

# jarc news

Enriching Lives. Erasing Barriers.

ISSUE 2 / OCTOBER 2017



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CHOICE  
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RESPECT

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DIGNITY  
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INDEPENDENCE





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

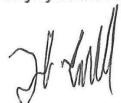
It's been a great summer at JARC. We've had so many wonderful social events—a Detroit River Boat Cruise thanks to the Elkus family and the Irene Elkus Good Times Fund, a Tigers game, generously donated by Temple Israel Brotherhood, a Shabbat Picnic, a joint Havdalah Service and picnic with Temple Beth El and the David-Horodoker Organization, a visit to the State Fair and more. Thanks to our wonderful donors, we're able to make these events possible for the people we serve.

Now Fall is here and it is time to enjoy our annual fall rituals—cider mills, football, JARC Bingo nights, Sukkot—and of course JARC's annual Fall Fundraiser. This year's event is the "British Rock Invasion" featuring the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The event takes place on November 6 at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center in Detroit. It will be a lot of fun, and we hope you can be there, and support JARC and JARC's caregivers.

I also want to thank our direct care staff, who help those we serve attend these events. Our staff is responsible for doing the very difficult work of caring for our residents' daily needs, and ensuring their health and safety. These modestly compensated caregivers provide loving, supportive and attentive care, and the people we serve are heavily reliant on them. Guided by the JARC Heart philosophy that emphasizes care that we would want for our own family, JARC is committed to hiring, training and retaining the best direct care staff for the people we serve. Public funding, however, is not sufficient to provide the wages and benefits necessary – by JARC standards – to attract, reward and retain the best direct care staff. The gap that exists between what JARC pays its direct care worker and what public funding pays has grown wider over the years, placing increasing burden on JARC's financial strength. Staff wages account for over 2/3 of JARC's expenses. Private contributions must fill the gap to enable JARC to pay what we must to ensure we have quality, experienced people on the "front lines".

Otherwise, the JARC Board and staff has been hard at work. We've made many capital improvements at our homes. We've updated our van fleet. We've been exploring some revenue generating opportunities. We've been training and developing our staff. We continue to advocate for more public funding. We continue to tell people about JARC and the wonderful people we serve. We continue to build relationships with the families of those we serve. And we continue to provide top-notch quality care.

Enjoy the Fall, and I hope to see you on November 6!!



David Carroll



A social network for teens and young adults with disabilities to meet new people, try new things and have fun.

# LINKUP

www.jarc.org JARC'S SOCIAL CONNECTION

**LinkUp** is a social program for young adults with disabilities still living at home with their families. Thanks to a grant from **Jewish Fund Teen Board**, JARC is able to provide year-round programming with an array of robust social opportunities as well as community service projects.

For more information about LinkUp, please email us at [linkup@jarc.org](mailto:linkup@jarc.org) or call 248-488-7590.

## SPECIAL HAVDALAH SERVICE & BBQ PICNIC

More than 100 people came out on Saturday, August 12 for a special Havdalah service at JARC's **Frederick H. Pitt Home**, in partnership with **Temple Beth El** and the **David-Horodoker Organization**. The evening began with dinner, schmoozing, games for the children and was followed by a family-friendly Havdalah service by Temple Beth El's clergy. It was a beautiful evening and allowed people to meet the women and staff of the Pitt Home, learn more about JARC, as well as reconnect with old friends and make new friends.



Emily Burkett, Rabbi Megan Brudney and Richard K.

From front cover: left to right: Jeffrey Leventhal, Melissa Garrett, Angelique Billingsley, Margaret Berlin, Denise Bennet, Carol Kushner, Vivian Posner, Rena Friedberg, Maria Radiquet, Seth Grosky, Dojuan Wilkins, Melissa Stewart, Robert Howard and Bob Sipher.



# ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

On June 22nd, the Annual Board Meeting was held at the **Nusbaum Home** to discuss the latest news and exciting plans coming out of JARC. This event was special because it not only included current members of the board, but served as a board member reunion as well. Board members of previous terms were invited to attend the meeting, resulting in a packed house and a fun evening.

JARC's interim CEO and Board of Director's President, **David Carroll**, started the meeting by acknowledging JARC staff members that were awarded for their dedication and superior work ethic. These award winners were previously recognized at the staff luncheon that took place earlier in the month. Additionally, past board members in attendance were recognized and applauded for their years of service.

David shared the exciting news of a 50-cent wage increase for direct care workers in the state of Michigan. He expressed optimism for its impact on the future of JARC and the quality of care that is given. It was emphasized by everyone in attendance that JARC employees are well deserving of this increase in pay. Carroll further discussed operating expenses and how JARC can continue to meet the needs of those that are served.

The meeting wrapped up with the opportunity to mingle with others in attendance. Past board members could catch up with one another and meet those who are currently on the board. Overall, the evening was a great way to bring together a group of people who have truly made a positive impact on JARC's ability to serve the community.



## BRUCE AND ROSALIE ROSEN MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS, RELAXATION AND RECREATION

To observe the Rosen RRR (Relationships, Relaxation and Recreation) program is to view comradery and friendship in action.

Thanks to the generosity of **Bruce and Rosalie Rosen** who underwrite the program, people JARC serves who have retired or are on a school vacation are provided with interactive and meaningful activities at the **Frederick H. Pitt Home** on Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

**Sonya Wilson**, Manager of the Pitt Home and coordinator of the RRR Program states, "The main goal is to provide an environment where folks are engaged both mentally and socially." Daily activities may include exercises, trivia games, bingo, arts and crafts, and of course lunch.

Even though the Rosens had been ardent supporters of JARC for many years, they were still searching for a way to increase their relationship with the agency when the RRR program came up as a new opportunity. "This satisfied our need to make people more comfortable living in JARC residences," said Rosalie, "we strongly believe in the mission and leadership of JARC and we felt there was a need for it in the community."

As the success of RRR can attest, the JARC community is indeed grateful to the Rosens for truly enriching the lives of the people JARC serves.



David Carroll, JARC Board President with Michael Feldman, JARC Board President (from 1986-1989)



Ron Applebaum, JARC Board President (from 2012-2014), with Lisa Brown, Oakland County Clerk and JARC Board Member.





Thank you Arts, Beats & Eats Volunteers: Stephanie Lee, Lindsey Feldman, Chris Townsend, Christina Townsend, Kristine Salva and Sally Lang.



JARC's Annual Shabbat Picnic at Beverly Hills Village Park



1. Rosemary Langevin and Keyur Shahane  
2. Seth Grosky and Jason Hojnacki  
3. Adelle Porter, Rosemary Langevin, Keyur Shahane, Jason Jordan, William Learst, Juanita Wright, David Rosenberg, Zeeland Shepard and Jeff Oliasz.





## Diamond Bell Boat Ride Sponsored by the Irene Elkus Good Times Fund

- 4. Shirlyn Davis, Caryn Martel, Josh Levinson, and LaDawn Mills.
- 5. Theresa Saunders and Jerry T.
- 6. YaYa Bah, Gabby Garrett, Ebonique Cochrane and Abby Katchke.



Jackie Herzberg and Carowyn Majors



Our wonderful Sukkah volunteers at the  
Frederick H. Pitt Home!



# STAFF RECOGNITION LUNCHEON 2017

On June 15th, JARC staff gathered together at Emagine Royal Oak to enjoy food, fun and fellowship and celebrate the amazing work of all JARC staff. This annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon, is underwritten by the **Joyce Keller and Michael A. Walch Staff Recognition Fund**.

During the luncheon, many staff members were recognized for their significant years of service. Staff celebrating their 5-year anniversary earned their JARC pins, while staff members celebrating a range of 10 to 30 years of service were presented with the beautiful addition of a diamond to their pins, designed and crafted annually by **Marcy and Michael Feldman of Heartwear Designs**.

Past Board of Directors President, **Sharon Alterman**, helped in the presentation of the performance awards. All performance award winners were nominated by their fellow JARC staff members. A special thank you to **Janis and Larry Shulman** who generously provide the funds for these awards every year. Awards in this category recognize excellence in many areas, including excellence in the provision of administrative services, management at JARC homes, the provision of services to those served by JARC, outstanding creativity and enthusiasm, and superior leadership in the Culture of Gentleness philosophy.

The event was a special way to say thank you to the wonderful staff members that make up the JARC family. Without their daily dedication and passion for their work, JARC would not be the amazing organization that it is today. **Thank You, JARC staff, and congratulations to all award winners!**

## 5 Years of Service:

Myrsha Clemons  
Pamela Hoskins  
Arrester Jones  
Rosemary Langevin  
Alexis Lee  
Loretta Randolph  
Deja Scruggs  
Zeeland Shepard  
Shari Smith  
Renee Sturgis  
Brandy Wimberly

## 10 Years of Service

Vanessa Bonne  
Oneka Brooks  
Tiffany Hall  
Kathy McCarthy

## 20 Years of Service

Seth Grosky  
Marie Radiguet  
DoJuan Wilkins

## 25 Years of Service

Sarah Clay  
Ken Fane

## 30 Years of Service

Brandie Whelan

## The Joseph Tanzman Memorial Award

Rosalee Mattei  
Janet Warsh

## The Anna Slamovitz Memorial Award

Mia Smith

## The Marilyn Sisler Memorial Award

Tracey Hightower  
Jacketya Roberson

## The Joyce Keller Strengthening JARC Through Creativity Award

Regina Rupert

## The Culture of Gentleness Award

Ashley Wallace



## MEET JARC BOARD MEMBER: DANI GILLMAN

An active JARC board member since 2011, **Dani Gillman** chaired SpringElation in 2012 and 2013, currently serves as a Vice President and chairs the board's marketing committee, and if that isn't enough...she and her husband are the event chairs for this year's fall fundraiser - the British Rock Invasion!

Originally from Los Angeles, Dani has a marketing background in the music business and radio as well as with her own company, Birdhouse. Dani and her husband, **Ben Chutz**, have two children, twelve-year-old Brodie who is developmentally disabled and three-year-old Julian. The family has a close relationship with the women and staff at the **Gilbert/Katzman Home** where they often share meals, help build the home's sukkah, and plant flowers every spring. The family enjoys watching Jeopardy (a favorite of Brodie), listening to music, taking walks, going to parks, cooking and baking. Dani loves to talk about JARC and to reach out to people who are unfamiliar with the breadth of JARC's services. Her interest is helping JARC thrive so it can continue to enrich the lives for the people it serves and be here for families in the future.

Thank you, Dani, for all that you do for JARC!

## VOLUNTEER AT JARC!

JARC has volunteer opportunities for all ages, as well as corporate and community groups.

- Visit a Jarc Home
- Help on Bingo nights
- Get to know someone JARC serves as a person-to-person volunteer

Contact Melissa Garrett at [melissagarrett@jarc.org](mailto:melissagarrett@jarc.org)



Oneka Brooks, Melissa Stewart,  
Vanessa Bonner, Tiffany Hall



Annie and Rob Cohen

Technologies, based in Waterford, supplies JARC with an abundance of trash bags, as well as zip lock bags for food storage and lunch bags- 5 or 6 types of bags in all.

According to Rob Cohen, this amounts to an impressive 125,000 bags of different types and sizes a year: "We're happy to support JARC in this way," says Rob, "it's been a very meaningful participation." Rob Cohen has always found great worth in "the efficiency with which JARC carries out its mission." Introduced by early JARC supporters, Rob states: "Their mission and clientele appealed to us from the start."

Rob's wife Annie Cohen, who served on the JARC board from 1988- 1993 and has also helped for many years with the annual fall fundraiser, including as a ticket seller, calls JARC: "A wonderful, wonderful organization, greatly needed in the community."

Rob Cohen bought the company in 1987 when it was Advance Bag Manufacturing. Advance Packaging Technologies has grown greatly over the years, and today exists throughout the United States as well as in Canada and Mexico.

The company has grown into a niche market, primarily as an automotive supplier of adhesive products, plastics used for car interiors, roofs, door panels and flooring. 75-80% of their products are in film form (flexible material wound on a roll), 20% are bags, including those they supply to JARC. According to Rob, "We are the largest suppliers of adhesive films in the country to the automotive industry."

Rob and Annie Cohen are both gracious and enthusiastic about their long term involvement with JARC. Both acknowledge a niece with developmental disabilities who lives outside of Detroit, and being sensitive to these issues.

"We have a very strong interest in JARC and what it does," says Annie. "JARC are the most caring group of people. They are such a plus for our community. You don't see that in all communities. They can't be replaced, and I applaud them."

With all of JARC's ample need for this plentiful supply of trash and kitchen bags, it is hard to imagine getting by without them. Thank you Business Buddies Rob and Annie Cohen!

Thanks to the long term generosity of owners **Rob and Annie Cohen of Advance Packaging Technologies**, JARC has been provided with their trash and plastic bag needs for 25 years.

Through their generous donations, JARC's Business Buddy Advance Packaging

## VOLUNTEER FOCUS: THE FREEDLAND FAMILY

It's truly a family affair- all four Freedlands pitching in as volunteers for JARC. **Speaking with wife Jen, husband Stu, and their children Rachel and Noah Freedland**, all four are passionate about their experiences volunteering for JARC. Their commitments run deep: building sukkahs for six years now, planting flowers at JARC's Flowerathon, helping out at bingo nights.

"I am a professional volunteer," states Jen, who worked in human resources before she had kids. Since having kids, she is a stay at home mom and a volunteer. The Freedlands live in West Bloomfield.

Rachel is 12 and a ½ going on 13 and just centered her bat mitzvah project around JARC, honoring the women of the Gilbert home. Noah is 10 years old and loves volunteering at JARC as well, his favorite activity is calling out bingo numbers for JARC residents at Temple Beth El bingo nights.

Jen explains that the Freedlands family got involved with JARC when daughter Rachel became a student ambassador through Hillel Day School in fifth grade.

Six years ago, Stu helped build his first sukkah at the **Katzman Home**, assembling it from a kit. He took extra time to mark the beams and pieces with a system

of letter coding that he devised, and took photos of the structure, so that it would be installed more smoothly the following year. "It gives me great pleasure to help out," says Stu, "to see smiles on the residents' faces brings joy to me."

This year the family volunteered at Flowerathon at the **Gilbert/Katzman Home**. "**Brooke, Laura and Stacie**, who live at the Gilbert/Katzman Home helped out, too" states Jen, "We planted flowers and had a wonderful time. It looked beautiful."

Bingo nights are "probably our favorite," says Jen. Son Noah agrees. "It makes me smile when everyone at bingo is gathered around talking to each other. They're always happy!"

Rachel, whose bat mitzvah just took place in May, chose JARC for what was to be a very creative mitzvah project. "I love to write poetry," she explains. "I interviewed the ladies at the Gilbert/Katzman Home. Then I worked on turning the fun facts into poems, and putting them together with a collage of pictures. In the collage, I put a big photo of **Abby Katchke** together with pictures of her favorite candy, Raisinets, and pictures of Grey's Anatomy, because she likes that TV show."

Stu describes how moving it was to see Rachel read her work aloud to the women of the Gilbert/Katzman Home. "When she presented the poems, they laughed aloud. It was really heartwarming."

After assembling and decorating the sukkah in early October, Jen shared, "I hope that we can continue to volunteer with bingo nights, and in many other ways, as a family and individually."



The Freedlands - Rachel, Jen, Stu and Noah





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