



Community Connections

October 2025

A Special Day of Golf, Gratitude, and Giving

September 29th was a truly special day for JCL and the Geary Family as we co-hosted the inaugural Denis P. Geary Memorial Golf Tournament at Tumble Brook Country Club. After months of planning and collaboration, the day was filled with incredible golf, camaraderie, laughter, and lasting memories — a perfect tribute to Denis's spirit and love for community.

We are deeply grateful to the Geary Family for their ongoing generosity and for choosing JCL as the beneficiary of this meaningful event. Their dedication and compassion continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of the individuals we serve.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, golfers, and donors, an amazing \$40,000 was raised for JCL! Your kindness and commitment help us continue our mission of creating opportunities, fostering inclusion, and enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

From all of us at JCL — thank you for being part of this unforgettable day and for making such an incredible impact.

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

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MEMORIAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Highlights of the Denis P. Geary Memorial Golf Tournament



Ann Fulco, Faith VosWinkel-Geary, Tori Geary, and Julia Sullivan with YardGoats' pitching coach, Dan Meyer.



Dean with JCL Coordinator of Programs & Service, Larry Goldman.



Dayna Clark with JCL parent Tammy Selinger and her daughter Jodi helping with raffle ticket sales.



JCL Board members, Alison Sojberg and Sue Morris with Ruth Herlands and Amanda Sears.





Some of Denis's favorite things.....live Celtic music and Maker's Mark.

Celebrating Together: Highlights from Our Judaic Programs

Our Judaic Programs have been busy these past few months, hosting a variety of wonderful events open to all of our guys and friends in the disability community.

In August, we celebrated Tu B'Av, the Jewish day of love. Traditionally a day for matchmaking in ancient times, Tu B'Av has evolved into a celebration of love and friendship—something like a blend of Valentine's Day and Friendship Day. This year, we gathered with friends to create friendship gifts to share with someone special—and to keep one for ourselves!

In September, we welcomed the Jewish New Year with a Rosh Hashanah celebration. Rosh Hashanah marks the creation of the world and a time for reflection and renewal. It's a time to seek forgiveness, pray, and enjoy symbolic foods such as round challah and apples dipped in honey to express hopes for a sweet year ahead. At our celebration, storyteller Sara deBeer shared a beautiful Rosh Hashanah story, we dipped apples in honey, and created a festive holiday art project together.

In October, we came together at the JCC to celebrate Sukkot, a joyful harvest festival. We enjoyed ice cream and each other's company inside the sukkah—a temporary hut made from natural materials, reminding us of the shelters used by the Jewish people during their journey through the desert after leaving Egypt. Sukkot is an eight-day celebration that includes inviting guests, eating all meals in the sukkah, blessings with the lulav and etrog—symbols of unity and gratitude—and some even choose to sleep in their sukkah!

We are deeply thankful to our partner, the JCC Special Needs Department, for collaborating with us to make these celebrations possible. Together, we're proud to offer inclusive, meaningful events for the individuals served by JCL and the broader community.



The JCL guys in the sukkah at the JCC.

Left to right: Matt, Tammy, Elliot, Melissa, Jordan, Marianne, Adam, Beena, and Jaime.

Center: JCL Judaic Program Coordinator, Bonnie Eisenberg-Greene and JCC Special Needs Program Coordinator, Becky Munday.

Thank you to our friends at the Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The continued support that we receive from these two community partners ensures that we are able to provide exceptional service to the men and women in our care. These funds also allow us to provide Judaic Programming throughout the year to our residents and the community.





JCL Named a 2025 Hartford Top Workplace!



We are thrilled to share some exciting news — the Jewish Association for Community Living has been named one of the Top Workplaces of 2025 by Hartford Top Workplaces!

This recognition is especially meaningful because it's based entirely on feedback from our employees. The confidential survey, conducted by our partners at Energage, LLC, measures what truly matters most — how our team feels about respect, support, growth, and empowerment at JCL.

At JCL, we strive every day to create a culture where every staff member feels valued and inspired to make a difference. This award is a reflection of the incredible people who make that possible — our dedicated and passionate employees.

"Earning a Top Workplaces award is a badge of honor for companies, especially because it comes authentically from their employees," said Eric Rubino, CEO of Energage. "That's something to be proud of. In today's market, leaders must ensure they're allowing employees to have a voice and be heard. That's paramount. Top Workplaces do this, and it pays dividends."

We're deeply grateful to our amazing team for their honesty, commitment, and heart. Together, we continue to make JCL not just a great place to work — but a great place to belong.

Thank you to every member of the JCL family for helping us achieve this incredible honor!

JCL Welcomes New Board Members

Donna and her husband, Hal, have two adult children, the oldest with significant special needs.

Donna started out in the workforce in banking and mutual funds. She soon realized that she wanted to follow the passion she developed while doing fieldwork in college, she changed course and received her Master's Degree in Education and worked for approximately 18 years with juvenile offenders in a secure facility. After leaving that job she was lucky enough to work as a Job Coach with a young woman with special needs. They were out and about in the community on a daily basis, volunteering at various sites and enjoying social activities as well.

She strongly believes that advocacy and educating people about our community is important, as it will improve the quality of our family members' lives. She'd excited to join the JCL Board and to support the agency in whatever way possible.



New JCL Board Member, Donna Cohen.

Barbara Glassman Dell is a marketing, communications, and graphic design specialist with extensive experience working with non-profit organizations and membership associations, including the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, YWCA Hartford Region, and the MetroHartford Alliance. Barbara is passionate about the collaborative process of building key messaging and branding to help organizations and businesses make and retain meaningful connections with clients, constituents, and donors. She currently serves as Marketing Manager for the Connecticut Democracy Center, based in Hartford.

In 2013, Barbara took first place in the Techstars Startup Competition, a high-intensity 54-hour challenge for emerging entrepreneurs. Her creative work in writing and design has been recognized by the Northeastern Economic Developers Association, and she is a proud recipient of the Hartford Business Journal's 40 Under Forty Award.

Beyond her professional achievements, Barbara is actively involved with the Miracle League of Connecticut and the Angelman Syndrome Foundation. A graduate of Emerson College, she lives in West Hartford with her husband, Bob, and their sons, Gabriel and Nico.



Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

On October 10, the JCL community came together for a beautiful Shabbat dinner held in the sukkah at our Arapahoe Road home. Residents and staff gathered under the stars to share in this special tradition, enjoying delicious food, laughter, and meaningful conversation.

The evening was filled with warmth and connection as everyone joined in songs, blessings, and the joy of being together. We're so grateful to everyone who helped make this Shabbat in the sukkah such a memorable and heartwarming celebration.



Jordan, Tammy, and Melissa spending time together in the sukkah.



Dean & Larry enjoying Shabbat dinner at Arapahoe. The JCL guys have been out and about and very busy over the past few month sharing new experiences and taking full advantage of the fall festivities offered in New England. Check out what the guys have been up to!



David and Jay had the opportunity to take an overnight trip to Foxwoods together and had a blast!



Jordan, Jaime, Marianne, Melissa and Tammy picking pumpkins at Brown's Harvest.



Josh celebrating his birthday with his sister Jessie & brother-in-law, Alex.



Dean enjoying his first pottery class.



JCL employee Haydee with David and Jay at Gillette's Castle.



Men's Lunch Group enjoying a sunny afternoon at the Arapahoe Rd. home. Pictured: Jeffrey, Jay, Dani, David, Larry, and Jerry.



Jodi is ready for Special Olympics!