

B”H

**Honoree Introductions from
Rabbi Shraga & Michal Sherman
Rabbi Mendy & Temma Cohen**

Temma Cohen

Good evening and Welcome to Chabad of the Main Line’s 13th Annual Gala.
It’s an honor and privilege to welcome you to a celebration of Jewish continuity and growth.

As Aliza said in the Video - Judaism is very much alive today!

- how often do we hear in these times, the challenges that face the Jewish people - and yes there are many.

But the beauty and clarity from a sincere young Jewish girl - that Judaism is thriving and growing is why we are gathered here today, to celebrate and support the growth of the Jewish community!

Am Yisrael Chai

Just recently, when this video was showcased, at the end of year Hebrew School celebration, a mother, Lisa Metz, got up to speak. Allow me to share some of her words:

To me, Chabad means joy, and safety, comfort, religion, observance, acceptance, and friendship. But, most of all Chabad means home. To me, Chabad is a home where Jews of all levels of observance are welcome. We chose to come here because my friend Nancy and I were looking for a Hebrew School for our girls. Nancy’s friend, Melanie, had highly recommended Chabad of the Main Line. I am lucky to say that Melanie is now my friend. That is the beauty of Chabad. Chabad is a home where new friends become old friends. The many events offered to Hebrew School parents are above and beyond any expectations that I could have ever asked for. From these events I have truly become a better person and appreciate Judaism even more. Chabad is home.

Tonight, we are honored to have 2 families who are more than just members of the community, they are builders of the community. It is because of them and everyone in this room that enables our Jewish community to be alive and thrive.

My dear friends thank you for partnering with us, allowing us to create a community where every Jewish person, man, woman, boy or girl - has a place they can call spiritual home.

Rabbi Mendy Cohen

אילן במה אברכך, שיהיו פירותיך מתוקין, הרי פירתך מתוקין, שיהא צילך נאה, הרי צלך נאה.
אלא יהי רצון שכל נטיעותיך יהיו כמותך.

The Talmud teaches tells us the following story:

A man was travelling through the desert, hungry, thirsty and tired, when he came upon a tree bearing luscious fruit and affording plenty of shade, underneath which ran a spring of water. He ate of the fruit, drank of the water and rested beneath the shade. When he was about to leave, he turned to the tree and said: "Tree, O tree, with what should I bless you?

"Should I bless you that your fruit be sweet? Your fruit is already sweet.

"Should I bless you that your shade be plentiful? Your shade is plentiful. That a spring of water should run beneath you? A spring of water runs beneath you.

"There is one thing with which I can bless you: May it be G-d's will that all the trees planted from your seeds should be like you . . ."

Talmud, Taanit 5b

Dan and Maita, I think of this tree in the Talmud and as beautiful description of you and your family - you are truly ambassadors and pillars of the Chabad community. You have been instrumental in so much of the what has happened at Chabad. You were instrumental in the momentous shift of the preschool into the Gan Chabad Montessori Early Learning Center, your support both financially and emotionally were pivotal for that **quantum** leap - pun intended :)

Your time and effort into the Shul and the Daily Minyan, the Sunday morning class - Rabbi Sherman's BLT (Bagels Lox and Torah), sponsoring and organizing the Shabbaton, your tremendous Hachnas Orchim, always an open door to invite guests into your home.

"Tree, O tree, with what should I bless you?"

How beautiful, to see your children continue in your example - Mordy and Charlotte, Josh and Aliza, David and Didi and Eliana - and K"H your many grandchildren.

We are fortunate, that they have become the pillars of our community - the Chabad's Family Community - inspired and led by example from their wonderful parents.

"There is one thing with which I can bless you: May it be G-d's will that all the trees planted from your seeds should be like you . . ."

Rabbi Shraga (S) & Michal (M) Sherman

S: Mazel Tov Dan and Maita.

M: You are truly two pillars who hold up our community.

S: We personally thank you for all of your guidance, support and friendship. Thank you.

S: In our 28 years of community work with Chabad, we never cease to be amazed when we witness the depth and resilience of the Jewish soul. Sometimes it is in response to loss and tragedy. Other times it like a burning ember and when it is fanned, the flame bursts forth.

M: Jenifer and Marty Wachs have an energy, light and warmth about them that is contagious. And they are not selfish with these beautiful character traits. They share them not only with their four children, but also with each and every one of us.

S: This friendly, outgoing and happy couple are proactive in everything they are involved. They don't know what it means to sit on the sidelines. They find, seek and make opportunities for growth which they graciously share.

M: They both come from families with histories of Jewish giving and activism.

S: We are proud to recognize Roberta Sall, Jen's mother, and David Wachs, Marty father, who are here tonight and represent generations of Jewish philanthropy and Tzedakah. We wish you both, many more years of good health and yiddishe nachas from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

M: Marty and Jen are two young leaders that make a real difference across many different segments of the community.

S: The Biblical verse, *nair Hashem nishmas adam*, the candle of G-d is the soul of man - captures a great deal about this couple we are honoring tonight.

M: Just as a little bit of light, dispels a tremendous amount of darkness, their smile, laugh, words of encouragement and love, can pick up anyone's spirits.

S: Just as lighting other candles from an existing flame, does not diminish that candle's light, on the contrary it produces multiples of light, so to do Jen and Marty have an exponential impact on the community by enlightening their children, family and friends.

M: And lastly, just like lighting physical Shabbat and Holiday candles bring spiritual light into one's life and the world, their community activism benefits and tangibly illuminates the Jewish community. Please help us honor, Jenifer and Marty Wachs....