

CHAI די LIGHTS



A newsletter produced by the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life



Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Future

The Abramson Center celebrates 150 years of providing high quality care to seniors

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“To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors,” writes author Tia Walker. This fall, the Abramson Center for Jewish Life will celebrate 150 years of having the honor of caring for our community’s seniors.

From our beginning in 1866 as the Home for Aged and Infirm Israelites, the Abramson Center for Jewish Life has been dedicated to providing innovative, high-quality, compassionate care to seniors and their families. Our name and location may have changed, but our roots and mission have not. As we look back on our past, we also excitedly look forward to the future as we continue to expand our services to reach even more seniors throughout the Philadelphia region.

Compassionate Residential Care

As a long-term care organization, the Abramson Center has maintained a

reputation of providing excellent, inventive care. The Center’s two predecessor agencies, The Home for Aged and Infirm Israelites and the Jewish Sheltering Home for the Aged, provided refuge for both Jewish elderly and Jewish immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The two homes were merged together and in 1973 the agency was renamed the Philadelphia Geriatric Center (PGC).

PGC would become synonymous with pioneering geriatric care, including developing groundbreaking living arrangements for seniors. Our cutting-edge research led to the building of our Horsham campus and the innovative Abramson Residence – its private bedrooms and home-like layout setting the standard for nursing homes nationwide.

Aging with Choice

Over the past decade, the Center has been developing new programs and services to support seniors’ wishes to

age comfortably in their own homes. Our expansive community services, including Abramson Home Care, Medical Adult Day Services, Nurse Practitioner House Calls and Hospice, enable seniors to receive care in the setting that they prefer. Birnhak Transitional Care, our short term rehabilitation program, gets seniors healthy and ready to return home after a hospital stay.

Our Future

As we start our next 150 years, we will continue to find new ways to bring care to the community. In December 2015, the Abramson Center began managing Lankenau Medical Center's Transitional Care Center, bringing our expertise and excellent outcomes in short term rehabilitation to the Main Line.

In the spring look for news about the opening of our Healthy Brain and Memory Center. Located on the campus of Bryn Mawr Hospital, the center will be a source of information and support for families and seniors dealing with the effects of dementia.

It is an exciting time for the Abramson Center. And thanks to our dedicated staff, committed volunteers, insightful board of trustees and generous donors, we look forward to continuing the honor of caring for our seniors for generations to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CENTER

On our 150th anniversary, we asked board trustees, employees, and family members what makes us special, why they do what they do, and what they see the future holding for the Center. Here are some of their responses:



“There are no words to describe to you how meaningful the Abramson Center is to us. We support the Abramson Center to help ensure its future.”

Richard Frankel, board trustee, and his wife Ann



“I believe that part of why we are here is to repair the world and make it a better place, now and for the future. I support the Center because I want it to be here not only for myself, but for future generations.”

Jill Zipin, board trustee



“My parents' final years were difficult, so if I can put a smile on my residents' faces and provide comfort, then my day is complete.”

Joe Dennis, RN, care coordinator



“We work day time, night time, overnight time, weekends and holidays. We are families' support when they are at their saddest time in their lives.”

Karen Salter, RN, hospice case manager

CONFERENCE PUTS THE FOCUS ON RESEARCH

To recognize the importance of research through the Abramson Center's 150 year history, the Center, Penn State College of Nursing and the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence held a full-day research symposium highlighting the special relationship between researchers and care providers.

“Knowledge into Action: How Interprofessional Partnerships Improve Person Centered Outcomes of Older Adults” was held on September 13th. Carol A. Irvine, Abramson Center president and CEO, and Paula Milone-Nuzzo, RN, Ph.D., FAAN, dean and professor of Penn State's College of Nursing, gave

a keynote address which was followed by presentations given by Abramson Center and Penn State experts.

“Throughout our history, the Abramson Center has always strived to provide older adults with the best possible care. Our research partnerships have been invaluable in enabling us to be innovators and leaders in the long-term care industry,” says Carol. “To honor our 150th anniversary, it only seemed fitting to celebrate our partnership with Penn State. This symposium gave an exciting glimpse into how we are working together to enhance the lives of older adults.”

Kimberly Van Haitmsa, Ph.D., senior research scientist, Polisher Research Institute, and Paula Milone-Nuzzo, RN, Ph.D., FAAN, dean and professor of Penn State's College of Nursing



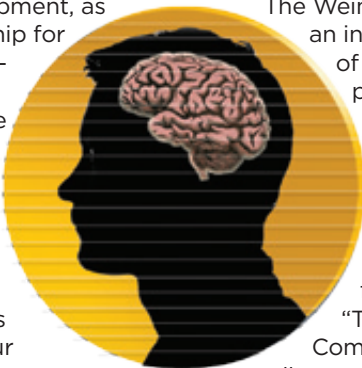
Grant Helps Support Center's Expansion

The Abramson Center is the proud recipient of two grants totaling \$486,000 from the Bernard and Etta Weinberg Family Fund.

The grant for the Healthy Brain and Memory Center in Bryn Mawr will provide funding for staffing, software, and equipment, as well as a sponsorship for educational conferences for patients and caregivers. The second grant will support the construction of four in-patient hospice suites located within Lankenau Hospital. The suites will provide 24-hour hospice care in a home-like environment with space for families to spend time together. In recognition of the generous gift, the suites will be named for the Bernard and Etta Weinberg Fund.

The Weinberg Fund, which resides at the Jewish Federation

of Greater Philadelphia, reflects the wishes of Etta Weinberg, who requested that grants provide geriatric counseling and care management services for older adults, or Jewish education in the Greater Philadelphia area.



The Weinberg Fund has been an invaluable patron of Abramson Center programs, providing funding for both Abramson Care Advisors and Abramson Care Management, and for our Main Line feasibility study.

"The Weinberg Fund Committee has continually supported the Center's innovative programs for seniors," says Ande Adelman, senior development advisor. "Family foundations can really help make dreams become a reality by partnering with organizations like the Abramson Center."

An Endowment Story: Nina Goldfarb



For Nina Goldfarb, of blessed memory, the Center was a second home. As an active Auxiliary member and former president, her dedication to the Center and its residents knew no bounds. With her positive, can-do energy she ran many groups and activities, including the very popular resident luncheons.

To ensure the Center's longevity for future generations, Nina left a generous endowment gift in her will. "Nina was a valuable part of the Center in so many ways," says Barbara Lincow, Nina's sister and board trustee. "Through her endowment gift, she left a beautiful legacy for all who knew her."



Barbara Lincow (second from right), with Nina's children Brian Ratner, Hope Katz and Sheryl Benson who presented the endowment gift to the Center

2016 EVENING of RECOGNITION

The Abramson Center celebrated its Chairman's Circle and Family Circle donors, as well as those who have made endowment gifts to the Heritage Society, at the annual Evening of Recognition on Wednesday, June 8th. The event featured guest speaker L. Scott, Levin, MD, FACS, who led the world's first bilateral hand transplant in a child at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Levin is also an Abramson Center trustee.



Helga and L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



Bubbles Seidenberg, and Marvin and Stefi Levin



J. Brett Studner, and Lorraine and Stuart Drobny



Standing: Phyllis Sloan and Roann Hahn. Seated: Adrienne and Peter Feuer, and Joseph Widetsky



Jane Feldgus Goldenberg and Wendy Singer



Robin Brandies, Esq., vice president of development, Joseph M. Yohlin, Esq., chairman of the board and David Axelrod

THE ABRAMSON CENTER SOCK HOP!

Abramson Center residents, family members, volunteers and staff members danced the afternoon away at the annual Auxiliary-sponsored Sock Hop held this past June 21st. Here is a look at the fun!



Introducing Our New Chai Lights Format

Welcome to the all-new design of *Chai Lights*. Our newsletter has been redesigned to provide our readers with news and insights about the Abramson Center. You can also read updates on our website, blog, Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Stay tuned for opportunities to sign up to receive our e-newsletter.



The official registration and financial information of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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