

All About Our Honorees



Stacey and Joel Alsfine

Stacey and Joel have been integral members of the Schechter Westchester community since enrolling their eldest child, Harry (Grade 12) in kindergarten 13 years ago. Since then, Eli (Grade 10) and Zoe (Grade 7) have joined their brother and “we have watched all three of our children blossom in the school,” says Stacey.

The Alsfines exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and dedication to ensuring a thriving Jewish day school experience for the SW community. Stacey has chaired the annual gala, served as a class parent, chaired the eighth-grade *Nesiah Tovah* Israel trip sendoff, sat on exploratory academic committees, and most recently served on an admissions committee to generate new student interest in the school. She has a master’s in English from the University of London and worked in the editorial side of magazine publishing.

Joel is a partner at MSD Capital, where he heads their tactical investments group. Joel has generously dedicated his time and expertise as a member of the school’s finance committee and served as treasurer for four years. He is currently a vice president of the SW board of trustees, providing thoughtful and balanced insights that are tremendously valued by his fellow board members. Both he and Stacey are passionate about Jewish education and strongly support SW’s mission to nurture students’ commitment to Israel, instill a love for learning, and help them realize their leadership potential.



Pam Goldstein

Pam has contributed countless volunteer hours to Schechter Westchester since the day her daughter began kindergarten 21 years ago. From helping to serve lunch at the Lower School, to distributing challah (while pushing her youngest child in a stroller), to coordinating class parents, to serving as co-president of the PTO, Pam embodies what it means to be an active parent in the school. She is a leader in the community, an advocate for SW, and a role model for other parent volunteers.

In addition to chairing or volunteering at events such as book fairs, Passover *seudarim*, holiday committees, and faculty appreciation luncheons, Pam played a vital role in creating a caring community at SW; she co-chaired the Lower School buddy family program, welcoming new families to SW, and the *Kebilah* committee (along with co-honoree Diane Katz), supporting families during their time of need. Pam currently sits on the development committee, helping to ensure a strong future for the school.

Pam has worked at the Westchester Jewish Council for the past six years and is currently the assistant executive director. She and her husband Eric are the proud parents of Melissa (Class of 2011), Jordan (Class of 2015), Julia (Grade 12), and son-in-law Benji Hochberger (Class of 2010). "Eric and I are so thankful for the friendships and community we have found over the last two decades at SW and we feel privileged to be able to give back to the community."



Diane and Gary Katz

Diane and Gary are the proud parents of Yaira (Class of 2018), Gidi (Grade 11), Matan (Grade 8), and Hava (Grade 5) and have been passionate supporters of Schechter Westchester for the past 14 years.

Diane holds a master's degree in Jewish communal service from Brandeis and previously worked as a professional Jewish family educator. Diane has dedicated much of her adult life to volunteerism; with compassion and hard work, she created a "caring community" to support SW families during times of illness or bereavement, leading the *Kebilah* committee for six years and inculcating a culture of *chesed* among families, faculty, and staff that is a hallmark of our school. An ardent environmentalist, Diane dedicated the Upper School garden in memory of her father. She also serves on the board of the Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the strategic planning committee of the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center.

Gary has dedicated much of his time and effort to SW's development committee, eventually serving as chair. His unwavering commitment and tenacity were key factors in the success of the annual campaign each year and in motivating his committee and helping the school reach its fundraising goals. Gary sits on the governance committee and the executive committee of the board of trustees, currently as secretary, where he is a trusted advisor to the school. Gary also devotes significant time and energy to a wide variety of other Jewish causes, with longtime service on the board of the Hebrew Free Burial Association and the Community Association of Jewish Affiliated Cemeteries. A former criminal prosecutor who served as a law clerk for Chief Justice Aharon Barak of the Supreme Court of Israel, Gary is the managing partner of Downtown Capital Partners, LLC.

Diane and Gary are longtime members of Temple Israel Center in White Plains, where Diane is a trustee and co-chair of the *Hesed* Circle, and are also proud members of the Hebrew Institute of White Plains.

Sal Bueti

Originally from Reggio Calabria in Southern Italy, Sal began his Schechter Westchester career at the Lower School campus in June 1999 as director of maintenance. He moved over to the Hartsdale campus in 2001 to serve as director of maintenance as the SW High School opened its doors, and he has been the director of maintenance at the Upper School ever since.

Each day, Sal oversees everything that needs to be done at the Upper School campus to make sure the building and grounds are always in top condition. His favorite thing about working at SW is the feeling that everyone here is a part of one big family.

Outside of school, Sal is most proud of his two daughters, Emily, 25, a paramedic who plans to go to medical school, and Abigail, 20, a college junior and aspiring set designer who recently received an award for her set design.



Amy Holtzer

Amy, a Westchester native, graduated from the University of Rochester with a BA in child psychology and earned a JD from Brooklyn Law School. After changing careers, she obtained a New York State teaching certification in childhood education (grades K-6) and received her master of professional studies degree in educational leadership from Manhattanville College. She also holds certification from New York State as a school administrator (SAS) and a school district administrator (SDA).

Before joining the faculty at Schechter Westchester, Amy was involved in Jewish education in a variety of settings, including as an afternoon Hebrew school teacher, synagogue youth services leader, teacher at Camp Ramah Nyack, and teacher at Westchester Day School.

At SW, Amy initially taught sixth-grade English and social studies and was the sixth-grade team leader for seven years. She became the Middle School dean in 2005, and in 2009 was named Middle School principal, the position she holds today. Amy “loves, loves, loves” SW, the families, and her colleagues. Above all, she adores the children and says that the highlight of her day is meeting with students and helping them think about being the best young teens they can be.

Outside of school, Amy relishes time spent with her family — husband, Mark and their four children: Sarah, Talya, Jake, and Noah, all SW alumni — gathering for Shabbat dinners, hitting the beach in Rhode Island, or taking in a Mets game. Amy also likes to bake, sing, and do crossword puzzles.

Michelle Roos

Michelle has been an enthusiastic ambassador for and community builder within the Riverdale-Schechter Westchester community. She has hosted numerous parlor meetings, conceptualized and organized Riverdale-SW Shabbat potluck picnics and back-to-school group play dates, orchestrated a Riverdale-SW Shabbat weekend with Dr. Kay, and recently started the Riverdale-SW Chesed Fund. She also spends hours on the phone and on social media helping prospective families realize that Schechter Westchester is the school for them.

Michelle has a degree in civil and environmental engineering from Duke University and a master's from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She has worked in project management and environmental protection for over 20 years and is currently the executive director of the Environmental Protection Network (EPN). Previously, she worked as an environmental consultant, ran an ecotourism company in Mexico, worked for the EPA, interned at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, worked for the state of Texas and the Colorado Public Interest Research Group, and was a Dorot Fellow in Israel.

Michelle Roos and her husband, Schechter Westchester Director of Engineering and Design Dr. Danny Aviv, are proud parents to Gavi Roos Aviv (Grade 3) and Rafi Roos Aviv (Grade 1).

The Schechter Westchester Gur Aryeh Award for Young Leadership is presented annually to a member of the Schechter Westchester parent community who has demonstrated support and commitment to the school. This award is appropriately named for the gur aryeh – the lion cub or young lion [our own Schechter Westchester mascot has long been the aryeh (lion) – inspired by the symbol of the tribe of Judah]. Gur Aryeh is also the title of a commentary by Rabbi Yehudah Loew ben Bezalel, who devoted his life to strengthening and protecting his Jewish community. Through the Gur Aryeh Award, we salute the young leaders of today who devote their energies to strengthening our community each and every day.