



LIONS GATE
WE ARE *Better* TOGETHER



**Friends of
Jewish Senior Housing**
Inspiring Community. Helping Seniors



SUMMER 2025

TACOS & TEQUILA TURNS TEN: A Decade of Celebration, Community, and Compassion

On May 8th, Lions Gate and Friends of Jewish Senior Housing and Health Service (JSHHS) marked a major milestone: the 10th Annual Tacos & Tequila fundraiser. What began in 2016 as a lively evening for 135 guests has grown into one of the most anticipated events of the year, drawing more than 300 supporters, including Lions Gate residents and dignitaries from across the community. It was a night that blended vibrant flavors and joyful celebration with heartfelt purpose.

This year's event honored two devoted champions of the Lions Gate mission: Sandy Kushner, who also served as Auction Chair, received the Sis Levy Award, and David Spector was honored with the Ethel J. David Award.

"One of the best parts of the evening was honoring two truly deserving people," said Sarah Zalcmann, Development Associate for JSHHS. "Both Sandy and David have given so much of themselves to the Lions Gate and Saltzman House communities to ensure that our residents receive the most exceptional care."

Our award winners were particularly gracious and touched by the honors they received. As David Spector noted, "Receiving the Ethel J. David Award was one of the most humbling experiences of my life. I realized it wasn't about



L to R: Judy Love, Michael Freedman, Dave Thompson, Roberta Budman, Jared & Ashley Mandel.

me at all – it was about the people around me, and the community we've built, one act of kindness at a time."

Similarly, Sandy Kushner said, "I was honored when they told me I was receiving the award. I feel truly blessed to do the work I love, and to support the residents—because they mean so much to me."

So, why *Tacos & Tequila*? Aimee Levin, Chair of Jewish Senior Housing, explained that, over a decade ago, Friends of Jewish Senior Housing and the Jewish Geriatric Home Auxiliary merged, and they wanted to

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TACOS & TEQUILA

Hosted by Friends of Jewish Senior Housing

CELEBRATING
10 years

Continued from page 1

hold a fundraiser. While trying to come up with a theme, the planners realized that Cinco de Mayo was in May... one thing led to another, and Tacos & Tequila was born. The first Tacos & Tequila was held at Woodcrest Country Club and raised over \$32,000. Since then, not including this year, it has raised more than \$500,000 for vital services.

The festivities were held this year at Congregation Beth El, which was decorated in the vibrant colors of the Southwest. In addition to eating what was likely a record amount of guacamole, guests enjoyed tacos and an expanded tequila tasting bar that showcased unique selections from around the world. As always, the sounds of a live mariachi band filled the air, keeping spirits high.



Sandy Kushner
Sis Levy Award



David Spector
Ethel J. David Award

“This year felt extra special,” said Dave Thompson, Lions Gate CEO, wearing a red brocade blazer. “Ten years of Tacos & Tequila says a lot about our community – about its heart, its joy, and its generosity. It’s not just a fundraiser, it’s a celebration of what it means to care for one another.” Indeed, with over forty silent auction baskets to bid on, the event

continued to benefit Lions Gate’s Financial Assistance Fund, which helps ensure that residents in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing continue to receive the exceptional care they deserve, regardless of financial circumstances.

“It’s really one of the events that I look forward to every year,” said Neal Cupersmith, co-chair this year with his wife, Fran. “It brings the community together for a wonderful cause.”

Here’s to the next ten years!



SAVE THE DATE! *Fifth Annual Susan Love Family Golf Classic is coming soon!*

Sunday, September 14, 2025 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Come celebrate Susan’s love of golf, family and friends, and the Lions Gate & Saltzman House communities.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit lionsgateccrc.org/lovegolf or scan the QR code!



Honoring Loved Ones, Building a Legacy

Lions Gate is the vibrant, welcoming community it is today thanks to the generosity of people like you. Many residents and their families have chosen to honor loved ones in personal, meaningful ways, leaving lasting legacies throughout our community.

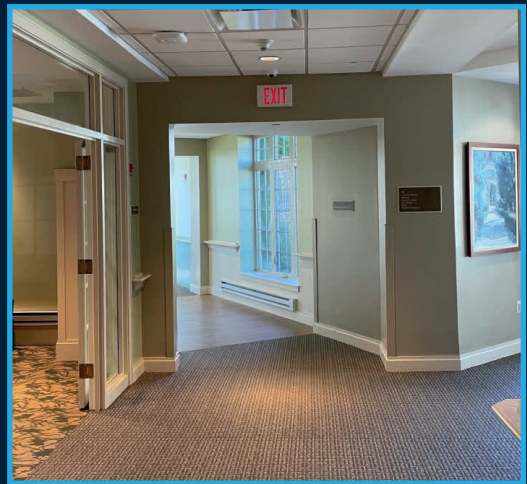
From naming opportunities across our grounds to unique sponsorships, we are here to help you create a tribute that feels just right. If there is something – a program, an activity, a room, that you would like to sponsor in memory or in honor of a loved one, our development team can work with you to bring it from an idea to reality.

Every gift to Lions Gate directly supports meaningful programs, enhances daily life for residents, and helps ensure a vibrant future for our community.

At Lions Gate, you and your loved one's story becomes part of ours.



One of 3 Roadways: \$150,000



Independent Living Wing: \$100,000



Media Room: \$50,000



Guest Suites: \$18,000

We'd love to discuss the many Naming Opportunities available throughout Lions Gate
Please contact: Sarah Zalcmann • (856) 679-2190 • szalcmann@jfedsnj.org

Last Year We **Met Our Match**. Now, Help Us **Beat Our Match** and Make a Meaningful Difference!

Lions Gate is proud to share that last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we met the Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation's matching challenge, raising over **\$300,000** to support the residents of our Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing neighborhoods. Meredith Becker, Lions Gate's COO, summed it up as follows, "We are thrilled that The Saltzman Foundation chose to help Lions Gate with this endeavor. The funds raised will help us continue to provide our residents with the finest care available."

This year, we're honored once again by their continued belief in our mission. The Saltzman Foundation has renewed the challenge, pledging to match every dollar donated up to **\$145,000**. Given the success of last year's **MEET OUR MATCH** campaign, we are excited to **BEAT OUR MATCH** this year.

Our new campaign began on January 1, 2025, and will continue until December 31, 2025. Thankfully, we are well on our way. In addition to current donors, more than forty Lions Gate residents are participating and helping their fellow residents.

As a Continuing Care Retirement Community rooted in Jewish values, tradition, and culture, Lions Gate is committed to helping our residents live with dignity, purpose, and joy. Whether it's physical wellness, lifelong learning, or meaningful

connections, our programs are designed to enrich our residents' lives every day. From fitness classes and discussion groups to concerts, cooking classes,



L to R: Dave Thompson, Carl Bagell, Meredith Becker.

and celebrations, there's always something to look forward to.

For some of our residents, however, longer lives have brought unexpected financial challenges. Even those who carefully planned ahead have found themselves outliving their savings.

Every contribution – large or small – ensures that our Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing residents do not experience any change in their living conditions due to financial constraints.

Please join our campaign.

Together, we are truly better.



To join our **BEAT OUR MATCH** campaign, visit lionsgateccrc.org/beat-our-match or scan the QR code.

The Cherry: Bright and Airy

Thoughtful design meets everyday comfort with our Cherry floor plan. Its warm, welcoming foyer, with a convenient coat closet, sets the tone for a space that feels like home from the moment you walk in.

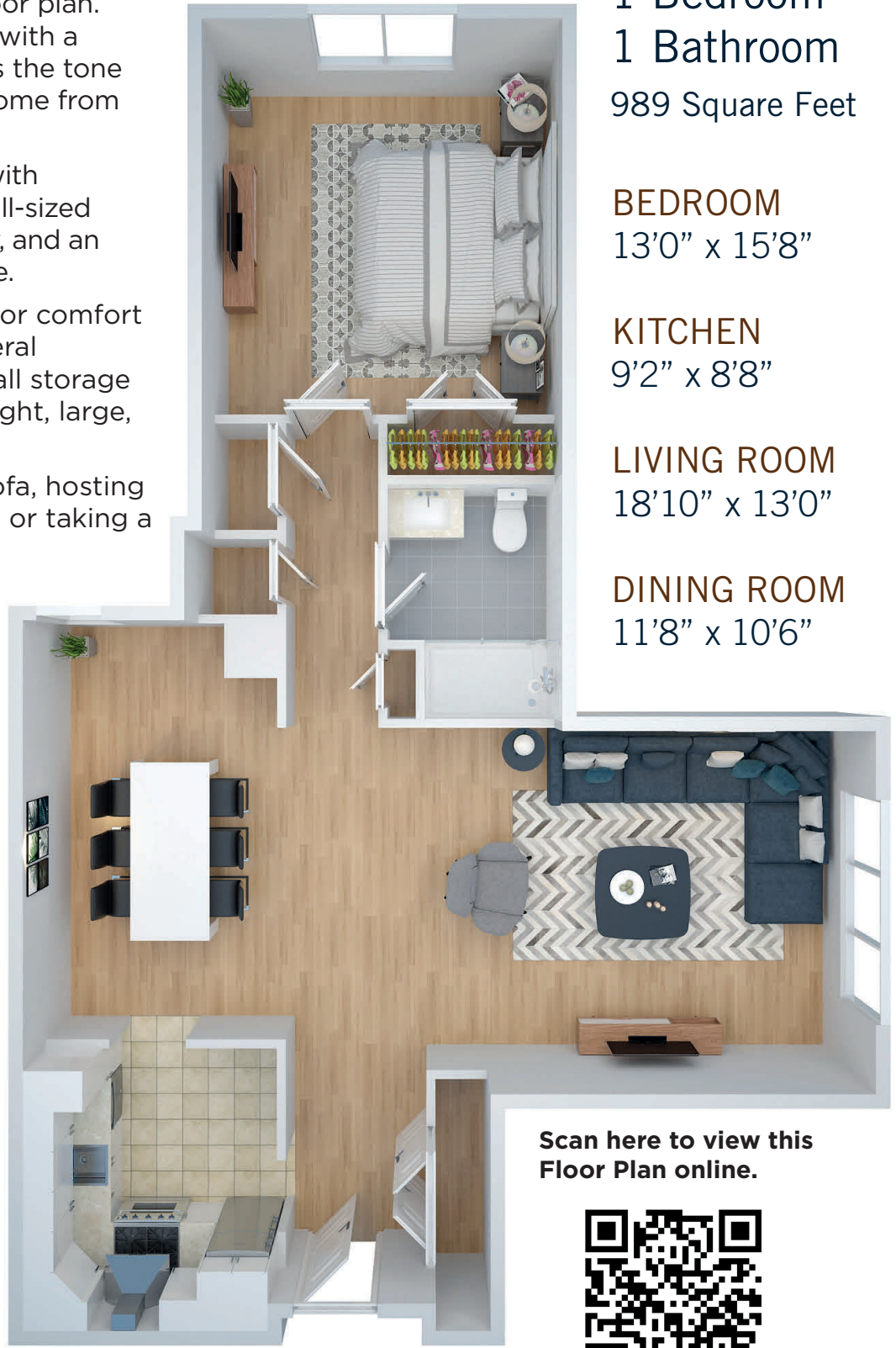
The kitchen was designed with functionality in mind with full-sized appliances, ample cabinetry, and an abundance of counter space.

The bedroom is designed for comfort and privacy. There are several oversized closets to solve all storage needs. The bathroom is bright, large, and easily accessible.

Whether relaxing on the sofa, hosting dinner, entertaining friends or taking a break before the next activity, this home is thoughtfully designed. It offers the ideal balance of independence and comfort in the heart of the Lions Gate community.

Not ready to move yet? No worries. Join our Waitlist with a deposit of just \$1,000.

(All deposits are fully refundable should you ever change your mind.)



1 Bedroom
1 Bathroom
989 Square Feet

BEDROOM
13'0" x 15'8"

KITCHEN
9'2" x 8'8"

LIVING ROOM
18'10" x 13'0"

DINING ROOM
11'8" x 10'6"

Scan here to view this Floor Plan online.



Schedule a visit today. Contact Angela Stevens: (856) 679-2357 or astevens@lionsgateccrc.org

JSHHS Board Member Spotlight: JD ABRAMS, *President*

JD Abrams is currently President of the Board of Trustees of Jewish Senior Housing and Health Service (JSHHS). He and his wife, Suzie, have two children, Jordyn and Max, and currently live in Voorhees.

When did you first get involved with Lions Gate?

Before I was even a volunteer at Lions Gate, I was involved in the original construction and was hands-on with the equipment from a specification and influence standpoint. This put me in the unique position to understand the Lions Gate campus.

In 2017, I volunteered for the *Mensches With Wrenches* program and was asked to help with the Facilities Committee. Then, I was asked to join the Board, where I served before becoming a Vice President, and now, President.

What was it that drew you to volunteer at JSHHS and Lions Gate?

I've always had a desire to give back and stay active in the community. My earlier experience with the Lions Gate campus gave me a deeper appreciation for the organization's mission, which made getting involved in a more hands-on way even more meaningful.

Do you have a vision for Lions Gate in the future?

I want to ensure that Lions Gate continues to be the

premier Jewish senior housing and continuing care retirement community in the region.

We currently have a significant waiting list for our Independent Living residences, and our residents are living longer, thanks in part to the outstanding care they receive here.

It's important to me that Lions Gate remains the exceptional community it has always been. Given our strong reputation and the changing demographics, I believe there are real opportunities for thoughtful expansion. The future is full of possibility.

In a few years when your term is over, what do you hope your legacy will be?

I would like my legacy to be that I (1) Made the Board viable to help drive profitable growth with the best services for our residents; (2) Created a strong Board succession plan; (3) Developed a road map for growth based on market research and population demographics; and (4) Left JSHHS even better than it was handed to me.

It looks like JSHHS and Lions Gate are in good hands.



JD ABRAMS

Israel Independence Day Celebrations

On May 1, Lions Gate residents came together to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, with three vibrant happy hours, ensuring all residents could participate in the festivities. More than 100 residents joined in the celebrations, which featured Israeli trivia, live Klezmer music, a selection of beverages, and, of course, delicious Israeli foods.

Israel officially became a state on May 14, 1948, 77 years ago, when its Declaration of Independence was signed in Tel Aviv. That historic moment marked the birth of the State of Israel, and for many Lions Gate residents, Yom Ha'atzmaut remains a deeply meaningful day.



Cantor Jana Schacter, Director of Religious Services, attended all the celebrations and was especially moved by the love and support that the residents have for Israel. For some, the occasion was personal. Several residents were born in Israel before the Declaration was signed.

One resident, enjoying the celebration but clearly reflecting on its importance, shared, "I remember when it happened. Thank G-d for Israel."

The day was filled with laughter, music, good food, and heartfelt moments, an uplifting reminder of the connection residents continue to feel with Israel and each other.

***Broadway and the Great Changes in the Past 60 Years* with Dan Pantano**

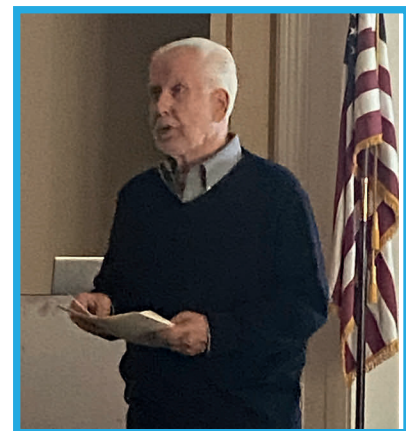
Every other Tuesday and Thursday, a group of eager residents gather for Lions Gate University's *Broadway and the Great Changes in the Past 60 Years*. The class is enthusiastically taught by Dan Pantano, a veteran producer, opera singer, and long-time teacher. Mr. Pantano's style is casual and conversational. He engages the residents, answering their questions, and telling anecdotes from decades of live performing. Each class focuses on a different topic – operettas, follies, opera – as explained by Mr. Pantano and bolstered by audio and video clips shown on a movie screen and his own real-world experience.

Lions Gate residents were fully engaged during a recent session of our popular music appreciation course. Several could be seen tapping their feet to the rhythm, clearly immersed in the topic.

Arlene Goodman, a resident and enthusiastic regular of the class, summed it up best: "Mr. Pantano is so interesting – the examples he uses are just wonderful!"

When asked how he became connected with Lions Gate

University, he laughed and proceeded to give a classic example of Jewish geography that, in a roundabout route, ultimately led to Lions Gate. Why does he do it? "Simple", he said, "I like making people smile."



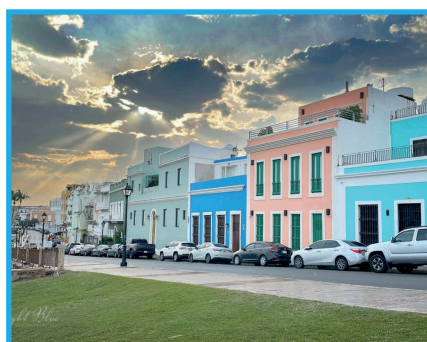
Dan Pantano

***Broadway and the Great Changes in the Past 60 Years* class is held every other Tuesday and Thursday. Check the Activities Calendar.**

***Travel & Photography* with Pat Worley**

Pat Worley is the lecturer for Lions Gate University's *Travel & Photography* class, held every other Tuesday. A professional photographer, artist, teacher, and avid traveler, Pat conducts a unique and fascinating class for the residents.

Using her own photographs – taken all over the globe, she transports the students to the far corners of the planet one hour at a time. Sometimes it's places they may have been years ago, other times it's places or things they've dreamed about. But it's not just the pictures she uses; she tells the stories behind the pictures. She creates a form of travel guide using, among other things, information about a place or event's location, history, monuments, and natural resources. The information she gives goes beyond just the cursory "Wiki" knowledge; there is real research behind the images.



Colors of Puerto Rico



Pat Worley

When asked what she likes most about teaching the residents, Pat quickly responded, "The stories that they tell me," motioning to the chairs in the room. "Several times, a resident would raise their hand to tell the class that they had been to, in one case, Puerto Rico, sixty years ago, and what it was like then." The feeling about hearing stories is mutual. Gloria Schelm, a resident, commented, "I like her very much. I love travelling and she makes it like we're there."

***Travel & Photography* class is held every other Tuesday. Check the Activities Calendar.**



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(856) 679-2200

Lions Gate | 1110 Laurel Oak Road | Voorhees, NJ 08043 | Phone: (856) 679-2200

Susan G. Love Salon

The first thing that strikes you when walking into the new Susan G. Love Salon is that it looks exactly how an upscale suburban salon should. Large and bright with plenty of stations. The salon is open, operating, and a resounding success.

Ashley Mandel, Susan Love's daughter, and Michael Freedman, her father, were the driving force behind the new Salon. Ashley and Michael were looking for a way to have Susan's legacy live on. "She had always wanted a real salon for the residents," Ashley noted, "My mother wanted a place where residents could go for a manicure or to get their hair done. Obviously, my mom never got to fulfil her dream of opening a salon at Lions Gate, so my dad did it for her. A lot of work and time went into this salon, so to have it officially open is so exciting."



The salon offers a complete menu of services, including hair design, color & conditioning, and facials. Now, our residents can look as good as they feel. Meredith Becker, Lions Gate's COO, summed it up beautifully, "It's a tribute to Susan's attention to the little things that make life here richer and fuller."

The Grand Opening will be held soon.

Sara-ellen and Alan Greenberg Therapy Gym

The outfitting of Lions Gate's new Outpatient Therapy Gym is well under way. The space, generously donated by Sara-ellen and Alan Greenberg, will open in the near future.

As a former athletic trainer at Lions Gate, when Sara-ellen and her husband, Alan, looked to donate to the community, they wanted to do something that symbolized Sara-ellen's interest in physical wellbeing. To that end, they chose

the Outpatient Therapy Gym that will feature state-of-the-art equipment to help with patients' rehabilitative care. Their donation also reflected their deep-rooted feelings about Lions Gate; "Our heart and soul are here."

