



Gabrielle Goodman (Friendship Circle Luncheon Co-Chair), Officer Thomas Gorman (Old Westbury Police Department, Outstanding Service Award Recipient), Andrea Stein (Friendship Circle Luncheon Co-Chair)

Where Compassion Becomes Action

Sid Jacobson JCC's annual Friendship Circle Luncheon turned generosity into meaningful support for families navigating neurodegenerative disorders.



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ON OCTOBER 9, Sid Jacobson JCC's annual Friendship Circle Luncheon brought together families, advocates, and community members for a day of connection, inspiration, and support. The event highlighted the vital role giving plays in sustaining programs that assist those affected by Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, and other neurodegenerative conditions.

Featured speakers Joy Bauer, NBC's Today Show nutrition and lifestyle expert, and Montana Tucker, award-winning actress and advocate, shared deeply personal stories. Bauer reflected on her grandmother's battle with dementia, emphasizing the programs that bring hope and care to families. Tucker spoke about her experience as a care partner, highlighting how shared stories and support can empower those navigating similar challenges.

The luncheon also honored outstanding contributors to SJJCC. Rebecca Schaja, vice president of the Board of Directors, was recognized for her lifelong philanthropic work; Peggy Dolgin received the Tikkun Olam Award for championing community initiatives; and our very own Old Westbury Police Officer Thomas Gorman was presented with the inaugural Outstanding Service Award for saving a missing elderly man last New Year's Eve.

All proceeds from the luncheon directly fund SJJCC's Adult Day programs, providing care, enrichment, and vital resources to individuals and families. The event was a vivid reminder that giving—through donations, advocacy, or participation—creates real impact, helping ensure that no family facing neurodegenerative disorders feels alone.

Through events like the Friendship Circle Luncheon, the JCC turns generosity into action, strengthening the community and offering hope where it is needed most.

