

Chai Highlights

A PUBLICATION OF JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES THE JEWISH HOME • VOLUME 109 • FALL 2022

Bill Sims, Debby Hiller, and Barbara Kauders to Receive Awards at Fall Gala

On Thursday, October 13, 2022, the Women's Auxiliary will hold its Fall Gala. Jewish Senior Services will honor Bill Sims, Debby Hiller, and Barbara Kauders, three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our community. The memorable evening will be held at The Patterson Club in Fairfield, with festivities beginning at 6:30 PM. There will be a fabulous online auction, elegant dining, and lively entertainment by a cappella group Six13. This event is co-chaired by sisters Cindy Epstein, of Norwalk, and Vivian Epstein, of Ridgefield. Being with family, friends, and colleagues in-person, is definitely a reason to celebrate.

We are proud to announce that the 2022 recipient of the Arthur and Gladys Lunin Humanitarian Award is Bill Sims. The Lunin Award recognizes outstanding public and community service as exemplified by the good works of Arthur and Gladys Lunin. In addition, the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service, which recognizes devoted long-term service to Jewish Senior Services as demonstrated by the late Louis Lotstein, will be awarded to Debby Hiller and Barbara Kauders.

Bill earned a BA from Yale University, attended the Stanford University Graduate School of Business and earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from New York University. After a brief time in the bond department of Merrill Lynch, Bill joined his father, Herbert Sims, in the family business, in 1973. Herbert J. Sims, founded in 1935, known today as HJ Sims, is a wealth management, investment banking, and institutional services firm helping individual investors, organizations, municipalities, and institutions realize their potential. Bill, now Managing Principal, became intimate with the inner-workings of the nursing home

industry, senior living sector, and real estate markets, and has been nationally recognized for his expertise. He has overseen the financing of hundreds of projects and has made extraordinary achievements and contributions to the development of Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Continuing Care at Home programs. Bill was inducted into the Continuing Care Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2021. He was honored by Aging in America Inc. in 2005 and by the Miriam Osborn Memorial Home Association in 2008. Bill has been invited to serve as guest speaker at dozens of investment seminars and is the author of numerous articles.

Jewish Senior Services has benefited tremendously from Bill's industry knowledge ever since this entrepreneurial business leader joined the Board of Directors in 2001. Over his tenure with JSS, he served as Chairperson of the Finance and Executive Committees, Treasurer, Vice President, the 20th Chairperson of the Board of Directors and is currently on the Vision 2031 and Executive Committees. In September 2022, Bill was inducted as an Honorary Director for Life.

Bill resides in Westport, with his wife of more than 40



...continued on page 4 ➔

Dogwoods® Update

Since the last issue of Chai Lights, we have been working diligently to move forward with the project in Stamford to introduce a new Independent Living, Life Care Community on Long Ridge Road. There have been a series of focus groups, and additional market research to help define the program, and we have engaged HJ Sims as the underwriter to offer tax-exempt bonds to finance the purchase of the land. These are currently in process of being finalized and should "close" in the coming weeks so that we may begin the important work of the architectural design and marketing process. We hope to "launch" the pre-sales and priority deposit program in November so that individuals can secure their names on the list of future Residents! The full Disclosure Statement was filed with the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services in September, and the initial marketing work to create the brand was completed last month as well. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kate Kelly at (203) 365-6413 or kkelly@jseniors.org.**

A Green Partnership

In Autumn, nature reveals itself so spectacularly in this area: leaves of every hue, pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, heirloom apples by the bushel. Harvest season. Rosh Hashanah. New beginnings.

It is in this spirit that Jewish Senior Services begins a new partnership with Actual Energy, an innovative New England-based electricity supplier guided by sustainability principles. Their electricity product and advisory services are designed to optimize cost savings and emissions reductions, both key priorities for our organization and aligns with our reverence for the environment.

Environmental stewardship is an extension of the compassionate care we provide for the Residents. It is a manifestation of *tikkun olam*, one of our core values, instructing us to act in ways that help make our world a better place. The climate-positive energy decisions we make today are part of our communal legacy, representing our commitment to, and reverence for, the natural world.

Jewish Senior Services strives to build community among Residents, families, and staff, as well as the larger Bridgeport area. There is pride operating in a city committed to environmental action: the recent retirement of the Bridgeport Harbor Station coal plant, the planned 800-megawatt Park City (offshore) wind project, the Bridgeport Thermal Loop, and solar panels galore. In the near future, with Actual Energy's help, sustainability practices will be established by tracking our carbon emissions, implementing energy efficiency measures, and evaluating onsite solar energy options - playing a part in Bridgeport's green economy. We look forward to sharing further news about this partnership and related sustainability initiatives in the coming months.

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For more information on JSS Services call
1-833-JSS-LINK
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Visit our new website at
jseniors.org

President's Report

First, happy and healthy New Year! This is the first issue of Chai Lights under the leadership of new Board Chairperson, Jon August. We welcome Jon to his new role and know that the Board of Directors remains dedicated and committed to the long-term health and future of Jewish Senior Services.

There is so much to share in this issue, as we continue to expand on the commitment to provide the highest quality of care and quality of life to the seniors that we are privileged to serve. The story on the cover focuses on the Fall Gala, and we recap the other wonderful events sponsored by our Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club throughout this issue - which allows us to raise the funds to provide the "extras" that we do for Residents and our clients. Slice of Life includes pictures of Family Day Reimagined, Calendar Artists and new Resident Council officers. The Employee Awards Celebration in September is an excellent opportunity to recognize the incredible people who do such great work every day.

Fiscal Year 2022 was our best ever - as we were privileged to serve more seniors and their families than ever before. The continued growth of our

home care and community services allows us to help people not only here on The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus - but in their homes (EXCELLENCE IN OUR HOME AND YOURS). We remain the only intergenerational, Household model nursing home and assisted living community in the state of Connecticut, and the only intergenerational provider of the full range of services for seniors. We are all so proud of what we have accomplished, and thankful that our community continues to support the work that we do.



Andrew H. Banoff

As always, thank you for all that you do!

Andrew H. Banoff

Jon August

Mr. August is a personal injury attorney in Bridgeport at the well-regarded firm of Rosnick, Miller, D'Amico, August & Butler, P.C. He is a lifelong Bridgeport-area resident, and has been part of this community for his entire life.



Jon has commented that he "literally grew up" at 4200 Park Avenue, as he came as a young boy to wait for his mom to finish work on the Federation Campaign when the JCC building first opened. He is grateful and appreciative of the many professionals and volunteers and people who have shared the buildings on this property who have "provided him with care, nurturing and challenges throughout his life". Over time he came to see first-hand the loving care provided by everyone at Jewish Senior Services for various family members including his mother and aunt. He added that he is grateful for the "continuum of physical, emotional, and spiritual care for six decades", and that he is "truly proud and honored to be able to give a small piece back to the greater community".

Jon has been involved with the Board of Directors since 2015, and has served as Vice Chairperson since 2019, and on various committees for the Board.

Jon and his lovely wife Diana live in Easton, and have a young adult daughter, Rachel. They are members of Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport.

Annual Campaign

"My mother lived with my family for 21 years and we never expected her to leave our nest. As she aged, we adapted our lifestyle to support her needs. I've experienced firsthand how the care at The Jewish Home transformed my mother's and my life for the better. Now, that I am not my mother's "everything" I'm able to be her daughter again."

-- Randi Oster, Current Family Member

The community's generous support has helped us to sustain our mission of providing a safe, secure, and beautiful Jewish home, while also bringing the quality programs and activities to Residents that are so vital in enhancing their lives. These gifts to the Annual Campaign also help to ensure that despite an ever-challenging healthcare environment, combined with a growing aging population, we can continue to take care of our community's seniors for this and future generations. In one unexpected moment, you or someone you love may require healthcare assistance. Jewish Senior Services is here to help when that moment happens.



Please consider making a gift to the Annual Campaign today by scanning the QR code, calling 203-365-6407, or logging on to jseniors.org and click donate. Thank you.



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Slice of Life



Once again, the usual Men's Club sponsored Family Day celebration with families and friends on campus was not a possibility due to the pandemic. Instead, co-chairs Jonathan Green, Bob Hillman, Jerry Minsky, and Howard Zuckerman worked towards making the day memorable for all Residents by reinventing the Family Day event into a fun afternoon celebrating Old Broadway throughout the month of August. Celebrations included live music show tunes, "Playbills" at each table, a ticket booth, photo props, giveaways, and a special menu of deli sandwiches, hotdogs, Italian ices and of course egg creams!

Photos above from left to right: (top row) Len Brightman, David Reiss, Carol Shapiro, Dorothy Freedman, Martin Grossman, (bottom row) Marie Kassay, Patricia Wirth-Conniff, Irma Grossman, Florence Blum, and event decor

Photo Credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol Photointeractive



1. New Assisted Living Courtyard Awning **2.** and donor, Renée Noren along with mom, Elaine Rosoff **3.** JSS staff dons purple for Alzheimer's Awareness Day **4.** Celebration Courtyard butterfly bush garden donated by June Redmond **5.** New and outgoing Resident Council Members: Front row, from left to right: Wanda Henderson, incoming Vice President, Avis Dannenberg, outgoing Vice President, David Reiss, incoming President, Susan Resnick, incoming Vice President, Liliane Potier, incoming Chairperson of Programming. Back row, from left to right: Francene Sanchione, Supervisor, Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services, Ellen Ashkins, Director, Resident Life. Not pictured: Roslyn Gottlieb, outgoing President **6.** 2022-23 Resident Artwork Calendar artists Michelle Weiner, Susan Resnick, Robert Pate, Diane Schaumann, Wanda Henderson, Arnold Fischer, Marc Frankel, Fern Berman, and staff in back row, Sara O'Connor, Art Therapist, Ellen Ashkins, Director, Resident Life, Mary Anne Mastroianni, Resident Transporter **7.** "Minions" sculpture by Carol Shapiro **8.** Assisted Living Residents at a recent lunch outing, Harold Batt, Dick Becker, Dorothy Freedman, Elaine Rosoff, Adele Witt, Audrey Peltzman **9.** Pianist Burton Hatheway **10.** Rosh Hashanah gathering with Lori Spector, Mary Jane Martucci, Marsha Ryzman, Viola Way, Esther Spiegel, Anna Mangiaracina

Women's Auxiliary

Fall Gala Award Recipients *...continued from front cover*

years, Diane. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Amanda.

Andrew H. Banoff, President & CEO of Jewish Senior Services, shared, "Bill Sims is one of the formal and informal leaders of the Jewish Senior Services' Board of Directors, and our community. We are privileged to have his wisdom, insight, and calm demeanor to help guide us through uncharted waters. I am personally grateful to Bill for his counsel, his friendship, and his support."

Andrew continued, "Debby Hiller and Barbara Kauders have demonstrated exemplary leadership for the Women's Auxiliary and have become pillars of this important organization. They are always there to ensure that we fulfill our Mission and to guide the Women's Auxiliary Board toward doing whatever we can for the benefit of the Residents and clients we are privileged to serve. Most importantly, they are both just lovely people!"

Debby Hiller, one of this year's Louis Lotstein Award recipients, is being recognized for her dedication to Jewish Senior Services. Her connection to The Jewish Home began through family. Her mother-in-law, Ruth Hiller, was a Resident on Jefferson Street and her sister-in-law, Muriel Brown, is a Past President of the Women's Auxiliary. 10 years ago, Debby formally joined the Auxiliary Board. Her passion and volunteerism truly deserve acknowledgement. She has held active leadership roles as a co-chair or committee member of every Auxiliary event, program, and activity, and became Co-President in 2017. She served on the Jewish Senior Services Board of Directors and was a member of the Employee Relations and Professional Services Committees.

Raised in Madison, Debby earned a BA in Social Studies from Ithaca College and a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from Fairfield University. She spent 25 years involved in the Trumbull town government including nine years on the Board of Education as a member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. A life-long teacher, in her various roles throughout the community, Debby advocated for improving the lives of all she touched, whether it was her chronically mentally ill clients and families, her clients receiving counseling and psychiatric services, or her students and interns at the Colleges and Universities where she taught. Debby and Arthur have been married for 52 years, living in Milford, Trumbull and now Shelton. Their daughter Dena lives in Massachusetts with her husband Casey and their son Marc lives in New Hampshire with his wife Erica. They have four grandchildren.

Barbara Kauders is also receiving this year's Lotstein Award for Distinguished

Service. Very fitting since Barbara and Debby became fast friends after meeting at a Women's Auxiliary Fall Gala, years ago. Barbara joined the Auxiliary Board in 2016 and quickly became a dedicated board member and leader, committee member, and faithful friend. She is being recognized for her commitment to Jewish Senior Services. In 2017, Barbara became Co-President of the Auxiliary with Debby. They served a two-year term and continue to be invaluable mentors to the Board members.

A New Haven native, Barbara now lives in Milford. She graduated from Southern CT State College and took Statistics at Yale University. She was elected New Haven Democratic Ward Chairperson, was a Human Resource Administrator for the City of New Haven, a Human Resource and Administrative Coordinator for an International Software Company, and a union representative for AFSME. During her time working for the City of New Haven, Barbara formed an Employee Assistance Program for those employees who had substance abuse problems and trained supervisors on how to deal with this difficult subject. She also counseled persons newly released from prison and assisted them in finding employment. Barbara is the wife of her beloved late husband, Jimmy, the mother of three boys, Adam Gross, of Scarsdale, Marc Gross, of Los Angeles, and Josh Gross, of New Rochelle, and proud grandmother of five. This year, not only did she celebrate her Bat Mitzvah, but she got her first hole in one!!

There are many ways to support this year's Fall Gala. Place an ad in the commemorative journal and include a special message to the honorees, a Resident, or staff member. Or attend the event and join us for the festivities on October 13th in person or in a socially distant manner via live stream. An exciting online auction will be part of this year's event with a variety of packages to suit all interests. You do not need to attend the event to view or bid on items.

For over 50 years the Women's Auxiliary has played an essential role in furthering Jewish Senior Service's mission and standard of health care. The overriding mission of the Women's Auxiliary is to nurture, enhance and support quality of life initiatives for the Residents and clients of Jewish Senior Services.

Additional information, to register online or view the auction details, visit <https://jseniors.org/donations/womens-auxiliary-donations/fall-gala/> or contact Lisa Becker, Development Associate, at 203-396-1000 or lbecker@jseniors.org.

Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting

Over 40 women gathered in support of the Women's Auxiliary at the Annual Membership Meeting, co-chaired by past President Barbara Kauders and Board Member Vanessa Rosenberg. Members enjoyed listening to Dr. Vittoria Gassman share her journey to becoming a physician, as well as insights and experiences as the Medical Director of Hospice at Jewish Senior Services. Past President Debby Hiller installed Cindy Epstein and Vivian Epstein as the incoming Women's Auxiliary Co-Presidents.

Photo top left: Co-chair Barbara Kauders with guest speaker Dr. Vittoria Gassman; photo top right: New WA Co-Presidents Vivian Epstein and Cindy Epstein; bottom: Debby Hiller installs the new Co-Presidents.



For More Information

For further information on how to become involved with the **Women's Auxiliary** or the **Men's Club**, please contact **Dayna Hayden, Development Director, at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@jseniors.org**. Women's Auxiliary annual membership dues are \$36 and life membership is \$250 (payable over three years). Men's Club annual membership dues are \$75 and \$150. Life membership is \$1,000 and George Lipton Fellow membership is \$2,500 (both payable over three years).

Men's Club

Annual George Lipton Golf Invitational

The 36th Annual George Lipton Golf Invitational took place on Monday, June 17 at Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston. The day started off with grey skies and off and on rain, but that didn't deter our golfers from showing up for a round of 18-holes of golf. Eventually the skies cleared just in time for a pleasant evening for cocktails, dinner, a silent auction, and awards. Mitchell Adelstein, President of the Men's Club, thanked co-chairs Larry Gottlieb and Neil Lippman for all their efforts to ensure a successful event. This year's Lipton generated \$95,000. Special thanks to all participants and event sponsors for their generous and ongoing support of the Men's Club and of Jewish Senior Services (Please see sponsor list).

Photo Credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol Photointeractive



Celebrity Breakfast 2022

The seventh annual Celebrity Breakfast, hosted by the Men's Club, was held in September. Over 100 guests filled Bennett Hall, and 100 logged on virtually, to hear Marc Lasry, CEO & Co-Founder of Avenue Capital Group and Co-Owner of the NBA Milwaukee Bucks. Andy Boas moderated a discussion with Lasry, asking about his business career and how he came to be involved in the sports world. The conversation was followed by questions from the eager crowd. Mitchell Adelstein and Louis Zuckerman co-chaired the morning. With the help of 20 waiters (pictured) and sponsors Butler Tibbetts, Global Partners LP, Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, MarshMcLennan Agency, and Morrison Living, over \$38,000 was raised.



Photo Credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol Photointeractive

Thank You!

Thank you to all of the businesses and individuals who supported the George Lipton Invitational - Jewish Senior Services is extremely grateful for your continued support.

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Community Services

Why I joined Senior Choice at Home[®] By Richard Wurtzel



Richard Wurtzel with son Andrew, daughter-in-law Lauren, and grandchildren Sam and Zoey.

I am a rather new member of Senior Choice at Home (SCAH) and at the time was one of the youngest members when I joined. What a wonderful opportunity to be connected with such a professional organization. I am still working full time as a Speech Language Pathologist in Private Practice. My specialty is Dysphagia (Swallowing Disorders) and High Functioning Adults on the Autism Spectrum. University Towers is a co-op in the center of downtown New Haven

where I plan to continue to live. I have two sons, Jeffrey and Andrew, who are a plane ride away but are here when I need them. I love visiting them frequently especially seeing my grandchildren.

As soon as I heard of SCAH, I called the next day. Other than my son, none of

my friends or professional acquaintances - including my lawyer, accountant or financial advisor - ever heard of SCAH (now I tell everyone and so do they). To me it seemed too good to be true and I was amazed that after much research it was just what I needed.

Financially, through good planning, I had plenty of money to keep up my lifestyle. The question was - how long could I do this if I had serious medical issues? Joining SCAH was a small investment opportunity to live where I wanted, and with the help I needed to stay in my home. This was life-changing to have this peace of mind.

I wanted to share with you what made me make the choice to join SCAH. I knew others from Bridgeport where I grew up who worked at The Jewish Home, familiar names of Board Members, and Residents. I took the tour of the building and saw the Shabbat candle room and knew I was home with others who cared about their community and Residents. I am grateful to have discovered this opportunity.

To learn more about Senior Choice at Home, contact us at 203-365-6491 or seniorchoicehome@jseniors.org.

A Game-Changer to Stay Mentally Fit

The impetus to create The Memory Workshop in 2019 was the growing need to address concerns we were hearing about people with early-stage memory loss or cognitive decline. The program is designed for the individual who identifies some memory issues and wants to maintain and enhance memory and brain fitness in order to maintain an independent lifestyle and quality of life. The Memory Workshop provides stimulating programming such as memory boosting exercise and memory loss prevention activities

such as recall, brain games, and cognitive exercises, as well as health and wellness presentations, entertainment, outings, and chair exercises. The program has two sessions Monday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Participants can attend one of both days.

For a tour or complimentary trial day, or to learn more, contact us at 203-396-1021 or memoryworkshop@jseniors.org.



enrich your life **BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER**

We invite you to consider becoming a volunteer with **Chaifetz Family Hospice**. Volunteers provide compassionate, quality care to those living with life-limiting illness. Volunteers work side-by-side with hospice professionals.

The next Hospice Volunteer training is **Sunday, November 6, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM,** and **Thursday, November 10, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Training materials and meals will be provided free of charge. For more information or to sign up, please contact **Ellen Ashkins** at **203-365-6417** or eashkins@jseniors.org.



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Friedman Home Care is offering our patients a telemonitoring device to keep them safe at home. The system enables real-time monitoring of a patient's symptoms, vital signs, and medication compliance, ensuring the home health clinicians can provide intervention before an emergency arises to reduce hospital readmissions. To inquire about monitoring or for more information, call **203-396-1136** or email homecare@jseniors.org.



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Employee News

New JSS Leadership



Sherry Mercer started her career at Jewish Senior Services as a Charge Nurse and, in July, became the Director of Education. She is a great team player who values the ideas and opinions of her coworkers. With the ability to adapt quickly, she has hit the ground running in her new position. Sherry was born and raised in Bridgeport, CT, where she still resides. She attended Bridgeport Public

Schools, then matriculated at Housatonic Community College and The University of Bridgeport where she graduated with her bachelor's Degree in Nursing. In her free time, she likes to go to the movie theater and enjoys trying out new recipes with her son, who aspires to become a Chef.



We are pleased to announce that **Natalie Colon** has moved into the full-time Infection Preventionist position. Natalie joined Jewish Senior Services in 2016 where she worked on the short-term rehabilitation floor. Natalie earned her Associate Degree in Nursing from St. Vincent's College in 2016 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Sacred Heart University in 2018. Natalie is excited to

continue her nursing journey here at JSS!

Employee Spotlight



Tiffany Colucci joined Jewish Senior Services in April as an ElderCare Navigator (ECN). She has a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Wright State University in Dayton, OH. She is licensed as a Professional Counselor in Connecticut and is also a National Certified Counselor. She has worked with the older adult population in various roles as a hospital discharge planner, case manager for the Senior Adult Department at the Mayerson

Jewish Community Center in Cincinnati, OH, and facilitating evidenced based workshops to older adults.

In her new role as ECN, she provides in-home assessments to determine health and safety needs and develops personalized recommendations and services that respond to your family's needs and wants. Tiffany collaborates with clients/ families to provide short-term or ongoing assistance with a variety of services either on an hourly basis or monthly membership fee. As an ECN, Tiffany gets to know you and your family and helps you make the best decisions about your care.

Some of services she provides are coordinating resources, especially during health changes and care transitions; assessment of home safety and health needs; arrange in home care; assist with other living arrangements; provides consultation and advocacy with providers, benefits and services; coordinate medication management; provide supportive counseling; provide long-term planning services; and communicate with family near and far. Through a personal relationship with Tiffany, clients/families will have peace of mind knowing they have a safety net in anticipation of changing needs.

Tiffany will also be facilitating the monthly Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group Meetings both on Zoom and in person at Jewish Senior Services on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of the month.

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Employee Awards

This year's Employee Awards was a fun evening honoring all staff. Jewish Senior Services was fortunate to honor 112 employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of dedicated service. Special recognition was given to the employees listed below. Thanks to MarshMcLennan Agency for their contribution to the event.

CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD

Lizbeth Hernandez • Frank Mastroianni • Norma Morris • Mary Pruzinsky

JACQUELINE PURCELL NURSING AWARD*

Nancy Pereira

MARY WILLIAMS NURSING ASSISTANT AWARD*

Barbara Pinnock

CHARNEY FAMILY AWARD

Jesaleh Appleton

MARIE CAYO HUMANITARIAN AWARD*

Tanekia Horton

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Veronica Webb

ELAINE "LANEY" POLLACK AWARD*

Maureen Koproski

SADIE FREEMAN AWARD*

Beverly Newland

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Liza Mitchel

* Award in memory of a dedicated employee



Jon August
Chairperson of the Board

Andrew H. Banoff
President & CEO / Editor

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Family Portrait - June Redmond by Randi Oster

So many times, children promise their parents, "I'll never send you to a nursing home." Preconceived notions, past experiences, and the fear of losing independence prevent families from evaluating all their options for transitioning to a new life stage.

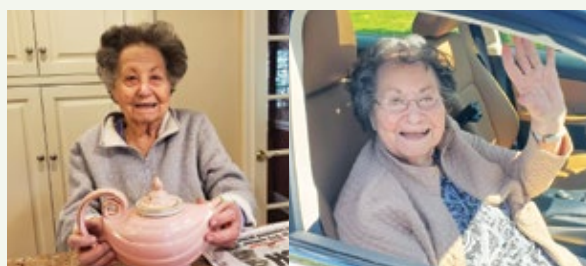
June Redmond was typical in her lack of desire to live in a nursing home. Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1928 she was raised by her grandparents and lived every day watching those caring for her age. Her grandfather, wandered into the street in the middle of the night, Aunt Gussie lost her eyesight, and her grandmother would not take her to visit relatives in the nursing home because it was too unpleasant.

As a child, she prayed her grandparents would live to see her married. June knew her grandmother was strong. Bubbie, as she affectionately called her, was a force that reassured June, she would survive. June had every reason to believe her. Bubbie figured out her family had to flee Russia for survival. First Bubbie sent her two oldest children to America to find work and save money to send for their father. Once he arrived, it took another year for him to send money for Bubbie and their five more children to immigrate. Bubbie and her children traveled on the last ship out of Russia before WW1. When Bubbie arrived at Ellis Island, her first words to her excited-to-see husband was, "I had all my children in the old country." The family lived in a Brooklyn walk-up with two bedrooms, a coal stove and the refrain, "you think that's bad; you should see the old country."

No matter the obstacle, Bubbie persevered. Even though they came to America in steerage, she would tell stories of singing and dancing in the bowels of the ship. In America, when June's parents could not raise her, Bubbie happily took her in. For an American born child raised by non-English speaking grandparents, June's perspective on aging was dim. June had to teach her grandparents to sign their names in English, plus help them adjust to their new culture, while their physical and mental capabilities waned.

When June was 26, she had to face the hard reality she could not care for her grandmother. June placed Bubbie in a good nursing home. She remembers Bubbie walking up the stairs, yet six months later, her grandmother passed away.

As June aged, she loved that her daughter, Randi, and son-in-law, Steve, eagerly invited her and her husband, Eugene, to live in Fairfield as a multi-generational family. She figured she would never go to a nursing home. For 21 years, June helped the family balance their busy lives. June would cook, do laundry, and babysit, while Randi and Steve worked. June relished this sense of purpose. When her grandchildren, Gary and Matthew, had conflicting soccer matches, she'd stay with Gary while Randi went to Matt's game. She loved being at both of her grandchildren's Bar Mitzvahs and even helping with the Hadassah annual campaign mailer. As everyone grew older, roles changed. The children started to help their grandmother carry laundry upstairs. Randi made sure Grandma June had her medications, doctors' visits, and hair appointments. June's life was her immediate family. She didn't need anyone else. As time passed, June was able to do less and less, so the family did more and more. With limited family time and outside help, June spent her days mostly watching TV. Her mental and physical levels diminished.



June before residing at JSS, and after.

At age 91 she fell off her bedroom chair and broke her hip. After rehabilitation at Jewish Senior Services, she became a permanent Resident. She is happier than ever because professionals care for her everyday needs. Every morning Randi calls, every week Randi takes June out to lunch, every month there is a family celebration. But, June doesn't have to wait for Randi to be her social coordinator. June loves to play bingo, talk at meals with new friends from her generation, and see live music performances. Her grandchildren claim she beats Benjamin Button's rate for growing younger. This transformation goes deeper than her appearance. Randi feels she can be June's daughter again and not her "everything." With all the socialization, June's memory improved, and tells Randi JSS goes on. Plus, she now exercises, so she is physically stronger. Tawana Williams is one of many special caregivers that have transformed June's appreciation of nursing homes. June says, "I am living an old age of dignity. I don't feel like just an old lady. I'm a happy human being."

Since Tawana loves butterflies, June donated a butterfly garden in the front courtyard (photo in Slice of Life, page 3), as a tribute to all caregivers at the JSS. It truly can be beautiful to transform to a new life stage. The Oster family is grateful to the entire JSS team for this gift.

Family Mail

My mother needed increased assistance while staying socially and physically active. JSS has provided that while addressing her medical needs. Every time I visit, mom reminds me how much she likes JSS. She says, "I am so happy".

**- R.N., Assisted Living
Family Member**

Thank you for caring for my mom who died in 2018 and my aunt who died recently. My family is grateful to the entire Jewish Home staff and administration who honored and enhanced the lives of these two wonderful women.

**- B.C., Long-term Care
Family Member**

Save the Dates

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 13
Women's Auxiliary
Annual Fall Gala
The Patterson Club
Fairfield, CT

Thursday, October 20
Personally Speaking Lecture Series
Fraud Prevention - What You
NEED to Know
Jewish Senior Services

Monday, October 24
Men's Club
Annual Membership Meeting
Jewish Senior Services

Thursday, October 27
Career Fair
Jewish Senior Services

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 3
Virtually Speaking Lecture Series
Navigating the Holidays After Losing a
Loved One

A special thank you to our Federations

Jewish Senior Services is a recipient agency of the following community organizations. We thank these organization and the communities for their support.

**Jewish Federation of Greater
Fairfield County
UJA-JCC Greenwich
United Jewish Federation of Greater
Stamford, New Canaan, Darien**