

## **Stockton President Harvey Kesselman to Receive Father Thom Schiavo Leadership Award**

Stockton's Maryann McLoughlin, Radio Host Don Williams  
Also to Be Honored at Interfaith Ceremony on May 6

### ***For Immediate Release; with photos***

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**Galloway, NJ** – President Harvey Kesselman of Stockton University will be honored on **Friday, May 6 at 7 p.m.** with the Father Thom Schiavo Leadership Award given by Beth El Synagogue and Bridge of Faith at a ceremony in Margate, N.J.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Kesselman is now president of Stockton University and he has shown remarkable leadership,” said Rabbi Aaron Krauss of Beth El, and the founder of the interfaith group, Bridge of Faith. “It’s very gratifying to watch Stockton’s growth and development, which benefits our region and the entire state.”

“I am very proud to receive this award, which celebrates the bonds of mutual respect and understanding that Stockton, Beth El, the Bridge of Faith and our larger community are committed to honoring every day, as citizens of a diverse world,” said Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman. “Stockton has always been a place that values differences and promotes the open exchange of ideas, ultimately leading to a society that is culturally rich, intellectually rigorous, and fair and equitable for all.”

The award is named for the late Father Thom Schiavo, who was assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church in Margate at the time of his death at age 37 more than 20 years ago. Father Schiavo, who was of Italian and Jewish descent, had reached “across boundaries of religion and race to make the world a better place,” Rabbi Krauss explained. “The award was established to perpetuate his ideals.”

Rabbi Krauss formed Bridge of Faith seven years ago to provide a forum for communication and cooperation among all faiths. The group now includes numerous religious and charitable **-more-**

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organizations. Bridge of Faith has raised funds for earthquake victims in Haiti and aided victims of Hurricane Sandy, as well as provided anti-bullying programs in schools, among other activities.

Leo Schoffer, a member of the Stockton Board of Trustees, will present the award to President Kesselman. Schoffer and his late father, Sam, received the award in 2012 for their family's contributions to the community, including The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton, which is named in honor of Sam and his late wife, Sara, who were survivors of the Holocaust.

Maryann McLoughlin, assistant supervisor at the Holocaust Resource Center, "is a quiet heroine who has done a magnificent job recording and publishing works by Holocaust survivors of our area," Rabbi Krauss said. "We are very pleased to acknowledge her efforts." Rona Kaplan, a member of The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center board, will present the Interfaith Award to McLoughlin.

Don Williams, long-time host of a week-day morning, news talk radio show on WOND-1400 A.M., "has done a lot of work drawing attention to the area's problems and has contributed to the well-being of the area through his public relations," Rabbi Krauss said. The Brotherhood Award will be presented to Williams by Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

Representatives of various Christian, Muslim and Jewish denominations will take part in the ceremony, along with the Beth El Synagogue choir.

The interfaith awards ceremony will be held in the sanctuary at Beth El Synagogue, 500 N. Jerome Ave., Margate.

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***President Harvey Kesselman***



***Maryann McLoughlin***