



Bio of Dr. Gavin and Karen Setzen

Natives of Johannesburg, South Africa, Karen and Gavin Setzen immigrated to the United States in 1989 and settled in the Albany area in 1992. Since then, they have become deeply engaged in their community while raising their two sons, Lee and Sean.

Karen's Community Contributions

Karen has been an active leader in the local Jewish community, dedicating her time to numerous fundraising efforts, committees, and leadership roles. She has contributed significantly to organizations such as Temple Israel, Jewish Family Services, and the Hebrew Academy of the Capital District (HACD).

Karen served on the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy Board for two terms, during which she and Gavin co-chaired Bet Shraga's Shomray Torah Society for three years. Additionally, she was an integral member of Temple Israel's Young Families Committee for many years. She also served three terms on the Board of Jewish Family Services and co-chaired its annual gala for several years.

Gavin's Professional and Community Contributions

Gavin earned his medical degree in South Africa and completed his surgical training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Albany Medical Center. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Otolaryngology and a Fellow of both the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy. As President & CEO of Albany ENT & Allergy Services, he has played a vital role in providing ENT and allergy care to the Capital Region.

A dedicated leader in his field, Gavin has held numerous prestigious positions, including past Chair of the Board of Governors, Secretary-Treasurer, and President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). He also served as President of the New York State Society of Otolaryngology and was inducted into the inaugural class of the AAO-HNS Hall of Distinction. In addition, he has held leadership roles with the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), including serving as past President of the IAC CT Division.

Gavin's commitment to community service extends beyond his profession. He has served on the boards of the Daughters of Sarah Nursing Center, Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, and the Israel Bonds Executive Committee. He also served as President of both Daughters of Sarah Nursing Center and Temple Israel and was a long-time volunteer at the Annual Health Fair.

Family and Personal Connections to the Albany Jewish Community

The Setzen family has shared many meaningful moments at the Albany Jewish Community Center. Karen trained in the JCC gym, forming lifelong friendships, while Lee and Sean attended kindergarten and spent much of their childhood there with their HACD friends.

Lee, now a Personal Finance & Investment Management professional, lives outside of Boston with his wife, Alexa, a Social Worker, and their son, Madden. Sean recently graduated from medical school and is completing a research fellowship in Chicago while applying for ENT residency training programs.

Karen and Gavin's deep-rooted commitment to their community, both professionally and personally, continues to leave a lasting impact on the Capital Region.