



Sentinel

Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services - Fulfilling the Fifth Commandment

Record Breaking Gala Crowd Raises Over \$1 million to Help Offset \$8 Million Annual Shortfall

Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services held its most successful annual Gala to date on Sunday evening, January 25. More than 850 guests were in attendance to prove that they can make the “magic” that will provide “miracles” for the residents of Seven Acres. “**Magic and Miracles**” honored community leaders Punkin and Walter Hecht, Barbara and Raymond Kalmans, and Richard Leibman with the **Spirit of Life Award** for their many years of service and support of Seven Acres and the Houston Jewish community. The event held at the Hilton Americas Houston included a cocktail hour where guests socialized and shopped at the silent and Big Board auctions. Dinner and dancing to sixties era rock band THE FAB 5 followed as well as the award presentations. The evening was chaired by Denise and Steve Estrin and Suzy and Jack Schaffer. Honorary chairs were Marcia and David Solomon, Joyce and Arthur Schechter, and Bruce Stein.



Gala Honorees Walter Hecht, Punkin Hecht, Richard Leibman, Barbara Kalmans and Raymond Kalmans.

Dear Friends,

Since we cannot possibly thank so many of you who attended and supported Seven Acres’ “Magic and Miracles” gala individually, please accept our thanks for your generous support. We were thrilled to be chosen to accept the Spirit of Life Award and to be honored by this prestigious organization that is so important to us and to the community. We are all very proud to be involved with this event that benefits our frail elderly and elder disabled.

*Punkin and Walter Hecht
Barbara and Raymond Kalmans
Richard Leibman
Honorees*

Gary Swartz, Seven Acres Board President, welcomed everyone with opening remarks. “I wish to thank everyone who helped make this evening the great success that it is. First of all, it is my pleasure to

thank our outstanding event chairs, Denise and Steve Estrin and Suzy and Jack Schaffer, who have worked so tirelessly in ensuring that everyone has an enjoyable evening and hopefully learns a little bit about our Home--your Home--Seven Acres! I want to thank our honorary co-chairs and long-time supporters,

Joyce and Butch Schechter, Marcia and David Solomon and Bruce Stein. I wish to thank extraordinary committee chairs Karen and Buster Freedman, Michael Weisenthal and Judy Yambra, and Vicky and Michael Richker who put in so many, many hours soliciting table sponsorships, gathering auction items and then organizing the fantastic auction, and selling raffle tickets for the beautiful Fiat car which Cindy and Dennis Laviage of C&D Scrap Metal generously donated.... I would finally like to thank all of those who have underwritten tables, purchased gala tickets, and are participating in our silent and Big Board auctions. You are all making this event so wonderful and we appreciate it.”

The honorees were each presented their award by a community leader and close friend. Punkin and Walter Hecht received their award from Seven Acres Board member Lee Schlanger. “Seven Acres, thank you for everything you do,” Walter Hecht began his remarks. “You are a blessing to our community.”

“Walter and I are savoring this moment; trying to take a mind setting picture to remember always.” Punkin Hecht continued.

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Magic and Miracles Gala, *continued from front page*

“How proud we both are to receive the ‘Spirit of Life’ award from Seven Acres. From the time I climbed the steps at the first home on Branard Street, as a little girl going to visit my uncle’s father, Abe Nachlas, one of the original thirteen residents, I never imagined that Walter and I would be standing here today... We hope that G-d will always bless the staff, volunteers, board members, leadership, supporters, and all those who walk through the doors of this wonderful and much needed institution. We thank you all.”

Barbara and Raymond Kalmans accepted their award from community leader Dolores Wilkenfeld. “It really is not about the honorees tonight – even if we are the reason many of you are here,” Raymond Kalmans stated. “It is, and has always been, about the residents Seven Acres serves, and the numerous people who serve them, both from the professional staff and volunteers... I am sometimes asked why it is that the past Presidents continue to be so involved at Seven Acres? The answer is simple: what Seven Acres does is so important, and we find that our continued involvement is personally rewarding.... We thank all of you so much for coming tonight. Thank you for what you have done to help Seven Acres in the past, and for what you will continue to do for Seven Acres in the future.”

Past Seven Acres Board President Joyce Schechter and her husband Ambassador Arthur Schechter presented Richard Leibman with his award. Both Schechters are past Spirit of Life award recipients. “Thank you, Butch and Joyce, for that wonderful introduction,” Richard

Leibman began. “It is in large part due to your involvement over the years with Seven Acres, Joyce, that I chose to become involved with such an extraordinary organization... The Jewish community in Houston embraced me and my family when we first moved here in 1977. That genuine welcome instilled my desire to become involved in the community. From Beth Yeshurun Synagogue and Seven Acres to the Jewish Federation and my efforts to promote Israel, I wanted to show my gratitude to the community in Houston that made me feel so welcome. I also wanted to show my children and now my grandchildren how important it is to give back to the community and be proud of our Jewish heritage... I am proud of the wonderful care that Seven Acres provides to so many residents. This includes the day-to-day care given by many talented and dedicated individuals at the Home.”

“The event was a spectacular affair,” Swartz remarked. “Not only because it was such an enjoyable evening, but also it provided each of us the opportunity to fulfill the fifth commandment of honoring the fathers and mothers of our community by raising more funds than ever before. All of our fundraising endeavors, such as this annual gala, enable us to remain committed and unwavering to never reduce the quality of care to our residents and those we serve in the community. The ‘magic’ and ‘miracles’ that occur every day at Seven Acres are because of our wonderful staff, our officers, Board of Trustees, our volunteers and you, our supporters!”

