

2019 ANNUAL GALA



HONORING

Erwin Groner

BRESLAU-GOLDMAN AWARD

Erwin Groner is a pillar of the Jewish community of our nation's capital, giving of his time, energy and resources over six decades to sustain and nurture our local and national institutions and the State of Israel. Erwin is passionate about serving our community and in instilling pride in being Jewish to future generations.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Erwin and his family fled from the Nazis, first to Antwerp, Belgium, then England, before arriving as refugees to New York in 1940. His family settled in Houston, Texas, where Erwin grew up. From an early age, Erwin was involved in his Jewish community serving as president of his AZA chapter as part of BBYO. Following undergraduate and graduate studies at Rice University and the University of Texas, and military service as an officer in the U.S. Corps of Engineers (First Lt., Fort Hood, TX), Erwin had a long, distinguished career as a health economist with the U.S. government where he led a section which encouraged disease prevention and health promotion. Erwin also worked for many years at Booz Allen Hamilton, with multiple entities including the States of Minnesota and Indiana. He has also been professionally engaged for many years in real estate development and investment in our region.

Erwin has been a dedicated, generous leader of our community for many years, serving on the Executive Committee for The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. He founded and led The Federation's Real Estate Affinity Group. Erwin served as Vice President of the JCRC of Greater Washington, participated on the JCRC's Finance and Budget Committee, and has been a part of many of the JCRC's Maryland advocacy days. He was the President of Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, has also served in leadership capacities for JINSA, AIPAC, and American Friends of Ben Gurion University.

Our community is blessed to have benefited from his kind, dedicated, and loyal leadership. He and his wife Leena have four children and seven grandchildren, all of whom are active in their Jewish communities in Maryland, New York, and California.

2019 ANNUAL GALA



HONORING

Wendi and Daniel Abramowitz

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Wendi and Daniel Abramowitz met on a trip to Israel sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. As a couple, they have been very committed to multiple philanthropic causes including many local Jewish organizations. They have served in a variety of leadership and volunteer roles for numerous agencies.

Daniel is currently a member of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes Endowment Corporation Board (JFGHE) and chairs JFGHE's Investment Committee, and is a former member of the budget and investment committees for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH). In addition, he served as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of The Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and formerly chaired the school's Budget and Investment Committees. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the United Jewish Endowment Fund. In addition, he serves on the United Jewish Endowment Fund Investment Committee, of which he is the immediate past chair. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Israel Bonds, and formerly chaired the Investment Committee for the Bender JCC of Greater Washington.

Daniel is the Founder and President of Hillson Financial Management, Inc., an investment management firm that focuses on value stocks, fixed income, private equity, and limited partnership investments. Daniel has also served on the Board of Directors of three publicly traded companies.

Wendi is currently co-chair of the Lion of Judah, Women's Philanthropy of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. She is a member of the Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation. She also takes pride as a Meals on Wheels driver. Wendi has taken many active roles in the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Parent Teacher Organization (CESJDS PTO) and served as PTO past president, Co-chaired the Upper School PTO Grade Rep Committee as well as the teacher appreciation committee, book festival, and yearbook. Wendi was the founder of the B'nai Israel Congregation Social Action Committee and chaired the B'nai Israel Congregation silent and live auction evening. She has served on the boards of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School as well as the Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA). She was a founding member of JSSA's Women's Giving Group. Wendi has also co-chaired the Bender JCC of Greater Washington Book Festival.

Together, Wendi and Daniel co-chaired the JCC Maccabi Games Events Committee in 2004, the 2005 Annual Ma'ayan Campaign at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, the Bender JCC Arts Evening, and the JSSA Gala in 2012. They have also served as Patrons of the Israel Ambassador's Ball for many years. In 2006, they received the Young Leadership Award from American ORT. In 2014, the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes presented them with the Melvin S. Cohen Community Service Award. They are also co-chairs, along with several other families, of the Centennial Capital Campaign for the Bender JCC of Greater Washington.

Wendi and Daniel have been married for 23 years and are very proud of their two college kids, Marli and Josh, both of whom are graduates of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School (just like their dad). They are also thrilled to have been "rescued" by their two crazy dogs, Annie and Bella.

2019 ANNUAL GALA



HONORING Tal and Steve Widdes DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Tal and Steve Widdes have been pillars of the Washington, D.C. Jewish and human services communities for over 30 years. From the Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) to the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School to Suburban Hospital, Tal and Steve have shared their expertise, time and energy to nurturing and growing local institutions that provide critical services throughout our region.

Tal served as JSSA's Chief Operating Officer for 14 years, where she oversaw the delivery of services and supports to more than 30,000 individuals per year, managed a budget of over \$20 million, and supervised a staff of nearly 200 employees in Montgomery County and Northern Virginia. Prior to joining JSSA, she had a long, respected career in senior services, including working for Marriott International Senior Living Services and Manor Health Care Services. Upon retiring from JSSA, Tal promptly joined the Board of Directors of the JCRC of Greater Washington, where she is continuing to devote her expertise, insight and energy to the betterment of our community. She is also providing her professional expertise to Main Street, an inclusive, community-based affordable housing development in Rockville for individuals with special needs, and to Identity, Inc., an organization that assists more than 3,000 at-risk Latino youth and their families in Montgomery County. She has also served in volunteer leadership roles at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue and the Alzheimer's Association, and is a past participant in Leadership Montgomery. She obtained her M.P.H. degree, focusing on Health Services Administration, from Yale University, and also holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Rochester.

Steve is the Chair of the Estates & Trusts Department at Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC law firm. He is regularly cited as one of the top lawyers in our region and was recently highlighted on the cover of Super Lawyers magazine noting his status as one of the top 10 Maryland Super Lawyers for the past three years. Steve was also highlighted as a 2018 Washington, DC's Best Lawyers: Trusts and Estates in Washingtonian magazine. He is a past chair of the Maryland Bar Association's Tax Section Council and frequently provides pro bono counsel and education on matters related to charitable and deferred giving, including at several area law schools. Steve began his career working for B'nai B'rith International as the agency's Legacy Development Director and has continuously contributed his invaluable, high-level professional expertise to numerous institutions in Montgomery County. He served on the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington/Charles E. Smith Life Communities for 13 years, with terms as Vice President of Development and co-chair of CESLC's Guardian Campaign; as General Counsel of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation for 5 years, as well as Chair of the synagogue's Planned Giving and Endowment Committee; and is now on the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Philanthropic Advisory Committee. He assisted both JSSA and Suburban Hospital in developing and strengthening their planned giving programs. He received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Drake University and his Masters in Tax from Georgetown University Law Center.

Tal and Steve have often joined forces as a couple to support the institutions and causes to which they are devoted. Together they co-chaired several fundraising campaigns for the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School; served on fundraising committees for PANIM; and co-chaired Adat Shalom's annual retreat. Their greatest collaboration undoubtedly is their beautiful family, which includes three children and three granddaughters.