

A PUBLICATION OF JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES THE JEWISH HOME • VOLUME 107 • WINTER 2022



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Centenarian Celebration pg. 3

Two Years on a Roller Coaster is Easier with a Great Nursing Team

The last two years have reminded us all of the importance of nursing, caregivers and all our support teams, as we are entrusted to care for the loved ones of so many families. The Jewish Home was founded nearly 50 years ago to care for the frail elderly, and we have had a commitment to our Mission for nearly five decades. Throughout the pandemic, there are countless examples of their tireless efforts to care for those in our trust. They implement and oversee physicians' orders for medications and treatments; they hold Residents' hands when they are in pain or need someone to talk to; they all offer compassion, which is the ultimate gift of caregivers – to feel others' pain and to offer support.

We are blessed to have so many dedicated caregivers and would like to take this time to THANK them all, not only for their work in recent times, but always. You are truly HEROES and make a difference in the lives of so many people.

Jewish Senior Services is also fortunate to have a wonderful leadership team, and as announced in late January, these are the individuals who oversee our long-term care services.

With pleasure we announce that Stacey Bardin, RN has been

appointed as the permanent Director of Nursing for Jewish Senior Services. Since Erena Fitzgerald retired, Stacey has been the Interim Director of Nursing, demonstrating strong leadership during the pandemic and the Annual Survey. Stacey has 15+ years of experience in Nursing Leadership positions prior to joining JSS in March 2020. Stacey recently earned her Master's degree in Nursing Management/ Leadership from The University of Hartford.

Additionally, Michelle Boccanfuso, RN has been appointed as the Assistant Director of Nursing. Michelle has 10+ years of Nursing Management experience, most recently as Director of Nursing at Genesis Health Care. Since joining JSS, Michelle has been the Infection Preventionist and has been key in supporting our COVID response and the Annual Survey. Michelle has recently earned her BS, Nursing.

Completing the nursing team above are Guides Allison Shortell, RN – 1st floor, Nancy Meliso, RN – 2nd floor, Lorina Pettway, RN - 3rd floor, and Justine Labate, RN – 4th floor. Each has a passion and commitment to our beloved Residents and clients, and commitment to long-term care.



Slice of Life pg. 3



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Navigating the Maze of Aging Services

"I'm worried about my mother. I live out of town, and I am not sure she is making it to her doctor's appointments and able to follow-up with all the recommendations."



continued on next page ->

Join our Team!!

While there are many options to choose from, Jewish Senior Services is often a great solution when searching for your next career opportunity. With more than 800 colleagues and an incredible track record for longevity,



"My husband has fallen in our home several times and I am worried that he will get injured."

"My dad still pays all his bills, but recently there was a large error, and his account was overdrawn."

"My mother lives alone in a big house that she can't take care of anymore. She is isolated and doesn't seem to be taking care of herself as well as she used to."

As we age, our needs change. Whether planning ahead or dealing with unexpected changes in health, housing or relationships, older adults and their family members often find themselves in unfamiliar territory when navigating the complex landscape of the healthcare system and the community resources available to them. come find out WHY people choose to work here (and stay) in our award-winning senior living community. Opportunities exist in everything from Nursing to Certified Nursing Assistant positions, in all of our Home Care and Community Services programs, to Dining, Housekeeping and Laundry, in many Administrative and support services positions, as well as many others. We have many flexible schedules, competitive benefits and pay structures, sign-on and recruitment bonuses, employee recognition and rewards programs, a

401K match, and so much more. For more information, please call 203-365-6457, or apply online at jseniors.applicantpool. com/jobs/ Fall Gala pg. 4



Chairperson and President's Remarks



Alan Phillips

While it is unlikely that any of us would have predicted the impact of another wave of the pandemic and the Omicron variant when we wrote the last issue of Chai Lights, it is equally clear that we have all been touched by this unfortunate series of events. From mid-December through the month of January, we all experienced COVID-19 cases with our families and friends, and importantly our beloved Residents, clients and staff. Fortunately, the

impact was not nearly as severe thanks to our incredibly dedicated staff, the availability and reliability of rapid testing, better treatments, and the protection of the vaccination and booster programs. Each day things continue to improve. Many thanks to everyone involved in caring for our loved ones.

Each year we raise funds for our Residents, clients and staff through various means. The Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club have been generous over so many years and continue to support our activities thanks to their events which are well attended, well run, and always enjoyable! The Annual Campaign provides over \$300,000 each year which allows us to provide enhanced Resident Life, Pastoral Care and other resources above and beyond what is funded through our reimbursement system. As described in Andrew's January14 Update #104, 137 families donated \$22,350 to the Employee Holiday Fund which allows us to provide Target Gift Cards to everyone, a Holiday Staff Party, and free meals for staff.

We have also started a new fundraising campaign to help us meet our strategic goals, which is called Vision 2031 Fund for the Future. Nearly \$5M has already been committed through our Board of Directors



Andrew H. Banoff

and other friends of Jewish Senior Services. We are working on some very exciting plans that we hope to share with you in the next issue of Chai Lights. In the interim, if you would like to know more about the Fund for the Future, please contact Dina Fleischmann, Major Gifts Officer at (203) 365-6406 or dfleischmann@jseniors.org.

Finally, we have a smaller project directed at upgrades for the Main Celebration Courtyard, including additional Jerusalem Stone, flooring and seating upgrades, and some additional shade areas. If you are interested in that project, please also contact Dina.

As always, thank you for all that you do!

alar Ste

Alan Phillips

Andrew H. Banoff

Navigating the Maze ... continued from page 1

As the trusted advisor in senior health care for almost 50 years, Jewish Senior Services is pleased to expand its Care Navigation services to ensure that seniors and their families have the assistance they need in making next-stage life decisions. With peace-of-mind and quality of life as the overarching goals, our Care Navigators will help you create a personalized life plan and roadmap to assist in planning and decisionmaking.

A relationship with a Care Navigator is a pro-active approach to aging. The Care Navigator specializes in helping adults plan for, obtain and navigate transitions related to health and daily needs. Care Navigators support individuals, family members and others involved in the life of an aging adult. Long-term planning is a cornerstone of Care Navigation and focuses on the safety, health and well-being of the individual served. Available on an hourly or contractual basis, our Care Navigators are there to support you or a loved one with everything from "who" to call, "how" to handle an issue, to "when" to ask for help providing care coordination and referrals to needed resources, whether they be medical, social, housing or legal.

Help is just a phone call away. For a consultation, assistance or to explore how we can help, call 1-833-JSS-LINK (577-5465).

B'Tayavon Catering Hits the Road

Did you know kosher catering is available from Jewish Senior Services? B'Tayavon is a full-service kosher caterer offering a wide array of gourmet menus to choose from that are innovative, upscale, and changing to keep up with the current trends in food preparation. B'Tayavon uses only the freshest ingredients to prepare delectable food, all under strict rabbinical supervision.

Watch for our catering van as it makes deliveries in your neighborhood! Contact us for all your Passover or special event needs at 203-396-1023 or btayavoncatering@jseniors.org.

Kosher certification through New England Kosher, Rabbi Mayer Abramowitz with approval of Vaad HaKashrus of Connecticut.





"How's your Dad feeling?"

"Doing so much better now that he's at the Adult Day Program at Jewish Senior Services. He's made new friends and they make sure he gets some exercise, his meals and medication. So much better than being home alone."

"Jewish Senior Services... of course. of course."



Providing Quality Care in Connecticut for Nearly 50 Years Grasmere on Park Adult Day Program • 203-365-6470 • adultday@jseniors.org

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus • 4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 www.jseniors.org • 833-JSS-LINK (833-577-5465)

Slice of Life







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1. Gene Dutchess 2. Evelyn Kuna and 3. Arnold Frankel show their zest for life during Citrus Month 4. Virginia Dumitre 5. Ruth Rosenblatt 6. Helen Mongelia 7. Judith Sachs and Shirley Montner celebrate triple digit birthdays 8. Maryette Delvecchio 9. Frank Babin and **10.** Selma Nagel show off handwritten New Year greeting cards from the students at Tashua Elementary School in Trumbull **11.** Joan James and 12. Edith Ghiron's display some of the bright colored "Stars of Hope"- donated by UJF PJ Library Program 13. Millicent Leuba and 14. Peter Haile using their whiteboards that were Chanukah gifts from the Women's Auxiliary 15. Howard Simon and Michael Slavin enjoy a chat during a Resident Men's Club lunch 16. Toni Ann Marcy and 17. Howard Simon cheer on their favorite team during the Super Bowl



Thank You!

Thank you to all those who supported the Fall Gala -Jewish Senior Services is extremely grateful for your continued support.

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Fall Gala

The 2021 Fall Gala was a huge success! Over 170 members of the community came together, either in person or virtually, at The Patterson Club in Fairfield in support of Jewish Senior Services. The evening of Wednesday, October 20 was spectacular as we celebrated the achievements of Emil Meshberg and Linda Lazinger.

Co-chaired by Cindy Epstein and Vivian Epstein, the event was truly a night to remember. Alan Phillips, Chairperson of Jewish Senior Services, paid tribute to Emil Meshberg for being a leader and dedicated member of the community and presented him with the Arthur and Gladys Lunin Humanitarian Award. Jon August, Vice Chairperson of Jewish Senior Services, presented the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service, to Linda Lazinger for her volunteer work at Jewish Senior Services. Guests were entertained by the comical and engaging magic of Bill Herz, bid on great items at the silent auction, read the beautiful commemorative journal and appreciated the gorgeous décor by Ruth Ridgeway Designs. \$209,000 was raised to support many important programs for the Residents of Jewish Senior Services with \$24,000 earmarked for a Technology for the Future fund.

Photo Credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol Photointeractive



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SAVE THE DATE • MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON & BOUTIQUE

Svents

GUEST SPEAKER ELYSE OLEKSAK CO-FOUNDER OF BANTAM BAGELS, AS SEEN ON SHARK TANK THE WATERVIEW, MONROE, CT • CO-CHAIRS: RACHAEL DIAMOND, KATE FIERMAN AND MARTHA ZUCKMAN

Register online: https://jseniors.org/donations/womens-auxiliary_donations/spring-luncheon/ • For more information, please call 203-396-1000 or email lbecker@jseniors.org



Annual Meeting 2021

The Women's Auxiliary Annual Membership Meeting, chaired by Past Women's Auxiliary President Barbara Kauders, featuring guest speaker Rabbi Sarah Marion of Congregation B'nai Israel. It was attended by members in-person and virtually on Monday, November 8, 2021. Four new members were installed to the Board of Directors – Deborah Accurso, Shelley Kreiger, Sheila Merriam and Greta Solomon.

The Men's Club invite you to join us for a **New Haven Pizza Tasting Walking Tour** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:00 am to 3:00 pm \$100 per person

A fun trip into the world of pizza in the heart of New Haven's Little Italy. The 4-hour tour visit includes Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, Sally's Apizza, Zeneli Pizzeria and Abate's Apizza and more. All-in-all you will try 10 pizzas, have options for wine, beer and soda, and then vote on the best pizza of the day!

Call 203-396-1000 or email Ibecker@jseniors.org to register.





The Men's Club of Jewish Senior Services
GEORGE LIPTON

Save the Date MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022

ASPETUCK VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB 🔹 WESTON, CT 🔱



Lunch • Afternoon Golf • Pickleball • Cocktails • Auction • Dinner

Register online at: https://jseniors.org/donations/mens-club-donations/george-lipton-golf-tennis-invitational/ For more information: 203-396-1000 or lbecker@jseniors.org

A special thank you to our Federations

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

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

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, Director, Development**, 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. Life membership is \$1,000 and George Lipton Fellow membership is \$2,500 (both payable over three years).

Community Services



Employee Spotlight - Hospice

Veronica Webb, LMSW is the Bereavement Coordinator, Hospice Social Worker, and Home Care Social Worker with The Roy and Aline Friedman Home Care and Chaifetz Family Hospice. Veronica achieved her Master's in social work from NYU in 2020, where she interned with Danbury Hospital's Palliative Care Team.

Veronica is dedicated to providing support to patients and their families throughout the continuum of their care, both in the community and at JSS. By being a part of several care teams, Veronica is able to establish rapport with patients and families to enhance the continuity of care throughout several life transitions.

From Our Grasmere Adult Day Program Families



"I brought my mother to the adult day program so that while I'm at work, I know that she is safe and stimulated through fun activities, peer interaction and daily exercise. The staff Is friendly and professional. Mom enjoys the experience!" -D.K.



"Grasmere on Park Adult Day Program has been essential for the structure of living and having a loved one with memory issues. The aides are attentive, engaging and always excited to see my mother. My mother has developed a bond with the staff and feels safe. This is

endearing considering her general loss of familiarity. The program has provided my mom a sense of normalcy during these unprecedented times in regard to her memory function. From a family perspective it is comforting to know she is safe and engaged, with knowledgeable people who understand her needs. I have recommended, and continue to recommend, the adult day program to others. Apply sooner rather than later."

-Y.B.

Grasmere on Park Adult Day is a medically supervised program that meets the needs of adults with cognitive and physical challenges in a happy and supportive setting. It allows adults who live at home to connect with peers and stay active under nurse supervision. To set up a tour or for more information, please contact us at 203-365-6470 or adultday@jseniors.org

Home Together[®] **A Resource for Caregivers**

Are you a caregiver caring for a loved one at home? You may qualify for financial assistance through Home Together®, an Adult Family Living program. Reach out to us at 1-833-JSS-LINK (577-5465) for more information and a free assessment. We want to help you and your family remain at home, together.



Parkinson's Education Series

Jewish Senior Services is proud to present an educational series for the newly diagnosed Parkinson's Disease patient and their caregivers. This is a free series focusing on stages of the disease, maintaining safe mobility and minimizing functional decline.

Throughout the six sessions, a range of topics will be covered including: stages of the disease, mobility management, management of daily activities, management of cognitive or mental decline and local/global resources.

Attendees are invited to participate virtually via Zoom or in person at Jewish Senior Services, 4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport. Call 203-365-6474 to find out more about the next session.

This program is supported by a community grant from the Parkinson's Foundatior

The Expertise You Need; The Compassionate Care You Deserve

At Jewish Senior Services, our Home Care Programs promote recovery, independence, and overall health to individuals. We can assist with medical and non-medical care after a hospital stay, while recovering from an illness or helping with activities of daily living. Our Hospice Program supports patients and families with quality, compassionate end of life care.

Medicare Certified and Licensed Medical Home Care Services include:

- Case management Ø
- Skilled nursing Ø
- Physical therapy Ø
- Occupational therapy Ø
- Speech therapy Ø
- Home health aide services Ø
- Medical social work Ø
- Nutritional counseling Ø

Non-Medical Home Care Services include:

- Companion and homemaker services 0
- Medication reminders Ø
- Assistance with personal care and Activities Ø of Daily Living
- Transportation to errands, grocery shopping Ø and appointments
- Flexible scheduling up to 24-hour care

Medicare Certified Hospice Services include:

- Medical care and oversight of pain and symptom management
- Emotional support and spiritual guidance Ø
- Home health aides Ø
- Caregiver education and support Ø
- Grief and loss counseling Ø
- Staff available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Ø
- Ø Hospice volunteers
- Pet and music therapy Ø

Contact The Roy and Aline Friedman Home Care Agency at 203-396-1136 or homecare@jseniors.org. You can reach Chaifetz Family Hospice at 203-396-1136 or hospice@jseniors.org.



New JSS Leadership



Rodriguez

We are pleased to announce Kara Rodriguez recently joined JSS as Chief Human Resources Officer. Kara brings a wealth of knowledge to the organization from the 30 plus years she has worked in Human Resources. She is an accomplished leader whose successes and focus include identifying cost saving processes, designing, and implementing improvements to ensure organizational goals are met and developing teams.

Kara's professional experience includes managing business operations and human resources functions at Pitney Bowes where she led the day-to-day operations as well as a number of large initiatives resulting in organizational cost savings. She was recognized twice as Triple Crown Manager for leading a highly engaged team.

Kara also worked at Diageo in Norwalk as Director, Employee Relations and Service Delivery, where she was selected to help drive change management initiatives in HR functions. She most recently worked at C&S Wholesale Grocers in Keene New Hampshire as Senior Director, HR Operations, that included a call center and all HR functions.

Kara holds a B.S., Business Management from Post University and lives with her family in Shelton.

To reach Employee Relations, please call 203-365-6457 or email employment@jseniors.org.



Philip Garmun joined JSS as Coordinator, Work Activity Center. Phil is committed to supporting Residents as they work on a variety of community and organizational mail projects. He is focused on good account management and is passionate when it comes to building relationships, customer service and supporting people. Phil established Connecticut

Philip Garmun

Sportscards in Stamford, CT, where he created a domestic and international client base with a focus on customer satisfaction and was recognized for his power seller status from eBay.

Phil worked at Gartner Group in Stamford as a Leadership Client Manager, where he delivered concierge level customer service, using virtual technology. He was selected as a mentor for newly hired individuals to support and share good management practices and led a best practice initiative where he was recognized for building and maintaining client growth.

Phil also worked at the Network Support Company in Danbury as an account manager where he supervised technology projects successfully for his focus to customer satisfaction and cost savings results. Phil's most recent position was working for the city of Stamford as customer service associate in Office Operations responsible for revenue collections.

Phil's professional affiliations include Toastmasters, Society for International Hockey Research and eBay Power Seller. He holds a B.S., Business Administration from Western New England College and lives with his family in Stamford.

To reach the Work Activity Center, please call 203-365-6486 or email workactivity@jseniors.org.



Amy Jackson joined JSS as Resident Services Coordinator to assure Assisted Living Residents the support of core services and the experiences that promote quality of life in their Assisted Living environment. Amy is a leader whose focus is ensuring a balance of quality of life and care and works with the Assisted Living team to make that happen. She is a

Amy Jackson

talented professional who is an advocate for those in her trust and has the ability to multitask, address and resolve issues, and to create and facilitate relationships.

Amy worked at Cigna Healthcare in Bloomfield, CT as an Implementation Manager after working her way through a variety of positions to ensure benefit administration, wellness, health and strategies.

Amy also worked at Brookdale Palmer Ranch Healthcare & Rehabilitation in Sarasota, FL as the Assistant Executive Director of Assisted Living, where she was the primary contact for staff, Residents, prospects community and government agencies as well as the public.

Amy's most recent work experience was the Assisted Living Director for Anchin Pavilion Assisted Living in Sarasota, FL, where she was responsible or the day-to-day operations and managed the facilities and nursing teams.

Amy holds a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and lives with her family in Milford, CT.

To reach Assisted Living, please call 203-659-3357 or email assistedliving@jseniors.org.

Celebrating You!!

Employee Holiday Party



In December employees enjoyed the annual holiday party in Bennett Hall. A DJ, great dinner, raffle prizes and desserts were enjoyed by all.



15 Year Celebration

On October 21, staff with 15 years or more of service were invited with a guest to Foxwoods Casino and Resort to celebrate, Commitment, Loyalty and Longevity. The event included a pre-dinner event, dinner and dancing photo booth, entertainment from dueling pianos and was followed by brunch the next day for those in attendance. JSS has 200 employees who have been with the organization for more than 15 years.

Jewish Senior Services



Alan Phillips Chairperson of the Board

Andrew H. Banoff President & CEO / Editor

> Contact us at 203-365-6400 jseniors.org

For address changes, to add a friend or be removed from the mailing list email us at chailights@jseniors.org or call 203-365-6494 Jewish Senior Services 4200 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604

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Family Portrait - Carole Rubin

Eighty-seven years (and counting) of friendships, former students, four children, 13 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Eighty-seven years of turning strangers into friends. This is Carole Diamond Rubin, aka Savta Carole.

From the moment Carole became a grandmother, she became Savta Carole to everyone, family and friends alike. "It's not a nickname, it's who she is. Being everyone's grandma has fit her well. Eventually she became Savta to all her beloved B'nai Torah nursery school kids, many of whom remain in touch with her today," says Stephen, her oldest son. "My mother was an amazing educator and made an incredible impression on everyone she touched. But her real pride and joy has always been her "generations"—her children, grandchildren and now her great grandchildren."

If you know Carole, then you are probably up to date on her generations. Savta loves nothing more than to share about all of them. So, it is only fitting to ask the grandkids to give you a glimpse into their Savta Carole.

Yoni (Stephen's son) has a special relationship with Savta, and as the first-born grandchild, can do no wrong in her eyes. "Savta has always been one of the most important people in my life from our sleepovers to a toy-filled basement. But the most impactful trait of Savta's is her impact on the community. When I meet people from the Greater Fairfield area throughout my travels, everyone knows Savta and describe her as a special ray of sunlight in their lives. There was never a shortage of visitors at Barry Scott Drive; from members of Congregation Beth El stopping by to wish her good luck on an aliyah, or her former students stopping by with a warm cooked meal. My Savta is my inspiration." and so much more. Racheli reminisces, "I can remember the amazing visits in Connecticut that included Rummikub, Broadway shows and deli sandwiches at the JCC. We've shared many bellyaching fits of laughter and painful tears of loss. But the thing that stays with me the most is the way she treats everyone with kindness; from the postman to the pharmacist, everyone was her friend."

Sara (Richard's daughter) struggled to come up with one story that reflects her relationship with Savta. "Living with Savta really strengthened our relationship. She is a great listener who always made time for a conversation. But the main thing I loved doing with Savta was hopping on Metro North to go to see Broadway shows together. Those trips stand out; they were amazing and the best way to spend my birthday with her!"

Rebecca (Susan's daughter) joins in the chorus of Broadway memories. "Some of my favorite times with Savta were our dinner and Broadway dates once I moved to New York. Seeing the *Color Purple* together was particularly special (even when she sang along with Cynthia Erivo). And if we were just doing dinner, she'd always order chamomile tea after the food so that we could spend more time together."

Shai (Ellen's daughter) has spent intense times with Savta when she would visit in Israel (for long stretches of time). "Carole Rubin is my Savta and gosh what a crazy yet amazing one she is. As a child she would come visit us often and I would have the most ridiculous import requests: Poland Spring bottled water, macaroni and cheese, Hebrew National hot dogs, clothes, shoes, books, toys. You name it and Savta Carole would gladly schlep it. She would do anything for me: Drive anywhere, watch any movie, play any game, run a personal import business, spend countless hours on the phone when I couldn't fall asleep."

Family Mail

I wanted to sincerely thank everyone with Jewish Senior Services for the kind and compassionate care of my mother. I will forever be grateful to have a safe place for my mother when her health required more than I could provide.

> - B. K. , Long Term Care Family Member

I want to tell you how happy my family and I were to have my mom as a Resident of JSS - we certainly made the right decision! We have appreciated everything from the care she received from a long list of caretakers to O.T. and P.T. You name it, it was all great!

> - E. R. , Long Term Care Family Member

Save the Dates

APRIL

Wednesday, April 6 Personally Speaking Lecture Series Caregiver Burden is Real: Help is Here Jewish Senior Services

Sunday, April 24

Men's Club Pizza Tour New Haven, CT

Racheli (Stephen's daughter) admires Savta's accomplishments. She raised four kids and 13 grandchildren, educated hundreds, visited friends and volunteered at The Jewish Home



Shai captures her grandmother in this one final sentence. "My Savta is the epitome of love. We may disagree, we may argue or get upset with one another, but I know, no matter what, she loves me unconditionally and I love her just as much in return."

MAY

Monday, May 2 Women's Auxiliary Spring Luncheon & Boutique The Waterview, Monroe

JUNE

Monday, June 27 Men's Club George Lipton Golf Invitational Aspetuck Valley Country Club Weston, CT

> For more information on JSS Services call 1-833-JSS-LINK (577-5465)