



*You are cordially invited to the*

# Sinai Free Synagogue Gala Garden Party

with a Silent Auction

Saturday evening, June 10, 2023 at 5:00

Honoring  
Elizabeth Spiro and Jon Trafimow



Sinai Free Synagogue takes great pleasure in honoring Elizabeth Spiro for her abundance of good deeds for our own community and beyond.



When Elizabeth was four, she had a very severe case of pneumonia & had very vivid fever dreams. In one of the most memorable, she was Little Red Riding Hood, holding a picnic basket, skipping along a path, handing people good deeds from the basket. Elizabeth learned she feels better when she does good deeds. Elizabeth became a teacher, then a school administrator, working in high needs school districts. She was very active in the PTA, serving in several leadership positions, & took groups of parents for statewide leadership training.

When Elizabeth & Tim moved to Mount Vernon, she volunteered with the Mount Vernon PTA, was the Executive Director of Parents Place, & then worked for the Guidance Center of Westchester, supervising Early Childhood programs. Elizabeth & Tim joined SFS. She served four years as Vice President for Community, & was Co-President for six years. She is now Board Chair & Membership Secretary. She worked to establish Shabbat Family Dinners that are free for participants, & many other projects to create intergenerational community.

Elizabeth is profoundly grateful to her beloved husband, Tim Costello, for his patience & support of her many SFS activities. & always appreciates his participation & help. Elizabeth & Tim did not know anyone in Westchester when they moved here. They joined SFS & are so grateful for the many dear friends they have made.

She is very grateful to the SFS Sacred Community for giving her a supportive home where she can make a difference & where the Lay Leaders, Clergy & staff are truly Sacred Partners. She believes she survived the Pandemic because she was able to serve by facilitating daily zoom Sacred Gatherings. Now, she is dedicating her time to rebuilding SFS active volunteers. Elizabeth is both honored & more than a little bit embarrassed to be honored for doing something that makes her feel so much better. Elizabeth is thrilled to be honored with Jon Trafimow, her special partner in good deeds.

Jon Trafimow has been on the SFS Board for years and has served in several positions on the Executive Committee most of the time. “There have been some amazing Boards, always on a high level,” he said. And it is as one of those amazing Board members that we honor him tonight.



Jon grew up in the Chicago suburbs and is still in touch with his friends from the Junior Youth Group at Temple Etz Chaim. He went first to the University of Chicago and to law school at New York University. It was at a party with NYU friends that he met his wife, Elsa Escalera, who was in medical school at Einstein at the time. They married in 1991. And the rest is history. Interesting history at that.

Because, as in law, life choices are often subject to negotiation, Jon and Elsa were well-positioned to make some decisions early in their marriage. Location, for instance. Because Jon had accepted a position in Chicago, he asked that Elsa apply for residency at hospitals in the Chicago area. Fortunately, she agreed and was chosen to serve at Northwestern. “But I knew, even before we crossed the GW bridge on the way to Chicago,” Jon admits, “that we would come back to New York, because Elsa so needed to be there.” Jon and Elsa strongly agree that their family has found a wonderful spiritual home here at Sinai Free Synagogue—a really warm, supportive community for their family. They have two daughters: Jessica, now a lawyer, and Rachel, who works at a sovereign wealth fund.

Jon practices employment law and now also covers some cybersecurity issues. He started his legal career in the New York City Corporation Counsel’s office, then moved to Epstein Becker & Green for twelve years. Now he is a partner with Moritt, Hock & Hamroff, working out of offices on Long Island and Manhattan—or even from home.

Jon is delighted to share the evening with Elizabeth Spiro. “Elizabeth Spiro—I sometimes think that she’s the glue holding the whole synagogue together—and I met on the Board of Trustees and got to know each other during some slow times during meetings. Elsa and I have become friends with Elizabeth and Tim. So it’s meaningful to me to share this honor with her,” Jon added.

## Honorary Committee (in formation\*)

Lisa & Rabbi Morris Barzilai  
Andrea & Alex Bayer  
Brenda & Jeffrey Bleustein  
Deborah Bloom  
Cindy & John Brockell  
Marlene & Neil Calman  
Timothy Costello  
Joan & Mort David  
Madelyn & Michael Davis  
Dr. Elsa Escalera  
Jennifer & David Fondiller  
Arlene Freudenberger

Cynthia S. Einhorn &  
Dr. Martin Friedmutter  
Anita & Larry Genser  
Arlene & Cliff Gibbs  
Laurie Goodstein & Peter Grand  
Janet Gutterman  
Jean & Morton Hertz  
Harriet Kaplow  
Patricia Kobetts  
Barbara & Ira Korner  
Linda & Walter Levine  
Laurie F. Lieberman  
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Rabbi Max Maccoby Fund  
Laura & Mark Mendley  
Renata & Jethro Miller  
Eileen & Ron Oleet  
Ann & Rod Rolett  
Michael Schramm  
Jennifer & Bill Schulman  
Rona & Bob Sterling  
Claudia & Joel Wald  
Myra & Marshall Watnick  
Tania & Alan Weiss  
Zeichner Ellman & Krause LLP

\*If you wish to join the Honorary Committee, please inform the office