

## ***Amazing contributions of Beth Shalom Sisterhood for 95 years 1924-2019***

All the Sisterhood Presidents brought leadership, dignity, intelligence and creativity during their administration. While programs come and go, we are proud many of Beth Shalom Sisterhood's projects are still current. The projects still current today are designated in bold with an asterisk\*. Information gleaned from our archives, old scrapbooks and the DVD taped in 2009 by Rickie Haith of the living past presidents. These are original highlights of their respective administrations. Sisterhood received many awards from International Women's league over the years for exceptional community service, unique programs, Jewish Education and spirituality.

**Sarah Peltzman** 1924-1926, Sarah was honored to be the first president

**Susie Peltzman** 1926-1928

**Minnie Katz** 1928-1929

**Toby Kleban** 1929-1930

**Dora Sandler** 1930-1932

**Lillian Small** 1932- 1933

**Ann Jacobs** 1932-1935

Ann established the **Passover Torah Fund Luncheon\*** with the initiative of Rebbetzin, Ann Hadas

**Celia Trainin** 1935-1937

**Ruth Levi** 1937-1938

**Mae Marder** 1938-1939

**Gladys Katz Hoffman** 1939-1945

Gladys started the **Sisterhood Shabbat\***.

**Minna Seelig** 1945-1949

Inspired and guided future leaders, Past President of the Midwest Branch

**Mary Malcy** 1949-1951

Promoted Night of the Stars with national entertainment and started a Date Book.

**Ethel Rich** 1951-1955

Ethel began the **Sisterhood Gift Shop\***.

**Evelyn Levine** 1955-1957

Evelyn **arranged original performances of meaningful fun and educational skits for open meetings. An original script was written for the outgoing president.\*** Evelyn was a Past President of the Midwest Branch.

**Adele Lipoff** 1957-1959

Adele encouraged music, drama and education in all programming.

**Anna Rheva Shanberg** 1959-1961

Anna Rheva started the **Head Start Program and the Braille program** for inscribing books. This was chaired by Dee Benjamin. Both programs were taken over by Community organizations. Market Days were established. Anna Rheva was a Discussion Leader for the Midwest Branch.

**Pauline Hendel** 1961-1963

Created the Chayai Olam Plaque

**Bettye Rose Steinhaus** 1963-65 **conducted Leadership**

**Training workshops\***. She was a Midwest Branch President and an International Vice President of Women's League. Leadership training has continued during all administrations for developing future leaders.

**Loreen Jacobson** 1965-1967

**Betty Brand 1967-1969**

Rabbi Morris Margolies did book reviews for each Torah fund luncheon and the sisterhood made over quota. Torah Fund continues to make over quota for the **Jewish Theological Seminary.\***

**Janice Shopmaker 1969-1971**

**Blanche Sosland, Ph.D. 1971-73**

Blanche started the Sisterhood Calendar that became the **Congregation Calendar\***, an important fundraiser along with the Sisterhood Gift Shop. The profits from these fundraisers afford sisterhood the funds to support the Congregation and Sisterhood projects. Blanche also started the **Simcha Committee\*** to help prepare the Kiddushim for B'nai Mitzvah. The Congregation now provides Kiddush on a Shabbat without a B'nai Mitzvah.

**Elizabeth Bohm 1973-1975**

**The creation of the world, 'Bereshit' tapestry\***, needle pointed by sisterhood women, hangs prominently in the Goldsmith Social Hall. Envisioned in Elizabeth Bohm's administration 1973-75 and **completed and dedicated in Sarah Small's administration 1975-77**, receiving Women's League International Recognition. During Liz Bohm's presidency, Rickie Haith was the **first woman in the history of Sisterhood to chant a haftarah at the Sisterhood Shabbat.\*** **Currently the women can conduct the entire service.**

**Sarah small, Ph.D., 1975-1977**

**Sarah was the first woman to have a Torah Aliyah in the history of sisterhood and the congregation.** Sarah Small was instrumental in **beginning the Bat Torah study program with Rabbi Morris Margolies as the primary instructor.** He taught the Bible and Jewish History for an 11 year intensive study program, tests and papers were written. Certificates recognized the participants' accomplishments. One hundred women were in attendance. Sarah also taught in the program. The program earned International honors. Education is the foundation of sisterhood. Sarah was a Past Vice President of the Midwest Branch.

**Evelyn Gibian 1977-1979**

The formation of the Docent Committee provided tours for hundreds of visitors to be able to tour the congregation, Inge Silverman chaired the committee.

**Myra Shalet 1979-1981**

Sisterhood hosted the Midwest Branch Spring Conference. This was the first conference ever given over a Shabbat. Myra was a Past Vice President of the Midwest Branch.

**Rickie Haith, 1981-83**

**Rickie initiated the 12 needlepointed Torah Mantles\*** for each Jewish Holiday to be used for that particular Holiday. The Mantles were needle pointed by sisterhood women. Laural Rogovein was Chairman and Joe Oshiver was Congregation Art Chairman. The Gift Shop was an overwhelming financial success with Betty Rose Steinhaus and Joyce Kalender as chairmen. This led to the formation of the Long Range Planning Committee. The **Long Range Planning Committee\*** made up of Past Sisterhood Presidents was formed to benefit projects for Congregation Beth Shalom. Myra Shalet was appointed Chair. Through the years many worthwhile projects and contributions were donated to the Congregation. Under her administration a program was started for the Hearing impaired, chaired by Marna Dolginoff. The project was taken over by a community organization for the deaf and hearing impaired. A **Shabbat rotating basket\*** was implemented for the preschool and is still being used today. Rickie was also a Past President of the Midwest Branch of Women's League, Women's League International Vice President, Board member, Consultant, Trainer, Torah Fund Cabinet, and Book Review Editor for Outlook Magazine.

**Carol Goldstein: 1983-85**

**Carol and Rickie Haith dedicated the Shabbat Torah Mantle** in 1983 in honor of sisterhood, and **all 12 Mantles were completed by 1991.\*** During Carol Goldstein's administration, the purchase of **foyer furniture\*** was dedicated by Sisterhood Presidents with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This was the first project initiated by the Long Range Planning Committee. Carol was a Past Vice President of the Midwest Branch.

**Marna Dolginoff** 1985-1987

Marna, initiated the **Lechem Committee\*** to feed the hungry. It was taken over by the Congregation for more congregational involvement. Programming was innovating after the roof of the Congregation's social hall blew off in the second year of her administration.

**Sandra Rozen** 1987-1989

Sandi faced transition when Rabbi Morris Margolies retired and Rabbi Oler became the new Rabbi. Still dealing with the damage from the roof blowing off the Congregation, programs were creative to fit the situation. The Gift Shop had to be refurbished under the guidance of Betty Rose Steinhaus.

**Doris Flam** 1989-1991

Doris creative writing skills were evident during her administration. **The Leadership Development Award was established by the Past Presidents.\***

**Noreen Greenberg** 1991-1993

An original script celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beth Shalom Sisterhood. Sisterhood gave a generous contribution for the writing of the new Sephardic Torah. All the Past Presidents participated in the actual writing of the Torah with the scribe.

**Alison Heisler** 1993-1995

Alison created a new Book of Remembrance card with the beautiful 12 needlepointed Torah Mantles. This was also the beginning of the Sisterhood's annual major monetary contribution to the new building fund for the Lamar Campus.

**Merna Siegler** 1995-1997

Featherfoot, a program to provide shoes for the needy was chaired by Dion Lutzk. The sisterhood joined the Women's League Midwest Branch 'Capital Experience' in Jefferson City.

**Toba Maslan** 1997-1999

**PrayerWorks\*** was formulated with the cooperation of Community Service VP, Elisa Pener, Rickie Haith, chair / facilitator and the encouragement of Judy Bell, Life Board Member. Robin Winner, wrote and directed the script "Back to the future Sisterhood Style". Sisterhood's 75<sup>th</sup> year was celebrated with all the Presidents dressed for each decade. Toba Maslan was outgoing President and Aletha Simon incoming President in this historic year. The Sisterhood calendar was a banner financial success with the help of Betty Brand.

**Aletha Simon** 1999-2001

Aletha had a garage sale in the social hall to benefit the preschool programs. **Babysitting was provided for open, executive and board meetings\*** to encourage young women to attend programs.\*

**Dion Lutzk and Rhea Salasche** 2001-2003

Dion and Rhea were the **first Co-Presidents\*** of Sisterhood. They installed the **first and only honorary male member, Herman Mondschein**, of blessed memory, for his active involvement. They **honored PrayerWorks\*** for the two awards received from International Women's League, for PrayerWorks promoting spirituality and the Midrash written by Rickie Haith," And Moses Cried...". An article about PrayerWorks was written in WL 'Outlook' Magazine. Dion and Rhea promoted the "Year of the Volunteer" and honored all committees throughout the year.

**Arlene Shalinsky** 2003-2005

Instituted cooking classes Jewish style, and made some changes in the calendar format.

**Gerre Minkin and Sue Vile** 2005-2007

Gerre and Sue were Co-Presidents, and **introduced technology\*** using computers for communication in the Gift Shop. In 2005 the Gift Shop was **moved** to the new Lamar building\*. Rickie Haith was selected to receive the International Women's League 'Eishet Hayil' Award during their administration.

### **Harryette Cooperman 2007-2009**

Harryette, started **Warm up America\***. 330 hand-made, unique, beautiful and warm afghans have been distributed to various "existing" organizations that were given to clients in need, under the assumed 7 year chairmanship of Carol Yarmo, current president. **A Book Club\*** was also organized.

### **Marcy Rydell 2009-2011**

An historic DVD was created for the **85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sisterhood\***. All the living Presidents were videotaped for the Sisterhood and Jewish Archives, by Rickie Haith. This was to be used as a resource for the future. An original script was written for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's League. The 90+ year old members were honored. Regina Pachter, over 90 years young, was the featured pianist. Marcy created a new Book of Remembrance card with a picture of the **'Bereshit' tapestry\***.

### **Linda Lessner 2011-2013**

**Banishing Bully Behavior\*** project was organized with the help of Carol Yarmo and Blanche Sosland. After Linda's term as Sisterhood President was completed in May 2013, she brought the Brandeis "Movie Nite Out" fundraiser to Beth Shalom Sisterhood. (The Brandeis National Committee gave permission for our use of this project as long as we noted on the program and publicity for one year that it was "formerly Brandeis Movie Nite Out.") Sisterhood renamed the event Beth Shalom presents "A Nite at the Movies." She chaired this fundraiser for four years from 2013 to 2016. This fundraiser was discontinued in 2017. It was too much work for the amount of money raised. The Leadership Development Award's name changed to Leadership Recognition Award.

### **Beverly Newman 2013-2015**

The Torah Fund Shabbat was originated --to recognize Torah Fund and its contributors. Gloria Sher Chaired the Shabbat. **The "Trial of King David"\***--was an original idea of Phyllis Abrams, other trials have followed. It was held on a Saturday evening after Minhah and incorporated a Havdalah service. Sisterhood won special recognition for creativity from the IntraContinental Region. Awarded the Jewels in the Crown at the Emerald Level

for the third time in a row from Women's League

### **Berenice Haberman 2015-2017**

After 10 years in the Lamar building, a Kitchen Shower was held to replenish utensils in the Beth Shalom Kitchen. The sisterhood also had a demonstration on how to cook cholent. The members were given the ingredients to make the cholent at home, a traditional Shabbat afternoon meal. A demonstration on how to make challah was given at another meeting. A creative Intergenerational Women's Seder with music was led by Hazzan Tahl Ben Yehudah.

### **Carol Yarmo 2017-2019**

As the current Sisterhood President, Carol continues to chair the Warm up America project. She is partnering with local organizations to distribute the afghans made by Warm up America. Some of the organizations are: **SafeHome, Jewish War Veterans, Synergy, Operation Breakthrough, Disabled veterans, Wounded Warriors, Jewish Family Services, the Firemen and Women of our area's Fire Department ....to name just a few.\***

Under Suzanne Lange's leadership as VP of Education, there is a change in the format of the Peltzman Adult Study Program to make it more versatile, and make it more relevant to our lives today. **The Banishing Bully Behavior\*** project is still close to her heart.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PrayerWorks was honored at a PrayerWorks Shabbat with participants leading the entire service, chaired by Nata Scharf. Currently sisterhood is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's League-1918-2018, Beth shalom Sisterhood's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, honoring the Past Presidents of Sisterhood, and the current 100 year old members. Overseeing the repairs of the Torah Mantles are Aletha Simon and Carol Goldstein.