BCC

VISION 2021 AWARDS

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

CELEBRATING VISIONARIES AND SEEKERS OF JUSTICE

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
בית חיים חדשים

BCC in its 50th Year

Our 2021 Vision Awards celebration is also the kickoff event for our yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC), the House of New Life. Since 1972, BCC has been a pioneer in promoting diversity and inclusiveness in Jewish life in Los Angeles and beyond. Founded by gay men and lesbians, BCC is now a thriving congregation that also welcomes bisexual, transgender, and non-binary Jews, Jews by choice and Jews of color, progressive straight Jewish and non-Jewish allies, and all who share our values.

A member of the Union for Reform Judaism, BCC offers spiritual, educational, and community service, an innovative family based religious school, and a variety of cultural activities throughout the year. Ten years ago this spring, we marched with our beloved Torahs to dedicate our new spiritual home at 6090 W. Pico Blvd.

Read on to discover more about what this unique congregation has achieved over the years and about some of the remarkable visionaries who have contributed to our success.

PROGRAM
BCC Vision Awards, May 2, 2021

Your host, Adam Kulbersh

Welcome from BCC President, *Jay Jacobs*

A message from BCC Rabbi, *Jillian Cameron*

Presentation of Presidents Award to *Ginger Jacobs*

Presentation of Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award to
Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff, Kyle Young & Steven Salton
and the Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley.

Entertainment by:

Shoshana Bean
Mayim Bialik
Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles
Judy Gold
Nicole Parker
Cantor Juval Porat
Keala Settle
and some surprise guests!

BCC Vision Awards 2021
Sponsors and Premium Ticketholders

Presenting Sponsors ($50,000+):

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff
Kyle Young & Steven Salton
Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley

Sapphire Sponsors ($10,000):

Robin Berkovitz & Laurie Newman
Marsha Epstein & Aviyah Farkas
Jerry Hanson & Les Zendle
Brett Trueman

Emerald Sponsors ($7,500):

Steve Hochstadt & Steve Sass

Ruby Sponsors ($5,000):

Allison Diamant

Topaz Sponsors ($3,000):

Ahavah Brooks
Ira Dankberg & Rob Schoenberger
Diane Goodman & Nicolasa Nevarez
Jay Jacobs
Mark Miller
Larry Nathenson
Eldon Teper

Premium Ticketholders

Platinum ($1,000):

Tamara Kline
Bruce Maxwell
Maggie & Dave Parkhurst
Arthur Slepian
Jeff Soref

Silver ($500):

Lee Alhadeff
Adam Barron
Steve Bryan
Edward Casson
Marguerita DeLuca
Albert Epstein
Mark Farber
Wilma Friedman
Donna and Cecilia Quigley Groman
Dean Hansell
Sarah Holmes
Joanne Laipson
David Levy
Stephen Licker
Deborah Lowe
Michael Main
Stan Notkin & Bruce Warner
Jim Potter & Michelle Huneven
Lea Rosendahl
Elizabeth Savage & Roxy Bickerstaff
Connor Stone
James Sutherland
Judith Traum
Arline Vogel
Ronnie Wexler
Elise Zimmerman

And the Bubbe Bunch

This Year's Esteemed Honorees:

Presidents Award

Recognizing outstanding BCC members for their dedicated service and leadership within the congregation and in the community at large.

Ginger Jacobs

Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award

Honoring individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities.

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff, Kyle Young & Steven Salton, and Schmitt-Young Group

Presidents Award

Ginger Jacobs

Ginger Jacobs embodies the strong Jewish values of her parents. In the 1950s and 1960s, they were part of the American Jewish Committee, which addresses social justice issues with a Jewish lens. Her father taught how to do sit-ins and other protests. Her mother helped with consciousness raising groups, some interfaith and/or interracial. Ginger learned, by example, that she too had a personal responsibility to stand up and fight injustice whenever she sees it.

Ginger was raised in Coral Gables, a small town adjacent to Miami, in a thoroughly Jewish but non-religious household. She was a leader in B'nai B'rith Girls and active in social justice efforts. Ginger was very involved in the Anti-Vietnam War movement. She protested, lobbied politicians, organized workshops and educational forums and met with and supported Vietnam vets. Ginger proudly helped conceive of and build a unique park for peace in an area for kids who needed a safe place to play.

Once Vietnam fell, Ginger helped refugees find American sponsors and get settled in their new country. She hosted a family in her own home. Ginger also worked with Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society to help resettle Indo-Chinese refugees into the US.

Ginger helped to finally and effectively integrate the Los Angeles school system to better serve all students. In 1978, the mayor of LA honored Ginger for her humanitarianism.

Ginger became an honorary member of BCC in 1973, having been introduced to the congregation by founding patron, Rabbi Erwin Herman, *z'l*. When searching for a new congregational home in 1988, Ginger chose BCC because of its warm and welcoming *kehillah* (community) and spirit. Friends asked Ginger, who was then single, "How are you going to find a date? The men are all gay!" Turns out, *not* all the men were gay! Ginger started dating longtime acquaintance, Ed London *z'l*, and it was *beshert* (meant to be). Like Ginger, Ed was a real *mensch*. Rabbi Lisa Edwards officiated their wedding in 1999. Sadly, Ed passed from cancer soon after. But Ginger carries on his spirit with each act of menchiness.

Ginger worked with the LA Olympics Committee to successfully bring the games here in 1984. She spent years as a health educator and was active in the early days of *Nechama,* the Jewish response to HIV/AIDS. She has participated in breast cancer walks, as a survivor and as a helper to other walkers. Ginger served on the North American Board of the Union for Reform Judaism as well as on various committees, nationally and regionally.

Being a BCC member is how Ginger is connected to Jewish people – ALL Jewish people. Her quiet demeanor disguises a fierce and passionate dedication to her beloved synagogue community.

First brought onto the BCC board in 1995 by past president and dear friend Marie-Jeanne Lambert, Ginger has served on and chaired numerous committees including Ritual, Social Action, and Education. She has taught a multitude of classes, helped start the Book Group, and guided many in the art of baking challah. She brought her baking skills to the children of BCC with hamantaschen-making lessons. Currently she is Vice-President and Co-Chair of the Rabbinic Search Committee. In that latter capacity, she helped lead a transparent, community-based process to wonderful success, our new Rabbi Jillian Cameron!

Looking to the future, Ginger sees BCC's biggest challenge to be how we move forward in the age of the pandemic. How do we evolve to meet the moment safely? How do we keep/bring the community together? Ginger knows that, just as BCC survived the horrible early days of HIV/AIDS and came through stronger, we can do that again. And we can be a leader to others.

Ginger Jacobs does what is just and kind, not for credit, but because it's the right thing to do and she knows how to do it. She raised her children, and is teaching her 8 grandchildren, to carry on her legacy of fighting injustice. Ginger believes, "If you want to really heal the world, raise strong children to be strong adults and changemakers." As in her family, Ginger is a true matriarch of BCC, spreading her wisdom, kindness and determination to everyone she encounters.

Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff, Kyle Young & Steven Salton, and the Schmitt-Young Group

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff

Steven Schmitt was born with congenital talipes equinovarus, where both feet are turned inwards. This had a profound effect on his life, not only in how he physically moved through the world, but also how he perceived the world. As a child, Steven had physical limitations that impacted the relationships he formed and the interests he was and wasn't able to pursue. These were painful times, physically and emotionally. But they would lead him, ultimately, to discovering his life's true purpose.

Steven was initially treated at the non-profit Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. Their mission is to provide specialty care for children, regardless of the family's ability to pay. The Shriner's Hospital was Steven's first realization that organizations with a higher purpose exist. The simple offer of compassion and care, without any expectation in return, was an awakening for him. Here was a whole community of people who just wanted to help. Steven felt more accepted, more connected, and was inspired to carry this generosity forward.

While studying meteorology at Penn State, Steven started day trading. His passion for analysis and a new-found interest in the markets, led him to transition to a degree in finance. He even found a first job that combined finance and weather by working as an energy analyst with Virginia Power. Shortly after, he joined Merrill Lynch, and began working with retail clients. One day he happened to read an article about the lack of financial planning for the LGBTQ community. He knew this was his chance to support a population that really needed it. This would serve as the seed for Schmitt-Young Group (SYG) which would go on to be a world leader in financial management specifically catered to the LGBTQ community as well as become social justice leaders and philanthropists.

Throughout his career, Steven has amassed an impressive list of educational credentials. He holds the CFP® and CRPS® designations and was instrumental in the creation of the ADPA® program. After earning his B.S. degree in Finance at Penn State, Steven obtained his M.B.A. from William Paterson University. Steven's enduring interest and passion for meteorology provides a distinct perspective on environmental conditions that he often incorporates into his investment strategies.

Steven's husband, Paul Bellaff, shares his partner's passion for social justice. The maternal side of Paul's family lived in Poland where they owned a successful cloth factory in Lodz. They had a comfortable home and went to private school. During World War II, the family was rounded up and shipped to various concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Buchenwald. A great majority of them were murdered. For the ones who survived, returning to Lodz wasn't an option. They had lost everything and nearly everyone and needed fresh starts. The survivors scattered across the globe.

His forbearers' story of incredible suffering left an indelible mark on Paul. It made him sensitive to the importance of community and deeply appreciative of those communities that welcome refugees with open arms, like the United States had welcomed his family after World War II.

Being both gay and Jewish meant Paul straddled two often-marginalized groups. He found comfort in providing support to others, particularly the Gay Men's Health Crisis, a non-profit volunteer-based AIDS service organization in New York City. One of his fondest memories is sponsoring a successful dance-a-thon. Paul raised over $10,000, which was a significant feat at the time, and danced for over six hours. He continues to support various charities and organizations to promote equality and justice across America.

It is with Beth Chayim Chadashim that Paul has found a community that openly and joyously celebrates all sides of himself. It is a community that brings together people from disparate backgrounds and welcomes a multitude of life experiences. And it is a community that understands his and Steven's personal truths, that one's physical and emotional scars can translate into a deeper, spiritual understanding of the world.

Kyle Young & Steven Salton

Kyle Young grew up in a single-parent family with little (and at times, no) means. He saw his mother struggle financially her entire life, often being forced into decisions that otherwise might have been made differently. Kyle's mother fostered nearly 60 children, almost all medically fragile, over the course of his childhood. He had a front row seat to her selflessness and sacrifice. That perspective engrained in him an understanding of people and a strong sense of empathy for others. It also gave him a drive and discipline to better his own life, in large part, so he could better the lives of those around him and, like his mother, those who might need it most.

Kyle's career path has led to a very different place from where it began, as a chemistry and education major at a small private school in his home state of New Jersey. Despite loving both areas of focus, neither truly fulfilled him. Like so many Americans, he was working to pay his way through schooling. He realized that the school he was attending was going to financially ruin him before his adult life had even begun. He also realized that the insular community he was living in was preventing him from coming out of the closet and becoming his full self.

Kyle made the difficult decision to wipe the slate clean. He began to study economics at Rutgers University, a school of 40,000+ students, in an urban setting with more culture and openness to people with differing backgrounds and importantly, a much more manageable price tag. The transition also allowed him to live openly and freely as a gay man. It was one of the best decisions of his life.

During his senior year at Rutgers, Kyle was invited to interview for an internship position with Steven Schmitt, who was building his wealth management practice. He was surprised and excited to hear Steven talk about the work he was doing with the LGBTQ community. Kyle describes it as "intoxicating." The idea never occurred to him that he could work in a field that he was passionate about and also directly change the lives of those in his own community. When that interview ended, Kyle stayed and began what would become Day One of his new career. He spent the first 18 months in an administrative role, learning about the engine that keeps any successful wealth management practice moving. In 2006, Kyle shifted into an advisory role and officially started his partnership with Steven. And thus, Schmitt-Young Group was born.

In 2015, Kyle met Steven Salton while vacationing on Fire Island. They would marry in 2020. Steven was born and raised in upstate New York. His brother Bryan was born with Down syndrome and his sister Melissa with congenital talipes equinovarus. And his mother, of blessed memory, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when he was in high school. Watching those he loved most battle lifelong challenges taught him gratitude and patience and inspired him to seek a life of service to others.

Steven graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Ithaca College. Throughout school, he volunteered at local assisted living and nursing facilities, including those for special needs children. Following graduation, he joined AmeriCorps and spent a year working with the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Authorities in D.C. & Philadelphia, Reading & Youth Programs and Urban & Environmental revitalization throughout the Eastern US coastline.

Upon completion of his AmeriCorps service, Steven moved to New York City, leading to a 16-year career at Saks Fifth Avenue & Hudson's Bay Company. Steven has volunteered for and supported a number of local organizations including God's Love We Deliver, NY Cares, and Ali Forney. As Vice President of Event Marketing at Saks Fifth Avenue, he led charitable initiative programs from 2014-2018 raising an average of $1.5M in annual donations for hundreds of charities across the United States. His efforts supported causes focused on the arts, children, education, environment, health, LGBTQ and women.

In addition to the philanthropic work through The Schmitt Young Group, Kyle and Steven are longtime fundraisers for the Human Rights Campaign and more recently for Feeding America in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. They also support research for Multiple Sclerosis, a disease that Steven's mother passed away from at the age of 62 after a heroic 20-year battle.

Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley

Since 2001, Schmitt-Young Group has developed a strong and collaborative practice that focuses on serving the specialized needs of LGBTQ Americans and their allies. They have fostered longstanding relationships with the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C., as well as many Employee Resource Groups at companies around the country. What's more, they collaborated with The College for Financial Planning, who sought their knowledge, experience and insights in the development of their Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor (ADPA®) designation. They've worked with clients and corporations to bring education and clarity to the financial aspects of the ever changing landscape of LGBTQ+ rights, specifically marriage equality.

With offices in New York City, SYG at Morgan Stanley has an experienced advisory team who not only serves the LGBTQ community and its allies but also helps meet the diverse needs of a broader group of clients.

What sets Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley apart from other teams is their clear focus on making a real difference, financially and personally, in the lives of their clients and the broader community. For SYG, clients are much more than a portfolio of assets. They are real people who Steven, Kyle and their team know intimately and think of as extended family. Their lives mean something very personal to SYG. Their joy comes when a client achieves success, however that client defines it.

Steven and Kyle call each other brothers rather than business partners. They have travelled the country together and they have spent almost 20 years building their purpose-driven business. Business has grown exponentially, and it now includes a team of seven people.

Over the years, Steven and Kyle have donated their time, energy, and money to charitable causes, without regard for how it might affect their bottom line. They have been successful in building SYG because they are not in it for the money. They love being able to help improve a person's life. Steven says, "The better we do, the more we can help others." It is this idea that propels SYG forward.

Steven, Kyle, and the entire Schmitt-Young Group understand that communities require care, support, nurturing and attention in order to thrive. Both in their personal lives and with the philanthropy and activism of Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley, Steven and Kyle are making a meaningful difference in the world. Their work provides both a bulwark against the forces that seek to tear us down and also the fire to fuel our efforts to create real and lasting equality, inclusion and acceptance for those who need it most.

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.
CRC 3539227 04/2021

Introducing BCC's New Rabbi, Jillian Cameron

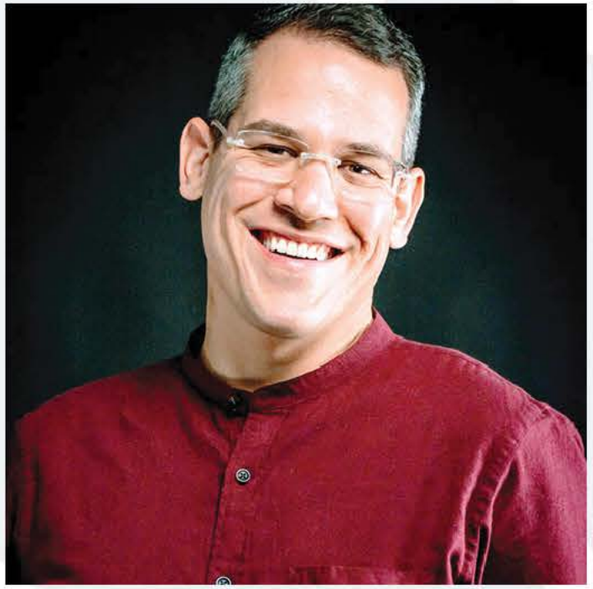
"Mom, Dad, I want to go to Hebrew school." At the age of seven, Jillian Cameron made this announcement to her non-religious, interfaith parents after visiting her best friend's Hebrew school class in her New Jersey hometown. The spark that was kindled in her that day led her on a journey that ultimately brought her to become BCC's rabbi in July 2020.

After receiving her B.A. in Jewish Studies in 2004, Rabbi Cameron worked as a religious school teacher, camp counselor, and Israel trip coordinator. She earned masters degrees in religious education and Hebrew literature at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York on the way to her rabbinic ordination in 2012. Rabbi Cameron served as an assistant rabbi and educator for a congregation in Virginia before moving to Boston to become a community rabbi. As Director of Interfaith Family/Boston, she built relationships with synagogues and Jewish organizations and created innovative programs to assist interfaith families, couples, and individuals in navigating their connection to the Jewish community. She later served as Director of Adult Learning for Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, where she developed additional learning vehicles including a community-wide book read of the latest Dara Horn novel. As a co-founder of Jewish Tribe for Pride in Salem, Mass., she created opportunities for Jews in the North Shore area to become integrated into the LGBTQ+ Jewish community.

When the rabbinic position at BCC opened up, Rabbi Cameron jumped at the opportunity. Accepting our offer, she wrote in part "almost immediately, I felt a special connection with the values, spirit and people of BCC. I knew in my heart that this was the community I longed for and dreamt of as a rabbi and a person." BCC also found Rabbi Cameron ideally suited to our needs and values. She had substantial experience with the diverse population groups that are represented within BCC, including the LGBTQ+ community, interfaith and multicultural families, and Jews by choice.

Rabbi Cameron arrived at BCC in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, after driving across the U.S. with her dog Yasha. This was a challenging time to start a new rabbinate, with few opportunities to meet congregants in person, but she has risen to the occasion with aplomb. Collaborating with Cantor Juval Porat, our religious school staff, and our lay leadership, Rabbi Cameron has adapted expertly to the necessarily virtual format of our Shabbat and holiday services, Torah study, and religious school. Her spiritual leadership, inspiring drashot, and deep Jewish learning are matched by her personal warmth, beautiful singing voice, and talented storytelling. We look forward to the day when we can all meet her in person.

Rabbi Cameron envisions her rabbinate "as a link in the chain of Jewish history and tradition, steeped in continued education from our texts and the stories of our people, past and present. … I am passionate about celebrating the wide diversity within Judaism and those connected to Judaism and I hope to continue to illuminate every story and tend every spark."



Cantor Juval Porat

Cantor Juval Porat, M.Arch. was born in Israel and moved to Germany with his family as a child. He returned to Israel for high school, where he studied at the Bnai Akiva Yeshiva. Returning to Germany for university, he earned a master's degree in architecture and worked as an architect in Berlin.

While in school, Juval served as a cantorial soloist at several congregations. His passion for singing and service leadership led him to pursue cantorial studies at the newly established Institute of Cantorial Arts in Berlin, part of the Abraham Geiger College. He spent his final academic year at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, where he wrote a thesis on the development of the Friday evening liturgy in Germany. In June 2009 he was invested as the first cantor trained in Germany since World War II.

Cantor Porat's career at BCC began while he was still a student, when he served as BCC's Cantor for the High Holy Days in 2008. It felt so right that he was hired as BCC's Cantor the following year. In addition to leading services, Cantor Porat works with BCC's family education program, directs the BCC choir, teaches adult education classes, and works closely with Rabbi Cameron to meet the spiritual and musical needs of our congregation. His highly anticipated annual concerts have attracted cantorial talent from across the country.

From sacred song to pop culture to his own creations, solo or in collaboration, as a published songwriter and recording artist, in drag for Purim or as an elegant interpreter of prayer, Juval aspires to be a spiritual and musical guide along life's journeys. In his spare time, he can be found hiking in nature with his dog Tikvah or cooking vegan meals. His blog can be found at juval-online.com.

BCC's Clergy Emeritae

Rabbi Lisa Edwards, Ph.D., Rabbi Emerita of BCC, has been a Jewish lesbian activist from the pulpit, on the printed page and on the Web, in the classroom, and in the streets of Los Angeles for nearly three decades. From 1994 until 2019, she served as rabbi of BCC. Among her myriad accomplishments, Rabbi Lisa worked especially hard to counteract damage caused by anti- LGBTQ rhetoric and actions from religious communities and families. She continues to participate in a variety of BCC activities and programs. In addition to ordination as a rabbi from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), Lisa holds a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Iowa.

Fran Chalin, Cantorialist Emerita, M.S.W./M.J.C.S., was BCC's Cantorialist for 15 years as well as its Choir Director, and she continues to make guest appearances at BCC. Additionally, she is an important musical force in the community. Her love for and rich knowledge of Yiddish inspired her to create Zingen Far Sholem, Singing for Peace, a Yiddish community chorus, and she continues to perform with the Gay Gezunt Klezmer Band. With degrees in both social work and Jewish communal service, Fran currently works as a full-time hospice chaplain and grief educator in Orange County. She also brings Jewish programming to residents in senior facilities.

Other Clergy who have Graced our Bimah

Rabbi Janet Marder 1983-1988
Cantor Don Croll 1986-1992
Rabbi Denise Eger 1988-1992
Rabbi Mark Blumenthal 1992-1994
Rabbi Aaron Katz, Scholar-in-Residence 2003-2007
Rabbi Heather Miller, 2013-2018
Interim Rabbi Alyson Solomon, 2019-2020

Performers and Award Show Producers

Shoshana Bean is a veteran of the Broadway stage, having made her debut in the original cast of *Hairspray*, starring as Elphaba in *Wicked* and most recently as Jenna in *Waitress*. Her three independent solo albums have all topped the iTunes R&B and Blues charts in the US and UK, with her fourth and most recent project, SPECTRUM, debuting at #1 on the Billboard Jazz charts. She has sold out solo concerts around the globe, lent her voice to countless films and television shows, amassed millions of views on YouTube, and performed alongside Ariana Grande, David Foster, Postmodern Jukebox, Brian McKnight, and Michael Jackson.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, founded in 1979, performs with the harmonic mission of creating a future free from homophobia and all other discrimination. For over 40 years, the Chorus has built an international reputation for musical excellence while remaining deeply rooted in service to the Los Angeles community. They currently have more than 300 members, have toured nationally and internationally, released fifteen CDs, commissioned more than 300 new works and arrangements and appeared frequently on national television, including the Academy Awards. The Chorus since its inception has accomplished many firsts including the first gay men's chorus ever to perform for a sitting President of the United States, Bill Clinton (and subsequently Barack Obama) and the first gay chorus to tour Central Europe and South America.

Mayim Hoya Bialik is best known for her lead role as Blossom Russo in the early-1990s NBC television sitcom *Blossom*, and most recently for playing the role of Amy Farrah Fowler on the hit CBS comedy, *The Big Bang Theory*. Following the iconic show's ending, Bialik and her production company, *Sad Clown Productions*, announced a new series for FOX, *Call Me Kat*. She wrote and will direct her first movie, *As Sick as They Made Us*, starring Dustin Hoffman, Candice Bergen, Dianna Agron and Simon Helberg. After earning a PhD in Neuroscience from UCLA, Bialik has authored books, hosted the podcast *Mayim Bialik's Breakdown*, and become a frequent contributor to a variety of Jewish publications via the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and 70 Faces Media. She can be found on social media at: @missmayim.

Judy Gold is a standup comedian, actress, television writer, producer and LGBTQ+ activist. She has had award-winning stand-up specials on HBO, Comedy Central and LOGO as well as written and starred in two critically acclaimed, Off-Broadway hit shows: *The Judy Show – My Life as a Sitcom* and the GLAAD Media Award winning 25 Questions for a Jewish Mother. Judy has hosted the GLAAD Media Awards on VH1 and currently hosts a free, weekly podcast, *Kill Me Now*, that focuses on everything that annoys her and her guests. She is a frequent guest on nightly and morning talk shows, episodic television and had articles published in *The New York Times*. Judy is the proud winner of two Emmys for her work as a writer and producer on The Rosie O'Donnell Show.

Adam Kulbersh is a working character actor with appearances on dozens of TV shows across the dial for decades. From *Grey's Anatomy* to *Modern Family* to *NCIS,* if it's on television, Adam's probably popped by to play "second Jew from left" on it. Currently, he can be seen on FX's award-winning series *Better Things.* Adam is also a writer who has sold TV series and feature films ranging from raucous adult comedies to heart-centered romances to large-scale dramas. He's currently working on a new take on the classic Hallmark rom-com as well as a heart-driven comedy about his life as single, gay dad.

Keala Settle is an actress and singer with powerful performances on stage and screen. She mesmerized audiences with her rousing performance of *This is Me* in the film, *The Greatest Showman* opposite Hugh Jackman. Her rendition of it at the 2018 Academy Awards brought the audience to their feet and helped propel the films soundtrack to become the bestselling album of 2018. She's starred on Broadway as Madame Thenardier in *Les Misérables,* and originated the role of Becky in the musical *Waitress.* For her performance in *Hands on a Hardbody,* Keala was nominated for the Outer Critics Circle Award, Drama Desk Award, and the Tony Award.

Nicole Parker has appeared on Broadway in *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me, The People in the Picture* with Donna Murphy, and as Elphaba in *Wicked.* Nicole played Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl* and won a Los Angeles Ovation award for Best Actress in a musical. Nicole was a regular on Fox's *Madtv* for six years. She performs as a featured vocalist with symphonies across the country including The National Symphony in DC, Houston Symphony, and many more. She hosts an improvised comedy podcast with Paul F. Tompkins called *The Neighborhood Listen,* available on Stitcher.

6WENTERTAINMENT

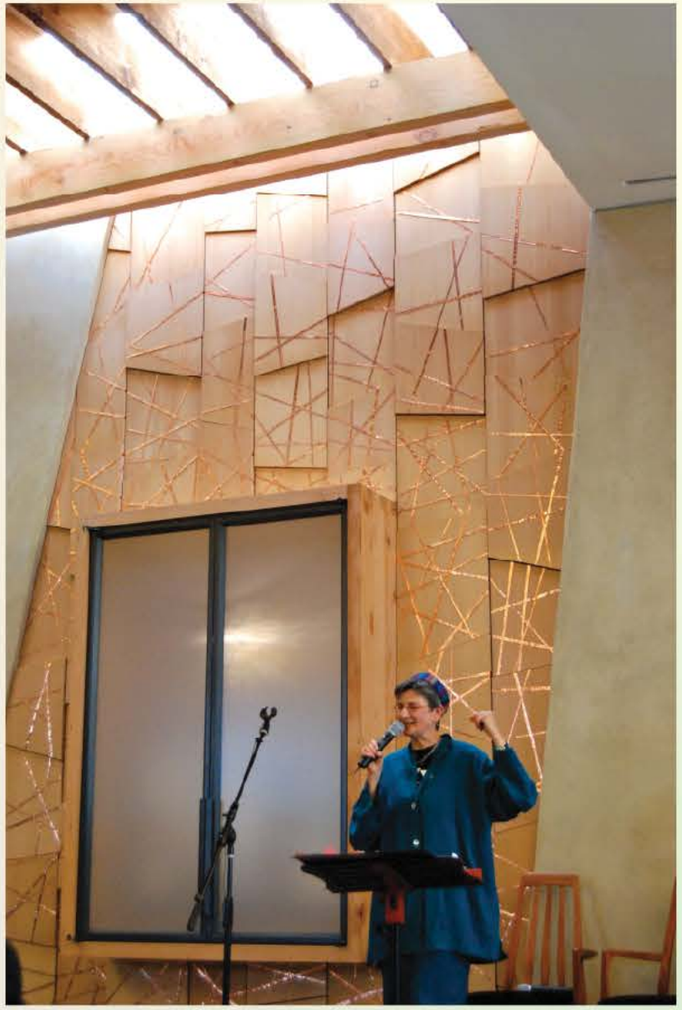
6W Entertainment (Vision Awards virtual producer), is a production company created by Erich Bergen, based out of New York City and Los Angeles. Born in early 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 6W Entertainment has produced over 50 television specials and virtual events including Saturday Night Seder, *UNICEF Won't Stop, The Rosie O'Donnell Show Livestream* and other projects featuring such names as Cher, George Clooney, Oprah Winfrey, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, John Legend, Amanda Gorman, H.E.R., Bruce Springsteen, Clive Davis, Alicia Keys, Secretary Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama.

BCC in its 50th Year

Part One: Our 50th year as a safe and ever growing space to be all of who we are

When BCC was founded in April 1972, same-sex activity between consenting adults was illegal, homosexuality was still classified as a mental illness, and to be openly lesbian or gay often meant loss of employment, rejection by family, and ostracism from the Jewish community. The idea of a safe Jewish space for gay men and lesbians began with four Jews who showed up for a weekly rap group at Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), the first gay-oriented non-denominational Christian church, which was itself less than four years old. Encouraged by MCC's Reverend Troy Perry, these Jews held Jewish services in MCC's building until it was destroyed in a fire of suspicious origin on January 26, 1973, the same night that BCC's name was selected. BCC then became a wandering shul, meeting at Leo Baeck Temple, a dance studio, and MCC's new LA home before purchasing a storefront at 6000 W. Pico Blvd. in 1977.

During the more than 30 years that 6000 W. Pico remained BCC's home, many of our members dreamed of a larger space but didn't think we could afford it. Spearheaded by then BCC President Brett Trueman, a very successful capital campaign enabled us to purchase a nearby building at 6090 W. Pico in 2009. Dedicated in April 2011 after extensive renovations, BCC's new home had a full kitchen, offices for our clergy, and a library and classroom. The new building was LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified for its "green" features such as solar panels on the roof, recycled materials for insulation and carpeting, and drought-resistant landscaping. It also contained such member-created works of art as our beautiful stained glass windows and the "story lines" project of engraved copper strips on the sanctuary wall (see photo).



Part Two: Our 50th year of Jewish engagement and pioneering liturgy and learning

In 1974, only two years after its founding, BCC applied for admission to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism). Despite opposition from some more traditional rabbis, BCC became the first primarily gay and lesbian congregation of any faith to be accepted by a mainstream denomination. During its early years, BCC was a pioneering congregation in egalitarian worship with lay service leaders and the creation of life cycle rituals for lesbian and gay individuals and couples. At a time when most temples (including Reform ones) still used male language for God, BCC member Harriet Perl, z'l, initiated the creation of the first prayerbook with degenderized language in English. In 1986, Jewish feminist scholar Savina Teubal, z'l, created the *simchat chochmah* (celebration of wisdom) liturgy for her 60th birthday and introduced the now well-known song "Lechi Lach," composed by Savina and Debbie Friedman, z'l, a talented composer and singer who helped to revitalize Jewish music in the last two decades of the 20th century. Our tradition of creative liturgy continues today as we use our own Shabbat evening prayerbook compiled by our clergy and members with many unique prayers and readings that speak to our community. Our monthly egalitarian Shabbat morning minyan serves those who prefer a more traditional experience.

With its predominantly adult membership, BCC has long had an active adult education program with weekly Torah study, prominent guest speakers on feminist and LGBT Jewish topics, and group adult b'nai mitzvah ceremonies. BCC helped create the Queer Jewish Think Tank for queer Talmud study and has helped nurture a new generation of queer clergy now serving in congregations throughout the country. As more BCC members have created families with children, BCC also inaugurated an innovative program of intergenerational learning with its Ohr Chayim religious school.

Part Three: Our 50th year of fighting for equality and justice

Beyond providing a safe space for our own members, BCC has always promoted its values of equality and justice in the larger society of which we are a part. BCC was a founding member of the World Congress of GLBT Jews, now a worldwide organization of synagogues and other Jewish groups. Closer to home, our first ordained rabbi, Janet Marder, inaugurated a speakers bureau to promote acceptance of lesbian and gay Jews in the LA Jewish community in the 1980s. BCC members also engaged in community outreach programs such as Project Caring, leading monthly Shabbat services in convalescent homes (see photo). Over the years, our Tzedakah Council has pooled BCC members' donations to contribute to a myriad of worthy charities in LA and around the world.

In the 1980s BCC and the larger gay community were devastated by the new disease of HIV/AIDS. While mourning the loss of numerous members at relatively young ages, BCC's clergy and congregation rose to the occasion to comfort each other and the broader public. We sponsored dinners at BCC for Persons with AIDS (PWAs) and their partners, brunches for hospitalized PWAs, and inaugurated a new speakers bureau to educate the Jewish community. Rabbi Marder and BCC president Les Zendle, along with BCC member Dr. Mark Katz, created Nechama: A Jewish Response to AIDS. Later a part of Jewish Family Service, this organization continues as Project Chicken Soup, providing nutritious kosher meals for PWAs and others throughout the LA area.

Rabbi Lisa Edwards, who served BCC for 25 years from 1994 to 2019, played a leading role in the opposition to the infamous Proposition 8 that threatened to revoke marriage equality for same-sex couples in 2008. She performed more than 40 weddings during the summer and fall of that year and also married her own partner, lezbtzn Tracy Moore, in a ceremony performed by Representative Karen Bass (see photo). Rabbi Edwards also joined with clergy of other faiths in the LA area to promote social justice for the homeless population and other marginalized groups through such organizations as One LA. Our current clergy, Rabbi Jillian Cameron and Cantor Juval Porat, continue the BCC tradition of advocating for equality and justice within our community and in the larger society of which we are a part.

Part Four: Our 50th year of celebration and music

At BCC, we know how to party! From our outrageous Purim spiels and Hanukkah parties to our annual awards brunches, we have always celebrated with a uniquely gay flair! And we have often shared our passion with the wider community, as we did with our reunion of Holocaust survivor Torah scrolls housed by congregations throughout Southern California in 2005 (see photo).

BCC was known as a singing congregation even before we had professional cantorial leadership. Our tradition of participatory services from our first years with lay leadership continued with Cantor Don Croll and later Cantorialist Fran Chalin. All helped shape our love of both sacred music and folk music while creating and nurturing a choir and our Gay Gezunt klezmer band (see photo). Our innovative monthly Ruach Chayim musical Shabbat services began about 15 years ago, adding to our tradition of musical spirituality.

Since his arrival at BCC in 2009, Cantor Juval Porat, the first cantor invested in Germany since World War II, has deepened BCC's appreciation for music as an integral part of our liturgy and our congregational life. His annual December concerts have attracted musical talent from around Southern California, and his CDs and original compositions have rejuvenated BCC's musical legacy.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Rabbi Cameron and Cantor Porat have found numerous innovative ways to comfort those who feel isolated and to continue celebrating our community and our Jewish heritage. And in this new digital age, with geographic distance no longer an obstacle to participation in BCC services and programs, congregants outside the LA area have become more connected than ever before.

Past BCC Honorees

Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award

1985 Joel D. Weisman, O.D.*
1986 Shanti Foundation
1987 Rabbi Lennard Thal
1988 Judge Jerrold Krieger*,
Rabbi Janet Marder
1990 Rev. Troy Perry
1992 Stu Zinn*
1994 Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis*
1998 Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl
1999 Rabbi Lisa Edwards
2000 Commissioner Donna Groman,
Judge Jerrold Krieger*
2001 Dr. Aviva Kamin & Elise Asch
2002 U.S. Congressman Barney Frank
2004 Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg,
Jon Davidson, Esq., Jennifer Pizer, Esq.
2005 Dean Hansell, Esq. & Jason
Murakawa
2006 Assemblymember Mark Leno
2007 Mark Schuster & Jeff Webb
2008 Steven Koltai
2009 Zvi Howard Rosenman
2010 Bill Resnick
2011 Diane Goodman &
Nicolasa Cecilia Nevarez
2012 Mark Katz, M.D.
2013 David Codell
2014 Brad Sears
2015 Jeffrey Tambor
2016 Gwen Walden
2017 Agnes Herman
2018 Elizabeth Savage
* = Of blessed memory

Presidents Award

2003 Les Zendle & Jerry Hanson
2004 Stephen Sass & Steven Hochstadt
2005 Rabbi Lisa Edwards & Tracy Moore
2006 Harriet Perl*
2007 Lauren Schlau & Lana Soroko
2008 Allison Diamant, M.D.
2009 Mark Miller & Brett Trueman
2010 Hannah Theile & Kenna Love
2011 Ira Dankberg, A.I.A., LEED AP
2012 Davi Cheng & Bracha Yael
2013 Ray Eelsing
2014 Felicia Park-Rogers
2015 Bruce Maxwell
2016 Larry Nathenson
2017 Richard Lesse
2018 Maggie Anton & David Parkhurst

Harriet Perl Tzedek Award

2013 Laurie Newman & Robin Berkovitz
2014 Joshua Irving Gershick & Elissa Barrett
2015 Sylvia Sukop & Bonnie Kaplan
2016 Evan Wolfson & Marc Solomon
2018 Congressmember Karen Bass

Special Award Recipients

2010 Community Spirit Award – Wells Fargo
2011 HaBonim (Builders) Awards
- Howard CDM, 6090 Building Contractor
- Toni Lewis & Marc Schoeplein, Lewis/Schoeplein Architects
- Glenn Melnick, Ramsey-Schilling Real Estate (BCC's broker)
- Felicia Park-Rogers, BCC Executive Director
- Mark Randall, Mark Randall Company (Capital Campaign Consultant)
- Brett Trueman, Past President and Capital Campaign Co-Chair

2012 BCC Freedom Award – Aaron Belkin
2017 BCC Musical Culture Awards
- Phranc
- Cantor Juval Porat
- Tamara Kline
- Jeanelle LaMance
- Cantor Don Croll
- Cantorialist Emerita Fran Chalin

2019 BCC Vision Award – Rabbi Lisa Edwards & Tracy Moore

Past Presidents of BCC:

Sherry Sokoloff* 1972 (interim)
Stu Zinn* 1972-1973
Mike Nisenoff 1973-1974
Milt Jinowsky* 1974-1975
Arnold Pincus* 1975-1977
Benn Howard* 1977-1979
Louis Hirsch 1979-1980
Rick Wasserman 1980-1981
Gary Vogel 1981-1983
Tom Johnson 1983-1985
Fred Shuldiner* 1985-1986
Aviva Kamin 1986-1988
Les Zendle 1988-1990
Ralph Stevens* 1990-1992
Noah Alexander 1992-1995
Marie-Jeanne Lambert 1995-1997
Joshua D. Wayser 1997-1999
David Mill, 1999-2002
Davi Cheng 2002-2005
Brett Trueman 2005-2009
Bruce Maxwell 2009-2013
Lauren Schlau 2013-2017
Richard Lesse 2017-2019
* = Of Blessed Memory

TRIBUTES FROM

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE HONOREES

Congratulations

MOM / BUBBE

WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH

THE BUBBE BUNCH

MICAH, TAMMY, ARI, JOSH, BRYN, JAY, TINA, JENNA

BROOKE, ASHER, HAYDEN, BENJAMIN, SARAH, NATHANIEL, JESSIE, SYLVIA

LINDA, ESTHER, ALAN, KAY, LARRY, JUDIANNE, SYD, LINNIE, BOB

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, *Director*
Susan Friedberg Kalson,
Chair, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

Arthur and Sara Jo Kobacker Building
2027 Massachusetts Avenue NW, at Kivie Kaplan Way,
Washington, DC 20036
202.387.2800 @theRAC RAC.org

Dear Friends at Beth Chayim Chadashim,

What a source of joy for me to offer words of tribute to Ginger Jacobs on her receiving this year's BCC Presidents Award. BCC is a remarkable synagogue, whose contribution to the reshaping of the Jewish people's understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity will be celebrated for centuries to come in the history of this transformative era. And Ginger Jacobs has played a role in all of that. Her early embrace of gay rights, her urging the Reform Movement to bring BCC into the URJ family, her strong position in confronting the HIV/AIDS crisis, and her close relations with Erv and Ag Herman in pushing these agendas made such a difference.

This provides just one of the deep connections I have with Ginger. It is, in fact, a challenge for me to convey adequately the manifold reasons for my deep appreciation and abiding affection for your honoree over the four decades during which we have been friends.

Yes, it is, in part, attributable to her inspiring leadership at BCC. It is, in part, her boundless service to varied synagogues as well as to the regional and national institutions of Reform Judaism. It is, in part, her years on the National Board of the URJ and her work there nurturing new congregations and serving on our taskforce addressing the challenges Jewish families face. And it is certainly due to her remarkable legacy of social justice leadership, where she and I have worked most closely -- from her chairing BCC's social action committee to her distinguished service on the Reform Movement's Commission on Social Action overseeing the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and guiding the URJ's national public policy work. Building on her anti-Vietnam War work, she and I first worked together in the '70s with the Hermans, Al Vorspan, and HIAS on behalf of S.E. Asian refugees. Her service on our national HIV/AIDS Joint URJ/CCAR taskforce and her years of advocacy on behalf of gay rights, refugee rights, and racial justice, as well as her work as a health educator -- all these represent the highest ideals of *tikkun olam*.

Above all, however, it is her kind heart and her empathetic generous spirit that enchanted me when we first met. Ginger is one of the kindest, most thoughtful, most generous people I know. Whether she was visiting people struggling with AIDS, hosting a refugee family in her home, knitting baby blankets for newborns, or making people coming into the BCC family feel so welcome, Ginger Jacobs radiates that Jewish vision of what the world should be -- and could be if we only we would make it so.

So I know I speak for so many of the leaders and institutions of the national Reform Jewish movement when I offer her a heartfelt mazal tov on the Vision Award you bestow on her this evening.

May you go, Ginger, my dear friend, m'chayil l'chayil, from strength to strength for many years to come.

Rabbi David Saperstein
Director Emeritus

Let us raise a glass to my friends Steven and Paul for receiving the Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award. Steven and Paul are quiet philanthropists who assist family, friends and key organizations that align with their personal values. I remember conversations with Steven and Paul from years ago about the need to support the LGBTQ+ community and have seen this vision became a reality. I admire their invaluable contributions and generosity that promote equality and justice. I know that Dave is so proud of what Steven and Paul have accomplished.

Scott Bowker

Congratulations, Steven and Paul, on this incredible humanitarian award. I only know of a few people that can inspire others to achieve greatness. You are two of those special people who inspire me and many others of the LGBTQ community to be kind, work hard, and follow one's dreams. Your drive and passion are infectious. The road to success is littered with obstacles. While others have given up and turned away from me, you both have been there for me in ways I can't even describe, and I am eternally grateful. You have taught me to push my way through any obstacle. I know that this achievement is only one of many the future will bring. Congratulations again -- I love you both so much!

-Blake Catapane

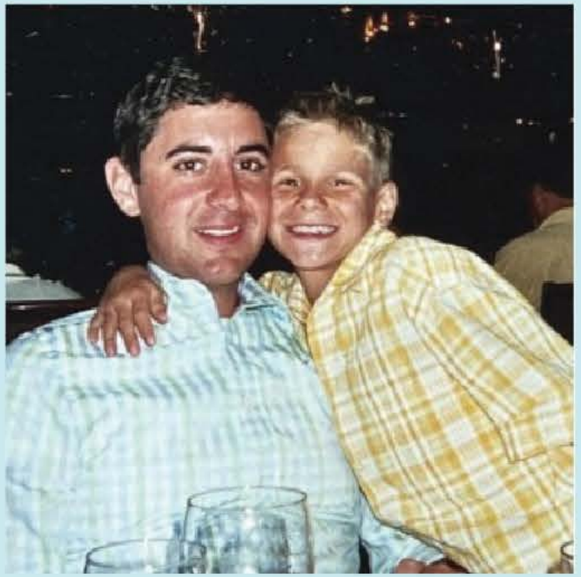
Selflessness. Vitality. Community. We live in a time where these attributes have lost their seat at the table. It takes individuals to serve causes larger than ourselves to remind each other why we're here, and ultimately change the world. We are proud to see you doing your part, and have no doubt that you'll continue to do so.

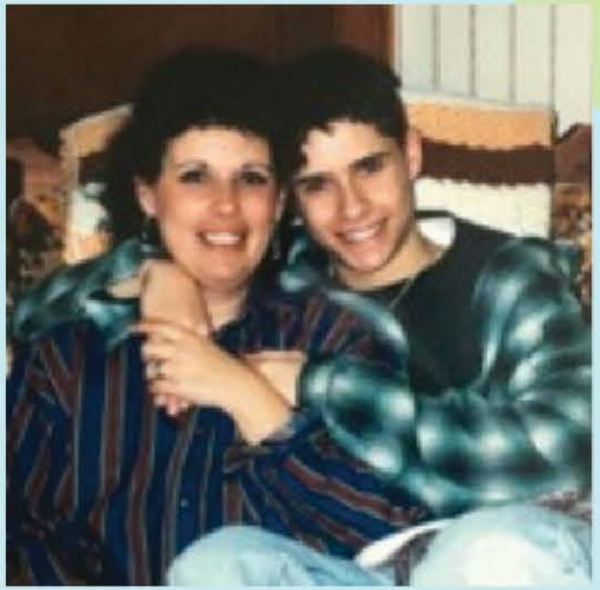
LOVE ALWAYS,
JONATHAN, TERESA, MARTHA &
MARCELO

A joint life philosophy grounded in kindness with a commitment to giving all of themselves to those in and around them. Giving back is an interesting term, because it is as if you have taken something away. They are not giving back, they are fulfilling a deep, moral and heartfelt desire to build up their community.

In memory of Kyle's brother LJ and Steven's mother Cindy.

Love, the families of Kyle and Steven



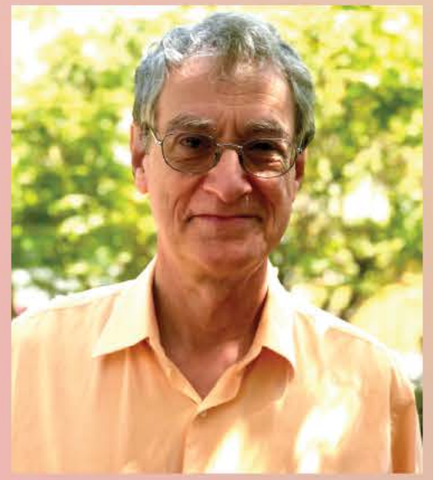


SAPPHIRE SPONSORS

Thank you so much, Ginger, for your dedication to tikkun olam and for your devotion to BCC.You are truly a blessing to our community.

Thank you, Steven & Paul and Kyle & Steven, for your many contributions to LGBTQ communities and to others in need and for your strong support of BCC.

With love and respect,
Brett Trueman



BCC's 2021 Vision Awards Honorees:

Thank you for your commitment to Jewish values and your contribution to improving the world.

Presidents Award
Ginger Jacobs

Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award
Steven Schmitt and his husband, Paul Bellaff
Kyle Young and his husband, Steven Salton
along with the Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley

Congratulations from
Marsha Epstein and Aviyah Farkas

Mazel Tov to the well-deserving honorees. We are very much looking forward to celebrating BCC's 50th (GOLDEN) anniversary in 2022.

Les Zendle, M.D. and Jerry Hanson
Members since 1981

Congratulations and thank you to all the deserving honorees!

Ginger, Mazel Tov on receiving the Presidents Award! How blessed we are receiving your goodness, kindness and long time devotion to our beloved BCC!

Thank you to the Schmitt-Young Group for your generosity, leadership and commitment to justice.

With great affection and admiration,

Robin Berkovitz and Laurie Newman

EMERALD SPONSOR

May the Holy One מי שברך
bless הוא יברך
those who את-כל מי
devotedly involve themselves שעוסקים
with the needs of the community בצרכי צבור
--Torah service

Mazal tov u'vchol hakavod

Ginger

on this well-deserved recognition!

With our love, admiration and appreciation,

Steve & Steve

RUBY SPONSOR

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
בית חיים חדשים

CONGRATULATIONS and MAZEL TOV to Ginger for this very well-deserved award. I am so very grateful to you for your many years of dedication and service to the BCC community, and to the larger Jewish community of Los Angeles and beyond. You have been and continue to be an inspiration to me and to all of us, THANK YOU.

Congratulations also to the Schmitt-Young group, whose members have provided many years of service to the LGBTQ+ community through your philanthropy and professional advice. Thank you for choosing to honor us by accepting this award.

Allison Diamant

TOPAZ SPONSORS

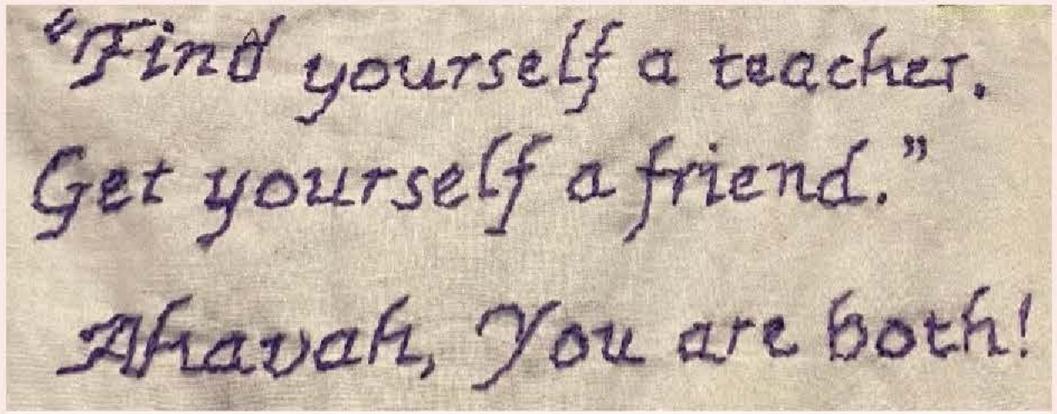
Congratulations, Ginger. I am in awe of all that you have done for BCC and the larger Jewish community over the 30 plus years I have known you. I am honored to be a founding member of the BCC book group along with you, and to have served under your leadership on the Rabbinic Search Committee that brought Rabbi Jillian Cameron to BCC last year. May we enjoy the blessings of your presence in our community for many more years!

Love,
Larry Nathenson

Congratulations Ginger

In recognition of, and with much thanks for the contributions, support, encouragement and love you give to all of us at BCC.

Eldon Teper



"Find yourself a teacher.
Get yourself a friend."
Ginger, you are both!
Lots of ahavah,
Ahavah

— Ginger Jacobs —

Congratulations, dear Ginger, on receiving BCC's 2021 Presidents Award.
It is a wonderfully and richly deserved honor. Your connection to and achievements at BCC ever since you joined in 1988 -- serving as a Member of the Board, Chair of numerous Committees, Vice-President, Volunteer in the BCC Office and Teacher -- have been phenomenal. And the list goes on and on. Your commitment to tikkun olam through social justice and equity, community outreach and concern for the needs of others, extend beyond BCC to the greater Los Angeles Jewish community as well. Simply put, your core values, ethics and character embody *menschlichait*. With utmost appreciation, fondness, and friendship,

Love, Mark Miller

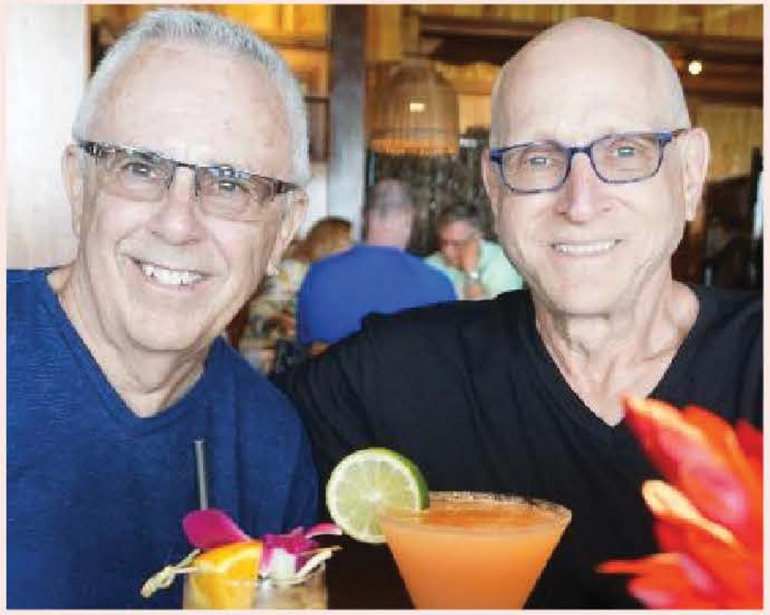
—Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff—
— Kyle Young & Steven Salton —
— Morgan Stanley's Schmitt-Young Group —

Bravo to Steven, Paul, Kyle, Steven, and the entire Schmitt-Young Group!
Congratulations on receiving BCC's 2021 Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award.
Thank you all for your dedication toward a more just society through your very caring philanthropy.

Mark Miller

Congratulations to Steve Schmitt, Kyle Young, and the entire Schmitt-Young Associates team at Morgan Stanley. We greatly appreciate the many years of professional financial advice, your generous support of the BCC community and, most importantly, your friendship.

Ira and Rob



CONGRATULATIONS and MAZEL TOV to Ginger for this very well-deserved award. I have been privileged to serve with you on the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of BCC and am grateful for all your assistance and guidance during my term as President. I am very grateful to you for your many years of dedication and service to the BCC community, and to the larger Jewish community of Los Angeles and beyond. You have been and continue to be an inspiration to me and to all of us.

CONGRATULATIONS also to the Schmitt-Young group, whose members have provided many years of service to the LGBTQ+ community through your philanthropy and professional advice. Thank you for honoring us by accepting this award.

Jay Jacobs

PLATINUM TRIBUTES

Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary is proud to support Beth Chayim Chadashim

BCC VISION 2021 AWARDS

We are grateful to this year's honorees for their philanthropy and commitment to the LGBTQ+ communities.

HILLSIDE
MEMORIAL PARK AND MORTUARY
A Community Service Of Temple Israel Of Hollywood

Rafael Ochoa, General Manager
6001 W. Centinela Ave.,
Los Angeles, CA 90045
(888) 820-9950
hillsidememorial.org FD 1358

/hillsidememorialpark

@hillsidemempark

@hillsidememorialpark

HUB International Northeast is Proud to Support

BCC 2021 Vision Awards and 50 th Golden Anniversary Celebration

Congratulations to this year's honorees, including HUB's ***Paul Bellaff***, on receiving the Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award!

We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition of visionary philanthropy to LGBTQ+ communities.

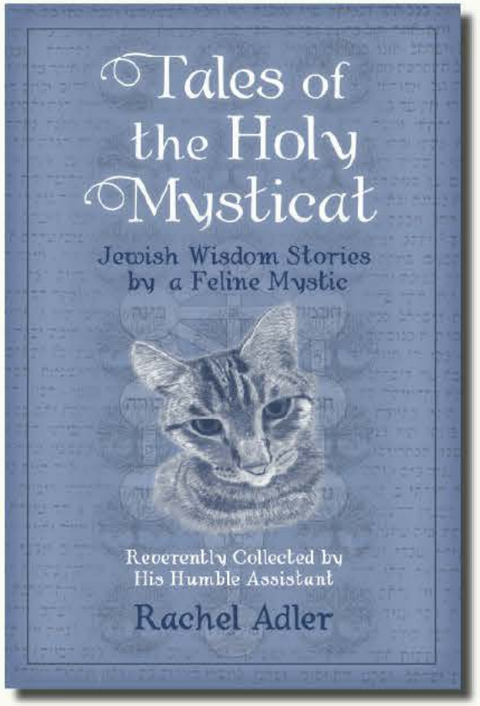
HUB International Northeast
Insurance Brokers
1-800-456-5293
info.hubnortheast@hubinternational.com

Risk & Insurance | Employee Benefits | Retirement & Private Wealth
hubinternational.com

HUB

GOLD TRIBUTE

Just as the Holy Mysticat became Rachel Adler's teacher, so too can he teach us all



Ever wonder what would happen if one of Judaism's fiercest feminist theological minds trained itself on understanding the teachings of a tzaddik, a spiritual master, whose soul had manifested itself in this world in her new shelter cat? Can you imagine this gray tabby's routine and unusual behaviors imparting the profound insights and moral lessons found in Judaism's most revered texts and practices?

Wonder and imagine no more.

The book begins the way cat books usually do: as a series of autobiographical stories of Rabbi Adler's amusing cat's antics and quirky personality. But it becomes much more as you encounter not only the sage Mysticat, but also Adler's creativity, erudition and mischievous humor as they connect us effortlessly to Jewish mysticism, history, prayer, customs, rabbinical teachings, and six thousand years of cherished tradition. Rabbi Adler certainly knows her territory! Readers will find this an accessible, lively, and thought-provoking way of gaining a new insight into the rich diversity and endless complexity of Jewish thought and practices. Even avowed dog lovers will relish *Tales of the Holy Mysticat*.

This is a book to be savored, like fine chocolate—or catnip.

www.mysticattales.com
In print and e-book at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Indiebound.com

Congratulations

Ginger Jacobs,

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff, Kyle Young & Steven Salton

from

Maggie Anton & Dave Parkhurst

SILVER TRIBUTES

CONGRATULATIONS TO GINGER JACOBS FROM THE ROOD - TRAUM - ROGOFF GROUP

From your longest-running fan

JUDIANNE ROOD--------SYDNEY S. TRAUM

DAVID TRAUM
SHIRLEY GEE TRAUM

JONATHAN TRAUM
SHANI TRAUM

Shoshana Traum
Yosef Traum
Elan Traum

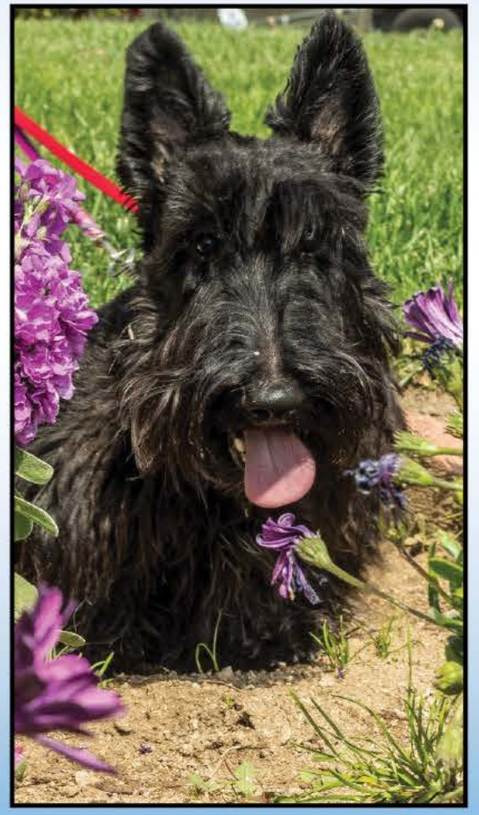
ELISHEVA ROGOFF
DR.MICHAEL ROGOFF

Mitch Rogoff
Jared Rogoff
Natanya Rogoff

We salute your well-deserved honors and achievements. You have done well!

Ginger Jacobs

Congratulations on your well deserved honor for your years of commitment and service to BCC, Reform Judaism, the Jewish community, immigrants, HIV/AIDS ...



From Roxy Bickerstaff, Elizabeth Savage and Mackie

Sholom Chapels Mortuary congratulates BCC's 2021 Awards Honorees for their Dedication and Service

Sholom Chapels offers Special Pre-Need Pricing for
BCC Members, Family and Friends

Please contact: Moe Goldsman, 310-659-3055
8629 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles 90035
www.SholomChapels.com

TRIBUTES

To Steven & Paul, Kyle & Steven,

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.
-- anonymous

To four of the kindest people we know.

We are so grateful that you are in our lives.

With love and admiration,
BCC's Lezbtzn Emerita Tracy Moore
& Rabbi Emerita Lisa Edwards

"To be a leader, you do not need a crown or robes of office. All you need to do is to write your chapter in the story, do deeds that heal some of the pain of this world, and act so that others become a little better for having known you."

— Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z'l

Lessons in Leadership: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible

To Ginger,

A true leader at BCC and in the world.

What a blessing to share community with you and write our chapters side-by-side all these years.

Love,

Lezbtzn Tracy &Rabbi Lisa

Your other BCC Emeritae

Ufaros aleinu blanket! *shlomecha*

וּפְרוֹשׂ עָלֵינוּ שמיכת שְׁלוֹמֶךָ

Spread over us a **blanket** of your peace

From generation to generation she has wrapped us
in her good work
in her good deeds
in her good practice
in her good challah
and in her good warm blankies.

How many BCC children slept under a blanket
made by Ginger's loving hands? So many…

Ginger,
We've shared so many pleasant dreams together
over the years -- we are grateful for them all.
What a gift you are to BCC, and to each of us.

With love,
Cantorialist Fran Chalin & Rabbi Lisa Edwards
Your BCC Clergy Emeritae

Congratulations, Ginger!

It was an honor for each of us to serve with you on BCC's Rabbinic Search Committee. We couldn't have done our work without your deep knowledge of the institutions of Reform Judaism, your wealth of experience with the rabbinic-congregational relationship, and your unwavering dedication to shepherding our committee through the rabbinic search process. The entire congregation owes you a debt of gratitude for helping to ensure a foundation for BCC's future.

Members of the 2019 and 2020 Rabbinic Search Committees:
Robin Berkovitz
Davi Cheng
Jay Jacobs
Naomi Katz
Jack Kelly
Deborah Lowe
Bruce Maxwell
Larry Nathenson
Amy Pomrantz
Elizabeth Savage

Congratulations to Steven & Paul and Kyle & Steven, recipients of the Humanitarian Award
With thanks for all you've contributed to BCC over the past eight years through seminars and workshops; through sponsoring lunches, benefits, and concerts; and for providing first of its kind financial guidance and leadership to the LGBTQ community and BCC members. We're fortunate and sincerely grateful for your generosity, care, and brilliant stewardship.

Congratulations to Ginger Jacobs, recipient of the Presidents Award
With thanks for all you do and for all you've done for BCC over the years. Your countless hours of service and leadership have been invaluable to our synagogue and our community. We honor you for your talent, generosity, social action, and unwavering support. We're truly blessed to have you in our mishpucha.

Ray Eelsing & Mark Maroney

Ginger:

And thank you for teaching Jim and so many others to bake Challah!

Congratulations on your much deserved Presidents Award!

Jim Potter
and
Michelle Huneven

ONLY IN THE DARKNESS CAN YOU SEE THE STARS.

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Ginger
Steven & Paul
Kyle & Steven!

Congratulations on your well-deserved recognitions!

Mazal Tov,

Sergei Kokoulin
&
Bruce Maxwell
BCC Past President
BCC 2015 Presidents' Award Recipient

TO THE HONOREES:

Ginger:

As current and recent members of BCC's Board of Directors, we are grateful to you for all you do for BCC. Your actions have improved our experience as Board Members in so many ways. When you are on the Board you are a warm, encouraging and energetic colleague; your presence in the room (actual or virtual), makes Board meetings that much more enjoyable. Besides your Board service you are among the most engaged and positive of congregants, leading services, teaching classes, serving on committees, and supporting BCC in every way.

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff and Kyle Young & Steven Salton:

Thank you for all you do for BCC, for LGBTQ communities, and to further social justice.

The BCC Board of Directors

Our sincerest
CONGRATULATIONS
to all of the 2021
BCC Vision Awards
Recipients.
Thank you for all that
you do. You make
our lives so much
SWEETER!

Joanie & Leigh's Cakes

J&L

(424) 248-0097

Leigh Grode

SPIRITUAL LIFE COACH

(323) 326-3332 - www.leighgrodecoaching.com

Image: PRIDE (Personal Rights in Defense and Education) led hundreds in protest of the riots that occurred when police raided the Black Cat bar in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles. February 11, 1967. Advocate Records, ONE Archives at the USC Libraries.

one

ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the 2021 BCC Vision Awards Honorees.

Thank you to the Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley for your support of LGBTQ+ history.

onearchives.org

The Schmitt/Young Group Clients Feel Like Family

Since 2008, the Schmitt/Young Group has managed our financial assets and retirement portfolio. Not only do we have the utmost trust in their keen financial guidance and wealth management, we also have come to view them as family. They go beyond their professional services to check in on our well being and that of our extended family, for which we are appreciative. Steven and Kyle have created something special in the field of wealth management and we are grateful to be part of their family. Steven & Paul and Kyle & Steven, congratulations on this honor and recognition! Mazel Tov!

With our best wishes and love,
Joe McGowan & Rob Rosania

Mazel tov, dear Ginger!

In the 1980s, you were there to educate with HIV/AIDS I remember our work together with Nechama!
You have been there (and here, and everywhere, it seems!) ever since.

… And P.S., you look just about the same!

With love and gratitude!
Mark Katz, MD

Congratulations, Ginger!

Twenty-six years ago, you co-founded the "Books and Bagels" discussion group of BCC that is still going strong! You have hosted more of our meetings than anyone else, nourished our minds and souls with your insights and experiences, and nourished our bodies with your delicious latkes and matzo brei nearly every year. We look forward to many more years of reading and discussion with you!

The BCC Book Group:
Adam Barron
Gordon Blitz
Ahavah Brooks
Ilene Cohen
Robin Gurse Dennis
Mike Halstater
Craig Kaner
Fiona Manning
Janet Meskin
Larry Nathenson
Lea Rosendahl
Richard Seltzer
Lee Wygand

Home of Peace

MEMORIAL PARK & MORTUARY

The beautiful, historic grounds and chapel of Home of Peace Memorial Park and Mortuary have long served the BCC community.

BCC members receive special Pre-Need pricing from Home of Peace. Some BCC members you may honor when you visit Home of Peace include: Jesse Jacobs, Fred Shuldiner, Sol Halfon, Avram Chill and Sue Terry.

Home of Peace
Memorial Park & Mortuary
4334 Whittier Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90023
License #FD1698
800-300-0223

"נְבָרֵךְ אֶת עֵין הַחַיִּים הַמּוֹצִיאָה לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ."

Let us bless the source of life that brings forth bread from the earth.
- Adapted by Marcia Falk

Dear Ginger,
Your bread (both literal delicious challah and figurative deeds of sustenance) have been a source of blessing to so many whose lives intersected with yours. My life has been richer for being on the receiving end of the many blessings you bring forth.

Thank you for inspiring me to be a better leader, a better spiritual practitioner and a better human being.

Abundant blessings,
Cantor Juval Porat

BCC VISION 2021 AWARDS
MAY 2, 2021

Paul & Steven

Congratulations and Mazel Tov

on receiving the
Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award

Love Always,
Hannah, Marni & Brian, Khiler,
Ali & Tom, and Margo & Gene

Congratulations Ginger on Receiving the Presidents Award and on your life of Gemilut Hasidim!

From BCC's
Tzedakah Council

Who do you call upon when you need support, an unending commitment? Who has always been there ready to work and to lead? Who is a fierce advocate for BCC and social justice? Who do you call when you need a friend? Who will be there for you from babyhood to adulthood?

GINGER!!

You are core to our family of friends, Ginger. We love you and wish you mazel tov on this occasion.

From your SECOND SEDER CELEBRANTS,
Ellie, Michael, Marie-Jeanne, Sandy, and Shosh

Ben Zoma said: "Who is wise? One who learns from everyone… Who is strong? One who seeks out good… Who is rich? One who rejoices in what they have… Who is honorable? One who honors others."
Pirkei Avot 4:1

Dear Ginger,

I am in awe of all that you have done for our beloved BCC community. Thank you for the many gifts you have shared with all of us! Your wisdom is born from years of experience, activism and care, always open to learning as you teach. Your strength is so evident as you have always sought what is best for our community and worked hard to make it happen. You have offered us the richness of your wisdom, your enthusiasm, and generosity of spirit and time. We honor you today because you have long honored the essence, values and soul of BCC and have been integral in making us what and who we are.
I would not have found my way to BCC without you and I will be forever grateful that you helped me find my home here.

Thank you, Ginger.

With love and deep appreciation,
Rabbi Jillian Cameron

Ginger כל הכבוד ומזל טוב
on the 2021 President's Award

"You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Pirkei Avot 2:21

Where do you find the finest in Judaica from Israel and Around the World?

Shalom House Fine Judaica
Celebrating 50 Years Since 1971

- BABY NAMING
- BAR/BAT MITZVAH
- WEDDING
- NEW HOME
- BIRTHDAY
- ANNIVERSARY
- SHABBAT & HOLIDAYS
- ANY OCCASION

19740 Ventura Boulevard Woodland Hills CA 91364

818-704-7100 www.ShalomHouse.com

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.
-- Albert Einstein

To two great humanitarians, Paul and Steve, who "get it".

Mazel Tov,
Ivy & Debbie

This is such a wonderful opportunity, Ginger, to tell you how much you mean to me as an important member of my "Family of Choice." I send all my love. You are so deserving of this honor being given to you by BCC.

Michael Main

To the incomparable Ginger Jacobs — we so appreciate and value your many contributions to BCC over the years. May you go from strength to strength.

With love,
Barbara and Ruth

Congratulations, Ginger!

Thank you for being such an incredible example of dignity and grace. And for always being there with your big smile and warm hugs. Your passion for family, friends, and for making the world a better place is inspiring to us all.

With Love,
Andrew Weissman

Thank you, Ginger, for your kindness, constancy, commitment, and example. We are blessed to have you in our lives.

Karen Wilson

Adam Glick
Director, Luxury Estates.
310-488-4410
DRE #01982917
Beverly Hills
9454 Wilshire Blvd, 4th Floor,
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Hats off to all the honorees
and fellow Rollicker
Ginger
From the Rollicking Good
Time Table

HOMEALLIANCE.COM/MEMBERSHIP

FREE
TECHNICIAN VISITS FOR 1 YEAR

250,000 Households served and counting

Prime Membership
Home Service Solutions
*Conditions Apply

$99 Regular Price
$49 BCC Member Price

- $2,500 In Savings
- Same Day Service Available
- Free Annual AC Check-Up

HOMEALLIANCE.COM/MEMBERSHIP

PROMOCODE:
BCC50

FUNDS FOR ALL MEMBERSHIPS PURCHASED WITH PROMOCODE "BCC50" TILL MAY 18TH WILL BE FULLY DONATED TO BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM

SERVICES

Electrical
HVAC
Appliance Repair
Water Quality
Air Quality
Plumbing

Dear Ginger:

MAZEL TOV!

Well deserved!

Much love,
Estaire and Jeanelle

Spencer Gill and Rabbi/Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill
wish all the best to everyone at BCC!

BCC inspired Ellen to become a cantor and a rabbi
and Spencer to become a Jew and a rebbitzer.

We were married at BCC thirty years ago,
and Spencer had his bar mitzvah there ten years later.

BCC will always hold a special place in our hearts.
Here's to many more successful years! We love you!

Dear Ginger,

The Ritual Committee extends our deepest love and appreciation for your many years of leadership to our temple community and for your calm and nurturing presence in our virtual Committee meetings. You are a BCC treasure!

Lee Alhadeff, Jessica Donath, Michael Main,
Elise Zimmerman

Mazel tov, Ginger!

We extend our sincere appreciation and love for your dedication and leadership within BCC and the Jewish community. It has been a privilege to learn from you and it is because of you that I have learned the importance of patience, compassion, and the power of positivity and dog cuddles. Very well deserved!

Love and Light,
Erin, Andy & Darryn Katz

Mazel tov to Steven Schmitt, Kyle Young, and their spouses on receiving the Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian award from BCC for all the good work you have done.

You have been great financial planners for us as well as good friends. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

Thanks for being there on many levels.

All our best to you,
Bill Fields and Dan Saunders

Dearest Ginger,

This is our opportunity to thank you for your dedication and devotion to BCC.
With gratitude for all the endless hours you have given as a volunteer and your years of service and leadership on the Board at BCC.

Your friends and admirers,
Hannah & Kenna

Steven,

We thank you for your generous support of BCC and your personalized guidance and successful advice you have given us for many years!

Your friends,
Hannah & Kenna

BCC VISION 2021 AWARDS

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
בית חיים חדשים

2021 Vision Awards Event Committee

Mark Farber
Barbara Kroll
Adam Kulbersh
Larry Nathenson
Laurie Newman
Mike Radice
Lauren Schlau
Brett Trueman, chair
Erin Katz, office manager

Maggie Boyles – Social media coordinator
Shantal Freedman – Graphic designer
Hirsch Fishman – Event website design

Gourmet gift baskets created and curated by Chefs Laurie Newman and Joan Spitler

The BCC Board of Directors:

Jay Jacobs, President
Ginger Jacobs, Vice President
Mike King, Treasurer
Brett Trueman, Secretary
Jessica Donath
Marsha Epstein
Jonathan Falk
Marc Gottehrer
Kenna Love
Jim Potter
James Sutherland
Hannah Theile

The Event Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their help in making this event a success:

Rabbi Jillian Cameron
Rabbi Lisa Edwards
Cantor Juval Porat
Cantorial Emerita Fran Chalin
Cassandra Biehl
Robin Berkovitz
Davi Cheng
Liane Dutton
Aviyah Farkas
Christopher Graves
Leigh Grode
Everlyn Hunter
Jack Kelly
Victor Lamkay
Richard Lesse
Tracy Moore
Jerry Nodiff
Marie Pederson
Pam Postrel
Jim Potter
Elizabeth Savage
Michael "Mick" Simeone
Rebecca Soler
Lana Soroko
Lou Spisto
Sylvia Weisenberg
Marne Wible

Morgan Stanley

Congratulations

Morgan Stanley congratulates

Steven Schmitt & Paul Bellaff
Kyle Young & Steven Salton

Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award recipients

Being honored at Temple BCC's Vision Awards is a testament to your experience, philanthropy, and dedication to the LGBTQ+ Community.

Thank you for your commitment.

Morgan Stanley 522 Fifth Avenue Branch
522 Fifth Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10036
212-296-0666
Advisor.morganstanley.com/522-fifth-avenue-branch

© 2021 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.
CRC 3552888 04/21