

For Immediate Release:

Monday, February 17, 2025

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Sid Jacobson JCC Partners With National Mah Jongg League to Introduce "Family Care Connect"

Expanded Resource Strengthens Support for Care Partners of Those Navigating Neurodegenerative Conditions

East Hills, N.Y. (Feb. 17, 2025) – Sid Jacobson JCC is expanding its commitment to those caring for individuals with neurodegenerative conditions with the announcement of **Family Care Connect**, powered by **National Mah Jongg League**.

This initiative builds upon SJJCC's long-standing support services, broadening our reach to provide care partners with the highest level of guidance, education, and emotional care.

With enhanced resources and new opportunities for engagement, Family Care Connect offers additional assistance for care partners to navigate the challenges of Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, and other neurodegenerative diseases.

"The rate of neurodegenerative disease is on the rise nationally, and the need for added support has never been greater," said **Taylor Graf**, LCSW, Associate Executive Director, Support Services. "Family Care Connect is launching at a critical time to address these challenges within our community. We look forward to furthering our program offerings and expanding access to a suite of services to meet the needs of families throughout their journeys."

Family Care Connect empowers care partners with essential tools to manage their loved ones' diagnoses while prioritizing their own mental well-being, ensuring that no one has to face these challenges alone.

"The care partner community at SJJCC has always aimed to help to lessen the feelings of isolation that accompany a family member's neurodegenerative diagnosis," **Lonnie Fox**, LCSW, Family Support Social Worker, explained. "Family Care Connect will now further extend our reach and deepen our impact within and beyond the community. I am excited to watch the continued growth of this strong, supportive network."

Larry Unger, President of National Mah Jongg League, knows firsthand the value of a strong support system, as his wife was a participant in Sid Jacobson JCC's Adult Day program.

"Being a care partner has shown me just how vital resources like this are. This journey comes with many challenges but having a compassionate and dedicated team to lean on provides comfort and strength. I'm forever grateful to Sid Jacobson JCC for their guidance."

Unger then continued: "National Mah Jongg League is proud to support this initiative, helping Family Care Connect provide meaningful resources for care partners in need."

To commemorate the launch of Family Care Connect, Sid Jacobson JCC will entertain the community with **Radio Bingo** on National Caregivers Day on Friday, February 21, 11:30am-1:30pm.

Attendees will step back in time to the '50s-'70s and enjoy a delightful lunch while sharing this musical experience with their favorite Adult Day staff and participants from SJJCC.

To learn more about Family Care Connect, powered by National Mah Jongg League, and its available programs, please visit the following <u>link</u>.

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About Sid Jacobson JCC

Sid Jacobson JCC (<u>sijcc.org</u>) in East Hills provides a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts, and social service programs. SJJCC 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. Where life flourishes.

"Like" the JCC on Facebook (<u>facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc</u>) and "Follow Us" on Instagram (<u>instagram.com/sidjacobsonjcc</u>).

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