FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Excellence in Jewish Education and Unsung Hero Award Winners Announced; Banquet to be held on May 30

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA (May 9, 2013) - The Resource Center for Jewish Education, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, has announced the 2013 winners of the Excellence in Jewish Education Awards and the Unsung Hero Awards. This year’s winners will be honored at the Education & Leadership Awards Banquet hosted by the Resource Center for Jewish Education on May 30 at Sinai Temple in Springfield.

This year’s education award winners are Cara Michelle Silverberg and Melissa Zeitz of the Jewish Community of Amherst, Elana Weinberg of the Hebrew High School of New England in West Hartford, and Stephanie Zolotor of the Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy in Longmeadow.

In addition, the winners of the Unsung Hero Awards are Rabbi Devorah Jacobson of Jewish Geriatric Services for Outstanding Professional Leadership, Sue Donnelly of Beit Ahavah Reform Synagogue of Greater Northampton for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, Rebecca Mitrani Marmor for Outstanding Teen Leadership, and Arnold Friedmann of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at UMass for Outstanding Community Leadership.

The Educator awards are designed to recognize and reward outstanding Jewish educators and to underscore the importance of Jewish education. Up to four award winners are chosen each year and one of those individuals also earns the distinction of being chosen for the national Grinspoon-Steinhart Award. Each of the four award recipients receives $1,000 and is eligible for funding towards a round-trip airline ticket to Israel through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s Israel Travel and Study Fund.

The Unsung Hero Awards honors individuals whose work and leadership efforts inspire others and have an impact on Jewish life in western Massachusetts and surrounding areas. Each award recipient receives $500 and a $500 tzedakah gift to donate to a Jewish organization of their choice; the teen award recipient receives $250 and a $250 tzedakah gift.

The Resource Center for Jewish Education (RCJE) provides Jewish educators and institutions in our region with support, resource materials, professional development grants and networking opportunities. The RCJE has twenty-one member institutions and serves hundreds of educators and community leaders annually.

For more information, contact RCJE at rcje@hgf.org or 413-567-7586.

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