HONORING

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator for New York

Brooke Goldstein
Founder and Director of the Lawfare Project, Human Rights Lawyer, Author and Award-Winning Filmmaker

Mimi Lieber
The Blue Card President, Emeritus

Lee Rechter
Founder and President, The National Association of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors (NAHOS)

The New York City Council

The mission of The Blue Card is to provide direct financial assistance, with dignity and respect, to needy Holocaust survivors living in the United States.
Fighting cancer is tough enough when you have the means. When you don’t, support from The Blue Card can give you the strength you need to fight another day.

The Siggi B. Wilzig Fighting Cancer Together Fund is the only national program established exclusively to help impoverished survivors with cancer who can’t afford the very basics, let alone the extra care and luxuries we would want for our aged and ill loved ones.

The program provides The Blue Card clients who are battling cancer with insurance co-pay assistance for treatment, funds toward transportation, special diet requirements and support group services.

Please help support this crucial program. To designate a contribution to the Siggi B. Wilzig Fighting Cancer Together program, please note “SBW” in a memo when making your tax deductible contribution.
**APPETIZER**

Arugula Green Salad
*With Roasted Beets, Golden Tomatoes, Carrots and Nicoise Olives*
*Flavored with White Balsamic and Red Wine Vinegars*
*Pumpernickel Croutons with Wild Mushrooms*

**ENTRÉE**

Seared Chicken Breast with Aged Red Wine Vinegar
*Served with Warm Vinaigrette*
*And topped with Sautéed Red Onion*
*Red & Yellow Tomato Confit*
*With Haricots Verts and Herbed Rosemary Sweet & Gold Fingerling Potatoes*

**DESSERT**

Mini Pear Frangipane with Sugared Apple Crisp
*Chocolate Truffle Terrine*
*Chocolate Dipped Tuille Filled with Blueberries, Strawberries and Gooseberries*
*Garnished with Mint Raspberry Coulis*

Gerbert Cookies
*Chocolate Dipped Strawberries Cranberry Biscotti*

Coffee and Tea
Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to The Blue Card 2016 Annual Benefit Gala celebrating our 82nd anniversary. In 2016, as in previous years, The Blue Card has been able to make a significant impact on Holocaust survivors nationwide.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge our 2016 honorees: New York State Senator, Charles Schumer; Brooke Goldstein; Mimi Lieber; Leo Rechter, and the New York City Council. We would also like to thank Marion Wiesel for serving as honorary chair of The Blue Card event committee.

Our special thanks to our incredible host this evening Tony Shalhoub, Linda Lavin, Lainie Kazan, Raúl Esparza, and the Cast of Indecent. We would also like to recognize Sol and Ada Urbach. Sol is approximately one of 25 Schindler Jews alive. As recently as 2014 there were 50+ still with us.

The 2015 distribution of nearly $3 million is a significant and notable increase from the previous year. This funding will make a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors, providing hope and comfort to these brave individuals in their late senior years.

The Blue Card’s mission is built on a platform of helping those who have suffered unspeakable atrocities during their lifetime. Our mission is to provide financial assistance in a way that preserves dignity, and offers caring emotional support. We are proud and gratified that our Blue Card family of clients knows that they can always turn to us for help.

We strive and succeed to offer programs such as telephone emergency response systems, medical and dental care, homemaking, and emergency cash assistance. We continue to research new and better programs. Each year, The Blue Card’s programs are adjusted to meet the most current and pressing needs.

Today, The Blue Card has programs in more than 32 states. In 2016, we are proud to say that the visibility of our organization as an agent of exceptional charitable work continues to flourish, with continued press coverage in major publications, award of four stars by Charity Navigator, accreditation by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, and most notably, in the improved circumstances of our deserving clients.

We are most grateful for the generosity we receive from our many supporters. The caring work of The Blue Card could not be achieved without the tremendous hearts of our donors.

Our most heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,

Gia Machlin
President

Michael Lissner
Chairman

Elie Rubinstein
First Vice President

Masha Pearl
Executive Director
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Masha Pearl

Dear Friends,

Beginning my fifth year as Executive Director of The Blue Card, I am humbled and honored to gratefully acknowledge the support from our donors, board members and clients of our endeavors to improve the quality of life for Holocaust survivors throughout the United States.

The Blue Card works unremittingly to address the complex and evolving needs of Holocaust survivors. This year, The Blue Card received referrals from an astounding 75 JFS and other Jewish agencies. We successfully identified an additional 400 households in need of assistance, and have expanded our programs from 19 to 32 states, operating in places as diverse and far reaching as Maine, Kentucky and Nevada.

Our well-known core programs continue to serve our fragile clients, addressing life-saving medical/dental/emergency response concerns, and running programs ranging from holiday, birthday and summer vacations. We are deeply committed both fiscally and professionally to identifying viable solutions to existing and new challenges faced by Holocaust survivors.

Hallmarks of 2016 initiatives include a new eyeglasses distribution program to help survivors with low vision. This effort was launched with assistance from a generous donation of brand new eyeglass frames to be distributed through our network of social service agencies to our survivors in need of vision assistance. In addition, this year The Blue Card has adapted our signature telephone emergency response (TERS) program to be more attuned to the needs of those suffering from impairment, especially dementia, with more refined capabilities for those specifically with limited cognition.

On a different note, we are especially proud of our successful effort to secure funding from the New York City Council. It is most gratifying to know that we have backing from our local government, and we look forward to a fruitful partnership going forward.

Some of our most dedicated and long serving volunteers have been those who participate in our sports endurance programs. We continue with our successful marathon and 5-Boro bike tour runs, and in 2015 and 2016 have expanded our program to include the exciting Panasonic NYC Triathlon. We look forward to building on our successes and expanding even further into new sports competitions.

In looking forward, we continue our commitment to recognizing viable solutions to existing and new challenges faced by Holocaust survivors. As we close out 2016, we will continue working alongside all of our supporters, partnership agencies, and clients who are devoted to making these final years of our survivors comfortable, safe, and joyous.

Sincerely,

Masha Pearl
Executive Director
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Refer a Survivor

• The Blue Card works with local social services agencies to locate survivors who are in need.

• If you know of a survivor who needs our assistance but does not have access to a social service agency, contact us at (212) 239-2251 or info@bluecardfund.org.

Engage Your Employer

• Share The Blue Card’s mission with your employer and encourage matching donations.

Consider Planned Giving/Legacies

• From naming The Blue Card in your will, to charitable trusts, retirement plan gifts and gift annuities, there are many giving options available. Please consult your financial planner for options and benefits. Your lasting legacy and compassion will ensure that Blue Card programs will continue to help survivors in need, while also providing financial benefits to you and your family.

Connect Athletes to Our Endurance Program

• The Blue Card takes part in various sporting events including the TCS New York City Marathon, the TD 5 Borough Bike Tour, and the New York City Triathlon.

Host an Informational Meeting

• Share The Blue Card’s mission with your friends and encourage them to get involved and/or donate.

Visit a Survivor in the Hospital

• Many survivors do not have a strong support network that they can rely on when they are in the hospital. The Blue Card-Lissner Hospital Visitation Program offers volunteer visits to hospitalized Holocaust survivors who need companionship and emotional support.

In Kind Donations

• New bulk donations of eye glass frames, hearing aids, bed linens, bathrobes, slippers, large face watches.

• Joining our dental panel.
The Blue Card's 2015 Grants at a Glance

1. Homecare Program $907,154
2. Emergency Cash Assistance Program $727,472
3. Monthly Assistance Program $644,215
4. Telephone Emergency Response System (TERS Program) $266,415
5. Jewish Holiday Program $167,122
6. Mazel Tov Program $58,085
7. Summer Vacation Program $29,865

TOTAL GRANT $2,800,328
THE RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE AWARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Richard C. Holbrooke lived a profoundly purposeful life. Regarded as one of the country’s most influential and accomplished diplomats, he was a deeply committed humanitarian whose intelligence, persistence and unusual skills made the seemingly impossible possible — across the globe.

Among his innumerable achievements, Mr. Holbrooke expanded upon Richard Nixon’s trip to China to establish full diplomatic relations with China, and he spotlighted conflicts and health crises in Africa and Indonesia, where he called for more peacekeeping forces. His deft prodding led to the landmark 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia — a feat Mr. Holbrooke sought to duplicate as chief envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan before his untimely death in 2010. And after the collapse of Communism, he successfully fought for Holocaust survivors to receive restitution from then-emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

“He was a hurricane—of eloquence and energy and force,” said President Bill Clinton. “He was a great diplomat because he was smart, and he could learn, and he could think, he could write, he could speak, and most importantly, he could do . . . there are a lot of people walking around on the face of the earth today — or their children or their grandchildren — because of the way he lived his life.”

The Blue Card’s Richard C. Holbrooke Award for Social Justice is a fitting, lasting tribute to a man who, according to Henry Kissinger, “saw a challenge not an obstacle” and, because of his inspired leadership, elevated “a forlorn problem into a moral adventure.”
THE RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE AWARD
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE RECIPIENT
Senator Charles “Chuck” Ellis Schumer

U.S. Senator Charles “Chuck” Ellis Schumer has dedicated his career to protecting the middle class and helping those working to reach it. Though he has become a leader in finding common sense solutions to national issues, Chuck has built a reputation as a tireless fighter for New York, visiting all 62 counties every year and talking to constituents in every corner of our state.

Chuck was born in Brooklyn, NY on November 23, 1950 to parents Selma, a homemaker active in the community, and Abe, who owned a small exterminating business. Chuck grew up in the Sheepshead Bay neighborhood and with his siblings, Fran and Robert, attended PS 197 and Madison High School. Chuck has two daughters, Jessica and Alison, and he still resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Iris Weinshall.

After graduating from Harvard College and Harvard Law School in 1974, Chuck returned home and was elected to the New York State Assembly where he soon made his mark with his trademark vigor and tireless advocacy. In 1980, at 29, Chuck ran for and won the seat in the 9th Congressional District.

Chuck represented the 9th CD in Brooklyn and Queens for eighteen years, where he established his reputation as a pioneer in the fight against crime and as a consumer advocate. Chuck authored the Omnibus Crime Bill, which put 100,000 new cops on the street. He was the leading sponsor of the Violence Against Women Act, to combat domestic violence and sexual assault, and the Brady Bill, which instituted mandatory background checks for handgun purchases. He co-wrote the Assault Weapons Ban, and sponsored the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which organized data on crimes of bigotry and allowed federal authorities to prosecute these crimes. He also sponsored legislation that required banks and credit card companies to provide greater disclosure to consumers.

In 1998, Chuck was elected to the U.S. Senate; he became New York’s senior senator when Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan retired in 2000. Chuck kicked off his first Senate term by announcing he would visit each of New York’s 62 counties every year, a tradition he continues today. Doing so has enabled Chuck to keep in touch with voters from every corner of the state.

Throughout his time in the Senate, Chuck has made improving New York’s economy his top priority, bringing affordable air service to Upstate New York and the Hudson Valley and delivering over $20 billion in aid to New York City following the attacks on September 11, 2001. Chuck was the author of legislation that eliminated barriers that delay low-cost generic medications from entering the marketplace and led the charge to make college tuition tax deductible. He also aggressively championed agricultural measures to preserve vital market support programs for New York’s dairy farmers and crop growers.

After New Yorkers re-elected him in 2004, Chuck was awarded two powerful posts by his colleagues. The first, a seat on the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees the nation’s tax, trade, social security and health care legislation. The second honor was the Chairmanship of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC). Chuck successfully led the DSCC for two consecutive cycles before stepping down at the end of 2008.

Following the elections of 2006, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) appointed Chuck to serve as Vice Chair of the Democratic Conference, the number three position on the Democratic Leadership team and a position he continues to hold. After New Yorkers re-elected him for a third term in 2010, Chuck took on an expanded role in the Senate as Chairman of the Democratic Policy and Communications Center. Chuck also serves as the Ranking Member on the Senate Rules Committee, which oversees federal elections, voting rights, campaign finance, and the operation of the Senate complex.

In addition, Chuck sits on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Judiciary Committee, where he is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security; and the Joint Committee on the Library.
Max Heine was a giver. He gave because he felt it was the right thing to do; because he cared deeply about other people; and because not giving was not an option for him.

Max was born in 1910 in Berlin. His father was a doctor and his mother's family owned a large factory that manufactured automobiles, motorcycles and munitions. As a teenager, he rode the company motorcycles, and when he wrecked one, he simply got a new one. He wasn't much of a student. The comments on his report card ranged from "nicht genügend" (not sufficient) to "mangelhaft" (unsatisfactory) to "genügend" (sufficient). Max was considered the black sheep of the family, and not only because of his grades. He was distressed by the social inequities of the day. While studying law—not very successfully—at the University of Heidelberg in the late 1920’s, he became seriously involved in left-wing politics. A family rumor alleged that he tried to organize the workforce at the family factory. True or not, it suggests where his sympathies lay. In the early 1930’s he was arrested for his activities with anti-Nazi organizations, which turned out to be a stroke of good fortune. He saw the writing on the wall and in 1933 abandoned his law studies and emigrated to the U.S. Many of his relatives were not so lucky.

In America, Max had to start at the bottom. His first job was as a salesman for women's haberdashery and men's neckties. He wasn't much of a salesman, and if he knew anything about fashion, he kept it well concealed. Soon he moved on to a job as a runner in a Wall Street brokerage firm. He had no idea that within a few decades he'd be known as "The Dean of Wall Street." It was around this time that he fell in love with Lotte Hirsch, another German émigré. They married in 1938 and remained inseparable until her death almost 50 years later. They had three daughters, Doris, Karin and Peggy, and lived in the same house in Roslyn for 40 years.

Max flourished on Wall Street, first by helping many of his fellow émigrés invest their savings, then by spotting value in the bonds of bankrupt companies. In 1949 he took over the leadership of Mutual Shares, a pioneering mutual fund. He later became chairman of Herzog, Heine, Geduld, and chairman of Heine Securities.

No matter how brilliantly he maneuvered in the world of capitalism, Max never cared all that much about money. He cared about people. He always thought of the stock market as a game; he enjoyed the game immensely, but it didn't make him feel bigger or smarter or worthier than anyone else, and it was never the most important thing in his life. He was an incredibly loyal friend, a loving husband and father, a doting grandfather. He considered himself a very lucky man, and he wanted to help others. He never thought of it as a sacrifice; he just thought of it as the thing to do, as natural as getting up in the morning. And Blue Card was the perfect fit—helping people like him, but less fortunate.
Leo Rechter was born in Vienna, Austria to a Jewish middle class family. His father was co-owner of a butcher shop and the family had an apartment in an elegant section of the city.

Leo completed four years of public elementary school and then was accepted into a Gymnasium, studying algebra, Latin and Greek. During his first year in the Gymnasium, the Nazis marched into Austria and, as a Jew, Leo was no longer permitted to attend the Gymnasium.

One evening, he witnessed his father being brutally beaten by Nazi hoodlums. After Kristallnacht, the family fled one cold winter night to Belgium, leaving all their assets and belongings behind.

A few years later, after the Germans had invaded Belgium, his father was deported to France where he was forced to work on the Atlantic Wall fortifications, and subsequently sent to Auschwitz where he perished. At a relatively young age, Leo became the breadwinner and protector of his family, engaging in all kinds of endeavors to provide food and shelter for his mother and two younger siblings. They were constantly on the run, hiding in basements and attics and were once almost apprehended by the Gestapo. Hunger was a constant companion.

After World War II, Leo went to Israel in 1950, where he spent seven years, first in a kibbutz and later in the hotel industry. He also met his future wife Fortuneee.

In 1957, he immigrated to the United States, followed by Fortuneee, whom he married in 1958. Leo worked during the days in the catering industry and attended College in the evenings. Carrying up to 21 credits a semester, he completed his B.A. Summa Cum Laude in less than 3 years and then went on to obtain an MBA in International Finance with the highest academic distinction, from Pace University with a 4.0 academic average. He received a letter of commendation from President Carter for his scholastic achievements.

He obtained a position with the Manufacturers Hanover Bank, which later became the Chemical Bank and was promoted to Vice President in charge of an international department. He worked there for almost 20 years. After retirement, he volunteered as an interviewer for the Shoah Foundation, Steven Spielberg’s project to record the personal histories of Holocaust Survivors and conducted almost a hundred interviews. He also joined a Holocaust Survivors group, the National Association of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors (NAHOS); was elected president of NAHOS in 2001. Leo is also the editor and chief columnist of their monthly newspaper.

Leo and Fortuneee raised 3 daughters and have 12 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.
IRENE HIZME
TIKKUM OLAM AWARD

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1937, Irene Hizme and her twin brother Rene entered life in Nazi-occupied Europe and were inmates at the Theresienstadt ghetto by age five. At six years of age, they entered Auschwitz concentration camp with their mother. Rene and Irene were liberated by the Russians in January of 1945.

Irene was a biochemist at Cornell Medical School and Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and later a senior computer programmer at Grumman Corporation. Her English and Hebrew calligraphy have been exhibited and published in several Calligraphers’ Engagement Calendars and the newsletter Penscriptions, and most recently 100 New York Calligraphers.

When multiple sclerosis made it impossible to continue working, Irene put her energies into doing things to better society. She began speaking about the Mengele Twins in 1985 when she realized that this was an undocumented tale. In her presentations, she stresses the need to speak out against all forms of injustice and prejudice. In November 2006, she was the recipient of the Afikim Foundation’s Triumph of Humanity Award.

The Blue Card’s Irene Hizme Tikkum Olam Award was created to honor an individual who has dedicated his/her life towards improving the lives of others and has shown extraordinary commitment towards raising funds and awareness for Holocaust survivors.

Irene lives with her husband, Samuel, on Long Island. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.
**IRENE HIZME TIKKUM OLAM AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Brooke Goldstein**

Brooke Goldstein is a New York City-based human rights attorney, author, and award-winning filmmaker. She is the founder and Executive Director of The Lawfare Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about and facilitating a response to the abuses of Western legal systems and human rights law. Brooke is also the founder and director of the Children’s Rights Institute (CRI), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to track, spotlight, and legally combat violations of children’s basic human rights around the world. CRI has a special focus on the state-sponsored indoctrination and recruitment of children to become suicide-homicide bombers, child soldiers, and human shields.


Brooke’s award-winning documentary film, *The Making of a Martyr*, uncovers the illegal, state-sponsored indoctrination and recruitment of Palestinian children for suicide-homicide attacks. Filming *Martyr*, Brooke secured firsthand interviews with active and armed members of the Al-Aqsa, Fatah, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas terrorist groups as well as with families of suicide bombers, children imprisoned for attempting to blow themselves up, teachers at terrorist-run schools, and others involved in the phenomenon of child suicide bombing. *Martyr* is currently broadcast on television stations throughout the globe and is ranked as IMDb’s seventh most popular title on the West Bank.

Brooke is a regular commentator on FOX News and has been featured in several media, including CNN, The New York Sun, Swindle Magazine, Defense Technology International, and on WABC News Talk Radio, and has been published in a variety of sources, including The New York Daily News, Commentary Magazine, The American Spectator, The Counter Terrorist Magazine, Special Ops Magazine, and others.

Brooke is a seasoned public speaker and has lectured and taught seminars at numerous schools, including the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York University, Berkeley University, Stanford University, and others. Brooke has also been invited to brief government officials at the U.S. State Department, the White House, the Pentagon, the U.K. Parliament, and U.S. Central Command on issues of asymmetric warfare and human rights.

Brooke is the 2007 recipient of the E. Nathaniel Gates Award for Outstanding Public Advocacy and the 2009 Inspire! Award bestowed by the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, was listed in 2009 as one of “36 Under 36 Young Innovators” by the Jewish Week, formerly served as an adjunct fellow at the Hudson Institute, and is currently an associate fellow at the Henry Jackson Society, a Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute, and a member of the Scholars for Peace in the Middle East’s (SPME) Council of Scholars.

From 2007-2009, Brooke served as director of the Legal Project at the Middle East Forum, an organization that arranges financial support for, and pro-bono legal representation to, persons wrongfully sued for exercising their right to free speech on issues of national security and public concern.

Additionally, Brooke is the co-founder of A2B Film Productions, Inc., a Canada-based independent documentary film production company focused on creating films that explore issues ignored by the mainstream media.

Canadian born, Brooke earned her B.A. from McGill University and received her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She also attended Columbia University and University of Toronto’s exchange programs.
MIMI LIEBER: Indecent: Yale Rep., La Jolla Playhouse; Broadway: Act One, Brooklyn Boy, I’m Not Rappaport (revival). Off-Broadway: Distracted (Roundabout). Regional: Two Things You Don’t Talk About at Dinner (Denver Center Theatre); Persephone, The Sisters Rosensweig (Huntington); We Don’t Pay! We Don’t Pay! (Long Wharf); Taking Sides, The Greeks, Love Council, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Five Women Wearing the Same Dress (Odyssey); Leon, Lena and Lenz (Guthrie); Figaro Gets a Divorce (La Jolla); Sirens (Humana Festival); U.S. Comedy Arts Festival w/E.S.T. (winner, Best of Fest); LATC; Taper, Too; Ford’s Theater; Kennedy Center. Nat’l Tour: The Heidi Chronicles. Film include The Thing About My Folks; Arranged; Cold Souls; Permanent Midnight; Bulworth; Corrina, Corrina; Wilder Napalm; Just Another Story. Select TV: The Sopranos, Law & Order, Medium, Friends, The Practice, Seinfeld, ER, X-Files, NYPD Blue, Judging Amy, Early Edition, L.A. Law. Choreography: Broadway: Act One; The Snow Geese (MTC); Merchant of Venice. For NYSF/Delacorte: Cymbeline (Calloway Fin.), The Merchant of Venice, All’s Well That Ends Well, Twelfth Night. Also choreographer of 26 national commercials. Ms. Lieber is President Emerita of the Blue Card, the only national charity whose sole mission is financial aid to holocaust survivors.
Melissa Mark-Viverito currently serves as the Speaker of the New York City Council, the first Puerto Rican and Latina to hold a citywide elected position. She represents the 8th District, which includes El Barrio/East Harlem and the South Bronx.

Speaker Mark-Viverito was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She worked for over a decade in local activism, nonprofit organizations and labor before being elected to the City Council in 2005, as the first Puerto Rican woman and Latina to represent her district in the Council.

In 2009, she was elected to her second term in the City Council, during which she served as Chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation, the founding Co-Chair of the Progressive Caucus and as a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus. In 2011, she was one of four Council Members to pioneer the first-ever Participatory Budgeting process in New York City.

She is a graduate of Columbia College at Columbia University and Baruch College, City University of New York, where she studied Public Administration through the National Urban Fellows Program.

The New York City Council’s Jewish Caucus

The New York City Council’s Jewish Caucus consists of 14 of the body’s 51 members. The Jewish Caucus is dedicated to representing and addressing the needs and interests of the growing and diverse population of Jewish New Yorkers. The Caucus advocates for provision of social services to all New Yorkers in need, and specifically seeks to address the often over-looked problem of Jewish poverty. It advances support for Israel and advocates for stronger ties between Israel and New York City. The Caucus is dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism and bigotry in all forms. It also promotes Holocaust remembrance and support for survivors of all genocides, and advances interfaith and interethnic dialogue.

New York City Council Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivors Initiative

The Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivors Initiative is a $2.5 million program established by the City Council to provide Holocaust survivors living at or below the federal poverty line with a wide range of services, including preventive health care, medical appointment transportation, case management support and home delivered meals to help maintain and improve their quality of life.

New York City is home to 55,000 Holocaust survivors and more than half of those survivors live in poverty. Since launching the Survivors Initiative in Fiscal Year 2016, the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivors Initiative has provided thousands of Holocaust Survivors with much needed assistance.
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Council Member Rafael L. Espinal Jr.
on behalf of New York City Council

A lifelong resident of Brooklyn, Rafael L. Espinal Jr. is the Council Member for the 37th district, proudly serving the vibrant communities of Bushwick, Brownsville, Cypress Hills, and East New York. Council Member Espinal is Chair of the Council’s Committee on Consumer Affairs, where he has overseen the implementation of NYC’s successful Paid Sick Leave Law, passed consumer protections for women, seniors, and immigrants, and continues to fight for a more fair and vibrant marketplace in NYC. Council Member Espinal strives to be an advocate for those who are less fortunate by fighting for justice and equal opportunities for all.
November 21, 2016

The Blue Card
171 Madison Avenue, Suite 1405
New York, NY 10016

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for The Blue Card’s 2016 Annual Benefit Dinner, Broadway Salutes the Blue Card.

Founded in 1934, The Blue Card is an effective organization committed to providing direct assistance to vulnerable Holocaust survivors living in the United States. Everyone affiliated with this extraordinary initiative, including the strong team you fielded at the New York City Marathon, works hard to ease the burden of the survivors and to promote the right of all people to be treated with respect and dignity, helping new generations build a more tolerant and peaceful world.

Tonight, you come together to pay tribute to those who further your important mission, and I join in congratulating our distinguished Senator Charles Schumer, Brooke Goldstein, Mimi Lieber, Leo Rechter, and the New York City Council. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I commend those assembled this evening in respectfully acknowledging the courage and fortitude of the survivors of the Holocaust, and for providing us all with indelible lessons of the power of hope and perseverance.

With warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE = INTEGRITY = PRIDE
* printed on recycled paper
November 21, 2016

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to join The Blue Card in welcoming everyone to its Annual Benefit Dinner.

Our city strives to be a healthy and safe place to grow old, and thanks to our Age-Friendly NYC Commission and initiatives to develop more affordable housing for seniors, we are moving closer each day towards our goals to increase civic participation, transportation options, and health and social services for older people. With its mission to assist survivors of the Holocaust with their financial, medical, and personal hardships, The Blue Card has been a terrific partner in our efforts. Since its founding in 1934, this organization has helped Holocaust survivors from around the world live fulfilled lives and age with grace and dignity. I am delighted to applaud The Blue Card’s staff and supporters for their dedication to building a brighter future for people throughout the five boroughs and beyond.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to all of this year’s honorees and the runners who participated in the TCS New York City marathon to raise funds for this great cause. I offer my best wishes for a terrific event and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Tony Shalhoub is a Golden Globe Award-winning actor with a diverse résumé of engaging roles. He is perhaps best known for his starring role as the obsessive-compulsive detective Adrian Monk in the popular television series Monk, for which he won a Golden Globe Award and three Primetime Emmy Awards. Additional television credits include Nurse Jackie, Too Big to Fail and Wings.

Shalhoub’s feature film credits include Big Night, The Siege, Galaxy Quest, Men in Black, Men in Black II and Pain & Gain. Shalhoub voiced the character of Luigi in the popular animated movies Cars and Cars II, and he will reprise his role in the upcoming Cars III. Also, he voiced the role of Splinter in the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie franchise. Recently, he completed filming Tomboy, starring Michelle Rodriguez and Sigourney Weaver, and Final Portrait, directed by Stanley Tucci.

Shalhoub appeared in the theatrical productions of Act One and Golden Boy on Broadway, receiving Tony Award nominations for both. In late 2015, he appeared on Broadway in The Mystery of Love & Sex with Diane Lane.

Shalhoub currently lives in New York City and his birthday is October 9.
THE ROLE OF HOST WILL BE PLAYED BY

Jason Biggs

Jason Biggs was recently seen starring on Broadway in the critically acclaimed *HEIDI CHRONICLES* opposite Elisabeth Moss. He can also be seen in the Emmy nominated Netflix series, *ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK*. Biggs began his career in television on *AS THE WORLD TURNS*, for which he was Emmy nominated. Biggs became a household name after the *AMERICAN PIE* trilogy, the films made nearly 1 billion dollars worldwide. Other film credits include *JERSEY GIRL* alongside Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler, the Woody Allen project, *ANYTHING ELSE*, *SAVING SILVERMAN*, and the Disney hit *8 BELOW*. 
Lainie Kazan is a multi-award winner in film, television and on stage. Kazan began her career as Barbra Streisand’s understudy in the Broadway production of Funny Girl. She soon became the “chanteuse” of her native New York, appearing in nightclubs and as a guest on virtually every top variety and talk show on television. She appeared on The Dean Martin Show an unequalled 26 times, hosted her own variety special on NBC and partnered with Hugh Hefner to open the popular Lainie’s Room and Lainie’s Room East at the Los Angeles and New York Playboy clubs.

Appearing at San Francisco’s Fairmont Hotel, Kazan attracted the attention of Francis Ford Coppola, who offered her a role in One from the Heart. The following year, Kazan was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress in Richard Benjamin’s My Favorite Year, which also starred Peter O’Toole. Her other film credits include Lust in the Dust, The Delta Force, Beaches, The Cemetery Club, 29th Street, The Associate, Love Is All There Is, The Big Hit, The Crew, What’s Cooking?, My Big Fat Greek Wedding and You Don’t Mess with the Zohan. In 2015, Kazan was seen in the Adam Sandler film Pixels. She co-stars in My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 which opened in theaters on March 25, 2016 and was released on DVD on June 21, 2016.

Kazan was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for St. Elsewhere and received a CableACE Award nomination for The Paper Chase. Kazan guest starred on Will & Grace, had recurring roles on The Nanny and Desperate Housewives and played Arthur’s main squeeze on King of Queens. She has also appeared on Modern Family and on the Disney Channel series Jessie.

Kazan received a Tony Award nomination for her role in the musical version of My Favorite Year at the Lincoln Center. She produced and starred on Broadway with Bette Midler, Madeline Kahn, Patti LuPone, Elaine Stritch and Andrea Martin in Doin’ What Comes Naturally, an all-star tribute to Ethel Merman. As for her music career, Kazan has sung with the Boston Pops, the Cleveland Pops and has performed to sold-out houses throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and the United States. She has performed in Las Vegas for over 25 years and at such venues as The Greek Theatre, Carnegie Hall and the hallowed stages of New York’s Rainbow and Stars. She has been a frequent headliner at Feinstein’s in New York City and The Catalina Jazz Club in Los Angeles. A recording artist, her albums include her jazz collections, “In the Groove” and “Body and Soul.” She has recorded five albums under the MGM label and was awarded the Best New Artist award in 1968.

Since 2012, Kazan has been serving as an adjunct professor in the School of Theater, Film and Television at UCLA, teaching Acting for the Singer using the “Great American Songbook.” Kazan is also on the board of the Young Musicians Foundation and The California Jazz Foundation.
Linda Lavin has won a Tony Award, as well as Drama Desk, Outer Critics’ and Helen Hayes Award for her performance in Broadway Bound in 1987. She is a six-time Tony award nominee for her roles in The Last of the Red Hot Lovers, The Diary of Anne Frank, The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife, Collected Stories and The Lyons. Earlier this year Lavin was seen in Our Mother’s Brief Affair and received stellar reviews. Inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2011, other theatre credits include The New Century (Drama Desk Award), Other Desert Cities (LCT), and Too Much Sun (Vineyard Theatre). She is a two-time Golden Globe winner for her role as Alice on the 9 year hit TV series Alice on CBS, and she costarred with Sean Hayes in the NBC Series Sean Saves the World. Lavin has also recently guest starred on MOM and The Good Wife. She appeared with Robert De Niro in Nancy Meyer’s The Intern. Recent feature films include A Short History of Decay, Manhattan Nocturne with Adrien Brody, and upcoming, How to Be A Latin Lover opposite Rob Lowe and Eugenio Derbez. Born in Portland, Maine and a graduate of the College of William & Mary, which recently conferred on her an honorary doctor of arts degree where she endows a theater program. She performs her concert act with Billy Stritch, her music director, and her husband Steve Bakunas at the drums, and has released her first CD “Possibilities” an album of jazz standards and show tunes.
Adina Verson's theatre credits include Chris Bayes’s *The Servant of Two Masters* (TFANA, Guthrie, Seattle Rep, ArtsEmerson), *Indecent* (Vineyard, Yale Rep, La Jolla), *peerless* (Barrington Stage Co), *As You Like It* (STC, DC), *The Winter’s Tale* (Yale Rep), *4000 Miles* (Cincinnati Playhouse), and *Machine Makes Man* (Amsterdam Fringe-Best In’tl Performance, National Arts Festival of South Africa, Cape Town Fringe), which she co-created with Michael McQuilken. Television: *Mozart in the Jungle* (Amazon), *The Strain* (FX). MFA, Yale School of Drama.
Raúl Esparza made his New York debut in the Broadway revival of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Broadway: *Arcadia*, *Speed-the-Plow* (Tony, Drama Desk nominations), *The Homecoming* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk Award - Ensemble), *Company* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk Award), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Taboo* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk Award) and *Cabaret*. He appeared in Shakespeare in the Park’s *Twelfth Night* and Off-Broadway in *The Normal Heart*, *Comedians* and *tick, tick... BOOM!*, which earned him an Obie Award. In 2005, he received the HOLA José Ferrer Acting Award. Outside New York, Esparza portrayed Che in the National tour of *Evita*, and starred in the 2002 Kennedy Center Sondheim Celebration, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Regional credits include work at Steppenwolf, Goodman in Chicago, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Coconut Grove Playhouse and the Ahmanson in Los Angeles. Esparza made his film debut in Sidney Lumet’s 2006 *Find Me Guilty*. Other films include Wes Craven’s *My Soul to Take* and *GWB*. Television series credits: *A Gifted Man* (recurring), *Pushing Daisies* (recurring) and numerous guest star appearances including *Hannibal* and *BoJack Horseman*. Raúl can currently be seen as a series regular on *Law & Order: SVU*. 
Katrina Lenk

Broadway: *Once*, *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, *The Miracle Worker*.


Film/TV: *Look Away*, *Evol: The Theory of Love*, *FracKtured*, *Elementary*, *The Get Down*, and *The Blacklist*. Co-creator of the comedy web series *Miss Teri* and a member of several bands including her own, moxy phinx.

www.katrinalenk.com
MESSAGE FROM
HONORARY TEAM CAPTAIN

Arnold Breitbart, MD

Nearly six years ago, I received a phone call from George Wolf, a friend of The Blue Card. He had become aware that my sister Susan and I were running the Jerusalem Marathon (and my wife Viviane the 10K), and wanted us to become part of The Blue Card team. I was honored to do so, and to support an organization as important as The Blue Card. After six years of running marathons for The Blue Card, my enthusiasm for the organization has only grown. It continues to be a family affair, with my daughter Marcelle joining me last year on the Blue Card team in the NYC Marathon, and will again do so this year. In my 35 years of running marathons (with my 39th coming up), most of them to support charities, Blue Card stands out as one of the most meaningful organizations I run for. As a child and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, the vital mission of The Blue Card remains very close to my heart. It is my privilege to again join the many Blue Card supporters in providing critical services to our needy Holocaust survivors.
Valeria Levy
Sarah Mizrachi
Elie Rubinstein
Meir Shargal
Alon Shine
Rabbi Ben Spratt
Rabbi Joshua Stanton
Tal Tahori
Michael Thorson Jr.
Ben Yanovich

Not pictured above:
Galit Maman, Uri Maman
TEAM BLUE CARD CAPTAIN
AT TD 5 BORO BIKE TOUR

Noah Wildman

Greetings Team!

According to Edie, YOU were the best Blue Card Team yet, and that’s saying something! Yes, the weather was...disagreeable, but y’gotta admit the warmth and friendliness of 32,000 or so other riders made it feel a little sunnier.

From the training ride last Sunday through the early morning cloudy meet and the drizzly launch from the holding pen, everything just about went perfectly. Passing/being passed by a number of you throughout the day made this massive event feel a whole lot smaller.

Though Edie recommends we have Blue Card rain ponchos made for next year’s ride, I’ll choose to be the optimist — I’ve been riding the 5 Boro almost every year since ’98, and this was only the 3rd time with notably unpleasant weather. April showers, May flowers, etc.

I hope this kicks off a healthy and a lengthy bike season for each and every one of you before Winter closes the door again, but that means it’ll be time to set up for next year’s Blue Card team! Hope to ride with you again then. Maybe my younger son Mili will come then, if you thought Edie was cute...

Thanks!

Noah Wildman
THE BLUE CARD
IN THE PRESS

2016 TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON
Charity Brings Together Young Marathon Runner And Holocaust Survivor
by Stacey Sager and Eyewitness News
November 6, 2016

Stacey Sager reports on the friendship created through a unique connection (WABC)

TO WATCH THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW:
THE BLUE CARD IN THE PRESS

OLYMPIC SPORTS
Runners take on New York City Marathon to help Holocaust survivors
by Nick Zaccardi
November 3, 2016

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW:
Sarah Mizrachi running NYC Marathon to help Irene Hizme, a Holocaust survivor living in Long Island

by Evan Grossman
November 2, 2016

Sarah Mizrachi crosses the finish line at the 5 Towns 5K Run/Walk with Irene Hizme, a Holocaust survivor who’s now battling MS.

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW:
http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/more-sports/marathoner-hitting-nyc-pavement-support-holocaust-survivor-article-1.2855477
WEB EXCLUSIVES
As Survivors Die, Care Costs Rise
by Thomas Siurkus
June 21, 2016

But HR129 is just one measure to address a large-scale problem. According to the Claims Conference, most of this latter group of immigrants are not entitled to a pension, but to a one-time payment of $2,500 from the Claims Conference, because they fled before (or shortly after the start of) the Nazi occupation. These survivors are entitled to some government benefits, such Supplemental Security Income (SSI). But these cover only the most basic needs. To attempt to fill the gaps, there is also a series of specific benefits for Holocaust survivors that the Claims Conference funds through agencies like The Blue Card.

The Blue Card—named for the cards given to donors—was originally founded in 1934 by the Jewish community in Germany to help oppressed Jews that lost their jobs or had to close their business due to Nazi restrictions. The organization was reestablished in the United States in 1939 to aid refugees of Nazi persecution to resettle in America. Nowadays, the agency provides financial assistance to Holocaust survivors living in poverty in the United States.

The Blue Card depends on donations and payments by the Claims Conference. “The situation is very dire,” says Masha Pearl, executive director of The Blue Card. The agency, which currently supports more than 2,400 American households with medical care, rent subsidies and food, steps in when other agencies can no longer provide financial assistance. “We are the agency of last resort,” Pearl says.

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW:
http://www.momentmag.com/survivors-die-care-costs-rise/
JEWISH TIMES

For many Holocaust survivors, effects of wartime starvation still a plague

by Luke Tress
May 3, 2016

Eva Deutsch Costabel, a client of the Blue Card, is an accomplished painter and children’s book author (Luke Tress/Times of Israel)

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW:
For my April 2, 2016 Bat Mitzvah project, I chose to help The Blue Card support aging Holocaust survivors who are suffering from the consequences of the most devastating conditions imaginable, including poor nutrition and lack of medical care. During my 6th grade year of Hebrew School at Temple Emanu-el, I had the opportunity to listen to a Holocaust survivor tell, first hand, of her horrific experience as a Hidden Child during the Holocaust. I found myself frozen in my chair as I listened to her share her frightening story of what she went through, when she was just about my age. I pictured myself in her shoes, having her childhood, as she knew it, come to a screeching halt, starting with her father being killed by the Nazis when he went out for an errand at the beginning of WWII. Soon after, her mother made the painstaking choice to send her into hiding, for countless days and years to be on a farm in a land far away from everything she knew, always wondering if she would be taken by the Nazi’s as she lived a hidden life. She must have been terrified, scared, and confused. As her story unfolded, I had a strong feeling inside me of wanting to do something to heal this woman’s sad history, as I knew it had altered her life and caused her infinite pain. I had learned about the Holocaust this year in Hebrew School, but not until this very moment did it seem so real and personal. I knew during these moments that for my Bat Mitzvah, I wanted to do something to help these stories continue to be told so that my generation and future generations would never forget the atrocities of the Holocaust and what the Jewish people went through. As I started to research more about the Blue Card, I felt confident that this was an organization that truly made a difference for survivors, to help them get their needs taken care at in their senior years. During this time as I prepared for my Bat Mitzvah, I also realized that most of my friends from my school had never heard of the Holocaust. Additionally, during this time, my sister and I were in a few unfortunate situations where we heard other children telling jokes about Jews and about the Holocaust. I realized that they were ignorant about the Holocaust, and were likely parroting what they heard from those around them. As one of only a few Jewish children at my school in upstate New York, I had the Blue Card help me bring a survivor to my school, to teach my classmates about the Holocaust and the issues that made Europe vulnerable to the rise of Hitler and anti-semitism. I was so pleased that my principal agreed for this educational experience. George Wolf from the Blue Card, came to my school, and told his story of life during the Holocaust years. I feel confident that my classmates now have a deeper understanding of the Holocaust. Finally, the Blue Card helped me meet Dasha Rittenberg, a survivor of many concentration camps, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting and hearing her story. Both Dasha and George were able to attend my Bat Mitzvah and we danced the hora together.

The Blue Card ensures that we never forget this horrible tragedy in history, and never allow it to happen again.

I am so pleased to share that I was able to raise $1,233 for the Blue Card through my Bat Mitzvah project.
When I was 10 years old, I read my first book related to the Holocaust called “Number the Stars,” about a family’s escape from the Nazis in WWII. The story was told through the eyes of a girl the same age as me, and it struck me that I too was a young Jewish girl like the one in the book. It was then that I began wondering how such horrible things like this could have ever happened, and I became motivated to learn more. My mom had told me that we had a cousin, Chana, in Brooklyn who had survived the Holocaust. We then went to meet with her and hear her story. Chana was 14 years old living with her family in Czechoslovakia when the Nazis came and loaded her 10 siblings along with her parents onto a train to Auschwitz. Chana shared a picture of her father with me who was a rabbi and said she still holds onto her faith to this day because of him.

I knew after meeting with Chana that I wanted to help others like her. A member of my synagogue who works with the Claims Conference told me a little about Blue Card. I decided to reach out and meet with them. I learned all about the great things they do for Holocaust survivors just like my cousin Chana. I knew immediately after that meeting, I wanted to do my part in helping such a great organization.

This is the year of my Bat Mitzvah and throughout it I am dedicating my time to help the Blue Card Fund and further educate myself on the Holocaust. I am hosting my very first Blue Card event at my synagogue this coming January. At the event I will educate my congregation about the great work Blue Card is doing, and ask for donations from the community as well my friends and family. We will also be making care packages and cards to send to survivors for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Later on this spring, my family and I have trips planned to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. as well as the Anne Frank Center here in New York.

I feel fortunate that I got the opportunity to meet my cousin Chana as well as all the people at the Blue Card organization. I am inspired by all the things the Blue Card Fund does to help survivors. I am excited to be helping out this year and to attend their Annual Benefit Dinner. Thank you for this opportunity. I hope this is just the beginning for me and what I can contribute to this great cause.
In November 2015, I began planning a school-wide Yom-Hashoah assembly with the goal of giving Fieldston’s students, especially its Jewish population, a better understanding of the Holocaust and its lasting effects. I struggled to find a speaker for months until I was introduced to The Blue Card. When The Blue Card’s work was described to me, I immediately knew that our collaboration would be mutually beneficial. I was put in touch with a Blue Card employee and Holocaust survivor, George Wolf. Mr. Wolf showed me incredible kindness, sharing that he and his friend Dasha Rittenberg would both be willing to speak at my assembly. In order to learn more about George and Dasha I took each out to tea to get to know each of them individually.

George welcomed me into his home where he shared stories of how his family barely fled the Nazi regime, telling me that he saw Hitler himself. In my two hours with George I learned an incredible amount of history. I also gained a stronger sense of empathy for those touched by the Holocaust. To meet someone who has experienced pain I can only imagine allowed me to further grasp the weight of six million deaths. His openness took me aback; I knew that his story needed to be shared with my peers.

Next I met with Dasha who was equally kind and open to sharing her stories. Dasha experienced the worst of the Holocaust, surviving in the camps as a little girl despite all odds. Her vulnerability was amazingly powerful. She felt comfortable sharing painful stories with somebody she had never met. I knew that having both her and George speak would truly change the way Fieldston students think of the Holocaust.

On May 5th, 2016, George and Dasha both spoke at my school and opened Fieldston’s eyes. People were blown away and gave George and Dasha a standing ovation, something no other speaker has ever received throughout my four years in high school. The assembly successfully changed perspectives and gave students a better sense of the Holocaust’s horrors.

After the assembly was complete, I arranged for the shipment of five hundred pairs of glasses to be shipped to The Blue Card. My father is an optometrist who helped to connect The Blue Card with an organization called National Vision who graciously agreed to donate five hundred frames to The Blue Card’s patrons.

I am so happy to have been introduced to The Blue Card. The organization’s inspirational work means so much to me as a Jew and a person and in the future I look forward to contributing in all the ways I can.
For as long as I can remember, I heard my parents, and my older brothers Ari and Zachary always speaking about the Holocaust. All these stories always revolved around my grandfather, Moshe Schuster, and how he and his brother, Abraham Schuster, his sister Nina Schuster Gotlieb, her husband, along with their two young children, Aaron and Meyer were on the run from the Nazis in Poland. My grandfather was one of 6 children. One story that always stood out in my mind was that my grandfather Moshe and Abe went to a neighboring village to see his sister and her kids. On the way home on the train, they were told, the entire village has been killed by the Nazis, “including your parents and siblings. You can't go back, you will be killed too.” My grandfather got off the train with his brother and they went back to the village to warn their sister, the Nazis are on their way. The seven of them were on the run in the forest for many years.

The stories of my grandfather’s experiences also influenced my older brothers Ari and Zachary, to leave home in San Diego when they were 18 and join the Israeli Defense Forces. My father Fred would argue at first, but both my brothers would always argue back “If only Grandpa Morris had a homeland to escape to” or “If Grandpa Morris could fight for his homeland, he would do it too.” I am much younger than my brothers, so these statements were very scary for me to hear.

Another important fact, to preface how important The Blue Card has been in my life, is that there was always a question whether my grandfather ever had a formal Bar Mitzvah.

About a year ago, we were in Israel planning my Bar Mitzvah. Again, the topic of whether Grandpa had one of his own or was unable to because of Hitler came up. I very casually asked my mother if there was a way that I could have mine with another Holocaust survivor who had never had one of his own, and my mother said she would look into it.

My mother eventually found The Blue Card and we received a call from Izabella Safiyeva, who introduced me to Gregory Huss, my adopted brother and life-long friend. We made a trip from California to New York to meet Greg and we hit it off right away.

I began raising money in order to sponsor Greg and his wife to come to Israel and read from the Torah with me. July 7, 2016 on Gregory’s 75 birthday, we both read from the Torah for the very first time. By this time, Greg’s story was spread all around the Kotel. After Greg read his blessing, many people came to salute him, including many IDF soldiers! Greg explained to me, that it was his dream come true! That he never dared to even dream he should have a Bar Mitzvah of his own. Without The Blue Card, Greg wouldn’t have so many important needs of his met, and I wouldn’t have a new lifelong friend!

I will never forget my experience with Gregory, and I am so proud to have had him stand by my side in Israel! I will also continue to support The Blue Card as best as I can.
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IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT:

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Ruth Tishman
Jane and Richard Wagman
Sherry Wilzig Izak
Marcie and David Wrobel
Congratulations to the Honorees

Thank you to the entire team at The Blue Card for the critical support you give to Holocaust survivors who need your assistance.

In Honor of Our Parents
Sam and Lydia Wagman,
Holocaust survivors

Richard and Jane Wagman
Congratulations to the Extraordinary Honorees of 2016

Senator Charles E. Schumer
Brooke Goldstein
Mimi Lieber
Leo Rechter
The New York City Council

And a big thank you to the dedicated staff of The Blue Card; your tireless effort makes light where there was darkness.

Arie and Elaine Hochberg
We are honored to recognize the leadership, commitment and impact of Leo Rechter

The Heine, Grunwald and Klein Families
In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents

Lotte and Max Heine

Doris and Hans, Karin, Peggy and Jared, Michael and Cristina, Judy and Steve, David and Ruchira, Daniel, Jordan and Ali, Adam, Allison, Zachary, Max, Lina, Jacob, Priyanka and Aruni
In Memory of Sonia and Max Lonstein—beloved Holocaust survivors

Betty and Zach Lonstein
In support of the important time-sensitive work of The Blue Card helping needy Holocaust survivors to live with dignity and support! Congratulations to this year’s honorees Senator Charles E. Schumer Brooke Goldstein Mimi Lieber Leo Rechter The New York City Council

The Bilski Family
Mark, Tracey, Amanda, Meredith and Charlotte
The Shillman Foundation and Robert J. ("Doctor Bob") and Mao Shillman express their heartfelt appreciation to Elie Rubinstein and the staff of The Blue Card for their continued and unwavering efforts to assist needy Jewish survivors of the Holocaust

Robert J. Shillman (Doctor Bob) & Mao Shillman
CONGRATULATIONS

To Our Honorees and our Marathon team

In Memory of Rita Berkowitz and Harold Berkowitz

AM YISRAEL CHAI

Lou and Amy Berkowitz
Dear Brooke,

We are all so proud and honored that you are receiving the Irene Hizme Tikkun Olam Award. That you have chosen to devote your life to promoting human rights both worldwide and on a very personal level is awe inspiring.

The BIMAH foundation is also honored to support the outstanding work of The Blue Card and the important mission they fulfill in providing vital support to our Survivors.

Love,

Barbara, Rick, Matthew, Margaret, Andy, Phil and Marisa
In memory of my loving parents, Joseph and Barbara, both of whom were Holocaust survivors.

Ruth Tishman
The Scheinfields are proud to contribute to The Blue Card.

Jane and Larry Scheinfeld
Mazel Tov to The Blue Card on an amazing event and for all the important and wonderful work that you do.

*Patti Lenkov*
We proudly support

**The Blue Card**

organization and its honorable mission to support Holocaust survivors in need
We are all connected.

Proud to support The Blue Card Annual Benefit Dinner

Allen & Overy is a truly global law firm. Our people work in 44 offices across 31 countries. And over 70% of our work is cross-border. But our networks don’t just extend between our people, our clients and our suppliers. We also believe in forging strong links with the communities we work in. So, as our leveraged finance business grows ever more rapidly, we are proud to support The Blue Card Annual Benefit Dinner.

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Congratulations and Mazel Tov to our dedicated Board of Directors and staff. We thank our wonderful honorees Senator Charles Schumer, Brooke Goldstein, Leo Rechter, Mimi Lieber and the New York City Council.

*From the Lissner Family*
Congratulations to the staff of The Blue Card for treating survivors with such dignity and providing them with such innovative programs.

*Harriet Abramson*
HONORING YOUR SUCCESS.

Jeffrey and Paula Gural proudly support

The Blue Card

in saluting our good friend

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer

for their 82nd Annual Benefit Dinner
HENRY SCHEIN®

pays tribute to the important work of the Blue Card.

We are proud to partner with you through the Alpha Omega Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program to improve the lives of Holocaust survivors in need.

Congratulations to this evening’s honorees:

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER
BROOKE GOLDSTEIN
MIMI LIEBER
LEO RECHTER

and

THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

for your passionate commitment to making the world a better place.
In memory of Liane Rosenberg

*Dr. Fred Rosenberg*
“Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof – Justice, justice you shall pursue, that you may live, and inherit the land which the Lord your God gave you (Deuteronomy 16:18).”

Congratulations Brooke on receiving the Irene Hizme Tikkum Olam Award and to all the honourees of the 2016 Blue Card Annual Benefit.

Thank you Brooke for founding The Lawfare Project, the legal arm of the pro-Israel community, and for working to protect and defend the USA, Israel, and the other democracies, from those who wish to subvert our freedoms.

Your wonderful grandparents, aunts and uncles would have been very proud of you.

Love,

Dad, Mom, Danielle, Mark, Marissa, Dov
Congratulations
to
Masha Pearl,
Executive Director
of
The Blue Card

*Brahman Capital Corp.*
The Liebling Family
With warm wishes to the outstanding staff of Blue Card. Wishing you to reach new heights of success in helping the ones in need.

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We are pleased to support the good work of The Blue Card in providing Holocaust survivors with emergency response systems. These individuals maintain their dignity through independence knowing that by just pushing a button, emergency assistance is on the way.

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Proud to support The Blue Card in providing vital aid to Holocaust victims. We look forward to continuing this partnership for as long as is needed.

www.claimscon.org
On behalf of the Russian-speaking Jewish community of New York, COJECO would like to congratulate The Blue Card on your exemplary work!

To learn more about COJECO, please visit www.cojeco.org
Aaron Rezny and Jordan Schaps are proud to donate a portion of the sales to The Blue Card — which does important work for Holocaust survivors.
For Irene Hizme

Continually awed by your strength, faith, achievements, optimism and courage.

*Ellie Heller*
In recognition of Masha Pearl
and the amazing Blue Card staff

*Gregory & Tatyana Girshin*
Congratulations to this year’s honorees
Congratulations to all of the honorees. Special thanks to Masha Pearl and all of the remarkable staff at Blue Card.

_Hillel at Baruch College_
In Honor of

Senator Charles Schumer
Brooke Goldstein
Mimi Lieber
Leo Rechter
The New York City Council

Happy to support
our executive director, Masha Pearl
who goes above and beyond
the call of duty.

_Inessa and Elie Rubinstein_
The importance The Blue Card plays in aiding Holocaust survivors and those who need a voice is unsurpassed.

I join Broadway in saluting The Blue Card.

My Best,

Jerry Stiller
In loving memory of our grandmother, Hedi Levenback, who was a board member of The Blue Card and Congratulations to the 2016 Honorees

Tamar & Jonathan Koifman, Matan Shamir and Kerin Shamir
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE BLUE CARD HONOREES
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We salute the important efforts of The Blue Card to assure Holocaust survivors can live their lives with the dignity that they deserve.

The Survivor Initiative is proud to have successfully advocated for unprecedented public investment from the City of New York and the Federal Government to support the critical work of the Blue Card and other organizations serving Holocaust survivors in need.

The Survivor Initiative is a volunteer-led national effort that reaches across generations to raise awareness and funds for Holocaust survivors living in poverty. We make grants to strengthen the capacity of the local agencies that care for poor, frail, and vulnerable Holocaust survivors with complex bio-psycho-social needs.

We currently have chapters in NYC & DC

Join us or learn more at www.survivorinitiative.org
The family at ZoneManhattan.com is honored and proud to support The Blue Card and the special work that you do.

Zone Manhattan
Everyone loves a great story and tales of family life have a special resonance. Keeping a journal of family stories will bring you joy, benefit your children, and leave an invaluable record of your unique family for future generations.

No one can keep a journal for you; it has to come from you, in your own voice. But it is not difficult to do.

This book discusses why you should keep a record of family stories, ways to incorporate journaling into your routine, and how and where to journal. It will encourage you to take the first step and the rest will follow.

We are all storytellers. Keep a record of your stories. You will be glad that you did.
Congratulations to this year’s inspiring honorees:

Senator Charles E. Schumer
Brooke Goldstein
Mimi Lieber
Leo Rechter
and
The New York City Council

Thanks for all you do to make the world a better place and to help The Blue Card’s clients live out their lives in dignity.

Best wishes,
Gia Machlin and Corey Sclar
A loving tribute to Dr. Richard Jung, Hans & Hella Hammelbacher, Martin Schwarzchild and all others whose dedication launched The Blue Card’s goal to help Holocaust survivors.

From The Blue Card’s Frank & Beri Harris Lee Daniel Fund on behalf of NBG-Ft’s 5 Generation Newsletter Family.

*Frank & Beri Harris*
Help Preserve Holocaust History

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is actively rescuing the evidence of the Holocaust to educate future generations.

CONTACT US TO LEARN ABOUT:

- Donating original, Holocaust-era artifacts.
- Recording an oral history interview.
- Registering a family member or friend with the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors.

Together we can safeguard memory.

The Museum thanks the Blue Card for donating this space to the Museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Suzy Snyder, Curator
202.488.0430 or ssnyder@ushmm.org

Help us keep Holocaust memory alive for a changing world. Learn more at ushmm.org/campaign.
Congregation Beth Sholom
Lawrence, New York

wishes a Mazal Tov to

THE BLUE CARD

on the occasion of the
82nd Annual Blue Card Benefit Dinner

May you continue to inspire us with all of your worthy endeavors

Kenneth N. Hain, Rabbi
Dr. Gilbert Klaperman, Rabbi Emeritus
Avi Miller, Assistant Rabbi
Joel Kaplan, Cantor
Barry Gurvitch, President
Menachem Pinter, Chairman of the Board
Suzanne Gurvitch • Estee Kornblum, Sisterhood Presidium
Michael Novick, Executive Director
Moshe Cohen, Youth Director
Congratulations
Mimi Lieber and The Blue Card for your life-saving work!
from Zane Bazby and all of us at

The Survivor Mitzvah Project™

Supporting Holocaust Survivors in
Estonia, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Russia.

“Because of you, I believe in miracles.”

Can a Bracelet Save A Life?
Visit SurvivorMitzvah.org
and find out how.
Become a Rescuer!

www.SurvivorMitzvah.org ~ (800) 905-6160
Tom and Celina Hecht
are proud to support
The Blue Card!
Young Israel of Woodmere appreciates the holy work of The Blue Card which takes responsibility for elderly Holocaust survivors and eases their burden as they age and are in need.

*The Rabbinic Staff and Lay Presidium of YIW*
Best wishes to The Blue Card!

Elizabeth Bergstein
We applaud the selection of Mimi Lieber as a 2016 Blue Card Honoree.

This well-deserved award speaks to her ongoing dedication and hard work to grow the organization and ensure that Holocaust Survivors receive services that would otherwise be unavailable.

Congratulations, Mimi.
We are so proud of you!!!

Ileen and Norman Schoenfeld
and Alex Harrington
In Honor of Leo Rechter

Many in today's world do all they can to be different, but few are doing all they can to make a difference. Many are focused on getting and receiving, while you have been truly committed to giving, and improving the lives of your fellow survivors. You have quietly epitomized all that is good in humanity, while focusing solely on helping those who can't speak for themselves.

You long ago earned our everlasting respect, pride and deep appreciation for all that you do. This distinguished recognition from The Blue Card only affirms what we have always known.

With love and admiration,

Your Family
New York Foundation for Eldercare is pleased to support The Blue Card and congratulates this year’s Honorees:

Senator Charles E. Schumer
Brooke Goldstein
Mimi Lieber
Leo Rechter
The New York City Council
Our deepest appreciation
for Masha Pearl
and The entire team
at Blue Card. Your efforts
ensure lives are sustained
and survivors are treated
with respect and dignity.
Because of you, this world is
better for all of us.

Miguel Arklain
LIMITED EDITION FINE ART SCARVES
In Honor of Masha Pearl,
You make the world a better place
for so many people. May you and
your family be blessed with health,
happiness and prosperity.

With love and admiration,
Wendy and David Kerdell
Congratulations to this year’s honorees!

In memory of my mother, Gloria Babyatsky, a Holocaust survivor and in honor of our son, Tyler Meltzer, on his Bar Mitzvah.

_Linda, Craig and sister Alex_
Congratulations to the Honorees!

Drs. Ana and Ira Cohen
Hillcrest Dental Associate P.C
In honor of our dear friends Barbara and Michael Lissner. We salute and applaud your long commitment to The Blue Card.

Drs. Terri and Lawrence Katz
Tribute to Leo Rechter by United States Holocaust Survivor Leadership

On behalf of Holocaust survivors throughout the United States, we are honored to congratulate Leo Rechter, President of the National Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors (NAHOS), and Secretary of the Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA (HSF), as one of the Blue Card’s 2016 Gala honorees. We salute Leo, who is respected throughout the United States, Israel, and the world for his decades-long commitment to the rights, well-being, and interests of Holocaust survivors. Leo’s journalistic professionalism and integrity have made the NAHOS Newsletter the authoritative voice of grass roots Holocaust survivors in the United States.

Leo has been a leading advocate for survivors’ rights to recover assets looted from our families. He has shed light on shameful fact that survivors have been stripped of our rights to go to American courts to recover insurance policies dishonored by global giants like Allianz and Generali, and that Congress has continually refused to restore our rights to reclaim our family legacies. Maybe 2017 will be the year Congress will recognize and correct this terrible injustice.

Today, half of all the Holocaust survivors throughout the world, including in the United States, live below or near the poverty line and cannot meet basic home and health care needs, or afford to pay for medicines, dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aids, adequate nutrition, utilities, rent, or transportation to the doctor. Leo has been a major voice in bringing these tragedies to light. We are grateful that in 2016 the U.S. House and Senate unanimously passed resolutions calling on Germany, at long last, to fully fund all survivors’ needs. We pray the President will support these resolutions and that Germany will finally honor this responsibility.

We also want to express our appreciation to the Blue Card, as the preeminent hands-on organization providing direct services to Holocaust survivors in need with integrity, care, tenderness, and dignity.

Holocaust Survivors’ Foundation USA

Israel Arbeiter, Boston, MA
Dena Axelrod, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Raymonde Fiol, Las Vegas, NV
Renee Firestone, Los Angeles, CA
Sello Fisch, Bronx, NY
Ella Frumkin, Los Angeles, CA
Nesse Godin, Washington, D.C.
Louise Lawrence-Israels, Washington, D.C.
Herbert Karlinder, Miami Beach, FL

Mrs. Annette Lantos, Washington, D.C.
David Mermelstein, Miami FL
Alex Moskovic, Hobe Sound, FL
Shirley Rubin, Boynton Beach, FL
David Schaecter, Miami, FL
Charles Srebnik, New York, NY
Anita Schuster, Las Vegas, NV
Agnes Vertes, Weston, CT
Esther Widman, Brooklyn, NY

For more information, go to: www.hsf-usa.org
In appreciation of Masha Pearl
for all her hard work and
dedication to The Blue Card

Nancy and Allan Pearl
We congratulate the extraordinary Irene Hizme for her outstanding commitment to The Blue Card and for making the world a better place for all of us.

Zeva Oelbaum and John Reichman
With Deep Respect and Admiration for the Vital Work Provided by The Blue Card

ל ב מַפִּי שִׁיבֵּהּ קַהָּה, וְהִבְרֶהָ פִּיצֱךְ צֶהוּ.

32 You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old…

Leviticus 19:32
In honor of Orit Hodarkovsky

Pauline and Alex Shender
In honor of our dear friend
Masha Pearl

For your dedication and leadership
in helping those in need

We are proud of you and
honored to be your friend

Marla and Jeff Schachter
Metropolitan Commercial Bank Supports The Blue Card and Congratulates all the Honorees
Congratulations to all of this year's honorees, Chuck Schumer, Leo Rechter, The NY City Council and Brooke Goldstein.

Special Thank You to our extraordinary staff, under the unparalleled guidance of Masha Pearl, who work tirelessly on behalf of our clients.

Thank you to all the artists who participated in this evening's event!

And as always, for Mano Lefkovitz, Ephraim and Rivke Gerson, and Coleman Lieber.

*Mimi Lieber and Daniel Sullivan*
Congratulations to this year’s honorees and thank you to The Blue Card for always taking care of Holocaust survivors.

*Mark and Minna Seitelman*
Seitelman.com
Countless Kudos.
We proudly support The Blue Card and are pleased to congratulate the 2016 honorees.
Newmark Holdings

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(602) 708-8626
www.chcaz.org
In fond memory of
David Heller

*Albert Wojnilower*
May success continue for many more years to come.

Helen Kober

Thank you to The Blue Card for all the charitable work that you do for our survivors!

Annette Nadboy
Gordon Weiss and
Susanne Shaw Weiss
CPA PLLCC

In honor of Tracey and Mark Bilski

Leandra Medine and Abie Cohen

Classic Business Solutions
is proud to support
The Blue Card
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<td>Elise Abbruzzese</td>
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<td>Lauren Pechter</td>
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<td>Christine Girardi, PhD. and Zev Labins, MD</td>
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<td>The Honorable and Mrs. Henry Perkin</td>
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<td>Vivian Bendix and Alan Geller</td>
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<td>Dr. Evan, Julie, Sabrina and Gigi Goldfischer</td>
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<td>Deborah Kane Raymar</td>
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Dear Masha and the Board Of Directors

Though 70 years have passed anti-semitism has reared its ugly head. Though the number of survivors dwindles with each passing year the needs of the remaining Holocaust survivors continue to grow in complexity and cost.

Thank God for your organization which continues to support us and envelopes us with love.

Blessings for a year of peace, good health, spiritual growth, success and joy.

Love
Thank You

Dear friends!

Your thoughtfulness meant so much.

Thank you very much for your kindness.

Now I know that I am alive; that somebody remember about Holocaust Survivors.

Sincerely,

I WAS SPEECHLESS WHEN I RECEIVED THE BIRTHDAY CARD FROM JESSIE ROGE, AND THE CHECK, AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL & SURPRISED. THANK YOU THE STAFF OF THE BLUE CARD, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. GOD BLESS YOU AND I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Just saying “thank you” doesn’t seem enough. I hope you know how appreciated you really are.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
November 1, 2016

Dear Ms. Safiyeva,

I was so moved when I received Blue Card's check for $500 for Rosh Hashana. It was kind of unexpected and the first time I have received such a gift for the holidays. I want to thank you and everyone at Blue Card for your kindness and generosity towards me.

I took the liberty of asking Ms. Rebekah Kanefsky of the Jewish Family Service of Stamford for your name as I wanted to thank you personally and everyone at Blue Card and tell you of the difference you made in my life. First, you made it possible for me to spend a glorious week at The Berkshire Hills Eisenberg Camp and then you send me such a nice gift for Rosh Hashana.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

[Signature]
S and J Foundation acknowledges that

The Blue Card makes a difference in many lives.

*The late Boris Lurie*
*Gertrude Stein*
*Anthony Williams, Esq.*
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