

THE JOURNAL

SUMMER 2021
Elul 5781

Changing of the Guard at the Home

After three years of service as President of the Jewish Home, Douglas Fink transferred the gavel and mantle of leadership to James Alperin. The Annual Meeting of the Home on May 26th held via Zoom focused on the achievements of the Home under Doug's leadership and the way forward. Quoting from his report he said, "Thank you for the opportunity to lead this crown jewel of the Jewish Community for the past three years. It's truly been an honor and a privilege. I'm grateful for the trust you placed in me and I'm humbled that you've placed me in company of the great leaders that built this institution."



Mary Rose Applegate presenting a plaque to Douglas Fink in recognition of his service to the Jewish Home.

The meeting consisted of reports by Denise McQuown-Hatter President of Affinity Health Services, and Mary Rose Applegate, Administrator, on the status of the Home's finances and personnel. On both fronts the Home had a successful year

as it met the challenges of COVID-19. The Home benefited from the financial assistance of the federal government and other programs designed to help small businesses and nursing homes in particular. Mary Rose expressed her appreciation to the staff leaders who she mentioned and praised by name for their extraordinary performance during the pandemic.



*Douglas Fink transferring the gavel to James Alperin
Shown right to left: Mary Rose Applegate,
Douglas Fink, Jim Alperin and Tammy Leister*

The Officers and board elected were: President James Alperin, Vice President Richard Bishop, Esq., Immediate Past President Douglas Fink, Treasurer Louis Nivert, and Secretary Stephen J. Rosenthal. Directors, whose terms will be one year, are Motti Hershkop, Robert Hersh, and Steven Seitchik. Directors whose terms end May 2023 are as follows: Michael Greenstein, Marshall Kornblatt, Melissa Saidman, Margaret Sheldon and Jerry Weinberger, Esq.

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Continued from front cover

Rabbi Sandhaus installed the board and officers charging them with the three-part Priestly Blessing that is said in the daily prayers. He blessed them that they should be granted the strength and wisdom to fulfill their holy mission.

As he began the installation of James Alperin, the Home's new president, he reminded all that Jim was reared in a family committed to serving and providing for the welfare of the community and that he comes well prepared to the position.

As he accepted the gavel from Douglas Fink, he spoke beautifully about his aspirations for the Home during his tenure. We have excerpted from his remarks. He said, "One of the joys of serving on our board has been

the ability to be with, learn from, deliberate, and build consensus with the committed individuals to advance our organization". He emphasized that "we are in the healthcare business. Hundreds of precious and fragile lives are entrusted to our care. He continued and said, "The Jewish Home must further leverage its incredible caring and capable staff to provide the highest caliber healthcare in the region". Continuing he said, "The next year will be extremely exciting for The Jewish Home as we emerge from COVID, realign our marketing, and announce and begin our strategic plans. I am looking forward to working with all our volunteers and professionals to continue the Home's leadership role in providing services to Northeastern Pennsylvania's elderly in a way inspired by our Jewish Values".

The Short Story Club

The Short Story Club meets every Monday at 2:00 in the Life Enrichment Room for a new story to read and discuss weekly. The stories are designed to trigger memories in residents, encourage residents to engage with other residents and staff members and, of course, have fun. It can also help with self-esteem and adjustment issues.



Residents are always open to discuss the topic following the reading. The topics have been both funny and serious. Residents reminisce about their past, and the group is never at a loss for words. Each week they learn more and more about each other, and staff learn more about them.

Often the story and conversation will turn into a great surprise which coincides with the topic. For instance, when a story was read about "Jayden and His Green Thumb", a wonderful surprise was delivered to each resident in the form of a beautiful floral arrangement which was donated by Petals for Goodness Sake. Another week the group ended with a sing along following a story about a county fair. Who knows what the next story will bring?



JHEP COVID Vaccinations Outpace National Average

The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania is beaming with pride on the commitment team members have made to those we serve with their successful vaccine campaign.

“Our vaccination rate is among the best for health facilities in our area,” said JHEP Administrator Mary Rose Applegate. “As of June 25, 2021, 85% of our staff is vaccinated and 95% of our residents for a total facility rate of 89%.”

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) began publicly posting that nursing facilities should meet or exceed a 75% benchmark as established by industry experts. In referring to the vaccination public posting at <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg>, as of June 25, 2021, only 11% of nursing homes meet the 75% threshold. Staff vaccination rates across the entire aging services field are at 57.1%.

The results at JHEP speak to the quality of workforce we have that prioritizes the safety of the residents.

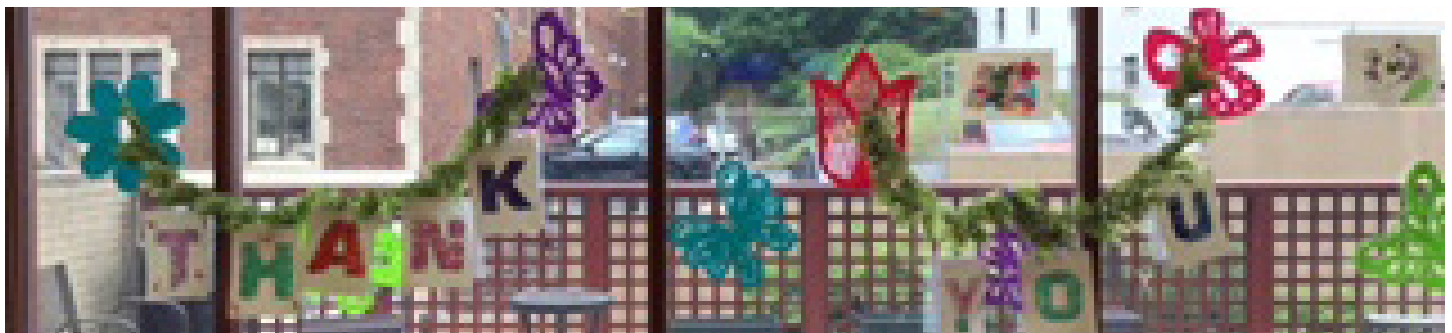
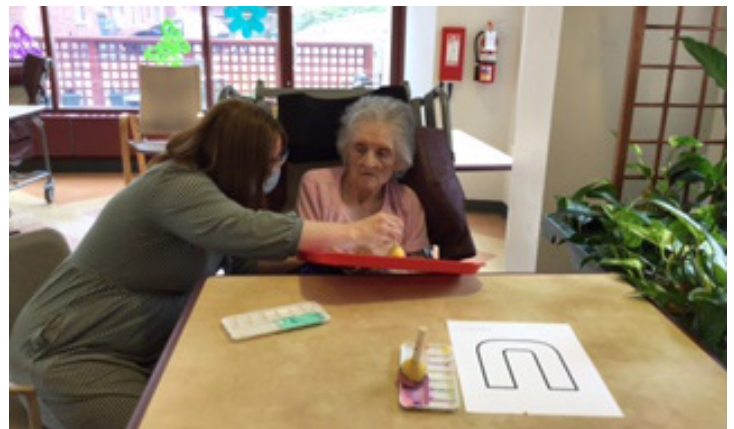
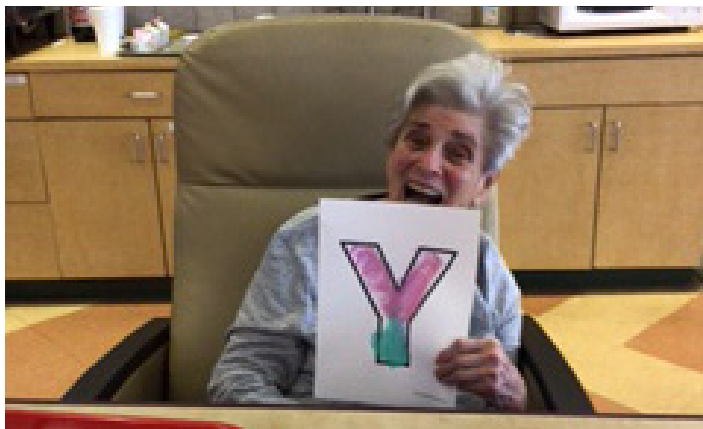
“We are proud of our staff and residents and continue to encourage vaccinations by the general population in a quest for overall herd immunity, which experts place at 70-to-80 percent of the United States population,” added Ms. Applegate.

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to bring you closer to enjoying the activities you have missed. COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.



Residents worked to create a “thank you” sign to show gratitude to the staff for all they have done and all they are doing to help keep them safe and to the donors of NEPA Gives.

The Jewish Resource Center of the Poconos Embarks on Plans to Expand its Offerings in the Poconos

In late April, the Jewish Resource Center (JRC) purchased a new 11,000 sq. ft. facility on North 5th St in Stroudsburg. The JRC is in the process of raising funds and remodeling the new facility. The goal is to outfit the facility with all the amenities and fixtures that will complement the JRC's ambitions to increase the selection, scope and frequency of its programming. The JRC runs varied programs that promote healthy aging, through its 55+ Division, and multifaceted enrichment programs for all ages through its Jewish Enrichment Division.

In the short-to-medium term, the focus will be on developing the exterior spaces and the side of the building that will temporarily be shared by both divisions. The other side is presently rented by the seller who has a short-term lease with the JRC. Ultimately, the goal is to create a senior center with many related services, and healthy-aging programming, in what will be a purpose-built space on the leased side. The Jewish Enrichment Division is slated to remain on the side of the building that is currently being developed. The long-term vision, being researched, calls for an indoor play area, a designated teen-club area, a free-food pantry and a discrete area for counseling.

On the 1st of August, the JRC will host a Torah dedication event at the new facility. The dedication, dubbed the Intergenerational Torah Project, is the initiative of one of the JRC's seniors, Dr. Paul Solomon, who committed

substantial resources for this purpose. Dr. Solomon is doing this in memory of his beloved Jennifer Ackerly, a beautiful soul who promoted and supported Torah values. Dr. Solomon views this as a way of passing down the torch to his grandchildren, and to

the younger generation in the Pocono communities. The youth will be involved in this great celebration and in a buffet of activities that promote appreciation for this great manuscript and all that is involved in scribing and studying it.

The COVID modification requirements opened the vistas of cyberspace, prompting virtual meetings with JRC members all over the Poconos, along with counterparts who currently reside in Arizona, Florida and New York. With the easing of restrictions, the JRC is negotiating with Pocono Area Agencies on Aging and the Jewish Home to resume the in-person senior luncheons and meetings next month.



The Jewish Home Scranton Auxiliary News

What a year it has been. Even with COVID-19, the auxiliary held meetings via conference calls. We are always working on ways to help the residents no matter what the situations are. We held our annual fundraiser and with added funds we bought a beautiful beverage cart that has a sink, an area for glasses and beverages that can be utilized outside on the patio for the residents to enjoy some cold refreshing drinks.

We are keeping our fingers crossed and hoping to resume our luncheons, meetings and resident functions in the Home again this year. This past year we still held resident functions, but without us being there to be with them. I am enclosing our coming year calendar and hoping to see everyone there with us this year.

Have a wonderful, safe summer!

Lynn Shaffer

Auxiliary President



Jewish Home Auxiliary Calendar of Events 2021-2022

Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 24, 2021
1:00 pm

Opening Lunch

Thursday, October 14, 2021
12:30 pm

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
1:00 pm

Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 5, 2021
2:30 pm

Purim Party

Sunday, March 13, 2022
2:30 pm

Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 29, 2022
1:00 pm

Mother's Day Party

Sunday, May 8, 2022
2:30 pm

Volunteer Recognition/Closing

Installation Luncheon
Thursday, May 26, 2022
12:30 pm

Father's Day Party

Sunday, June 19, 2022
2:30 pm

Summer Picnic

Sunday, July 24, 2022
2:30 pm

*Due to current pandemic functions
are subject to change*

The Jewish Home Wilkes-Barre Auxiliary News

Traditionally the Wilkes-Barre Branch of the Jewish Home Auxiliary sponsors various programs for the residents. Due to the pandemic, adjustments had to be made and unfortunately the programs were suspended. We are hopeful with the progress that has been made with the COVID vaccination effort, the programming of Music Therapy and Wellness Classes will be able to continue soon.

In the meantime, the Summer Picnic will take place in August. We are excited to see the residents' enjoyment of this cookout!

Stay healthy and enjoy your summer,

Anita Coplan

Co-President

Bedonna Mitchneck

Co-President

Jewish Home Scrapbook — Spring/Summer





JHEP Digital Channels Offered a Wide-Reaching View of Our Facility During the Pandemic

The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania (JHEP) has a vast and informative web and social media presence. That source became more important than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual presence served as a bridge from our residents to their families and from our care facility to the public by providing a remote window into the facility as well as its activities, policies, programs and updates.

“We used every opportunity to reach our audience,” said JHEP Administrator Mary Rose Applegate. “We persevered physically and virtually.”

The most significant opportunities were videos. A virtual tour of the facility acquainted families with the many attributes of the Jewish Home through a few clicks on their computer or mobile device.

Video blogs (vlogs) offer expertise from those who are among the Jewish Home’s caring staff as well as resident testimonials. These videos can still be viewed on all digital channels.

The social channels also promoted Zoom visits, which replaced in-person visitation during that time.

“When you see a family member smile, even though you weren’t there in person, it made your day and when the resident saw their family member, it made their day as well. It certainly made our day, having the

privilege to care for such wonderful residents and to provide them these opportunities,” said Mary Rose. “This proved the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania will always find a way.”

Web traffic did not slip at all during the pandemic, and redirects from social sources to the website increased by 38 percent. The unofficial beginning of the pandemic, in which lockdowns were implemented, was March 2020. Since then, JHEP’s Facebook following increased by about 300 to 2,450. Followers have learned of the care home’s activities and updates through that medium as well as through recently launched LinkedIn and YouTube channels.

Realizing the emotional impact that being isolated from family and friends had on their residents, care homes turned to various social media channels. These platforms are not only valuable in helping to connect residents with their families and friends, but as a way to share vital information regarding residents’ care and other information.

The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania was ready and able to enact on that demand and will continue to do so in a post-pandemic world.

JHEP Offers Outstanding Rehab, Short-Term Care Therapy

Contrary to popular belief, getting older doesn't mean losing the ability to remain active and independent. Active aging is having the resources and support readily available to address the normal functional and physical changes associated with aging, will promote greater success with maintaining that present lifestyle.

JHEP provides outstanding rehabilitation and short-term care therapy services. We have built our reputation on years of clinical excellence, and are proud to offer a variety of rehabilitative services that can greatly enhance independence. Our modern, well-equipped therapy department is staffed by licensed physical, occupational, and speech therapists.

Rehabilitation is one of the many services made easily available to each member of our community. The primary goal is to facilitate the functional independence necessary to allow members to remain in their environment of choice safely. The secondary goal is to help members stay healthy, more active and confident in their ability to enjoy life.

Our residents pursue physical therapy for the following:

- The ability to get in/out of a car easily/safely and pain free.
- The ability to complete daily functional tasks, including shopping and errand running.
- The development of an individualized walking program which took into account the person's chronic breathing difficulties.

- Improving the ability to manage curbs, stairs and uneven surfaces while also decreasing a fear of falling.
- Developing/challenging an individual's balance in order to return to dancing.

Short-term programs are offered for transitioning from a hospital stay, staying safe at home, and other such needs. A Nursing Restorative Program, which features unique protocols tailored to a resident's needs aims to improve and maintain ambulatory skills, build core strength, and foster greater mobility.

Our Residents & Families Say It BEST...



"We are extremely satisfied with the nurses and staff. They have been extremely attentive and supportive. They understand what I'm going through. They understand what Dorothy is going through."

- Joe

Husband of resident,
Dorothy

JEWISH HOME
of Eastern Pennsylvania

A View from the Administrator at Elan Gardens

Mia Jacobs



Finally, Covid begins to appear in our rear-view mirror. As we reflect, there is a lot for which to be thankful. Elan has navigated the pandemic and we remain unharmed by the virus. With vaccination rates over 90% facility wide, we are hopeful for a healthy future. As this challenge subsides, we are moving on to a bright new beginning.

A new partnership with Affinity Health Services is set to commence on July 1, 2021. Elan is excited to start our next chapter with this wonderful and knowledgeable group of individuals. The Jewish Home has had much success working with Affinity, and our next step will align the strategic operations of the two entities. As we reintegrate back into our community, we position ourselves as one continuing care organization. Our rebranding strategies will capture the transformation as we emerge stronger in unison.

Affinity will assist us in designing and implementing new outreach programs. We have a lot to offer our senior population and aim to provide a stimulating environment, promoting optimal wellbeing. We welcome Affinity's guidance, as we look to establish a presence beyond our current market reach. Standby, more to come!

Elan Gardens Aligns Strategic Mission with JHEP



The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania (JHEP) and Elan Gardens are taking the next step toward forming a more integrated adult service organization. Effective July 1, 2021, Elan Gardens welcomes Affinity Health Services, Inc. as their strategic partner.

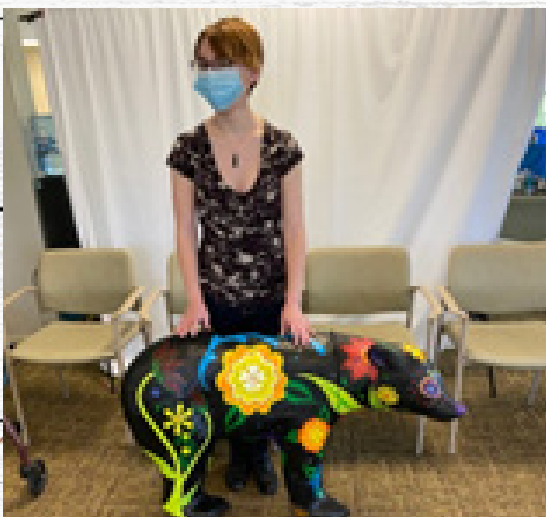
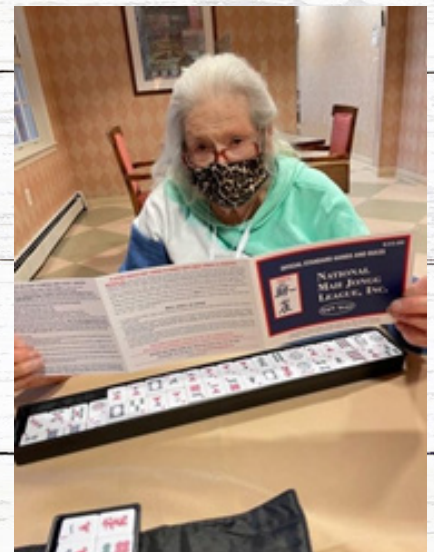
sion of Elan Gardens while providing consistent management to guide the efforts of evaluating expansion of the services and continuing to ease the care transition between the two senior living communities.

JHEP and Elan will be working toward meeting future consumer expectations, including aging in place and expanding market reach. We are excited to move this initiative forward and plan to emerge stronger after the pandemic.

One year ago, the Jewish Home engaged Affinity to manage the skilled nursing facility. This collaboration supported the mission of JHEP and will support the mis-

Denise McQuown-Hatter
President of Affinity Health Services

Fun at Elan Gardens



To stay up-to-date on all of the fun we have at Elan Gardens, "like" us on Facebook!



Greetings from Webster Towers!

Pamela Goodall, Building Administrator



Mother Nature is certainly shining down upon us lately! With the warmer weather flowers are blooming and footwear has turned to sandals rather than heavy boots. I do believe we can all breathe a sigh of relief that the COVID virus is looking more in our rear-view mirror with each passing day. Our patio and Community Room are in full swing with card games, board games, bean bag toss and Wii Bowling, a community favorite.

Residents of Webster Towers were offered the COVID vaccinations in April/March from DePietro's Pharmacy. The office donated Care Packages to those residents and we had a great turnout. Most residents are fully vaccinated and are certainly feeling much safer than this time last year.

The warmer weather allows us the opportunity to "spruce" things up a bit. We've replaced the sidewalks leading up to our entryway and have added an ADA surface pad as well near the end of our drive through. We've patched, sealed and re-lined our parking lot which not only makes for a nicer appearance, but clearer parking spaces and a smoother walking surface. A major overhaul to our Community Room has also been planned as well.



I am especially thankful for my family of residents, co-workers and associates for all the hard work, dedication and cooperation that I received over the past year. We'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer. Enjoy the sunshine and fresh air! Stay Safe and Be Well!



Jewish Home Residents Win Big with NEPA Day of Giving



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Last year was the first time that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Day of Giving online fundraising event, hosted by several area foundations, was held in our community. This year, on June 4, 2021, the Jewish Home marked its second year of participation under the leadership of our new Board President Jim Alperin.

Our goal for this special campaign was \$25,000 with a target of using the funds to upgrading our in-house television system. We surpassed this goal and also won a few gifts and prizes during the day of giving! An early response from one of our longtime supporters, Dr. Robert Greenburg, helped start our campaign off with a very generous challenge grant in which he matched online contributions up to \$10,000. Many thanks to Dr. Greenburg on this “double blessing” match.

We are thankful to the Moses Taylor Foundation, which committed a \$2,000 matching grant to Health and Wellness and Poverty and Hunger organizations that qualified us after our first \$1,000 in donations. Our campaign came in fifth on the leaderboard of 225 organizations. We had a total of 98 online donors, which qualified us to win a \$3,000 prize for the Highest Number of Unique Donors (Lackawanna County- large organization prize) sponsored by the Scranton Area Community Foundation. Our total number of donors was 128 contributing along with prizes and matches for a total of \$38,319.

The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania (JHEP) is extremely excited about the upgrade to our in house

television system and has already begun the process! Working with our new vendor, Retirement Home TV, a site assessment has already taken place in early June. We are on track to have the new system up and running by August 1 of this year.

The new television system will provide our residents with 48 high-definition channels via national satellite television provider DirecTV. Our residents will enjoy all of their current favorite channels in vivid detail including Animal Planet, Hallmark, Turner Classic Movies and more. Of course all of NEPA’s local network affiliates are included in the programming as well as two Spanish-language options! This system will replace the aging, standard-definition system.

“The new setup will allow us to adjust channel availability to meet the many varying tastes of our residents,” said Director of Project Management, Kevin Tetreault, who is overseeing the installation of the system. “We have put together a great package for our residents, much in part due to the NEPA Gives campaign.”

The JHEP is most excited about the Community Channel, which will be found on Channel 2. This allows JHEP to broadcast content such as menus, activities, special announcements and more.

A heartfelt thank you to all supporters of this special campaign. The supporters are listed on the next page separated by category and listing identified tributes.

GOLD CHAI-----\$3,600 and up
SILVER CHAI-----\$1,800 and up
FOUNDER-----\$1,000 and up
PATRON-----\$750-999
PILLAR-----\$500-759

BENEFACTOR-----\$250-499
GUARDIAN-----\$100-249
SPONSOR-----\$50-99
DONOR-----\$25-49
CONTRIBUTOR-----under \$25



Jewish Home of Eastern PA – NEPA Day of Giving, June 4, 2021 Supporters

GOLD CHAI

Dr. Robert Greenburg
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Foundation

SILVER CHAI

Ms. Beth Kaplan
Toyota Scranton

FOUNDER

Mr. & Mrs. James Alperin
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Glassman

PILLAR

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NEPA Day of Giving, June 4, 2021 Supporters with Tribute

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Affinity Health Services

PILLAR

Anonymous

BENEFACTOR

Anonymous

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Katherine & Seymour Brotman

Memory

Memory

Honor

Honor

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All those lost due to the pandemic

David & Rosalind Popik

Bridget Courtney

Jim Alperin's love of the Jewish Home

Malcolm and Florence Kissin

Robert Parry

Timothy P. Bell

William Kantrowitz

James Alperin

Mia Jacobs

The Alperin Brothers

James Alperin, Thanks for your leadership on this campaign

The deceased members of the Alperin Family

Ed Brandes

Outgoing president Doug Fink and incoming president James Alperin

Long Term Care Pandemic Victims

Jack Baine

Marlene Chambers

Robert Parry

Webster Towers Residents

Sandra L. Fryman

Mary Louise Patalonis

Louis Kahanowitz and Ed Brandes

Robert Parry

Jim Alperin

Annual Membership Campaign Results

Remain Strong

The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania's (JHEP) annual Membership Campaign serves as the major fundraiser supporting the activities of the Jewish Home in the care of its residents. The response to our campaign continues to be impressive as donors acknowledge, through their generosity, the vital role the Home plays in the support of the aging in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Douglas Fink, President of the Home, expressed his appreciation to all the donors in recognizing this. "We count on you to ensure we can continue to provide the very best to our residents. It's an awesome responsibility made much easier by your generosity," he said. Gearing up for the campaign requires the work of many board members who guide and advise the Home on how to best plan the drive.

Doug expressed his appreciation to the co-chairs in both Scranton and Wilkes Barre. Faye and Rick Bishop directed the campaign in Scranton while in Wilkes Barre, Jeff Roth, Melissa Saidman and Marshall Kornblatt collaborated in the outreach to their community.

Doug also expressed his appreciation to the entire Membership Committee, especially all those who were part of the telethon. Through everyone's efforts and the generosity of donors, the campaign raised in excess of \$135,000.

We are pleased to record the names of our donors here. Please let us know if any corrections to listings are in order. The Honor Roll of Members is listed separated by location and categories as follows:

GOLD CHAI-----\$3,600 and up
SILVER CHAI-----\$1,800 and up
FOUNDER-----\$1,000 and up
PATRON-----\$750-999

PILLAR-----\$500-759
BENEFACTOR-----\$250-499
GUARDIAN-----\$100-249
SPONSOR-----\$50-99

DONOR-----\$25-49
CONTRIBUTOR-----under \$25

JOURNAL MEMBERSHIP

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Charitable Foundation
Mr. Lewis Sare
Schwartz-Mack Foundation

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Family of Timothy Bell

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rutta
Rabbi & Mrs. Samuel Sandhaus
Mr. & Mrs. Elliot Schoenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Seitchik
Atty. Jerry Weinberger

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Mr. & Mrs. John J Acculto
Ms. Esther Adelman
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Applegate
Mrs. Jack Baine
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Mr. John Barrett
Mr. Paul Bartoletti
Atty John Beemer
*Mr. Edwin Brandes
Mr. Michael Bussacco
Mrs. Arnold Cembalest
Dr. & Mrs. Mitchell Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. James Connors

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Danzico
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James Alperin, President

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Mary Rose Applegate
Sherri Collins
Kevin Tetreault
Gayle MacDonald
Lynn Klemick
Rabbi Samuel Sandhaus
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Kimberly Kelly
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