

youngest president in the 118 year history of the congregation and has the distinction of being the only person to have had the privilege of serving as president three times.

Michael has also served on the Executive Board and Board of Governors of the JCC on the Hudson, now known as the Shames JCC on the Hudson. He continues to serve as a voluntary arbitrator in the New York City Civil Court Small Claims Division.

And perhaps most importantly, during his first term as President of Temple Beth Abraham, Michael met Jane Rubin, whom along with her two sons, Alan and Gary, he welcomed into his life. With the addition of Marissa to the family, Jane and Michael have become the proud grandparents of Ellie, Judah, and Sam. His passion for his family is truly his driving force.

This year, WJC is honoring Michael at the organization's 42nd Anniversary Gala for all his dedication and hard work to their community. He is a most deserving honoree, and I want to congratulate him on the occasion.

HONORING GARY TRACHTEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an individual who has selflessly given to the Westchester Jewish Council community for many years, Gary Trachten.

Deeply inspired by his late parents "Moishe" and Shirley Trachten, Gary heard the call to community service. He has been on the Board

of WJC for nine years—four years as an officer on its Executive Committee, and for the past six years as the ever-enthusiastic Event Chair for the annual Westchester Jewish Music and Arts Festival.

A native of New Haven Connecticut, Gary graduated from Boston University and Emory University School of Law. Gary also serves on the Board of Hillels of Westchester, is a past president of the Pelham Jewish Center, and serves on the Advisory Board of Project T.E.N., International Israel & Diaspora "Jewish peace Corp," under the auspices of the Jewish Agency. Gary is also a founding partner of Kudman Trachten Aloe LLP, a mainly commercial law firm where he focuses on employment law.

Outside of work and community service, Gary's great passion is family. He and his wife, Evelyn, live in New Rochelle where they raise two children, Jseof and Sofie. As Congressman who represents New Rochelle, I am proud to call the Trachtens my constituents.

This year WJC is honoring Gary at their 42nd Anniversary Gala for all his fine work on behalf of the community. They have made an excellent choice of an honoree. Congratulations to Gary on this wonderful occasion.

HONORING KATHY AND PETE POTOCKI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor pillars of Pelham community, Kathy and

Pete Potocki, who this year are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the organization they founded, The Danny Fund, at the organization's annual 2018 Valentines Ball.

The Potocki's were home in Pelham on December 10, 1992 when their 4-1/2 year-old son, Danny, was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. A blood and donation drive was organized with the help of the Pelham Civics and other organizations to help Danny in his fight, and over 100 people donated blood and platelets. Danny successfully fought the disease and today lives a full life with a daughter in 2nd Grade in Pelham. The Pelham community's response to help Danny was tremendous, and laid the groundwork for what was to come.

After Danny returned home and began kindergarten at Colonial School, it was learned that other Pelham children were ill and their families needed help. So Kathy and Pete, in association with the Knights of Columbus, started to organize The Danny Fund, a 100 percent volunteer organization that provides financial, emotional, and advocacy support for the families of children suffering from a catastrophic illness or injury. The Danny Fund adopts a family for the long haul and provides ongoing support as it is needed, for as long as it's needed.

The Danny Fund has done some amazing work, and this year the organization will be honoring Kathy and Pete at the Valentine's Ball for their incredible dedication and work. I too would like to honor and congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition, and thank them for all of their contributions to our community.