

JFS Celebrates Achievements & Community at Annual Meeting

LINDSEY LEDER SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH NEWS

Community members and staff gathered for a heart-warming evening at Jewish Family Service's (JFS) Annual Meeting and Community Recognition Event on June 12, held at Temple Israel. The event showcased the agency's successes, acknowledged the dedication of its staff and honored several individuals who significantly contributed to JFS's mission.

Marc Bakst warmly welcomed everyone, for the last time, in his role as outgoing board chair. He expressed his deepest appreciation for the staff and community partners who are vital to JFS' work.

JFS board member and campaign chair of Women's Philanthropy Shelly Rubenfire offered greetings on behalf of Federation. Rabbi Daniel Schwartz of Temple Shir Shalom gave the d'var Torah.

JFS CEO Perry Ohren provided an inspiring "State of JFS" address highlighting the agency's commitment to meeting the community's needs in a time when even more people are hurting.

A highlight of the evening was the awards presentation, honoring five individuals for their contributions:

- Anna and Nathan Torman received the Norman R. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award. Anna devoted her career to helping new Americans acclimate to their new lives in the U.S., for over 30 years, and is now volunteering for JFS. With 25 years of working in the JFS transportation department, Nathan is the agency's longest serving driver.

- Boris Milter, Resource Center coordinator, was honored with the prestigious Patti Nemer Employee of the Year Award. In addition to his job responding to callers and helping them get the services they need, Boris has become the agency's go-to person on matters of immigration and citizenship, and he

provides outstanding service to vulnerable populations, including Holocaust survivors and the Russian-speaking community.

- Miles Auster received the Barbara and Irving Nusbaum Volunteer of the Year Award. Miles began delivering Kosher Meals on Wheels when the pandemic created a greater demand for drivers. He spent five years as a mentor with Mentor Connection and today spends time with multiple hospice patients, reading them poetry, offering a listening ear and attending activities at their care facilities.

- Jim Speir, founder and president of the Senior & Caregiver Resource Network (SACRN), was recognized as the Community Partner of the Year. SACRN was created to better serve the needs of older adults by bringing together vetted providers of critical support services.

Immediate Past Chair of the JFS Board and Chair of the Nominating Committee Julie Teicher announced changes to the Board of Directors, welcoming Rhonda Brown as the incoming Chair of the Board of Directors. Brown shared how her personal experience helping her brother receive critical services contributes to her passion for the community and ensuring that those in need get the appropriate help.

New Board members include Hannah Crane, Semonna Matz, Danny Singer and Jeremy Wolfe. Outgoing members Emily Camiener, Danielle DePriest, Michelle Freeman, Jason Page, Julie Rothstein, Shelly Rubenfire and Renee Unger were thanked for their dedication and service. **JN**

To learn more about Jewish Family Service, visit jfsdetroit.org. Donations in honor of this year's awardees can be made at jfsdetroit.org/donate.

COURTESY OF JFS



TOP TO BOTTOM, L TO R: Anna Knapp, Howard Collens, Jim Speir and Lynn Breuer. Rhonda Brown and Marc Bakst. Deede and Miles Auster. Nathan and Anna Torman. Boris Milter.