



Leonard Lieberman was honored with the Amy and Alan Lowenstein Social Justice Award. From left to right: Douglas S. Eakeley, Esq., founding trustee of NJISJ, Leonard Lieberman, Amy and Alan Lowenstein Social Justice Award recipient, Cornell William Brooks, Esq., Executive Director of NJISJ, and John J. Farmer, Jr., Esq., President of NJISJ Board of Trustees and Dean of Rutgers Law School.

NJISJ CELEBRATES 5th ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Nanina's in the Park was the setting for the 5th annual awards dinner gala of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. Despite the rain, a record 315 supporters of the Institute and friends and family of four honorees were in

attendance on June 9th, 2010. The Amy and Alan Lowenstein Social Justice Award was presented to Leonard Lieberman, dedicated philanthropist and founding supporter of NJPAC, the Boys and Girls Club of Newark, the Fund for New Jersey and former Chairman of the Board of Saint Barnabas Healthcare System. Introducing Mr. Lieberman, Ray Chambers, Chairman of Amelior Foundation and a dedicated philanthropist and humanitarian, talked about how Alan Lowenstein had influenced him to commit fully and not partially and how that had changed his own life. He went on to say that "Len has played a similar role in my life. Working side by side with Len has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life. He, too, has gotten so much done so quietly. The similarities between the two men are striking, and no one could ever deserve the Amy and Alan Lowenstein Award more than Len."

Marc Berson, of the Fidelco Group in Millburn, was the recipient of the Corporate Leadership Award, given to a corporate leader who has shown a concern for improving the lives of urban citizens and others. He, like Mr. Lieberman, is a dedicated philanthropist who gives much time to the boards on which he sits. He is the Chairman of the Saint Barnabas Healthcare System Board, was a founding member of NJPAC, and also the founder of Opportunity Project, an organization dedicated to helping brain-injured young people learn skills and live productive lives, to name just a few. Introducing Mr. Berson was Dr. Clement Price, Distinguished Rutgers Professor. He spoke of Marc's dedication to the city of Newark. "Put simply, as a result of Marc Berson the new energy in downtown Newark has moved north and west." Furthermore, Dr. Price said that, "his corporate leadership has been as varied as it has been heartening."



Dr. Clement Price, Distinguished Rutgers Professor, introduced Mr. Berson

John J. Farmer, Jr., Esq., President of the NJISJ Board of Trustees, said of Berson and Lieberman, "they epitomize the best example of citizens interested in improving the lives of others, advancing the cause of social justice and giving generously of their time and resources."



Joseph Jingoli speaking after receiving the Community Builder Award from NJISJ

Joe Jingoli, of Joseph Jingoli & Son Construction, received the Community Builder Award. Mr. Jingoli has partnered with the Institute to create real opportunities for people to enter the construction business, where they can earn higher wages and gain access to the middle class. Introduced by Matt Eventoff, Mr. Jingoli was moving in his description of his company's commitment to community. He said, "We have been committed to matching opportunity with well paying careers in communities in which we build. It was not until we were introduced to the Institute for Social Justice that we were able to put all of the pieces together to overcome all of the barriers to entry." In his role as CEO of Joseph Jingoli & Son, Mr. Jingoli has introduced innovative mentoring programs, minority participation programs, and educational programs that have been implemented with great success. One of the programs that Joe takes great pride in is the JJS Community Outreach program, built over a twenty-year period

of time. Douglas S. Eakeley, Esq., founding trustee of NJISJ, said of Mr. Jingoli, "Joe's commitment to employing workers in the community where he is located is brilliantly sensitive to the needs of the citizens. Our partnership is extremely valuable to the Institute and the clients we serve. We salute Joe and are so pleased that the Institute has the opportunity to honor him."

The Lifetime Community Achievement Award was presented to Rebecca Doggett, who recently retired as NJISJ's much loved Senior Fellow. Honored for her pivotal role in the development of NJISJ's Economic Opportunity Initiative, Becky's multi-faceted career includes a series of 'firsts' that encompass critical positions in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Becky was Essex County's inaugural Director of the newly formed office of Citizen's Services, ensuring that services and resources were available to the county's most vulnerable families. Among her many firsts, Becky was the founding Executive Director of the Head Start Program and the Newark



Rebecca Doggett (on the left) and Barbara Bell Coleman, who introduced her, holding the beautiful award made by Glass Roots in Newark. Mr. Eakeley, trustee development chair, is in the background.

Preschool Council, and she served as the first black female executive at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Becky has provided guidance to many local and national organizations as a board member, including the Center for Community Change in Washington, D.C., the New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, Leadership Newark and WBGO Jazz Radio, the nation's most widely recognized jazz radio station. Cornell William Brooks, Esq., Executive Director of NJISJ, said of Becky that, "she has been an outstanding leader of the community for decades, as well as a brilliant innovator of programs to help the poor and minorities. She was one of the organizers of efforts to empower black citizens in the cities of Orange and Newark during the 1960s and was an active participant in the civil rights movement." Becky, in accepting the Lifetime Community Achievement Award, thanked her many colleagues and friends "who have made each phase of my life's work an adventure." In closing, she said, "last but not least I must thank our ancestors, because they woke up every morning with their minds staying on Freedom. Therefore, we must wake up every morning with our minds staying on justice."



Nina Mitchell Wells, former NJ Secretary of State, greets former Governor Jon Corzine at the NJISJ dinner.

The dinner was attended by many eminent members of the legal and political community, as well as family and friends who came to honor the four awardees. Music was provided by Alex Collins and Marcus Miller of NJPAC Education Arts Program. Large bowls of sunflowers made by Emerald Garden of Millburn graced the tables, and there was a festive atmosphere throughout the evening. Following the dinner and program, there was a sumptuous dessert party where people stayed to talk with fellow attendees and congratulate the honorees.

For more information on the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, please contact Lois Larkey at 973-624-9400, Ext. 35, or visit our website at www.njisj.org.