

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS FROM THE 2014 JEWELS IN THE CROWN RECIPIENTS

A high level of creativity and substance in programming is clearly evident in this year's award recipients. While there are, quite literally, dozens of excellent and innovative programs, these are among the most noteworthy. A number involve intergenerational activities and others are multi-part series.

Changes in Marriage Laws – What You Should Know

Discussion with an attorney regarding marriage, gay marriage, co-habitation and divorce
Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom, Roslyn Heights, NY

Putting King David on Trial

King David, long celebrated as one of Israel's great heroes, is put on trial for adultery (with Bathsheva) and murder (Uriah, her husband). An extraordinary night of courtroom drama and history.
Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Overland Park, KS

Charoset Tasting Bar

A wide variety of ingredients and recipes from around the world, representing many different culinary traditions.
Adat Ari El Sisterhood, Valley Village, CA

Digital Traditions

How to create your own cookbook or hagaddah on a computer
Sisterhood of First Hebrew Congregation, Peekskill, NY

Forgive Yourself

On Rosh Chodesh, members wrote cards to themselves to be more forgiving for mistakes they had made. Discussion followed on the importance of self care.
Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom, Clearwater, FL

Secrets

As an icebreaker, one person collected unusual and little known facts about attendees coming to the opening meeting. The secrets were shared at the meeting and people tried to guess whose was whose.
Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, Cranford, NJ

Bread Making Workshop

Featuring traditional Jewish breads: bialys, corn bread, rye, with discussion about the process and history of these breads.
Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, VA

Multi-generational Programming

Bubbe's Brigade

Mentoring for women in the conversion class
Women's Connection of Beth El, La Jolla, CA

Z'havah/family activities

- Purim Party for a Purpose: for children under 5, with proceeds benefiting Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

- Tot Sukkah Party for children under 5 with holiday arts and crafts, music and hands on learning about Sukkot
- Tot Book and Author event for nursery and Hebrew school students with illustrator Ann Koffsey

Sisterhood of East Meadow Jewish Center, East Meadow, NY

Midrash Manicures

Manicures, makeovers, Karaoke, games, dancing, and discussion of Torah and nail art. Program included teen girls.

Shaare Tefila Sisterhood, Olney, MD

Multi-session Programs

Interfaith Luncheons:

- Exploring Refugee and Human Rights with a human rights lawyer
- Human Trafficking- showed film “Red Light, Green Light”

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Lunch and Learn Series

- History of the pickle
- Odd vegetables and uglifruit
- History of Jews & chocolate

Sisterhood of B'nai Jeshurun, Pepper Pike, OH

Seminar on Technology

How-to's for the cloud, digital photo management, browsers, iPad, apps, etc. Summer series of 3 classes

Jacksonville Jewish Center Sisterhood, Jacksonville, FL

PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS & MORE PROGRAMS

The 2014 class of Jewels in the Crown Award recipients offered dozens of interesting and successful programs that reflect a wide diversity of subjects (including the new WLCJ Mishpachah and Wellness and Learning initiatives), issues, social action projects, celebrations, and personal enrichment activities.

Mishpachah

- . Protecting our children from cyber bullying; preventing our children from becoming bullies
- Family hikes on local nature trail
- Inventing new family rituals
- Jews of Italy-based upon family experiences
- Mental health professionals discuss mishpachah-related issues
- Panel discussion on Jews by choice
- Program on the nurturing and developing abilities of disabled people within the family
- Speaker on homelessness
- When the unexpected happens – panel on legal, financial and spiritual issues of loss and bereavement
- Wine, Women and What's Nu?: a program about women
- Writing an ethical will
- Ye*she*va – multi-generational academic and social series involving multi-dimensional families

Wellness

- The Eyes Have It: eye health from birth through life
- Awareness of glycogen storage disease
- Jewish biggest loser: exercise and nutrition
- Jewish genetic diseases
- Laughter: text study to burn calories and exercise
- Panel on Affordable Care Act
- Program on reflexology and nutrition
- Hang posters on BRCA1 & 2 in women's restrooms
- Safe use of over-the-counter drugs
- Speaker on colon and digestive issues
- Strengthening the Inner you: self-defense, karate and relaxation breathing techniques
- Health Fair
- Tranquili-Tea health fair

Shabbat/Holiday Celebrations

Rosh Hashanah: apple and honey tasting

Sukkot: Midrash in the Sukkah: Lilith, Eve and today's women

Shabbat:

- "Twister sister" challah and hair braiding
- Crockpot Shabbat
- Intergenerational service on Shabbat before Mother's Day

Tu B'Shevat Seder with the Hebrew School

Pesach

- Community women's seder
- Chocolate seder
- Digital traditions: how to make your own Haggadot
- Using a variety of haggadot at your seder
- Fair trade chocolate sales for Passover
- Passover charoset bar
- Passover Family Feud/Passover Jeopardy
- Dairy pot luck pre-seder at home to share recipes and ideas for sederim

Rosh Chodesh: Skype with Israeli Masorti kehillah

Women's League Shabbat celebrations

- Friday night through Shabbat afternoon multi-generational Shabbat
- Friday night Shabbat: prayers to popular music with a theme (Carole King songs; family songs)
- Combine Women's League Shabbat with volunteer appreciation program
- Women's League Shabbat and Deborah Meyer, "Moving Traditions," a traveling exhibit on history of the bat mitzvah
- Women's League Shabbat, original script "Holy in the Holy Land" by Julie Steinschreiber

- Sponsor morning of Simchat Torah or chol hamoed Pesach as Women's League Shabbat

Tikkun Olam, *the mitzvah that commands us to repair the world, is an important focus of our Women's League affiliates today. The breadth and depth of outreach to and for the larger community is impressive.*

Community Involvement

- Bams for Mams: Mahjong day to raise funds for Susan B. Komen
- Baby shower for crisis nursery
- Blankets for Project Linus
- Braille groups
- Celebrate Hanukah with a nursing home and a homeless shelter
- Collect art supplies for special needs children
- Collect items for soldiers, homeless, shelters
- Collect prom dresses for those who can't afford them
- Collect tzedakah at monthly board meeting for community projects
- Collect used eyeglasses and shoes and coats
- "Comedy for a Cause": proceeds to charity
- "Cook for a Friend" who is ill or caregiving
- Cook soup for hospice patients
- Crime prevention seminar; CPR workshop; Self defense class
- Dinner for Ronald McDonald House
- Donate blood
- Collect for "Dress for Success"
- Embroidering a portion of a Torah scroll (multi-community program)
- Free lecture about identity theft and elder and child abuse
- Gary Rosenthal Glass Ribbon Project
- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteer for and support local food banks
- Advocate for legislation against human trafficking
- IDF programs/sponsorship
- Knitting for senior home, hospitals, servicemen, NIC-ICU
- "Leading the Way": Jewish women's voices in politics
- Promoting literacy
- Make pillows for cardiac patients
- Make sandwiches for after school program
- Make honey cakes for community with no kosher bakery available
- Meals for homeless shelters
- MedWish International (recycle med supplies)
- Mitzvah of the Month
- Offer rides to and from doctor appointments
- Provide shiva meals
- Rosh Hashanah programming at nursing home
- Shared meals: weekly kugel delivery
- "Some of my best friends are Christians and Jews"
- Special Needs B'nai Mitzvah in Israel
- "Stop the Violence" anti abuse program

- Synagogue composting
- Synagogues as shelters during cold weather
- Interfaith Good Deeds Day
- Interfaith teas
- Tallitot for foster children
- Thanksgiving baskets with treats and supplies for those in need

World Affairs

- Sending packages to men and women in the armed forces
- Adopt a National Guard Unit in Afghanistan
- Knitting for the Masorti kehillot in Israel
- Adopt a community in Ukraine
- “Are the Jewish Settlements an Obstacle to Peace?”
- Entrepreneurial opportunities for women in Israel
- Interfaith luncheons: human rights and human trafficking
- Speaker on Hezbollah threat
- Tallit making for Abayuda community in Uganda

Special Interest Groups

- Book Club: day and/or night
- Bowling groups
- Chicks Who Stitch
- College boxes
- Conversation circle with rebbetzin
- Game Day
- Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation
- Knitting
- Lunch bunch
- Mahjong
- Rosh Chodesh
- Skype with authors
- Stitches Judaic handcrafts
- Walking clubs
- Yiddish class
- Yoga

Popular Program Themes

- Domestic violence
- Electronics and general recycling
- Genetics
- Growing up in other countries
- Health/Nutrition
- Learn with the rabbi
- Lunch and Learns, Shabbat Conversations
- Memory issues
- Multi-interest day

- Weekly classes
- Self defense
- Theater and museum trips
- Pink-themed programs for breast and ovarian cancer awareness

Popular Food/Cooking programs

- Candy and truffle making
- Challah braiding
- Chinese food and movie
- Get in the “Spirits” and mixology
- Cookbook publication
- Sushi making
- Cheesecakes and blintzes for Shavuot
- Making spring rolls
- Mixology
- Selichot “Coffee Shop”
- Truffle making
- Charoset varieties
- Honey cake projects for fundraising or senior and homeless facilities
- Hammentaschen projects