

CONNECTIONS

News and information for a Jewish community that includes individuals with disabilities and special needs

Vol. 4, No.2

Pittsburgh, PA

Spring/Summer 2014



The Shore-Whitehill Award: All About Community

By Patti Murphy

In a perfect world, inclusion would happen without a second thought.



Artist Sylvia Plutchok designed the sculpture given to Shore-Whitehill Award recipients.

That ideal, coupled with the longtime collective effort of members of Pittsburgh's Jewish community committed to making inclusion an everyday reality for people with disabilities, is the foundation of the Shore-Whitehill Award, a joint initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and Jewish Residential Services.

continued on page 6

Inclusion Advocate Judy Cohen Named 2014 Shore-Whitehill Award Recipient

By Jenny Wolsk Bain

As co-chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Committee at the Agency for Jewish Learning (AJL) from 2006 to 2012, Judith Cohen helped set an agenda and implement programs to promote inclusion of students of all abilities in synagogues, Jewish day schools and youth groups. She also was instrumental in bringing Jewish Disability Awareness Month to Pittsburgh, disseminating a special guide for inclusion to our synagogues and schools, and fostering more collaboration among Jewish groups around disability issues. In recognition of her tireless efforts and valuable contributions, Ms. Cohen has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the Shore-Whitehill Award.



Services and a member of the advisory committee for United Way's 21 and Able initiative which is working to create a roadmap for youth with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood. She also co-chaired the advisory board of Steps to Independence, which provides a therapeutic support program for children with motor deficits, and served on the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh's Special Needs Planning Table.

Ms. Cohen will be honored at AJL's Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration on Sunday, June 1 at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill. The event will be held in the Katz Auditorium and begins at 9 AM. For more information, contact Terri Steinberg, AJL's director of special education services, at (412) 521-1101 or tsteinberg@ajlpittsburgh.org.

Jenny Wolsk Bain, MSW MPA, is a program manager at Jewish Residential Services.



In this Issue:

The Rabbi's Message page 2

Special Needs Distinguished Service Award..... page 3

Agency Spotlight: Jewish Family & Children's Service..... page 4

Commencement Message from Friendship Circle Volunteers..... page 5

Swimming for All Seasons...page 6

Calendar.....page 7

"Judy is a leader and a connector," says Mr. Frim, executive director of AJL, who nominated Ms. Cohen for the award. "In addition to advocating for her own adult child, who has special needs, she also promotes a broader agenda of making the Jewish community more inclusive for all children."

Ms. Cohen says she is proud to have been a part of AJL's initiatives, noting that "We all have an obligation to include people with disabilities in the fabric of Jewish life." She says AJL lives this philosophy by working with Jewish institutions to help make them more welcoming.

In addition to AJL, Ms. Cohen has volunteered with other agencies. She is currently first vice president of the board of directors of Jewish Residential

About Connections

Connections newsletter is published by a consortium of six agencies with the mission of encouraging, supporting and recognizing the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of Jewish life in the Pittsburgh community. *Connections* also provides information about a wide range of resources for individuals with disabilities and their families.

CONNECTIONS

c/o Jewish Residential Services
4905 Fifth Ave., Suite 3
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-325-0039

connections pittsburgh@gmail.com

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Liza Baron

Jewish Community Center

Ilene Rinn

Jewish Federation
of Greater Pittsburgh

Terry Feinberg Steinberg

Agency for Jewish Learning

Rivkee Rudolph

The Friendship Circle

Linda Marino

Jewish Family & Children's Service
of Pittsburgh

Deborah Friedman

Jewish Residential Services

Linda Lewis

Jewish Residential Services

Jenny Wolsk Bain

Jewish Residential Services

EDITOR:

Patti Murphy

Rabbis' Message

Happy Summer!

It is amazing to think that summer has finally arrived after such a long and severe winter. Transitions in the seasonal calendar give us the opportunity to reflect on the past several months and look forward to the new season ahead. This concept of transitions, or new beginnings, is very important in Judaism as well. New beginnings and new experiences, in fact, are marked by reciting a special blessing known as Shehechyanu, where we thank G-d for sustaining us and allowing us to experience this new moment. New opportunities, new challenges, new joys and new situations can be the catalyst for personal growth and Judaism recognizes this.

For an individual with special needs these transitions can often be even more challenging. Routine is extremely important, and new situations or sudden change can be very stressful. As much as I try and be aware of this in my line of work as the director of Pittsburgh NCSY, I am often amazed at the resilience shown by the members of our Yachad group. Yachad is a division of NCSY for individual with special needs. They are invited to join typical teenagers as they sing songs, enjoy activities and study together over the course of our weekend conventions.

One particular story of my good friend Mr. Uri Butler, now in his second decade of Yachad participation at NCSY conventions, comes to mind. Uri has special needs but he never lets this get in his way, particularly at NCSY conventions where he serves on the Central East Regional Board of NCSY with teenagers more than a decade his junior, greeting every NCSYer very seriously. When the time comes to pass the torch from the outgoing regional board members to the next class as each year comes to a close, Uri stands on the stage next to his cohort of board members. One by one, each graduating senior passes their candle to an 11th grader marking this transition. When it comes to Uri's turn he stands with sincere concern wondering if he will once again be selected as the regional Vice President of Smiles or if this honor will be given to someone else. For more than a decade, Uri has been asked to pass his candle from his right hand to his left and continue his role on the board. At that moment Uri's face beams with excitement as he looks forward to taking on the challenge of another year.

There is much that I can learn from my friend Uri, but the way he embraces transition and takes on new opportunities with excitement is perhaps the most valuable lesson of all. I wish you all a wonderful summer season and may you be granted with the strength, sense of humor and excitement to take on this new season.



Warmly,

Rabbi Ari Goldberg
Director, Pittsburgh NCSY

NCSY is the youth movement of the Orthodox Union and serves Jewish teens from all backgrounds. Its mission is to instill passionate Judaism and a love for the land of Israel.



AJL 2014 Special Needs Distinguished Service Award Goes to JRS Operations Director

“In recognition of vision and dedication to include all people in Jewish Life and Learning”
—Inscription on the Special Needs Distinguished Service Award statue.

By **Terry Feinberg Steinberg**
Agency for Jewish Learning



Linda Lewis has dedicated her entire career to serving individuals with disabilities. When she arrived at Jewish Residential Services as its director of residential services 13 years ago, colleagues and clients immediately saw her well-honed cultural sensitivity and clear understanding of the agency's mission to offer all participants the opportunity to live in a Jewish way. About six years later, when she became the director of operations, Ms. Lewis' coworkers and many in the larger Jewish community continued to see those qualities in her—and still do today.

That is why the Agency for Jewish Learning (AJL) is thrilled to honor Ms. Lewis with its 2014 Special Needs Distinguished Service Award. AJL introduced the award in 2009 to recognize a professional who demonstrates commitment to the inclusion of all Jews in the Greater Pittsburgh Jewish community. Individuals eligible for the award must play an active role in innovative and creative programming that targets unmet needs in formal and informal Jewish education while promoting Jewish identity and values. Candidates also must have made a significant impact on inclusivity in service delivery and education, and/or social and recreational programs.

While Ms. Lewis is not Jewish and before coming to JRS had never worked in the Jewish community, she took it upon herself to learn about Jewish customs, holidays, values and practices. She also made it a point to see that the staff she

supervised was similarly educated, instilling in them great respect for Judaism, a respect she clearly models for them. A spiritual person herself, Ms. Lewis makes sure they understand the important role of the Jewish religion in helping JRS program participants feel comfortable, at home and a part of the community rather than marginalized and isolated.

For more than a decade, Ms. Lewis has quietly supported JRS staff in their efforts to cultivate a Jewish environment within programs and has encouraged many participants to engage in activities with the wider Jewish community. It is a priority for her to see that JRS participants have regular opportunities to practice their faith traditions. Many participate in temple and synagogue life, attend weekly Shabbat dinner and celebrate all major Jewish holidays because of her efforts. Ms. Lewis has also encouraged many to branch out socially and become Jewish Community Center members.

Among her associates, Ms. Lewis is known as a bridge builder. Ms. Lewis strongly advocated for JRS to reactivate its dormant Judaic committee and has staffed that committee for several years. She formed a great working relationship with the AJL team including Rabbi Seidman and with Ed Frim, our executive director. The vibrant Jewish atmosphere at all JRS program sites has sprung from such partnerships.

Above all, Ms. Lewis recognizes that when we show we value inclusion of people with disabilities, it adds value to the whole community.

Ms. Lewis will be honored at AJL's Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration on Sunday, June 1 at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill. The event will be held in the Katz Auditorium and begins at 9 AM. For more information, contact Terri Steinberg, AJL's director of special education services, at (412) 521-1101 or tsteinberg@ajlpittsburgh.org.

Terry Feinberg Steinberg, L.C.S.W., is the director of special education services at the Agency for Jewish Learning.

**The Way
We Like It**

The Shore-Whitehill and Agency for Jewish Learning's Special Needs Distinguished Service awards highlighted in this edition of Connections celebrate the inclusion of people with disabilities in Jewish life in a big and somewhat formal way. Judith Cohen and Linda Lewis, the respective award recipients, are catalysts for inclusion by their work and example—Ms. Cohen as a parent and volunteer, Ms. Lewis as a professional.

Like them, others featured in this newsletter bring home the message that folks from the local Jewish and disability communities take positive steps—great and small—toward making our world more inclusive and welcoming each day. Their stories—from Rabbi Ari Goldberg and his long friendship with a man who cherishes his active role in synagogue life despite his unique challenges to the teens who are leaving high school with an awesome perspective on what friendship means because of their experience as Friendship Circle volunteers (p. 5)—show the beauty of inclusive experiences that are not forced but natural.

That's the way member agencies of the Connections consortium like it.

Even more, we like that such experiences are not dreams but realities. It is our hope that they will inspire you to share your own similarly positive inclusion-related stories for possible publication in a future newsletter. Please send a one- or two-paragraph description of your story, and how it relates to both the Jewish and disability communities in Pittsburgh, along with your phone number, to connections pittsburgh@gmail.com.



Agency Spotlight:

Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS) Helps Thousands Lead Better Lives

By Elizabeth Waickman

Since its founding in 1937, JF&CS has been making a positive impact in the Greater Pittsburgh area and changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals and families in need of comprehensive, quality services when facing life transitions and crises. As one of the leading social service agencies in the region, JF&CS has continuously grown and evolved over the years to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities, and has remained committed to helping everyone in need, without regard to race, religion, ancestry, national origin, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, familial status, age, handicap or disability.



"JF&CS was established to help people coping with lifecycle transitions and crises, and very little has changed in that regard in operating over the past 77 years," said Aryeh Sherman, JF&CS President & CEO. "What has changed over time are the needs of our community, and the innovation and resourcefulness of JF&CS and our community partners to meet those changing needs. We could not achieve all that we do at JF&CS without the hard work and dedication of our staff and board, the collaboration of our partners and the steadfast support of our community."

Everyone experiences change, both large and small, throughout their lives: growing up, marrying and having children, relationship or parenting issues, and aging and loss. Along the way, many may encounter unexpected and unwelcome change, or crises, such as depression, anxiety or other mental health issues, issues related to disabilities and special needs (their own or that of a loved one) unemployment, infertility, hunger or homelessness—leaving many feeling overwhelmed, confused or uncertain.

The professional staff at JF&CS dedicates themselves to helping individuals and families from all backgrounds successfully cope with lifecycle transitions and crises, working to ensure that clients have the opportunity to address immediate and underlying needs, with the goal of helping clients achieve or regain and eventually maintain complete self-sufficiency. Each year, JF&CS helps more than 8,000 people throughout the region, offering services in the following areas:

ADOPTION (Family Hope Connection)

- Domestic and foster adoption; local support for international adoption, birthparent services
- Home studies, post-adoption services and support groups

CAREER SERVICES (Career Development Center)

- Career assessment, resumes, job search strategies and more
- Specialized assessment for companies seeking to attract, retain and transition staff

COUNSELING (Squirrel Hill Psychological Services)

- Short- and long-term therapy, based on individual needs
- Help with relationship issues, depression, anxiety and other issues

CRITICAL NEEDS & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Help for those overwhelmed by financial distress, family violence or other issues
- Resource coordination to address immediate and long-term issues
- SOS Pittsburgh: a critical needs case management and emergency aid program

ELDER CARE

- Information and referral on a wide range of elder care issues
- Care coordination services enable the elderly to remain home, safely and comfortable
- Superior support from trusted and experienced caregivers
- Holocaust survivor services including support for psychological and daily living needs

FOOD PANTRY (Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry)

- Emergency and scheduled food distributions
- Home-delivery for the frail elderly or disabled
- Help with unemployment, financial difficulties and more

GUARDIANSHIP

- Professional, personalized and compassionate care for those incapable of caring for themselves, as determined by the courts

IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

- Help with immigration-related legal issues
- Assistance in obtaining citizenship
- Resettlement for those fleeing persecution in their homelands

SCHOLARSHIP

- Administration of the Central Scholarship & Loan Referral Service of the Jewish Federation, offering one-application access to numerous community scholarships

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Resource coordination, advocacy, counseling and support groups
- Community education that inspires understanding and inclusion

JF&CS has accomplished quite a lot in 77 years, and along the way, has been recognized by foundations, government and corporate grant awards, as well as community, national and even international awards for agency accomplishments and programs. Last year, JF&CS received the prestigious Alfred W. Wishart Jr. Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management by The Forbes Funds for demonstrating excellence in best practices, overall management and leadership in the region.

"As we reflect on the services and programs we offer at JF&CS and our accomplishments over the years, we're proud of our legacy of making a profound impact in peoples' lives," Mr. Sherman said. "And we are committed to continuing to provide support, service, and innovative programs and services for many more years to come."

For more information about JF&CS, programs and services, or to volunteer or donate, please visit www.jfcsphg.org or call 412-422-7200.

Elizabeth Waickman is the Senior Public Relations Associate at Jewish Family & Children's Service.





Commencement Messages from Friends of the Friendship Circle

By Allison Halpern



Circle: an enclosed, safe space of belonging where friends are free to act and be who they want to be.

I initially got involved in Friendship Circle

as a community service project. I was open-minded to meeting new people, but did not know what great friendships and memories I would make at Friendship Circle. Throughout my four years of being a volunteer, I grew to think of Friendship Circle as far more than simply community

service. It was a time to give and to receive, and most of all to feel comfort and at ease with the environment and ourselves. Friendship Circle's loving, caring community allows everyone to be his or her own great self and never feel judged for that. Differences make us who we are and we all embrace that. Each of us at Friendship Circle is unique, yet equal, creating a safe, warm feeling for everyone.

I have received as much as I have given at Friendship Circle because, after all, we are creating friendships that are based on developing reciprocal relationships. When my friends feel down or out of place, I help to pick them up. However, I am also often greeted with hugs and smiles by many of

my friends. These little gestures of a nice hello or conversation can sometimes make my day. The genuine care and acceptance of those involved in Friendship Circle brings about a sense of belonging that truly feels great. I know how it feels to be accepted and to accept others through Friendship Circle, and I will carry this with me in all that I do.

I will miss Friendship Circle very much next year, but I will keep the lessons I have learned at Friendship Circle and surely be back to visit often!

Allison Halpern is a 2014 graduate of Shady Side Academy.

By Max Zack Yoffee



In 7th grade, when I started volunteering at Friendship Circle, I had no idea the impact it would have on my life. It was simply my Bar-Mitzvah project—a requirement, not a choice. But, because I was required to do something I felt passionate about,

I chose to help kids with special needs. Without even realizing, my expected time of two years at Friendship Circle flew by and I was hooked. The enjoyment that I saw on everyone's face at Friendship Circle events and even that I felt within was amazing.

My first few years in Friendship Circle went smoothly but I was eager to connect with someone on a more personal level, so without any hesitation signed up for the Friends at Home program. I was paired up with Manny and Eli which was very overwhelming. Manny and Eli were the most open people I'd ever met. I, on the other hand,

was scared to express myself for fear I'd be judged. After being the odd one out for a few months, Manny and Eli's enthusiasm, jokes, and open attitude slowly rubbed off on me. They were so far from judgmental that I felt obligated, and also proud to express myself. Soon enough, we were like three peas in a pod. Manny would Facebook, Skype, or call me on a daily basis. I'd never had friends that I've felt so comfortable to be around.

Two years ago, Manny had to move to New York but we vowed to stay in touch, and we most certainly have. The feeling I had when we were together was incredible, so I continued to do Friends at Home and was introduced to a new friend, Yaakov. There were changes from Manny to Yaakov that I hadn't thought through. Manny was loud and outgoing and Yaakov was quiet and more reserved. That didn't stop me from making an intimate connection with him. When he told me he liked playing chess, my eyes lit up. When Yaakov told me he was good at chess, I wasn't expecting him to

crush me every time. He taught me all his moves and we became pretty competitive chess players against one another. If I had one thing to look forward to each week, it was most definitely the Sunday evening chess games with Yaakov. Yaakov and I have become unimaginably close. Leaving him and going back to school is one of the hardest parts of graduating.

The Friendship Circle has changed me in ways I never thought I could be changed. I don't think I would have ever learned the true meaning of friendship had it not been for the relationships I have made through the Friendship Circle. Manny's hilarious jokes and evening calls always put a smile on my face and going to Yaakov's house to play chess and have some healthy competition continue to be a major highlight of my life.

Mac Zack Yoffee is a 2014 graduate of Taylor Allerdice High School.

SHORE-WHITEHILL *continued from 1*

Created in 1996, the award celebrates Jewish volunteers who promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in every aspect of Jewish life through advocacy or direct service to individuals and families. The award not only honors a volunteer, but also allows the nominating agency to recognize the individual in a way that allows that person's service to inform and inspire others. The 2014 recipient is Judith Greenwald Cohen, an active promoter of inclusion of children with disabilities in schools and synagogues, and the mother of an adult child with special needs.

"Presenting this award brings inclusion and special needs advocacy to a more prominent place on the community agenda," says Bob Whitehill, co-creator of the award.

While nominations come from agencies, synagogues or groups, the award is about a community, Mr. Whitehill said. And there is no shortage of worthy candidates. As a community, he said "we probably could find someone every year—even every day" who embraces inclusion as a way of life and their example inspires others to do the same. That pay-it-forward effect is at the heart of this honor.

As attorney with Fox Rothschild LLP, Mr. Whitehill specializes in nationality and immigration law. He said his interest in the special needs community is a product of his innate idealism. Dr. Barbara Shore, Ph.D., his partner in establishing the award, was a beloved University of Pittsburgh professor and social worker. When she died last October, she left behind a legacy of activism on behalf of women, children, racial minorities, senior citizens and other vulnerable groups in society. While living in Chicago, Dr. Shore worked for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in a resettlement program for young holocaust survivors. Mr. Whitehill recalled her strong community organizing skills.

"Barbara had, in addition to everything else, incredible access to organizations and a profound influence on activities," he says. Coincidentally, Dr. Shore taught his mother in college.

As volunteers with the United Jewish Federation (now the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh) in the early 1990s, Dr. Shore and Mr. Whitehill were involved in forming a Special Needs Task Force representing the Jewish community. Concerned that people with disabilities did not have much of a presence or voice in community life, the task force set out to learn how the community could be more welcoming of and better serve the unique needs of this segment of the population.

"We wanted to learn what we didn't know," Mr. Whitehill said. "And we did a lot of homework."

The task force collaborated with other religious bodies and organizations. It conducted a survey to gauge disability awareness among leaders in synagogues and Jewish social service organizations. The response indicated satisfaction with the status quo and little, if anything, changed formally or tangibly around reaching community members with disabilities in the short-term.

Still, he says, support for inclusion and advocacy remained strong. As the mid-1990s approached, supporters decided to do something meaningful to keep momentum for such practices alive. Honoring those who were already making inclusion and advocacy happen seemed to make sense, for it also brought individuals with disabilities and their families—as well as their concerns, contributions, dreams and future—into the spotlight.

And so came the birth of the Shore-Whitehill Award. Jewish Residential Services (JRS) nominated Corinne Krause as its first recipient in 1996 for the instrumental role she played in the creation of that agency a few years earlier. It is noteworthy that no such agency existed in the Jewish community before, but the task force had identified a critical need for housing and support services for individuals with disabilities (especially psychiatric disabilities) who wanted to be part of that community. The task force recommended the establishment of a new agency, JRS, to fulfill that mission.

The trophy each award recipient takes home is a sculpture by the late Sylvia Plutchok, an artist and art historian. Her husband, George, served with Ms. Shore on the University of Pittsburgh faculty and on the special needs task force. The sculpture bears the image of helping hands, symbolizing inclusion.

"Inclusion is about all of us," says Joshua Donner, the federation's planning director. "It's about Jews feeling and being part of the Jewish people. In a way, this award recognizes and celebrates the fundamental role that community plays in what it means to be Jewish."

Reid Roberts, president of the JRS Board of Directors, agrees, adding "The Shore-Whitehill Award gives us an opportunity to celebrate the important contributions of volunteers like Judy and also affords us an opportunity to reflect on how we each can help make our community even more welcoming."

Patti Murphy is the editor of Connections.

Swimming for All Seasons

By Patti Murphy

Swimming is a very important skill in Jewish tradition. It is one of three things that the Talmud says parents must pass on to their children. Like the other two requirements—knowledge and understanding of the Torah, and preparedness to earn a living—the ability to swim serves us well not just during the summer but in all the seasons of life. The requirement is figurative and literal. "Swimming" is often another way of saying that we stay afloat despite our human imperfections, deal like champs with the unexpected, and find grace in danger and hardship. We need to be able to do all of that in a physical way when we swim in water.



Next time someone with disabilities or special needs joins you at the pool or beach, remember that swimming has a practical and a spiritual side. And that you're at a safe place where, with mindfulness, you can learn from and guide each other. Here are some tips and resources to help make your time in the water a good inclusive experience.

Learning to swim before one is old enough to know fear (i.e. at a very young age) is widely known as best practice for kids with and without disabilities. No worries for older children and adults, though. They may be more self-conscious because of the fear factor or because they've waited longer to learn, but with encouragement from sensitive teachers and companions, they can enjoy the water.

Movement is a key to success. When you keep moving in your comfort zone—whether that means propelling yourself across the pool on a noodle or swimming laps—you're less likely to dwell on awkward or bothersome feelings. Movement also promotes body warmth, which may be critical for people with neurological conditions.



Cognitive limitations, physical impairment or sensory issues related to autism can make it hard for a young person to try something new, like putting their head underwater. They may feel more comfortable when an experienced swimmer (teacher, parent, sibling or peer) models the action and they do it together before attempting it independently.

Choosing tools and activities thoughtfully keeps safety and fun in sync. A life vest might be an answer for someone when balance and coordination are problematic. Someone with sensory processing issues may wear goggles to stay focused in the water. Children with behavioral challenges may be motivated to swim a certain distance if something fun awaits them afterward—a favorite book, video or puzzle set on the wall at the end of the lane, for instance.

It is hard to go wrong when swimming includes background music and an activity that brings folks of all ages and abilities together—maybe a pickup game of basketball with a hoop perched at the mid-pool line.

Doing online research about inclusive swimming practices? A couple places to start are:

The Pathfinders for Autism Research Center's tips for teaching students with autism to swim: <http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/docs/Teaching-Swimming-to-Students-with-Autism.pdf>

USA Swimming, the national governing body for competitive swimming, gives pointers for specific disability groups, in *Including Swimmers with a Disability: A Guide for Coaches* at www.stswim.org/adaptive/a-guide-for-coaches.pdf

Special thanks to Tom McMullen, aquatics director at the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, for sharing his expertise and insight for this article.

Patti Murphy is the editor of Connections.

Calendar



June 2014

Sunday, June 1

Kennywood Day

Sponsored by: Friendship Circle

For more information: Visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org or call (412) 224-4440

Sunday, June 1

9 – 10:15 AM

Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration

Sponsored by: Agency for Jewish Learning
Jewish Community Center/Squirrel Hill (Katz Auditorium)

For more information contact:
ncanterna@ajlpittsburgh.org
or 412-521-1101, x3207

Tuesday, June 3 - 10 PM

Wednesday, June 4 - 1 AM

Tikkun Shavuot: Night of Learning

Sponsored by: Agency for Jewish Learning
Jewish Community Center/Squirrel Hill

For more information contact:
ncanterna@ajlpittsburgh.org
or 412-521-1101, x3207

Monday, June 9

Public Hearing on the Allegheny County Department of Human Services 2014-15 Human Services Block Grant Plan

9-11 AM at the Human Service Center, 519 Penn Avenue (Turtle Creek)

For more information, call 1-800-862-6783.

August 2014

Sunday, August 31

The Friendship Walk

12:30-4:00 PM

Schenley Park Sportsplex (1 Overlook Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15217) Walk begins @1:45 PM

Sponsoring agency: Friendship Circle

For more information: Visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org or call (412) 224-4440

September 2014

Tuesday, September 9

"AIM: Support for Families of Individuals with Special Needs" Educational Series

Topic: Employment Options for Individuals with Special Needs

Sponsored by: Jewish Family & Children's Service and Jewish Residential Services

For more information: Contact Linda Marino 412-422-7200 or by email at lmario@jfcspgh.org or Jenny Wolsk Bain at 412-325-0039 x103 or by email at jwolskbain@jrspgh.org
Free and open to the public.
Registration required.



Quest Therapeutic Summer Camp Program

Monday, June 23 through Friday, August 8

Sponsored by: Squirrel Hill Psychological Services at the Community Day School

For more information, contact April Artz at 412-877-7528 or by email ataartz@squirrelhillpsych.org.

Got An Event Coming Up?

Connections welcomes you to share the details for possible publication on the calendar page in our Fall 2014 edition. Please send the event name, host organization, date, time, a brief description of the event and contact information (email/phone) to connections@pittsburgh@gmail.com. The calendar will run approximately from Monday, October 13 to Friday, December 12. Events considered for listing must be pertinent to Pittsburgh's Jewish and disability communities, and will be placed in the newsletter as space allows.

Sponsors of Connections newsletter



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH



CONNECTIONS



News and information for a Jewish community that includes individuals with disabilities and special needs

Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
234 McKee Place
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

"Welcome everyone... with joy."

— Pirkei Avot 1:15

Want to find CONNECTIONS in your inbox?

Sign up to receive the newsletter via email at

connections pittsburgh@gmail.com

Please also email us if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter so we can remove your name from the Connections email or U.S. Postal mailing lists.