

MIAMIBEACH

HALL *of* FAME

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Nominee's Name: Dr. Solomon S. Lichter

Nomination Submitted By: Beverly Heller

MIAMI BEACH HALL OF FAME APPLICATION

>>>Please Type All Information<<<

Nominee's Name: Dr. Solomon S. LichterNominee's Occupation, Field of Achievement or Title: Education, Civic LeaderFor what achievement(s) is the nominee best known? As principal of Miami Beach Sr. High from 1966-1977,transforming the school into one of the leading educational institutions in the countryEstablished the Miami Beach Community SchoolCo-Founder and Former President, Stanley Myers Community Health Center, n/k/a Miami Beach Community Health CenterEstablished and helped run the Mazon program through Temple Beth Shalom, which fed the homeless and underserved on
Miami BeachNomination Submitted by: Beverly HellerSignature of Submitter: Beverly Heller Date: 3-14-21Title/Occupation of Submitter: EducatorAffiliation/Association to Nominee: Friend, co-colleague*(example: friend, colleague, student, employee, relative, etc.)*Address of Submitter: 5916 LaGorce Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33141Telephone: (Day) (305) 864-1539 (Evening)

(Fax) _____

E-Mail Address: beverlyheller@icloud.com

Biography of Dr. Solomon S. Lichter

b. 1921, New York City; d. 2014, Aventura
married: Muriel Lichter, 1946. Married for 67 years

US Air Force: 1942-1946, Honorable Discharge (Sergeant)

Education:

Undergraduate: City College, NY
MA, Education: University of Miami
Ph.D., Education, New York University

Employment:

Teacher: Nautilus Jr. High: 1951-57
Principal: Ada Merritt Junior High: 1957-1962
Principal: Ida M. Fisher Jr. High: 1962-1966
Principal: Miami Beach Sr. High: 1966-1977
Principal: Nautilus Middle School: 1977-1982
Principal & Teacher: Temple Beth Shalom religious school

Honors:

Outstanding Teacher of the Year, City of Miami Beach
George Washington National Educator's Award
Felix McCool American Legion Award
B'nai Brith Outstanding Citizen's Award
Phi Delta Kappa (education honor society) Service Award
Keys to the City: City of Miami Beach

Community Service:

President, Co-Founder and Board Member: Stanley Meyers Community Health Center
n/k/a Miami Beach Community Health Center

Founder, Mazon (feed the hungry) Program
Chair, Dade County School Board Advisory Committee on Dropout Prevention
Chair, Advisory Council for Students at Risk
Chair, Miami Beach Feeder Council
Chair, Temple Beth Shalom School Board
Founder, Operation Re-Entry for Youth Rehabilitation Center
Dade County Community Schools Foundation
Miami Beach Children's Bureau
Central Agency for Jewish Education
Mt. Sinai Medical Center Board of Trustees
Dade County Library Board

Officer and member of Board of Directors, Temple Beth Shalom



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LOCATIONS

Stanley C. Myers Health Center
710 Alton Road
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Beverly Press Health Center
1221 – 71st Street
Miami Beach, FL 33141

Miami Beach Community
Health Center North
11645 Biscayne Boulevard
North Miami, FL 33181

March 19, 2021

Brandi Reddick, Cultural Affairs Manager
Tourism and Culture Department
1755 Meridian Avenue, Suite 500
Miami Beach FL 33139

Dear Ms. Reddick:

Re: Solomon S. Lichter, PH. D.

I had the honor and privilege of knowing Dr. Lichter when he served on the Board of Directors of the Miami Beach Community Health Center. He had previously served as president of the Board and was a patient of the health center as well. Many Board members and several employees at the Miami Beach Community Health Center were students at Miami Beach Senior High School when he was principal. He was always the consummate gentleman.

Dr. Lichter's passion was children's health. His mantra was, "Sick children can't learn." During his long and distinguished career, Dr. Lichter was the principal of several schools, including the Miami Beach Senior High School where he served as principal 1966--1977. When the Miami Beach Community Health Center opened a school-based health center at Miami Beach Senior High School in 1995, it was named the Solomon S. Lichter Hi-Tides Health Center in his honor. The health center served the uninsured, underinsured, and medically needy school children in Miami Beach.

In addition to being the principal at Miami Beach Senior High School 1966—1977, he was also a teacher at Nautilus Junior High 1951—1957, principal at Ada Merritt Junior High 1957—1962, principal at Nautilus Middle School 1977—1982, and the principal as well as a teacher at Temple Beth Shalom.

His commitment to children endeared him to many who looked upon him as a role model. He was respected by parents and guided their children as he would guide his own children.

Dr. Lichter retired from school administration in 1982 but remained active in many community-based endeavors. He received a Certificate of Recognition for his service to the Hispanic community on Miami Beach in October 2001. He was also honored, along with his lovely wife Muriel, with the B'Nai B'rith Award for Outstanding Citizenship. He also received the Miami Beach Senior High School Hall of Fame Award. He also devoted his time to feeding the homeless and hungry.

For these reasons and so many others, I nominate Solomon S. Lichter, PH.D., for membership in the Hall of Fame for the City of Miami Beach.

Sincerely,

Lorraine M. Valinote

Lorraine M. Valinote
Historian
Miami Beach Community Health Center





The Contributions Having Value to the Development of Miami Beach

“I have always looked upon my friend Sol as one of the great assets in this community and as a shining star that parents and children could always visualize as a spirit and model”

-Hon Seymour Gelber, former Mayor of Miami Beach (April 25, 2014)

- Dr. Sol Lichter pioneered the first community school program in Miami Beach enabling all children to have access to after school enrichments, sports, tutoring, counselling and a plethora of learning experiences which helped them over the years educationally, socially, physically and psychologically.

Additionally, the Community School offered classes for older adults so they too could learn and develop life-long skills. Classes such as Reading for Adults, ESOL (English as a Second Language), Exercise and hands on Career offerings, which are still offered today in such Miami Beach Schools as Biscayne Elementary, Fienberg-Fisher K-8 and Miami Beach Senior High, enabled the adults, many of whom came from other countries, to function on higher levels, obtain jobs and provide for themselves and their families.

The impact of the Community School initiated by Sol Lichter was so great and the need so necessary that the program drew hundreds of students each year and became the largest such program in the State of Florida bringing recognition to Miami Beach and enriching the lives of the Miami Beach residents.

- Dr. Sol Lichter, as principal of Nautilus Junior High, Ada Merritt, Ida M. Fisher Junior High and Miami Beach Senior High School recognized the importance of a diverse staff and refused to adhere to the predominant discriminatory actions demonstrated during this period which presented significant barriers to otherwise qualified teaches, and instead hired a staff based on ability regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

The result was that the students of Miami Beach learned to get along with and accept all types of people, reject stereotyping and understand the negative impact discrimination can have. Additionally, because the staff was exceptionally qualified and involved, Miami Beach Senior High and Miami Beach won repeated national recognition, the students learned well, were able to get into top universities, (90% of the student body got into national colleges and universities) and succeed in their fields of endeavor.

- Dr. Sol Lichter installed the first school free clinic in Miami Beach Senior High (which now bears his name) for students who needed medical care and might not be able to afford it. This enabled any student to get

medical help when needed and thus to remain in class and learn rather than spending time at home due to lack of medical care or coming to class sick and infecting the other students.

- In addition to the free clinics, Dr. Sol Lichter initiated and coordinated the efforts of the Health Centers Consortium on Miami Beach. These health centers also provided health care for children and were vital in ensuring free immunizations for all children entering school.

The positive impact of these Free Clinics has resulted in Free medical services now being available in all Miami Beach Feeder pattern schools so that all Miami Beach children are immunized and they and their families may have access to free medical care when needed.

- During the late 1960s and early 1970s, drug abuse became a significant problem affecting young teens across the country; Miami Beach was no exception. To combat this problem, Dr. Lichter was a founding member of Operation Re-Entry for Youth Rehabilitation Center. Operation Re-Entry provided a safe space for kids who were troubled by drug use, and provided counselling and peer group activities to help them overcome their issues with drug abuse.
- Dr. Sol Lichter, realizing that children need more than an academic education to develop into well rounded individuals, encouraged the development of a robust enrichment program in the Miami Beach schools. While principal of Miami Beach High, offerings such as Drama, Art, Debate, and Journalism flourished and the nationally-recognized Rock Ensemble under the leadership of Mr. Doug Burris, was formed. These enrichment classes helped many creative students stay in school, develop their talents and go on to bring entertainment and joy to many others. In fact, the school repeatedly won national and state debate titles under the tutelage of Ralph Carey, a teacher Dr. Lichter recruited, and won wide acknowledgement for the innovative plays the school put on under the guidance of Jay Jensen, another of Dr. Lichter's recruits.
- Dr. Sol Lichter understood that to enable students to participate in academics and enrichments, extra time had to be allocated, so he pioneered the seven-period day within the regular school time. This creative arrangement of class offerings encouraged students to diversify their subjects and provided them with the opportunity to explore and investigate interests and areas they might not have been able to without the extra time. Because of the success of the seven-period day, Miami Beach Senior High now offers an eight-period day which has expanded the opportunities for students even further. Other schools have emulated this successful innovation by offering eight periods and are providing more opportunities for more students.

- Dr. Sol Lichter identified another means for increasing world knowledge and understanding in Miami Beach students. He did this by creating a gateway between Miami Beach Senior High and the High School in Israel program. He provided the means for students from Miami Beach Senior High to go to Israel and take high school classes there while learning about another culture, political system and way of life. Bonds were forged, memories made and life lasting understanding, attitudes and knowledge formed -- a benefit for all.
- Dr. Sol Lichter was concerned about all children, so he volunteered his time and leadership abilities to also help children with problems. He chaired the School Board Advisory Committee on Drop Out Prevention and the Advisory Council for Students at Risk. He was the liaison between the Dade County Community Schools Foundation and the Miami Beach Children's Bureau and because of his commitment and caring, positive strategies and solutions were detected and utilized and many children who would otherwise have been dropouts stayed in school and graduated. It was quite common to hear former students say things like "Dr. Lichter saved my life;" or "Dr. Lichter cared when no one else did."
- Dr. Sol Lichter for many years served on the Library Board first for the City of Miami Beach and then for Dade County. He actively encouraged Miami Beach to merge with the Dade County Public Library System so that residents of Miami Beach could utilize and enjoy libraries throughout Dade County and gain access to all the extras that a large library system can provide. Now with their library card, residents of Miami Beach can enjoy free books, computers, movies and entertainment at any library in Dade County.
- Dr. Sol Lichter, as noted, cared about all people, but he was especially affected by those in need. Consequently, he established the Mazon Program in South Beach which helped, and continues to help feed thousands of homeless and less fortunate individuals on Miami Beach. Every week with other volunteers he and his late wife Muriel would provide food to all who came and this program continues today and is being emulated by the Dade County Public Schools which provides free daily meals for families so they can survive.

Dr. Sol Lichter also had an eye on the future. He realized that technology was an up and coming innovation, so he sought out and bought the newest, most modern electric typewriters for the Miami Beach High business department

which enabled our business students to get better paying jobs. Needless to say, technology today remains necessary and worthwhile and Miami Beach High's usage and involvement, continues to expand so our students can compete and succeed in our technological world.

We, on Miami Beach, are fortunate to have had such a caring, farsighted, innovative, educational leader as Dr. Sol Lichter whose involvement, contributions and goodness continue in so many ways to affect all of us and make an everlasting positive difference.

The Impact of Achievements

Dr. Sol Lichter served first as a teacher on Miami Beach and then as principal at Nautilus Junior High, (Miami Beach Nautilus Middle School) and Ada Merritt Junior High and Ida M Fisher High (now Miami Beach Fineberg-Fisher K-8) where he pioneered the first and largest in the state community school program, and Miami Beach Senior High where he served for over 10 years bringing the school during this time repeated national recognition. One of Dr. Lichter's favorite phrases at assemblies and over the P.A. was "We're from Beach and We Couldn't Be Prouder!"

Briefly, Dr. Lichter hired the best teachers he could find, regardless of race, ethnic background, religion or sexual orientation, which at that time presented significant barriers to otherwise qualified teachers. He established the community school, pioneered the seven-period day, the quinmester and created the gateway from Beach High for the High School in Israel program. His innovation and leadership won for Miami Beach national recognition. Some of the awards honoring his contributions to the school and Miami Beach, other than the keys to the City, include Miami Beach's Outstanding Teacher, the George Washington National Educator's Award, the American Legion Award, the B'nai Brith Outstanding Citizens Award, and the Education Honors Society Service Award.

Dr. Lichter helped establish and served as President of the Stanley Meyers Community Health Center, n/k/a the Miami Beach Community Health Center. Dr Lichter was a member of the Temple Beth Shalom for over 60 years.

Through involvement in these Miami Beach institutions and committees, Dr. Lichter contributed greatly to the development of the City of Miami Beach and its residents. In the next portion I will describe in more detail some of Dr. Lichter's major valuable enduring achievements that impacted and continue to impact the City of Miami Beach.

Evidence of Achievements Having Enduring Value to City of Miami Beach

1. Community School Program – This program is still in existence in all Miami Beach Public Schools. It is available to all ages from infant care at

Fienberg Fisher Elementary to Adult Education at Miami Beach Senior High. It includes after school care, tutoring, adult education and continues to be utilized, needed and highly successful.

2. Stanley Meyers Community Health Center n/k/a Miami Beach Community Health Center: As noted, Dr. Lichter helped establish and later served as President of the Miami Beach Community Health Center ("MBCHC"). This center is a fully-integrated ambulatory care medical facility which has been providing primary health care in Miami-Dade County since 1977. Its mission is to provide patients a patient-centered medical home with high-quality, affordable primary health care and specialty services, chronic disease management and support services. Free medication is available for patients who qualify, along with free transportation and translation services. In 2019, MBCHC provided services to 52,174 patients, more than 86% of whom belong to a racial or ethnic minority, 89.7% have incomes less than or equal to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and 80.3% having incomes less than or equal to 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.

As the former Chief Medical Officer and now CEO of the MBCHC, Dr. Mark Rabinowitz put it: "Dr. Lichter was a blessing in my life. I know of no other who offered himself as did Sol."

3. Diversity, Equity, Non-Discrimination – Miami Beach is now more than ever a city of diversity. Our school staff, student and community reflect this. Sol Lichter led the way. He hired a number of gay, Latin and Black teachers at a time when few were doing so because he was committed to hiring the best. Perhaps this was the result of his own early experience at Beach High, where he was first turned away in 1951 as a teacher because the school had filled its "Jewish quota" for that year. Many of his former students still live in Miami Beach and are leaders in the community, including our current Mayor, Dan Gelber (whose mother was one of those hired as a teacher by Dr. Lichter). All of them remember the inclusion and acceptance that was initiated and encouraged under Dr. Lichter's leadership. These learnings continue today in Miami Beach's acceptance of differences regarding issues such as color, race, religion and sexual orientation.

4. Free School Clinics – Our Miami Beach students can thank Dr. Sol Lichter and the Children's Trust for this much used and successful convenience. Dr. Lichter's commitment to student health care stretches back to 1961, when the first wave of Cuban migration occurred. Many of the children of these new arrivals were not vaccinated, and the school system and City at the time was not particularly interested in seeing that the kids were inoculated. As a result, Dr. Lichter packed a school bus with the kids, drove them to a local medical center, and threatened to call the *Miami Herald* and disclose this sad state of affairs unless the kids received their shots. They were vaccinated, much to their benefit and that of the City.

Free health clinics are now available in all our Miami Beach schools for all children to access as necessary and to enable them to learn with healthy bodies in a safe institution. Over a thousand children on Miami Beach have used the free clinics and can continue to do so because of Dr. Lichter's foresight and involvement. Additionally, regardless of financials, all Miami Beach children can get free vaccinations so they can enter school safely with the knowledge that they are immune from such deadly diseases as polio, tetanus, meningitis and diphtheria.

5. Expanding and Enhancing Enrichment Programs – Because of our support of enrichment programs over the years, Miami Beach can boast world famous individuals in sports, theater, music and areas not commonly falling within “academics”. Our Miami Beach Senior High students today continue to win awards in Speech and Debate, Music, Drama and The Arts. All our schools offer The STEM program and Miami Beach Senior High has a Hospitality magnet program. Miami Beach is the only city in the United States which enables all its Miami Beach students to graduate with an International Baccalaureate degree which is recognized all over the world.

6. Seven Period Day – The expansion of the offerings for students under Dr. Lichter's leadership was so successful that now Miami Beach Senior High has grown to an eight-period day which enables students to add even more enrichments to their academics, providing all students, regardless of financial ability, with free activities that increase their knowledge and experiences.

7. Free Counselors at Every School – Every school on Miami Beach and in Dade County now offers counselling for students and parents who need/want help. Every school has counsellors who advise students on academic selections, assist with college applications, work choices, dating problems, drug issues, family concerns and a myriad of issues which help them stay in school, cope with life and succeed.

8. High School in Israel – This program initiated and supported by Dr. Lichter is still in existence and enables students the chance to travel to another country, learn other cultures, gain better understanding and expand their horizons. Many Miami Beach students have and continue to take advantage of this program which is recognized throughout the United States and has enriched our Miami Beach children's lives.

9. Free Food For the Needy – Children cannot learn nor families function if they are hungry. Dr. Lichter's Mazon program established through Temple Beth Shalom which helped bring food to all who wanted and needed food on Miami Beach continues today in a variety of ways. Free food is still being disseminated. Miami Beach schools as well as all Dade County Public School provide free breakfast and lunches for children whose household incomes are below the norm. During the pandemic, free food was provided on Miami Beach to all needy families of Miami Beach school children. Miami

Beach continues to follow Dr. Lichter's legacy and feed our community so they can survive, grow and thrive without the fear of starvation.

10. Multi-Faceted Library – Visit any of the libraries on Miami Beach and realize how fortunate we are to be part of the Dade County Library system. Miami Beach residents have access to books, films, tapes, classes, etc. from all over Dade County, thus greatly increasing our opportunities and choices. We can go to any Dade County library and using our library card, access thousands of materials, all because with Dr. Lichter's urging, we joined the Dade County Library system.

Sources of Information:

-Personal Memory

-Merritt, Rosalind, *Miami Beach High! Journey Among Decades of Fame* (2019)

-Notes from Hon. Seymour Gelber and Dr. Mark Rabinowitz, provided by David Lichter, Dr. Sol Lichter's son

5916 LaGorce Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33140

March 14, 2021

Brandi Reddick
Cultural Affairs Manager
Tourism and Culture Department
City of Miami Beach
1755 Meridian Avenue, Suite 55
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Nomination of Dr. Solomon S. Lichter for the Miami Beach Hall of Fame

Dear Ms. Reddick and the Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

Over 50 years ago, as an expectant parent attracted by the warm weather, affordable housing and highly recommended schools, I choose Miami Beach as the place to live and raise my family, a decision made by many others in the 1960's and 1970's. It was a good decision as my daughter, granddaughter and I still live, have a business and benefit from the fine weather, robust economy and outstanding school offerings envisioned and implemented by Dr. Sol Lichter on Miami Beach.

But as this introduction is to tell why I believe Dr. Sol Lichter deserves to be recognized and honored by Miami Beach, let me be more explicit. It wasn't until a few years after moving to Miami Beach, joining Temple Beth Sholom, working for the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center and then at Fienberg-Fisher Elementary/Community School that I came to fully understand the tremendous impact Dr. Sol Lichter's creativity, compassion and leadership had on the entire Miami Beach Community.

My first cognizance occurred when I was employed by the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center, which at that time was comprised mostly of elderly and needy individuals. They often required mental and physical care which they could not afford; however; however, because of Dr. Sol Lichter's foresight and perseverance their needs were invariably met. We were able to send our seniors to the Stanley Meyers Community Health Center, which Dr. Sol Lichter had helped established, where our mostly senior pensioners were provided with full high quality affordable health care, free medications if needed, free transportation and as the area changed, translation services.

I came to appreciate Dr. Sol Lichter's contributions to our community even more when I became an educator in the early 1980's at Fienberg-Fisher Elementary. The school and area at this time was mainly inhabited by Cuban refugees fleeing from

Castro. Most of the residents in South Beach did not speak English and many lacked an education so had difficulty getting jobs. For these refugees, the Community School Program initiated by Dr. Sol Lichter was a life saver and life changer because at the Community School they could learn English, learn a trade and rely on safe, affordable before-and-after care for their children while they worked and earned money to live without fear. Additionally, the Community Center started by Dr. Sol Lichter offered homework help and tutoring so the area children had a place where they could comfortably interact, get help when needed, and learn/do homework under the eye of licensed and informed personnel.

Moreover, because of Dr. Sol Lichter's work with the Children's Trust, Fienberg-Fisher offered free health care for Miami Beach residents where they were able to get vaccinations, checkups, vision and hearing screenings, glasses/hearing aids and care, regardless of their finances. This enabled the students in my class, the entire school and Miami Beach residents to live a safe, healthy life and focus on education, family and the future.

One extra observation, but a very very important one that made me appreciate Dr. Sol Lichter even more, was his attitude regarding people – all people. Dr. Sol Lichter throughout his entire life included and accepted everyone no matter their race, religion, mental/physical appearance or sexual orientation. He cared about everyone! He treated everyone with respect! He was considerate, courteous and believed in the goodness of people.

Coincidentally, during this time, there was much prejudice in Florida and Miami Beach was no exception. Many of the refugees who came from Cuba were well educated and/or talented but could not get jobs. Valuing individuality and inclusion, Dr. Lichter hired them for his school which thus provided the students with outstanding and talented Cuban educators and role models, increased the Miami Beach students' language abilities and demonstrated clearly the defectiveness of stereotyping.

My most memorable moments, however, some of the only ones where I actually interacted with Dr. Sol Lichter, were while participating in the Mazon Program which Dr. Sol Lichter established through Temple Beth Shalom and which provided free food for needy families/individuals on Miami Beach. All week, every week, Dr. Lichter would go out into the community and get stores to donate food as well as companies and caring people to donate funds so Miami Beach residents would not go hungry. And every week for long hours, Dr. Lichter and his wife Muriel would stand in South Beach with me and many other volunteers giving out life-saving food to the many who came, talking to them, making and renewing friendships, and deeply caring. Needless to say, this program was and continues to be necessary and indispensable especially during this time when so many people are out of work.

As for myself, over the years, my 3 daughters who all attended Miami Beach public schools and my granddaughter who now attends Nautilus Middle School, continue to benefit from Dr. Sol Lichter's contributions and input in relation to Dade County Public Schools and especially the Miami Beach public schools. They enjoyed learning in air --conditioned classrooms, got help from the nurse in the school clinic when they got hurt or felt sick, were able to take enrichments such as drama, speech and debate, chorus, violin and cooking, be in the gifted program or students with disabilities program and take out books/computers from any library in Miami-Dade County, all because of Dr. Lichter's leadership and actions. My children and grandchild were taught by a variety of teachers offering a great education and they have learned acceptance and understanding as they interacted within their classes - important lifelong lessons.

Presently, watching the news and as a representative on the Diversity and Equity Advisory Committee for Dade County Public Schools, I realize how malignant and hurtful prejudice is and I am truly grateful that Dr. Sol Lichter was a man who lead the fight for diversity and equity in Miami Beach, for affordable mental and physical health care, support and food for the needy and well-rounded excellent education for all ages. For me the main reason I believe Dr. Sol Lichter is worthy of being honored by Miami Beach is for his lifelong caring, kindness, leadership and enduring valuable contributions from which we benefit every day and which positively impact the lives and attitudes of our Miami Beach residents.


Beverly Heller



March 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Gary A. Glickstein. I was Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom, Miami Beach, Florida, 1985-2018 when I became Rabbi Emeritus. I was privileged to know and work with Dr. Lichter until his death in 2014.

When I arrived at Temple Beth Sholom on November 1, 1985, Dr. Lichter was already a legend in our community. While he continued to serve on our Board of Trustees and remained actively involved in a myriad of projects and committees until his last days, I was immediately impressed with what he had already accomplished in Miami Beach and in our Congregation. Although I am aware of his prodigious work with our public schools, library, and health clinics, I will concentrate on his activities at Temple Beth Sholom.

Dr. Lichter was one of the leaders of our Temple Justice Committee work in the 1950s through the 1970s. At that time, he guided members in their efforts to remove religious prayer and Bible readings from the public schools, oppose proliferation of nuclear arms, and support integration in our society. In fact, he was the Co-Chair of our Religious School for Living Judaism with Phyllis Miller, when we established a Human Relations Program to further the process of integration through student involvement. Dr. Lichter and Mrs. Miller also worked with our congregation to pilot an accredited high school program with an Israeli school. The initial group of five students included three of our members. This pilot program led to the eventual partnership which is now the nation-wide Alexander Muss High School in Israel.

During my tenure, Dr. Lichter spearheaded our Mazon feeding program on South Beach in the 1980s and 1990s. Hundreds of hungry individuals were fed weekly by Sol and his stalwart group of volunteers. Today, that program continues through our work with the Chapman Partnership.

Dr. Lichter was also a life-long learner, attending classes, and teaching courses at our congregation for many, many years. He remained curious and open to new ideas to the very end of his life.

Dr. Lichter remained active in our Tikkun Olam Committee, helping to establish Mitzvah Day as one of the most important days on our religious calendar. Dr. Lichter along with his wife Muriel were honored a number of times by our congregation for their devotion and unstinting commitment.

Personally, I often solicited his advice and guidance. He always gave me his time and shared with me his wisdom and generosity of spirit. Dr. Lichter was a mensch and a sensitive, quality human being. I feel privileged to have had him as a mentor and a congregant. Dr. Solomon Lichter is a person who changed thousands of lives for the better and impacted our entire community. He was one of those who bent the arc of history toward justice and righteousness.

I am so honored to recommend Dr. Solomon Lichter for selection into the Miami Beach Hall of Fame.



Gary Glickstein
Rabbi Emeritus
Temple Beth Shalom | Clergy
1 Grove Isle 1803
Miami, FL 33133
786-512-6699 Shalom,



DAN GELBER
MAYOR

Dear Members of the Committee:

I commend to the Committee the nomination of Dr. Solomon Lichter for admission into the Miami Beach Hall of Fame. I don't think it is an understatement to declare that no person in the history of our City has done more to inspire the children of our community than Dr. Lichter, and few have contributed to our civic life as he did. His body of work, spanning nearly a half century, is impressive not only in its length but also in its depth. After service in World War II he commenced a career in education as a teacher and principal. Teaching in the 1950's at Nautilus, he soon became the principal of Ida Fisher, then Miami Beach High and, finally, Nautilus. He also had similar roles at the Temple Beth Shalom school. I was fortunate to experience "Dr. Dynamite's" leadership while I was a student at Miami Beach High. To this day I can recall him striding the halls stopping to ask students how they were doing. Not just the "star" students, but more often the ones struggling. He enthusiastically cared about every kid no matter where they came from or who their parents might be. He took an interest in their lives, took the time to learn about them, and directed his skills at helping them reach their potential. That is what made him so special.

My mother, Edith, was privileged to be a colleague of Dr. Lichter. She taught Spanish, French and Latin in our feeder pattern for decades. She would always accompany Dr. Lichter to each of his principal assignments because she believed his talents as an administrator and leader created a climate that allowed her to best follow her profession.

Dr. Lichter was the principal of the high school during integration. Frankly, it was challenging and our community, at times, had difficulty navigating the change. But Dr. Lichter never wavered in his belief that all kids deserved equal and exceptional opportunities. Even when the change brought out the worst in some, Dr. Lichter was intent in appealing to the best in our nature.

In his later years, he continued his community work. While he chaired or founded (or both) so many of the child and education advocacy groups so critical to our community's growth, it was his unwavering commitment to help feed the homeless that tells you what you need to know about Dr. Lichter. Most weekends well into his older years, he would be there, on a food line (in a program he created), scooping food to feed the homeless, helping those who had no one fighting for them or likely even caring.

You can judge a community by how it treats its most vulnerable residents. And by that measure, our City excels. You can see and feel our tradition of compassion and caring in our food drives, in the beach clean ups, and our senior meal plans. This is why Dr. Lichter should be among our great citizens. He spent a lifetime directing his exceptional talents to uplift, protect and inspire our children, our seniors and our poor. His inclusion among the truly exceptional residents who have done so much, would reflect well on him but even moreso on our City.

Dan Gelber

