

# Art of Living

at Jewish Home Family

110 Years

VISION

DEDICATION



Jewish Home  
Family



## We've Blazed Quite a Trail

Carol Silver Elliott, President & CEO, Jewish Home Family

Dear friends,

What an amazing accomplishment it is for an organization to reach its 110th birthday! The founders of the Hebrew Orphans Home of Hudson County could never have imagined that their efforts to help children in need would evolve into a sophisticated continuum of services for older adults. Today, our two campuses meet the needs of individuals in so many ways, from short term rehab to hospice care.

Over the course of our history, we've blazed quite a trail. From caring for orphans, we began to care for women in need and then older adults. We offered medical care in addition to what was called "custodial care" and were recognized as the largest specialty hospital in the State of New Jersey in the 1950's. Moving to Bergen County, first with a small nursing home in River Vale in the 1970's, the major transition took place in 2001, with the opening of the Jewish Home at Rockleigh and, in 2007, Jewish Home Assisted Living in River Vale.

Since then, we have continued to grow, with the latest major expansion taking place in 2022 with the opening of the Berkowitz Center for Rehabilitation Excellence and Taub Family Residences. Our inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services have not only been very well utilized since their opening but have made a tremendous difference in the lives, and health, of many.

Today we are poised on the edge of more meaningful change. We are focused on transforming the long-term care experience and we are doing that through re-imagination, and reinvention, of our long-term care units. Incorporating the principles of the Green House Project, we are focused on providing "real home" and "meaningful life" for our elders. We do this by reconfiguring into households that have smaller numbers of elders and that are staffed by consistent, multi-skilled workers. This transition was completed in mid-2023 in Memory Lane at Jewish Home Assisted Living and the difference is palpable. Elders are given far greater opportunities to make their own choices, to control their own lives, and we can see the change in engagement and interaction. The Seiden unit renovation at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh was completed recently, the staff have been trained and prepared for their new roles and we are excited for what lies ahead.

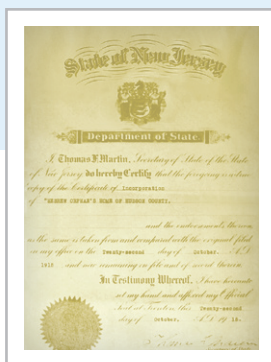
While the founders of the Hebrew Orphans Home would not recognize this organization that they had the foresight to establish, there is no question that they would recognize the values that endure — commitment to community, care for those in need and a determination to improve the lives of others.

There will be many 110th birthday events ahead and we hope to see you, and to celebrate with you!

Be well,

Am Yisrael Chai,

*Carol*



### On the cover:

Incorporation document from the State of New Jersey for the "Hebrew Orphan's Home of Hudson Valley," the humble beginning of the Jewish Home Family.



## Elders on the Go

Jewish Home Family elders do not sit still. They are out and about in the community. Whether cheering for the NY Mets at Citi Field or enjoying the boardwalk in Coney Island, nothing stops our elders from living their best life!



Sun and fun at Coney Island



Coney Island smiles



Yiddish Concert at JCC on the Palisades



Citi Field game day



NBC Studios: "The View"



Delicious donut tasting at Demarest Farms



CELEBRATING

# 110 Years

VISION DEDICATION

## OF JEWISH HOME FAMILY!

During our 110<sup>th</sup> year, in 2025, let's take a journey together, looking back at our roots to see just how far we have come.

1949



1968



1970



1998

*In 1915*, the Hudson County Jewish community responded to the plight of orphaned Jewish immigrant children by founding the Hebrew Orphans Home of Hudson County in Jersey City, New Jersey. Over the years, the organization grew and changed, responding to the community's changing needs; beginning with orphans and transitioning to elder care, offering long-term care and assisted living as well as inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.





*Throughout our history,* the Jewish Home Family has been a beacon of light for our community. First, responding to the needs of our children, and as needs have changed in our community, retooling our mission and services to meet the needs of our elders and the community at large. With community support, and our organization's ongoing commitment to the community, the Jewish Home Family continues to grow and serve.

## SPOTLIGHT

## INGE and PAUL WOLFF

### *A Story of Commitment*

**Paul Wolff has long been recognized as one of the founders of the Jewish Home at Rockleigh. Along with other community-minded individuals, Paul was instrumental in the development of the nursing home that exists to this day. The story of what led Paul, and his wife, Inge to this involvement is one that has its roots in Germany on the cusp of World War II.**

Born in Munich, Paul left Germany alone at the age of 18. Recognizing the danger ahead, his parents secured passage on a ship, and he came to the United States in 1938. Inge, who was born on the other side of Germany, in Giessen, fled the country with her family with the help of visas secured through bribery, a not uncommon, but very risky, practice.

Paul and Inge met at the YMHA in Washington Heights, New York. They were members of a youth group made up exclusively of German Jews. After serving in the U.S. Army, Paul married Inge when World War II ended. They initially lived with Inge's parents in Washington Heights before moving into an apartment together in the same neighborhood. Eventually, they relocated to Bergenfield, New Jersey, to raise their family. Elly and Linda, their daughters, recall their parents' deep connection with the Jewish community, "The connection with the synagogue and JCC was pivotal; it's how my parents became deeply involved with the Jewish community here in Bergen County."

**Inge and Paul's connection with the Jewish Home really began when both Paul and Inge's parents were residents of the Jewish Home.**

Paul became a successful businessman, first with his own business, making belts and later, handbags. He sold his business in the 1960's and then became an executive with Coach. Leaving Coach in 1972, Paul began selling advertising specialties. Inge was an apprentice to a tailor in Germany in her teen years and became a seamstress. This was at a time when school attendance in her community became frightening and unsafe for Jewish children. Inge acquired skills that sparked her lifelong interest in fashion. Elly and Linda recall her making not only her own clothes, as well as her daughters' clothes, but even dresses for their friends. Inge also used her skills to help Paul with his business making belts and handbags. In addition, she worked as a nursery schoolteacher at the JCC, first in Englewood and then in Tenafly, for more than 25 years, a role she loved.



Paul, Inge, Bill Lippman, and Mr. and Mrs. Sid Shonfeld



Paul, Linda, Inge, and Elly (circa 1958)



Paul's 70th Birthday (1990)





Paul's 95th Birthday (2015)



Inge and Paul honored at the 2011 Gala



Inge with son-in-law Bruce and daughter Linda



Inge celebrating her 100th Birthday

Inge and Paul's connection with the Jewish Home really began when both Paul and Inge's parents were residents of the Jewish Home, in the small River Vale facility that opened in the 1970's. While the care in the nursing home was good, the building itself left much to be desired in those years. The rooms were not private, the building itself was very old. Paul and Inge felt that the Jewish community in Bergen County deserved, and needed, something better.

**Working with a group of people that included Russ Berrie, Lenny Rubin, Carl Epstein and many others, Paul was instrumental in helping to identify the Rockleigh site.**

That 50-bed facility was replaced by the existing Rockleigh building in 2001 and the River Vale site became home to Jewish Home Assisted Living, which opened in 2007.

Working with a group of people that included Russ Berrie, Lenny Rubin, Carl Epstein and many others, Paul was instrumental in helping to identify the Rockleigh site. It was a multi-year, complex process to gut the building that existed on that location and rebuild it as a nursing home. But that hard work became a labor of love and there was enormous pride when the Jewish Home at Rockleigh opened its doors.

Paul remained active with the Jewish Home. He helped develop the annual Gala and worked closely with both the Foundation Executive Director, and marketing consultant, to help plan and create the event's journal, which continues to be a significant source of revenue to this day. Inge and Paul were Gala honorees in 2011.

After 55 years in their home in Bergenfield, Paul and Inge moved into a senior complex where they lived together until Paul's passing in 2015. Alone, Inge was happy with her apartment and her friends, but, at 99 years of age, her daughters were concerned that she needed more support. In 2021, Inge moved into Jewish Home Assisted Living where she immediately became part of the JHAL community, attending programs and never missing her favorite exercise classes. She was part of a small group of centenarians that live at Assisted Living and would proudly share her age with anyone who asked! Inge passed away in August 2024, just 29 days before her 102nd birthday.

The Wolff family, including Paul and Inge's two daughters, five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, maintain their commitment to the Jewish Home Family, honoring their parents' legacy and ensuring that their good works continue.

## SPOTLIGHT UNSUNG HEROES

People are often surprised when they learn that the Jewish Home Family has more than 500 employees. Even folks who have been subacute patients, or live on one of our campuses, don't realize that it takes so many people, in so many varied roles, to provide the services that we do. Clinical staff, non-clinical staff, everyone plays a vital role in ensuring that we are offering the highest quality care possible.

Thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of some of our donors, we now have a new recognition program, focused specifically on "unsung heroes."

The Thelma and Sol Lieber Unsung Hero Award will begin in 2025. The award is named in honor of two long-time Jewish Home Assisted Living residents, Thelma and Sol Lieber. Every department in the organization will have the opportunity to nominate an unsung hero. These nominees will represent one or more of the Jewish Home's five key values: Caring; Kindness; Honesty; Hard Work; Family. Thelma and Sol were living examples of these values.

Thelma had a passion for family, both her own children and extended family. Her caring extended to her children's friends and

her own friends, always demonstrating her warm and sincere heart. She was diagnosed with late onset MS but never let that stop her from being engaged and active, including during her 10 years at JHAL and staff still talk about how kind and thoughtful she was. Sol was a hard-working man who built a career in textile sales. He valued honesty and always believed in being truthful with his customers and with his family.

Nominations will open on March 1st and close on April 1st, annually. Each individual selected will be recognized at the Jewish Home's annual Employee Service awards program in May. The expectation is that there will be close to 20 individuals selected for this award each year. After the presentation of the initial awards, the nominations will be reviewed again, and three individuals will be selected as the top honorees. Each of the honorees, and their spouse or guest, will be invited to the Jewish Home Gala in the fall, where they will be recognized and will receive a monetary award of \$500.



Sol and Thelma Lieber

The Jewish Home Family is delighted to have this opportunity to celebrate our staff and to draw attention to those special individuals who, quietly and often in the background, make a difference in the lives of our elders every day.



Housekeeping Department



# ILLUMINATING THE PATH FORWARD



## Jewish Home Foundation's Annual Gala Event

The **Jewish Home Foundation's Annual Gala** is always a highly anticipated evening, with hundreds of supporters joining to celebrate the philanthropy's indelible mark in our community. Held on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at The Rockleigh, the event was a spectacular evening honoring Jennifer and Peter Martin. Judy Collins rounded out the evening with her beautiful voice and story of resilience. After the program, the crowd enjoyed

dessert and dancing. It was a wonderful evening, raising over \$600,000. The event highlighted the critical work of the Jewish Home Family providing a vital and meaningful experience for the elders they serve, through understanding and meeting the unique needs of each individual, providing care and services. For more information about the Jewish Home Foundation and Jewish Home Family, please visit [www.jewishhomefamily.org](http://www.jewishhomefamily.org).



## FUNDRAISER



On Thursday, October 10th, **Mixology** in Closter hosted the Jewish Home Family for a "Sip and Shop" fundraiser at the Closter, NJ location. Thank you to Jewish Home at Rockleigh board member Ron Aroesty and Jen Varon from **Mixology** for putting this event together.

**The Jewish Home Foundation of North Jersey, Inc. supports the vital work of the Jewish Home Family** through community engagement and fundraising. The Jewish Home Family's mission is to make aging a vital and meaningful experience, understanding and meeting the unique needs of each individual. Services include assisted living, long term care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, memory care, a nationally recognized Center for Parkinson's Care and SeniorHaven, the only shelter abuse center in the State of New Jersey. Your gifts will provide the Jewish Home with critical funds needed to deliver exceptional programs and services and ensure the best possible quality of life for our elders.



## SUPPORTING THE JEWISH HOME FAMILY

### BUILDING TOGETHER

Our annual giving program invites you to participate in events like our golf classic and annual gala. In recognition of your gift, your name will be listed on the Building Together plaque and you will receive an invitation to the fall celebration.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Create a legacy by planning a gift that guarantees the Jewish Home Family's mission will continue, providing the opportunity to commit a charitable gift now that will benefit the organization in the future. A legacy gift may be designated in a will, a retirement plan, creating an endowment, or a life insurance policy.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### GENERAL DONATION

Donations to the Jewish Home Family support our mission "to make aging a vital and meaningful experience by meeting each individual's unique needs." Contributions may be made in memory of or to honor a loved one, recognize exceptional staff, or commemorate milestones.

### CREATE A GIVING CAMPAIGN

Those whose lives have been touched by the Jewish Home Family often seek meaningful ways to give back. Some volunteer their time, while others donate to the Jewish Home Family. We offer various options to start a personalized campaign.

For more information about making a gift to the Jewish Home Foundation of North Jersey, please contact Laurie Meltzer Bandremer, Executive Director at 201-750-4231 or email [lbandremer@jewishhomefamily.org](mailto:lbandremer@jewishhomefamily.org).

To make a donation online, visit [www.jewishhomefamily.org/donate](http://www.jewishhomefamily.org/donate).



## Building a LEGACY with the Jewish Home Foundation

Legacy gifts provide you with the opportunity to commit to a charitable gift now that will benefit the Jewish Home Family in the future. It goes beyond writing a check. A legacy gift may be designated in a will, a retirement plan, creating an endowment or through a life insurance policy.



To discuss your legacy gift, please contact  
Laurie Meltzer Bandremer, Executive Director, Jewish Home Foundation of North Jersey  
at 201-750-4231 or email [lbandremer@jewishhomefoundation.org](mailto:lbandremer@jewishhomefoundation.org)



10 Link Drive, Rockleigh, NJ 07647 JewishHomeFamily.org

*Art of Living is published by Jewish Home Foundation*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025**  
**31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**  
**Honoring David Lazarus**

**GOLF, TENNIS, and CARD GAMES at Alpine Country Club**

**JEWISH HOME FAMILY**  
**GOLF CLASSIC**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
for a Jewish Home Family Celebration!

**110 Years**  
VISION DEDICATION

**Sunday, October 26, 2025**  
at the Hilton Pearl River  
**Honoring**  
Taran and Howard Chernin

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