



Community
Creativity
Growth

2024 Annual Gala

HONORING

Lois Rose
Lifetime Achievement Award

Marsha Atkind
Community Impact Award

CELEBRATING

35th Anniversary of the
Millburn Group Home
20th Anniversary of the WAE Center

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Dear Friends and Business Partners,

JSDD is excited to announce our 2024 Annual Gala to be held at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club in South Orange, NJ. We are proud to be celebrating these exceptional Honorees and Milestones.

LOIS ROSE – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

As JSDD celebrates the 35th Anniversary of the establishment of the Millburn Group Home, there is only one name that can be associated with that home from before its inception to this day. Lois Rose was the Associate Director of the Planning and Allocations Department at United Jewish Federation of MetroWest in the 1980's. In this capacity she was assigned to convene a committee – **The Commission on Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** – to explore the possibility of establishing kosher residential services in the Jewish community.

In October 1989, six men and women were identified to participate in this experiment. Adults whose parents were looking ahead and seeking solutions regarding what would happen to their adult children requiring assistance to live and participate in the community when they were no longer around. The project faced challenges, but Lois along with a committee of incredible volunteers, created an extraordinary home which served as the springboard for the diverse and dynamic organization we know today as JSDD.

Lois remains a vibrant, engaged and contributing member of the Board of Trustees. Serving as President from 2008–2012, she continues as a member of the Executive Committee and has been involved in every major endeavor JSDD has embarked upon for these past 35 years. She chaired the WAE Center Committee when the Center was just an idea and, most recently, served on the Capital Campaign Committee and chaired the Building Committee for our new home on Eisenhower Parkway.

It is impossible to think about the history and trajectory of this extraordinary agency without Lois's name being connected to that incredible story.

While there are so many dedicated professionals and volunteers contributing to the success of JSDD, there is no one more deserving of the very first Lifetime Achievement Award than Lois.



35th Anniversary of the Millburn Home

In 1989, six families and their adult children took a leap of faith and moved into the very first kosher group home in MetroWest! This first of its kind residence fulfilled the dreams of many community members and was furnished by the founding committee. People throughout the MetroWest area supported the project through a registry at Bed Bath & Beyond. In the spring of 1990, the first Passover was observed, and a local Rabbi helped to train the staff in how to keep a kosher home.

Community members worked to coordinate inter-agency programs for the residents and other individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living at home with their families. The focus was on observing the Sabbath, holidays, Jewish learning, and general recreational and social opportunities.

Fast forward to 1996 and that Committee of Federation became an independent agency – Jewish Service for the Developmentally Disabled (JSDD). Since 1996, sixteen residences have been established to serve a total of 60 people with the assistance and services they require to live as independently as possible in communities in Essex and Morris Counties.



MARSHA ATKIND – COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

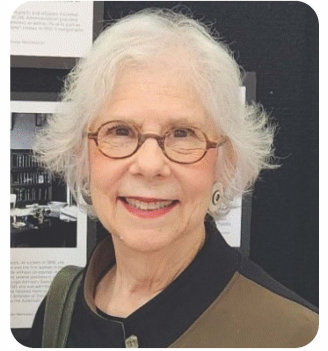
Tikkun Olam means: Repairing the World which sums up the many reasons why JSDD has selected Marsha Atkind as the very first recipient of the Community Impact Award. Her life, of both professional and volunteer leadership and service, has been dedicated to this very mission. Her volunteerism, which evolved into a career in philanthropy, has led to selecting her as a most worthy recipient.

Many will know Marsha as the recent past CEO, until her retirement in 2021, of The Healthcare Foundation of NJ – a local philanthropic organization that distributes millions of dollars each year to non-profit organizations in New Jersey. Prior to her leadership at the HFNJ, she served on the staff of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest, where she was the Founding Director of the Jewish Women's Foundation of NJ. She served as National President of the National Council of Jewish Women (2002-2005) during which time she was a member of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University, the Board of HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) USA, and the Advisory Board of the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University and the NCJW Women & Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University.

In addition, Marsha is a past President NCJW Essex, past President of NJ Jewish News and served on the Boards of Essex County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and NJ PAC.

In her retirement, she continues to impact the community in diverse and meaningful ways and is currently a member of the Boards of JCF, VolunPEER, and Family Connections, and serves on the Advisory Committee for the President of Caldwell University.

JSDD could not have selected a candidate better suited to receiving this honor.

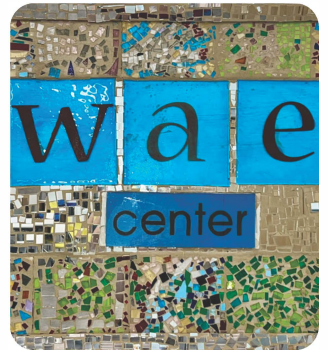


20th Anniversary of the WAE Center

As JSDD's residential services grew and a philosophy of self-direction and self-actualization was developed, the Healthcare Foundation of NJ stepped up to fund a new endeavor. The WAE (Wellness, Arts & Enrichment) Center was established as an alternative learning program offering classes like those that one might experience at a local adult school.

The WAE Center's reputation for excellence and innovation was evident to participants and their families and attendance grew as the program curriculum expanded to reflect the interests of members. The Healthcare Foundation continues to support the growth and evolution of the program and the agency, which includes the addition of onsite therapeutic services.

Today, the WAE Center boasts 65 members with classes and special programs continuing to evolve from the desires and interests of the members. This dynamic environment of adult learning fosters Community – Creativity – Growth. The arts component of the Center's curriculum inspired the newly established Heidi Gallery. The gallery is an inclusive community resource for creativity, education and arts excellence wholly inspired by the work of the WAE Center's artists.



Warm Regards,

Andrea Grover & Robin Polson
Event Co-Chairs

Bunny and Stephen Schwartz
Honorary Gala Chairs

Judith Lieberman & Beth Rose
Digital Ad Journal Co-Chairs

Laurie Goodman & Mark Perwien
Honorary Digital Ad Journal Chairs