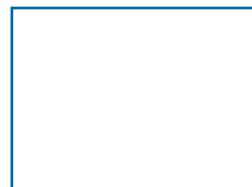




Jewish Foundation for Group Homes  
The Joy W. and S. Robert Cohen Building  
1500 East Jefferson Street  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Tel: 240-283-6000  
www.JFGH.org



# Home Notes

Summer 2011

## 28th Annual Gala

This year, at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, we will be *Dancing with the Stars!* Millions of fans tuned in each week to watch professional dancers, Jonathan Roberts and Edyta Sliwiska and celebrities Academy Award winning actor and author Marlee Matlin and actor Gilles Marini. This incredible group will headline our Gala and they will be joined by the youthful Future Stars of Dance and International Wheelchair Ballroom Dancers. The Gala is being chaired by Deborah and David Astrove (pictured on right) and will be held at The Music Center at Strathmore on Tuesday October 25, 2011. This is JFGH's sixth year at the magnificent venue which makes for a fabulous location to enjoy the festivities.



During the reception, down in the tent, the Johnny Esquire Band will be playing all of the "oldies but goodies" which will

provide terrific entertainment and a chance for guests to dance. Or, for those who prefer to mingle, there are plenty of spots throughout the building to eat and drink and talk with friends.

During the program, the S. Robert Cohen Award will be presented to former Maryland Delegate Bill Bronrott and the Inaugural Melvin S. Cohen (z"l) Community Service Award will be presented to Ryna Cohen and Family.

At the end of the program, guests who purchase a back stage pass can get "up close and personal" with the stars. For more information about the Gala, call JFGH at 240-283-6000.



Wishing everyone a healthy and sweet New Year.



From all of us at JFGH

## Emergency Preparedness Pays Off

JFGH's Emergency Preparedness Plan was put into action on Tuesday August 23 when an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 shook the East Coast. Everyone in the Joy W. and S. Robert Cohen Building (Headquarters of JFGH's Administrative Offices and The Sally and Robert Goldberg Maryland MOST™ Program) evacuated safely and all of the residents were kept safe and unharmed. Our plan worked seamlessly and ensured that everyone was able to follow the procedures without any issues.

## Past Presidents' Brunch



(Pictured from left to right) Dennis Speisman, Leslie Kaplan, Robert N. Eisman, Ronald Glancz, Peter Levin, Lisa Reiner Cohen (President), William Harkaway, Jennifer Margolius Fisher (President-Elect), Eugene Youngentob, Co-founder S. Robert Cohen and Gerald Wedren

JFGH President Lisa Reiner Cohen and her husband Nelson hosted a Past Presidents' Brunch at their home earlier this summer. It was a wonderful time for past presidents and their spouses to visit with each other and reflect over past years as well as upon the future vision of JFGH.

## Congratulations to our Gala Awardees



JFGH will present the S. Robert Cohen Award to Bill Bronrott, a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates who spearheaded the alcohol tax increase to support the disabilities community. (See tax increase on page 3.) Bill also was chief sponsor of legislation to extend the age that insurance companies must cover vital therapies for people with autism and cerebral palsy. He co-sponsored numerous other measures to assist individuals with disabilities, such as bond bills to support capital projects for disabilities services organizations. Last year, Bill Bronrott joined the U.S. Department of Transportation as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The Inaugural Melvin S. Cohen (z"l) Community Service Award will be bestowed upon Ryna Cohen and Family. The Cohen Family has been one of JFGH's most fervent supporters throughout the agency's inception and growth over the years.



The family is a model for extraordinary community service and we are grateful for all they have done and continue to do for communities locally, nationally and internationally.

## Janice W. Goldsten Awards Luncheon

This year's third annual Janice W. Goldsten Awards Luncheon on April 28<sup>th</sup> honored devoted benefactor Carlynn Silverman and her family, Lisa and Bruce Harwood, Amy and Barry Dickstein and her six grandchildren with the Janice W. Goldsten Award for their remarkable lifelong commitment to JFGH's residents. The luncheon was chaired by Lois Robins, Debra Robins and Rena Robins. The pre-luncheon reception was sponsored by The Bender Foundation, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. C. Richard Beyda, The Silverman, Harwood and Dickstein Families and The Aaron and Cecile Goldman Family Foundation.

JFGH President Lisa Reiner Cohen and CEO Vivian Bass welcomed the guests and Aaron Stopak spoke of his grandmother Janice W. Goldsten's extraordinary devotion to the agency.



Carlynn Silverman and daughters Lisa Harwood and Amy Dickstein

Carlynn Silverman accepted the Janice W. Goldsten Award on behalf of her family and conveyed the privilege she and her late husband Larry felt in supporting JFGH, which

Continues on page 2



Barbara Brown, Esq. and Dr. Robert Berish affix the mezuzah with Rabbi Sholom Deitch at the dedication of the Barbara Brown and Robert Berish Home in May in Annandale, VA.



## Third Annual Janice W. Goldsten Awards Luncheon *(continued from page 1)*

is why it was so meaningful for them to become benefactors of the Carlynn and Larry Silverman/Gina and Herman Porten Home in 1993. She also described the pleasure she and her family have experienced since her grandson Zachary became a Special Friend to a resident in one of JFGH's homes. "Our residents have achieved much in their lives and we all must continue to help them reach their full potential," Carlynn said.

Andy Stern of Andy Stern's Office Furniture was honored with the Corporate Partner Award in recognition of the businesses' steadfast commitment to JFGH, especially their generosity on behalf of the furnishing of the offices of the Joy W. and S. Robert Cohen Building, as well as for other Jewish agencies in the DC area.

AmeriCorps Project CHANGE received the Community Partner Award for their three years of collaboration and the remarkable reciprocal impact that its members and the individuals we support

have had on each other. Judy Lapping, Project CHANGE Executive Director shared a surprise in return; an album of photographs of Mrs. Goldsten who had been a close friend of her mother, a fact that she discovered after JFGH and Project CHANGE had already begun its relationship.

The Young Leadership Award was presented to Jackie Vinnick in honor of her efforts to raise funds to ensure that JFGH residents participate in social, recreational, and exercise activities. Jackie is the creator, organizer, and executor of the 'Strides to Thrive Walk'.

This luncheon honoring the life and memory of Janice W. Goldsten, dear friend and benefactor, took place on a day that threatened major storms. Instead, as the guests began arriving, the sky cleared, the sun shone, and all guests felt the beauty and generosity of this special woman as they did every year at the swim parties she and her husband, Bob hosted for JFGH.



Janice W. Goldsten Award recipients, Carlynn Silverman and Family



Corporate Partner Award recipient Andy Stern (left) with Steve Robins and residents Rana and Bob



Young Leadership Award Recipient Jackie Vinnick (left) with sister and JFGH resident Debbie



Accepting the Community Partner Award on behalf of AmeriCorps Project CHANGE, Judy Lapping and Dr. George B. Thomas (far right) and Paul Schnitman (far left) with Debra Robins and resident Eileen



Co-Chairs Debra and Rena Robins with husbands Steve Robins (left) and Jeffrey Robins (right)

## JFGH Getting "Greener"

JFGH is the fortunate beneficiary of a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County (HFH-MC) which enabled all 20 Montgomery County homes to have weatherization upgrades installed.

This opportunity was made possible through a grant that HFH-MC received from Em-Power Clean Energy Communities which enabled them to conduct weatherization of low to moderate income households in Montgomery County. The scope of work for each home was based upon a professional home energy audit which Habitat for Humanity executed.



Residents hosted breakfast with staff and board members from HFH-MC to celebrate the completion of the weatherization project

HFH-MC provided JFGH with more than \$111,000 in services and materials. It is anticipated that this generous assistance should improve energy efficiency by 20 percent and save JFGH approximately \$20,000 per year in utility expenses.

JFGH's weatherization project is a further opportunity for "going green." Since last year we partnered with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce to purchase electricity through *Clean Currents*, a provider of wind energy. JFGH is proud of its efforts to protect our environment by contributing to the shrinking of our carbon footprint.

## Out n' About

At the Swim Extravaganza hosted by Judith and Skip Monsein



Enjoying a show at Wolf Trap



Transitioning from JFGH's Sally and Robert Goldberg Maryland MOST™ Program



Presenting at the Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities organized by the Archdiocese of Washington's Department of Special Needs



## AAIDD Annual Conference

JFGH CEO Vivian Bass presented "How do Values and Cultural Issues Change Services Around the Globe: Our Visit to India" as a member of the Keynote Presentation Panel at a Plenary Session of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Annual Conference held in St. Paul, Minnesota in June. The Keynote address represents an ongoing component of Vivian's participation in an Exchange Delegation of nationally recognized leaders in the field of disabilities' trip to India focused on sharing and learning about supporting individuals with disabilities. Sponsored by AAIDD under the auspices of People to People International, the delegation spent seven days travelling throughout India visiting and providing consultation at schools, training centers, residential programs as well as meeting with pertinent government and university officials.

JFGH Deputy Director, Deborah Fisher, Psy.D (left) presided over the Psychology Division's business meeting at the same AAIDD's conference. The Psychology Division of which Deborah is co-president elect, is one of several committees representing the professional contributions of psychologists to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## Alcohol Tax Benefits People with Disabilities

The 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly enacted several measures related to a new alcohol specific sales tax increase. This was the first time an alcohol specific tax was raised in Maryland since 1972. The measures are Senate Bill 994 and House Bill 1213.

Both of these bills increased the sales tax on alcohol products in Maryland from the 6% that applies generally to 9% just for alcohol. This increase, which will raise at least \$87 million dollars per year in new state revenue, will provide public health and education benefits for Marylanders, and in particular those with disabilities.

SB 994 provides that \$15 million of the \$87 million will go to reduce the chronically under funded waiting list for people with developmental disabilities. As a result, children and adults with disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy and Down Syndrome will receive desperately needed support services.

Among those who spearheaded the bill leading to this tax increase was the 2011 S. Robert Cohen Recipient, former representative in the Maryland House of Delegates, Bill Bronrott.

## Resident Spotlight

### Liz Weintraub



JFGH Board Member and Mary and Charles Oshinsky Apartment Program (OAP) participant Elizabeth Weintraub was installed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. This committee was established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966 to ensure that individuals with disabilities have "a decent and dignified place in society." The committee consists of 21 members appointed by the President of the US and 13 ex-officio Federal Government members designated by the President.



Liz currently lives in Rockville with her husband Phil who is also a participant in the OAP program. A resident since 2002, Liz was elected to serve on JFGH's Board of Directors in September 2010.