

Jewish Interest-Free Loan of Atlanta
3rd Annual
She's A Maccabee Hanukkah Awards

*The JIFLA Maccabee Award Celebrates Powerful Women
Working to Make the Atlanta Jewish Community A Better Place for All*

ATLANTA, GA, DECEMBER 19, 2022 - [Jewish Interest-Free Loan of Atlanta \(JIFLA\)](#) today announces the winners of its 3rd Annual She's A Maccabee Awards. This annual Hanukkah tradition honors powerful women in the Atlanta Jewish community who are using their skills, talents, passions, and love for Judaism to make the community a better place.

The She's A Maccabee Awards were inspired by the JIFLA Women's Empowerment Loan Program, which provides opportunities for women to achieve self-sufficiency, both personally and professionally. She's A Maccabee Award applicants are nominated by community members and official winners are chosen by JIFLA's executive staff and previous award winners.

The 2022 She's A Maccabee Award winners include:

Sharon Fleitman

Sharon tirelessly and willingly does the shopping, setup, cleanup, and everything required at our synagogue for the kiddush every Shabbat. As president of Congregation Ariel's sisterhood, she is always helping and volunteering and nothing is ever too much trouble for her. Every Purim, Sharon donates her time to share her wonderful hamantaschen recipe with the women of our shul by supplying us with ingredients to make our own batch. She has a heart of gold and asks for nothing in return.

Tzivie Pill

Tzivie is a force of good in all she does. Most notably, when she struggles and goes through personal journeys, she not only betters herself but also constantly thinks of how to share that journey with others to offer support and relationship to those who might be struggling with the same. One major example is her most recent career change. Tzivie was a CPA with a great job, but personally struggling with mental health issues related to body image. In going through a significant transformation for herself around body positivity and fatphobia, she came to realize it was not enough for her that she felt successful in her journey. She wanted so badly to support others going through similar struggles that she started a private Facebook group called Intuitive Eating & Body Positivity for Jewish Women which now has 6.1K members. Realizing what a difference it

made for others inspired her to go back to school to become a clinical social worker and therapist to continue a lifetime of support for others. This journey typifies the kind of friend and warrior Tzivie has been in my life and the lives of so many others.

Lynn Podber

Lynn Podber is the perfect nominee for JIFLA's Maccabee Award. She does so many good deeds and mitzvot and is truly one who does these not for the recognition, but because it is a way that she can help to make the world a better place - and she does! Since I have known her, she has always volunteered for multiple organizations. For years, she has been involved with JF&CS's One Good Deed, spending time with her senior "friend" which shows such dedication through her friendship, companionship, and compassion for the elderly. She is currently co-chair of Temple Sinai's Keshet Committee, reaching out to families who have experienced death, illness, and births. Being on the board of Jewish Homelife's Auxiliary and helping with holiday celebrations for adults with disabilities are just a few other examples of ways she gives back to others. She empowers and inspires others to get involved too. She's a wonderful role model to her two beautiful daughters, Alissa and Wendy, and to the community. Volunteering her time for many organizations, being philanthropic, and always helping others (friends and strangers) shows us that good deeds do help to make the world a better place, a shining example of standing up for others, Tzedakah driven, and having a positive impact on our community makes her the perfect recipient for this award!

Cheryl Raskind-Hood

Cheryl is a doer; she doesn't know the word 'no'. Her Jewish life is centered around Temple Kol Emeth and Women of Reform Judaism programming (on a local, regional, and national level). Having founded the Give a Gobble Campaign (18 years ago) which has raised thousands of dollars for Atlanta area food programs, especially around the holiday season. She also continues to lead the Shoe-Shoe Train which collects much-needed shoes that are distributed in homeless shelters. She is an advocate of women's rights. Personally, Cheryl has helped countless women get back on their feet after an illness or family breakdown. She is there for all who call and please come and get me now. No questions asked. A great friend, a great leader, a great heart, and a great advocate for those who are in need. Cheryl has done all this while raising 3 successful children and working full time as a Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and is a co-Investigator on the Surveillance on the Congenital Heart

Defects across the Lifespan project. She lives in Marietta, with her very supportive husband Bill Hood.

“We are thrilled to announce our 2022 JIFLA’s She’s a Maccabee winners honoring the many female warriors in our community,” said Nancy Weissmann, Executive Director of JIFLA. “We are proud to continue the tradition during Hanukkah and shine a spotlight on those who are actively working to spread the Jewish values of community, love, and giving to those less fortunate.”

For more information on the She’s A Maccabee Awards and to learn about JIFLA’s loan programs please visit www.jifla.org.

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About JIFLA

The Jewish Interest-Free Loan of Atlanta (JIFLA) helps Jewish community members overcome challenging financial periods and maintain financial stability by providing interest-free loans. For more information, please call 470.268.5665 or email office@JIFLA.org. Visit JIFLA.org and follow JIFLA’s social channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).