

The MetroNorth Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism sincerely thanks **Sutton Place Synagogue** for once again hosting our annual Metropolitan Area Torah Fund event. Our special thanks go to **David Teyf of Legendary Affairs** for so graciously working with us in catering our luncheon.



Torah Fund
Women Ensuring Conservative/Masorti
Jewish Education



METRONORTH REGION
WOMEN'S LEAGUE
for **CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**
Metropolitan Area
TORAH FUND LUNCHEON

Honoring our

Woman of Achievement
Award Recipients

April 23, 2017

Sutton Place Synagogue

New York City

THANKS TO OUR 2017 RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS!

92Y

Abigael's On Broadway
Barney Greengrass
Carnegie Hall
Center for Jewish History
Eighteen Restaurant
Film Society of Lincoln Center
Fine & Schapiro
Fischer Brothers & Leslie
Jewish Book Council
Juice Press
Kaufman Music Center
LI-Lac Chocolates
Mario Badescu Skin Care
Mr. Broadway
Murray's Sturgeon Shop
Museum of Jewish Heritage
Park East Kosher Butcher
The Jewish Museum
The Kosher Marketplace
Vintage Grape
William Greenberg Desserts
Wolf and Lamb
Zabar's

Many thanks to **Lisa Siegal**, MetroNorth Public Policy and Advocacy Chair, Webmaster and Immediate Past Torah Fund VP, for serving as raffle chair extraordinaire!



Raffle proceeds will benefit
"She Plants a Seed for the Future"
Torah Fund Special Project

out and enveloped me, its brilliant Rabbi Schranz, who patiently addressed my questions, taught me, heard my views, which often bumped against his, and never belittled my limited knowledge of Judaism. I persisted in putting on the first Purim Shpiel at SPS, which became a hit and I produced five more, loving the children and adults who playfully participated."

Vera's strong belief in education and in nurturing a love of Judaism in the children guided her involvement at SPS. She was a member of the Board of Trustees, served as Program Chair, member of the Jackson Religious School and Religious Observance Committees and as Chair of the 10th Anniversary 9/11 Committee co-sponsored with Or Olam East 55th Street Synagogue. She is active in Women's League and has served in various positions. Vera and Susan Goodman co-chaired several Women's League Shabbats changing women's minor participation to engaging them, teens to seniors, in every aspect of the Service.

Vera is passionate about Torah Fund and as its chair she reactivated SPS Women's League commitment to support Torah Fund. She reached out to SPS members to support TF, which resulted in unprecedented numbers of members who became Benefactors. No longer chair, Vera continues to serve as Metropolitan Torah Fund Area Director.

Vera attends Rabbi Ain's thought provoking classes, eager to learn. She often approaches the Rabbi after services or meetings with questions, grateful for the Rabbi's knowledge, listening skills and patience.

Professionally, Vera taught English and Journalism in Newtown and Cardozo High Schools and founded the New York City Scholastic Press Association at NYU to provide resources and help high school publication advisers and their students. She led workshops on local, state and national levels and was a Visiting Scholar at Poynter Institute for Media Studies in Florida. She was honored by Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University and by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. Her passion for excellence in public education prompted her PTA volunteer work in the district where her children attended school. She was elected as a trustee to the Board of Education.

"And now my children have spouses, and children of their own in school. We are now six adult children and 8 grandchildren who are quickly growing into adulthood. Most are taller than I. May they think outside the triangle and set upon the road not taken, developing their own interests and individuality. May they feel the warmth and comfort of being Jewish as I do, surrounded by my SPS family and extended Jewish family of all of you here today. May we all feel enveloped by our Judaism, by our desire to learn in our own unique way and may we greet the world with enthusiasm and empathy."



VERA WINITCH
WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF SUTTON PLACE SYNAGOGUE



Curiosity is embedded in **Vera Winitch's** psyche. It is what drives her to think outside the triangle and to set upon the road not taken. It's a willingness to make mistakes. It's a willingness to break down barriers and shine light where dimness prevails.

Vera grew up in a small enclave in Brooklyn, called Canarsie. She was elected the first mayor of her public school, no easy feat for a Jew in a very non-Jewish town. She attended religious instruction on Wednesday afternoons, the paltry extent of her Jewish education at that time. It accounts for her mission to learn the wonders and treasures of Judaism. This love was nurtured when Vera and her husband and three children moved to Rockville Centre and became members of Temple B'nai Sholom, a traditional Conservative synagogue. Here, as she said kaddish for her mother for eleven months, she was in the protective care of the minyanaires, very traditional men who slowly began to accept her. Here she began to learn to read Hebrew; she found transliterations too confusing. Here these very traditional men, many originally from Orthodox backgrounds, insisted she be given an aliyah, but the rabbi refused. Here were planted the seeds for her passion for egalitarian Judaism.

"I became involved at B'nai, was elected as a trustee and chair of the school board of the Religious school, positions I held for many years. It fulfilled my love for Judaism and my trust in the wisdom of instilling in our young a commitment to honor our heritage, l'dor v'dor. Here in the year 2000, my synagogue became egalitarian. Not every woman wanted to participate in the Services, which was fine. Comfort level was key.

"When my husband passed away, I sold my big empty house, closing the door on a lifetime of memories and moved to the city where I knew not a soul. Enter Sutton Place Synagogue with its warmth, its friendly community who reached

PROGRAM

Welcome.....	Mindy Steinholz <i>President</i> <i>MetroNorth Region</i>
Remarks.....	Debbi Kaner Goldich <i>International Torah Fund</i> <i>Vice President</i>
HaMotzi.....	Rabbi Lilly Kaufman <i>Torah Fund</i> <i>Executive Director</i>
Luncheon.....	Bete'avon!
Speaker.....	Bronwen Mullin <i>6th year Rabbinical Student</i> <i>Jewish Theological Seminary</i>

Presentation to our
Woman of Achievement Award Recipients

Linda Klempner
Torah Fund VP
MetroNorth Region

<i>Synagogue</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
Or Olam	Sandy Koppell	Edith Lewittes Claman
Habonim	Amy Kargauer	Ruth Murphy
Sutton Place	Susan Goodman	Vera Winitch

Closing remarks.....	Linda Klempner
Dessert.....	Sweets for the sweet
Birkat Hamazon.....	Rabbi Rachel Ain <i>Sutton Place Synagogue</i>

WOMEN'S LEAGUE for CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Carol Simon
International President

Debbi Kaner Goldich
International Torah Fund Vice President

Rabbi Lilly Kaufman
Torah Fund Executive Director

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*

TORAH FUND AREA DIRECTORS

Vera Winitch, *Metropolitan*
Lisa King Smith, *Mid Hudson*
Nancy Scheff, *Rockland*
Gaye Altman, *Westchester*

METROPOLITAN AREA SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS

Or Olam – The East 55 th Street Synagogue	Sandy Koppell
Congregation Habonim	Amy Kargauer
Sutton Place Synagogue	Susan Goodman

METROPOLITAN AREA TORAH FUND CHAIRS

Or Olam – The East 55 th Street Synagogue	Harriet Gussin
Congregation Habonim	Janet Schwartz
Sutton Place Synagogue	Susan Gitelson

METROPOLITAN AREA HONOREES

Or Olam – The East 55 th Street Synagogue	Edith Lewittes Claman
Congregation Habonim	Ruth Murphy
Sutton Place Synagogue	Vera Winitch

“Several years ago, I had the pleasure of using my professional skills and experience as an interior architect. I was asked to design and manage a renovation of the entrance and halls of Congregation Habonim, with the help of a donation by several bar mitzvah families. This work was under a tight schedule, necessitating me and our contractors to work throughout the evenings and on several Sundays. Gladly, we completed the work on time”, Ruth said.

Ruth’s experiences at Congregation Habonim touched her life in unexpected ways. “Within our community, I got to know a family that belonged to the White Stork Synagogue in Breslau, Germany. This was my mother’s family synagogue, and as none of my mother’s family survived, it was a moving experience.”

“During a Habonim Kristallnacht commemoration, one of our members described her passage from Germany to Israel in October 1938. As her story unfolded, I realized she was with my mother on the same ship sailing to Israel. I could not wait to have a conversation with her about her journey. This shared heritage has drawn me closer to our community at Habonim which feels like a second home.”

“We at Habonim know Ruth as family and we know that we can count on her to follow through on any task she takes on, and she has done SO much over the years!”, said Sisterhood President Amy Kargauer. “We are pleased and proud that she accepted the invitation to be our own Torah Fund honoree this year.”



Women’s League and Torah Fund are proud to support the education of the future rabbis, cantors, educators, and scholars who will serve as the gifted leaders and innovators of the Conservative Movement.

RUTH MURPHY
SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION HABONIM



Ruth Murphy was born in London and made aliyah with her family shortly following Israel's declaration of independence. Her parents met in Tel Aviv where her father was on shore leave after his ship, the SS Erinpura, was sunk by a German torpedo. He was a British Army Officer with the 8th Army in North Africa and her mother, a German refugee who escaped Germany in 1938 at the age of 16, was with the Aliyat Hanoar movement.

Following Ruth's service with the Israeli army, she enrolled in the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. Upon graduation, she was recruited by a leading architectural firm and several years later she started her own interior architectural business.

On a short vacation to Egypt, she met her husband Timothy, who was an Irish Army Officer on leave from a peacekeeping tour with the UN in Lebanon. They married in London and have one child, Jonathan. After living together 10 years in Israel, her husband was posted to New York City, where she joined him a short time later.

"Following our move to NYC, I realized that to live a Jewish life, something I had taken for granted while living in Israel, required active effort in the diaspora. Cantor Bruce Halev introduced us to Congregation Habonim. Since joining in 2001, I have served as a Board Member and remain active with the Sisterhood, Chesed and several other committees.

METROPOLITAN AREA TORAH FUND
LUNCHEON SPEAKER – BRONWEN MULLIN



Bronwen Mullin is the co-founder of Meta-Phys Ed with performance artist/director Jesse Freedman. She is a playwright, composer, educator and rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (MA in Midrash and ordination 2017), BA 2006 from Sarah Lawrence College (theater and religious Studies), Arts Fellow 2008-2011 (musical theater composition at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education).

Bronwen has served as a Jewish Educator for 15 years throughout the tri-state area and as a featured teacher at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Academy of Jewish Religion in New York, Kehilat Romemu, The Sixth Street Shul, Town and Village Synagogue, Limmud NY and Philly, Nehirim Eastern Conference Winter and Spring Gatherings, the Havurah Summer Institute, Art Kibbutz New York (where she also served as Artistic Director) and Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center.

Bronwen's theatrical work employs a creative exegetical entrance into the world of Jewish text. Bronwen has also composed for Mir Productions, Infinite Variety Productions, the Cygnus Ensemble, Storahelling and 24/6 Theater Company. Bronwen currently serves as the Rabbinic Intern for Town and Village Synagogue and will serve as their Rabbinic Artist-In-Residence beginning July 2017. She is the founder and facilitator of the Artists' Beit Midrash of Town and Village (2014-present) and the chair of their Arts Council.

2017 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

EDITH LEWITTES CLAMAN
WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF OR OLAM,
THE EAST 55TH STREET SYNAGOGUE



Edith Lewittes Claman is a native New Yorker, born in Manhattan and raised in Mt. Vernon. After 7 years of Hebrew School she became the first Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Emanuel where she davened and chanted Torah on Friday night.

Edith attended Barnard College, graduating Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa and went on to receive an MS in Education at Yeshiva University.

She married her husband Mike, and raised two accomplished children, Richard and Debbie. She is the proud grandmother of three girls and a wonderful daughter-in-law, Dr. Elizabeth Clark.

Edith was a teacher before she joined her husband Mike in the furniture business. They worked together until her husband passed away in 2014. Edith's specialty was design of seating for seniors. She and Mike had a

private interview with Egypt's President, Anwar Sadat, when he accepted The Peace Chair designed by Mike in his honor (1979). She was invited to speak at the United Nations on Seating for Seniors at the International Conference on Aging (2000).

She was awarded many honors for her activities within the Jewish community, from agencies such as: Israel Bonds, UJA, Anti Defamation League of B'nai Brith and National Council of Christians and Jews.

Among Edith's numerous hobbies are travel, reading, attending classes, and the arts. She has a wonderful collection of art, antiques and Judaica.

She has always been affiliated with Conservative synagogues. Edith has been a member of Or Olam for 38 years and she is a founding member of the Women's League, where she has attended almost every function. She has chaired the Supper in the Sukkah and is a very important part of the Or Olam Shalach Manot team.

"Edith is one of our most valued volunteers. Women's League of Or Olam is very proud to have Edith Claman as our 2017 Torah Fund honoree," said Or Olam WL President Sandy Koppell.



*Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Strengthening Conservative/Masorti Judaism
at home, in our communities, and worldwide*