

**The United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism**



**The 2009
Solomon Schechter
Awards
for Synagogue Excellence**

**GUIDELINES and CRITERIA
for
Kadima and USY**

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

Jerry I. Klibanoff
Committee Chair

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Carole Korowitz
Biennial Convention Chair

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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] 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 – 10th 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

III. FOR ALL AGES

KADIMA AND USY

Awards will be given recognizing innovative and creative activities in USY and Kadima programs. Of particular importance will be the evaluation of goals and objectives and how well they have been achieved.

1. Please tell us how many groups you have. How many teens are involved in each one? Please note change in number of members over the past two years.
2. Director and advisors: Does the overall program have a director? State total number of professional advisors or leaders and write up brief profiles indicating their background and experience. Are they members of the Jewish Youth Directors Association? Have they attended in-service programs offered by the International or Regional Youth Departments.
3. How many membership meetings are held each month by each group?
4. Describe the cultural and religious programs (excluding worship services) held during the last two years. Include publicity, scripts, information and evaluations.
5. Does your Synagogue sponsor a Youth (Teenage) congregation? If so, please describe it, including how often it meets and average attendance, How do the teens or pre-teens participate in the service?
6. Do members of USY and Kadima regularly attend services Friday evening, Saturday morning or weekdays?
7. Does the program have a newspaper? How often does it appear and to whom is it distributed? Please include copies of several issues.
8. Does the program have a web site or Facebook group? How often are they updated? How are they managed and monitored?
9. Describe the study program as to courses offered, teachers, texts, etc. If the study is part of the congregation's Hebrew High school program, describe the connection.
10. Describe the programs sponsored by the youth program for and about Israel and World Jewry. Include publicity and results.
11. Describe programs sponsored by the youth program in the area of Social Action/*Tikun Olam* and community service. Include the amount of funds raised for *Tikun Olam* and *Yad B'Yad*.
12. Describe the summer activities of the youth program. How many teens have participated in USY on Wheels, Israel Pilgrimage and Regional Youth Department encampment in 2007 and 2008?
13. Describe the scholarship program which your Synagogue offers for sending young people to *kinnusim*, *kallot*, conventions, Nativ, USY High, and summer programs. Please include the schedule of scholarships (no names) for the last two years.
14. Describe the workings of the adult Youth Committee as to membership, youth representation, meeting schedules and what method the committee uses to supervise the youth program.
15. Include the budgets for the past two program years.