

“Your Hometown Jewish Newspaper”

JEWISH COMMUNITY VOICE

Published by the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey www.jewishvoicesnj.org

The Tacos & Tequila gala was a night to remember!

By JSHHS
Marketing Dept.

As it always is, the annual Tacos & Tequila gala was packed with happy guests, and the room was filled with music and laughter all night long. “‘Tacos’ is a highlight event in our community every year,” said Aimee Levin, committee chair for Friends of Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS). “We are so proud that Tacos continues to exceed our fundraising goals year after year, and we are so grateful to all who come out to support the gala time and again. Our core mission is to support our seniors in need, and to care for all seniors with dignity and respect. I can tell you first-hand how grateful the residents of Saltzman House and the residents of Lions Gate’s Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing communities are for the quality of life that they can enjoy thanks to the fundraising efforts of Friends of JSHHS. Working together we have made a true difference in the lives of many.”

Two very deserving people were honored at this year’s event. Heather Kramer received the Ethel J. David Award and Robin Rubin received the Sis Levy Award.

Kramer’s acceptance was heartfelt. “I am so honored to receive the Ethel J. David

Award,” she said. “Ethel had so many accomplishments in her lifetime. She was a remarkable volunteer, devoting her time and efforts to others well into her early 90s. I can only hope to still be volunteering when I’m at that age. I want to thank Friends of Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service for this honor. I am truly touched.”

Rubin’s speech was also quite moving. “It was Sis Levy’s life mission to help others,” she said. “I was raised the same way, understanding that the central principle of Judaism is Tzedakah, and that it is everyone’s responsibility to work to heal the world. Everything the Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service does is meant to heal the world and care for those in need. I’m proud to volunteer and do my part, just as Sis Levy did. It’s an honor to receive this specific award, knowing that we share the same philosophy.”

Adam and Amanda Kaminer, Tacos co-chairs, were thrilled with the turnout. “We were so honored to chair this event. We have loved every minute of it,” said Amanda. “So many people put in an enormous amount of work, and it always comes together beautifully. The silent auction raffle baskets were above and beyond this year, with something for everyone. My takeaway for the evening is

always what a festive vibe this gala has. Tacos puts the FUN in FUNdraising!”

The gala was exceptional from start to finish. “The 41 raffle baskets completely wowed the crowd,” said Melissa Leibowitz, director of Engagement, Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey. “With prizes like Phillies tickets, theater tickets, and gift certificates to amazing restaurants throughout the area and the shore, everyone was hoping to win a basket. The food was delicious, the tequila tasting and margarita bars were busy all night long, and the live mariachi band was terrific. It was very rewarding to see so many friends and colleagues enjoy a wonderful evening together.”

So many people had glowing compliments to share about this year’s gala.

“Heather Kramer and Robin Rubin were the most gracious, well-deserving honorees,” said Sarah Zalcman, philanthropy associate for JSHHS. “It’s inspiring to be in the presence of people who are deeply passionate about giving back to the community, and it’s an honor to come here tonight to celebrate these two hardworking volunteers.”

“This evening is always filled with fun and camaraderie,” said Dave Thompson, Lions Gate CEO, “but I hope the biggest takeaway from this evening is the knowledge that through our collective efforts we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we



Celebrating a successful evening were (from left), Dave Thompson, CEO of Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service; Aimee Levin, chair of Friends of Senior Housing; Heather Kramer, recipient of the Ethel J. David Award; Robin Rubin, recipient of the Sis Levy Award; Amanda Kaminer, event co-chair; and Adam Kaminer, event co-chair. Photos by Studio K.



The crowd enjoys the fabulous Tacos & Tequila gala.

serve. We are so lucky to be part of a community dedicated to uplifting those in need.”

“Tacos & Tequila was a huge success,” said Larry Gottlieb, president of the Board of Trustees. “Our honorees, Heather Kramer and Robin Rubin,

spoke beautifully and from the heart. What a great evening!”

Thank you again to all who attended the gala. We hope everyone enjoyed Tacos & Tequila 2024 and look forward to seeing everyone next year at Taco’s 10th anniversary. ▲