

Dear SSLI Supporters,

Gala night is my favorite night of the year. It is the night we all glow in our SSLI pride, greeting parents of alumni and alumni from the early years of the school, current grandparents and parents, and of course our seniors. In this space I'd like to share with you why I am proud to be SSLI's president. Rather than list a top 10, I can share SSLI highlights through the contributions of our esteemed honorees.

Phyllis Simon, Meyer Steinberg and Ruth Steinberg z"l, are being honored tonight for the legacy they have established through the lives of their SSLI graduate grandchildren. Giving generously of time and leadership ability is a mantra in the Steinberg and Simon home. A lesson taken to heart by their children, Drs. Ellen and Jay, and grandchildren Alex, Ezra, Jonathan and Rina alike. The Jewish community has a bright future today because of their leadership.

Voluntarism and thinking big are how Janet and Albert Hakim live their lives. Janet is a former board president and has proven to be a true mentor as I entered into this position. Albert is always thinking and planning ways to improve our school program. We need more student internship opportunities, Albert convenes a team, and voila, Career Night. We need musical inspiration for Chanukah. There is Albert; and in no time a Chanukah concert. What inspiring role models they are to their children, Julia & Benjamin, and the community.

Ida and Eric Kalimian are true exemplars of *Matanah Beseter* – they give of themselves quietly and without fanfare. When SSLI needs guidance on a real estate project, there is Eric, carving out time to lend his expertise. A family is moving to town, Ida is the first friendly face they meet to welcome them. Of course the greatest gift they give to our school is the value of *mishpacha* – raising their beautiful family of Avi, Jesse, Bella and Rubin at SSLI.

I hope you will join me in celebrating our honorees and life at Schechter.

L'Chaim