



For Immediate Release

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**Sid Jacobson JCC's Friendship Circle Luncheon, A Yellow Rose Event Honored
Philanthropist Jodi Rosenthal**

Featuring Guest Speaker Jenna Bush Hager

East Hills, NY – After a two-year hiatus, Sid Jacobson JCC's Friendship Circle Luncheon, A Yellow Rose Event returned to its in-person roots. The event was held in June of 2022, at the Pine Hollow Club in East Norwich honored **Jodi Rosenthal**, and featured guest speaker Jenna Bush Hager.

Continuing the tradition, this year Sid Jacobson JCC's Adult Day staff **Mike Alestra, Lonnie Fox, Taylor Graf, Lindsay Ingenito, Lynn Losquadro, Derrick Parsons, Christine Pizzo, Jillian Simon, Christine Staats, and Erika Stieflein** received the Tikkun Olam Award for their work with those with dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders, and their caregivers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The last two years saw many members of SJJCC's Adult Day program homebound. This team embodied the phrase *Tikkun Olam*, repair the world, as they strengthened their roles as caregivers, program curators, health advisors, friends, and family. They often made trips to members' homes to bring isolated families connection and respite.

Honoree **Jodi Rosenthal** has resided on Sid Jacobson JCC's Board of Directors for more than 20 years. Along with many other roles, Jodi has been the Co-Chair of the Cultural Arts Committee since its inception. One of her most rewarding roles at SJJCC was that of President from July 2017-June 2020. Jodi's heartfelt speech heard hurrahs from around the room as some of her colleagues and closest friends listened on.

Professor and speaker **Lynn Kennedy's** speech about her personal experience with her father's battle with Alzheimer's, and how she maneuvers and learns with her husband's recent diagnosis with Alzheimer's as well brought tears to what was otherwise a day filled with love and laughter.

Guest speaker **Jenna Bush Hager**, former first daughter and co-host of *NBC's TODAY with Hoda & Jenna* is no stranger to those living with dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders. As the author of The New York Times Bestseller *Everything Beautiful in its Time*, Hager wrote intimate personal essays paying homage to her grandparents and sharing the impact her maternal grandparents' experience with Alzheimer's disease had on her. During Jenna's Q&A with SJJCC Board member Debi Buslik, Jenna shared anecdotes about her time growing up in the White House and the importance of teenagers making mistakes.

More than 500 of Long Island's most influential and impactful community members attended Sid Jacobson JCC's annual Friendship Circle Luncheon, A Yellow Rose Event. This year's record-breaking event raised more than **\$400,000** to provide financial sustainability for SJJCC's Adult Day programs to continue improving the lives of those with dementia, other neurodegenerative disorders, and their caregivers.

To learn more about Sid Jacobson JCC's Friendship Circle Luncheon, contact Javanell Lawrence, at jlawrence@sjcc.org

About Sid Jacobson JCC

[Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center](#), in East Hills, and its surrounding campus, the [Bernice Jacobson Day School and Camp](#), in Old Westbury, provide a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts and social services programs. Sid Jacobson JCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage and culture and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community. For more information, contact the JCC at 300 Forest Drive, East Hills, NY, (516) 484-1545 or visit www.sjcc.org.

Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.



Sid Jacobson JCC's
Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event 2022
Committee



Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event guest
Speaker Jenna Bush Hager
(pink) and SJJCC's board
member Debbi Buslik (green)



Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event guests



Friendship Circle Luncheon
creator Denise Silverberg
(pink) & Friendship Circle
Luncheon, A Yellow Rose
Event Honoree Jodi
Rosenthal (green)



Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event guest



Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event guests



Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event
Honoree Jodi Rosenthal
(green) and family



Friendship Circle Luncheon,
A Yellow Rose Event co-chair
Barbra Cooper (white) and
guests



Friendship Circle Luncheon, A Yellow Rose co-chairs Jemi Goldstein and Barbra Cooper (white) with Friendship Circle Luncheon creator Denise Silverberg (pink)



Friendship Circle Luncheon, A Yellow Rose Event guests