

2021 Gala

AN ONLINE CELEBRATION

Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 PM



Featuring:

Amar'e Stoudemire



Interviewed by:



Abby Pogrebin

Honoring:



Helene & Richard
Goldstein
Breslau-Goldman Award



Stacey & David
Topol
Sara and Samuel
Lessans Community
Leadership Award



Rabbi Amy
Schwartzman
Distinguished Service
Award

2021 Chairs:



Todd Rosenberg &
Erika Dickstein



Ellen & Dan Blalock

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the JCRC's 2021 Online Celebration!

Again, this year, our community has risen to new challenges with resilience, optimism, and effectiveness. The JCRC has remained dedicated to our mission. And tonight, we gather to celebrate the many accomplishments that strengthened and nourished our community during this unusual time.

We are especially proud that the JCRC this year maintained our stellar record of advocating for the needs and priorities of our community and striving for justice for all in our region. We:

- Unified and mobilized grass-roots activists in pursuit of bold legislative priorities.
- Secured critical government funding for Jewish agencies and local non-profits to support vulnerable citizens.
- Celebrated Israel, advocated for Israel, educated about Israel, and combatted efforts to defame Israel—before, during, and after the dramatic rise in anti-Israel and antisemitic hatred that surged in the spring.
- Nurtured strong interfaith partnerships and strengthened coalitions with friends and allies to deepen justice and equity for everyone in Greater Washington.
- Brought our community together to commemorate and teach about the Holocaust and honor our region's survivors and the legacies of the six million who were killed.
- Amplified the voices of people of good faith to combat antisemitism and all forms of bias and hatred.
- Advocated in our region's schools to combat bias and intolerance and ensure the needs of Jewish families are met by our educational systems.

Your support for the JCRC and this online celebration is more important than ever. We are grateful for every gift. Special thanks to the JCRC's Executive Committee and Board for your leadership, to the JCRC staff for your professionalism and commitment, and to The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and our fellow Jewish agencies and synagogues for your partnership.

We are inspired that the community has responded so generously to our call for additional resources so we can meet the challenges and opportunities facing our Jewish community and Israel.

Thank you for joining us this evening and celebrating **Helene and Richard Goldstein**, **Stacey and David Topol**, and **Rabbi Amy Schwartzman** for their incredible leadership. And please enjoy the conversation between renowned author and producer **Abby Pogrebin** and former NBA All-Star, entrepreneur, and philanthropist **Amar'e Stoudemire**.

We wish you a wonderful evening and look forward to your engagement with JCRC throughout the year.

B'Shalom,

Todd Rosenberg & Erika Dickstein and Ellen & Dan Blalock

Gala Co-Chairs

Ronald A. Paul, MD
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PROGRAM

2021 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO

GREETINGS & PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

Ron A. Paul, MD

2021 GALA CO-CHAIRS REMARKS

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Rabbi Amy Schwartzman

SARA AND SAMUEL LESSANS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD
PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Stacey and David Topol

BRESLAU-GOLDMAN AWARD PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Helane and Richard Goldstein

2021 GALA CO-CHAIR REMARKS

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Ron Halber

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER NBA ALL-STAR, ENTREPRENEUR, & PHILANTHROPIST

Amar'e Stoudemire

Interviewed by Abby Pogrebin, columnist, author, podcast host

WITH GRATITUDE

The JCRC would like to acknowledge our vendors who have contributed in making tonight's 83rd Celebration a truly unique & memorable evening.

Chelsea Benincasa, ScrawlDesign
Dillon Meyer Media Works

Heartful Judaica by Yarden Grossman
The Gary Rosenthal Collection

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 the realm of 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.

GALA GIBORIM

The JCRC is able to fulfill its mission thanks to the generous annual support of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and our many community donors.

**“We are worth what we are willing to share with others.
That is tzedakah: charity as justice.”**

-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

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