

BRESLAU-GOLDMAN HONOREE

Helane and Richard Goldstein

Helane and Rick Goldstein's commitments to Jewish life began where they grew up, in Rick's case in Buffalo and in Helane's in Brooklyn and New Jersey. In fact, Rick's parents were founding members of one of the first Reconstructionist synagogues in the United States, Temple Sinai in Buffalo and Rick's mom (z"l) served as one of the first synagogue presidents in the US. Helane and Rick both went to school in Boston, Simmons College and Boston College Law School, respectively, and that is where they randomly met at a Celtics-Sixers game at Boston Garden. They moved to the DC area in 1981, where Rick initially worked on Capitol Hill and then shifted to a private law practice, where he specialized in affordable housing finance. Rick became a nationally known expert in his field, culminating in his being awarded the prestigious Affordable Housing Finance Magazine's, Affordable Housing Hall of Fame Award in 2015. Helane has worked in lobbying and mortgage finance, and co-owned her own business, all while raising her children and investing her significant talents and passion in the growth of our local Jewish community.

Helane and Rick are each long-time leaders of some of our most significant Jewish institutions, working individually and as a team. Helane chaired Jewish Federation's Young Women's Coalition and received the Federation's Young Leadership Award in 1992. In 1993, Helane and Rick were among the co-chairs of Federation's "Black and White" gala, the organization's major annual fundraising event at that time.

In addition to their Federation activism and leadership, Rick and Helane have devoted enormous energy and time to Congregation B'nai Tzedek, which they joined in 1995. They immediately fell in love with the shul and its founding rabbi, Stuart Weinblatt. Rick became president of the synagogue in 2000 and Helane followed suit eight years later, becoming the only married couple to each lead B'nai Tzedek. Helane has stayed on the synagogue's Executive Committee ever since her presidency and currently is the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

A major focus throughout their lives has been love of Israel and its safety and security. Along with a small group of fellow local pro-Israel activists, they formed the Greater Washington Area chapter of AIPAC growing it from scratch to over 1300 members, including over 460 families who make generous gifts. Helane and Rick have each chaired the Greater Washington AIPAC council, and their daughter Lily, has also taken on leadership positions in AIPAC and in the pro-Israel community, becoming a member of the National Council of AIPAC and a vice chair of the local pro-Israel political committee.

Rick also serves on the regional board of the American Jewish Committee, and on the board of the JCRC of Greater Washington, where he co-chairs the Domestic Affairs Committee.

Rick and Helane reside locally in Chevy Chase. They have two daughters, Abby and Lily, and welcomed Abby's husband, Jonathan Jagoda, to their family several years ago.

SARA AND SAMUEL LESSANS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP HONOREES

Stacey and David Topol

Stacey and David Topol have, without fanfare, devoted their talents, wisdom, and loyalty to the well-being of numerous non-profits in our region over the last twenty years. Whether leading during periods of calm or moments of institutional transition, David and Stacey are generous with their time and energy, bringing strategic thinking, patience, and compassion to every cause they embrace.

A native Washingtonian, David is a graduate of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. Returning to the school as parents, both he and Stacey dove into volunteer roles, with David serving as the President of the Board from 2010 to 2014. When his son transferred to Commonwealth Academy in Northern Virginia, he became involved in supporting that institution as well, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the school's Board. He also recently completed a two-year term as President of Beth El Congregation in Bethesda. In each of these positions, David has been responsible for managing significant leadership transitions, devoting countless hours to ensuring smooth, consensus-driven processes for the recruitment and retention of new professional leadership.

David is also a member of the Board of the Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County and is an inaugural participant in the Federation's Jewish Community Leadership Program. He is a partner at the law firm of Wiley, LLP.

Stacey's passion for community service was kindled in high school and college when she held leadership roles in the Key Club and Circle K service organizations. Moving to the Washington DC area after college, Stacey joined Hadassah, where she has served in various leadership roles, for over 25 years, on the group, chapter, and executive committee levels. She has held several different Vice President positions within the regional Hadassah chapter and chaired numerous large-scale educational programs and events. In recent years, she created and launched a mentoring program for younger Hadassah members, allowing them to access invaluable leadership training. Stacey has also been an active supporter and parent/congregant leader at CESJDS and Congregation Beth El. Most notably, she chaired the large CESJDS Book Fair for five years, and served as the Jewish Day School Families chair at Beth El. For over 10 years she has coordinated the annual Purim celebration that the Beth El Day School families sponsor for residents of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes.

Stacey and David have been married for 28 years and are the proud parents of Samuel, Benjamin, and Hannah.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE HONOREE

Rabbi Amy Schwartzman

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Amy Schwartzman was lucky to be the daughter of two deeply compassionate parents – a veterinarian and a therapist. Both instilled in her a sense of caring, a responsibility to our world and an optimism about her ability to make a difference.

Throughout her childhood she was involved in the Reform Movement through her synagogue, youth movements and summer camps. In college, at the University of Pennsylvania, she created a progressive Jewish student group outside of realm of the Hillel. In the process of organizing and leading this group, Amy realized that the rabbinate would bring together her most fulfilling practices – community building, tikkun olam, academics and supporting and caring for others.

Amy entered the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of religion in 1985 and was ordained in 1990. She began her rabbinic career as the Assistant Rabbi at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church Virginia. In 1998 she became the Senior Rabbi when her colleague and mentor, Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits, retired. Rabbi Schwartzman describes her 31 years serving the congregation as a true gift.

In addition to her pulpit work, Rabbi Schwartzman has been throughout her career a leading voice for the advancement of social justice and the nurturing of interfaith understanding and cooperation. Among her many leadership roles, she has served as the co-chair of the Women’s Rabbinic Network, Vice-President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Chair of the Fairfax County Clergy Leadership Council, and President of the McLean Clergy Association. She has served on boards of numerous other DC-area organizations including YACHAD, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights, Dominion Psychiatric Hospital, Fairfax County’s Council to End Domestic Violence, Tysons Interfaith, and the Social Action Commission of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Amy is married to environmentalist Kevin Moss. They are tremendously proud of their two daughters, Hannah and Eliana, who continue the family tradition of caring and serving.