

Fran Olmsted

Fran is a longtime member of **First Hebrew Congregation**, where she plays many important roles. She is a member of the Board of Trustees, the chair of the library committee, and recently became the chair of synagogue's social action committee. Feeding the hungry is very important to her. She has done many shul projects for this and Mazon is her favorite charity. She has been a member of our Sisterhood going back to her children's time in Hebrew School, and has been the programming vice-president for many years, a position she enjoys. She is also a mainstay of our Sisterhood book club. This summer, she will assume the position of Sisterhood co-president. She is also a life-member of Hadassah. Fran received her bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology from Purdue University and her master's degree in Molecular Genetics from SUNY Buffalo. She received her law degree from Pace University. She combines her interests through her work as both a patent attorney and as vice-president of the business she and her husband operate, Olmsted Environmental Services. These enable her to combine her love of science and her legal expertise into a busy professional life. She and her husband Ed have been married for 33 years. They have two grown children, Mark and Sarah. Their family also includes a neurotic rescue dog, Cal and a neurotic rescue cat, Kit Kat. They are often joined by the assorted friends and partners of their children and extended family.

Ellen Rifken

Ellen is a graduate of Parsons School of Design and has worked in graphic design. Prior to moving to Rockland County, she was active in Hadassah in Westchester. When she became a member of **Nanuet Hebrew Center**, she joined the Sisterhood almost right away. As a Sisterhood volunteer, she has sent out Torah Fund cards and Leagrams and has co-chaired the Membership Committee. Ellen has made many wonderful friends through her involvement in Sisterhood. After working for the past 15 years at Preferred Health Resources in Nanuet, NY, she has just retired and wants to become involved in a variety of activities. Ellen and her husband, Ira, have two daughters, Laurie and Deborah, as well as two grandchildren, Justin and Amanda. Ellen, Laurie, Deborah, and Amanda are all life members of Hadassah.



MetroNorth Region
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Hudson Valley Area
Torah Fund Dinner

Honoring Our
Mishpachah Award Recipients

April 28, 2015
Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Dobbs Ferry, NY

Women's League Torah Fund Campaign

Debbi Kaner Goldich, *International Torah Fund Chair*

Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, *Executive Director*

MetroNorth Region Executive Committee

Claire Gondelman, *President*

Florence Wolpoff, *Sisterhood Support Vice President*

Lucy Becker, *Education Vice President*

Linda Klempner, *Membership Vice President*

Lisa Siegal, *Torah Fund Vice President*

Danielle Calo, *Administrative Secretary*

Lisa Green, *Communications Secretary*

Jackie Walzer, *Financial Secretary*

Cedine Issman, *Treasurer*

Susan Orlando, *Immediate Past President*

*Hudson Valley Area Sisterhood Presidents**

Bet Torah	Andrea Goldberg Jeannie Wasserman
First Hebrew Congregation.....	Mindy Steinholtz
Greenburgh Hebrew Center	Arlene Krawitz
Montebello Jewish Center	Karen Stein Elinor Silver
Nanuet Hebrew Center.....	Lisa Green Renee Leffler
New City Jewish Center.....	Suzanne Kofinas
Orangetown Jewish Center	Cedine Issman
Temple Israel Center.....	Minda Feinberg Beth Grafman
Yorktown Jewish Center.....	Lori Lerman

*Hudson Valley Area Torah Fund Chairs**

Bet Torah	Patty Belkin
First Hebrew Congregation.....	Danielle Calo
Greenburgh Hebrew Center	Judi Kenter
Montebello Jewish Center	Jackie Walzer
Nanuet Hebrew Center.....	Rose Pollack
New City Jewish Center.....	Fran Satran
Orangetown Jewish Center	Carmel Rosenthal Nancy Scheff
Temple Israel Center.....	Robyn Sokol
Yorktown Jewish Center.....	Elaine Boshnack Carol Medow

**Sisterhoods with honorees at tonight's dinner*

Linda Markowitz

The things that make me feel warm, safe, and inspired are many. I am blessed to have a large and supportive family, wonderful friends, and a love for Israel and Judaism. My husband, Zvi, was born in Haifa before Israel's independence. We visit often and enjoy every minute, for Israel is a place of beauty, knowledge, inspiration, and connection. It is important to me that every Jew make an effort to visit Israel in their lifetime and thus connect. I relish the feeling that making a connection to Judaism gives me. Being a part of Sisterhood at **Greenburgh Hebrew Center** gives me the opportunity for camaraderie with wonderful women. I enjoy the many opportunities we have to learn, laugh, and help others. Women's League affords the same wonderful opportunities on a larger scale, uniting all our sisterhoods together. It's a great resource. Helping to support Torah Fund is inspiring to me because I know I am helping future leaders have the opportunity to learn and then return to give back to all of us. It's all about the connections that enrich life. Thank you for this lovely honor.

Stacy Mitgang

Stacy was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Howard Beach, Queens. She attended SUNY-Binghamton, majoring in political science with a minor in business. She met her future husband, Bob, at SUNY-B, and the two of them eventually settled down in Yorktown Heights, with their family (Sydney & Andrew). She established roots in the community, involving herself with the Center Nursery School of the **Yorktown Jewish Center**. When her kids then entered the Hebrew school, Stacy volunteered on various committees of the center, including co-chairing the Dor L'Dor capital campaign and the Rabbi's meet and greet committee. Stacy's involvement in Sisterhood started when she was asked to become treasurer of the organization and assisting with the financial responsibilities. During that time, she worked on a number of programs, including revamping of the Mishloach Manot packages and establishing a catering service to the synagogue. After her term was over, she assumed the role of president of Sisterhood, which lasted for 3 years. Some of the highlights of her term include helping facilitate a successful holiday craft fair, modernizing the Mishloach Manot program and hosting author Deborah Feldman "Unorthodox" at the Center. Stacy is still very involved in Sisterhood, remaining on the board as immediate past president, program coordinator, and will be serving on the upcoming Metro North Board as Westchester area director.

favorite camp in the whole world, the International Jewish Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. She loves travelling, eating Indian food and speaking Turkish! Erin and her husband Ethan live in New York City.

Lynnea Carstens Elliot

Lynnea and her husband Jeff fell in love with Israel in the 1980's when they lived in Jerusalem for a year. Lynnea worked as a nurse-midwife at Hadassah Mt. Scopus Hospital where she delivered many Israeli babies. On return, Lynnea and her family became members of Pomona Jewish Center (PJC). Their two sons, Ari and Daniel, and later their daughter Julie, attended Reuben Gittelman Hebrew Day School. Lynnea became active in Hadassah's Ohr Chadash chapter, serving in many different positions including President. After PJC merged with Congregation Sons of Israel and became **Montebello Jewish Center** (MJC), Lynnea continued her commitment to the Jewish community at MJC. She served on the Kiddush committee and currently is a member of the High Holiday committee, is a board member of Sisterhood, and helps with programming. She is a regular participant at services and often chants the Haftarah on Shabbat and High Holidays. Lynnea is currently working as a women's health nurse practitioner at Tallman OB-GYN after recently completing a 30-year career as a nurse-midwife delivering babies at Good Samaritan Hospital. She recently became the proud grandmother of a baby boy, Evan Seth Elliot.

Gabi Lewy

Gabi was born in Israel and came to the United States when she was nine years old, always feeling a connection to her Jewish identity. As a young adult she belonged to a Zionist youth organization and attended their summer camps. Those early formative years had a strong influence on who she would become as an adult. She married Maty (also born in Israel), and as they were raising their family, Gabi was always active in the synagogues to which they belonged. They joined the **Orangetown Jewish Center** almost 14 years ago and immediately felt the warm embrace of the community. Gabi joined the Sisterhood and a few years later was asked to join the Sisterhood Board. She started out slowly, but then took on additional responsibilities as she became the Co-Chair of Programming, the Annual Pool Party, and Sisterhood Shabbat. Currently, she is Sisterhood's Corresponding Secretary, Co-Chairs OJC's annual Helping Hands, Co-Partners the Sisterhood Gift Shop, and serves on the Mishloach Manot Committee. Gabi and Maty have three grown children and four adorable grandchildren. She is truly humbled and thanks everyone for this honor.

Program

Welcome.....Claire Gondelman
President
MetroNorth Region

RemarksLisa Siegal
Torah Fund Vice President
MetroNorth Region

D'var TorahCantor Janet Leuchter
Greenburgh Hebrew Center

HaMotziArlene Krawitz
Sisterhood President
Greenburgh Hebrew Center

Dinner

RafflesLisa Siegal
Lisa King-Smith
Mid-Hudson Torah Fund Area Director

SpeakerAdam Zagoria-Moffet
JTS Graduate and Rabbinical Student

Presentation to Our Mishpachah Award Recipients
.....Gaye Altman
Westchester Torah Fund Area Director
Nancy Scheff
Rockland Torah Fund Area Director

Birkat HamazonJudi Kenter
Torah Fund Chair
Greenburgh Hebrew Center

Thank You to Our Raffle Gift Donors

Anna Funder • Ayala Bar • Boscobel House and Gardens • Caramoor
Carnegie Hall • The Cheese Guy • Dudu Fisher Enterprises
Epstein's Kosher Deli • Film Movement
Holocaust Museum & Study Center • Israeli Chamber Project
JCC of Mid-Westchester • JCC of Rockland • Jewish Book Council
The Jewish Daily Forward • Maggie Anton • The Museum of Tolerance
Nahmias et Fils Distillery • National Yiddish Theatre • New Yiddish Rep
New-York Historical Society • Restaurant 613 • S-Curve Records
Taconic Opera • Westchester Philharmonic

Our Honorees

Alyse Alper

Alyse received her B.A. from Queens College and her Master of Public Administration from New York University. She has worked at the New City Library for the past 19 years. Alyse and her husband Andy and their three daughters moved from the Bronx to New City in 1992. They joined the **New City Jewish Center** (NCJC) and began their continuing involvement with the shul and its various organizations. Alyse was encouraged to join the Sisterhood and became more involved as her daughters grew older. She started as a member of the phone squad, served as financial secretary, and chaired the Ways and Means Committee, where she initiated the Sisterhood Stars ongoing fundraiser. Alyse was in charge of the Mishloach Manot Committee, served as treasurer, and for the past two years served as co-president with Harriet Alpert. She also helped NCJC's PTA with Chanukah Boutiques, candy sales, and class parties. She currently serve on the synagogue's Board of Trustees. Alyse is a life member of Hadassah. She has many Torah Fund pins in her collection and strongly supports its mission. She has made many wonderful friends by volunteering and has gained so much by her service.

Harriet Alpert

Harriet has belonged to **New City Jewish Center** (NCJC) for over 30 years. She taught in the New York City Board of Education for 26 years and Hebrew school at various locations for over 40 years. She recently

served a two-year term as NCJC Sisterhood Co-President along with Co-President Alyse Alper. Presently, Harriet is retired. She is enjoying Melton courses and relaxing, taking it slower for a while. She continues to be involved with adult education at NCJC. Harriet has two sons; Josh is a lawyer in New York City and Ben is a psychologist in San Diego. Harriet describes her 18-month-old grandson, Moshe, as "the love of my life."

Patty Belkin

Patty is a longtime member of **Bet Torah** and Sisterhood, where she presently serves as Torah Fund Chair. Patty has chaired Jewish Living and co-chaired the Youth Commission for the synagogue. She co-founded the Bet Torah Kaddish Club and remains a long term committee member of Israel Affairs. Patty participates weekly in the Sisterhood Friday Torah study group and many other synagogue educational programs. Patty is an active member of the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health committee and a strong supporter of providing those with disabilities strong Jewish involvement in their communities. She has been instrumental in starting programs for people with disabilities where none existed. She is proud of the Jewish Theological Seminary's innovation in Jewish Summer and Israel travel programming for those with disabilities. In addition, she is proud of our Jewish community for providing support to people with special needs. Patty is a registered nurse, pediatric practitioner, and internationally board certified lactation consultant. Currently she works for Children's and Women's Physicians of Westchester. She lives in Croton on Hudson with her husband, Glenn, a developmental behavioral pediatrician. They have three wonderful children: Jason, Erica and Raquel. Patty is proud to have been selected to be the Bet Torah Sisterhood Torah Fund honoree and is thankful to her Bet Torah and Jewish community for giving her so many opportunities to continue to grow as a Jewish adult.

Erin Beser

Erin has served as the Director of Youth & Family Education at **Temple Israel Center** of White Plains since 2011. She graduated from the Shalom Hartman Institute's Melamdim Teacher Educator Program with a M.A. in Hebrew Culture from Tel Aviv University. Erin is a proud alumni of the List College Joint Program with Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), where she earned a B.A. in Writing-Literature from Columbia and a B.A. in Jewish History from JTS. After graduating in 2006, she spent a year living and working in the Jewish community of Bombay (Mumbai), India, followed by a year living and working in the Jewish community of Izmir, Turkey. She also spent two summers at her