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METRONORTH REGION

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE
for CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**

TORAH FUND DINNER

Honoring our

Mishpachah Award Recipients

May 1, 2014



משפחה Mishpachah: Family

Not for nothing does the Torah begin with stories about families. The family in Judaism holds a central place, from the first family beginning with Adam and Eve through our own. Indeed the Amidah prayer invokes our relationship to those first Jewish families, praising the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, as a reminder that our connection as a community roots back to the fact that we are all – the entire Jewish people – one big family.

In choosing Mishpachah as the theme for the 5774 Torah Fund pin, as well as for the Women's League focus for 5774, we are acknowledging both the sanctity that comes with being one big family and the complexity of our families and relationships. Today, there is no one kind of Jewish family. Our families are diverse and this pin, reflecting that diversity, is something to be worn proudly by women in all stages and kinds of family life: married, single, divorced, widowed, gay, straight, mothers, aunts, sisters, daughters. And as we support the programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, we proclaim that we as women in all walks of life are proudly shaping the future of the big, three-thousand year old Jewish family.

davening by becoming a “Morning Minyanaire” and by reading Torah. She joined the Membership Committee and volunteered there to help plan Shabbat dinners including the annual Shabbat Across America dinner.

Louise's love of learning led to her becoming an active participant in T&V's Adult Education program. While on Sabbatical from her position at the Hunter College Libraries, Louise participated in the WLCJ Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and hopes to continue studying there when she retires. In addition, T&V's Sisterhood benefitted from her knowledge of books, by tapping Louise to moderate many of the Book Discussions.

T&V recognized Louise Sherby's many talents by electing her a member of the Board of Trustees and then elevating her to the office of Secretary and subsequently to President of the Congregation from 2010-2013.

Louise Sherby has been a staunch supporter of Torah Fund, and has quite a collection of Torah Fund pins which she wears proudly.

Town and Village Synagogue Sisterhood is thrilled to honor Louise Sherby as our 2014 Torah Fund Honoree, and Louise Sherby “is most appreciative of this honor and thanks all those who helped make it happen.”



Torah Fund Women Ensuring Conservative/Masorti Jewish Education

support for a network of 165 schools and colleges, with additional schools added each year. She established the Frank Aerospace & Education Study Center at ARAD High School in Southern Israel.

Some of the honors Charlotte recently received include Bank Street College of Education, East Meadow Jewish Center, Assoc. Educational Publishers, Shalva: the Association for Mentally and Physically Challenged Children in Israel, and NYU Alumni Association.

Despite all her many accomplishments, Charlotte says, "But this is not to say that my goals are behind me. I am still actively engaged with my career, my family and look forward to many equally rewarding years." SPS Women's League's response: "May you go from strength to strength Charlotte."

LOUISE SHERBY SISTERHOOD OF TOWN & VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE



When Louise Sherby came to New York in 2001, she was looking for a warm and welcoming spiritual home, which she found at Town & Village Synagogue (T&V). Almost from the beginning of her joining T&V in 2002, Louise began participating in many of the activities offered. Starting with her regular attendance at Shabbat services, Louise expanded her

PROGRAM

Welcome.....	Claire Gondelman <i>President MetroNorth Region</i>
Remarks.....	Lisa Siegal <i>Torah Fund Vice President MetroNorth Region</i>
HaMotzi.....	Minna Schneider <i>Executive Director Sutton Place Synagogue</i>
Dinner	
Speaker.....	Rabbi Lilly Kaufman <i>Torah Fund Director</i>

Presentation to our *Mishpachah* Award Recipients

Sue Press
*Metropolitan Area
Torah Fund Director*

Closing remarks.....	Lisa Siegal
Dessert	
Birkat Hamazon.....	Audrey Citak and Selma Weintraub <i>Past International Presidents, WLCJ</i>

**METRONORTH REGION
WOMEN'S LEAGUE for CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**

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Or Olam – The East 55th Street Synagogue	Harriet Gussin
Sutton Place Synagogue	Vera Winitch
Town & Village Synagogue	Jackie Berkowitz

Her love of education offered her a new opportunity to provide guidance in education at the McGraw-Hill Companies as Senior Vice President, during which time she completed her Ph.D at New York University. Charlotte coordinates the yearly nationally recognized Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Award for three people who have made a difference in Education. In addition, she advises the integration of the connections of Aviation Week, S&P Financial and Construction activities into the subject areas of finance, math, science and social studies to make learning more relevant.

Shortly after her arrival at McGraw-Hill, her husband Sidney passed away on Father's Day. Charlotte says her second life began when she was introduced to Marvin Leffler, a widower, and now the President Emeritus of Town Hall. They will be celebrating 25 years of marriage soon and one of her pleasures is of their two families, 22 united in a photo smiling together happily at a Thanksgiving dinner. She has been privileged to see seven grandchildren graduate from college and three who are on their way.

Becoming a Bat Mitzvah was very important to Charlotte and when she achieved this, she became active in Sutton Place Synagogue, serving as Vice President and as an active board member of Women's League. It was through her efforts that renowned speakers have appeared before appreciative audiences. In her generosity to share her love of learning, Charlotte donated a state of the art Learning Center at SPS where youths and adults attend programs, study and conduct research in a modern, comfortable environment.

For more than thirty years, Charlotte has made it her mission to demonstrate the safety of Israel by taking Presidents of School Boards and US School Superintendents to visit educational, religious (e.g. Church of the Holy Sepulcher) and governmental sites as well as Masada and the Dead Sea. These leaders could then tell their parents it is safe for them to send their children on a Young Ambassador Student Exchange (YASE) program with Israeli students where they live with host families and attend school there. Over the years, students of all nationalities and from almost every state have participated in this program.

Charlotte participates in the activities of many Jewish organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the America-Israel Friendship League. American Friends of Yeshivot Bnei Akiva (YBA) honored Charlotte in April with its Educational Leadership Award at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. YBA, founded in 1939, comprises the premier religious Zionist educational network in Israel, consisting of 73 schools and more than 24,000 students.

To ensure the security and vitality of Israel through the advancement of a strong science and technology education for all its citizens, Charlotte is also active in the Friends of Israel Sci-Tech Schools, which provides

DR. CHARLOTTE FRANK
WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF SUTTON PLACE SYNAGOGUE



Charlotte Frank exemplifies the best in peoplekind: intelligent, creative, courageous, altruistic, humble and passionate in her love of education, family, Judaism and Israel. She has been honored with over 70 awards for her commitment to these passions. For her service on our behalf, Women's League of Sutton Place Synagogue proudly recognizes her as our honoree.

Charlotte broke gender barriers as the only girl in her Bronx high school physics class and, again, the only girl in the School of Engineering at CCNY, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), a major in Statistics and a minor in Economics. She married Sidney Frank while in college and took the traditional path, at first becoming a stay at home mom to raise her three children, Harley, Anne and Matthew. Thinking teaching would be a good balance between work and family, it led her to complete her M.S.Ed at Hunter College. However, her love of education compelled her to become a supervisor, administrator and then the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, serving 1,300,000 students in the NYC Public Schools.

RABBI LILLY KAUFMAN
TORAH FUND DIRECTOR



Rabbi Lilly Kaufman comes to Torah Fund with experience in the pulpit rabbinate and cantorate; in Jewish education; and, prior to these careers, in the world of academic and professional-reference book publishing. A native New Yorker, Rabbi Kaufman received her BA in Literature from Barnard College of Columbia University. Rabbi Kaufman served Congregation Tikvoh Chadoshoh in central Connecticut for 7 years as their solo clergyperson, and Adath Jeshrun Congregation in Minnesota for three years as Director of Jewish Learning. She has experience working with volunteers in these roles and is excited to work with the dedicated women of our WLCJ affiliated Sisterhoods and volunteers across the country that are part of Torah Fund.

Rabbi Kaufman's volunteer work has focused on Conservative Movement projects. She currently serves three committees: the Editorial Advisory Committee for Siddur Lev Shalem (pub, spring, 2015); the Va'ad Hakavod of the Rabbinical Assembly, and the Ethics Committee of the Cantors Assembly. She has an abiding interest in Torah study in an interdisciplinary way incorporating the arts; and in mentoring and supporting our leaders of tomorrow.

MISHPACHAH AWARD RECIPIENTS

ELAINE WITKOFF

SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION HABONIM



Elaine Witkoff, now serving in her fourth year as President of Congregation Habonim, is a native New Yorker, having grown up in a secular home in an Italian neighborhood in Brooklyn. Her life revolved around Brooklyn (Brooklyn College, Brooklyn Graduate School, Brooklyn Law School) until she met her husband Robert, and "finally moved into the city." She practiced law from 1984 - 1997, the final years as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department in its Appeals Division, where she enjoyed the privilege of "arguing" before the New York State Court of Appeals. Elaine came to Habonim through its Nursery School, in 2001, determined that her then two + year-old-son Holden should have a foundation in Judaism, learn of his heritage, and feel comfortable in synagogue (something she never felt). With Holden's enrollment, Elaine began her own Adult Education studies at Habonim, became an active member on many committees, joined the Board of Trustees, and became a Bat Mitzvah in 2006. Her parashah, was "*Lekh L'kha*" interpreted in

a *midrash* to mean "'Go forth to find your authentic self, to learn who you are meant to be' (*Mei Ha-Shilo-ah*)." By joining Habonim, Elaine had already set out on her path. She feels that her service to Habonim and her commitment to its mission of bringing meaningful Jewish experiences to its members has greatly enriched her own life and the lives of her family. She is deeply grateful to Sisterhood for bestowing this year's Torah Fund honor upon her.

AUDREY COHEN

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF OR OLAM – THE EAST 55TH STREET
SYNAGOGUE**



Audrey Cohen is an Associate Professor with the City University of New York. She has given academic papers at many international conferences and taught twice at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology. She is well traveled in Asia, South America, Europe and Israel. She is blessed with two wonderful children and two grandchildren. Audrey is a member of the Kerhonkson Synagogue upstate and a member of Congregation Or Olam in New York City. She currently serves on the Board of Or Olam. She is honored to be recognized by Women's League this year.