

Awards to be Presented at Jewish Home Fall Gala

FAIRFIELD – The Jewish Home for the Elderly of Fairfield County has announced that Dorothy Nevas Freedman, of Weston, will be the recipient of the Arthur and Gladys Lunin Humanitarian Award. This award was created to recognize outstanding public and community service as exemplified by the good works of Arthur and Gladys Lunin. The Home will also be recognizing Ginger Speicher, of Bridgeport, for her years of dedicated volunteering by presenting her with the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service. Both of these esteemed awards will be presented at the 2011 Fall Gala held on Saturday, October 29th, at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford. The evening is being co-chaired by Peri Cook and Tara Cook-Littman, both of Fairfield.

It is no wonder that Dorothy Freedman, or “Dood” as she is known to her friends, the Lunin Award recipient, was the first woman to serve as Chairperson of The Jewish Home Board of Directors from 1995 to 1997. Dood’s vision helped to expand the services of the Physical Therapy Program and to offer post-acute care in what is now known as the Goldstein Rehabilitation Center. Dood also served as Chairperson of the Personnel Committee and was a member of the Professional Services, Ethics, Community Relations and Executive Committees.

Her career as well as community leadership roles have been dedicated to improving and protecting the lives of individuals and families in Fairfield County. Dood is the founder and a current member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Domestic Violence, Communities Against Violence in the Home, which resulted in the creation of a dedicated docket for domestic violence in criminal court in Bridgeport. As the Family Violence Victim Advocate at the Center for Women and Families since 1992, Dood guides and counsels victims through the court system. Through the years, Dood has served on many committees and boards including the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, the Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County, Temple Israel in Westport and the League of Women Voters.

Dood joins a list of prestigious individuals who have been given the Home's greatest honor including her uncle, Leo Nevas, of blessed memory, who received the Lunin Award in 2004.

Lotstein Award recipient and The Jewish Home 2009 Volunteer of the Year, Ginger Speicher has been a dedicated volunteer since 1991. She has been a Friendly Visitor, tour guide and interviewer extraordinaire.

“My mother, father and mother-in-law were residents at the Home,” stated Speicher. “They received incredible care every day and I would give anything as a thank you for those years. I have continued to help out in any way I can through volunteering and encourage others to join me.”

Annually the Speicher family presents the Charney Family Award, named in honor of her parents, to a Certified Nursing Assistant whose performance at the Home is exceptionally outstanding. In addition, she is a member of the Women's Auxiliary Board of Directors.

“The Gala is our biggest fundraiser and the dollars raised make such a difference each year at the Home,” explained Sandy Young, of Fairfield, Women's Auxiliary President. “I look forward to it every year. Attending and supporting the Gala is a wonderful way to impact the lives of the residents at the Home.”

Funds from past events have been directed toward the Home's Beauty Salon & Barber Shop, Center for Elder Abuse Prevention, Osteoarthritis Program of Excellence, and the pet therapy program.

To make a reservation or to arrange an ad in the journal, please contact Dayna Hayden, Coordinator, Auxiliaries & Events, at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@jhe.org.

