

AN EVENING WITH FAUDA STAR

INTERVIEW WITH
THE FORWARD'S
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



LIOR RAZ

JODI RUDOREN

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
7:30 PM

CELEBRATION

HONORING



LIZA LEVY

BRESLAU-GOLDMAN AWARD



SUSAN & BRAD STILLMAN

SARA AND SAMUEL LESSANS
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



CHRIS MCCANNELL

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WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the JCRC's first ever online "gala," the JCRC 2020 Celebration!

This has been a year like no other. As a community, we have weathered new challenges and with resilience, optimism and effectiveness, JCRC has succeeded. And tonight, we gather to celebrate the many accomplishments that strengthened and nourished our community during this uncertain 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:

- Advocated for local agencies and helped secure PPE, emergency funds, and government grants critical for our community's social services and security needs.
- Strengthened interfaith coalition efforts and addressed the disparate impact of the pandemic on our region's most vulnerable populations.
- Advocated for equitable economic recovery plans in our schools and communities.
- Mobilized more than 100 community institutions to join the JCRC in committing to dismantling institutionalized racism, and created a toolkit of anti-racism resources.
- Continued to keep community members connected with online programs and Israel advocacy opportunities, and brought together more than 12,000 people to commemorate Yom Ha'Shoah virtually.

Your support for the JCRC and this online celebration is more important than ever. We are grateful for every gift, and offer 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 partner agencies and synagogues for your partnership.

We are inspired that the community, even during these difficult times, 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 celebrating Liza Levy, Susan and Brad Stillman, and Chris McCannell for their incredible leadership. And please enjoy the conversation with *The Forward's* Editor-in-Chief Jodi Rudoren and the star of Israel's hit television thriller, *Fauda*, Lior Raz!

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

B'Shalom,
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JCRC 2020 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE

CHRIS MCCANNELL

SARA AND SAMUEL LESSANS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD INTRODUCTION

STUART LESSANS

SARA AND SAMUEL LESSANS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE

SUSAN AND BRAD STILLMAN

BRESLAU-GOLDMAN AWARD PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE

LIZA LEVY

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AN EVENING WITH FAUDA STAR LIOR RAZ

LIOR RAZ

INTERVIEW BY THE FORWARD'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JODI RUDOREN



LIZA LEVY

BRESLAU-GOLDMAN AWARD

In the 36 years since she emigrated from her native South Africa, Liza Levy has left an indelible mark on the Greater Washington Jewish Community. First as a professional and then as a volunteer, Liza has led our community's institutions with wisdom and warmth and spearheaded new initiatives to address unmet needs and catalyze long-term social change.

With a background in early childhood education, Liza taught and later served as director of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington's Early Childhood Department's (former) satellite center in Silver Spring. She then began serving the Jewish community as a full-time lay leader. Liza is a Past President of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, where she currently serves on the Executive Committee and Board. She previously served in numerous leadership positions at Federation, including Vice President for Financial Resource Development, Leadership and Volunteer Development; Vice President for Women's Philanthropy; co-chair of Philanthropic Leadership; and chair of Create a Jewish Legacy, a project of Federation's United Jewish Endowment Fund. She is a past recipient of Federation's Jerome J. Dick Young Leadership Award. Liza has also served on the boards of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, and the Edlavitch DCJCC.

Liza has long championed the advancement of social change and equity for Jewish women and girls. In 1999, she recognized the need for a specialized agency dedicated to addressing and preventing domestic abuse within the Jewish community and co-founded the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA). Today JCADA provides therapeutic, legal, advocacy and prevention services to thousands of local women, families, and youth. In 2004, Liza co-founded Federation's Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation (TOWF) to harness the philanthropic and institutional power of women. To date TOWF has allocated just under two million dollars to promote social change for women and girls in Greater Washington and Israel and empowered more than 100 women to become philanthropic investors in our local Jewish community. In recognition of her tremendous impact, Liza has received JCADA's Barbara Rabkin Eshet Chayil Award and Jewish Women International's (JWI) Women to Watch Award.

Nationally, Liza serves on the board of the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) as co-chair of the annual board fund. Previously, she was a member of Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) National Young Leadership Cabinet and received JFNA's Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award.

Liza's greatest pride and joy are her three adult children Justin, Allison, and Lindsay.



SUSAN & BRAD STILLMAN

SARA AND SAMUEL LESSANS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Susan, a Montgomery County, MD native, and Brad, originally from Illinois, have served as pillars of leadership in the Greater Washington Jewish Community for decades.

Susan's activism was inspired by her parents, Sol (who now lives in Israel) and Rita, z"l. She began her community leadership at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County where she served as Membership Chair. An avid reader, she co-chaired the Bender JCC of Greater Washington's Book Festival for two years and served on the Book Selection Committee. Susan inspired women on trips to Israel as a City Leader for Momentum (formerly JWRF) and the Bender JCC and joined the Advisory Board of The Friendship Circle of Maryland after her son Ben participated in their programs. In her professional life, Susan is a blogger and freelance writer who often writes about life experiences through a Jewish lens. Her blog, Let Me Tell You Something, has hundreds of followers, and she has been published in The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune, Kveller, and Grown & Flown.

Brad is also a dedicated volunteer for Jewish organizations in the Washington area. He currently serves as Board Vice Chair for Capital Camps and Retreat Center and sits on the finance and budget committee for Momentum. Brad is a participant in The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's inaugural Jewish Community Leadership Program and previously served on Federation's Strategic Planning and Allocations Committee and as chair of the Jewish Life and Learning Committee. He also served as president of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington Board. Brad is the Chief Executive of the American College of Gastroenterology, the leading clinical gastroenterology physician organization with more than 15,000 members. Prior to joining the American College of Gastroenterology in 2002, Brad spent a decade working in telecommunications policy, first as a consumer advocate and later for MCI Telecommunications and MCI/WorldCom. Brad earned a JD from DePaul University College of Law and a BS in Media from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Susan and Brad live in Potomac and are the proud parents of Jacob, Ben, Gabriel, and Naomi.



CHRIS MCCANNELL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Chris McCannell is a senior government relations consultant in the Washington, DC office of the Florida-based law firm, GrayRobinson. Chris helps his clients in financial services, hospitality, and transportation navigate Capitol Hill to get high-impact results.

Chris is originally from Portland, Maine and came to Washington, DC to work on Capitol Hill where he began a fifteen-year career including eight years as chief of staff to Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY).

As a Jew by Choice, Chris has been a lifelong supporter of Israel and engagement with the Jewish community. After spending a summer in college in Israel with the Sar-El, Volunteers for Israel Program, Chris went on to be a vocal advocate on Capitol Hill for the U.S.-Israel relationship. Since his first trip to Israel, Chris has returned six times to expand his knowledge of the Jewish state. He twice visited Israel with A Wider Bridge, a group that promotes equality in Israel and for Israel, where he led a roundtable on the 40th Anniversary of Tel Aviv Pride. Chris also traveled to Israel on AIPAC's LGBT mission in 2018.

Chris has deep experience working in Jewish and pro-Israel advocacy. He previously served on the advisory board of A Wider Bridge and currently serves as a Board Member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington and on the board of Tzedek DC, a group dedicated to ensuring lower income Washingtonians understand their legal rights and learn financial literacy.

Chris is also a member of the Washington, DC AIPAC Regional Council and a member of AIPAC's New Leadership Network. He is an active member of Washington Hebrew Congregation, and he and his partner co-chair the Couples Club affinity group. Chris has been recognized by the Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life for his dedication to the Jewish community.

Chris holds a BA in political science with a concentration in international relations from Fordham University. He and his partner, Ven Neralla, live in Washington,.

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THAT IS TZEDAKAH: CHARITY AS JUSTICE."

-RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS

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