

EAT. BID. LAUGH!

A NIGHT OF COMMUNITY, COMEDY, AND COMPASSION



BY ALLISON CAGGIA

Each year, *Eat.Bid.Laugh!* brings the Roslyn community together for a heartfelt evening of fine cuisine, laughter, and generosity in support of Sid Jacobson JCC (SJJCC). What started as a small gathering has grown into a beloved tradition, helping to fund vital programs that change lives.

Three of the event's co-chairs—Nicole Buslik, Tracy Levy, and Brooke Rosenman—bring over 50 years of collective experience in organizing this fundraiser and are committed to carrying on its legacy. *Eat.Bid.Laugh!* has evolved from a small fundraiser in a gymnasium into a premier annual celebration at The Garden City Hotel, drawing over 500 attendees annually. Tracy, the longest-serving chair, fondly recalls the excitement of raising \$25,000 in its early days.

Today, the signature event has grown into a major community gathering—generating over \$1 million annually—featuring tastings from local restaurants, a silent auction, and, this year, a special performance by Emmy and Tony Award-winning comedian Alex Edelman. Known for his award-winning show *Just for Us*, Edelman's sharp wit and insightful humor, combined with his knack for storytelling, promises to make his act a highlight of the evening. At its core, *Eat.Bid.Laugh!* shares SJJCC's mission. "The most important moment is when we bring everyone into the ballroom to hear stories highlighting the real impact of SJJCC," says Tracy. Funds raised support SJJCC's transformational



programming through the Annette & Sheldon A. Sinett Basics Fund, including Camp Kehilla, Sid Jacobson JCC's inclusive summer camp that provides social engagement, with scholarship opportunities, for neurodivergent children, teens, and young adults, ages 5–21. "Forty-five percent of Kehilla's children receive full scholarships, 30% receive partial assistance. This night makes that possible," Nicole explains. "Sid Jacobson JCC is more than a place—it's a lifeline for the entire community," says Brooke. "No one ever wants to need help, but at

some point, everyone does. And no matter your background or circumstances, SJJCC is there for you."

Tracy echoes this sentiment, emphasizing the welcoming energy that greets you the moment you walk through the doors. "No matter what's happening in your life—good or bad—you always have a place to turn." Funds raised at *Eat.Bid.Laugh!* enables SJJCC to continue providing essential social services, supporting those facing cancer, dementia, food insecurity, grief, and other life hardships, while fostering a community where everyone belongs.

Since this March issue celebrates Women's History Month, it was the perfect time to highlight the incredible leadership of the women behind *Eat.Bid.Laugh!*, taking place on May 8. Their dedication showcases the power of female-driven philanthropy.

Tickets are on sale now at www.sjjcc.org/eatbidlaugh2025

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