

Message from Elliot Forchheimer on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary

of the DSA

The annual Julian Y. Bernstein Award evening is always one of my favorites of the Council year. Allow me to add my admiration and respect to all 22 honorees led by our dear friend Donald Fleishaker for their outstanding years of service to the community. The dedication of these leaders is a model for us all and has enriched their organizations and the wonderful Jewish tapestry of Westchester.

And it is not just the honorees that are being highlighted tonight. I want to thank Mr. Zoom for helping us to have over 500 people in attendance today, a record number of attendees who have gathered to honor the award recipients and their sponsoring organizations. It is a tribute to the enduring and growing value of community service that our good friend Julian Bernstein, of blessed memory held so dear.

In truth and in accordance with Jewish tradition, we actually have many, many more honorees this evening. And I don't just mean the terrific JDSA committee chaired by Betsy Bernstein that remains a model among the Council's board of directors. We learn from Ben Zoma in *Pirke Avot*-Ethics of the Father, "Who is honored? The one who gives honor to others..." So in fact, each and every one of you on this call is an honoree as you took the time to extend *kavod*-respect and thanks to the honorees. To close, on behalf of the leadership of the Westchester Jewish Council, we wish you continued health of body and spirit as we work together to maintaining this outstanding Jewish community. For sure, our best days are ahead of us for we and our loved ones deserve no less. Have a wonderful summer. See you next year!