

Phyllis Stern

First Hebrew Congregation

Phyllis and her husband Mark moved to Peekskill 40 years ago and joined First Hebrew Congregation (FHC) when their young daughter started Hebrew school. Even though they joined to ensure their children would get a Jewish education and vowed not to be involved, they have been extremely engaged with the FHC community since the beginning.

She's happiest when she's busy and working with others. She seems to have an endless amount of energy, especially for causes (or people) she believes in.

She has been actively involved in FHC's Sisterhood for decades. When no one else would step up to be Sisterhood President, she rose to the challenge. In her typical team-building style, she persuaded a friend to co-chair the Sisterhood with her. She has held numerous positions on her Sisterhood's board and continues to be involved in the ongoing activities Sisterhood provides. She's organized countless events, fundraisers, projects and programs. She truly believes that women working together can do anything.

Phyllis is also an active member of the Board of First Hebrew, Membership Committee Chair, and go-to member for anything no one else can be convinced to do.

In her personal life, Phyllis has a son Paul, daughter Michelle, and son-in-law John, and two amazing grandchildren, Estella and Alexander. She takes great pride in watching her grandchildren at least two days each week. Phyllis is a semi-retired (she would say retired, her family would argue otherwise) teacher and teacher-mentor. She continues to present workshops to new teachers and provide in-classroom guidance and support in the most needy districts in New York City. She is also a voracious reader, a killer mahjong player, and loves to travel with her husband and friends (whenever her daughter and grandchildren allow it).



**MetroNorth Region / Hudson Valley Area
Women's League for Conservative Judaism**

Torah Fund Dinner

*Honoring Our
Nat'ah Karem
Award Recipients*

**May 18, 2016
Orangetown Jewish Center
Orangeburg, NY**

Rabbi Dina Shargel

Temple Israel Center

Rabbi Dina Shargel serves as the Ritual Director at Temple Israel Center (TIC). Before becoming a rabbi, she spent many years teaching music and Judaic studies.

Rabbi Shargel, who is widely respected as a Torah reader, oversees the Torah services at TIC for weekdays, Shabbatot, festivals, and the High Holidays. She enjoys participating in the reading each week. She serves as the coordinator for the TIC Bar/Bat Mitzvah program and enjoys working with a large cadre of students each week, individually and in pairs. She appreciates being able to comfort mourners at the TIC daily minyan and to help people of all ages who wish to take on new synagogue skills. She is delighted to meet with a lively group of adult learners on a regular basis, and takes special pleasure in playing the guitar and singing with the children in the TIC Nursery School.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Rabbi Shargel's ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is married to David Projansky and they have two young adult sons.

MetroNorth Region/Hudson Valley Area

Torah Fund Area Directors

Mid-Hudson Lisa King-Smith
Rockland Nancy Scheff
Westchester Gaye Altman

Torah Fund Chairs

Bet Torah.....Patty Belkin
Beth El Synagogue Center..... Rita Kaufman
Susan Morris
First Hebrew Congregation..... Danielle Calo
Greenburgh Hebrew CenterAnita Schick
Montebello Jewish Center Jackie Walzer
Nanuet Hebrew Center..... Rose Pollack
New City Jewish Center.....Barbara Schreiber
Orangetown Jewish CenterCarmel Rosenthal
Nancy Scheff
Temple Israel Center..... Robyn Sokol

2015-16 Nat'ah Karem Award Recipients

Bet Torah..... Pam Rosman
Beth El Synagogue Center..... Gaby Newfield
First Hebrew Congregation..... Phyllis Stern
Greenburgh Hebrew Center Anita Schick
Montebello Jewish Center Trudy Album
Nanuet Hebrew Center..... Claire Gondelman
New City Jewish Center..... Rachelle Kalinsky
Orangetown Jewish Center Nancy Scheff
Temple Israel Center..... Madeline Gage
Rabbi Dina Shargel
Robyn Sokol

Nancy Scheff
Orangetown Jewish Center

Nancy Scheff has served as the Orangetown Jewish Center Sisterhood Torah Fund chair since 2001 and as the MetroNorth Region Torah Fund Rockland Area Director since 2012. Both Nancy and her husband, Rabbi Craig Scheff, grew up in Rockland County. They met as freshmen at Harvard University and were married in 1986. Nancy worked in the field of management consulting for several years before and after getting her Ed.M. Their two oldest sons, Matthew and Scott, were born in Boston. The family returned to Rockland County in 1992 so that Craig, an attorney, could begin rabbinical school at The Jewish Theological Seminary. Their two younger sons, Jason and Jared, were born in the years following Craig's ordination in 1998.

While their sons attended Reuben Gittelman Hebrew Day School (1995-2012), Nancy served in a variety of leadership roles in the school PTA, including co-chair of the fundraising committee and treasurer. She was also the founding editor and designer of *Chai Points*, the school's bi-weekly electronic newsletter.

Since 1996, she has worked for the Ramah Camping Movement, first as the Public Relations Director for Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, and since 2002 as the Communications Director for National Ramah Commission, where her office is located at JTS.

Nancy says, "Every day, I see first-hand the importance of the work of JTS and other Conservative Movement educational institutions. My husband is a graduate of JTS and is now a faculty member. One of my sons is a graduate of the JTS Joint Program with Columbia University and is now working in the field of Jewish education. Our four sons have all been educated at Schechter day schools. My husband, our sons, and I are all alumni of Ramah camps. We have been inspired by the people we have met along the way, many of whom are graduates of JTS, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, and Machon Schechter in Israel. Volunteering for Torah Fund has been an ideal way for me to help contribute to the future of Conservative Judaism."

Program

Welcome and Remarks Debbi Kaner Goldich
WLCJ International Torah Fund Chair

Carol Simon
WLCJ International President

Mindy Steinholz
President, MetroNorth Region

D'var Torah Rabbi Lilly Kaufman
Executive Director, WLCJ Torah Fund Campaign

HaMotzi Carmel Rosenthal
Torah Fund Co-Chair, Orangetown Jewish Center

Dinner

Introduction of Speaker Linda Klempner
Torah Fund VP, MetroNorth Region

Speaker Eryka Velazquez
JTS Cantorial School Student

Award Presentations Gaye Altman and Nancy Scheff
Westchester and Rockland Torah Fund Area Directors

Birkat Hamazon Rabbi Craig Scheff
Orangetown Jewish Center

Gaby Newfield
Beth El Synagogue Center

I was born in 1945 in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 1956 my parents decided to return to Germany where during my teenage years I was raised. I attended school in Cologne and graduated with a degree in languages, German, English, French and Latin. In 1965 I immigrated to the US and the same year was hired by Lufthansa German Airlines.

I met my husband, George, in February 1970 and we married in September of that year. Our only child, Andre, was born in 1977.

We joined Beth El of New Rochelle more than 30 years ago. Andre attended the Beth El Hebrew School and graduated from Hebrew High. I became very active at Beth El as Co-President of the PTA, volunteer at the gift shop and on the Board of Trustees. I joined Sisterhood early on and became more actively involved after I retired from work in 2012. I am currently on the executive board of Sisterhood. I was the Torah Fund Co-Chair for two years and will assume the responsibility of Sisterhood Treasurer in the upcoming fiscal year. I enjoy participating in synagogue services and chanting haftarah or reading Torah portions. On this upcoming Sisterhood Shabbat, I will chant the birchot hashachar and p'sukei d'zimra, an event I look forward to.

In addition to my Beth El activities, I also support the New Rochelle community as a volunteer.

I am the grandmother of two boys, Benjamin, 8 years old and Jackson, 1. George and I have a very close relationship with our grandchildren and our beloved daughter-in-law, Emily, as well as her family.

Madeline Gage
Temple Israel Center

Madeline Gage has been a member of the Temple Israel Center (TIC) Sisterhood for the past twenty-five years since her family first joined Temple Israel Center. She joined the Executive Board of Sisterhood and acted as Recording Secretary while her son Aaron attended TIC pre-school. She co-chaired various events including Sisterhood installation of Officers, Torah Fund honoree events, and the TIC art exhibit: Ketubot throughout the Ages. She hosted a cocktail hour at her house for the Sisterhood progressive dinner and participated in the Sisterhood/Brotherhood Shabbat Choir over the years.

Madeline received her Master's Degree in Nursing Education at Hunter College and has been happily married to her husband Dennis for the past thirty years. Dennis is an endocrinologist in a group practice. He is also TIC's shofar blower. Madeline works professionally with her husband and the flexibility of her hours has allowed her to devote time to her volunteer and leadership roles in Sisterhood functions. They have four children, three of whom attended TIC religious school. They also have two Labrador retrievers.

Madeline and her family have enjoyed participating in several TIC retreats and her family visited Israel with fellow congregants led by Rabbi Gordon Tucker. "Participating in many events offered by Temple Israel Center has enabled us to have meaningful spiritual and social connections to our synagogue, Sisterhood, and to develop long lasting friends. I would like to thank Sisterhood for this honor and am pleased to share it with my fellow honorees, Robyn Sokol and Rabbi Dina Shargel."

Women's League of Conservative Judaism

Carol Simon, *International President*
Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, *Executive Director, Torah Fund Campaign*
Debbi Kaner Goldich, *International Torah Fund Chair*

MetroNorth Region Executive Committee

Mindy Steinholz, *President*
Florence Wolpoff, *Sisterhood Support VP*
Lucy Becker, *Education VP*
Fran Olmsted, *Membership VP*
Linda Klempner, *Torah Fund VP*
Danielle Calo, *Administrative Secretary*
Lisa Green, *Communications Secretary*
Cedine Issman, *Financial Secretary/Treasurer*
Claire Gondelman, *Immediate Past President*

*MetroNorth Region/Hudson Valley Area Sisterhood Presidents**

Bet Torah Harriet Blumencranz
Beth El Synagogue Center Barbara Horowitz
First Hebrew Congregation Fran Olmsted
Mindy Steinholz
Greenburgh Hebrew Center Suzanne Newman
Yanira Quinones
Montebello Jewish Center Elinor Silver
Karen Stein
Nanuet Hebrew Center Mindy Sayer
Karen Schragenheim
New City Jewish Center Suzanne Kofinas
Orangetown Jewish Center Cedine Issman/Presidium
Temple Israel Center Linda Lurie

**Sisterhoods participating in this evening's event*

Robyn Sokol Temple Israel Center

Robyn Sokol is an ophthalmologist and a pediatrician. She was born in Manhattan and grew up there. She attended Hunter College and NYU School of Medicine. She did her pediatric residency at Beth Israel Hospital, where she met her husband, Abraham Sokol, from Panama. She did her ophthalmology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital. She earned a Master of Public Health from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She works at Urban Health Plan in the South Bronx as their ophthalmologist. She and Abraham joined Temple Israel Center (TIC) of White Plains thirty-five years ago because she was looking for a good religious school for her then four children. She lives in Scarsdale and has ten children.

Robyn has been involved in synagogue life attending Friday night, Shabbat, and holiday services as well as daily trips to and from the Hebrew School. She was chair of Tuesday adult education from 1986-1988, and was part of Rabbi Turetsky's Talmud classes and Sisterhood. Her children each had their Bar/Bat Mitzvah at TIC and were involved in many activities there. Six of them attended various programs at the Jewish Theological Seminary!

Stacy is now a rabbi, cantor, and chaplain; Jessica, an attorney; Jason, an ophthalmic plastic surgeon; Evita, the educational director of Stephen Wise Synagogue; Stephanie, an early childhood and special ed teacher at Rodeph Shalom; Lindsey, a resident in OB/GYN; Ashley, an MSW and special ed teacher with the board of education; Michael, a healthcare administrator with an MS and MPH; Benjamin, a financial analyst with Chase; and Katie, a student at SUNY School of Optometry. Jessica made aliyah; and Lindsey went to the Ben-Gurion School of Medicine in Beer Sheva.

Robyn has been Torah Fund Chair for the past 6-7 years. She is honored to be chosen as a Torah Fund Honoree for 2016, planting a vineyard for the next generation of Jewish people.

Thank You to Our Raffle Gift Donors

This evening's raffles will benefit the "She Plants a Seed for the Future" Torah Fund special project. Many thanks to Lisa Siegal, MetroNorth Public Policy and Advocate Chair and Immediate Past Torah Fund VP, for serving as Raffle Chair.

Beauty Plus
Ben's Deli
Big Daddy's
Boscobel House and Gardens
Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts
Challah Fairy
Dusty Rose Lingerie
Gyrotonic Pilates
Helen's Handbags
JCC of Mid-Westchester
JCC Rockland
Jeffrey Richards Associates
Jewish Book Council
Maggie Anton
Nahmias et Fils Distillery
New City Kosher Deli & Restaurant
Oh! Nuts
Penguin Rep Theatre
Rocco's
S-Curve Records
Sazoné
Six Thirteen Restaurant
Visible Changes
Westchester Philharmonic

Anita Schick

Greenburgh Hebrew Center

Anita Schick was born in The Bronx and raised in The Bronx and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. Her Jewish roots are deep in both places. Her journey began in the ladies balcony in Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay. She sat with her grandmother, watched the service unfold downstairs, and wondered when it would be her turn...

When Anita and her husband David joined Greenburgh Hebrew Center in September 1976 shortly after moving to Westchester, her formal Jewish education began. In addition to attending Junior Congregation with her three daughters and regular Shabbat services, Anita joined a group Bat Mitzvah class and had her Bat Mitzvah in 1988.

Over the years Anita was active in Sisterhood and on the congregational level. Holding many different positions, she served as Sisterhood President twice and Synagogue President from 1998-2001. Meanwhile, Anita continued to raise her children, drive carpools, complete a Master's Degree in Education, and teach students with special needs.

Anita and David have been blessed with three sons-in-law and five grandchildren. The Schicks divide their time between Hartsdale, New York; Delray Beach, Florida; and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. They belong to Greenburgh Hebrew Center, Dobbs Ferry; Temple Torat Emet, Boynton Beach; and Temple Sons of Israel, Sydney.

Anita would like to thank the Sisterhood of Greenburgh Hebrew Center for this honor.

Trudy Album
Montebello Jewish Center

I was born in a small town--not shtetl--in Somorja, Hungary (very close to Bratislava), where I was raised Modern Orthodox. My father owned a shoe store, my mother was very involved in our Sisterhood and in helping the needy, and I had two younger sisters. I took piano and ballet lessons and had six years of secular education in a one-room schoolhouse, in addition to Hebrew school. It was a happy childhood until the dark days of the Holocaust. When I was about 15, I spent 11 months in various camps before arriving in Auschwitz. I came to America in the spring of 1946. I worked during the day and attended night school in addition to having one year of private school education on a scholarship from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. I received my high school diploma and worked at Mount Sinai Hospital as a radiology technician.

In 1950, I married Louis Album. We had a daughter and two sons and belonged to Jamaica Jewish Center, where our children became b'nai mitzvah. I took an active role in Sisterhood and became a life member of Hadassah. We moved to Rockland County in 1974 and joined Pomona Jewish Center. I worked as a realtor and attended classes at Rockland Community College to make up for years of lost education. I became involved with the National Council of Jewish Women and volunteered for Meals on Wheels for years. I have been working with the Rockland Holocaust Museum since its creation, speaking with children at museum programs and in the schools about my past experiences, and teaching tolerance towards all races and religions. I belong to the JCC Rockland, keeping my mind and body active. For four years, I spent three weeks annually as a volunteer in the Israeli army. As a survivor, I have gone on the March of the Living with BBYO Youth for seven years. We spend a week in Poland visiting the camps, followed by a week in Israel, commemorating Yom Hashoah and celebrating Yom HaAtzmaut. My hobbies are reading and playing bridge and mahjong, but my happiest times are spent with my children and seven grandchildren.

Pam Rosman
Bet Torah

Bet Torah's 2016 Torah Fund Honoree Pam Rosman's license plate reads: *SCHLEPER*. It should be: *SCHLEPER WITH A HEART*, for, as long-time friend Gaye Altman says of this diminutive woman: "Her heart is as big as the world."

Around Bet Torah, Pam is the go-to person for help whether lending a hand with a shiva minyan or giving advice on anything from cooking to where to get a key made. She has been: Sisterhood President, Coordinated Educational Activities Committee (CEAC) V.P., Membership Chair, Volunteer Librarian and is a founding Mitzvah Needles Member. She is the incoming Programming Chair. In April 2013 Pam received the "METNY Gold Award for Excellence in Bulletins and Periodicals" for her incisive editorship of *The Bet Torah Message*.

Pam grew up in Brooklyn and is a graduate of James Madison High School (the same school as Bernie Sanders) and the University of Rhode Island (URI), where she met and married her husband, Larry Rosman. Their early married life was spent in Germany, where Larry was stationed with the U.S. Army. Pam still uses *The Heidelberg Jewish Women's Cookbook*. Back in the U.S., Larry launched a legal career and they began raising their children: Brad, Vicki, and Jessica.

Ten years ago, Pam opened Nonni's Pet Sitting Service. When she isn't caring for a client's pet or her own, she spends time with her grandsons, Cameron and Noah; cooks; gardens; knits; and crafts. She is a member of the Senior Activity Board of New Castle, The Hopp Ground Garden Club, and Sigma Delta Tau Sorority as well as an Alumni Admission Representative for URI.

Claire Gondelman

Nanuet Hebrew Center

Claire was the second child and daughter of a working dad and stay at home mom. She lived in the same building in Brooklyn as her grandparents and an aunt and uncle. She went to public schools from kindergarten through high school and then to Brooklyn College, where she received her BA in English. She started substitute teaching as there were no regular jobs available. After two years, she met her husband, Joel, just before she started working at Met Life. She received her Master of Science in Elementary Education three weeks before getting married in 1974. She became a stay at home mom when her first child was born.

Claire was involved with many things while her three sons were growing up. She was involved with community nursery schools, soccer league, baseball league, and Boy Scouts. She was also involved with her children's education – both secular and religious. Claire became involved with Pomona Jewish Center, first with Sisterhood and then Women's League. Her first job at Sisterhood was publicity. She was Recording Secretary, Fundraising VP, Membership VP, and then President. When Pomona Jewish Center merged with Congregation Sons of Israel Suffern, Claire became Co-President of the Sisterhood of the new Montebello Jewish Center. She moved to the Nanuet Hebrew Center and took many of the same roles before accepting the presidency of their Sisterhood. During the years that Claire was involved with Sisterhood and raising her family, she also had the role of Judaica Handicrafts at the Branch level and also did the Fall Conference. She went back on the Region Board – first as Communications Secretary and then as Torah Fund VP. She accepted the role of Region President for the 2013-15 term. She is now the Immediate Past President of MetroNorth Region and Education VP of her Sisterhood. Her three sons are now married. Jason and Meghan live in Florida and have three wonderful children. Michael and Tatiana live in Israel and have four adorable children; Claire goes to Israel 2-3 times a year to see them all. Her youngest son, Saul, is married to Rebecca. They have a daughter and are expecting twins any day.

Rachelle Kalinsky

New City Jewish Center

Rachelle (Shelly) Kalinsky moved from Great Neck to New City in April 2002 with her husband, Larry Birnbaum, and their children. At that time, Shelly was just finishing a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center and had recently completed an internship with the Traumatic Brain Injury-Technical Assistance Project of Mount Sinai Medical Center and the NYC Board of Education. JCC Rockland and New City Jewish Center played an important role in helping the young family get settled in unfamiliar territory. With two young children in a new town, Shelly decided to stay at home for a few—make that ten—years. Shelly unexpectedly became involved in several new adventures: she is a Melton graduate and has enjoyed taking several Midreshet Rockland classes. Shelly received her black sash in tai chi and has been teaching this wonderful art for six years.

In 2009, Shelly was asked to edit New City Jewish Center's newsletter, *Hakol*. She happily agreed and is still going strong in 2016! Shelly is now working at the Mental Health Association of Rockland County as the coordinator of Promising Pathways, a mentoring project for elementary and middle school students and as a supervised visitation monitor for children whose parents are participants in Family Treatment Court, a problem-solving court for parents with substance abuse issues. Shelly is also a vocational/educational evaluator for Rockland County Association for the Learning Disabled. Shelly is very proud of her children: Emily, who will be attending SUNY New Paltz as a freshman this fall (and is a life member of Hadassah like her mom) and Jason, currently a freshman at Clarkstown North. Shelly is thankful to New City Jewish Center's Sisterhood for this honor.