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Honoring Tradition

On The Go

By Masha Leon

OPEN UNIVERSITY HONORS CHANCELLOR TISCH AND NYC POLICE COMMISSIONER KELLY



Recognized: Merryl Tisch

"I was raised on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. I carry a proud tradition of immigration — a testament to the kindness of strangers and the possibility of a free society," said New York State Board of Regents Chancellor **Merryl Tisch**, recipient of American Friends of the Open University of Israel's Yigal Allon Award, at AFOUI's December 1 dinner at The Pierre. "My father held three jobs. My mother, two. My grandmother, who did not speak English but spoke Yiddish and German, used to carry my book bag and sit with me as I did my homework. My father said, '*Mamele*, in our tradition, education is everything!'" An OUI Zedek Award recipient, New York City Police Commissioner **Raymond Kelly**, said, "I accept the award on behalf of New York City's 50,000 members of the Police Department. There has been a close relationship between New York and Israel after 9/11. We learned that no one is an island — no police department, no city, no country — our destiny is intertwined." Kelly informed: "We have two **David Cohens** on our staff: deputy commissioner for labor policy and deputy commissioner of security for New York City."

AFOUI's president, **Ingeborg Rennert**, and the organization's chairman, **Malcolm Thomson**, jointly hosted the event. Open University, with its 45,000 students — 90% of whom are soldiers — is the largest university in Israel. It publishes 1 million books per year and serves 6,000 students in the Former Soviet Union.