

## 2011-J3135

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum upon the occasion of their designation by the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway as the recipients of the Yachad Award at its 34th Annual Dinner on February 25, 2012

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in the Empire State are greatly enriched by the faithful and generous service of those who devote themselves to endeavors of family, faith and community, and to the education of the youth of the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals of such magnanimous conduct and bearing who demonstrate a deep and continuing concern for others, and in so doing, inspire others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum upon the occasion of their designation by the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway (HAFTR) as the recipients of the Yachad Award at its 34th Annual Dinner, to be held at the Sands of Atlantic Beach on Saturday, February 25, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The greatest asset of any society is its children and the hope and promise they represent for the future; the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway, of Lawrence, New York, has a proud and rich history of providing its students with an educational and religious foundation which is both strong and enduring; and

WHEREAS, Each year at its Annual Dinner, the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway honors members of the school community in recognition and appreciation of their support of the yeshiva and its mission, as well as of their dedication to Jewish life; this year at its 34th Annual Dinner it will proudly honor Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum as the recipients of the Yachad Award; and

WHEREAS, Miriam Kestenbaum has lived in Cedarhurst all her life and now, with Avi and their children, she lives around the corner from her parents, Richard and Aliza Savetsky; Miriam is a graduate of Queens College and also earned a masters degree in education from Columbia

University's Teachers College; she has taught kindergarten and first grade in the New York City public school system for more than twelve years and is this year serving as a physical education teacher; she was, in addition, active with NCSY, formerly the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, for many years; and

WHEREAS, Although Avi Kestenbaum did not grow up in New York, his grandfather Joseph, a"h, and grandmother Hannah moved to the Five Towns in 1950 and were pillars of the early Far Rockaway and Five Towns communities and were very active, along with other family members, in helping to establish several local schools and yeshivas; and

WHEREAS, Avi Kestenbaum is a partner in the Tax Department of the law firm Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Breitstone, LLP, where he co-chairs the firm's Trusts and Estates Department; he is also an adjunct professor at Hofstra University School of Law and in the Baruch College Master of Business Administration degree program where he teaches several trusts and estates and tax courses; in addition, he lectures nationally at leading estate planning and tax conferences, writes articles for prestigious estate planning and tax journals and is often cited in top business journals and newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum's children are, of course, their greatest joy and source of pride; two of their three sons, Eli and Joey, currently attend HAFTR and one year old Nate will happily enter HAFTR's pre-school next year; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to extend its highest commendation to Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum for their dedication and commitment to their heritage and to their community and its children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum upon the occasion of their designation by the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway as the recipients of the Yachad Award at its 34th Annual Dinner on February 25, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Miriam and Avi Kestenbaum.