Tourette Association of America presents the
50th Anniversary Supporting Abilities Gala

November 10, 2022
6:00 PM
Tribeca Rooftop
New York, NY

tourette.org/gala
Young Professionals’ Gala After Party

10:00 PM – MIDNIGHT
Tribeca Rooftop, New York, NY

NEW. YORK. CITY.
For 50 years, the Tourette Association of America has been at the forefront of making life better for people affected by Tourette Syndrome and other Tic Disorders.

- We raise awareness and **FOSTER SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE** through education and robust social media campaigns.
- We **INVEST IN RESEARCH** that will advance scientific understanding, treatment options and care.
- We **EDUCATE PROFESSIONALS** to better serve the needs of children, adults and families challenged by Tourette and Tic Disorders.
- We **PROVIDE SUPPORT, HOPE AND HELP** through our network across the nation.
- We **EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY** to advocate for the most pressing issues facing the Tourette community.
Javier Evans

*Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer at Webster Bank*

Javier Evans is Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer at Webster Bank (NYSE: WBS), a leading commercial bank with more than $60 billion in assets. He is responsible for the company’s overall HR operations and oversees organizational design and cultural development.

Immediately preceding his position as Chief Human Resources Officer, he served as Chief Business Operations and Services Officer at Sterling National Bank, where he directed the operations and service channels of the bank’s commercial, consumer and digital client segments.

Javier’s career started at GreenPoint Bank working in Deposit Operations. He then held various HR positions at leading companies across the banking industry, including National Financial Services Corp (Fidelity Investment Company), HSBC USA, TD Bank, Astoria Bank, and Sterling National Bank.

Committed to community, Javier holds positions on several boards and community organizations, some of which include National Association for African Americans in HR, YMCA of Long Island, Education Africa, and United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island, to name a few.

Javier earned a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John’s University and an M.S. from New York Institute of Technology.
Rovena Schirling  
*Lifelong Friend and Former Board Chair of the TAA*

Rovena first became involved with the Tourette Association of America when her youngest son was diagnosed with TS at the age of nine. She has served as a board member and chair at the TAA for over 23 years.

Although her career working on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange and her service as a trustee and board chair of the Queens Botanical Garden and other organizations is highly rewarding, she still considers her most important job to be wife, mother, and mother-in-law. Rovena’s husband Bob, a retired partner at Ernst & Young, her three amazing sons and daughter-in-law, all continue to remind her of what is most important on a daily basis.
Aidy Smith
*Co-Founder, Producer and Presenter at The Three Drinkers*

Aidy Smith is an award-winning TV presenter and journalist. As one of the world’s only TV hosts with Tourette Syndrome, Aidy shines the light on diversity empowerment and is the Executive Producer and Presenter of THE THREE DRINKERS series on Amazon Prime. He has also just launched a major documentary on BBC Radio 4, THE TRUTH ABOUT TOURETTE’S which reframes the condition as a Superpower instead of a deficit.

With over a decade of journalism experience, Aidy writes the regular drinks articles including a weekly column for The Evening Standard. He’s also the Global Brand Ambassador for Vivino, the world’s largest wine marketplace and community. Aidy is an irreverent presenter with a unique social media style.

As a keen LGBTQIA+ and Disability Diversity spokesperson, he frequently hosts motivational speaking classes and corporate seminars to inspire others through his own experiences and is a frequent moderator and panelist in forums. Aidy has become a known figure for championing disabilities across the board and empowering people from all walks of life to see their true potential.
David Begnaud is the lead national correspondent for “CBS Mornings” based in New York. He joined the Network in 2015 and his reporting — featured across all CBS News broadcasts and platforms including the “CBS Evening News,” “48 Hours,” “CBS Sunday Morning” and the CBS News Streaming Network, CBS News’ premier 24/7 anchored streaming news service — has earned him some of journalism’s most prestigious awards.

One of Begnaud’s most notable assignments was his coverage of Hurricane Maria when it hit Puerto Rico in October 2017. He spent more time covering Puerto Rico’s recovery than any other network news correspondent, traveling to the island countless times and breaking numerous significant stories. His distinctive, unmatched reporting resulted in government action, and throughout the crisis, he delivered sustained coverage on all platforms — especially on social media. His coverage of Hurricane Maria earned him the prestigious George Polk Award for public service in 2018, which was the first time given to a journalist since 1978. The award, as the nominating committee states, places “a premium on investigative work that is original, resourceful and thought-provoking.” Begnaud also received Radio Television Digital News Association’s First Amendment Leadership Award for his significant contribution to the protection of the First Amendment and freedom of the press.
Alex Schirling

Alex Schirling is the youngest son of Rovena and Robert Schirling. After being diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at the age of nine, he attended high school on a full scholarship and studied music performance and philosophy at Hofstra University. After receiving a Master of Arts in music performance at Queens College, Alex performed and produced opera and musical theatre across the five boroughs, including Carnegie Hall.

Now, he is the musical director at Saint Andrew Avellino Roman Catholic Church in Flushing, and part owner of Pixel Noise LLC.
On behalf of the Board of Directors, Advisory Members, Chapter and Support Group Leadership and the TAA staff, I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting our 50th Anniversary Supporting Abilities Gala benefitting the Tourette Association of America. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we recognize there is still much work to be done, and we can’t do it without your partnership.

A staggering 1.5 million Americans are impacted by Tourette Syndrome, yet resources remain scarce for those struggling with this complex disorder. Further, new research suggests that 1 in 50 school-aged children in the United States has TS or another persistent tic disorder, which impacts their physical, mental, and social well-being. Despite the prevalence of TS, the stigma and lack of understanding of the condition persist. This neurological condition is a lifelong disorder, with many individuals suffering from depression, suicidal tendencies, and anxiety.

What we have learned however, is that despite the challenges of TS – with the support of the TAA, a supportive community, and the support of all of you – individuals affected by the condition can persevere and thrive. With your help we can continue to increase awareness, continue to combat stereotypes, and continue to witness the resiliency that greater acceptance and understanding of TS can foster. We can’t wait to see what the next 50 years will bring!

I would like to extend a special thanks to our Gala Committee members. We sincerely appreciate all you have done to ensure the success of this special event. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this very important cause.

We look forward to seeing all of you next year and continuing to work together to improve the quality of life for everyone impacted by TS, Tic Disorders, and related disabilities.

Gratefully,

Amanda Talty,
President and CEO
Dear Friends,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support of the 50th Anniversary Supporting Abilities Gala. We are so pleased to have you join us as the TAA celebrates its 50th anniversary!

For those of you who are not aware, it may surprise you that an estimated 1.5 million Americans are impacted by Tourette Syndrome or a Tic Disorder, and 50% go undiagnosed. Tourette Syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder that becomes evident in early childhood or adolescence. It is part of the spectrum of Tic Disorders and is characterized by involuntary motor and/or vocal tics. Some Tic Disorders may be transient, while others will persist into adolescence and adulthood. While there are available treatments, there is no cure for Tourette Syndrome and medications are often ineffective.

We are here today for two very important reasons – to promote awareness of Tourette Syndrome and to raise the funds necessary to continue research, support, and advocacy. Your generosity enables us to help improve the quality of life for all people living with Tourette Syndrome, Tic Disorders and related disabilities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you, old friends and new, for your overwhelming support and we look forward to having you join us again next year.

Sincerely,

The 2022 Gala Committee
Robert Schirling, *Honorary Gala Committee Chair*
Usman Baig
Michael Doyle
Teresa Evans
Jeanne Gnuse
Christy Mazzarisi
Julie Moelis
Rovena Schirling
Kristin Schoenhaar
Kate Solomon
Barbara King-Phillips, *Director Development and Special Events*
Brianna Falcone, *Coordinator Development and Special Events*
Usman Baig:
Usman is an Associate on the Special Investments Private Equity team at Brookfield Asset Management. He also serves on the New York Associate Board of Teach for America and Junior Board of New Alternatives for Children. Usman holds a Bachelor’s degree in Applied Economics and Mathematics from Queen’s University.

Felix Fernandez-Penny:
Felix currently works with the Brand Strategy team at marketing and communications consultancy Weber Shandwick. He is a graduate of Cornell University and is studying for his second certification from the Court of Master Sommeliers.

Han Kim:
Han holds a BBA in Finance from Baruch College, where he is currently working towards a Master’s degree in Business/Data Analytics.

Michael Leopold:
Michael works as an HR strategist and consultant at Xerox. He collaborates with company leaders to plan and execute talent management and organizational development initiatives. Michael graduated from Yale University with a B.S. in Cognitive Science, focusing on Behavioral Economics.

Tara Lerman:
Tara currently serves as an editor at Insider Inc., where she leads creative direction and strategy for large, branded content programs. She graduated from Skidmore College in 2015 with a B.A. in English.

Brianna Falcone, Development & Special Events Coordinator, TAA
Stephen Barron, *Board Chair*  
David Schoenhaar, *First Vice Chair*  
Jasmine Tarkoff, *Second Vice Chair*  
Jeffrey Kramer, *Third Vice Chair*  
Alice Kane, *Fourth Vice Chair*  
Azad Anand, M.D.  
Fred Cook  
Susan Courey, Ph.D  
Cheri G. David, C.P.A., C.V.A.  
Paul S. Devore  
Cindy Kurtz  
Daniel McGarvey  
Julie Moelis  
Bruce Ochsman  
Monte Redman  
Rovena Schirling  
John Walkup, M.D.  
Randi Zemsky  
Amanda Talty, *President and CEO*
Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition

PRESENTED TO

Tourette Association of America

In recognition of your 50 years of serving the Tourette Syndrome & other persistent Tic Disorders community. May your leadership and commitment continue for many years to come.

November 10, 2022

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

GRACE MENG
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 10, 2022

Tourette Association of America
42-40 Bell Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Tourette Association of America,

I am honored to extend my congratulations to the Tourette Association of America as we celebrate this year’s 50th anniversary.

Since 1972, this organization has provided support to patients and families impacted by Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders. I am extremely grateful to have this nonprofit within my district, like the Bayside location, that has dedicated resources to continuously support those directly affected by the neurodevelopmental disorder. For 50 years, The Tourette Association of America has provided social awareness, education, and research that has reshaped the stigma that society has on Tourette Syndrome. I would like to thank Amanda Talty, her entire staff, and all the board members for their persistent efforts to make a difference.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful 50th anniversary and a congratulations to all the honorees.

Sincerely yours,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress
IN-KIND DONORS

Aidy Smith
Alice Walk
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Connor Staine
Coyote II Sportfishing
Dan Ferron
Dash Mihok
David Freidman
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Kellogg Conference Hotel
L'Oreal
Michael and Danielle Lagnese
Michael Wolff and Polly Draper
Monte Redman
Paul & Megan Mohring of the Schooner Inn Fire Island
Rovena Schirling
Stephen and Carol Barron
Tim Howard
Celebrating your tireless COMMITMENT TO OTHERS.

We are pleased to support Tourette Association of America.

Every day, you help make our community a better place to live. We do our best to support you, your organization and the people you serve. We’re always proud to help our neighbors.

WebsterBank

websterbank.com
We are proud to support the Tourette Association of America in its continued mission to help those affected by Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders.

Julie & Ken Moelis
Congratulations Rovena on your recognition at tonight’s 50th anniversary Gala!

Your commitment, enthusiasm and passion inspire all of us to be our best selves, and meet any challenges with positivity and humor!

Enjoy the moment, you deserve it.

All our love,
Rob, Andrew, Heather, Daniel and Alex
To Marnie and Lloyd -

You have improved every day of our lives with your love, enthusiasm, loyalty, and laughter!

You have brought us boundless joy. You are amazing, loving parents and children. We cherish every moment we spend with you, Carly, Shira, Hailey and Jack.

Thank you for all these immeasurable gifts! May you always receive as much as you have given!

With our pride and very special love,
Mom and Dad
For JB and Evan

With our deepest appreciation for all the warmth, love, respect and devotion you bring to our lives.

We are blessed to share our lives with you and your wonderful Max and Talia.
They were so smart when they chose you as their parents!

Thank you for these immeasurable gifts which we treasure.

May you always receive as much as you have given!

With our pride and very special love,
Mom & Dad
In Honor of Our

Super Sensational Six

Marvelous Max
Captivating Carly
Shining Shira
Terrific Talia
Heavenly Hailey
Joyful Jack

You bring so much love, fun and happiness into our lives. We are incredibly blessed to have you!

With all our love,
Nana and Papa
With our deepest gratitude to Javier Evans, Rovena Schirling and Aidy Smith for helping improve the lives of those affected by Tourette Syndrome.

With our Appreciation,
The Mallah Family
Choice Hotels International proudly supports Ken Moelis and Tourette Association of America’s 50th Anniversary Supporting Abilities Gala

Congratulations to this year’s Honorees
Javier Evans and Rovena Schirling
We are proud to support the **Tourette Association of America** for their continued service to the Tourette and Tic Disorder community and **Honorees Javier Evans and Rovena Schirling**.

**Monte and Carolyn Redman**
I am proud to support the Tourette Association of America for their continued service to the Tourette and Tic Disorder community and Honorees Javier Evans and Rovena Schirling.

Jasmine Tarkoff
Proud to Support the

Tourette Association of America

Jonathan & Maya Nelson
Skadden is proud to support the Tourette Association of America and congratulates all of tonight’s honorees.
CANYON PARTNERS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE TOURETTE ASSOCIATION AND CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR’S HONOREES, JAVIER EVANS AND ROVENA SCHIRLING.

Canyon Partners was established in 1990 with the spirit of entrepreneurship and collaboration anchored by leadership, ethics and values.
As your pro bono counsel for the past quarter century, Dentons US, LLP proudly supports and congratulates the Tourette Association of America on its Fiftieth Anniversary for advancing public awareness, supporting research and providing help and hope to those living with Tourette Syndrome.

This year we are also very proud to congratulate our own wonderful partners, Reid Ashinoff, Board Chair and Member Emeritus, and Michael Bamberger, General Counsel Emeritus, who have dedicated a quarter century pro bono advising, leading and helping to guide the TAA, its officers, and TAA’s important work.

Congratulations also to Rovena Schirling for her longtime dedication, leadership and support to the Tourette Association.

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EMALEX BIOSCIENCES IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF
Tourette Association of America’s
50th Anniversary Gala

Congratulations to honorees Javier Evans, Rovena Schirling, Aidy Smith and the TAA for making a big difference in the lives of those impacted by Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders.

www.emalexbiosciences.com
With heartfelt appreciation of the Tourette Association of America for their tireless service to the Tourette and Tic Disorder Community and to Honoree Roven Schirling whom we adore.

Randi Zemsky & Bob Lane
Extending our sincere appreciation to

Julie and Ken Moelis

for their good work and leadership in supporting the mission of the

Tourette Association of America

Meredith and David Kaplan
Thank you for your support of the Tourette Association of America

The NY Hudson Valley Chapter
We see your inner AWESOME
Find your fit at FLEXSCHOOL

FlexSchool Revolution
FlexSchool is a private school designed specifically to help gifted and twice-exceptional (2e) students achieve their academic potential. Rather than take a traditional model and make accommodations for our students, we started with the students and built a school to allow them to soar. Whether your student is dyslexic, dysgraphic, ADHD, gifted, highly gifted, profoundly gifted or you are part of the neurodiversity tribe for a reason not listed here, FlexSchool might be the answer.

What is 2e?
Outstanding problem-solving skills
Curious
Laser-focused
Passionate
Unstoppable
Sophisticated
Creative

FlexSchool Academics
• NJ & NY Campuses — grades 5-12
• Cloud Campus 100% live online — grades 1-12
• PG — Post Graduate Program
• Trained teachers and learning specialist
• Ability based learning
• Engaging interactive classes
• Small class sizes
• Maintained, relevant homework

FlexSchool Support
• On-demand counseling
• Weekly small group counseling
• Social thinking, mindfulness program
• Learning specialist support
• College counseling services
• Restorative practice model
• Parent support groups & workshops

FlexSchool Environment
• Respecting students’ abilities and supporting challenges
• Emotional support available as needed
• Academic and social risks supported
• No lock school doors or changing for gym
• Comfortable safe spaces

FlexSchool Learning
• Flexides: Speakers and School trips
• Students’ “Guided Fashion Project”
• Camp Week: team building & survival skills
• FlexTime: weekly options for talent development

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admissions@flexschool.net
914-704-4747
WWW.FLEXSCHOOL.NET

Gifted and 2e Learning Communities
Our long-time friends, Julie and Kenny Moelis, have been tirelessly advocating for treatments and resources for those challenged by Tourette Syndrome.

We are so proud to support their Herculean efforts!

David A. and Karen Richards Sachs
Congratulations to TAA on 50 years of dedication to finding a cure for Tourette!
We are proud to support TAA and Ken and Julie Moelis for all your efforts.

Alison and Richard Ressler
Thank you to Amanda Talty and the wonderful TAA staff and volunteers for your dedicated, effective work on behalf of all people impacted by Tourette Syndrome and its many related disorders.

A very special thank you to Rovena Schirling for your many years of “above and beyond” commitment and tireless hours of hard work on behalf of TAA and all its constituents. You surely set the standard for dedication and leadership.

PAUL AND ANNE DEVORE
Eucalyptus Remedy
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Where we source our Eucalyptus

Our eucalyptus is grown with 100% renewable energy on a woman owned farm in Australia. By growing eucalyptus, the farm creates a Koala sanctuary near the lagoon on the back end of the farm. This food course encourages the koalas to use this natural habitat as a safer way to travel in the area to avoid being hit on the busy roads. Babo loves caring for animals and comforting your family.

Read about our commitments at babobotanicals.com
With heartfelt appreciation of the **Tourette Association of America** for their continued service to the Tourette and Tic Disorder community and to **Honorees** Javier Evans and Rovena Schirling.

**Susan Courey**
We are proud to support the Tourette Association of America for their continued service to the Tourette and Tic Disorder community and Honorees Javier Evans and Rovena Schirling. We would also like to recognize our friends Julie and Ken Moelis.

Frankie and Barry Sholem
In Honor of Rovena Schirling
From
Donald Vangel and Shirley Staples
Congratulations Rovena!

Celebrating your many years of service raising awareness about Tourette Syndrome.

Love,
Margaret, Erwin, Stefanie and Rosemary
Proudly Support
Tourette Association of America’s 50th Anniversary Supporting Abilities Gala

Congratulations to the honorees!

Javier Evans
Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer at Webster Bank

Rovenia Schirling
Lifelong Friend and Former Board Chair of the TAA

SMART COUNSEL. STRAIGHT TALK.

Ruskin Moscou Faltischek is the premier business law firm in the New York region, with more than 70 attorneys, superior knowledge of the law, polished business acumen and proven credentials. The strength of RMF’s resources has earned us a sterling reputation: we don’t just solve problems, we create opportunities. This ongoing achievement makes Ruskin Moscou Faltischek an acknowledged leader among our peers and the preferred choice among business leaders.

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We are proud to support the Tourette Association of America.

Marci and Rudy Valner
On behalf of the TAA and the Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorder community we would like to extend our appreciation to tonight’s Honorees Javier Evans and Rovena Schirling.

Our Global Ambassador, Aidy Smith and our emcee David Begnaud.
WITH
SPECIAL
THANKS

The staff of the TAA is grateful to the Board of Directors for their steadfast guidance and support.
Many thanks to our Gala Committee for your contributions to this special event. Your time and commitment helped to make our 50th anniversary gala a success!
The TAA deeply appreciates its staff for their tireless efforts, not only for the 50th anniversary gala, but throughout the year.
The TAA is grateful to AG Events for their assistance in coordinating our 50th anniversary gala.