

**The United Synagogue of  
Conservative Judaism**



**The 2009  
Solomon Schechter  
Awards  
for Synagogue Excellence**  
GUIDELINES and CRITERIA  
for  
**Holocaust Remembrance and Education**

*to be presented at the  
Biennial Convention  
December 6-10, 2009*

Jerry I. Klibanoff  
*Committee Chair*

Aaron L. Kischel  
*Staff Consultant*

Carole Korowitz  
*Biennial Convention Chair*

Rance Block  
*Biennial Convention Vice-Chair*

Rabbi Paul Drazen  
*Biennial Convention Director*

Raymond B. Goldstein, PhD  
*International President*

Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein  
*Executive Vice President*

## Solomon Schechter Award Guidelines

Please review and follow these guidelines when applying for a Solomon Schechter award. Entries must be in our hands by the deadline of 5:00 pm Eastern time, Monday, **April 17, 2009**.

1. 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.
2. Multiple entries are allowed but only one entry per award category. Please choose the category for each entry based on the printed guidelines and criteria, and indicate that category on the application.
3. You may put more than one entry in a box, but each entry must have its own application. You may copy the application form [or download the application from [www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org)] if you need more application forms.
4. Entries are accepted and judged based on your responses to the guidelines and criteria in each of the award category. We provide guidelines and criteria to simplify the application process and to help the judges to 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. We encourage materials be submitted in *green formats*. Provide as much in electronic [CD or DVD] media as possible. The web site awards must be submitted in electronic form.
5. **Only congregations in good financial standing as of JUNE 30, 2009 are eligible to receive an award.**
6. Each entry must meet the basic criteria stipulated for its award category. To win an award, an entry must demonstrate extraordinary characteristics or unusual and outstanding aspects that go beyond the expected norms. Entries within award and congregational size categories are compared to each other.
7. We plan to award one gold and one silver award for each congregational size division for each category.
8. **Please note: Materials submitted will not be returned.** All submissions become the property of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for its use. 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
9. Award-winning entries will be on display at United Synagogue's biennial convention in December 2009. We strongly encourage representatives from the award-winning congregations to attend the convention to accept the awards and to share information about the programs.
10. Applications **must** include an executive summary (**with a maximum of 2-3 brief paragraphs**) on the summary form sheet on the reverse side of the application.
11. The application must be signed as indicated on the application form.
12. Applications and supporting materials must be shipped by delivery services that allow for package tracking (such as Federal Express, USPS Priority Mail or UPS). Materials **MUST** be in our possession by the deadline of **April 17, 2009**. Entries, which include application, supporting material and summary, must be sent to:  
**Solomon Schechter Awards - The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**  
**Rapaport House – 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**820 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017**

For additional or clarifying information, please talk to our staff consultant, **Aaron L. Kischel**,  
**at the New England office of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**  
**Phone: 617-964-8210 e-mail: [kischel@uscj.org](mailto:kischel@uscj.org)**

## ***IV. PROGRAMS***

### **HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND EDUCATION**

*In keeping with the fervent commitment "to remember, and never forget" the Holocaust and to learn from its brutal lessons, the synagogue has become a recognized center for Holocaust commemoration observances, study and programming. A comprehensive activities program regarding this subject can serve to strengthen Jewish identity and heighten awareness of contemporary prejudice and the importance of vigorously opposing it.*

1. Does the congregation have a committee to plan Holocaust programming and memorial events? How are survivors, children and grandchildren of survivors involved?
2. Describe the unique aspects of your Holocaust commemorations and in what way do they involve the general community? Do the programs transmit information as well as evoke emotion in the audience?
3. Are there any adult courses on the history of the Holocaust? How is this sensitive subject taught in the Religious School?
4. Is there a Holocaust memorial wall or artistic representation in any part of the synagogue? In what way is it unique? Is there a particular story behind it?
5. Are there programs on the arts that relate to the Holocaust? Is there an essay competition? Are awards presented?
6. Does the overall programming convey a supplemental message concerning anti-Semitism, Jewish survival, and/or the overriding need for tolerance in the world?