

Women of Achievement Gala

Am Yisrael Chai Program

The Women of Achievement Gala showcasing the extraordinary women in the Garden State Region. Honoring one special person in each of our Sisterhoods who has given outstanding service to her Sisterhood, Synagogue, or Community.

Monday, June 9, 2025 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

11001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 Catered by Evan of Classical Caterers

Sheila Kaufman

Garden State Region President

Lynette Seader

Gala Chairperson



Garden State Region Women of Achievement Gala Am Yisrael Chai

Program

Registration

Welcome

Sheila Kaufman, GSR President Marci Abshutz, Cong. B'nai Tikvah President

Anthems

Sara Ullman

D'var Torah

Rabbi Robert Wolkoff Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Motzi

Kathy Grazian, President Cong. Gesher Shalom/The JCC of Fort Lee

Dinner

Award Presentations

Lynette Seader, Gala Chair Sheila Kaufman, GSR President Marlene Herman

Dessert

Birkhat Hamazon

Rachel Modiano, President Highland Park Cons. Temple-Cong. Anshet Emeth

Tricky Tray

Lynette Seader, Teri Manes, Nancy Mayrowetz, Sindy Manas

L'Hitraot

Sheila Kaufman

Yasher Koach

Special thanks to the Gala Committee members for their hard work in planning this event. Lynette Seader-Chair, Marci Abshutz, Donna Franklin, Sheila Kaufman, Sindy Manas, Teri Manes, Nancy Mayrowetz, Elise Norwitz, Ilene Rothman, Tova Rothschild, Traci Sachs, Teresa Samtur, Cheryl Sessler, and Jackie Walzer.

Garden State Region Upcoming Dates

July 27-29, 2025 WLCJ Leadership Institute

August 4, 6, 11, & 13 GSR Summer Workshops on Zoom

November 17, 2025 GSR Torah Fund Event May 5, 2026 GSR Spring Conference

Garden State Region Board

President Sheila Kaufman
Treasurer Donna Franklin
Financial Team Arlene Stein
VP Programming/Education Susan Winter

Programming Team Suzie Hammer, Helen Knee,

Teri Manes, Nancy Mayrowetz,

Marlene Oslick, Tova Rothschild

VP Sisterhood Support Cheryl Sessler

Sisterhood Support Team Fran Katz, Sebley Hausler,

Janice Saferstein, Jackie Walzer

VP Torah Fund Sindy Manas

Torah Fund Team Arlene Bernhardt, Gloria Jaslow,

Sharon Hammerman, Elise Norwitz

Traci Sachs Communications Secretary Constant Contact Traci Sachs Webmaster Ilene Rothman Corresponding Secretary Susan Sferas Lisa Katz Financial Secretary Recording Secretary Carol Kotch Parliamentarian Dorothy Cohen Immediate Past President Lynette Seader

Advisors Meryl Balaban & Heddy Belman

WLCJ Consultant Toby Maser
Directory Leslie Folodare
Madricha Teresa Samtur

WLCJ Executive Committee

Recording Secretary Teresa Samtur

Garden State Region Sisterhood Affiliates

Aberdeen: Temple Beth Ahm

Caldwell: Congregation Agudath Israel Clark: Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah

Closter: Temple Emanu-El

Cranford: Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim

East Brunswick: East Brunswick Jewish Center

Fair Lawn: Cong. B'nai Sholom/Fair Lawn Jewish Center Fort Lee: Cong. Gesher Shalom/The JCC of Fort Lee Highland Park: Highland Park Conservative Temple-

Congregation Anshe Emeth

Howell: Congregation Ahavat Olam Livingston: Temple Beth Shalom

Marlboro: Marlboro Jewish Center - Ohev Shalom

Metuchen: Congregation Neve Shalom Millburn: Congregation B'nai Israel Montville: Pine Brook Jewish Center

Morristown: Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael North Brunswick: Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Oakhurst: Congregation Torat El Old Bridge: Congregation Beth Ohr

Ridgewood: Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center-

Scotch Plains: Congregation Beth Israel

Somerset: Temple Beth El

South Orange: Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom Cong.

Teaneck: Congregation Beth Sholom Toms River: Congregation B'nai Israel Wayne: Congregation Shomrei Torah

West Orange: B'nai Shalom

Woodcliff Lake: Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley







2025 Women of Achievement



Honorees

Vicki Cohen

Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen

Donna Franklin

Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell

Helene Davis

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, Clark

Jill Besnoy

Temple Emanu-el, Closter

Gail Kosher

East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick

Fran Kessler

Congregation B'nai Sholom/Fair Lawn Jewish Center, Fair Lawn

Evelyn Bauer & Ann Bloch

Congregation Gesher Shalom/The JCC of Fort Lee, Fort Lee

Helene Knee

Highland Park Conservative Temple-Cong. Anshe Emeth, Highland Park

Diane Gotlieb

Temple Beth Shalom, Livingston

Dorothy Cohen

Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael, Morristown

Shelly Wistreich

Congregation B'nai Tikvah, North Brunswick

Susan Sferas

Congregation Torat El, Oakhurst

Stephanie Gottesman

Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center, Ridgewood

Laura Queller

Congregation Beth Israel, Scotch Plains

Adele Nagelberg

Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom Congregation, South Orange

Joan Gillman

Congregation Beth Sholom, Teaneck

Bonnie Isaacson

B'nai Shalom, West Orange

Susan Liebeskind

Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley, Woodcliff Lake



Vicki Cohen Temple Beth Ahm Aberdeen

Vicki has been an important and active member of Temple Beth Ahm's Sisterhood Board for many years. Her warmth and smile brighten our Sisterhood family. She is always ready to volunteer, share ideas, and make a difference in everything she does.

Vicki first joined the Board in 1992. Through the years, Vicki has held many positions.



She was on the Nominating Committee, Co-Chairman of Ways and Means, Sisterhood Co-President, and Sisterhood President. Vicki has been Sisterhood Treasurer since 2007.

In addition to her leadership positions, Vicki has devoted herself to Sisterhood fundraisers for over 25 years. She has been in charge of purchasing the prizes for our Purim Carnival, delighting dozens of children, and has coordinated the wrapping of hundreds of beautiful baskets for the annual Basket Auction.

We are proud to recognize Vicki with this well-deserved honor for her selfless dedication to Sisterhood, Temple Beth Ahm, and our community.



Donna Franklin

Congregation Agudath Israel Caldwell

Born in Brooklyn, Donna grew up in Rye, NY. Donna's family attended Mamaroneck Jewish Center and was married there 49 years ago.

Donna met Arthur Franklin on vacation in February 1976 and a week after their return, they became a couple for life. Marrying later that year they became members of Congre-



gation Agudath Israel. Their children David and Sarah represent the fourth generation at CAI.

Donna graduated from Curry College in Milton, MA, planning to teach. But in the early 1970's, teaching jobs were scarce. She entered the business world, learning bookkeeping. Donna has used those skills both as a professional and as a volunteer. Donna presently is the bookkeeper for MJG Promotions.

Donna has served on many committees and a Torah Fund benefactor for many years, a dedicated and active member of CAI Sisterhood as treasurer, president and then treasurer again as well as counselor. Donna is also treasurer of Caldwell Hadassah.

When a previous president heard that Donna was selected as our WOA, she stated, "Donna has always stepped up when no one else wanted to. She is a loving and caring person."

Donna is the go-to person for information about Sisterhood in the past, advice for the present, and for the future. Donna is now treasurer for the Garden State Region. Donna continues to be a capable and dedicated friend to all. We are very proud of Donna.



Helene Davis

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah Clark

Helene Davis is truly deservant of the honor of the GSR Women of Achievement Award. Helene has been a member of TBO/BT since 1987. She began in Sisterhood by paying her dues and this morphed into her continued contribution to the organization. Her first office was getting volunteers for the Sisterhood Shabbat service. Helene has served in numerous sisterhood capacities including:



Chair of the College Outreach Committee, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Vice President, President, Co-president, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and a member of various presidiums. Currently, Helene serves as Co-Treasurer, Chair of the Budget Committee, Zoom Board Meeting Moderator, and chairs the yearly calendar meeting. Helene also learned how to read Torah and would do so at our Simchat Torah Service.

Helene is most comfortable with behind-the-scenes work, and has significantly impacted Sisterhood by writing the computer program that does all the reciprocation, billing, and other paperwork necessary for the Purim Shalach Mones project. This is now Sisterhood's most successful fund raiser and Helene has just completed her 20th year as the project's IT lead.

As a testament to her volunteerism, after moving to Highland Park, Helene continues her active contributions to the sisterhood TBO/BT as well as HPCT-CAE. She serves as the financial secretary and is a member of the Executive Chef's committee. In the past, Helene served as a coordinator of the lay Egalitarian Services (something she learned how to do at TBO/BT) and as Chair of the Membership Committee.

Now retired, Helene especially enjoys spending time with her husband Al, her children Michelle, Orin & Steph, and playing Mah Jongg, whenever she can. Helene is a loyal friend and will go out of her way to help others.



Jill Besnoy Temple Emanu-El Closter

As President of Temple Emanu-El's Sister-hood, Jill ushered in a new era of engagement, inspiring the next generation of temple members to embrace volunteerism and community. When COVID made others hesitant to meet in person, Jill championed the power of in-person connection, proving—that we are stronger together than apart. She even stepped up to serve a third term as President when no one else would.



Under her leadership, the Sisterhood made meaningful contributions to the temple and broader community. Following the events of October 7, Jill led efforts to support Israel, including a significant donation of an ambulance vehicle to United Hatzalah and a generous contribution to the FIDF. Even after her presidency, Jill has remained a guiding presence. She continues to lead events and currently runs the temple's thriving multi-generational book club.

Her impact extends well beyond Temple Emanu-El, she is the Co-Founder and Co-President of Stanton Strong, an organization dedicated to advocating for reproductive rights and expanding access to reproductive healthcare, regardless of zip code.

If you are ever in Bergen County and need a restaurant recommendation, look no further. Jill is the Sales and Marketing Strategist for Boozy Burbs, a local media outlet known for covering the latest in food and drink openings. One of her many entrepreneurial ventures, another example of Jill's unmatched energy and community spirit.

Jill's dedication, energy, and tireless commitment to service have left a mark on every organization she touches. We are lucky to have her as a role model, a changemaker, and most of all, a beloved member of our community.



Gail Kosher

East Brunswick Jewish Center East Brunswick

Gail was born in Bayshore and raised in East Islip, Long Island by two teachers. She is the middle child of two sets of twins. After high school, Gail earned a liberal arts degree from Suffolk County Community College before getting her bachelor's degree in teaching from Buffalo State.



Gail married Neil in 1990. They moved to

East Brunswick in 1997 and became involved in the EBJC. Gail's first Sisterhood board position was as Recording Secretary. She then became involved with the weekly Shabbat kiddush preparation and ran the Sisterhood gift shop. She served as Co-President of the Sisterhood from July 2004-June 2006 and as solo President from July 2006-June 2009.

Gail organized the annual rummage sale, volunteered at the Hanukkah boutique, helped pack the Mishloach Manot bags and organized their delivery, served as cochair of the Sisterhood religious committee, and led Sisterhood board meetings.

Gail has two children, David and Rebecca. Gail enjoys traveling (especially cruising), playing Mah Jong, and doing brain teaser puzzles.



Fran Kessler

Congregation B'nai Sholom/ Fair Lawn Jewish Center Fair Lawn

Fran Kessler has been a member of the Fair Lawn Jewish Center, now called Congregation B'nai Sholom/Fair Lawn Jewish Center, and Sisterhood since 1979. She was Sisterhood President for 1 year in 1974 and again for 3 years in 2009-2012. She has chaired many committees in Sisterhood and is currently helping with Torah Fund. She was



president of the Fair Lawn Jewish Center from 1995-1997. She has also served on the boards for both the Temple and Sisterhood since 1974.

Fran has 2 sons and their spouses and 5 grandchildren that are the light of her life. She was a sales associate in real estate for many years. She was also a selling specialist for Jones New York and Michael Kors at Lord & Taylor before retiring in 2006. Fran has always been proud that her Sisterhood has been proud that her Sisterhood has been a member of Women's League for Conservative Judaism from the very beginning. On a more personal note to Fran, when Temple Beth Sholom merged with the Fair Lawn Jewish Center 1-1/2 years ago, she was very welcoming and extremely helpful as Cheryl Nowack and I became co-presidents with FLJC.



Evelyn Bauer

Congregation Gesher Shalom/ JCC of Fort Lee Fort Lee

Evelyn Baer has been our efficient sisterhood Treasurer for several years. She handles all money, especially donations, Torah Fund, and Mishloach Manot. She attends services regularly, gives out the honors, Hebrew prayers, and English readings, and supports all other sisterhood and synagogue activities.



Ann Bloch

Congregation Gesher Shalom/ JCC of Fort Lee Fort Lee

Ann Bloch has been our organized financial secretary for many years in charge of membership, collecting dues, sending in per capita and working hard on our yearly paid-up membership meeting. She also supports all other sisterhood and synagogue activities, especially sisterhood Book Club.





Helene Knee

Highland Park Jewish Center-Congregation Anshe Emeth Highland Park

Helene Knee joined the HPCT-CAE Sisterhood in 2010 as a trip planner; planning trips to the Lower East Side and the Jewish Museum in Philadelphia. Since programming is her creative outlet, she became a VP for programming and coordinated many events such as; 2 Cabaret Nights, 3 Vashti Banquets, a WOA dinner and several Garden State Conferences. Helene helped create a



Women's Haggadah for both her Sisterhood and Women's League and chaired two Women's Seders.

In addition, Helene and her co-chair Susan Winter created a series of 3-part educational programs for Sisterhood. These programs were informative and supportive and dealt with a variety of topics including: bereavement, behavioral health, substance abuse and learning disability. Since Helene is a clinical social worker and an advocate for social justice, this has been reflected in her programs on LBGTQ+ in Jewish community, women's healthcare, domestic violence, and environmental justice. These programs helped lead to our Temple being honored with the Jewel in the Crown award several times.

Music and song writing are Helene's passions and she helped bring music to HPCT-CAE through the purchase of a piano. She has been the musical director of several Temple theater productions, sing-a-longs and she wrote parodies for the WL-GSR that were sung at the Conventions.

Helene continues in her role in programming for both her Sisterhood and WL-GSR. In addition, she volunteers with immigrants, voter registration, environmental and women's issues. She and her husband are frequent babysitters for 4 young active grandchildren. Since Helene's inspirational, dedicated, and meaningful contributions have made such a positive impact on all of us, this honor is so well deserved!



Diane Gotlieb

Temple Beth Shalom Livingston

Diane and her husband Peter joined Temple Beth Shalom in 1983 with their children Nina and Daniel. She decided that she would learn Hebrew along with her children, and became a bat mitzvah in 1986.

Upon joining TBS, Diane immediately became an active member of the adult education committee, eventually chairing that



committee along with College Connection for our college students. She has served on the temple's board of trustees and was President of the PTA. A long time member of Sisterhood and their board, she chaired their mishloach manot program, sold tributes and was VP of Ways and Means.

Today, Diane runs the Sisterhood gift store and is the loving Grandmother to Ezra, Owen and Shay.



Dorothy Cohen

Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael Morristown

Dorothy Cohen is a role model for all Jewish women to become all they can be within Jewish Tradition. She has shown that a woman with a family can give her time and expertise to something she loves, Jewish Tradition.

Dorothy joined the Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael in 1977 with her husband, Irving, and their children. It was here that she



embraced synagogue life. Although she had small children, she gave her time by volunteering in many of the activities offered at the shul. She promised her children that she would have a Bat Mitzvah and studied along with her youngest son and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah the same weekend as his. She is still called upon to read Torah today.

Dorothy became very active within the Sisterhood holding many leadership positions including serving as President for 3 terms. She has dedicated over 20 years with the Sisterhood Kiddush committee, preparing Oneg's and catered meals for B'nai Mitzvahs. She has served as Sisterhood's Parliamentarian since 1999. She has been the chair of Fundraising, Programming and took great pleasure in coordinating our Rabbis 25th anniversary celebration. Dorothy has been instrumental in preparing a delicious breakfast and lunch for Sisterhood's Mah Jongg tournaments for the past 15 years.

Dorothy is a member of the Cranford Unit of Parliamentarians. This year, she became the Parliamentarian for the Garden State Region Board.

Our MJCBY Sisterhood is very grateful and appreciative of her many talents and accomplishments. We are very proud to honor her as our 2025 Woman of Achievement.



Shelly Wistreich

Congregation B'nai Tikvah North Brunswick

Shelly Wistreich, and her husband Ken, joined Congregation B'nai Tikvah 32 years ago in 1993. Shelly and Ken, and their two children, Brian and Lauren, have been active member of CBT.

After being invited to Sisterhood by Lisa Seidman, Shelly has served on the board, in various positions, for about 20 years. She



worked on hospitality, communications, as well as Vice President Membership, and six years as Co-President with Lori Sookerman, and of course, Immediate Past President. Her current position is Vice President Fundraising. Our major fundraiser is a Mishloach Manot program, organizing, purchasing, packing and delivering Purim baskets to all of our members in the local area, and sending cards out to members outside the delivery area. Shelly is affectionately known as our Purim Mayen.

Shelly also volunteers for our Chaverim program run by our Bikur Cholim committee and Jewish Family Services. This is a monthly social program, providing lunch and guest speakers, musicians, etc. for our active group of senior citizens.

Shelly brings her humor and insight, always leading by example. She is a source of encouragement, knowledge and caring, and we are very lucky to have her as a leader and mentor and are pleased to celebrate Shelly as a Woman of Achievement.



Susan Sferas

Congregation Torat El Oakhurst

Throughout Susan's long history of involvement, she has shown exemplary leadership both within the sisterhood community and beyond serving as a role model throughout her participation in Jewish events, and demonstrating an unswerving commitment to Women's League, CTE Sisterhood, League of Women's Voters, while continuing to participate in community affairs and outreach.



The depth and breadth of Susan's steadfast commitment to her Jewish community and to Judaism overall can be seen pervasively across her years of selfless service and ongoing generosity and volunteer work.

Susan is a past president of Sisterhood and has chaired many programs and fundraisers including rummage sale, winter luncheon, theater tickets, and Torah Fund which she has been at a benefactor level for the last 4 years. In addition to attending weekly Shabbat services, she is also a member of the CTE Temple Board and is currently chairing the CTE Meet the Author program. She attends weekly Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi Schonbrun of CTE and evening CTE classes on topics of Talmud, Israel, and Musar.

Susan is currently serving as Corresponding Secretary of Garden State Region after being the Directory chair for the last 3 years and was vice chair of the 2024 Spring Conference. Her Women's League activities include participation in Makom B'Yachad, and various other study programs on Israeli culture, health and wellness.

Susan is an active member of the League of Women's Voters and served as a moderator for candidate forums. She also served as Treasurer of both the Local and State boards as well as Development chair of League of Women's Voters of NJ from 2017-2021.



Stephanie Gottesman

Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center Ridgewood

Stephanie Gottesman is truly Temple Israel's woman of this and every other year. Stephanie and her husband, Bob Zeller, moved to Ridgewood in 1980 and joined Temple Israel in 1988. Stephanie has served our synagogue in many different ways: three times as Sisterhood President, as Recording Secretary on the Executive Board, as chair of the Ritual



Committee and of the Chesed committee, and as a member of the Architecture Committee. As an ex-president of Sisterhood, she remains on the board and continues to serve as chair of the yearly Rosh Hashanah Honey Sale and of the gift shop.

Stephanie and Bob raised three daughters in Ridgewood and now have four grandchildren. She is a doting grandmother and a member of a large and close-knit family that includes her four siblings, "many, many" nieces and nephews, and several grand-nieces and nephews. Stephanie has hosted up to 37 people for seders and Thanksgiving dinner. "If you're organized, you can do it," she says. "It all depends on making a detailed spreadsheet.

Stephanie has had a variety of interesting careers: she taught math at a girls' yeshiva; worked for IBM and as a computer consultant; and sold wholesale gold, watches, and diamonds. When asked about her greatest pleasure in life, Stephanie gave a succinct and comprehensive answer: "Family, volunteering, and cooking." She is truly a woman of this and every other year!



Laura Queller

Congregation Beth Israel Scotch Plains

For more than 35 years, Laura has been a cherished member of Congregation Beth Israel (CBI), joining shortly after the birth of her oldest daughter. Her commitment to Sisterhood followed soon after, and she has held various leadership roles, including past president.



Laura has significantly impacted Sisterhood,

particularly through her involvement with the Purim Mishloach Manot project (or you can say the Purim Basket project), a major fundraising and community event. Most recently, she led efforts to modernize and streamline the process. Additionally, Laura manages the Tributes program, sending heartfelt handwritten cards to CBI members celebrating life's milestones, which fosters a strong sense of community. She also enjoys mentoring new Sisterhood leaders.

Beyond Sisterhood, Laura has made a lasting impact on CBI as a whole. As the Communications Chair, she writes press releases and publicizes events. She has served on the CBI board for many years, driven by a desire for positive change while honoring the traditions that unite the community.

Outside of CBI, Laura has been actively involved in the Women's Philanthropy division of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest and the JCC of Central NJ. Recently, she discovered a love for painting, appreciating its freedom of expression.

Family is central to Laura's life, and she treasures time spent with her husband Howard, children Sarah, Philip, and Julia, and her new grandson, Arthur.



Adele Nagelberg

Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom Cong. South Orange

Adele has been a member of Miriam Sisterhood since she was a young mother. She grew up in Brooklyn and met her husband Paul in high school, leading to a marriage that has been evolving for 63 years. They joined Oheb Shalom in 1972, where their 3 sons were bar mitzyahed and son David was married.

At first, Adele was asked by the Oheb administrator to order cake and refreshments for the



graduating Hebrew School class, and she has never left the kitchen. She has served many roles in Miriam Sisterhood, both public and behind the scenes: President, Treasurer, Programming, and Torah Fund chair. Quietly and behind the scenes, she serves the congregation by polishing the silver before the High Holidays, by volunteering in the library, assisting in setting up Sisterhood events. She looks to the women who befriended and supported her - college educated, warm, inclusive women, involved in the synagogue as well as sisterhood, who brought her along with them, and supported her rise in the leadership ranks of Miriam Sisterhood. They set an example of showing appreciation and fostering charity, which she has continued.

She recounts making a \$36 donation to Sisterhood on her 36th birthday, and being heartily honored by the Sisterhood leadership for this example of support. Every donation is meaningful. She gave her daughter-in-law a Torah Fund pin this year, which she cherishes, and recommends this as a way to help both Torah Fund and the recipient. Giving and setting an example are in Adele's nature.

Adele and Paul have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren. Grandson Jesse is a graduate of JTS and has a pulpit in Olney. MD. Granddaughter, Hayley, is an Israeli citizen, and a captain in the IDF reserve. Their family has now expanded to include a 1-year-old great granddaughter.

She has been an enthusiastic sisterhood and Torah Fund supporter for many years, because of the connection to a woman's Jewish community which carries on to future generations. Adele is the epitome of a Woman of Achievement.



Joan Gillman

Congregation Beth Sholom Teaneck

Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Sholom, Teaneck, is pleased to announce Joan Gillman as our honoree! Joan has been a member of Sisterhood for 25 years, and her commitment to our Sisterhood, synagogue and community is extraordinary. With heart, Joan has been organizing the ritual portion of Women's League Shabbat for almost as many years as she is a member, choosing women to participate and lead all parts of our



service. She is our membership chair, and has also arranged one of our best trips, visiting the Temple Emanuel Museum with its exhibit, Violins of Hope, learning the stories of violins rescued from the Holocaust.

Always the perpetual learner, Joan participated in the Adult Bat Mitzvah class over 20 years ago and has since added Torah Leyning, chanting the Haftarah and leading davening to her synagogue skills which she greatly enjoys doing.

As an accomplished musician playing piano and violin, Joan performs in three orchestras: the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, North Jersey Symphony and The August Symphony Orchestra. She also gives solo classical concerts at the Rockleigh Jewish Home several times a year, which she began when her mother was a resident there. For many years, Joan was also the piano accompanist for our Beth Sholom Players event which honored members of our shul. The only year she didn't play was when SHE was the honoree!

Joan accomplishes all of the above while still working as a full-time science teacher at the prestigious Browning School in Manhattan and taking care of her two cockatiels and two parakeets.



Bonnie Isaacson

B'nai Shalom West Orange

Bonnie is currently Sisterhood Co-President and has served 2 terms as President. She has led our Sisterhood to provide stimulating, current and meaningful programming and social services for our synagogue community and in support of the religious pillars of our Conservative Synagogue.



Bonnie served as Co-VP of Membership for

three terms, leading teams to foster membership through positive interactions and through creation of memorable and meaningful programs from a celebration of Israeli cultures through cooking, popular dance, crafts, virtual museum tours and Pandemic Zoom cooking. Our Sisterhood has been a multi-year winner of the Jewels in the Crown award in great part due to Bonnie's drive for excellence. We have hosted GSR 2024 Spring Convention and the 2023 Torah Fund Program under her leadership. Bonnie is currently a member of the Synagogue's Executive Board serving as the Recording Secretary.

In the community, Bonnie has been a Steering Committee Member of our Jewish Federation MetroWest- P2G Arad Renewal Program, a philanthropic mission to forge a bond between Arad in the Negev and our Jewish community. Bonnie is the founder of International Living Bridges Book Club, leading book discussions between Arad and MetroWest to foster mutual understanding and connection. Bonnie is a Volunteer at LifeTown, a center that provides programming for individuals with special abilities and their families, working with children when they visit the art studio, nail salon, book store and much more.

Bonnie is a beautiful and calming presence at every function at which she presides.



Susan Liebeskind

Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley Woodcliff Lake

Susan Liebeskind was born in Baltimore. Her parents were active volunteers in the Jewish community and modeled the importance of family, friends, and Tzedakah. Susan & her husband met in college and have tried to instill those same values in their four children.



Susan is a past Sisterhood president, and founded Temple Emanuel's Community of Caring. She chaired it for 20+ years. She also co-founded Sisterhood's Mishloach Manot fundraiser, co-chairing it for 20+ years and helping grow it from nothing to 800 baskets.

She is now a proud grandmother to a 9-month-old and plans to continue to pass on the Jewish values that are so important to her.



Tricky Tray

Tricky Tray Committee: Lynette Seader-Chair; Nancy Mayrowetz and Sindy Manas-Co-chairs; Elise Norwitz, Ilene Rothman, Teri Manes

We thank our Gift Contributors: Sebley Hausler, Helene Knee, Anne Kroll, Carol Kotch, Nancy Mayrowetz, Elise Norwitz, Ilene Rothman, Lynette Seader, Susan Winter

Please support our local businesses: Deli King of Clark; CBL Fine Art, W. Orange; Grand & Essex Kosher Supermarket, Bergenfield; Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael Judaica Shop

- 1. Children's Jewish Holiday and Shabbat Toys
- 2. Seder Plate and Elijah's Cup
- 3. Bath and Body Lotion Basket and \$25 Gift Certificate
- 4. BEE-tastic Basket includes GSR BEE-Shirt
- 5. Basket of Books with \$25 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate
- 6. Satin Splendor with Touchstone Jewelry
- 7. Children Jewish Holiday Toys and Limoge Chanukah trinket box
- 8. Kitchenware Extravaganza + \$25 Macy's Gift Certificate
- 9. Chanukah Celebration
- 10. Elegant Bowls & Sparkles
- 11. Let's Play Mah Jong includes 2025 Mah Jongg Card
- 12. Travel, It's in the Bag
- 13. Shabbat Tableware Setting + Needlepoint by Sebley Hausler
- 14. Exquisite Jewelry, Pears and Swarovski + \$25 ULTA Gift Certificate
- 15. Israel & Wine + Michael Maron signed Lithograph
- 16. Japanese Tea Time by Ortigia
- 17. Carry Bag, Scarf and Cookbook
- 18. \$36 Gift Certificate to CBL Fine Art Judaica, West Orange
- 19. \$25 Gift Certificate to Grand & Essex Supermarket, Bergenfield

Grand "Golden" Prizes

- 21. Vera Bradley Travel Luggage Bag
- 22. Exquisite Glass Jewish Holiday Platters
- 23. Gary Rosenthal Elegant Dreidel Art
- 24. Noah's Ark signed Lithograph
- 25. \$250 Gift Certificate to Deli King of Clark