cassie is a loving, creative, and innovative educator. She brings her love of art and beauty into everything she does. She connects to children through beauty. She sees the potential in every child, person and in every opportunity. She is a positive inspiration for her colleagues.

Janice Levy

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Janice gifts Mequon Jewish Preschool with her signature blend of a passion for reading, education and community. She partners with Mequon Jewish Preschool to strengthen the school and students, giving of herself to help in every place that it is needed.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL

Tova Tornek

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Tova has created a warm and loving environment for our youngest class, allowing them to feel comfortable and cared for in their sweet classroom. Happy sounds of singing, chatter and buzzing activities come from the little "Super Jews" in her class as she leads them to explore their Judaism with a mix of positivity, love, and encouragement!

Chaya Schechter

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

With a genuinely warm smile, Chaya makes every child feel like a champion! By ensuring their Hebrew reading baskets are personalized with just the right amount of challenge - they all feel like Aleph Champs... and every JewQ test for the international Torah study competition has Chaya prepping and cheering them on! No issue is too small for Chaya to consider, students know if they have a challenge, Chaya will help them resolve it with fairness and love.

MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Linsey Kimmel

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Linsey has been part of the MJDS community for the past fifteen years. This year she has transitioned to focus her work as a learning partner where she coaches a subset of teachers, observing them and offering feedback to help them become better educators. Linsey's energy and dance moves are beloved by alums, staff and students.

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Susan Gray

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Susan creates fresh, healthy and delicious kosher meals for students and staff every day! She knows our students and takes an active role in feeding and serving them. Her cooking omanut elective for upper school students is one of our most popular classes. She is teaching a new generation of budding bakers.

PELZ HEBREW SCHOOL

Esther Groner

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Thank you Esther for your dedication to the students and the Pelz Hebrew school!

TORAH ACADEMY OF MILWAUKEE

Gitty Kramer

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

Gitty Kramer, a proud alumna of Torah Academy of Milwaukee, has been teaching and mentoring for over 15 years. Gitty is well known for her thought provoking classes that elicit critical thinking and higher order integration of material studied. Her care and devotion to Torah Academy of Milwaukee and its students is priceless!

2024 Teacher Impact & School Support Awards

Nechama Sklar

SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD

Nechama Sklar, a proud alumnus of Torah Academy of Milwaukee, is a professional school psychologist in the Milwaukee Public School system. She has spent the last number of years “giving back” to Torah Academy of Milwaukee by heading the parent liason committee, serving on the Torah Academy of Milwaukee board, assisting with fundraising, keeping the Torah Academy of Milwaukee family informed and together. Her dedication is outstanding and her efforts are invaluable!

YESHIVA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sandra Boersma

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

For her innovative and creative teaching as well as her playing the role of teacher mentor and coaching younger colleagues. She drives her students to reach their highest potential!

Zachary Williams

TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

For facilitating our Learning Enrichment Assistance Program and coordinating our Brain Train Express enrichment program which expands the students' horizons and knowledge.

**A salute to Janice,
Cassie and all Mequon
Jewish Preschool
educators!**

**Mazel Tov to all of this
years honorees!**

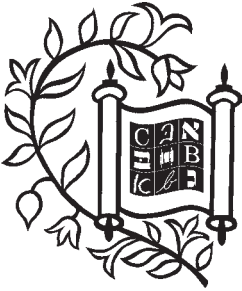
*Congregation Beth El,
Sheboygan*

2024 Double Chai Awards

ABOUT THE AWARDS

In addition to recognizing the experience of all our teachers, it is the tradition in Milwaukee to recognize teachers who have been working in Jewish Education for 18 and 36 years.

DOUBLE CHAI



Gilah Saltzman
*Yeshiva Elementary
School*



Joyce Gutzke
*Congregation Emanu-El
B'ne Jeshurun*



**Tziporah
Altman-Shafer**
*Coalition for Jewish
Learning*

2024 Upcoming BINAH Graduates

ABOUT THE AWARD

BINAH (Building an Inquiry-based Network as Hevruta) is a professional development cohort that strengthens the skills of Jewish educators. It is open to teachers at local Jewish schools. It is a one year program that meets monthly for: Hevruta text study, video observation, analysis of student work, and analysis of curriculum. CJL is proud to recognize the fifth cohort of the BINAH program.



Nicole Boico



Shelly Eiland



Karen Faust



Cindi Hammel



Mandy Singh

**The Talmud states,
“the true guardians
of a community
are the Teachers”.**

**Thank you for
protecting, and
teaching us.**

Nancy Barnett

**Mazal Tov on CJL’s
impactful work and
to the amazing award
recipients who enrich
our youth and plant
seeds for the future.**

*Eileen and Glenn
Graves*



**Rabbi Dov Ber,
thank you for
teaching the
world that every
Jew is awesome!
We love you!**

*From your family in
Israel and Massachusetts*

**Mazel Tov Cantor
Berman on receiving
the Lifetime Impact
Award! Your tutelage
to all 4 of our kids and
mesmerizing voice,
stand out and we are
forever grateful to
have gotten to work
with, and know you,
over so many years!!**

Love, The Sperlings



Members of the
Advisory Board
of the **Coalition**
for **Jewish Learning**

salute the many teachers and
volunteers who have in so many
different ways devoted time
and energy to uplifting and
instructing Jewish students
in our community.



Coalition for
Jewish Learning

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

Educator of the Year - Past Awardees

1982	Ateret Cohn*	1996	Devorah Shmotkin	2011	Samara Sofian
1983	Miriam Ben Shemuel*	1997	Adina Altshull	2012	Dr. Sherry Blumberg
1984	Elaine Sanderson*	1998	Tamar Loewenberg	2013	Rabbi Yosef Perlman
1985	Merzy Eisenberg	1999	Dr. Larry Hurwitz*	2014	Karen Torem & Tzipi Altman-Shafer
1986	Rabbi Nachman Levine	2000	Rabbi Shabse Werther	2015	Sara Minash
1987	Michael Fefferman	2001	Rabbi Raphael Wachsmann*	2016	Mishy Pittleman & Susie Rosengarten
1988	Stisha Steigman	2002	George Strick	2017	Marsha Fensin
1989	Eve Joan Zucker	2003	Cindy Cooper	2018	Ellie Gettinger
1990	Laura Greene	2004	Marge Eiseman	2019	Debbie Silberman*
1991	Bess Mendelsohn*	2006	Leah Robbins	2020	Yael Gal-Ben-Yitzchak
1992	Cantor Karen Berman	2007	Aimee Bachar	2022	Rivkie Spalter
1993	Michael Morgan	2008	Sharon Cohen	2023	Marilyn Franklin
1994	Simon Kops*	2009	Wendy Cohen		
1995	Harriet Bocksbaum	2010	Jody Margolis		

CJL Lifetime Impact - Past Awardees

2015	Eve Joan Zucker	2018	Jerry Benjamin*	2022	Dr. Doris Shneidman
2016	Elaine Sanderson*	2019	Rabbi Nachman Levine	2023	Dr. Sherry Blumberg
2017	Marsha Fensin	2020	Dr. Steven Baruch		

Jerry Benjamin Inspiration Award for Informal Education - Past Awardees

2016	Lenny Kass	2019	Rachael Badt	2022	Dalilah Bernier
2017	Joshua Richman	2020	Debbie Intraiva	2023	Toni Davison Levenberg
2018	Rabbi Avremi Shapiro				

**of blessed memory*



Past Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) Awardees

1991	Monica Cohen & Deb Hacker, <i>Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha</i> ; Henri Zvi Deutsch, <i>Congregation Anshai Lebowitz</i>	2007	Beth Goldstein, <i>Congregation Sinai</i> (First Place) and Jennifer Saber, <i>JCC Parenting Center</i> (Second Place)
1992	Laura Greene & Bonnie Shafrin, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> ; Simon Kops*, <i>Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun</i>	2008	Dr. Sherry Blumberg, <i>Congregation Sinai</i> and Nadine Siegman <i>Congregation Sinai & Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun</i> and Jennifer Saber, <i>Congregations Shalom & Sinai</i>
1993	Rabbi David Brusin, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i> ; Susan Conn, <i>Beth El Ner Tamid Synagogue</i> ; Susan Atlas, <i>Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha</i>	2009	Roger Carp, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> (First Place) and Laura Greene, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> (Second Place)
1994	Sheryl Selby, <i>Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Department</i> ; Nadine Siegman, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> ; Rivkie Spalter, <i>Hillel Academy</i>	2010	Tzipi Altman-Shafer, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i> and Cantor Marsha Fensin, <i>Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha</i>
1995	Laura Greene, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> ; Nina Taus, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i>	2011	Lori Fisher, <i>Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha</i>
1996	Rabbi Jacob Gil, <i>Hillel Academy</i> ; Carol Ross, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> ; Liza Wiemer, <i>Congregation Beth Israel</i>	2012	Jennifer Saber, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>
1997	Roger Carp, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> ; Kate Mann, <i>Congregation Sinai</i>	2013	Roger Carp, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>
1998	Terri Beauleau, Harriet Bocksbaum & Judith Ross*, <i>Jewish Family Services Child Development Center</i> ; Nadine Siegman, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>	2014	Rabbi Shari Shamah, <i>Gan Ami</i>
1999	Cindy Cooper, <i>Congregation Sinai</i>	2015	Gilah Saltzman, Ahuva Jarcaig, Karen Torem, Miriam Lef, Rabbi Hersch Hiller, <i>Yeshiva Elementary School</i>
2000	Liza Wiemer, <i>Congregation Beth Israel</i> ; Yoel Turgeman, <i>Hillel Academy</i>	2016	Bader Hillel Academy Teachers
2001	Therese Dorfman, <i>Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha</i>	2017	Diane Boland, <i>Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid</i> ; Yonina Schluskel, <i>Torah Academy of Milwaukee</i>
2002	Roger Carp, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>	2018	Leah Emmer & Chaya Mann, <i>Bader Hillel Academy</i> ; and Yael Stein, <i>Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid</i>
2003	Tzipi Altman-Shafer, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i> and Chavah Kintis, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>	2019	<i>The Mequon Jewish Preschool Team</i> : Rivkie Spalter, Rabbi Sholom Ber Munitz, Kreinie Tiefenbrun, and consultant Dr. Naama Zoran
2004	Nadine Siegman, <i>Congregation Shalom</i> and Judy Slyper, <i>Hillel Academy</i>	2020	Jodie Honigman, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i> ; Sherry Miller and Tamara Miller, <i>Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun</i>
2005	Robin Boroda, <i>Hillel Academy</i> and Mary Beaumont-Wishne, <i>Yeshiva Elementary School</i>	2022	Roger Carp, <i>Congregation Shalom</i>
2006	Beth Goldstein, <i>Congregation Sinai</i> and Martin Gutnik, <i>Hillel Academy</i>	2023	Stephanie Brauner, <i>Bader Hillel Academy</i> ; Leah Stein, <i>Friendship Circle</i> ; Moria Lehman, <i>Milwaukee Jewish Day School</i>

*Of blessed memory.

**Thank you to all of the teachers, staff members,
and volunteers that invest so much in the Milwaukee
Jewish Community. We salute all of you!**

Congratulations to our Teacher Impact Awardee, Mrs. Boersma. She is an amazing teacher, who uses activities and a wide variety of differentiation methods to reach all of her students. We are grateful she is graciously mentoring others, sharing her experience and expertise.

Congratulations to our School Support Awardee, Mr. Zach Williams.

In addition to his teaching, he enriches our students' school experience by leading our extra-curricular enrichment programming, including LEAP and the Brain Train Express. Our students love these opportunities to have fun and learn!

Congratulations to Mrs. Saltzman, for achieving the milestone of double-chai, and to YES Parents Rabbi Smith and Mrs. Schlüssel for their accomplishments in Jewish Education.



Yeshiva Elementary School

Rabbi Shaya Baumann, *Principal*

Mrs. Laura Fischer, *Vice Principal*

Rabbi Tzvi Goldman, *Vice Principal*

Rabbi Aryeh Borsuk, *Director of Advancement*

**Mazel Tov to all Milwaukee
Jewish EDUCATORS. You
make a huge difference every
day. Thanks for all you do.**

**Special congratulations to all
the AWARD WINNERS. We are
so glad to have the opportunity
to recognize you today.**

**Thank you to all the SCHOOLS
for welcoming me into
your communities. I love
working with all of you.**

Tziporah Altman-Shafer

**Mazal Tov and
Todah Rabah to
Mandy Wienke
for 23 of service to
Congregation Shalom.
You have touched so
many lives and paved
the path for so many
bright Jewish futures.**

Brian and Matty

**Mazel Tov
Bennett Friedman
on this indredibly
deserved honor!
We are so proud
of you!**

*Love, Mom, Dad,
Ilana & Seth*

**Kol HaKavod to all
of our educators.
You are creating
the next generation
of leaders!**

Sue and Rick Strait

**It is our pleasure to celebrate together with all
the dedicated educators and volunteers being
recognized by CJL. We applaud your hard
work, creativity, and commitment to instilling
in our generations of Jewish students a deep
knowledge of our heritage and faith.**

**Thanks especially to Cantor Karen Berman,
Nicole Boico and Mandy Wienke for leading our
community from strength to strength.**

Roger Carp and Debbie Recht

ABIAH A Band'n All Hope



Traditional and
Modern Klezmer,
Yiddish Theater,
Israeli Dance and
T'filah Band

Available to hire for
parties and events

Mark Levy
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**Mazal tov to Jess Plotkin-Sell, Teacher
Impact Award Winner, Audrie Berman,
School Support Award Winner, Joyce
Gutzke, Double-Chai Award, and all
of the awardees, from Congregation
Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun.**

*With love and respect from the Lifelong
Learning Committee, Rabbi Barolsky,
Cantor Barash and your CEEB Family.*

**Congratulations
Brittni Clark and
Chaya Schechter on
your well deserved
recognition.**



**BADER
HILLEL
ACADEMY**

**Nicole Boico —
The kids and I are
incredibly proud
of you. To say that
you're making
an impact is an
understatement!
Mazal Tov!!**

Mila, Moses & Ilan

**MAZEL TOV! Cantor Karen
Berman on a lifetime
of teaching**

Nancy and Jim Barnett

**Make Yourself a teacher,
find yourself a friend**

Pirke Avot 1:6

*Revere your teacher as you would Heaven
(Avot 4:12)*

*With thanks and appreciation for all
Milwaukee Jewish Educators.
A special Mazal Tov to Congregation
Beth Israel Ner Tamid's Honorees!*

Gill Incentive for Teachers (GIFT) Award

*Cindy Cooper
Mara Kleiman*

Teacher Impact Award

Jodie Honigman

School Support Award

*Michael Johnson
Audrie Berman*



CONGREGATION
**BETH ISRAEL
NER TAMID**

**To the best mom,
MIL and Bubbe a
family could ask for!
We are all so proud
of you and lucky to
call you ours. Mazal
Tov, Mandy Wienke!**

*Love, Nicole, Ilan,
Mila and Moses*

**Congregation
Emanu-El of Waukesha
and the Sisterhood of
CEEW congratulates
our 2024 award
receipients: Parents Deb
Hacker and Andi Patz.**



**“A teacher affects eternity,
they can never tell where their
influence stops.” —Henry Adams.**

**Mazel Tov to everyone and thank
you for affecting eternity!**

Moshe and Debra Katz

Mazel Tov to
Rylie Boeck
Mariela Guerreo
Amy Pequignot
Jessie Piraino

for their dedication to Jewish Education

Kol HaKavod,

Harry and Rose Samson Family JCC
Board of Directors & Family of Staff



Harry & Rose Samson Family
Jewish Community Center

Creating spaces. Building opportunities.
Inspiring Jewish moments for diverse communities.

jccmilwaukee.org



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

The JCC is a partner in serving the community with the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and is a beneficiary agency of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee.



W O M E N
— of —
Shalom 

Congregation Shalom's Women of Shalom wish a mazel tov and yasher koach to Cantor Emeritus Karen Berman for the Lifetime Impact Award. Cantor's Impact with hundreds of B'nai Mitzvah students and sharing her music has made our community a better place. Mazel tov also to Nicole Boico for the Teacher Impact Award. Congregation Shalom is also proud of Mandy Wienke and her many years of service for the School Support Award. Her influence on so many religious school students will not be forgotten.



**JB CONGRATULATES
THIS YEAR'S
JEWISH EDUCATORS!**

A Huge Thank You

**to our Jewish Beginnings teachers and staff whose
devotion and care make everyday at JB the best!**



CONGREGATION SINAI

Kol haKavod from your Sinai Family!



Lori Fisher

Teacher Impact Award



Cindy Cooper

GIFT Award



Bennett Friedman

School Support Award

“Make for yourself a teacher, aquire for yourself a friend.”

- Pirkei Avot 1:2

Tzipi, Mazal tov on receiving the double chai award this year. You have taught and inspired many in your 36 years. We are thankful to have such a knowledgeable and inspirational person leading our team!



**MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION**

*Sincerely, your team from CJL,
Israel Center, and JCRRC:
Abigail, Andrea, Dalilah, Darla,
Henri, Nicole, Noa and Susie.*

**Milwaukee Community
Hebrew School Families
wish Rebbetzin Chava
Edelman a huge Mazel Tov
on winning the Coalition for
Jewish Learning Levy Family
Education of the Year Award!**

*We honor Chava Edelman for her
dedication, commitment, and devotion
to the MCHS and dynamic leadership
in the community! On behalf of our
grateful community, Thank you
Rebbetzin Chava!*

**Mazel Tov Chava
on your well-deserved
recognition!**

We always knew it!

**You bring out the best in everyone,
with love and joy.**

**The Lubavitcher Rebbe Z”TL would
often say “Don’t see bodies and their
limits. See souls and their infinite
potential”**

**How fortunate are your students to
have you as their teacher!**

*With much love,
Rabbi Yisroel & Gutel Edelman
Ari & Sarale, Getzel & Shulamis,
Mendy & Chayale, Rosie,
Mushkie & Doba*

Mazel Tov!

CHAVA EDELMAN

CJL LEVY FAMILY
JEWISH EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

“Thank you for being such an amazing person and a true inspiration!



We are so proud of your leadership and dedication to Jewish education. You continue to inspire us each day!”



Thank you, Educators!

THE CONGREGATION SHALOM COMMUNITY, STAFF, AND CLERGY ARE SO
THANKFUL FOR THE EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS WHO WORK
HARD TO PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION TO OUR COMMUNITY!

"REVERE YOUR TEACHER AS YOU REVERE HEAVEN."
- ELEAZAR B. SHAMMUA. MISHNA: ABOT, 4.12

*A special congratulations to Congregation
Shalom's 2024 award recipients:*

CANTOR KAREN BERMAN - LIFETIME IMPACT AWARD

NICOLE BOICO - TEACHER IMPACT AWARD

MANDY WIENKE - SCHOOL SUPPORT AWARD



Kol Hakaved





MAZAL TOV!

**This honor is well
deserved. You make
an impact on each of
us every day.**

*Elliot, Sam, Ginger,
Michael, Hannah, Sam,
Josephine, and Marilyn.*

“I have learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, and the most from my students”

(TALMUD)

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, we share a mazal tov to all the educators being honored. Thank you for building the future of our Jewish Milwaukee by nurturing and teaching our children.

Joan Lubar,
Board Chair

Miryam Rosenzweig,
President and CEO



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

The Coalition for Jewish Learning is a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation