

WELCOME

To the



Synagogue Council
of Massachusetts

GALA

Featuring keynote speaker,

DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL

And honoring our

EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATORS

GALA PROGRAM

- **Welcome:** Master of Ceremonies, MIKE ROSENBERG
- **Invocation:** RABBI DR. MICHAEL SHIRE, Academic Director, Masters in Jewish Education program, Hebrew College.
- **Keynote** speaker: DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL
- **Remarks:** Rabbi Marc Baker
- ***For Our Teachers***, performed by RAV-HAZZAN OKSANA CHAPMAN
- **Celebrating our Honored Educators**
- **Presidents' Remarks:** ELIZABETH PRESSMAN & CRAIG SCHNEIDER
- **Closing:** Thank you for joining us this evening

Synagogue Council of Massachusetts Board of Directors

Elizabeth Pressman & Craig Schneider, Co-Presidents

Jay Sage, Treasurer

B. David Stollar, Secretary

Fred Cohen, Immediate Past President

Steven Greenberg

Shirah Hecht

Aaron Kischel

Sandra Slavet





**With gratitude for the gifts of your time,
wisdom, creativity and hard work**

**The Synagogue Council
of Massachusetts
2021-2022 Gala Committee**

**Craig Schneider
Elizabeth Pressman
Steven Greenberg
Aaron Kischel
B. David Stollar**



Mike Rosenberg,

**THANK YOU-
for**

**Your love, warmth, enthusiasm,
joy, and enduring commitment to
the Jewish community and to the
Synagogue Council**

The Synagogue Council of
Massachusetts
is very grateful to

RABBI DAVID PASKIN,
The Torah Tech Guy

for his skilled technical
support
and abundant patience!
THANK YOU!



**ADAM
VEANER**



תודה רבה

Thank you

Toddah Rabbah,

For sensitively, thoughtfully, beautifully
weaving together our video tributes

תודה רבה
Thank you
Toddah Rabbah
to our
AREV-MA
Steering Committee

Rebecca Redner
Gabe Redner
Elizabeth Pressman
Joyce Bohnen
Roz Garber

2021 AREV-MA Grant Recipients

The AREV-MA grant celebrates
the legacy of Anita Redner z”l

**Congregation Ahavas Shalom,
Newburyport: *Learn, Grow and
Thrive at CAA***

**Congregation Eitz Chayim,
Cambridge, *Development of a
Diverse Congregational Leadership***

**Temple Ohabei Shalom, Brookline,
*Temple Racial Justice Initiative***

**Congregation Beth Israel,
Worcester, *BING! Beth Israel Next
Generation***

In gratitude for
Jesse Hefter,
Past President of the
Synagogue Council
Our teacher, mentor and friend

The Board and Staff of
The Synagogue Council &
Our Daf-Yomi Talmud class



עושה לך רב, וקנה לך חבר, והוי דן את כל האדם לכף זכות

Pirkei Avot 1:6 פרקי אבות

The Synagogue Council is abundantly
grateful to

Daniel Langenthal

For his outstanding facilitation
of our semi-monthly

**Arnold Zaff Memorial
Presidents' Roundtables.**

The Presidents' Roundtable is a safe space for synagogue presidents to gather. The roundtable offers a community of practice, a sounding board, an opportunity to share successes and reflect on challenges, a place where ideas and resources are shared and we imagine together.



Synagogue Council is abundantly grateful to our mentors, teachers guides and experts:

Synagogue Security Concerns During a Pandemic with **Jeremy Yamin** and **Dan Levenson**

Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture and Chai Anniversary Celebration featuring **Yossi Klein Halevi**

Strengthening the Rabbi-President Relationship with **Daniel Langenthal**

**Synagogue Council is abundantly grateful to our mentors,
teachers, guides and experts:**

Legacy Giving workshops: *Why Legacy? Why Now?*
Initiating a Legacy Giving Campaign & How to Have the
Legacy Giving Conversation with **Arlene Schiff**

Leadership Development and Succession Planning with
Keith Krivitzky

Serving our Roomers and our Zoomers: Multi-Access
Judaism with **Rabbi David Paskin**

**Synagogue Council is abundantly grateful to our mentors,
teachers, guides and experts:**

Post Pandemic Zooming for Jewish Disability Inclusion with
**Rebecca Redner, Rivka Solomon, Jacob Speaks and Rabbi
Ben Weiner**

*From Tay Sachs to BRCA: Saving Lives with Modern
Genetic Testing* with **Hillary Kener Regelman**

Now What? Considerations for Gathering Safely with **Dr.
Bruce Weinstock and Curt Freedman**

Kol HaKavod
to all our Honorees!

Rabbi Yose taught:

“Kol ha-m’chabed et haTorah, gufo m’chubad al habreeot”

Whoever honors the Torah
will in turn be honored by others

Indeed, each of you have demonstrated your dedication to teaching Torah even under very difficult circumstances and are deserving of this Honor.

Elizabeth and Bob Pressman

Gold Level Sponsor



Kol Hakavod to our Heroic Educators, honorees of the 2021 Synagogue Council's prestigious award for excellence and resilience during these challenging times.

Your sacred work to educate the adults, children, and families of our congregations is deserving of this recognition, and critical to the survival and continuity of the Jewish people.

Special thanks to **Ilene Beckman** and **Jesse Hefter** for your friendship and inspirational achievements. I have enjoyed working, singing, and davening with you both, and have had the pleasure of learning from each of you over the years.

I have been blessed to partner with Jesse in myriad SCM projects, including Daf Yomi (pictured here), Unity Missions to NY and Israel, and weekend Shabbatonim, among others. Jesse, you have become a spiritual mentor and teacher to countless adults through the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts. We are all the beneficiaries of your deep knowledge and devotion to Jewish learning and living.

Alan Teperow, SCM Executive Director 1982-2015

Gold Level Sponsor

To Jesse/ Daddy/ Saba:

Mazal tov on this honor and special recognition. Your dedication to learning and teaching Talmud is an inspiration to your children and grandchildren. May you continue to teach and inspire us and others for many years to come.

With love,
Bubbie/Mom
Ilana and Joe and family
Sheera and family
Jonathan and Sefi and family
And Brenda, your greatest fan!



Kol HaKavod to our amazing Educational Directors
ROBIN KAHN and FAYE TONKONOGY
Thank you for bringing Judaism to life for our children

Temple Israel of Natick



Silver Level Sponsor

Mazal tov

to

Hillary Pinsker Engler

of Temple Hillel B'nai Torah

and all the honorees

who instill Jewish values in our community!

Thanks for all that you do!

Craig and Tammy Schneider

Silver Level Sponsor

Ilene

Congratulations

On this well-deserved honor

You have guided Emanuel's Religious School students safely and lovingly through all these months of the pandemic.

Love,

Aaron, Nomie, Michael, Megan

And

David (your 24/7 support person!)

Silver Level Sponsor

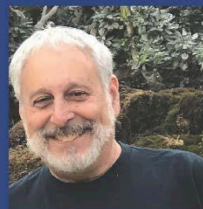
Celebrating Our TBZ Educators!

Rabbi Claudia Kreiman, the TBZ leadership
and the entire TBZ community congratulate
Debbie and Rabbi Sam, on this amazing achievement.

We wish them continued success
and are so grateful for their gifts.



Debbie Gardner



Rabbi Sam Seicol



1566 Beacon Street | Brookline, MA 02446 | www.tbzbrookline.org

Silver Level Sponsor

Kerem Shalom

Congratulates Rabbi Sam Pollak for Reimagining Hebrew School!



Rabbi Sam Pollak, Director of Congregational Learning, has developed an entirely new Hebrew School curriculum that promotes relationship-building, encourages hands-on learning, and empowers children to define their own learning journey. It allows students to develop their own sense of meaning in Judaism, enriches children and families' holistic experience of Jewish life, and nurtures a foundation for a lifetime of meaningful Judaism.

Mazel Tov, Rabbi Sam!



659 Elm Street
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keremshalom.org

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אין העולם מתקיים
אלא בשביל הבל
תינוקות של בית רבן

*The world only exists
because of the breath of
schoolchildren*

**Mazal Tov and Todah
Rabbah to Me'ir Sherer
and Tova Weinronk!
Thanks to you, our
children at Temple
Emunah have continued
to learn and thrive !**



**~Rabbi David Lerner &
Rabbi Leora Kling
Perkins**



Bronze Level Sponsor

MAZEL TOV

to the Synagogue Council
of Massachusetts
on your Gala celebrating
heroic Jewish educators,
and to keynote speaker
Dr. Susannah Heschel.

May you go from strength to strength!

*We are honored to work with the
Synagogue Council to open the
gates to a more inclusive Jewish
community.*



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טובה חכמה מפנינים

“Wisdom is better than jewels”

Proverbs 8:11

Kudos to our wise
Director of Congregational Learning

Samara Katz

Committed, creative,
compassionate, commendable

Rabbi Alan Turetz

President Julian Hyman

Bronze Level Sponsor

Mazal Tov to all the Honorees and wonderful Jewish educators! We are inspired by your wisdom and commitment to the mitzvah of teaching.

A special Yasher Koach to Gretchen and the Board of the Synagogue Council for continuing to provide leadership.

Liz Offen, Director, Yachad New England

newenglandyachad@ou.org



Bronze Level Sponsor

The Teacher as Role Model

The great teacher Abraham Joshua Heschel taught,

“What we need more than anything else is not textbooks but text people. It is the personality of the teacher which is the text that the pupils read; the text they will never forget.”

Honoring Dr. Jesse Hefter

Learning text with you is a blessing,

Learning to love your neighbor and act justly from your example is soul-changing.

Jesse, Kol Hakavod, you are an exquisite teacher of Torah and of life.

With love and admiration, Marilyn & Steve.

Shout out to Rabbi Sam Seicol and all of the other deserving honorees!

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Kol HaKavod to
Dr. Jesse Hefter,
exemplary scholar, dedicated leader,
and a role model of
chesed and *ahavat Yisrael*.

Mike Rosenberg

Bronze Level Sponsor

Alyssa Pessaroff Kischel brings out the best in her students, her friends, and family.



*With much love &
admiration,
Ellen, Aaron,
Michael, Danny,
Jaymee, Adam*

Bronze Level Sponsor



Find Your Way

CONGREGATION BETH EL
OF THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY

תודה רבה *Thank you!*

to Janet Buchwald

Hebrew teacher extraordinaire, who challenges and inspires us,
and, with joy, helps us connect to Torah and Jewish tradition
through the wonder of the Hebrew language.

May you go forth from strength to strength in all that you do.



- Mazel Tov to Hillary Pinsker Engler,
Education Director and Heroic Educator!

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah honors her
dedication, creativity, and passion that
makes our Chaverim School a
“Celebration of Learning.”

Hillary is an outstanding Reconstructionist
education leader, and a role model to us
all.

Congratulations, Hillary, on receiving this
much-deserved honor, and thank you for
your incredible contributions to the Temple
Hillel B'nai Torah community.

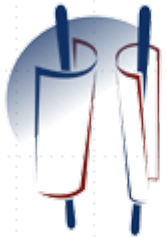


Thank you,
Sandy, for
your decades
of creativity,
love and
leadership.

Mazel Tov!



Love, Your friends at
Temple Isaiah



TEMPLE
ISAIAH

A URJ-AFFILIATED CONGREGATION
IN LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mazel Tov



Amy Deutsch



Amelia Remy

We are so grateful for your vision and leadership
at Temple Ohabei Shalom!



Bronze Level Sponsor

TEMPLE SHALOM IS PROUD TO HONOR KIM BODEMER!



Kim Bodemer is one of the best Jewish educators I have ever had the privilege of working with in my career. She is the full package - an excellent teacher, a supportive supervisor/mentor, an organized administrator, and an innovative, visionary leader. We are extremely lucky to have her on the Temple Shalom team!

- Rabbi Laura Abrasley

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**We celebrate our pandemic heroes
with the Synagogue Council and Gala attendees**



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***MAZAL TOV and thank you to all our educators--
May you continue to go from strength to strength!***

Stew, Gretchen, Jacob, Aaron Brandt & Darcy Berger
Emma, Dovid & Tiferet Skversky
Ilana, Adam, Aviya & Hodaya Bernstein

Bronze level sponsor

Kol HaKavod to all the honorees & In appreciation of the administration
of The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts.

May you all go from strength to strength!

We don't need to know everyone's story.

We only need to recognize that everyone has a story.

And we must decide in life to what larger narrative arc we seek to belong.

Rabbi Benjamin J. Samuels

Alex Klibaner, President

Congregation Shaarei Tefillah

www.Shaarei.org



With gratitude for all the
Synagogue Council does to
connect, build and enrich
our community.

Dr. Herb Birnbaum

Kim Bodemer,

Thank you for all you have done to
minimize the Covid effect on learning
at Temple Shalom of Newton

Fred Cohen

מזל טוב
MAZAL TOV



To our extraordinary educators!
May you go from strength to strength!

We look forward to welcoming you to
the LimmudBoston Annual Festival of Jewish Learning,
Sunday afternoon, January 23rd via Zoom

Register at LimmudBoston.org



JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND



MAZAL TOV מזל טוב

To the extraordinary Jewish educators!

In honor of each of you, JNF is planting a tree in Israel.

May you continue to blossom, to grow, and to support the growth of others.

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi Karen Citrin** on this well-deserved honor!

– *From the entire Temple Beth David Family*

Mazel tov to our lead teacher **Michelle Langmead** on her honor. Michelle provides a warm welcoming school environment that provides for individual differences.

–*B'nai Tikvah, Canton*



*Mazal tov **Mike Baker** and **Vitaly Zakuta** on this special honor. Rav todot, thank you for your beautiful teaching and leadership, humility and compassion.*

–Bivracha, Rabbi Daniel Berman and the Temple Reyim community

David and Carol Stollar give heartfelt thanks to **Michael Baker** and **Vitaly Zakuta**, exceptional educators of both children and adults at Temple Reyim.



I cannot say enough wonderful words about **Me'ir Sherer** and **Tova Weinronk**! They bring immense joy and teaching daily.

- *Fray/Gaebes*

Mazel tov from B'nai Tikvah to our Educational Director **Michelle Langmead** on her honor. Michelle provides a warm welcoming school environment that provides for individual differences.—*B'nai Tikvah*



Kol HaKavod and Todah Rabah to **Tova Weinronk** and **Me'ir Sherer**, extraordinarily energetic, happy and creative educators at Temple Emunah!

- Linna and Gil Ettinger

Mazel tov to **Orna Sonnenschein** and **Jenn Flashner** on this well-deserved honor! Or Atid and the JLCMW thank you for your exceptional educational leadership! - *Rabbi Louis Polisson & Congregation Or Atid*



Mazel Tov **Phoebe Potts** & TAA on your dedication to promoting Jewish youth education!

ESPI - Executive Security & Private Investigator
(917) 553-8706 errol@errolsantospi.com

Yasher Koach to all the honorees—and especially those whose skills we know first hand, **Jesse, Beth** and **Michelle.**-*Barry and Judith Freedman Caplan*



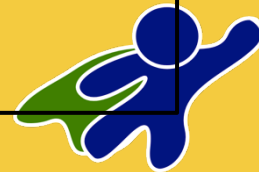
"Who is wise? One who learns from everyone."

With gratitude to my students, who continue to teach me in all ways.-*Janet Buchwald*

Thank you to the Synagogue Council for recognizing the work of Jewish educators. With appreciation for Temple Beth David and the students I am honored to teach and learn from. -*Rabbi Karen Citrin*



Kol ha kavod to the fantastic Temple Israel of Natick educators who continually meet their students' safety, well being, and needs.--Laura & Steven Black



Jewish Educators are Superstars!! Congratulations to all of the deserving honorees. *Stuart and Shelley Rossman*

Congratulations, **Seth Grossman** and **Solomon Borocov**.
We are appreciative of all that you do. *Temple B'Nai
Shalom Braintree*

Mazal tov to our beloved educator **Michelle Langmead**,
from strength to strength.



Susan Sugerman and **Alyssa Pessaroff-Kischel**~ your commitment to our students is outstanding ~ –*The Lubarskys*

Mazal Tov **Phoebe Potts**! You're an educator extraordinaire!

–*Love, Amy and Mark Farber*

So Proud of **Michelle Langmead**, amazing Daughter and Educator. –*Love, Mom*



Mazal tov to our beloved educator **Michelle Langmead**, from strength to strength. *Rabbi Leonard Gordon, D. Min. B'nai Tikvah*

Congratulations to **Rabbi Sam Pollak** for invigorating our Hebrew School Reimagined.-*Deena & Ron Whitfield*

Congratulations to our favorite Jewish educator, our daughter **Amy Deutsch**. *Judith and Alan Leichtner*



*Todah Rabah, **Bailee Star!** We love you! from Temple Shir Tikvah*

In appreciation of the holy work of our educators, **Rachel** and **Carl**. Temple Beth El, Providence

Mazal tov to our extraordinary educators, **Ilene Beckman** and **Andrea Stein**. -*Jan & Steve Schwartz*



Phoebe Potts is an educational superhero! We are so grateful for you! -*Temple Ahavat Achim, Gloucester*

MAZEL TOV! Susan Sugerman and Alyssa Pessaroff-Kischel from your TNT Family!

Todah Rabah to Emunah's Educators Extraordinaire, **Me'ir Sherer and Tova Weinronk!** –*Antonia Stechler*



Overflowing with pride for our extraordinary educator,
Stephanie Lerner! *With love, Abe, Gabrielle, Micah,
Mom, Barry, Meme*

Mazal Tov **Leisa Glass**, we love you! *Temple Israel of
Sharon and the Hertz Nursery School*

Congrats to all, especially **Rabbi Sam Seicol**, I love your
Hebrew Class - *Hilda.*



Toddah Rabbah **Jesse Hefter** for all you do for Daf Yomi and for the community—you are most deserving of this honor –*Charlotte Millman*

Congratulations **Tova Weinronk** and **Me'ir Sherer**!
You created a special space at Emunah.-*Stan and Lori Weinronk*

Mazel Tov **Samara Katz**! Thank you for always inspiring us. -*The Tworetzkys*



Best wishes to Synagogue Council for continued contributions to synagogue life! -*Rabbi Henry A. Zoob*

In honor of our fabulous educators: **Me'ir Sherer** and **Tova Weinronk** who make Jewish learning come to life! -*Rabbi David Lerner*

Phoebe Potts, We're so proud of the work you've done!
-*Claudia & Brent*



To **Temple Emanuel of Chelsea** for your kindness, ruach,
beautiful song and celebration.--Rabbi Oksana Chapman

Mazal tov, **David Blocker** on a well deserved honor!

To our treasured **Lizzy Cantor**, Thank you!

Dearest **Phoebe Potts**, working with you has been a joy
and privilege!

--Rabbi Steven Lewis, Temple Ahavat Achim



To the dynamic duo of **Kalish** and **Klevan**—you rock!

Beth Fine-Nelson, we are blessed by your leadership!

Beth Goldstein—your smile is infectious! Thank you for your leadership!



For **Cantor Linda Myer**, a creative, intuitive and musical director

Rabbi **Jennifer Rudin**, our beloved spiritual leader, teacher, mentor, community builder who makes us believe that anything is possible!

For **Alison Weikel**, a joyful, engaging, innovative community builder



The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts is grateful to



for making a difference in the
Greater Boston Jewish Community

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts Board of Directors

Elizabeth Pressman & Craig Schneider, Co-Presidents

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Steven Greenberg

Shirah Hecht

Aaron Kischel

Sandra Slavet



CREDITS

Dr. Susannah Heschel, Keynote speaker

Mike Rosenberg, Master of Ceremonies

Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Invocation

Rav-Hazzan Oksana Chapman, *“For Our Teachers”*



Synagogue Council
of Massachusetts

CREDITS

Our Honored Educators

**And the remarkable rabbis and
presidents who nominated them**



Synagogue Council
of Massachusetts

CREDITS

Elizabeth Pressman and Craig Schneider, co-presidents,
Synagogue Council

**Synagogue Council of Massachusetts Gala Committee &
Board of Directors**

Kimberly Yaari, Synagogue Council Administrator

Paul Kelly, Gala support

Kathy Arnstein, Synagogue Council bookkeeper



CREDITS

**Rabbi David Paskin, The Torah Tech Guy, Technology
Production**

Adam Veaner, Video Production

Dobe Ressler & di bostoner klezmer, Klezmer music



תודה רבה

Thank you for joining us this evening.

***Mazal tov* and thank you to our educators
who have nourished our souls and sustained our
Jewish identities during this unimaginable time.**

We are grateful to those who honored their educators.

**Thank you to everyone who made this evening and the work of the Synagogue Council
possible. We are blessed!**

***Lilah tov*, sweet dreams, good night.**

