Dear Friends,

We are honored to be the chairs for JCRC Behind the Scenes 2020. We had hoped to celebrate the outstanding honorees – Jennifer and Tony Smorgon, UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ and Manny Yekutiel – with all of you in person on March 11, but are no less proud to be sharing this amazing program with you in a virtual format. Each of their stories are inspiring in unique ways, but all our honorees exemplify the community outreach and engagement for which JCRC is known.

In addition to our honorees, this year we are giving special recognition to the extraordinary Rita Semel. A leader in our organization, including having served as Executive Director, Rita is also an interfaith trailblazer and human rights advocate. Our JCRC Jewish-Civic Leadership Award is named after her.

It is our distinct privilege to extend a special thanks to our Premier Sponsors:

- Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant and Dr. Garry Rayant
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- Diane and Howard Zack

And we would also like to thank those who have joined us as Star Sponsors:

- The Dryan Felson Bernstein Family
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- Paul Resnick and Joan Karlin
- Marty Schenker and Sue Diamond
- Jennifer and Tony Smorgon
- Diane B. Wilsey

We are so grateful to our many generous sponsors, supporters and participants who make our successes possible. Thank you also to the host committee and to the “next wave” leaders, led by Joshua Reynolds and Greg Zale. Thank you to the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund – which now includes the core programs and operations of the former Jewish Federation of the East Bay – and to CEO Danny Grossman for their partnership and support.

JCRC’s work in pursuit of a just society and a secure Jewish future truly could not happen without the support of a great many people. Your engagement and commitment are deeply appreciated.

With gratitude,

Myrna Melgar and Col. Pete Gleichenhaus

JCRC Behind the Scenes 2020 Event Chairs