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**The Workmen's Circle Honors Mother-and-Son Activists
Ethel Grodzins Romm and Joe Romm
at Annual Winter Benefit**



Pictured (left to right) are: Ann Toback, Executive Director; Ethel Grodzins Romm, Honoree; Joe Romm, Honoree; and, Peter Pepper, President. Photo credit: Jerry Speier.

(New York, N.Y.) – The Workmen's Circle honored Ethel Grodzins Romm, chair of the Lyceum Society of the New York Academy of Sciences, and her son, Joe Romm, renowned climate change advocate, at its Annual Winter Benefit on Thursday, December 1, 2016.

"We are incredibly excited to be honoring two champions of the highest order: Ethel Grodzins Romm and Joe Romm; a mother and son who actively live, work, and fiercely advocate the ideals that we have fostered for 116 years," said Ann Toback, Executive Director of the Workmen's Circle.

Nearly 200 people attended the lively event at The Loft in midtown. Among the attendees were: *Years of Living Dangerously* Creator and Executive Producer David Gelber, who introduced Joe Romm; New York City Council Member Mark Levine; New York State Department of Labor Deputy Commissioner James Rogers; and New York City Central Labor Council Chief of Staff Brendan Griffith.

"Taking action to make the world a better place for all is at the fore of the Workmen's Circle's mission and vision, from our founding around 1900, when we served as an immigrant rights organization, and through succeeding decades when we worked to help build the union movement in America, especially the garment industry," said Peter Pepper, President of The Workmen's Circle. "Changing the world is also a core value for our two honorees."

During the program, the honorees were congratulated by two surprise videotaped messages from former Vice President Al Gore and *Titanic* Director James Cameron.

"I've very pleased to join you all in honoring my great friend Joe Romm and his mother Ethel Grodzins Romm," said Gore. "The enthusiasm you both so clearly have in your hearts to make our world more sustainable and equitable is truly inspiring."

"When the Workmen's Circle chose to honor Joe and Ethel Romm for their social activism, they couldn't have made a better choice," said Cameron. "They fight hard with enormous dedication to make a better, fairer, and more beautiful world for us all."

A former Environmental Technology CEO, journalist, and best-selling author, Ethel Grodzins Romm has dedicated her life to advancing gender equality in the workforce. Chair of the Lyceum Society of the New York Academy of Sciences and member of the Roosevelt Island Resident Association Common Council, Ethel is the author of several books and has written for *Editor & Publisher*, the *American Bar Association Journal*, *Esquire*, the *New York Times* Op-Ed page and *New York Magazine*.

Since World War II, when she was civilian drafting supervisor at Westover Army Air Base, MA, Grodzins Romm has run drafting, engineering, and construction groups. She was president and CEO of Niton Corp (now part of Thermo Scientific) when it was a start-up.

Joe Romm is a world-renowned climate change expert, author, physicist, and chief science advisor for the documentary series *Years of Living Dangerously*, which won the 2014 Emmy for Outstanding Nonfiction Series. (Season 2 is currently airing on the National Geographic Channel.)

In reference to the results of the past election, which have left so many in the progressive movement anxious as to the future, Romm said, "My main message today, is that the sixth stage of grief is activism. Now more than ever, we are tied in a single garment of destiny. So the need for activism, the need to speak out, is as great as ever. What we do now will determine U.S. history, world history, Jewish history for the next

thousand years. Every single person in this room has the time, the passion, and the money to make a difference.”

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman dubbed Romm’s *Climate Progress* “the indispensable blog,” *Rolling Stone* magazine has named him one of the top 100 people changing America, and *Time* magazine has called him a “Hero of the Environment” and “the Web’s most influential climate-change blogger.” He has served as acting assistant secretary of energy for energy efficiency and renewable energy at the Department of Energy, where he oversaw \$1 billion in low-carbon tech development and deployment. The author of nine books including *Language Intelligence: Lessons on Persuasion from Jesus, Shakespeare, Lincoln and Lady Gaga* and *Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know*, he is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and holds a PhD in physics from MIT.

About The Workmen’s Circle

For more than 100 years, the Workmen’s Circle has been at the center of Jewish culture and social action. Today, we’re continuing that journey in bold and exciting new ways. Through social justice campaigns, holiday celebrations, cultural traditions, educational programs and more, we connect Jewish adults, kids and families of all affiliations with their cultural heritage. Together, as we always have, we are working to build a *shenere un besere velt far ale* – “a better and more beautiful world for all.”

Learn more at www.circle.org.

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