

Dear Honorees and Schechter LI Community,

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine that it's 7am, you are a Schechter upper school student riding the bus to school, the world still dark – you see it in grey tones. Busy texting friends or escaping via earbuds, the vehicle hits the bump at the far gate as you arrive at your destination. Hunched from lifting your heavy book bag, you enter the building and much like the Wizard of Oz, what moments ago was black and white, is suddenly bursting with color.

And so begins a day in the *Life of Schechter*. A day at SSLI is filled with opportunities for learning and growth, and our students are leaning in with curiosity and excitement. What to an adult may be a bewildering array of choices, is for our students an opportunity to receive more adult attention, obtain a grounding in the basics, preparation for college and simultaneously focus on those areas that they truly care about or challenge themselves with something new.

Administrators and faculty have responded to a sea change, reaffirming the significance of science, math, technology, and engineering. Acting on that imperative, we have also never forgotten the importance of teaching the humanities. We believe that encouraging creativity breeds the spark required not just for science and technology, but for music, drama, and the fine and graphic arts. With countless extra-curricula activities available, we continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum with all subjects given their proper space.

Working with SSLI professionals in determining the direction of our school are several very special volunteers, some of whom are being honored this evening. We have every reason to be proud of our distinguished Honorees, an assemblage of highly learned individuals committed to Schechter LI and tireless in their lifetime of work and support of Jewish causes.

Over the years we have relied on **Janet and Albert Hakim**. Charismatic as individuals and as a couple, they have become agents of change. With their efforts we have been able to propel ideas and movements into motion. They are dedicated to Schechter, preparing our students for both their economic futures as well as creating engaged, compassionate and upright citizens – core values at SSLI.

As the parents of four active young children, **Ida and Eric Kalimian** are busy in their own lives as well as taking the time to help shape the destiny of our community. Choosing to stay under the radar, they are not engaged with our school for the accolades, but rather have been willing to put in the time and resources to effect visionary change.

Phyllis Simon and Meyer Steinberg and Meyer's wife Ruth, of Blessed Memory, helped shape the landscape of our school, providing an invaluable source for inspiration and learning. As they say, grandparents and our seniors are America's and in this case, Schechter's greatest natural resource. Phyllis and Meyer have graciously shared their wealth of life experiences, their leadership and talent.

Our honorees had the opportunity, but chose to have the obligation to help make Schechter LI better as a whole. By modeling their generous philanthropy and determined efforts, together we can work and aspire to create the conditions for the emergence of new ideas, future leaders and a revived future.

To Life at Schechter!!!

Eileen Olan Bohrer, Executive Director