

Consideration as to Annual line 24

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eration President and CEO
Veinstein states that this year
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Annual Campaign (including
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new community task forces
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the Poor, Well-Elderly and a
Needs Initiative for Children.

ore information about
nual Meeting, please contact
e Bottos at (214) 615-5228 or
dbottos@jfgd.org.

sh Federation of Greater Dallas is the
ordinating agency for the Dallas Jewish
ity. It supports over 40 human and social
ograms locally, nationally, in Israel and

Two local educators win prestigious Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation has named Seth Miller and Stella Raphael Grinspoon-Steinhardt winners. The award, recognizes, honors, and supports outstanding Jewish educators in day schools and other formal Jewish educational settings in North America. Although many educators are nominated, a maximum of two individuals from each community are honored. The awards were established in 2000 and are administered by the Jewish Education Service of North America. Each year the awards recognize a small number of teachers around the country who “demonstrate exceptional achievement and serve as a role model in Jewish education.”

As award winners, Seth and Stella receive \$1,000 contributed by the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas to use at their discretion and \$1,500 in matching funds provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for their professional development or a two-week trip to Israel, and a trip to New York in October for the awards ceremony.

Stella Raphael

On May 16, Levine Academy Lower School Jewish Studies teacher Stella Raphael was awarded the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Presenting the award was Gary Weinstein, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas.



“Stella is the consummate professional,” stated Levine Academy K-8 Principal Dr. Susie Wolbe. “In addition to being a wonderful and inspiring teacher, she goes above and beyond the call of duty. There is never a task too small for her to tackle. She sees something that needs to be taken care of and jumps right in and does it.”

She began her teaching career as a Kindergarten assistant in 1981, and then became a substitute Hebrew teacher. The administration, being very impressed with her teaching skills and knowledge, ultimately offered her a position as a full-time Hebrew/Jewish Studies teacher.

During her tenure at Levine Academy, Stella has taught students in Kindergarten through grade eight. She took a brief hiatus from Levine Academy to serve at the Hebrew Coordinator at Temple Emanu-El from 1999 – 2003 but missed the school and its students and returned for the 2003-2004 school year.

“The students here have hearts of gold,” said Raphael. “They come from incredible families with very strong values. The children are very privileged to be able to attend a school such as Levine Academy. I am sure they appreciate what their parents are doing for them.”

Stella currently teaches Hebrew and Jewish Studies for grades two and four. As dedicated a student as she is a teacher, she attended numerous courses throughout her career in early childhood education, Hebrew curriculum, and Jewish Studies in both New York and Los Angeles.

Seth Miller

Seth Miller, a teacher at the Beth Torah Learning Center, has won the prestigious Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.



Miller, 48, teaches many subjects to 7th, 8th and 10th graders at Beth Torah, including Jewish history, philosophy, current events, ethics and values, life-cycle events, Torah and Israel advocacy.

“Seth possesses all the qualities, skills and characteristics that create a super model teacher,” said Ruth Schor, the Beth Torah Learning Center director who hired Miller four years ago and nominated him for the national award. “When I visit his classes it is not just for the purpose of formal observation required for our faculty evaluation process but also to learn something new and interesting.”

“I enjoy teaching because it affords me the opportunity to continue learning in the areas I love,” Miller said, “and to radiate my joy of Jewish Education back onto my pupils whom I hope to motivate to continue down the path of Jewish learning and living.”

The Connecticut-born Miller majored in biochemistry, worked for a medical optics company, owned his own company, developed training programs and taught at Yale, Harvard and other institutions. Five years ago he decided to stay home with his daughters, Ilana and Miryam, which also gave him the opportunity to pursue Jewish learning.

Beyond the classroom curriculum, Schor said she was particularly impressed “with Seth’s wealth of knowledge, both of Jewish studies and many other spectrums of life including literature, music, art and politics.”

Miller said he hopes his own journey of Jewish learning is an example to everyone in his classes: “As I have said to my students, my Judaism is a work in progress even after these 48-plus years.”

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