

A PUBLICATION OF
 MAKOR DISABILITY
 SERVICES

Inspirations

WINTER 2018

Running For Makor And Making A Difference

What happens when you combine an enthusiastic crowd, vigorous physical activity, and acts of goodwill and kindness? You get an outstanding event that was enjoyed by all and will be remembered for a long time.

Over 130 runners of all ages participated in the second annual Makor Disability Services 5K run. The event, which was held on a brisk and beautiful Sunday morning in late October, helped create an awareness of the wonderful work of Makor while simultaneously raising the necessary funds to help the agency care for its residents with special needs.

Runners gathered at 9:00 AM at Southpoint Park on scenic Roosevelt Island. They warmed up for the race wearing trendy Makor caps and t-shirts while their many well wishers cheered them on. Team Makor was in top shape and ready to roll.

Among the many runners were several family members of Makor residents, who

were encouraged to join as a result of the "Makor Mother's Mile" program. According to Carol Sufian, Chief Development Officer of Makor, "Seeing families running and walking together highlighted the true meaning of togetherness and inclusion. That's what Makor is all about."

Also represented were the Makor residents themselves, including Ann and Chavie. They were pumped for the occasion and bursting with pride. Ann said the best part of the experience for her was the fresh air and the exercise. "Also," she added, "it put all the people of our agency together, so we can all have fun together."

Chavie also participated in the race, despite the fact that she uses a wheelchair. Makor staffer, Sara, pushed Chavie towards the finish line and said that she was thrilled to have an opportunity to join. "Chavie," said Sara, "was so excited about this race that she could barely eat or sleep for weeks. It was the first time she could

participate in an event like this and it was a major milestone."

Malkie Konsky, who runs the Women's Home at Makor, is glad that the residents were actively involved. "The fact that these women participated really added tremendous meaning to the event."

Thanks to an anonymous donor who generously sponsored each runner, the 5K run turned out to be a huge success. "One of the goals of this effort," Carol points out, "was to raise funds to help provide support and assistance for our special individuals with disabilities."

Elliot Brownstein is Executive Director of Makor, and he participated in the 5K run as well. "As the only Jewish group and special needs group who joined the event,"

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MESSAGE FROM **Elliot Brownstein**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's only befitting to share my approach towards our mission in this first newsletter after assuming the position of Executive Director.



For the past 39 years, I was privileged to observe Mrs. Jeanne Warman, Founder and Executive Director of Makor, who made her life's mission the creation of this award winning agency and raised the bar on the quality of care we provide. I was also privy to the workings of the staff constantly going the extra mile and giving their all to improve the quality of life of those for whom they care. One could not ask for a more dedicated staff. It is my goal to continue this mission to enhance the lives of those in our care, as well as the staff who support me in this work.

"Those who work for the community should do so for the sake of Heaven; for then the merit of their ancestors shall aid them, and their righteousness shall endure forever. And you, [says G-d,] I shall credit you with great reward as if you have achieved it." (Ethics of the Fathers, 2:2)

We are committed to the belief that Women's League was supported and guided by Reb. Renee Hirschberg a"h (and her altruistic colleagues) of N'shei Ahavas Chesed. Their goal was to selflessly provide services to needy individuals, including those with developmental disabilities. This is in accordance with the obligation of actualizing *Toras Chesed* (kindness). If we stay the course on that mission, success will be assured, for their collective merits will continue to support and protect us.

New York State in general, and the field of disabilities in particular, have seen many changes of late. I am also committed to lead Makor in navigating these changes in as seamless a transition as possible. Along with our dedicated staff, Makor will continue to be a model of excellence and innovation, with new programs. These include multiple residences for young adults with autism, a unique Makor College Experience in partnership with Yeshiva University, Day Habilitation, and an ABA Autism Center for developing children.

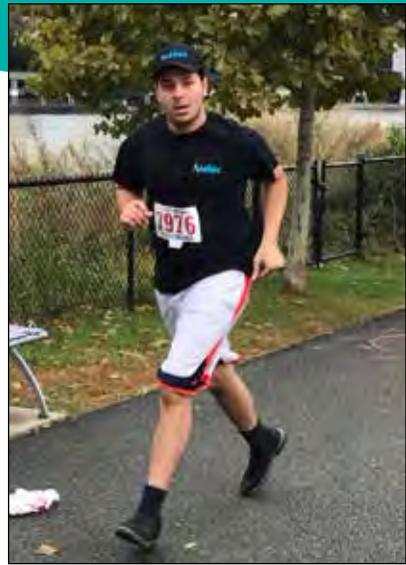
Thank you for supporting us in this mission and accompanying me on this most gratifying journey!

Elliot Brownstein

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he said, "I'm especially proud that we made a tremendous *Kiddush Hashem*. It was gratifying to see families, friends, staff members, and residents all joining together to make this run a success."

Makor is grateful to its corporate sponsors: Rothenberg Law Firm, Kosher Palace Supermarket, Tuv Taam, The Jewish Press, Linear LA, Noor Staffing Group, Navar Pharmacy, M&K Pest Control, Ari's Fruitland, Kol Tuv Supermarket, Fox Marketing, Jofay Products and Home Clean Home. Their assistance helps support the agency's many activities and special events.



As Chairman of the 5K Run, Abe Zeines said he is proud to be part of this special morning. As a former Makor staffer, he recognizes the important work that this agency does. "Makor is special to me," he says, "because of how they value the needs of each individual in their care."



Abe is delighted with the success of the 5K run and looks forward to similar events in the future. "I want people to run for Makor," he

said, "and to recognize the support that they give to so many members of the community." ●



It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the loss of our illustrious Board Members

Efraim Reich, a"h
His wisdom, concern, and sensitivity were of special significance to Makor.

Shoshana Lefkowitz, a"h
She was a role model in how to live a life of *chesed* and care for others, without any interest in recognition or reward.

Rabbi Burton Jaffa, *Chairman of the Board*
Elliot Brownstein, *Executive Director*
Mrs. Jeanne Warman, *Founder*

A Dream Come True

by Menachem Ahron Wallach



My name is Menachem Ahron, and I am in my second year as a student of the Makor College Experience Program, the partnership program that Makor has with Yeshiva University. I love being part of campus life. I worked in the *seforim* sale last year, and also helped out with YU's basketball team during home games. I make sure all the players have what they need, stay hydrated, and are pumped up and excited!

I came to Makor from a traditional day program, but the Makor College Experience is so much more what I want to do. I have a lot of friends I met in high school, camp, and my time in Israel who told me, "YU is the place to be," and now I am living the dream of going to college.

At Makor, I learn *gemara* with my *chavrusa* (study partner) in the YU *beis medrash*, and take

classes in subjects like writing, Hebrew, music, life skills, and job skills. I live on campus with other Makor students, and sometimes stay in YU for *Shabbos* which is a lot of fun. My *Rebbe*, Rabbi Feintuch (who got married this summer; I went to his wedding!) is a phenomenal, awesome, superb, and excellent teacher. I take Professor Glicksman for Psychology, where I am learning about emotions and interacting with people. I have Mr. Mozeson for writing (last year we learned about using writing to express ourselves; this year we are working on term papers). I also enjoy our gym class with Coach Daniel, because he is such a fun guy to be with. Even though some things are challenging, I am learning so much and it is an amazing experience.

Being at Makor is a dream come true. You should try it yourself! ●

THE MAKOR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



The Makor College Experience is now accepting applications for the Fall 2019 semester. It is a three-year, non-degree program for young men (typically aged 18 to 25) with Intellectual Disabilities on the Wilf campus of Yeshiva University in Washington Heights. The Makor College Experience provides these individuals the opportunity to be part of the YU community while gaining skills and exploring opportunities as they transition to lives of independence.

For more information or to apply, contact Dr. Stephen Glicksman at 347-390-1315, or via e-mail at sglicksman@makords.org, or visit www.yu.edu/makor-college-experience.

Women's League / Makor

40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

It was described as a moving tribute, an upbeat evening, and a festive occasion. The Makor Disability Services 40th Anniversary Celebration was all of these things and more. Most of all, the event represented a major milestone marking this agency's 40 years of outstanding service to the special needs community.

Dr. Yechiel Zagelbaum, physician to many of Makor's residents, served as master of ceremonies, and spoke about the love and devotion he witnesses at its residential homes. The Novominsker Rebbe, *shlit"za* presented *divrei bracha* and shared his long standing history with Women's League. He also lauded Mrs. Warman "for taking on the sacred task of *chesed* by creating the *Gan HaChesed*, the garden of goodness, that is Women's League."

Special tribute was paid to David and Cyna Singer as Guests of Honor, and to Phyllis Gitlin, RN, who received the Professional Excellence Award for her 35 years as dedicated Director of Nursing. Shoshana Lefkowitz, a"n, who recently passed away,

received the Makor Leadership Award.

In a moving tribute, Mrs. Jeanne Warman, Executive Director Emeritus of the agency, was presented with the Founders Award. Mrs. Warman started the agency with one home in 1978, never imagining that the need for residential homes and services in our community would be so great. Today the agency provides residential services in 32 sites.

As Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Zagelbaum says that he felt "a general unified feeling in the room, a complete realization that Mrs. Warman had built something truly awe inspiring and had transformed how these special Jewish children are cared for."

Dr. Zagelbaum commented that he is overwhelmed with admiration for the staff who "love the residents like their own brothers, sisters, and children." He termed Makor "a wonderful and magical place that I am proud to be a part of."

"The Dinner," remarked David Singer, "was a success not just from a financial point of view, but also because it was a very upbeat and emotional evening. I felt there was a certain electricity in the air."

He said that the uplifting atmosphere is a result of the excellent work of the organization.

"Makor," he reflected, "is the highest rated agency in its field because of its devoted staff who are dedicated to helping these individuals overcome their challenges."

"Indeed," says Rabbi Burton Jaffa, Chairman of the Board, "there are 700 agencies in the State of New York who do similar work. Currently only four of them maintain COMPASS status – the highest level ranking. One of these is Makor."

Rabbi Jaffa stated the quality of the care and the professionalism of the staff are "not to be believed." And he credits Mrs. Warman for her uncompromising standards. "This is her legacy," he says.

The ambience and camaraderie of the evening were especially poignant as the event marked the official retirement of Mrs. Warman and the appointment of Elliot Brownstein as Executive Director. A special presentation of the Rabbi Ronald Greenwald Memorial award was made to direct support staff members who have exceeded twenty five years of devoted service.

Dr. Zagelbaum looks back at the Dinner as a night to remember. "It was a celebration of achievement and left everyone in the room with their hearts lifted and their spirits soaring." He closed the program by urging the audience to support the work of Makor Disability Services so they can continue to serve those in their care with love, dignity and necessary medical services. ●



**Dr. Yechiel Zagelbaum,
Rabbi Burton Jaffa, Elliot Brownstein**



**Rabbi Shlomo Gertzulin, David Singer,
Chaim Dovid Zwiebel**

“ a wonderful
and magical
place that I
am proud to
be a part of ”
- Dr. Yechiel Zagelbaum



David and Cyna Singer



Asher Warman, Rabbi Burton Jaffa, Elliot Brownstein, Senator Simcha Felder



Jeanne Warman surrounded by family



**Elliot Brownstein,
Jeanne and Isaac Warman,
Rabbi Burton Jaffa**



**Harav Yaakov Perlow,
Novominsker Rebbe**



Phyllis Gitlin surrounded by family



**Shoshana Lefkowitz a"h
and Jeanne Warman**



**Dr. Stephen Glicksman,
Rabbi Burton Jaffa,
Jack Jaffa**

Three Generations of Thanks



Yusopov Family

This past summer, David Kuras was having his hair cut by barber Joe Yusopov of City Cuts. David, who has frequented Joe's shop for a decade, was in for quite a surprise.

While cutting his hair, Joe asked David about his work. As David described his direct support responsibilities at Makor, something stirred within Joe. He was profoundly touched by the meaningful work that David and his colleagues perform on a daily basis to enhance the lives of young adults with disabilities. It was precisely then that the seeds for an unforgettable experience were planted. Over the next few days, Joe mulled over his conversation with David and sought a way to show appreciation for all the hard work staffers do for others. He decided to host a weekend barbecue as a supreme gesture of thanks.

Joe reached out to David and his residence manager Mark Gersten to find a way to make the barbecue a reality. After setting Labor Day weekend as the date, Joe, a traditional Jew, inquired about the laws of *kashrut* and even purchased a new grill to ensure that attendees would freely eat from the delicious spread.

As Labor Day approached, the excitement at the E. 5th Street residence for young men began to build. Joe tweaked his menu and finalized logistics. He arrived early Sunday morning, accompanied by his father Amner Yusopov, and sons Mathew and Daniel, to prep for

the barbecue. Makor staff rushed to assist Joe's sons to carry in the many boxes. Joe, however, insisted that his family personally perform all of the work. They spent hours grilling a delicious feast for staff and residents alike. The menu even included a secret family recipe for pilov.

As they ate, Joe made a heartfelt speech thanking staff for their daily toil in enhancing the lives of others. His only connection to Makor has been cutting David's hair for a decade, yet he recognized the unique set of challenges that staff address daily with pride and respect. Joe relished this opportunity to express appreciation through his personal passion for barbecuing. Staff and residents reciprocated in thanking Joe and his family for the incredible experience. Several staff asked why he felt compelled to bring his father and sons along. Joe responded that, from a young age, his father instilled in him the obligation to give thanks to others, and he wished to continue this tradition with his sons.

Makor staff was uncommonly touched by the experience and felt a renewed sense of pride for the work that they do. Joe's gesture reminded them that appreciation can come in various forms, from unexpected places, and in the most humbling of manner. We look forward to seeing what next Labor Day Weekend has in store for the E. 5th Street residence. •

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Little Things Mean A Lot

As one of New York City's trendiest new attractions, the miniature world at Gulliver's Gate has become a go-to location for thousands of tourists and native New Yorkers. It also turned out to be the perfect venue for an entertaining and informative fundraiser on behalf of Makor/Women's League.

The event at Gulliver's Gate was held in mid November and turned out to be a huge success. Amidst a lavish buffet and cocktails, families and friends of Makor were invited to explore the exhibit and to enjoy a night out in the city. It was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the wonderful work of this agency.

The implicit message was clear. The makers of Gulliver's Gate created a miniature world where little things really matter. According to Elliot Brownstein, Executive Director of Makor, the same could be said about this agency. "We at Makor," he points out, "provide the little touches – on an individual basis – to create a person centered environment."

Yosef Peikes, whose brother Moshe was a resident at Makor for close to thirty years, served as keynote speaker. "It was an amazing evening," he said. "Great food, wine, and plenty of opportunity to socialize – it certainly wasn't your typical fundraiser."

Peikes praised the agency for its outstanding dedication, and expressed his family's "enormous gratitude for the love and support that my brother received."

According to Peikes, "The attention and level of care would mimic, if not outdo, that of a person living at home. Makor is not a typical group home. They are a family."

Hillel Jaffa, member of the board, chaired the event at Gulliver's Gate, and is delighted with all the positive feedback he's been receiving. But it wasn't all just about the miniature marvels at Gulliver's Gate or the intriguing and unusual location. Jaffa took the opportunity to introduce an innovative new pilot program for the agency.

"We recently started a new initiative that we term Patient Advocacy Fund," Jaffa explains. "Sometimes our residents need to be hospitalized for a variety of reasons. When that happens, it's imperative that a personal advocate remains with them at all times."

According to Jaffa, it's quite common for hospital patients to have family members stay with them, not only as a source of comfort but also to help navigate the many care decisions that are necessary during a hospitalization.



Tzally Seewald, Abe Zeines, Elliot Brownstein, Hillel Jaffa



Hillel Jaffa



Amir Jaffa, Rabbi Burton Jaffa



Jeanne Warman, Yocheved and Moshe Lowenthal, Isaac Warman



Edna Jaffa, Blimie Stern, Nomi Jaffa



Tzally Seewald, Yosef and Paula Peikes



Chaya Sara Jaffa and Friends

"For a person with disabilities," he says, "the need is even greater. Often, they'll have difficulty communicating with nurses or understanding what's expected of them in this strange environment. Having a familiar face nearby is imperative."

That's why Makor is introducing this essential Patient Advocacy Fund which will be supported through private contributions. This will allow hospitalized residents to be treated with the care, compassion, comfort and dignity that they deserve.

"It's little details like these," Jaffa remarks, "that make all the difference in the world for our residents." ●



MAKOR DISABILITY SERVICES / WLCR

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This is how Makor residents celebrated Chanukah.

A warm Thank You to Jerry and Barbara Weissman for generously sponsoring our annual party.

