



## GALA CELEBRATION HONORING JEWISH EDUCATION

On Thursday **May 14 - 20 Iyar** – the **Midwest Region of the Jewish Educators Assembly** honored nine teachers and eight congregational leaders in a reception at **Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah in Wilmette**. The honorees were: **Erica Brief** and **Sharon Stern** from **Am Yisrael Congregation in Northfield**, **Jodi Levit** and **Trudy Balogh** from **Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove**, **Alma Perlish** and **Pamela Issen** from **Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook**, **Rabbi Ruven Barkan** and **Dr. Roger Stein** from **Chicagoland Jewish High School in Deerfield**, **Michael Rosenberg** and **Howard Romanek** from **Ezra Habonim – Niles Township Jewish Congregation**, in **Skokie**, **Mina Fiat** and **Carol Flank** from **West Suburban Temple Har Zion in River Forest**, **Ruth Halpern** and **Dr. Kenneth Cohen** from **Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah in Wilmette**, **David Barany**, **Linda Sonin** and **Stephen Schwartz** from the **Board of Jewish Education Metropolitan Chicago Campus for Jewish Education**, in **Northbrook**. The evening program included welcome remarks by **Sally Brown-Winter** and **Alicia Gejman**, Gala Chairs, greetings by **Edward Edelstein**, the **National Executive Director of the Jewish Educators Assembly**, a *D'var Torah* by **Rabbi Allan Kensky**, Spiritual Leader at **Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah**, a musical performance by **Cantor Stewart Figa** from **West Suburban Temple Har Zion** accompanied by **Howard Pfeiffer**, and presentations of award certificates to honorees by **Alicia Gejman** and **Esther Weiss**, co-Presidents of **Midwest Region of the Jewish Educators Assembly**. “It is our hope that this ceremony of honoring outstanding teachers and congregational leaders will return periodically. The work and dedication of the honorees should be a source of inspiration to all of us and should increase the visibility of Jewish education in the local and national Jewish communities” said **Alicia Gejman**. “Those who teach our children and those who support Jewish education are performing sacred work. It is our pleasure to recognize them and applaud efforts” said **Edward Edelstein**.

### MISSION

The mission of the Jewish Educators Assembly is to promote excellence among educators committed to Conservative Jewish education by advancing professionalism, encouraging leadership, pursuing lifelong learning and building community.



Standing from left to right: **Sally Brown-Winter, Rabbi Ruven Barkan, Dr. Roger Stein, Howard Romanek, Stephen Schwartz, David Barany, Linda Sonin, Sharon Stern, Alma Perlish, Ruth Halpern (front), Dr. Kenneth Cohen (back), Alicia Gejman and Edward Edelstein.** Sitting from left from right: **Pamela Issen, Michael Rosenberg, Trudy Balogh, Jodi Levit, Erica Brief, Mina Fiat and Carol Flank.**