

# Community Connections

October 2024

## Shanah Tovah!

We recently celebrated Rosh Hashanah at the JCC and had a great time. With other members of our community, we listened to a story, did a sweet art project, enjoyed apples and honey, and heard the shofar. We are very grateful to the JCC for partnering with us.



Pictured left to right: Elliot with his mother Maxine along with JCL individuals Jaime, Melissa, Tammy, and Jordan.



Dr. Eliyahu Krigel, the Director of Beth El's Hebrew School with Beena, playing some music.



Mira with JCL volunteer, Lily.

Thank you to our friends at the Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The continued support that we receive from these two community partners ensures that we are able to provide exceptional service to the men and women in our care. These funds also allow us to provide Judaic Programming throughout the year to our residents and the community.

# Autumn Adventures: Smiles and Memories in Every Frame!



Team JCL participating in the Heart Association Walk at the JCC. Pictured in the back: JCL employee Aniyah. Front: JCL employee Tasha with Jessica and Kelly.



Thank you to the Fischman Family Fund and the Jewish Community Foundation for a grant that has allowed Arsenia to enjoy weekly therapeutic horseback riding lessons.



It's fair season here in New England. One the the biggest ones around is the Big E and is a fan favorite amongst our guys! Tammy, Matt, Melissa, AJ, Jordan, Jocelyn, Larry, Jeffery, and Marianne along with JCL employees enjoyed a great time all together this year. They enjoyed yummy food and fun games!



Suzanne enjoying a family style dinner with her housemates.





Suzanne and David sharing their enthusiasm for cool classic cars at a car show in East Hartford.



JCL's newest resident Dani had the opportunity to cheer on the Yard Goats at a recent game. Pictured here is Dani with JCL employee Nestor.

## Meet JCL's New Board Members



Jon Weitz, JCL's newest Board Member.

We are thrilled to announce that Jonathan D. Weitz, President and Founder of Jilson Advisors Inc., has been appointed to the Board of the Jewish Association for CommunityLiving (JCL). With over two decades of experience in executive search and a deep commitment to community service, Jonathan brings a wealth of expertise and passion to our organization.

Jonathan's professional journey is marked by his leadership at Jilson Advisors Inc., an executive search firm specializing in the placement of top-tier candidates in investment banking and capital marketing roles. His extensive experience in recruiting has made him a trusted advisor to investment and commercial banks across the US, Europe, and Asia. Prior to founding Jilson Advisors, Jonathan was a Managing Director at a leading retained search firm in New York, where he successfully expanded the firm's presence in commodities, structured credit, investment banking, and capital markets.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jonathan's dedication to community health and support for individuals with developmental disabilities is deeply personal.

Both of his children and his nephew have Fragile X syndrome, a condition that has profoundly influenced his commitment to this cause. Jonathan's passion for helping individuals with developmental disabilities aligns perfectly with JCL's mission to enhance the quality of life for those in our community.

Jonathan holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Adelphi University and resides in Connecticut, with his wife and their two children. His personal and professional experiences make him an invaluable addition to the JCL Board, where he will undoubtedly contribute to our ongoing efforts to support and advocate for community health.



Arianna Basche

Arianna Basche is a writer, researcher, and educator with an MA in English, bringing over eight years of experience in non-profit and higher education settings. Having a close family member with autism has deepened her appreciation for organizations that support individuals with developmental disabilities, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact they can have. She's excited to use her communication skills to advocate for JCL's mission.

Currently, she tutors college students at Manchester Community College and high school students at Hartford Public Library's American Place.

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## JCL's community members honored at the Hartford Jewish Sports Hall of Fame

In 1982, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford and the Jewish Community Center created the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame to celebrate Jewish sports figures from the greater Hartford area.

This year, two of JCL's community members were inducted! Ronit Shoham, JCL Board Member, was inducted for her role as co-founder of the Miracle League of CT which ensure any child, regardless of physical or developmental disabilities, gets a chance to play. She also had a pivotal role in developing the West Hartford Little League.

Keith Lapuk, z"l was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame for his athletic career in Special Olympics. Special Olympics was an important part of Keith's life. He participated in many sports including swimming, basketball, bocce, sailing, and skiing. Keith won gold and bronze medals in track and field at the 1987 International Special Olympics and gold medals in downhill and giant slalom skiing at the the 1981 International Winter Games.