

The United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism



The 2011



Solomon Schechter Awards
for Synagogue Excellence

GUIDELINES and CRITERIA
for

Leadership Development

*to be presented at the
Biennial Convention
December 1-4, 2011*

Jerry I. Klibanoff
Committee Chair

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Biennial Convention Vice-Chair

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Biennial Convention Director

Richard Skolnik
International President

Rabbi Steven Wernick
Executive Vice President

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership development in our synagogues is an ongoing and multifaceted process. This category recognizes congregations that have done substantial work in building quality Jewish leaders for the congregation and community.

Leadership development may include enhancing skills in:

reaching out to members; improved quality of board, meetings; clarifying the characteristics of Jewish leadership; strengthening committees; finding and motivating volunteers; building partnerships between lay and professional leaders; studying leadership from a Jewish traditional perspective; emulating the leadership examples of Jewish men and women, past and present; developing programs based on mitzvah observance; management of congregation fiscal operations; transmitting Jewish values from synagogue to home; becoming a confident, competent Conservative Jew.

1. Describe the leadership development work done by your synagogue since May 2009.
2. Describe the patterns and programs in Jewish leadership you created.
3. How have you concretized your congregation's mission statement through action?
4. Describe how your congregation trains current leaders to be better role models of Jewish living.
5. Describe how your congregation trains current leaders to be more effective committee leaders and officers.
6. Describe the board development seminars or sessions you have conducted. What time frame has been used for training?
7. Describe how USCJ leadership development programs (either regional/district or central USCJ, Sulam or Imun, in which your congregation participated has improved the congregation. Be specific.
8. How has your synagogue's leadership development program achieved these goals?
9. Submit documentation of a synagogue self-evaluation by the board or independent committee.

****Solomon Schechter Award Guidelines****

We welcome your applications for this year's Schechter awards. Everything will be different at this year's convention ... no, no, wait, this isn't a convention any more, it's a kallah. Things have changed. That's true of the Schechter awards too. The rules for applying are different. Please read them carefully.

*Please review and follow these guidelines when applying for a Solomon Schechter award. Entries must be in our hands by the deadline, 5 pm eastern time, on Monday, **May 2, 2011**.*

1. The Schechter awards recognize programs that are unique and unusually effective. They are not awarded for programs that are wonderful but already have been done elsewhere.
2. United Synagogue's Solomon Schechter Awards program recognizes congregations, not subgroups or affiliates. Therefore, please be sure that all entries are submitted by the congregation. We do not accept submissions from separate departments, programs, or people from the congregation.
3. You can enter in as many categories as you'd like, but you can send only one entry per award category and each entry must have its own application form. (The application form is at www.uscj.org/Schechter_Awards7907.html.) Please choose the category for each entry based on the printed guidelines and criteria, and indicate that category on the application.
4. We provide guidelines and criteria to simplify the application process and to help the judges evaluate entries. *You need not respond to every item in the guidelines.* You may describe your entry in narrative form; be sure to include samples of all supporting materials.
5. Applications **must** include a two- or three-paragraph summary of the award description. The summary page is part of the application document.
6. Don't forget to sign the application! We can't accept it unsigned. We will accept electronic signatures.
7. We take the size of a congregation into consideration when we give out the awards. We plan to award one gold, one silver, and one bronze in every category to each size division.
8. We **strongly encourage** you to submit all materials in electronic formats such as Word® or PDF, on such media as CDs, DVDs or thumb drives. If you must send hard-copy material, be sure to include a copy of the award application. The website awards must be submitted in electronic form.
9. **Please note: We do not return entries once you submit them.** All submissions become the property of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. United Synagogue reserves the right to use materials from the submissions, in whole or in part, with appropriate credit, in materials to be produced or distributed by United Synagogue.
10. Award-winning entries will be on display at United Synagogue's kallah (convention) in December 2011. We strongly encourage representatives from the award-winning congregations to attend the convention to accept the awards and to share information about the programs.
11. Applications **MUST** be in our possession by the deadline of **May 2, 2011**. When you email your application, please ask for a return receipt. E-applications should be sent to sollies@uscj.org. If you must send physical items, they must be shipped by delivery services that allow for package tracking (such as FedEx, USPS Priority Mail or UPS). For your peace of mind, request delivery confirmation. Send shipped entries, which include application, supporting material, and summary, to

**Solomon Schechter Awards
The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rapaport House – 10th Floor
820 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017**

Only congregations in good financial standing as of JUNE 30, 2011 are eligible to receive an award.

For additional or clarifying information, please talk to our staff consultant, **Aaron L. Kischel, at the Northeast District office of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**
Phone: 617-964-8210; e-mail: kischel@uscj.org

Please do not send completed applications to Mr. Kischel. Email them to sollies@uscj.org



The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rapaport House · 820 Second Avenue · 10th floor · New York, NY 10017

Application for 2011 Solomon Schechter Awards – The Sollies

Type inside the grey boxes.

Name of Congregation:

Address

City

State/Province

Postal Code

Phone #

Fax #

e mail

This congregation is applying for a Solomon Schechter Award in the following category:

CATEGORY: [Please use name for category as listed in criteria document]

This application is submitted on behalf of the congregation by:

Name:

office/chair:

Date:

Phone #:

E mail:

[Signature]

Name of Rabbi:

Phone #:

E mail:

Name of Executive Director [if congregation has one]:

Phone #:

E mail:

Name of President:

Phone #:

E mail:

Our congregation has a membership of [check one]:

Under 100

100 - 250

250 - 500

500 - 900

Over 900

I, President of this congregation, sign this application form acknowledging that my congregation has submitted material for consideration for a Solomon Schechter Award. I understand that the materials submitted become the property of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and will not be returned to my congregation.

[Congregation President's Signature · Electronic signature acceptable]

REMINDER: Each entry must have its own application form and be contained in its own envelope. Multiple applications from the same congregation may be sent in a single packing box, as long as the materials are appropriately marked.

Additional application forms can be downloaded from www.uscj.org.

We will accept applications and materials only until 5:00PM Eastern time, May 2, 2011.

Send (via courier service as specified in Guidelines #11) to:

**2011 SOLOMON SCHECHTER AWARDS
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
Tenth Floor
820 Second Avenue
NEW YORK, NY 10017**

Any questions? Please contact Aaron L. Kischel, Staff Consultant, at (617) 964-8210; e-mail kischel@uscj.org

Note: We cannot accept applications which do not include a completed summary sheet [see next page].



The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rapaport House · 820 Second Avenue · 10th floor · New York, NY 10017

Summary sheet for 2011 Solomon Schechter Award

Type inside the grey boxes.

Please use this sheet to present a summary of your program. It will be used for the awards book and may be used for further publication. We cannot accept applications which do not include this summary.

Name of Congregation:

City

State/Province

Postal Code

CATEGORY:

Title of Program:

Summary of program.