

2013 MIDWEST DISTRICT OR AMI AWARD WINNERS

Gold Or Ami Award Winners

Be The Match – National Bone Marrow Registry

Temple Chai Sisterhood, Long Grove, IL, www.templechai.org/programs/sisterhood

Project Chair: Lisa Hartman

After learning that a bone marrow match can save a life, a match is more likely to come from a donor with similar genetic ancestry, and matches are desperately needed in the Jewish community, this sisterhood held a bone marrow drive along with the organization Be The Match to find a match for a local Jewish girl in need of a transplant. The drive registered 150 people.

Judaica for Joplin

WRJ Midwest District, www.wrjmidwest.org

Project Chair: Julia Ziev

In response to the 2011 Joplin, MO tornado, this District (which does not include Joplin) asked its members to supply four Joplin Jewish families with needed Judaica items including: Shabbat candlesticks, challah covers, mezuzot, kiddush cups, seder plates, chanukiyot, and candles for Shabbat and Chanukah.

Bronze Or Ami Award Winners

Create a Bag – Save a Tree: Tu B'Shevat Project

Emanuel Congregation WRJ, Chicago, IL, www.emmanuelcong.org/wrj

Project Chair: Sandra K. Fernbach

To celebrate Tu B'shevat and enhance the visibility of sisterhood in their congregation, members created a program to honor and save trees. All religious school children were invited to a free "make a bag" workshop, where a public school art teacher helped them decorate a reusable muslin grocery bag for them and their families to use.

Honorable Mentions

BJBE ROCKS with The Not For Profit Band

Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim Sisterhood, Deerfield, IL,
www.bjbe.org/pages/sisterhood

Project Chair: Carol Berger

BJBE ROCKS with The Not for Profit Band was a multigenerational, community-building event in which sisterhood partnered in leadership and planning with the men's club, senior youth group, and the temple's clergy to host an evening for 300 attendees, raise funds for construction of a new, on-site religious school, and collect food for the homeless.

Business Networking Group

Temple Israel Sisterhood, Minneapolis, MN, www.templeisrael.com/getinvolved_sisterhood.htm

Project Chair: Leslie Held

Three times each year, sisterhood women from Temple Israel and two other area sisterhoods meet in a relaxed and professional environment to showcase their businesses while building meaningful personal and professional relationships.

Dayenu Monologues

Women of North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL,
www.nsci.org/Get_Involved/Women_of_NSCI/Women_of_NSCI

Project Chair: Rachel Heyman

This study/writing group formed to create and perform the Dayenu Monologues, a choral presentation based on the personal stories of women in the group, re-written as a “Dayenu.” The project served to spiritually and ritually refresh the sisterhood’s popular Women’s Seder and the Haggadah they had previously written together.

Knead and Nosh Challah Baking

Congregation B’nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim Sisterhood, Deerfield, IL,
www.bjbe.org/pages/sisterhood

Project Chair: Ethel Kikoler

Knead and Nosh Challah Baking is an intergenerational social, bonding, and Jewish experience that enables the congregants to learn to make homemade challah for their families for Shabbat and other Jewish holidays. The program also helps women discover or renew awareness of the sisterhood, a welcoming organization with programs of interest to women of all ages.

Lilith Salon

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood, Hoffman Estates, IL, www.bethtikvah.org/HouseofCommunity/Sisterhood.aspx

Project Chair: Gayle Kopin

This sisterhood’s Lilith Salon is an ongoing book club and discussion group centered on articles from *Lilith* magazine. A diverse group of women in their 40s through 80s meets four times per year to share camaraderie and conversation from a Jewish, feminist perspective.

WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) Shower

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Israel, Skokie, IL, www.tbiskokie.org/sisterhood.cfm

Project Chair: Jane Page

Attendees at the WINGS shower brought gift-wrapped useful items, from toilet paper and hygiene products to gift cards, baby items, and non-perishable food, for at-risk women and children to help them in their WINGS-provided new, safe housing. Local Girl Scouts also participated in this “shower” and the sisterhood has established an ongoing donation to WINGS.