

# Around the LOCAL NEWS Community

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## The JCCRP Legislative Breakfast: A Morning of Hakaros Hatov

This past Sunday, October 27th, the Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula (JCCRP) held a Legislative Breakfast honoring government officials, community leaders, and “Heroes of Hurricane Sandy.” The event took place in The White Shul Ballroom on the one year anniversary of Sandy and was intended to show deep *hakaras hatov* (gratitude) to the well-deserving honorees.

The breakfast was set to begin at 9:30 a.m., with participants eagerly filling the room at 9 a.m. All joined to give thanks to the outstanding honorees, who so nobly took responsibility to assist our community during the chaos and who were instrumental in rebuilding our neighborhood post Sandy.

Sharmel Caterers provided a lavish buffet breakfast to over 550 attendees. As the room was buzzing, everyone was able to view the JCCRP’s Legislative Breakfast’s beautiful virtual journal, projected near the entrance. Through the virtual journal slideshow, all were able to see the appreciation and support of community members and community leaders alike, for all of the honorees, Heroes of Hurricane Sandy, and the JCCRP.

Emceeding the breakfast was none other than the JCCRP’s Executive Director, Nathan Krasnovsky. Nathan initially joined forces with the JCCRP when the

Met Council sent him over to assist with Hurricane Sandy relief. Once the JCCRP took note of the remarkable dedication and capability that Mr. Krasnovsky brought to the table, they immediately brought him on board as Executive Director to rejuvenate the efforts and impact of the JCCRP.

The festivities began when Rabbi Eytan Feiner, Rabbi of Congregation Kneseth Israel (The White Shul), shared beautiful words of Torah with the crowd. He then segued into presenting Mr. Yanky Brach with the Community Builder Award. Mr. Brach humbly accepted the award for the countless acts of *chessed* he performs on a daily basis.

Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President, and State Senator James Sanders, Jr. awarded the next honoree, City Councilman Donovan Richards. Richards accepted the City Legislative Leadership Award. Councilman Richards helped bring hundreds of thousands of dollars to the JCCRP in Red Cross funding to assist hurricane victims in our community.

Next up was Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder, who was presented with the State Legislative Leadership Award by Democratic nominee for Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz. Assemblyman Goldfeder worked hard during the storm and during its aftermath, proudly representing his constituents to city and state agencies,

making sure we received all the funding and support we needed.

After receiving his award, Assemblyman Goldfeder presented Pesach Osina with the Public Service Award. In addition to that esteemed award for all of his hard work, Congressman Gregory Meeks presented him with a personal Congressional Award. Mr. Osina, Councilmanic Aide at New York City Council, is an invaluable community member. Osina served as a liaison to LIPA for our community during the storm.

The subsequent honoree was Roberta Leiner, Senior Vice President, Agency Relations of the UJA-Federation of New York. Ms. Leiner accepted the Hakaras HaTov Award from the Chairman of the Board of the JCCRP, Richard Altabe, on behalf of the UJA. The UJA provided tuition relief, support to our Yeshiva educators, funds to several local shuls for repairs, and funding to the Met Council to process over 350 cash grants to homeowners in need. Overall, UJA awarded our community with well over a million dollars in funding.

Richard Altabe also presented the next award, this time to Peter Brest, COO of Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council). Met Council did numerous acts of kindness for our community, including: \$100,000 in emergency food

assistance, Metro Pair to rebuild homes and they secured a team of security professionals to patrol the neighborhood during the first Shabbos of the blackout. David Frankel, CEO of Met Council, spoke briefly, addressing the necessary presence of the JCCRP and the good work it provides for the community.

Before beginning the JCCRP’s video presentation, Nathan Krasnovsky jokingly asked Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney to have his team of able-bodied police officers to guard the exits to ensure that everyone enjoyed the showing. The effort was much appreciated. Breakfast attendees felt extremely moved while watching the film. One participant expressed, “I never realized how much work the JCCRP does for the community; I never realized how much help so many people in the community need.” The video portrayed the irreplaceable work the JCCRP does for those in any kind of need in the community and that the JCCRP acts as a one-stop-shop for community resources. The video can be seen at [www.jccrp.org](http://www.jccrp.org).

Following the video presentation, Jonathan Dembitzer, Vice President of the Board of the JCCRP and Police Liaison, presented Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney with the Humanitarian Award. Dembitzer wholeheartedly expressed the community’s gratitude toward the Deputy



The heroes of Project NIVNEH



Members of Ohel, David Mandel, CEO of Ohel, and Tzivy Reiter of Project Hope receiving their award



Sanitation Chief Deputy Moss accepting his award on behalf of his department



Members of the RCSP and Yaakov Gade receiving their award



Josh Lockwood, CEO of the Red Cross, accepting his award



Cit Councilman Donovan Richards and State Senator James Sanders



Senator Addabbo and Nathan Krasnovsky with Chaim Leibtag, accepting the award on behalf of the White Shul



Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder and Melinda Katz



Senator Addabbo and Nathan Krasnovsky with Yitzy Halpern who accepted the award on behalf of Sh'or Yeshuv Institute

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Congressman Gregory Meeks presenting Pesach Osina with Congressional Award



Jonathan Dembitzer presenting Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney with his award



Peter Brest, COO of Met Council, being presented with his award



Roberta Leiner of the UJA with Richard Altabe and Nathan Krasnovsky



Senator Addabbo with Hillel Adelman, accepting the award on behalf of Young Israel of Wavecrest and Bayswater



Members of COJO of Flatbush receiving their award



Mordechai Dicker presenting the award to Mark Gross on behalf of Hatzalah



Mordechai Dicker presenting the award to Achiezer and Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender

Inspector and his team for the protection and service that they provide our community.

State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. was the first to present awards to our second set of honorable awardees: the Heroes of Hurricane Sandy. The first of the awardees was Sh'or Yoshuv who graciously opened up its doors to families in the community during the storm. Senator Addabbo described how the yeshiva turned into a safe haven for families in need: providing three hot meals a day, drop-off laundry service, and free supplies for those who were affected. Senator Addabbo presented Congregation Kneseth Israel / The White Shul with a "Heroes of Hurricane Sandy" Award. Rabbi Feiner and Chaim Leibtag of The White Shul opened up their doors to the community throughout Hurricane Sandy, feeding hundreds of families, as well as providing temporary office space for Dr. Lightman and the JCCRP. Lastly, Senator Addabbo honored The Young Israel of Wavecrest & Bayswater (YIWB). YIWB was a light to our community, servicing anyone who came to them throughout the turbulent time of Sandy.

Nathan Krasnovsky presented the next award to Project Nivneh. Project Nivneh was spearheaded by community members to help rebuild homes that were damaged and destroyed by the storm. Project Nin-

veh was founded by Ettie Schoor but she refused to accept the award until all of the hard working members of her team stood up and accepted alongside her. Mordechai Dicker, Board President of the JCCRP, presented Achiezer and Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender with their award. Achiezer was instrumental in coordinating the Sh'or Yoshuv relief site as well as directing the flow of emergency relief communication to the entire community. Mr. Dicker gave Hatzalah the next award, thanking them for their unending dedication to the community and for their consistency and dependability. Lastly, Dicker awarded Rockaway Citizens Safety Patrol (RCSP). The unrelenting RCSP, working in tandem with our outstanding local police officers, ensured our safety during the storm's aftermath, keeping our families and homes safe.

Our last presenter, Hillel Adelman, board member of the JCCRP, presented awards to COJO of Flatbush, Ohel, Red Cross, and the Sanitation Department. COJO of Flatbush was honored for the amazing assistance they provided to our community in the immediate aftermath of the storm and for months thereafter. Ohel was next to receive their award as they have been an invaluable resource to our community for years and their team of highly trained mental health professionals have been instrumental in providing

mental health assistance from the second the storm hit. Josh Lockwood of the Red Cross accepted the award, remarking about the incredible work of the JCCRP and noting his genuine interest in assisting agencies like ours, who make a difference in the community. Saving the best for last, Mr. Adelman awarded the Sanitation Department with their well-deserved award. The award recipient, Deputy Chief Moss, gave a heartfelt acknowledgement of the appreciation he received at the Legislative Breakfast. He mentioned the tireless work his team put into cleaning up our city throughout the night, ensuring that we would get back on our feet as soon as possible. He thanked everyone at the event who expressed their gratitude to him, mentioning that it was a kindness he was surprised to receive and that it could go a very long way to appreciate and thank your local sanitation workers for all the hard work they gave to us in the aftermath of the storm.

The JCCRP wishes to congratulate all of the Honorees and Heroes of Hurricane Sandy on their auspicious and well-deserved honors. Following the Legislative Breakfast, the JCCRP has received amazing feedback: City Councilman Richards said, "It was the best JCCRP breakfast ever." Dr. Eli Shapiro declared that the JCCRP is "back and better than ever." Josh Lockwood, CEO of Red Cross, said

he was "humbled by the recognition of the JCCRP." Assemblyman Goldfeder said it was an amazing job and a very successful event. Chaim Leibtag and Rav Feiner said it was a "big kiddush Hashem."

A tremendous *hakaras hatov* goes out to all of the JCCRP Legislative Breakfast sponsors: 718 Insurance, Addabbo Family Health Center, Apple Bank, Atlaz Computers, Cross River Bank, Far Rockaway K kosher Pizza, Kosher World Supermarket, Lawrence Supply, Margert Community Corporation, PIP Printing and Marketing Service, Prism, Quality Healthcare, Russo's Pharmacy, Simply Sushi Café, St. John's Episcopal Hospital, and *The Jewish Home*.

Last but not least, the JCCRP thanks all of the community members who attended the breakfast and helped make the event the most successful one yet!

*The JCCRP is a proud affiliate of Met Council and a beneficiary agency of UJA Federation of NY. The JCCRP provides a range of services for any clients who need assistance in social services or resource directing within the community. Please contact the JCCRP for further information; Located at 1525 Central Avenue (entrance on Foam Place), Far Rockaway, NY, 11691— Call the JCCRP at (718) 327-7755—or visit them on the web at [www.jccrp.org](http://www.jccrp.org)*



Queens County Clerk Audrey Pheffer, Glenn Ridell and Joel Kaplan



Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney and Pesach Osina



Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer



Rabbi Reisman and Yanky Brach



David Frankel, CEO of Met Council, speaking to the audience



Yanky Brach, Richard Altabe and Rabbi Feiner