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Contact: Jeremy Russell  
Communications Manager  
[jrussell@jcrc.org](mailto:jrussell@jcrc.org)

### **JCRC to Honor Community Champions at “Behind the Scenes” Celebration**

San Francisco, CA – The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) will host its annual “Behind the Scenes” celebration to honor San Francisco Bay Area Jewish community champions on February 11, 2015, at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco. JCRC honors individuals whose extensive behind-the-scenes work in partnership with JCRC resolves complex and sensitive public affairs and community relations issues. They are defined by their courageous leadership and committed activism. This year’s awards and honorees include:

**The JCRC Jewish-Civic Leadership Award (*Inspired by Rita Semel*)** is being awarded to Roselyne (Cissie) Swig for her lifetime commitment to promoting strong civic society, a vibrant Jewish community and the Israel-American relationship. A San Francisco community leader and activist, Cissie has worked with JCRC for decades.

**A JCRC Courageous Leadership Award** is being awarded to Professor Marc Dollinger for his tireless commitment to education, young people and infusing contemporary Jewish life with a scholarly understanding of contemporary issues in historical context. The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair in Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility at San Francisco State University, Dr. Dollinger has acted as both a leader and an educator to engender inclusiveness and better cross-cultural understanding.

**A JCRC Courageous Leadership Award** is being awarded to the Reverend Dr. Paul Watermulder. Senior pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, California, the Reverend Dr. Watermulder has moved his community towards increased interfaith cooperation through an extraordinary relationship with Peninsula Temple Sholom and a personal friendship with its leadership.

As a group these honorees exemplify JCRC’s mission of community advocacy, social justice, reconciliation, and interfaith cooperation. They join a growing list of community champions who have been honored at JCRC “Behind the Scenes” events. This year’s event is being chaired by Drs. Garry Rayant and Kathy Fields-Rayant. More information can be found at [www.jcrc.org/bts2015](http://www.jcrc.org/bts2015).

JCRC of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties is a public affairs organization working on behalf of the Bay Area Jewish community to pursue a just society and a secure Jewish future. It represents synagogues and Jewish organizations on critical issues affecting Jews as individuals and as a community.

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