

2011 Covenant Awards

Nomination Guidelines



A Program of the Crown Family Foundation
and the Jewish Education Service of North America

The Covenant Foundation

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September 2010

Dear Colleague:

This year, The Covenant Foundation honors three extraordinary Jewish educators with Covenant Awards: Ms. Jan Darsa, Ms. Beth Huppin, and Dr. Bernard Steinberg. We have enclosed descriptions of these remarkable educators. Each Award carries with it a \$36,000 prize for the recipient and a \$5,000 prize for the organization that employs the Award winner.

2010 marks the twentieth time The Covenant Foundation has acknowledged the extraordinary talent found in Jewish education. Sixty professionals have received this honor. We are looking to you to help continue this crucial tradition.

The 2011 Covenant Award recipients will come from your communities—please help us identify them! The Foundation seeks nominations of extraordinary educators who have been overlooked, as well as outstanding educators in areas of Jewish education that have received too little attention. We continue to recognize the need to identify remarkable classroom teachers whose groundbreaking work can serve as a model to the community. Please help us to find and honor the next recipients of the Covenant Award.

In the following guidelines, you will find everything you need to nominate a Jewish educator for the Award. Please read all the instructions with care and take note of the nominator's various responsibilities. The deadlines indicated on the materials are firm; the Foundation cannot accept materials that arrive after the deadline. For further information about the Covenant Foundation, please refer to our website at www.covenantfn.org/awards.

Warmly,



Harlene Winnick Appelman
www.covenantfn.org

*This is My Covenant with you . . .
the words which I have put into your mouth
shall not depart from you . . .
nor from your children,
nor from your children's children
henceforth and forever.*

–Isaiah 59:21

ואני זאת בריתי... דברי
לא ימוש... מפי זרעך...
מעתה ועד-עולם.

Cultivating Excellence, Effectiveness, and Creativity in Jewish Education

The Covenant Foundation was established in 1990 by the Crown Family Foundation in partnership with the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA). The Foundation honors outstanding Jewish educators and supports creative approaches to programming while building on existing strengths within the field of Jewish education. The Covenant Foundation strengthens educational endeavors that perpetuate the identity and heritage of the Jewish people across all denominations and in all settings. The Covenant Foundation supports early childhood, youth, family, and adult Jewish education, primarily through Grants and Awards. Covenant Awards recognize the achievements of exceptional Jewish educators who have distinguished themselves through their creativity, commitment, and talent. Covenant Grants provide funding to enable creative Jewish educators to develop and implement significant, replicable, cost-effective programming in schools, agencies, community organizations, and other non-profit institutions.

2011 Covenant Awards for Exceptional Jewish Educators

The Covenant Foundation announces the twenty-first annual Covenant Awards and invites new nominations of extraordinary educators to be considered for these 2011 Awards. Designed to honor, thank, and celebrate outstanding educators, Covenant Awards are presented to three individuals each year. Each Award carries with it a prize of \$36,000 for the educator and an additional \$5,000 for the educator's home institution.

Over the past twenty years, sixty remarkable educators have received Covenant Awards. These individuals represent the creativity, commitment, and talent in a field that is increasingly being recognized and supported by the community. Recipients have distinguished themselves in a myriad of ways in Jewish education, including classroom teaching, family education, dance, music, adult education, *tzedakah*, storytelling, Hillel work, curriculum design, leadership, and professional development.

The responsibilities of the Award nominator, Letter of Support writers, and Award nominee are clearly delineated in this brochure. **Note that the role of the nominator is crucial.** The process requires the oversight of the nominator from

beginning to end; it is the nominator's responsibility to ensure that all parties are aware of all requirements and deadlines. The deadlines are firm; no exceptions will be made.

Eligibility

Educators at any stage of their careers with significant achievements in the field of Jewish education are eligible to be nominated for a Covenant Award. Please note, however, that the Award is only given to people currently active in the field and is not typically used to mark the conclusion of a career. Educators working in any setting in North America are eligible to receive a Covenant Award, including those working in day schools, congregational schools, camps, informal education, Hillel programs, family and adult programs, and other kinds of educational endeavors. Educators teaching primarily in a college, seminary, or university setting for credit are not eligible.

Previous Nominees

Educators whose dossiers were first considered for the 2009 or 2010 Awards will automatically be reconsidered for the 2011 Awards. Nominees with complete, still eligible dossiers who do not wish to be considered should notify the Foundation as soon as possible. The Foundation also allows the renomination of Award nominees who were considered for the 2008 Awards or earlier (nominated in or before 2007). These materials should include a new Statement of Nomination, new Biographical Information, new Statements of Motivation and Purpose, and new Letters of Support. **The Foundation has disposed of all dossiers considered for the 2008 Awards or earlier.** Candidates may contact the Covenant Foundation if they have any questions about their status.

Selection Criteria

To be considered for a Covenant Award, a completed Award dossier must demonstrate that the candidate

- is an exceptional Jewish educator who has had a significant impact on others,
- has contributed creatively to advancing the transmission of Jewish knowledge, values, and identity, and
- is a positive role model.

Nominations

Anyone concerned with Jewish education in North America is welcome to submit a nomination for the Covenant Awards. We encourage nominations from community

members and professionals of all religious denominations and from all institutional frameworks. No one may nominate more than one person for a Covenant Award in any one year. We will not consider any candidates who are self-nominated or nominated by an immediate family member.

Formatting Requirements

The documents required for nomination must be prepared according to the following guidelines. All nomination materials should be prepared as single-sided, double-spaced 8 ½" x 11" documents, using a 12-point font. All pages must be numbered.

HOW TO NOMINATE AN EDUCATOR

Part I. Responsibilities of the Nominator

Those who wish to nominate an educator for a Covenant Award have the following three responsibilities:

1. Submit a **Statement of Nomination** via post and e-mail to be received by the Covenant Foundation no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, November 18, 2010. The e-mail must be sent to awards@covenantfn.org, and the subject line must read "Nomination of (first and last name of nominee)." The Statement of Nomination must include the following three parts:

a. **Cover Page** on a single sheet of paper:

i. Information about the nominee (each entry should be on a separate line):

- Name
- Organization
- Professional title
- Street address (home/work)
- City, State, Zip
- Telephone number (day/work)
- Telephone number (evening)
- E-mail address
- Current professional affiliation(s)
- Years of service in Jewish education

Please note that the address you provide on this cover page will be used by the Foundation for all future correspondence. Please ensure that it is correct and indicate whether it is the nominee's work or home address.

ii. Information about the nominator (each entry should be on a separate line):

- Name
- Organization
- Professional title
- Street address (home/work)
- City, State, Zip
- Telephone number (day/work)
- Telephone number (evening)
- E-mail address
- Current professional affiliation(s), if applicable
- Professional relationship to the nominee (e.g., student, teacher, colleague, community member, congregant, etc.)

Please indicate whether the address provided is your work or home address.

b. A **Written Statement** from the nominator describing the nominee's exceptional contributions to the field of Jewish education and explaining why these

contributions merit a Covenant Award. This statement must be limited to two 8 ½" x 11" double-spaced, single-sided pages, using 12-point font. The statement may not exceed 700 words.

2. Send the **Notice of Nomination** letter, which can be found in the back of this brochure, or at www.covenantfn.org/awards, to the nominee. The Notice of Nomination letter notifies the nominee that he or she is being considered for a Covenant Award and provides detailed information about how to complete his or her dossier. All of the nominee's materials must be submitted via post and e-mail and must be received by the Covenant Foundation no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. The nominator is responsible for ensuring that the Award candidate knows that he or she has been nominated and is aware of all relevant deadlines. (Also see Nominee's Responsibilities below.)

3. Invite three people to write **Letters of Support**. Send each one the pre-written invitation found on the Covenant Foundation website at www.covenantfn.org/awards. This invitation notifies the writer that he or she is being asked to write a Letter of Support on behalf of the nominee and provides detailed information about how to complete the letter. These letters should be written by colleagues, former or current students, or community members who have worked directly with the nominee. Letters should be solicited from people who know the nominee from different contexts. (Also see Responsibilities of the Letter of Support Writer for complete instructions.)

An important part of the nominator's responsibility is to ensure that the writers of the Letters of Support complete their letters to the specifications outlined in the following section and are informed of the submission deadline, which is 5:00 p.m. EST on December 1, 2010. If all three letters are not received by the Covenant Foundation via post and e-mail by this deadline, the candidate will not be eligible for consideration this year. The nominator may wish to consider collecting these Letters of Support and submitting all of them at one time via post and e-mail. Please do not send more than three letters. Note that extra, unsolicited materials will not be considered in the Awards process.

Part II. Responsibilities of the Letter of Support Writer

Each Letter of Support writer is responsible for submitting the following information via post and e-mail to be received by the Covenant Foundation no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on December 1, 2010. No exceptions will be made. The e-mail must be sent to awards@covenantfn.org, and the subject line must read "Letter of support for (first and last name of nominee)." The letter must include both a cover page and a written statement. The latter must not exceed two 8 ½" x 11" double-spaced, single-sided pages, using 12-point font. The statement may not exceed 700 words.

1. **Cover Page** containing contact information (each entry should be on a separate line):

- Name of Covenant Award nominee
- Name of Letter of Support writer
- Professional title and affiliation of Letter of Support writer

- Address of Letter of Support writer, including street, city, state, and zip
- Telephone number (day/work)
- Telephone number (evening)
- E-mail address of Letter of Support writer
- Professional relationship of Letter of Support writer to the nominee

2. Written Statement

The statement should comment on the nominee's effectiveness, his or her impact on students both in and out of the classroom, contributions as an educator in the transmission of Jewish knowledge, values, and identity, pioneering educational activities, if any, and special approaches to education.

Part III. Nominee's Responsibilities

The nominee is responsible for submitting the following information via post and e-mail to be received by the Covenant Foundation no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on December 1, 2010. The e-mail must be sent to awards@covenantfn.org, and the subject line must contain the first and last name of the nominee.

1. Biographical Information

Please do not substitute a resume in place of this information. The biographical information must include the following parts:

- Information about the nominee (each entry should be on a separate line):
 - Name
 - Organization
 - Professional title
 - Street address (home/work)
 - City, State, Zip
 - Telephone number (day/work)
 - Telephone number (evening)
 - E-mail address
 - Date submitted
- Training information about the nominee (each entry should be on a separate line):
 - All training and post-secondary general education
 - Dates attended the programs
 - All degrees awarded, including areas of concentration
- Professional positions held by the nominee (each entry should be on a separate line):
 - List positions chronologically, with the most recent position listed first.
 - List up to four positions in Jewish education held by the nominee, including the institution's name and full address, professional title, duties, and most significant achievements.
- Teaching and leadership positions held by the nominee (each entry should be on a separate line):
 - Other related teaching and leadership positions held by the nominee, including sponsoring institution and dates participated
- Honors and awards received by the nominee (each entry should be on a separate line):
 - The most significant honors and awards received by the nominee (up to five)
 - The nature of the award, the organization that made the award, and the date it was received.

- Publications, if applicable.
 - If the nominee has more than ten publications, please include only the ten most recent or relevant.

2. Statement of Motivation

The Statement of Motivation must not exceed three 8 1/2" x 11" double-spaced, single-sided pages, using 12-point font. It may not exceed 1,000 words. The statement should highlight the formative experiences that compelled the candidate to become a Jewish educator. It may include a description of educational programs or life experiences that have formed the basis of the educator's commitment to transmitting Judaism.

3. Statement of Purpose

The Statement of Purpose must not exceed three 8 1/2" x 11" double-spaced, single-sided pages, using 12-point font. It may not exceed 1,000 words. The statement should describe what the nominee hopes to achieve in his or her career in Jewish education, the most meaningful aspects of that involvement, and what aspirations the nominee holds for his or her future work.

Note that extra, unsolicited materials will not be considered in the Awards process.

All requested materials must be sent to:
 2011 Awards Selection Committee
 The Covenant Foundation
 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 304
 New York, NY 10020-1702

Electronic copies of all materials must also be submitted as e-mail attachments. E-mail should be sent to awards@covenantfn.org, and the first and last name of the nominee must appear in the subject line.

Note: All nomination materials can be downloaded online. Visit www.covenantfn.org/awards for instructions.

Selection Procedures and Notification of Covenant Award Recipients

All completed nominations will undergo a process of peer review. They will be read by the Covenant Foundation staff and the Awards Selection Committee. During the selection process, Covenant Foundation staff may request additional information from candidates. The Executive Director of the Covenant Foundation will advise all nominators, nominees, and Award recipients of the final determinations in May 2011. No information will be provided over the telephone regarding Award status.

Please contact the Covenant Foundation with any questions you may have regarding the nomination process:
 phone: 212-245-3500
 fax: 212-245-0619
 e-mail: info@covenantfn.org

Important Deadlines

For your convenience, below is a list of all deadlines and items needed for the nomination of a candidate. All digital communication should be addressed to awards@covenantfn.org.

Please be sure to complete all of the items listed below. *Dossiers that are not completed by the following deadlines will not be considered for the 2011 Covenant Awards.*

For Nominators

- Statement of Nomination.** The Covenant Foundation must receive completed statements of nomination, via post and e-mail, no later than 5 p.m. EST on Thursday, November 18, 2010.
- Notice of Nomination Letter.** The nominator must mail the notice to the nominee, alerting him or her to submit completed materials via post and e-mail. The Covenant Foundation must receive all completed nominee materials, via post and e-mail, no later than 5 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.
- Invitation for Letters of Support.** The nominator must invite three appropriate persons who agree to write Letters of Support. The Covenant Foundation must receive completed support materials, via post and e-mail, by 5 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

For Letters of Support Writers

- Letters of Support.** The Covenant Foundation must receive completed Letters of Support, via post and e-mail, no later than 5 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

For Nominees

- Biographical Information
- Statement of Motivation
- Statement of Purpose

The Covenant Foundation must receive all three items, via post and e-mail, no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. Nominee materials sent by post should arrive in a single packet.

If further information is required, the Covenant Foundation will contact the nominee.

All materials should be sent to:
2011 Awards Selection Committee
The Covenant Foundation
1270 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 304
New York, NY 10020-1702

Note: All nomination materials can be downloaded online.
Visit www.covenantfn.org/awards for instructions.

Please contact the Covenant Foundation with any questions:
phone: 212-245-3500
fax: 212-245-0619
e-mail: info@covenantfn.org

Notice of Nomination Letter

Dear: _____

(Nominator: Please write name of nominee here.)

You have been nominated for a 2011 Covenant Award as an outstanding Jewish educator. The Award carries with it a prize to the winner of \$36,000 and an additional \$5,000 to the winner's home institution. Up to three Awards will be made this year.

If you wish to accept this nomination, please send the following information in a single packet to the 2011 Awards Selection Committee, The Covenant Foundation, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 304, New York, NY, 10020-1702. All materials must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. Electronic copies of these documents must also be submitted as e-mail attachments. The e-mail must be sent to awards@covenantfn.org, and the subject line must contain your first and last name.

1. **Biographical Information.** Please do not substitute a resume in place of this information. The Biographical Information must include the following parts:

- a. Information about yourself (each entry should be on a separate line): Name; organization; professional title; street address; city, state, zip; telephone number (day/work); telephone number (evening); e-mail address; and date submitted. Please note that the Foundation will use this address for all future correspondence. Please ensure that it is correct and indicate whether it is your work or home address.
- b. Training information (each entry should be on a separate line): List all training and post-secondary general education, dates attended, and all degrees awarded, including areas of concentration.
- c. Professional positions held (each entry should be on a separate line): List the positions chronologically, with the most recent listed first. List up to four positions you have held in Jewish education, including the institution's name and full address, your professional title, duties, and most significant achievements.
- d. Teaching and leadership positions held (each entry should be on a separate line): List other related teaching and leadership positions you have held, including sponsoring institution and dates participated.
- e. Honors and awards received (each entry should be on a separate line): List the most significant honors and awards you have received (up to five). Please indicate the nature of the award, the organization that made the award, and the date it was received.
- f. Publications, if applicable. If you have more than ten publications, please include only the ten most recent or relevant.

2. **Statement of Motivation.** The Statement of Motivation must not exceed three 8 1/2" x 11" double-spaced, single-sided pages, using 12-point font. It may not exceed 1,000 words. The statement should highlight the formative experiences that compelled you to become a Jewish educator. It may include a description of educational programs or life experiences that have formed the basis of your commitment to transmitting Judaism.

3. **Statement of Purpose.** The Statement of Purpose must not exceed three 8 1/2" x 11" double-spaced, single-sided pages, using 12-point font. It may not exceed 1,000 words. The statement should describe what you hope to achieve in your career in Jewish education, the most meaningful aspects of that involvement, and what aspirations you hold for your future work.

Unsolicited materials will not be considered in the Awards process and cannot be returned.

Materials not received by the December 1, 2010, deadline will not be considered.

Please note that all nomination materials can also be downloaded online. Visit www.covenantfn.org/awards for instructions.

Best wishes,

(Nominator: Please sign your name here.)

Jan Darsa

Director of Jewish Education
Facing History and Ourselves
Brookline, Massachusetts



2010 Covenant Award Winner

“Although I did not grow up with formal Jewish education, even as a child I was drawn to Jewish learning. Perhaps the belief that ‘we all stood together at Sinai’ explains where I am now. When I was young, I dreamed and longed to know who I was and where I came from. Like Hillel, I landed on the ‘roof’ to glimpse into Jewish learning from above. Despite my request to ‘know,’ spiritual, educational, and religious traditions were absent from my youth. Hence, my life has been a journey, a search for a spiritual meaning combined with a vision for education and social justice.

“This passion has extended into my work. Undertaking a career in Jewish education is about the hope and promise that our young people embody. We do this out of a passionate belief in the future.”

After graduating from the UC Berkeley in 1969, Jan attended the WUJS (World Union of Jewish Students) Institute in Israel for two years. Jan describes her experience at WUJS as a turning point in her life. She returned to the United States to pursue a Masters in Education at Boston University and began her career as a teacher in both Jewish and public school settings. Jan first began teaching the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum in 1981, as an English teacher in a public high school.

“When I first encountered *Facing History and Ourselves*,” she writes, “I was immediately drawn to it because of its mission to engage students to make the world a better place through the lens of social justice and civic responsibility.” Soon after, Jan joined the staff of *Facing History and Ourselves* as a program associate.

As a Jerusalem Mandel Fellow from 1988 to 1990, Jan chose to explore how *Facing History and Ourselves* could be ‘translated’ for the Jewish educational world and to examine what additional materials needed to be developed to enhance *Facing History*’s work in that setting. Upon completion of the program, she returned to *Facing History* to develop a program within the organization that would address some of these specific needs.

Reflecting on her two years as a Jerusalem Fellow, Jan remarks, “I am reminded of those days back in Jerusalem when I realized that I am a person who needs the dream as much as I need the fulfillment of the dream. I returned to the United States with a renewed vigor and began the creation of the Jewish Education program at *Facing History* and the development of *Facing History: the Jews of Poland*,” which she co-authored and published in 1998.

As Director of Jewish Education, Jan has built an original and dynamic Jewish framework for examining the Holocaust, history, and human behavior, with activities and resources that explore Jewish history, ethics, and identity. She has personally trained over 1500 Jewish educators and, through them, has impacted tens of thousands of Jewish students from all denominations.

From Her Letters of Nomination and Support:

“In a word, Jan is a pioneer. Her groundbreaking work began with the realization that young people need a more complete picture of Jewish life to understand the magnitude of loss that resulted from the Holocaust. The courses and seminars she has created have become best practice, replicated in classrooms across the country and on the internet. Her work reaches Jewish students of all denominations and is widely used across the United States, as well as in Canada, Mexico, Israel, and South Africa.”

Margot Stern Strom, Executive Director
Facing History and Ourselves

“Jan Darsa is an inspiring person to know. She has a pure code of ethics that she imparts to colleagues and students alike. An essential component of *Facing History* is the belief that, ultimately, each person must focus upon what is noble in the human condition. It counters the darkness of evil with the bright sunlight of altruism and optimism. So does Jan Darsa.”

Rabbi Michael A. Myers, Dean
Hebrew Theological College

Beth Huppín

5th Grade Judaics Teacher, *Seattle Jewish Community School*
Middle School and Adult Educator, *Congregation Beth Shalom*
Seattle, Washington



2010 Covenant Award Winner

“I am often asked why I don’t apply for a more ‘important’ administrative job. This is considered the next ‘natural’ step ‘after’ being a teacher. Society sees teachers as the bottom of the educational chain. I, however, see teaching as the foundation of the educational chain. Without committed, knowledgeable teachers in the classroom day in and day out, who will actually deliver the education?”

Beth Huppín has been a Jewish educator for adults and children, in both formal and informal settings, for over thirty years. She currently teaches 5th grade at the Seattle Jewish Community School and middle school and adult classes at Congregation Beth Shalom, also in Seattle. In 1996, she served as a Melton Senior Educator in Jerusalem.

Beth’s earliest teachers were members of the one-synagogue, isolated Jewish community in Spokane, Washington, where she was born and raised. “In that little *shul*,” she says, “with five Jewish children my age, everybody knew my name. In Spokane, we knew and cared for every Jew.”

Whether she is teaching children or adults, Beth sees text study as a means of engaging in conversations about the most essential aspects of being human. “To be a Jewish text teacher is to ask Moshe for advice about controlling our tempers. It is about realizing that our heroes weren’t perfect, but can be loved anyway, just as we aren’t perfect, but are still worthy of love. It is about learning to emulate our ancestors’ successes without imitating their failures.”

No matter what the announced topic of a class is, Beth always focuses on the same basic question: *What do Jewish texts offer us in our quest for a meaningful life, one built around caring for others?* In Beth’s classroom, exploring the text is always followed by opportunities to act upon what has been uncovered, because she believes that this connection between text study and action creates the potential for transformative educational moments.

“Meaningful Jewish education doesn’t happen just with books. It happens when people enter each other’s homes for Shabbat dinners or support each other during times of joy or grief. Caring for one another is the bedrock value of Judaism. Today, when I teach, I think of my parents and grandparents welcoming people to their table for Shabbat and holidays, and of brilliant, gifted teachers conveying a Judaism that has as its basis *ahava* (love) and *g’milut chesed* (kindness). I continue to be in touch with Spokane friends who have known me since birth as well as many of these teachers. Whether they are in this world or have passed to the next, their models of *chesed* continue to inspire me daily.”

From Her Letters of Nomination and Support:

“22 years ago, when I moved to Seattle from Boston, Beth Huppín contacted me. She didn’t know me—she just called to welcome a fellow Jewish educator to the area. Over the years, I have attended countless lessons she has presented to adults; observed her teaching children, including my own; witnessed her unlimited generosity to all; observed her insightful, kind leadership among her fellow teachers at SJCS; and watched her demonstrate a life of *dereh erez* in the community where she lives, works, and *davens*.”

Debra J. G. Butler, Head of School
Seattle Jewish Community School

“In Beth’s class, real life trumps the lesson plan. When community members are ill, they receive phone calls, cards, or gifts made by the class. Beth’s students know that Judaism provides ways to respond. They learn from the text she chooses and from the ways she connects them with the text and with each other.”

Carol Starin, former Assistant Executive Vice-President for Education
The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

Bernard Steinberg

President and Executive Director

Harvard Hillel

Cambridge, Massachusetts



2010 Covenant Award Winner

“Many of the students who pass through our program will continue into positions of leadership in their careers or communities. Will their leadership be grounded in Jewish values, nurtured by Jewish sources, and inspired by Jewish vision? My goal is to motivate the most energetic, talented, and idealistic young Jews to assume responsibility for the future.”

Under Bernie Steinberg’s leadership, Harvard Hillel has become one of the largest, most active, and most visible student organizations at Harvard University. It is known for the scope and depth of its programs, as a model pluralistic community, as a voice for Israel, and as a leader in interfaith work. In addition to leading Harvard Hillel, Bernie is a master teacher and designer of educational programs, and he has lectured and taught throughout the world on a wide range of topics.

“I see pluralism as a value rooted in Jewish ideas,” he writes. “Every person is unique in an absolute and precious sense, as testimony to God’s greatness. Every person experienced the revelation of Torah in his or her own way. Every Jewish movement and individual is part of a truth whose totality is beyond our grasp.”

After beginning graduate work at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Bernie moved to Jerusalem, where he lived for thirteen years. During that time, he was a founding Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute, one of the founders of the Pardes Institute, and the Director of the Wesleyan University Israel Program. He also taught at the Hebrew University. Because he considers Israel to be among the richest political, cultural, and spiritual landscapes in which to cultivate Jewish values and citizenship in a global world, Bernie created *Netivot* (Pathways), an intensive, year-long program—nationally recognized for its educational excellence—that takes undergraduates from Harvard, Yale, and New York University to Israel.

Before moving to Cambridge, Bernie also lived in Cleveland, Ohio, where he taught at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies and Case Western Reserve University and founded the department of Jewish Education at the Jewish Community Centers of Cleveland. He holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University, an M.A. from Brandeis University, and a Ph.D. in Jewish Philosophy from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Bernie was a recipient of the Benjamin J. Shevach Award for Distinguished Leadership in Jewish Education, conferred by the Boston Hebrew College, and serves with the White House Conference on Interfaith Service in Higher Education. He and his wife Roz have two children, Adena and Avi.

“Struggling with critical life decisions, university students must choose whether and how they might help shape a turbulent, rapidly expanding world that cries out for creative possibilities and hope. How our young people link their deepest questions of identity with their passions, talents, energy, and idealism will determine the future of our planet.”

From His Letters of Nomination and Support:

“Because Bernie’s focus has been leadership education, his students have received more accolades than he has. But I can think of no better role model for an aspiring educational leader and no worthier recipient of a Covenant Award.”

Daniel Libenson, Executive Director
Newberger Hillel Center at the University of Chicago

“Bernie’s ability to inspire young adults to pursue innovative careers in Jewish education is extraordinary, perhaps unparalleled. He conveys, in words and actions, the nobility of being a Jewish educator. While brutally honest about the challenges, he is unrelentingly positive about the intrinsic life-giving rewards. He has always fought to elevate standards and expectations, making Jewish education attractive to incredibly talented people.”

Charles Herman, Founder and Executive Director
The Nesiya Institute

The Covenant Awards Recipients & Their Nominators

	<i>Award Recipient</i>	<i>Nominator</i>			
1991	Harlene Winnick Appelman Ateret Cohn ארת'ר Dr. Sara Rubinow Simon	Joel Lurie Grishaver Rabbi David Brusin Chaim Lauer	2005	Rabbi Elyse Goldstein Jody Hirsh Stephanie Rotsky	Dr. Seymour Epstein Dr. Steven Baruch Shlomit Lipton
1992	Rabbi Israel David Eliach Marcia Lapidus Kaunfer Tova Shimon	Sora F. Bulka Cindy Kaplan Dr. Elaine R.S. Cohen	2006	Jane Taubenfeld Cohen Dr. Marc N. Kramer Rabbi Loren A. Sykes	Sandi Morgan and Harry Bloom Lynn W. Raviv Naomi Less
1993	Dvorah S. Heckelman Danny Siegel Rabbi Berel Wein	Ronnie Sims Louise Cohen Emanuel Schwartz	2007	Tobie Brandriss Dr. Bruce Powell Rabbi Philip Warmflash	Blu Greenberg Howard M. Farber Dr. Sheldon Dorph
1994	Rabbi Amnon Haramati Rabbi Richard N. Levy Dr. Linda Rabinowitch Thal	Rabbi Emanuel Rackman Rabbi Jerrold Goldstein Rabbi William Cutter	2008	Diana Ganger Rabbi Yakov Horowitz Susan Werk	Cantor Mark Horowitz Yossi Prager Rabbi Alan Silverstein
1995	Misha Gabriel Avramoff Rabbi Martin Schloss Peninnah Schram	Peter A. Geffen Dr. Don Well Gerald Fierst	2009	Dr. Erica Brown Rabbi Stuart Seltzer Nili Simhai	Dr. Misha Galperin Lee Meyerhoff Henderl Jordan Dale
1996	Debbie Friedman Ellie Bach Gellman Fred Rosenbaum	Randee Friedman Agi Romer-Segal Dr. Jehon Grist	2010	Jan Darsa Beth Huppin Dr. Bernard Steinberg	Margot Stern Strom Debra Butler Daniel Libenson
1997	Rabbi Yaakov Bender Michael Brooks Henia Lewin	Richard Altabe Rabbi Judd Kruger Levingston Joe Greenwald			
1998	Joel Lurie Grishaver Rabbi Elana Kanter Dr. Anne M. Lidsky	Debi M. Rowe Richard Friedman Amy Landau			
1999	Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams Cheryl R. Finkel Macy B. Hart	Shirley Barish Sol Singer Karen S. Franklin			
2000	Rabbi Yosi Gordon Dr. Karen Shawn Rabbi David Silber	Roberta Louis Goodman Deborah Nahshon Kathleen Peratis			
2001	Lorraine Posner Arcus Jo Kay Rabbi Daniel Landau Lehmann	Marilyn Cohen Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Jonathan D. Sarna			
2002	Rivy Poupko Kletenik Rabbi Sid Schwarz Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan	Michele Rosen Dr. Shulamith Reich Elster Dr. Isa Aron			
2003	Rabbi William C. Berk Vicky Kelman Zipora Schorr	Dr. Lois J. Zachary Robert Sherman Dr. Chaim Y. Botwinick			
2004	Yosef I. Abramowitz Dr. Ruth Pinkenson Feldman Barbara Ellison Rosenblit	Martin Kaminer Leonard Rubin Dr. Gail Twersky Reimer			

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