



## News Release

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### **JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER WASHINGTON APRIL 10 OURISMAN MEMORIAL AWARD EVENT HONORS 50 YEARS OF GIVING**

**ROCKVILLE, MD**--Each year for the past 50 years, the **Benjamin Ourisman Award for Civic Achievement** has been presented by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington (JCCGW) to many of the metro area's top businessmen and women, philanthropists and community leaders whose *"efforts and achievements have improved the life of our community."*

For the first time ever, the JCCGW--in conjunction with celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> birthday--is hosting a star-studded event (Thursday, April 10) to **pay tribute to all of the past recipients**. Entertainment will be provided by *Beatlemania Now*, and **the event is being co-chaired by Marcy (w/husband Neil) Cohen and Julie (David) Silver**, both of whose fathers previously won the award (**Melvin Cohen in 1983 and Howard Bender, together with wife Sondra, in 1995**). **Ryna and Melvin Cohen and the Benders will be honorary chairs of the event, while all of the past presidents of the JCCGW Board will serve as honorary co-chairs.**

The Benjamin Ourisman Award for Civic Achievement was established by his sons in memory of their father's dedication to the survival of the area's Jewish heritage. It was first presented in 1958 to Agnes Meyer, who along with her husband, former Washington Post publisher Eugene Meyer, gifted the JCCGW two parcels of land adjacent to its original building at 16th & @ Streets, NW back in the 1930's.

The award has been bestowed upon many of this city's most respected citizens, starting with Morris Cafritz, Milton Kronheim, Sr. and Charles E. Smith in the 1960's, continuing into the 80's with David Lloyd Kreeger and Morris Rodman, and extending into the past two decades with such legendary award recipients as Abe Pollin (1991), Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat (1999) and Ambassador Max Kampelman (2002).

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