



**Ceremony in Celebration of Howard Blitman, P.E.,
Receiving Reconstructing Judaism's Presidential Recognition Award
Lovingly Hosted by Bet Am Shalom
Sunday, September 13, 2020/23 Elul 5780**

Psalm 118:22

Commissioned for the occasion and composed by Solomon Hoffman (RRC '23)

Deborah suggested the verse from Psalm 118, Even Ma'asu Habonim, Hayetah L'rosh Pina, which translates to "The stone that the founders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." It not only references Howard's work as an engineer, but also the way he built the world he wanted to see through his generous philanthropy. Indeed, as a lifelong Reconstructionist and current RRC student, I have benefited from the foundation that Howard helped to lay. In writing this music, I tried to capture the blossoming that has come from the seeds Howard planted in his life—the simple opening phrase grows into an expansive niggun. I thank Howard for all that he has done. It was an honor to compose this setting for this occasion.

Remarks

Rabbi Lester Bronstein, Bet Am Shalom

Seth Rosen, Chair, Board of Governors, Reconstructing Judaism

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., President, Reconstructing Judaism

Granting of Award to Howard Blitman and Response

Closing Benediction by Cantor Benjie Schiller, Bet Am Shalom

