

2007 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



SALUTE YOUR 2007 AWARDS HONOREE, ERIC FREEDMAN

NOMINATED BY DANIEL MCGUIRE



From left: Nominator Daniel McGuire and medalist Eric Freedman



From left: George Arwady, Publisher of the Star-Ledger, medalist Eric Freedman and Sam Beard, co-founder of the Jefferson Awards

Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?

If you do, then nominate them for the prestigious Jefferson Award by visiting www.nj.com/jeffersonawards

Jefferson Awards honor ordinary people who, through public service, do extraordinary things for other people, their community, their nation, or the environment.

For the past decade, Eric has presided over Ahavas Sholom, Newark's oldest and 100-year-old synagogue. The membership growth, community impact and building renovations that have occurred are because of Eric's tenacity and earnest toil. Eric embodies leadership in Newark. He told Executive Director Celia King that this program "made him realize the value of making sure his net was cast wide and far" to give him learning opportunities and a chance to make a difference. Through this approach, Eric joined the boards of two organizations that were not within his original "universe," but where he discovered he could have an impact. He is always there for children. He has raised \$130,000 towards building a Newark public school playground. For years he has helped organize and sponsor a summer youth basketball league in Newark Branch Brook Park. This hard-working and selfless man is making it possible for the kids to be playing instead of hanging out or getting in trouble.