

Press Release



Contact: Char Rapoport Nance, Ohio Region Director
216-464-3022
cnance@ortamerica.org
August 21, 2018

**Kenneth B. Liffman to receive 2018 Maimonides Award
at 47th Annual ORT Brunch, October 28, 2018
Todd E. Gurney to receive 1st Annual Robert Sill Leadership Award**

BEACHWOOD – Orange Village resident Kenneth B. Liffman will receive the 2018 Maimonides Award for Outstanding Community Service at the ORT America – Ohio Region’s 47th Annual Brunch, Sunday, October 28, 2018, 9:30 am at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven.

The Brunch will also include the presentation of the 1st Annual Robert Sill Leadership Award to Todd E. Gurney of Shaker Heights.

“We are pleased to honor both Ken and Todd at this year’s Brunch,” said Greg Marcus, president of the ORT Ohio Region. “Ken has made valuable contributions to both ORT and the entire community in many ways. His involvement in many organizations, including the Maltz Museum of Jewish History, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and InMotion are just a few examples. The impact of his dedication and commitment to the greater community can be felt in many important community institutions.”

Liffman has proven his dedication to ORT for decades. In 1996, he created the American ORT Jurisprudence Dinner and served as its chairman for 10 years. He returned to that event this year as the co-chair. He received the Jurisprudence Award in 2012 and is also a past recipient of the Sadie and Maurice Friedman Cleveland ORT Leadership Award and the 2000 Chapter Supporter of the Year for American ORT.

Liffman was named one of the 18 Difference Makers in our community by the Cleveland Jewish News last year; he sits on the Board of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and is the chair of the Holocaust Memory Survivor Project; he was recently elected to the board of InMotion to aid those who have Parkinson’s Disease.

“I am honored to receive the ORT Maimonides award, and to be in the company of so many outstanding past honorees,” said Liffman. “Maimonides was among the first to recognize the importance of helping people achieve independence through education, and ORT has been training and educating children and adults for over 138 years. I’m proud to raise funds and awareness for ORT so that they can continue this important mission.”

Liffman is the chairman of the board and president of McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., L.P.A. He joined the firm in 1979 and was managing principal from 1993 until December, 2017. The majority of his practice focuses on transactions, banking matters, and real estate law. He has extensive experience in the acquisition and sale of commercial and industrial real estate, as well as construction and commercial lease matters. Since 2004, Liffman has been recognized by his peers as one of Northeast Ohio's Top Real Estate Attorneys, as an Ohio Super Lawyer® and as a *Best Lawyer in America*.

ORT America – Ohio Region
24100 Chagrin Blvd. #300 | Beachwood, OH 44122 | 216.464.3022
ohio@ortamerica.org | www.ortohio.org

He and his wife, Gail, have been married since 1978, and have two daughters, Danielle (married to David Garson) and Allison (engaged to Brian Innenberg) and two grandchildren, Olivia and Benjamin Garson.

The 1st Annual Robert Sill Leadership Award was created by the Sill family in memory of longtime ORT leader Robert Sill, who passed away this summer. The award provides support to a deserving ORTist, so that he/she can experience Bob's great passion: Visiting an ORT school.

Gurney will receive this award in recognition of his outstanding effort on behalf of this year's Jurisprudence Awards. Gurney is a partner at The Eisen Law Firm where he has been practicing law since 2007. His practice is narrowly focused on representing victims of medical mistakes. He has been voted by his peers as an Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star two years in a row and he is also secretary of the board of the Cleveland Academy of Trial Attorneys through which he received the 2018 President's Award in recognition of his outstanding volunteer work for the organization. He lives in Shaker Heights with his wife, Julie, and two children, Sloan and Graham.

Co-chairs for the event are Daryn & Kevin Adelstein; Peggy Zone Fisher & Hon. Lee Fisher; Suellen & Larry Kadis; and Joan & Chuck Whitehill.

Proceeds from the 47th Annual ORT Brunch will be split between two very important programs, the renovations of the Science Building at Kfar Silver Youth Village in Israel and ORT Argentina, a program that is especially meaningful to Liffman, because members of his family found refuge in Latin America after the Holocaust.

ORT Argentina opened its first school in Buenos Aires in 1941 to support the influx of refugees. By 1945, it was providing technical courses and apprenticeship training to 150 students. Today, the school has more than 8,000 students and is considered to be among the best in the country.

Kfar Silver, part of the Kadima Mada network in Israel, serves students of all capabilities, from those with learning challenges to those who are gifted. Renovations of the 60-year-old Science Building will bring it into the 21st Century as a state-of-the-art facility for students who have found a home there when other schools have failed them. The Science Building has been a focal point for the Ohio Region's fundraising for the past two years, proving the important work we can do when the community stands behind a central project.

For information about the 47th Annual ORT Brunch or naming opportunities at Kfar Silver, please contact Ohio Region Director Char Rapoport Nance, (216) 464-3022, cnance@ortamerica.org.

The Ohio Region of ORT America is rooted in Jewish Heritage and values.

Our mission is to raise funds to support educational programs that enrich entire communities by teaching marketable skills that empower students of all faiths to attain success and live with dignity. Proceeds will help ORT meet the needs of the 300,000+ students in 37 countries who turn to ORT every day for the education they need to succeed.

#

ORT America – Ohio Region
24100 Chagrin Blvd. #300 | Beachwood, OH 44122 | 216.464.3022
ohio@ortamerica.org | www.ortohio.org