Mazal Tov to the outstanding educators whose excellent teaching has inspired a community member, student, colleague, parent of a student or supervisor to submit a nomination.

Bais Yaakov School for Girls
Sari Bienstock
Cheryl Breitbart
Ora Buehler
Shuli Frand
Esti Greenstein
Deborah Herschowitz
Shifra Rabenstein
Shelley Rosen
Elisha Shnidman
Elise Wolf

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Religious School
Stuart Cohen
Ella Rogers
Aaron Seldowitz

Beit Lev, Kol HaLev
Rachel Leess
Ellen Schwab

Beit RJ
Gabrielle Burger
Meredith Geller

Beth El Congregation, Pauline Mash School for Early Childhood Education
Dee Curtin
Sharon Hankoff
Prescillia Logan

Beth El Congregation, Joseph & Corinne Schwartz Preschool
Rachel Schwartz

Beth Israel Congregation, The Joseph and Corinne Schwartz Religious School
Justin Friedman
David Gamliel
Rachel Glaser
Stacey Levin
Robyn Melzer
Debbie Rosenbaum

Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School
Elisha Erlanger
Faigie Friedman
Danielle Levin
Rabbi Yehuda Oratz
Oshra Raskas
Zipora Schorr
Brian Singer
Arleen Wien
Jeri Wilkins
Florence Ziffer
Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School, Preschool
Alicia Broth
Giselle Pincever
Gladys Ricklis
Brenda Schuman

Bnos Yisroel of Baltimore
Esther Berger
Blumie Berkowitz
Leah Gelb
Tamara Gersten
Avital Goetz
Loni Goldman
Tzipi Gottlieb
Sarah Itzkowitz
Caela Kaplowitz
Shana Kravetz
Esther Mushell
Shira Nelkin
Adeena Pelberg
Dr. Chaya Bina Samuels
Nechama Schwartz
Penina Shoub
Devora Solomon
Leah Wolf

Boys’ Latin School of Maryland
Eric Whitehair

Center for Jewish Education
Melissa E. Berman
Yael Zelinger

Cheder Chabad of Baltimore
Orah Afrah
Chani Druk
Aliza Feinstein
Chanie Feldman

Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Goldsmith Early Childhood Education Center
Britta Hoffman

Darchei Tzedek
Yaakov Szajowitz

E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Ilene Brooks
Jennifer Morris

Gan Keshet
Helaine Brenner

Gan Rutie
Leah Miner

Gesher LaTorah
Elizabeth Appelbaum
Rebecca Margolis
Miriam Rosenberg
Aaron Tzvi Seldes
Natanya Szendro
Yisrael Turniansky

Har Sinai Congregation Religious School
Melissa Eisgrau
Jason Greenberg
Sheri Knauth
Elaine Meiseles
Rozzie Seiden
Jo-Ellen Unger

JCC Parent & Infant/Toddler Center
Melissa E. Berman
Cindy Neuman

JEWELS Inclusive Preschool
Yael Cohen

Jewish Community Services
Susan Kurlander

Jewish Discovery Lab at Beth Am
Julia Gross

Kesher School, Beit Tikvah Congregation
Debbie Rosenberg
Every day when my students leave I tell them I will “miss them like crazy” until I see them next. I really mean those words and they know it!
Mazal Tov to the recipients of prestigious annual awards.

The Joseph Braver Award for Excellence in Jewish Education honors a Jewish educator who exhibits outstanding performance and leadership in a Baltimore area Jewish school. This year’s recipient is Noa Goldman, Ner Tamid Montessori.

The Rabbi Herbert Birnbaum Award honors an educator for extraordinary dedication to the Jewish people and outstanding teaching. This year’s recipient is Shifra Rabenstein, Bais Yaakov, School for Girls.

The Nathan and Ruth Lipsetts Award honors an educator who exhibits unusually creative skills in the classroom and plays an important role in the life and affairs of the Baltimore Jewish community. This year’s recipient is Melissa E. Berman, JCC and CJE.

The Early Childhood Teaching Excellence Award honors an early childhood educator who exhibits highly creative skills and nurtures young Jewish children using developmentally appropriate practices. This year’s recipient is Alicia Broth, Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School, Preschool.

The Samuel Glasner Award honors a teacher who epitomizes creative, quality Jewish teaching. This year’s recipient is Amanda Levine, Krieger Schechter Day School.

The Teen Educator Award honors a teen who inspires and teaches others; particularly as a camp counselor or as a madrich or madricha in a congregational or community school. This year’s recipient is Jason Greenberg, Har Sinai Congregation Religious School.
The Congregational School Educator Award honors an educator who is dedicated to teaching and inspiring students who are receiving their Jewish educations on Shabbat, Sunday and/or weekday afternoons. This year’s recipient is Robyn Melzer, Beth Israel Congregation, The Joseph and Corinne Schwartz Religious School.

The General Studies Award recognizes an educator who is committed to teaching in a Jewish day school environment and brings excellence to the general studies portion of a day school curriculum. This year’s recipient is Dr. Chaya Bina Samuels, Bnos Yisroel.

The Special Education Award recognizes an educator who is dedicated to ensuring that each and every student has access to a meaningful Jewish education by employing a variety of strategies and modalities that help students learn best. This year’s recipient is Natanya Szendro, Gesher LaTorah.

The Novice Teacher Award recognizes an educator with exceptional promise who demonstrates dedication to children, mastery over content knowledge, control of the classroom environment and commitment to professional growth. This year’s recipient is Aliza Mann, Ohr Chadash Academy.

The Innovation and Technology Award recognizes an educator who is committed to inspiring students in creative ways and employs cutting-edge techniques in the classroom to do so. This year’s recipient is Rabbi Elchonon Ciment, Talmudical Academy.

The Outstanding Assistant Teacher Award recognizes an educator who models an excellent partnership with the classroom teacher and provides meaningful support. This year’s recipient is Jennifer Morris, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center.

The following educators have remarkable characteristics that the educator recognition committee would like to acknowledge.

Dee Curtin, Beth El Congregation, Pauline Mas School for ECE
Special Commendation for Impact on the Community

Rabbi Doniel Moskowitz, Talmudical Academy
Special Commendation for Dedication to Students

Shira Nelkin, Bnos Yisroel
Special Commendation for Commitment to Professional Development

I know if I can make the children feel the way Judaism and being part of this community makes me feel, their lives are forever changed.
THE SAM KAHAN DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

This award was established by the family of Sam Kahan in order to honor Sam for his many years of community leadership. This award perpetuates Sam’s legacy of personal commitment to Jewish education and to strengthening Baltimore’s Jewish educational institutions. The recipient is a master Jewish educator who serves as an inspiration to both students and peers and is also our community’s nominee for the national Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

This year’s recipient is Elisheva Erlanger, Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School

Other than the year I studied the solar system and convinced myself I’d be an astronaut someday, I always knew I wanted to teach. My most effective studying tactic in elementary school was teaching the material I needed to know for a test to the imaginary students in my bedroom. I found that the best way to learn new information is to use it in a meaningful way. That philosophy has instructed much of my teaching methodologies over the past twelve years. In every subject that I teach I aim to facilitate my students’ use of information in a new and significant way..... I aspire to give my students a method to apply or manipulate the information they discover. I use the word “discover” because that is my exact goal. I do not wish to lecture. Rather, I aim to facilitate real learning by providing my students with material they can use to learn new information. That way, I can reach the varied levels of ability that exist in every classroom.

- Excerpt from personal statement, Elisheva Erlanger

Our daughter began the year feeling anxious and overwhelmed. Her teacher has helped her blossom into a confident child who loves coming to school each day.
It is a privilege, honor and great responsibility to guide amazing young souls on their journey.