# Chaileghts

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#### **Independent Living - Fairfield**

We are so pleased to announce the pending development of an Independent Senior Living community in Fairfield - to be built by well-known developer Robert D. Scinto.

After years of planning and constructing The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus on Park Avenue,

Jewish Senior Services turned its attention to the one level of care which could not be accomplished on the campus. Independent Living communities are designed to offer seniors the finest apartment-style living with a range of amenities to support their independence. While few exist in our area, many operate throughout the country. Jewish Senior Services has proposed to operate a 148-unit complex – with a mixture of 1-bedroom, 1-bedroom/den, 2-bedroom,



The site is located on Thorpe Street in Fairfield – just off Exit 21 on I-95. It is a 7-acre site that is adjacent to a large marsh area – and close to downtown Fairfield for shopping and restaurants. Bob Scinto and Jewish Senior Services have worked together throughout 2019

to design the community, and to seek all of the necessary approval in the Town of Fairfield to allow construction to move forward in 2020. The final Public Hearing was held on December 10th at the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the project was approved at the January 14th meeting.

The design will allow individuals to have their own apartments and have access to an array of amenities. The monthly rental fee will include not only all of the basic utilities and taxes, but a daily meal plan, weekly laundry and housekeeping, recreational and exercise activities, a movie theatre and on-site home health nursing staff. All residents will have priority access to other Jewish Senior Services' programs and

services - including Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care, if needed. Membership in The J Fitness Center will be included as well as transportation to the Weinberg Campus.

For more information and to be kept aware of developments, please contact Liz Lockwood at 203-396-1024. Priority applications will be accepted once construction begins.



Artist rendering of the proposed site.

## Jewish Life on (and off) the Campus

There has always been a deep historic and religious culture at The Jewish Home, and when we were planning for The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus, we knew that there would be opportunities to expand that commitment. As we reflect a bit on what has happened, this summary captures the feeling that we have exceeded our expectations in this regard:

Jewish Life for Residents at our core is our commitment to religious life for the people who live at Jewish Senior Services. We celebrate Shabbat, the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Pesach, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial day), Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) and Shavuot.

- The Women's Auxiliary sponsors three Friday night Oneg Shabbats throughout the year - on Chanukah, Purim and Israeli Independence Day
- Visits from area Synagogues around holiday seasons
- Community Leader Lecture Series to date eight Rabbis have come to lead a discussion with Residents about various Judaic topics of interest.
- A monthly Rosh Chodesh group for Jewish women started August 2019

- PJ Library visited in the JSS sukkah
- Every Monday morning the Israeli Emissaries discuss Jewish life in Israel
- Rabbi Shulman conducts discussions and films related to Jewish topics
- Weekly Congregation B'nai Israel (Bridgeport) preschool intergenerational programs
  - Merkaz visits regularly with the Residents through the Better Together Program
    - Kesher (adults with disabilities) visits several times a year for programming
    - Bi-Cultural High School of Stamford joined Residents for this past Purim morning megillah reading
  - Entertainment with Jewish, Klezmer and Israeli music

Synagogue Services - there has always been a daily minyan and all of the holiday services at The Jewish Home,

and now there is a unique partnership with two Orthodox shuls (Agudas Achim and Ahavath Achim) that has brought their daily minyan here each morning and their congregations together under the rabbinic leadership of Rabbi Peretz Robinson. Their presence has also added a teaching opportunity as the students from the Yeshiva in Waterbury stay after morning minyan to study.

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### **President's Report**



Andrew H. Banoff

First, happy and healthy New Year! This is the first issue of Chai Lights under the leadership of new Board Chairperson, Alan Phillips. We welcome Alan 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 Jewish Life on the campus, and we recap the wonderful events sponsored by our Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club. Slice of Life includes pictures of Chanukah Celebrations, a Yankee Game and Kindness Rocks. The Employee Awards Celebration in September, Thanksgiving meals in November and the Employee Holiday Party in December were opportunities to recognize the incredible people who do such great work every day. We shared with you the "Great Place to Work" certification last issue, and continue to "kvell" (take pride) in this wonderful accomplishment.

The other cover story focused on the new Independent Living project, which we have proposed to be built in Fairfield with developer, R.D. Scinto, and we are so pleased that this project is moving forward. If you are interested in receiving updates on the project, please contact Liz Lockwood at 203-396-1024 or llockwood@jseniors.org to be added to the information list.

Fiscal Year 2019 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 (*EXCELLENCEIN 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

You will also read about our Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club events - which allows us to raise the funds to provide the "extras" that we do for Residents and our clients. As always, thank you for all that you do!

grav

Andrew H. Banoff

### **Our Annual Campaign**



Artwork from the Resident Art Therapy Program

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 calling 203-396-1000 or www.jseniors.org and click donate.

Thank you.



Proud to Support Jewish Senior Services

Continuing Paul Newman's commitment to give 100% of profits and royalties from Newman's Own food and beverage products to charity, in pursuit of the common good.

NewmansOwnFoundation.org

## **Alan Phillips**



Mr. Phillips is a Certified Public Account and co-owner of the SportsCenter of Connecticut, a family sports and entertainment facility located in Shelton, CT.

With more than 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur, senior financial management and CFO in the equipment finance and leasing industry, he brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position of Chairperson of Jewish Senior Services. He

also has served on the JSS Board of Directors for seven years and on the Executive Committee as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Phillips was an active member and Past President of The Conservative Synagogue in Westport, Chairman of the Capital Campaign that built the current home, and six year member of the Executive Committee with service on the Board of Trustees for over a decade.

He was also a member of the Board of Directors of The Westport Family Y and has served on its Executive Committee.

#### Jewish Life on (and off) the Campus

continued from cover

Kashrut - we have had a longstanding relationship with Rabbi Mayer Abramowitz for our kosher supervision and last year we signed a historic agreement with the Vaad Hakashrus of Fairfield County that brought our kosher dining program to a new level of cooperation throughout the community. The Vaad endorses and supports our Berkowitz Family Courtyard Café on the campus and our kosher catering services throughout the community.

Kosher Catering - in addition to all of the events on the campus, JSS Kosher Catering, now known as B'Tayavon, provides meals for families, congregations, and events throughout Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Menus are available for Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations, all types of simchas, kiddushes, holiday functions, and family events for groups of any size. For further information, please contact Laurie VanCleft, Director, Dining Services, at 203-396-1023 or lvancleft@jseniors.org.

JSS is so pleased to partner with many organizations, and on the 3rd floor of the campus are the offices of Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service, the Israeli Emissary program, and Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies.

## Slice of Life



- Henry Tylinski and Fernanda Branco, CNA, at the Carnival in Kuriansky Assisted Living 2. Shirley Becker ringing in the New Year!
   Arnold Fischer, Joe Moss, Lindsey Redd, LPN and Joseph Schlig cheering on the New York Yankees.
   Sylvia Rosenthal knows that "Kindness Rocks".
   Lawrence and Florence Blum.
   Gerald Jankowitz at Yankee Stadium.
   Andrew H. Banoff and Peter Haile.
  - **8.** Henry Frankel and family are all smiles when spending time together at Family Day. *Photo credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive.* **9.** Howard Ecker performs a duet with music teacher, Adrienne Greenbaum.
    - 10. James Epifano, Marc Frankel and Gilberto Cid sharing conversation and a delicious meal at Resident Men's Club Lunch.
      11. Josephine Ruggiero with some interesting reading!
      12. Toby Clorman at the Merkaz and JSS Chanukah Celebration.
      2, 5 & 7: New Year's Eve Party sponsored by the Men's Club. 3 & 6: Yankee Game sponsored by the Men's Club.

## Women's Auxiliary

#### **Thank You!**

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

#### **PATRONS**

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#### **LISTINGS**

Bigelow Tea Commercial Kitchens Knecht's Garage, Inc.

#### **Fall Gala**

Photo credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive

The 2019 Fall Gala was a huge success! Over 200 members of the community came together in support of Jewish Senior Services to celebrate the achievements of Kenneth I. Wirfel and Richard D. Becker on Thursday, October 24, at The Patterson Club in Fairfield.

Co-chaired by Lydia Gerard and Vanessa Rosenberg, the evening was truly a night to remember. Alan Phillips, Chairperson of Jewish Senior Services, paid tribute to Ken Wirfel for being a leader and dedicated member of the community and presented him with the Arthur and Gladys Lunin Humanitarian Award. Andrew H. Banoff, President & CEO of Jewish Senior Services, presented the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service, to Dick Becker for his volunteer work for over 40 years at Jewish Senior Services. Guests were entertained by the hilarious comedy of Steven Scott, bid on great items at the silent auction, read the beautiful commemorative journal and appreciated the gorgeous décor by Ruth Ridgeway Designs. \$155,000 was raised to support many important programs for the Residents of Jewish Senior Services with \$14,450 earmarked for the Resident Entertainment fund.



### **Annual Meeting**

Photo credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive



**Ellen Hyde Phillips** 

Over 50 women gathered in support of the Women's Auxiliary at the Annual Membership Meeting, co-chaired by past President Linda Lazinger and Board Member Vivian Epstein. Members enjoyed listening to CJ Golden, an author, former speech therapist and caregiver. CJ's narrative gives voice to many caregivers' journeys, discovering ways around and through turmoil to seek and find an easier path through life's challenges. Thanks and acknowledgement were given to immediate Past Presidents Debby Hiller and Barbara Kauders for their dedication and support to the Women's Auxiliary during their tenure. Linda Lazinger installed new President Ellen Hyde Phillips as well as welcomed and installed Carol Shapiro to the Women's Auxiliary Board of Directors.



## Mens Club

## The Men's Club GEORGE LIPTON ANNUAL GOLF UNE 15, 2020 INVITATIONAL

VENUE! The Patterson Club . Fairfield,

Lunch • Afternoon Golf • Cocktails • Auction • Dinner

For more information, please call 203-365-6407 or email sfreed@jseniors.org

## Family Day 2019

Photo credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive

Over 500 Residents and family members enjoyed the Family Day Celebration at the Men's Club's annual picnic on September 15. The community gathered to spend time with loved ones amidst rocket ships and planets as the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing was the theme. Ruth Ridgeway Designs transformed the Celebration Courtyard and Bennett Hall into an "out of this world" atmosphere that matched the festive, fun-filled day. Guests enjoyed live music from The Mostly Green Band, plus magic and balloon twisting by Melissa Russo.









## **Celebrity Breakfast**

Photo credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive

The fourth annual Celebrity Breakfast, hosted by the Men's Club, was held in September. 200 guests filled Bennett Hall to hear Bruce Beck, NBC-TV Lead Sports Anchor, share highlights of his career. Beck shared stories of his family history and connection to Judaism, players in a variety of sports, challenges and lessons learned during his 25+ years as a sports anchor. The conversation was followed by questions from an eager crowd. Mitchell Adelstein and Brian Miles co-chaired the morning. With the help of 22 waiters (pictured) and sponsors Alliance Energy, Marsh & McLennan Agency, Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder and R.D. Scinto, Inc, over \$36,000 was raised.







#### **Annual Meeting**

The Men's Club hosted their Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 10. A variety of "game day" foods and drink were served as attendees enjoyed watching the Jets v Giants football game. Approximately 30 friends of Jewish Senior Services and Men's Club members enjoyed the afternoon, graciously hosted by Jeff and Mindy Siegel at their home in Fairfield.

#### **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).

## Community Services





### **Memory Workshop**

The Memory Workshop program of Jewish Senior Services is a peer-to-peer support and educational program that uniquely serves adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or dementia in the early stages of the disease.

Jewish Senior Services designed the Memory Workshop, managed by David Magner, Program Coordinator, to provide support, strength and purpose for individuals as they connect with others experiencing the same diagnosis. The program includes dementia education, physical and cognitive exercises, health and wellness presentations, group discussions, and personal goal-setting. Care partners also receive support through individual counseling, including planning for the future with a focus on community resources. The Memory Workshop will also be available two days a week at the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities in Fairfield, beginning January 8, 2020!

For more information about the program please contact David Magner, Program Coordinator, at 203-396-1021 or MemoryWorkshop@jseniors.org.

#### **Rehab Reunion**

The Goldstein Rehabilitation Center was once again the place for friends to share an evening of laughter and stories of successful recoveries. Catching up with the PT and OT teams was great as well as seeing some of the clients who are now feeling their best!







## Mitzvah Projects at Jewish Senior Services

Are you planning a bar or bat mitzvah and looking for somewhere meaningful to volunteer your time or donate specific items? Consider fulfilling your mitzvah project at Jewish Senior Services either interacting with the Residents (schmoozing, performing, visiting with a certified therapy dog, etc.) or collecting something specific. We will help you customize the perfect project that benefits everyone. Mazel tov to Julia Kahn and her family, members of Temple Sholom in Greenwich, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah! Mazel tov to Jacob Leibowitz and his family, members of Temple Shalom in Norwalk, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah! Both Julia and Jacob chose to donate baskets filled with games and activities in lieu of bima flowers. Please contact Dayna Hayden, Director, Development at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@jseniors.org to start a conversation.





## **Celebrating Volunteers**

Below are JSS volunteers enjoying lunch as they listen to comments of appreciation for their many contributions throughout the year, from State Senator Tony Hwang at the annual Volunteer luncheon.

To learn more about volunteering at JSS and making a difference, apply online at www.jseniors.org/careers/volunteer/



### **Employee Awards**

In September 2019, we honored 91 employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. We also honored the following employees for their outstanding service:

**CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD** 

Robert Benoit • Caitlin Conway • Luis Estrella • Donna Lula

JACQUELINE PURCELL NURSING AWARD\*

**Natalie Whitham** 

MARY WILLIAMS NURSING ASSISTANT AWARD\*
Tracy Kirkland

**CHARNEY FAMILY AWARD** 

**Renee Service** 

MARIE CAYO HUMANITARIAN AWARD\*

**David Magner** 

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** 

**Regina McCluster** 

**ELAINE "LANEY" POLLACK AWARD\*** 

Jenifer Coulson

**SADIE FREEMAN AWARD\*** 

Julie Wargo

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mary Caffrey

\*Award in memory of a dedicated employee



## **Honoring Caregivers**

In celebration of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and National Family Caregivers Months, the Alzheimer's Association honored individuals who display "Excellence in Caregiving" at a luncheon to pay tribute to their important role in the day to day lives of those who have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. JSS was thrilled to have Beverly Newland, CNA, among the caregivers in attendance for her outstanding commitment to make a difference!



#### Thankful!

In celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday, employees gathered with colleagues to share a Thanksgiving meal complete with all the fixings and served by management. We thank the dining team for preparing this amazing dinner and are thankful for all the ladies and gentlemen who work so diligently to provide care and services for the those who live at JSS and in our community!









## **Employee Holiday Party**

The JSS employee holiday celebration was once again a fabulous evening of fun, dancing, raffles, sharing and making memories and enjoying a feast of delicious Hors d'oeuvres, assorted foods and amazing baked treats, prepared by our own Dining Services staff.









## Wellness and Financial Fair

A Wellness and Financial Fair recently took place for all employees. The day included meeting with a variety of vendors who provided information, giveaways, raffles and handouts on well-tips and financial savings!



To find out more about employment opportunities, visit jseniors.org and click on "Careers."



**Alan Phillips**Chairperson of the Board

Andrew H. Banoff
President & CEO / Editor

Contact us at 203-365-6400 www.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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#### Jonas and Pearl Zucker by Charles Zucker



Pearl taught Nursery School at the Jewish community Center. On Fridays, "Mrs. Zucker" would bring her guitar and sing with the children. Her classroom – was almost directly below what is now the JSS Fitness Room!

Jonas was born in Brooklyn in 1924, the third of four children, son of an Optometrist. Jonas' given name is "Jonas J. Zucker"; his father told him he could choose any middle name he wanted that began with J. He's still deciding.

Pearl Kestenbaum was born in Brooklyn in 1927, the second of four children. Her given name was "Cele" but she was known by her Hebrew name: Tziporah. "Pearl" is an Eastern European/Brooklyn mispronunciation of "Tziporah".

In 1942, Jonas enlisted in WWII at the age of 18. He served for three years and was honorably discharged, as a Corporal, in 1945.

After WW11, Jonas attended Hofstra University followed by four years at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Soon after, he opened a private practice in Stamford.

Pearl, meanwhile, graduated from Brooklyn College. They were introduced by Jonas' cousin Lucille. Soon after they met, Jonas hosted a party. To Pearl the invitation read, "I'd like you to meet my friends." Everyone else's invitation read, "I'd like you to meet the girl I'm going to marry." They wed in 1949 in Flatbush (if you're keeping score, they just celebrated their 70th wedding).

After stops in Norwich and Bridgeport Jonas and Pearl moved to Fairfield where they lived for the next 60 plus years

They have four children - David, Beth, Charles and Jonathan.

Jonas is the ultimate DIY guy. When he realized there was no adequate day school for his kids, he started one - The Hillel Academy in Fairfield. Three of his children attended.

Among his tinkering projects - an addition to his house on Warwick Avenue. In Israel, he was introduced to the art of

traditional paper cutting; he taught himself to replicate it. He once had a gallery exhibit at the JCC. Other projects – he built desks, bookcases, made clothing and restored bicycles and guitars.

Over the years, Pearl and Jonas found themselves doing "chesed" - service - much of the time. Pearl was active in Hadassah, holding every position at one point or another and being named Woman of the Year. As a baby, Beth required a heart operation. Pearl went door to door collecting for the Heart Association. In 1953, Jonas organized and ran the March of Dimes campaign in Norwich. In Bridgeport, Pearl volunteered for Meals On Wheels. Until very recently she read, once a week, to disadvantaged children. The Zuckers once sponsored an Israeli foreign exchange student for what was to be a three-month commitment. Three years later, he was still there. He's still a part of the family. If you come into Pearl's orbit, you get a birthday card on your birthday.

The children also learned to give back to the community. At an early age, they created backyard carnivals every year to raise money for the Heart Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Jonas was much too restless to simply work. He attended Yale University and got a degree in Public Health. To that end, he opened a low-cost vision center in downtown Bridgeport. He wasn't content simply puttering in his garden, he became a 4-H Master Gardener. And for the last 30 years, he has been composing piano and orchestral music.

Jonas and Pearl have a strong connection to Israel. Jonas was galvanized by the Six Day War in 1967. He bought property in Israel and owned a pharmacy run by his friend Jerry Stepner.

They found a home at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Bridgeport where the children attended Talmud Torah. They welcomed every new cantor and rabbi that came aboard into the community.

Pearl taught herself to knit, and she made afghans for her children and, subsequently, all her grandchildren. Her hands don't work as well as they used to but, with some assistance, she just finished an afghan for the last grandchild. Pearl and Jonas have made a point of attending nearly every event of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Their greatest joy? An exotic locale, and a photo holding a Stew Leonard's bag.

Earlier this year, Jonas ran into some medical problems and moved into the JSS. I hate to say they can't be apart but 10 days later Pearl suffered her own medical calamity and also moved into the facility. It seems an inevitability considering that Pearl is a life member of the JSS Women's Auxiliary. Like everything else they've done, they're taking the next part of their journey – together.

#### **Family Mail**

Thank you to the JSS staff who make such a difference in my mom's quality of life!

- P. W., Long Term Care Family Member

The home care team who provides our dad with such loving care have given our family peace of mind and we thank you all.

- J. K., Home Care Client Family Member

#### **Save the Dates 2020**

#### FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 19 Men's Club and Women's Auxiliary Networking Breakfast Jewish Senior Services

Thursday, February 27 FC Gives Fairfield County Giving Day www.fcgives.org

#### APRIL

Thursday, April 2 Men's Club Classic Cars, Food and Tours Automotive Restorations Stratford, CT

#### MAY

Monday, May 4 Women's Auxiliary Spring Luncheon & Boutique The Waterview, Monroe

#### JUNE

Monday, June 15 Men's Club George Lipton Golf Invitational The Patterson Club, Fairfield

Tuesday, June 2 Coleman Lecture Series Jewish Senior Services

#### 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 To obtain an application for skilled nursing or assisted living, please contact us at 203-396-1024.

There is no application fee or obligation.