



Hamilton Jewish Federation Award for Excellence in Education

This award allows our community to recognize outstanding educators in Jewish Day or Supplementary Schools. Nominees are acknowledged for actively supporting the Federation's priorities: including ensuring diverse opportunities for Jewish education and identify building; engagement of all aspects of Jewish community life and helping to grow community wide program opportunities. This award celebrates educators that make a difference in the lives of our community.

This year, we are especially recognizing teachers that have excelled and gone above and beyond during this difficult time to innovate and respond to rapidly changing expectations and needs.



Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison

Having grown up in our local Jewish Community, Dora-Ann is a passionate educator who uses her incredible energy and boundless creativity in all her various roles.

She is a full-time Kindergarten teacher in the public education system, mother to two children, and Director of Religious Education for the Temple Anshe Sholom. In her role as Director, Dora-Ann naturally fosters connections between the Temple school and the larger Jewish community, as both are natural parts of who she is. During her tenure as Religious Education she was instrumental in expanding Young Family (YoFi) program.

During this challenging time of COVID-19, Dora-Ann was able to seamlessly move the Temple Religious School program online, continuing to find ways to support the teaching staff, school committee, parents and clergy to use technology in meaningful ways. This online program has been so successful, planning is underway to continue to harness online opportunities in the future. We recognize Dora-Ann with this award for her efforts in creating various learning opportunities for Jewish memories, which will be carried by those involved as part of their Jewish identity for a lifetime.