



LIONS GATE
WE ARE *Better* TOGETHER



Friends of
Jewish Senior Housing
Inspiring Community, Helping Seniors



FALL 2025

The 5th Annual Susan Love Family Golf Classic: A Legacy Of Love And Community

On a picture-perfect afternoon filled with sunshine, laughter, and heartfelt memories, Lions Gate residents, family members, community partners, and friends gathered for the 5th Annual Susan Love Family Golf Classic. Hosted by Friends of Jewish Senior Housing to benefit Lions Gate and Saltzman House residents, the event once again celebrated Susan's enduring legacy of compassion, generosity, and joy.

Aimee Levin, Event Committee Chairperson and a friend of Susan's, commented, "It is a celebration of Susan's life. Susan meant so much to the Lions Gate community and the greater South Jersey community. It just fits. It's the perfect event."

Now in its fifth year, the Golf Classic has become a beloved tradition – a multi-generational day filled with friendly competition, meaningful connection, and the caring spirit that defines Lions Gate. The community looks forward to celebrating what Susan stood for: bringing people together to do good, to laugh, and to give back. Aimee continued, "Everything turned out the way we hoped that it would. Susan would have had a great time."



When asked how she thought Susan would feel about the day, her sister, Roberta Budman, said, "She'd be thrilled to see all these people that came out to support this fundraiser and to enjoy her memories and all that she had to give to the community, Lions Gate, and her family. She is truly missed in our hearts."



The event drew participants of all ages. In addition to golf, there was excellent food, face painting, games, and bracelet making. Perhaps more than even the lighthearted fun, there was heartfelt reminiscing about Susan.

Ashley Mandel, Susan's daughter, noted, "She was a truly special person. It's touching to see how the people she cared so much about are returning that love. She was an inspiration not just to me, but to the entire community. I miss her so much."

For Judy Love, Susan's mother, the event was both emotional and uplifting. "It means the world to me. And I know Susan is smiling today," Judy shared. "It's just amazing when I see the legacy that she left at such a young age... I feel blessed... This event is special in so many ways."

Susan's legacy is woven into the fabric of Lions Gate. Funds raised through the Golf Classic support programs and initiatives that enrich residents' lives, from creative arts and fitness to entertainment and lifelong learning. Each year, the event helps ensure that residents continue to experience the highest quality of life in a setting defined by warmth, care, and connection.



Honoring Loved Ones Through Naming Opportunities At Lions Gate

Lions Gate is built on the generosity of donors who believe in our mission, care about our community, and want to ensure that it continues. Accordingly, residents, families, and friends have chosen to honor loved ones in lasting and meaningful ways by creating tributes that celebrate their life, love, and legacy throughout our campus in perpetuity.

There are myriad ways – dedicating a space, sponsoring an event, or funding an activity to honor a loved one or their memory. Our Development team can work with you to help bring your vision to life. There are naming opportunities available across the campus.

Every gift to Lions Gate directly supports the programs and experiences that enrich the lives of our residents. Together, these gifts ensure that our community remains as vibrant, welcoming, and inspired as the people who call it home.

Here are just a few of the Naming Opportunities available on the Lions Gate campus:



Bistro: \$150,000



Wellness Center: \$250,000



Skilled Nursing Resident Rooms: \$5,000



Assisted Living Media Room \$50,000

**We'd love to discuss the many philanthropic opportunities available throughout Lions Gate.
Please contact: Sarah Zalcman • (856) 679-2190 • szalcman@jfedsnj.org**

Lions Gate Is **Beating Our Match** – And Then Some!

On January 1, 2025, Lions Gate launched the Beat Our Match campaign with the goal of raising \$145,000 to unlock a matching gift from the Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation, doubling the total to \$290,000. Beat Our Match follows last year's highly successful Meet Our Match campaign, which raised over \$300,000.

According to David Thompson, Lions Gate's CEO, "We're proud to share that for the third year in a row, we've met or even beaten the challenge set forth by the Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation. However, we're not stopping now – we want to keep going!"

The funds raised through Beat Our Match directly support residents in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing who have outlived their financial resources. Medicaid reimbursement covers only part of the cost of the services and high-quality care Lions Gate provides. The rest comes from philanthropic support from people like you, who believe in the promise that no resident should ever have to leave Lions Gate due to financial hardship.

"I see firsthand every day how Lions Gate steps up for residents who need help," said Philip Popper, Director of Sales and Business Development. "It's comforting to know that if you give your heart to this community, it gives right back to you."

Our community's response has been nothing short of exceptional. Participation from residents and their families, board members, and staff has grown month after month. This includes contributions from more than fifty Lions Gate residents. Gifts continue to arrive from supporters who believe in our mission.

"We've always said that Lions Gate is more than just a place to live – it's a community where everyone looks out for each other. This campaign proves it," said Meredith Becker, COO of Lions Gate. Meredith continued, "Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us ensure that residents who need assistance can continue to receive the care and support they deserve."

Lions Gate, being grounded in Jewish values, is dedicated to ensuring residents live with dignity, purpose, and joy. That means providing enriching programs, exceptional care, and a sense of belonging, all of which depend on the generosity of our donors.

Every dollar makes a difference, and each act of giving strengthens our community. The success of Beat Our Match reflects the spirit of Lions Gate: a place where caring for one another isn't just a promise, it's who we are.

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.

JSHHS Board Member Spotlight: **Amanda Kaminer**

Amanda Kaminer is a Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Jewish Senior Housing and Health Service (JSHHS). She is excited for the role she gets to play in Lions Gate's present and future. She lives in Cherry Hill with her husband, Adam and their daughter.

When did you first get involved with Jewish Federation or one of its "arms"? And why?

I first got involved with the Federation when I was dating my now-husband, Adam. I saw how involved Adam and his family were with supporting Jewish Federation and their community, and I knew I wanted to be a part of this amazing organization.

When did you first hear about Lions Gate?

Lions Gate was my first foray into the world of philanthropy. Adam and I were talking about how I could begin to get involved in helping within our community. At that time, Adam was the president of Lions Gate, so I learned A LOT very fast.

When did you first get involved with Lions Gate and why?

I knew that I wanted to get involved with Lions Gate, but I wasn't exactly sure in what way. Adam told me to follow my heart and find a charity that spoke to me.

My father lived in Gesher House for several years, up until he passed away in 2019. With the help of Jewish Senior Housing, my father was able to live in a beautiful apartment in an amazing community that gave him a great sense of belonging.

It was at this point that I knew I wanted to be a part of Lions Gate. I started by joining the Friends of Jewish Senior Housing and was on the Tacos and Tequila committee when we planned the 1st annual event ten years ago. I did that for several years and then joined and chaired the Resident Affairs committee.

When did you become a Board member? Vice President?

Approximately 3 years ago, I joined the Board as Secretary for a two-year term. Last year I was nominated for the VP role on the board. This is my second year as VP.



Amanda Kaminer and Her Husband, Adam

What does Lions Gate mean to you?

Lions Gate is so important to our Jewish Community. It gives a sense of peace to families that their loved ones are cared for in a community that places such importance on quality of life, on Judaism, and on making sure that our Jewish seniors live out their lives in a fun, dignified, and stimulating environment.

What have you learned from being involved with Lions Gate?

That our seniors flourish when given access to interesting activities and programs in a vibrant Jewish Community.

What is your favorite part of being involved with Lions Gate?

The residents. I love seeing them and doing whatever I can to help every one of them. Whether it be Independent Living, Assisted Living, or Memory Care. I particularly love helping with the fundraising events that we hold. Every dollar we raise goes to making their lives better.

What would be on your "for Lions Gate" wish list?

I would like to see Lions Gate and JSHHS continue to be integral parts of our Jewish Community. As technology continues to advance, we stay two steps ahead and bring these advances to our residents.

We're so grateful to have Amanda as part of our Board and deeply appreciate her passion, insight, and commitment to the Lions Gate community.

Assisted Living At Lions Gate

At Lions Gate, Assisted Living means living independently while receiving the appropriate amount of support. Residents live life on their own terms in a caring community and, when necessary, receive the assistance of highly-trained professionals.

We can provide personalized assistance with daily tasks such as bathing, grooming, dressing, on an as-needed basis – always delivered with dignity and compassion. Additionally, our Assisted Living program is overseen by a registered nurse, and only licensed nurses administer medications, giving residents and their families peace of mind.

Residents live in spacious and comfortable private studio or one-bedroom apartments. Residents may decorate their apartments as they like in order to make them feel at home. Daily life includes three delicious kosher meals served in a warm, restaurant-style setting, weekly housekeeping, and maintenance-free living.

One of the things that makes Lions Gate so special is the incredible variety of classes, programs, and activities designed to nurture the mind, body, and spirit — available to all residents, including those in Assisted Living. We make a concerted effort to ensure that our Assisted Living residents have the best selection of programming in the tri-state area.

There's Chair Zumba, yoga, baking, Broadway classes, Drama Club, a Walking Club, and the surprisingly competitive Ping Pong with Dave. There are, quite literally, too many to list.

During October, residents enjoyed High Holiday services, weekly presentations by Stuart Liss on a variety of celebrities, and a festive hayride at Johnson's Corner Farm. November has just as

much fun, with History Unraveled (where the presenter dresses in the era being discussed), a Veterans Day Pinning Ceremony and Zentangle, a brand new, mentally stimulating art class.

"We're not content with the status quo and are constantly looking for new activities, programs, and classes, as well as ways to bring technology to our residents," said Jennifer Quinn, Director of Activities for Assisted Living and Memory Care. "For example, we recently purchased an electronic, self-shuffling, and dealing mahjong table. The residents love it!"

Our goal is to keep Assisted Living residents active, interested, and excited about classes and activities. Participating with others fosters friendship and a true sense of community. As Jennifer noted, "It's not like they attend programs just for the sake of attending them. They attend because they want to. Because they enjoy them."

If you would like to learn more about Assisted Living at Lions Gate, call Phil Popper at (856) 679-2397 or email ppopper@lionsgateccrc.org.



Leila, Drama Club Teacher



Mahjongg in the Game Room



Baking Class

Going Pink For Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Lions Gate always does its part. This year, in addition to wearing wristbands, t-shirts, and ribbons, residents and staff members got their hair dyed or streaked pink at the new Susan G. Love Salon.

Lions Gate worked in partnership with Matura Salon and Spa Management, the company that runs our salon. Their people came in and donated their time for residents and staff members to get hot pink streaks in their hair.



Many staff members, including Dave Thompson, our CEO, and Jennifer Quinn, our Assisted Living and Memory Care Director of Activities, took part. As she was getting her hair streaked, Jennifer remarked, “What a great way to spread awareness.”

Our COO, Meredith Becker, pointed out, “We have many residents who are breast cancer survivors. We take breast cancer seriously and understand the importance of screening, early detection, and support both inside and outside of our community.”



IL Resident Lois Goldberg

Events like this remind us why Lions Gate is such a special community. We stand together in support, in hope, and in strength. When we show up for each other, awareness turns into action, and action makes a difference.

Rockin’ And Rollin’ At Our 1950’S Happy Hour

On October 22nd, the Bistro was transformed into a high school gymnasium for a 1950s happy hour. While Meredith Becker, our COO, and Kim Clemons, our Independent Living Program Director, bopped around in poodle skirts and saddle shoes, Lori St. Martin provided the “sock hop’s” soundtrack.



Linda and Gary Birne

Twenty minutes before the happy hour was due to begin, the residents started jockeying for their spots on the bleachers... err, gathering around tables in the Bistro. Once the party started, the residents made their way to the “punch bowl” for something to drink. As they listened to The Marvelettes, The Ronettes, and, of course, Elvis, everyone enjoyed hors d’oeuvres of potato

puffs, Swedish meatballs, and pigs in blankets. It was a wonderful get-together, with more than fifty residents smiling and having a great time.

In the words of Martha and the Vandellas, there was “laughing, singing, and music swinging.” Transported back to their teens, the residents slow-danced and did the Stroll. “The music just makes you want to move,” laughed Gail and Marty Raffner as *One Fine Day* by The Chiffons filled the room. “It takes us right back — and we loved every minute of it.”

“Events like this remind us that life here isn’t just about living – it’s about living well together,” said Kim. A little music, a little dancing, and a whole lot of joy...that’s what Lions Gate is all about.



Meredith Becker and Kim Clemons

Ethics In Modern Life with **Sarah Rosenson**



Sarah Rosenson

At Lions Gate, learning never stops. One of the classes that captures that spirit is the very popular Ethics in Modern Life, taught by Sarah Rosenson. A lawyer with an undergraduate degree in Government and a master's in Jewish Studies, Sarah brings a great mix of intellect, experience, and curiosity to every session.

Sarah has taught at Lions Gate for more than five years, and her ethics class is extremely popular. Noting that the residents are active participants in the class, Sarah said, "I don't give lectures. I lead discussions, and I try to pick topics that people are going to be interested in. The whole hour is very, very interactive and participatory."

The class, held twice a month, explores questions that challenge the residents' minds and moral compasses. She noted that, recently, topics included "Should billionaires exist?... What ethical

issues arise when people gamble on sports? And artificial intelligence and how it can reanimate people."

What makes the course special, she said, is the perspective the residents bring. "You can have the same topic with a group of high school students or a group of seniors," she explained, "but the seniors have much more life experience to bring to the discussion...It's just a completely different worldview."

That wisdom, she would like to believe, keeps the conversation going well after class ends. Sarah continued, "I hope they're getting mentally, intellectually, and ethically challenged in a way that's compelling and interesting. I hope they continue the conversations at lunch or when they talk with friends and relatives."

For Sarah, teaching at Lions Gate is pure joy. "It's all the good parts of teaching with none of the bad," she said. "I get to have conversations with interesting people about interesting topics. It's phenomenal."

Art History & Appreciation With **Steve Pollack**



Steve Pollack

Steve Pollack has worked with Lions Gate for 18 years, initially as an entertainer and now as an instructor for several different Lions Gate University classes. On Sunday afternoons, he teaches Art History & Appreciation - in-depth studies of art periods and movements.

The class was originally focused on individual artists but soon evolved into a journey through art history. As Steve explained, "People were interested in the artists, but many didn't understand how they fit into history. So I suggested we start with the art movements first — and then explore the artists within them." The response was a resounding yes.

Steve structured the class to move chronologically through history, ultimately, "looking at how the artists fit into the political, social, philosophical,

and scientific times of their lives."

Describing his teaching method, Steve explains, "My style is completely interactive and probably provocative." The goal is to spark and keep residents thinking. "I don't think of myself as being there to dump information. I'm there to help people think about questions like, 'Why did particular artists paint for the French Revolution and then for Napoleon? What does that say about their political integrity?'"

Steve enjoys teaching the class and appears to get as much from the residents as he gives to them. In the end, it's mutual. Steve concluded, "I'm really grateful, you know, because it has turned out to be a community that has given me a lot of love. And I feel really lucky. It's blossomed into something that I would never have predicted."

At Lions Gate, there is a lifelong love of learning. Art History & Appreciation is just one example of how residents continue to grow, question, and discover something new every day.



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Lions Gate's **Lisbeth Hernandez** Honored With *The Rothkoff Law Group Caregiver Award*

At Lions Gate, caring is a way of life. Our staff members are not only compassionate, but dedicated and concerned for the well-being of every resident. That spirit was acknowledged when Lisbeth Hernandez, a longtime member of the Lions Gate team, was recognized with the Rothkoff Law Group Caregiver Award at this year's Annual Elder Care Symposium after being nominated by Lions Gate's COO, Meredith Becker.

Instituted in 2019, the Caregiver Award honors a professional caregiver working full-time in the senior care industry who exemplifies "outstanding service and dedication to a senior." As Jerry Rothkoff, Esquire, explained, the award celebrates those who "go above and beyond their responsibilities, demonstrating exceptional compassion, commitment, and care."

Caregivers like Lisbeth, often working quietly in the background, play an essential role in a resident's well-being and their family's peace of mind. "As an elder care coordinator, we know it's the smallest acts, the gentle touch, or just lending an ear that leave the deepest mark," said Desiree Rhoda, MSW, LSW, CECC, of the Rothkoff Law Group.

Lisbeth's journey at Lions Gate began more than a decade ago when, while working at a local restaurant, she met Lions Gate's Director

of Activities – a chance meeting that changed her life and the lives of countless residents. Her warmth, patience, and empathetic nature were immediately apparent – qualities at the core of Lions Gate's philosophy.

Though new to the field at the time, Lisbeth quickly discovered her gift for connecting with older adults, especially those with cognitive challenges. Her natural rapport with residents and families alike has made her an invaluable part of Lions Gate. "The residents I work with are like family to me," she shared. "I am grateful to Rothkoff Law Group and my incredible family here at Lions Gate for this recognition, and I am even more grateful that this job allows me to form bonds with our residents and help them feel at home."

Through her dedication and care, Lisbeth Hernandez has touched the lives of everyone at Lions Gate and set an enduring example of excellence that inspires us all.

Mazel Tov Lisbeth, on this outstanding recognition!



Lisbeth Hernandez