



LIONS GATE
WE ARE *Better* TOGETHER



Friends of
Jewish Senior Housing
Inspiring Community, Helping Seniors



SUMMER 2026



A New Tradition Honoring Susan Love

On December 3rd, Friends of Jewish Senior Housing will launch an exciting new tradition with the inaugural Love, Latkes & Libations, a celebration honoring Susan Love and raising funds to benefit the residents of Lions Gate Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Saltzman House.

Featuring musical entertainment by The Maccabeats, raffle prizes, food and drinks, and plenty of community spirit, the event promises to be a memorable evening celebrating the values Susan embodied.

"This event will always be about honoring Susan," explained event co-chair Aimee Levin. "Not in memory of Susan, but in honor of Susan. We want to celebrate who she was and what she stood for."

Love, Latkes & Libations is the next chapter in a fundraising legacy spanning more than a decade. Building on the success of Tacos & Tequila and the Susan Love Family Golf Classic, Friends has created a single event to bring supporters together for one memorable evening while expanding its ability to support the residents of Lions Gate Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Saltzman House.

"Sometimes you need new ideas and a fresh approach," said Judy Love, who fully supports the

new direction. "This is a celebration of Susan and everything she represented."

Levin is optimistic about what the event can accomplish. "The more we raise, the more we can give back to the residents," she said. Friends provides funding for resident programs, outings, technology, scholarships, and other opportunities to enhance daily life throughout Lions Gate and Saltzman House.



**Co-Chairs Aimee Levin and
Alison Platt-Tarnopol**

"Friends events like this play an important role in enhancing the quality of life for our residents," said David Thompson, CEO. Meredith Becker, COO, agreed. "The support Friends provides is felt in so many meaningful ways throughout Lions Gate Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Saltzman House," she said. "From special programs and outings to the little extras that brighten daily life, their generosity helps create moments our residents truly enjoy."

This year's event will also recognize two outstanding community leaders. Nancy Toll Perilstein will receive the Ethel J. David Award, while Amy Rossano will be honored with the Sis Levy Service Award.

The evening will feature a special performance by The Maccabeats, the internationally acclaimed a cappella group known for blending Jewish music, humor, and contemporary favorites. Their high-energy performance promises to bring an unforgettable soundtrack to the celebration.

Love, Latkes & Libations may be a new event, but it continues Friends' longstanding tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

The Susan Gordon Mitzvah Mission: Bringing *B'nai Mitzvah* To Lions Gate

For many Jewish families, a b'nai mitzvah is one of life's most meaningful milestones. Through the Susan Gordon Mitzvah Mission, Lions Gate helps residents remain part of those special moments, even when they are unable to attend services themselves.

The program began in June 2023 with a simple act of love.

When Elana Becker, daughter of Lions Gate COO, Meredith Becker, celebrated her bat mitzvah, her grandmother, Susan Gordon, was unable to attend the Shabbat service. Susan, a resident in Lions Gate's Skilled Nursing neighborhood, would not be able to be there in person.

Rather than accept that reality, Elana asked Cantor Jana Schachter, Director of Religious Services, if she could bring the service to Lions Gate.

On the Thursday before her bat mitzvah, Elana stood before residents and family members, chanted her Torah portion, delivered her d'var Torah, and shared the experience with her grandmother. "It brought a lot of joy to both my mom and Elana," recalled Meredith. "My mom

would not have been able to participate in her bat mitzvah if we weren't able to bring it to her."

Following her grandmother's passing, Elana wanted other families to have the same opportunity. The Susan Gordon Mitzvah Mission was created in her grandmother's memory and has since become a meaningful Lions Gate tradition.



Aaron Goldstein with Cantor Jana Schachter

Several times each year, b'nai mitzvah students visit Lions Gate during the week leading up to their ceremony. Services are held throughout the community and are attended by residents, family members, and friends. The chapel is decorated, cake is served, and each student receives a commemorative gift from Lions Gate, courtesy of the Mission.

According to Cantor Jana, not every student has a family connection to Lions Gate. Some simply participate to bring joy to residents.

Recent participants have included Max Koenig and Aaron Goldstein.

For Max, the reason to have a service at Lions Gate was simple. "I could share my accomplishment with my grandparents, who wouldn't be able to come to synagogue and listen to me chant my Torah portion for them," he said.

For Aaron, whose service brought together more than twenty Skilled Nursing and Safe Haven residents, "participating at Lions Gate was simply the right thing to do."

Whether residents are celebrating with their own grandchildren or supporting a student they have just met, the services create meaningful connections across generations and strengthen the Lions Gate community.

In many ways, these moments capture the spirit of the Susan Gordon Mitzvah Mission. A b'nai mitzvah marks a young person's entrance into Jewish adulthood, and bringing that milestone to residents who might otherwise be unable to participate is, in itself, a mitzvah.



Susan Gordon, z"l, with her granddaughter, Elana Becker

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Be A Permanent Part Of Lions Gate's Future

Lions Gate thrives because of the generosity of individuals and families who care deeply about our residents and community. Naming opportunities offer a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special connection, or create an enduring legacy. More than a tribute, these gifts support the programs, spaces, and experiences that make Lions Gate such a vibrant and welcoming community.

We invite you to explore the opportunities below and consider how your generosity can create a lasting impact for both your family and our community.

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



Wellness Center: \$250,000



Independent Living Wing: \$100,000



Outdoor Patio Area: \$15,000



Guest Suites: \$18,000

We'd love to discuss the many Naming Opportunities available throughout Lions Gate
Please contact: Nicole Donnelly • (856) 679-2209 • ndonnelly@lionsgateccrc.org

Celebrating The Nurses Who Care For Our Community

Each year during National Nurses Week, May 6th–12th, Lions Gate recognizes the dedicated nurses whose skill, compassion, and commitment make a difference in residents' lives every day.

Whether working in Assisted Living or Skilled Nursing, Lions Gate's nurses are at the heart of the care residents receive. They administer medications, coordinate care, monitor health needs, and provide comfort during difficult moments. Just as importantly, they build relationships with residents and families, offering

reassurance, support, and a familiar face when it is needed most.

"Our nurses are essential to everything we do," said Meredith Becker, COO. "Without our nursing staff, Lions Gate would not be the exceptional community that it is."

Nurses are often the first to notice changes in a resident's condition and are trusted professionals families rely upon when a loved one needs care. Their knowledge, attention to detail, and dedication help residents receive attentive care while feeling supported, respected, and understood.

To celebrate National Nurses Week, Lions Gate hosted a special breakfast in honor of its nursing staff and presented nurses with gifts as a token of appreciation.

While no breakfast or gift can fully convey the community's gratitude, Nurses Week serves as an important reminder of the difference these healthcare professionals make. Their kindness, professionalism, and commitment help make Lions Gate not only a place where people receive care, but a place they are proud to call home.



L to R: Hope Mack-Williams, Assistant Director of Nursing; Debbie Leftwich, Director of Human Resources; and David Thompson, Lions Gate CEO

Bringing Joy To Lions Gate, One Animal At A Time

As part of Lions Gate's National Skilled Nursing Care Week celebration in May, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing residents enjoyed a special visit from New Joy Farm's petting zoo, sponsored by the Friends of Jewish Senior Housing.

The event featured lambs, goats, a llama, and a miniature horse. Residents eagerly waited for a chance to pet the animals, and for those unable to come to the animal area, the animals were brought directly to them.

One memorable moment involved resident Marilyn Freedman. Visually impaired, Marilyn was assisted as she gently reached out to pet a lamb. Smiling and laughing, she exclaimed, "I can't believe I'm petting an animal. It's been so long."

The petting zoo allowed residents to reconnect with fond memories and create new ones.

Resident Lew Schwarz said the afternoon was a welcome treat. "It was wonderful," he said. "Seeing the animals up close and watching everyone smile made it a really special day."

The petting zoo is one of the community's most beloved events.

Judging by the smiles, laughter, and excitement throughout the afternoon, it was easy to see why.



Lew Schwarz

Board Member Interview: **Larry Gottlieb**



Larry Gottlieb

Larry Gottlieb has been part of the South Jersey Jewish community his entire life. He grew up in Cherry Hill, attended JCC Camps at Medford, and graduated from Cherry Hill High School East. Today, he lives in Cherry Hill with his

wife, Kelly, serves as President of ResinTech, and continues his long involvement with Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Services (JSHHS) as a board member and past president.

Larry's connection to Lions Gate and JSHHS began years ago when his former wife's grandparents could no longer live independently and needed to return to New Jersey from Florida. Seeking guidance, Larry reached out to community leader and family friend, Leon Levy. "That was my first real introduction to Jewish Senior Housing," he recalled. Learning about the Saltzman, Dubin, and Gesher Houses, he discovered what would become a defining theme of his volunteer service: "It opened my eyes to a community that takes care of its own."

From that experience, he realized something many families don't think about until they need it: the importance of having senior living options that honor Jewish traditions, culture, and values. "If you're not Jewish, you can find plenty of places to live," he said, "But if you're Jewish, your options are more limited."

That realization sparked more than sixteen years of volunteering, service, and leadership. An engineer by training, Larry looked for ways to put his professional skills to work. One of his earliest projects involved helping improve conditions at Saltzman House. Working alongside volunteers and community leaders, he helped oversee renovations that improved residents' quality of life.

"My belief has always been that everybody should live with dignity," Larry said. "Whether it's subsidized housing or a continuing care retirement community, people deserve a place they can be proud to call home."

That philosophy has guided his involvement ever since.

When asked what Lions Gate means to him, Larry doesn't hesitate. "To me, Lions Gate is the flagship," he said. "It should represent the very best in continuing care retirement communities, and that is what it continually strives to be. It can't just be good enough. It has to be the best."

His connection to Lions Gate became even more meaningful when members of his own family became residents.

Reflecting on that experience, Larry remembers not only the care his family received but also the moments they were able to share together. "We were together, singing songs, talking, and spending time with each other. Those memories are incredibly important."

While he admits that his work with Lions Gate can be challenging, Larry calls it a "labor of love." "There's always that one day when you realize just how important what you're doing is to the community," he said. "That's what makes it worthwhile."

Larry has received many accolades for his service over the years. Yet he says some of the greatest rewards have been personal. Working alongside business and community leaders helped him grow both personally and professionally, noting that he never misses an opportunity to learn from the people in the room.

Perhaps most importantly, Larry hopes others will continue that work in the years ahead. "We need the next generation to get involved," he said. "I've been doing this for more than sixteen years, and we need future leaders who are willing to step forward and help."

For Larry, the reason is simple. Lions Gate provides something that is not easily found elsewhere: exceptional care, a vibrant lifestyle, and a meaningful connection to Jewish culture, tradition, and community.

"It made me realize how important it is to have a place where people can maintain their traditions and continue living in a Jewish environment."

A Birthday Worth Celebrating: Herb Toll Turns 102!

When Herb Toll celebrated his 102nd birthday on May 20th, more than 50 family members, friends, neighbors, and members of the Lions Gate community gathered to help mark the occasion. Fittingly, for a lifelong Philadelphia Eagles fan, the football-themed celebration featured plenty of Eagles spirit, including a rendition of the Eagles Fight Song and some special surprises.

Herb and his late wife, Toby, were Eagles season ticket holders for 31 years, making football a natural theme for the festivities. But what made the day truly memorable was not the decorations or the music—it was the friends, family, and other residents who came together to celebrate a man who has become a beloved member of the Lions Gate family.

“He’s wonderful. He’s a teddy bear. He’s a sweetheart. He’s easygoing, bright, and still has an amazing zest for life,” said Sandy Kushner, one of Herb’s cousins.

Over the years, Herb has faced challenges that would test anyone’s spirit, yet those closest to him say he continues to meet life with optimism, warmth, and humor. “He’s awe-inspiring, wise beyond his years, good-natured, caring, and funny,” said Stacy Asbell Levin, another of Herb’s cousins.

One of the most meaningful moments of the celebration came courtesy of Herb’s favorite Lions Gate nurse, Stephanie Hopkins, and her son, Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Jihaad Campbell. Since he learned that Stephanie’s son had been



Nurse Stephanie Hopkins giving Herb Toll her son’s jersey

drafted by the Eagles, Herb took a keen interest in his career. Herb and Toby would ask Stephanie to pass along messages of encouragement and good wishes. “Every week when I would come in, Herb and Toby would give me a special message to send to my son,” Stephanie recalled. “It was phenomenal. He’s just a loving, genuine person.”

Although Campbell was unable to attend the celebration because of team commitments, he made sure Herb knew he was thinking of him. In a video message, the Eagles rookie wished Herb a happy birthday and offered his hopes for continued health, love, and happiness. “I just want to give you a huge shout out today,” he said. “Wishing you a very great, bright day on your special day. Go Birds.” After watching the video message, much to the delight of everyone in attendance, Stephanie gave Herb one of her son’s Eagles jerseys.

The celebration reflected something Herb himself often says about Lions Gate: “We’re all family here.”

That sense was evident throughout the afternoon as guests shared stories, sang Happy Birthday, and celebrated a life well lived.

By the end of the party, Herb summed up the day in a way only he could. “I’ve had a lot of birthdays,” he said. “This is one of the best I’ve ever had.”



Herb Toll and Family

JSHHS Annual Meeting: Celebrating A Year Of Growth And Leadership

Residents, board members, staff, community leaders, and supporters gathered on June 16th for the Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Services (JSHHS) Annual Meeting. The evening celebrated another successful year for Lions Gate, recognized outstanding leadership and service, and highlighted important initiatives such as the new Beyond the Match campaign, which is featured on page 8.

David Thompson, Lions Gate CEO, opened the evening by recognizing the dedicated employees—nurses, dining staff, housekeepers, maintenance team members, therapists, and others—who ensure that Lions Gate provides exceptional care and services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Outgoing Board President, JD Abrams, reflected on the past year, highlighting record occupancy levels, growing waiting lists for both Independent Living and Assisted Living, and major infrastructure improvements.

David Spector was installed as the new President of the Board of Trustees. A familiar face throughout the community, Spector spoke about his commitment to residents and JSHHS's future. "Together, we will continue striving to ensure that every resident receives the highest quality of care, to expand services where needed, and to strengthen our community in every way we can."

A highlight of the evening came when Abrams received the Helen F. Spiegel Leadership Award in a surprise presentation. Named for incoming President David Spector's aunt, the award recognizes individuals who demonstrate



Photo courtesy of Studio K

David Thompson, Lions Gate CEO;
David Spector, Incoming JSHHS President;
and JD Abrams, Outgoing JSHHS President

extraordinary dedication, leadership, and commitment to the residents and mission of JSHHS.

The evening also included the presentation of the Nominating Committee report by Alison Platt-Tarnopol, who announced the slate of officers and trustees. The board members and officers were then formally installed by Ivy Brown Rovner, President of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey.

As the evening concluded, the focus remained where it always belongs—on the residents and the community that supports them. The Annual Meeting celebrated not only the accomplishments of the past year but also the shared commitment of staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and residents who continue to make Lions Gate a vibrant, compassionate, and thriving community.



Photo courtesy of Studio K

Vicki Zell, Executive Director of
The Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation,
and Brian Zell, MD, Past President of JSHHS



Photo courtesy of Studio K

Amy Clayman, JFEDSNJ CFO
and Adam Kaminer, Past President of JSHHS



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(856) 679-2200

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

Beyond The Match: A Promise Kept

At Lions Gate, community means more than providing exceptional care today. It also means honoring a lifelong promise: no resident who has called Lions Gate home will have to leave because they have outlived their resources.

That commitment is the driving force behind Beyond the Match, the newest evolution of Lions Gate's annual matching-gift campaign. While Medicaid helps offset a portion of the cost of Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing care, it does not cover the full cost of providing those services. As residents live longer and require additional support, that funding gap continues to grow. Beyond the Match helps bridge that gap, ensuring that residents who can no longer fully fund their care continue to receive the support, dignity, and peace of mind they deserve.

This year's campaign featured an extraordinary opportunity. Thanks to the generosity of Judy Love and her family, Independent Living resident Alan Smith, and The Raymond and Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation, the first \$10,000 raised during the event was multiplied sixfold, turning \$10,000 into \$60,000, increasing the impact for residents in need.

For the past two years, the Saltzman Foundation has strengthened this effort by matching donations dollar-for-dollar, helping Lions Gate raise more than \$610,000 to support residents in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing. "Our goal has never been to replace other donors," Vicki Zell, Executive Director of The Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation, explained. "Ruth Saltzman wanted her philanthropy to inspire additional giving. That's why we support programs like Beyond the Match—because when everyone has a stake in helping residents who have outlived their resources, the impact is far greater."

Longtime Lions Gate friend Judy Love's decision to make a matching commitment was inspired by seeing residents who had spent many years in the community eventually exhaust their savings. She noted, "No one should have to worry about leaving the community they love simply because they have outlived their financial resources.

This program helps cover the costs that Medicaid doesn't cover and ensures residents can continue to receive the care and support they need."

As a resident, Alan Smith's decision to participate as a matching donor was especially meaningful, reflecting the spirit of Lions Gate itself: neighbors helping neighbors and residents supporting fellow residents who may need financial assistance. "Lions Gate is our home," Alan said. "When you have the opportunity to help someone else remain part of this community, you do it."

The campaign's success—and the participation of donors, residents, and community partners—demonstrates the generosity that exists throughout the Lions Gate family. More importantly, it reinforces a promise at the heart of Lions Gate's mission: providing care, dignity, and peace of mind for residents throughout every stage of life.



**Vicki Zell, Executive Director of
The Raymond & Gertrude R.
Saltzman Foundation,
Alan Smith, David Thompson,
Lions Gate CEO and Judy Love**