WELCOME
To the
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
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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
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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!
Thank you Toddah Rabbah,

For sensitively, thoughtfully, beautifully weaving together our video tributes.
Rabba

Thank you
Todah Rabbi

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 لكل אדם זכות, והו מוהוdbname, חבר לך וקנה לך, ויהי זן אדם כל האדם לכף כותב"

Pirkei Avot 1:6
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

TBZ

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!

Bronze Level Sponsor

Kerem Shalom
659 Elm Street
Concord, MA
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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

The world only exists because of the breath of schoolchildren

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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“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
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, Marilin & Steve.

Shout out to Rabbi Sam Seicol and all of the other deserving honorees!
Kol HaKavod to Dr. Jesse Heftor, exemplary scholar, dedicated leader, and a role model of chesed and ahavat Yisrael.

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

With much love & admiration,

Ellen, Aaron, Michael, Danny, Jaymee, Adam
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
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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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
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
MAZAL TOV
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!

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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 Seicicol**, 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 CJP for making a difference in the Greater Boston Jewish Community.
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Mike Rosenberg, Master of Ceremonies
Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Invocation
Rav-Hazzan Oksana Chapman, “For Our Teachers”
Our Honored Educators
And the remarkable rabbis and presidents who nominated them
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Rabbi David Paskin, The Torah Tech Guy, Technology Production

Adam Veaner, Video Production

Dobe Ressler & di bostoner klezmer, Klezmer music
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.