

Elaine Rubenstein To Be Honored At Democracy In Action Leadership Dinner

Elaine Rubenstein will be honored at the InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner at Onondaga Community College on April 1, 2020. The dinner celebrates Democracy in Action and honorees who have devoted themselves to advancing democratic freedoms and basic human rights, to help ensure the health of American democracy—a democracy that affirms the dignity of all people. Rubenstein has served as a board member of the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST), the Syracuse Area Middle East Dialogue (SAMED) and is a past president of American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam (Oasis of Peace). Other honorees include Channel 9 news anchor Dan Cummings; Mohammed ElFiki, Imam, Islamic Society of Central New York; Daren Jaime, Pas-



tor, People's AME Zion Church; Van Robinson, former President, Syracuse Common Council and NAACP Syracuse and Onondaga County; Linda Brown-Robinson, President, NAACP Syracuse and Onondaga County; and Mayor Ben Walsh. **For more information, please contact Denise Robertson at InterFaith Works at drobotson@ifwcnyc.org.**

Syracuse Jewish Family Service - Community Experts in Aging Well

by Nancy Bloeser

“Aging well starts earlier than you think!” asserts Syracuse Jewish Family Service Director Judith Huober. She wishes people didn’t wait until problems start or they have a crisis before consulting experts to identify resources, values and priorities for their later years, and start making realistic, orderly plans for realizing them.

Enter Jewish Family Service’s AgeWise Planning Advisors (AWPA), modeled after people’s relationships with a financial advisor. “We consider ourselves our community’s experts in aging well,” says Huober, explaining that SJFS’s credentialed Aging Life Care specialists begin by establishing a strong relationship and performing a comprehensive bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment of an individual’s or couple’s current status and short- and long-term goals.

“AWPA crafted a customized action plan for us and our family, spelling out specific steps like Medicare/Social Security sign-ups, and they also helped us rethink some of what we thought were absolutes, like staying in our home no

matter what comes down the pike,” commented Jane Bluestein (not her real name), one client of the service. “We came away feeling like AWPA can help us find ways to stay in control of the things that matter most to us, even if we don’t get all the choices we’d prefer.”

The plan is a living document, said Huober, which evolves to incorporate developments in the client’s life and needs as identified through a regular, annual “check-up.” The AWPA fee structure covers the initial work-up and allows for different levels of interim consultations and problem-solving between annual updates.

“Hopefully, we’re a long ways from needing hands-on assistance,” said Bluestein. “But AWPA gave us a lot of comfort and confidence with some pretty sensitive issues, like facilitating “The Talk” (end-of-life preferences) with our very reluctant children, and I think we’ll know where to turn, if and when the time comes.”

For more information about AgeWise Planning Advisors, contact Judith Huober at HuoberJ@sjfs.org or call 315-446-9111, x236.

Helping People Help Themselves

Federation’s Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program



No cost, no interest...changing lives one loan at a time!

In the late 19th century, members of small but established Jewish communities throughout the country came together to develop plans to help newly arrived Jews to build new lives. Guided by the interest-free lending mandate in the Torah, interest-free loans were made. These funds were known as Hebrew Free Loan programs. Over the years, they provided financial assistance to waves of Jews who came to the United States both as immigrants and as refugees.

Today’s financial needs are different, but Federation’s Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program can still help, lending money interest free to any Jewish person from Central New York who is in need of temporary financial assistance. Zero interest personal loans, up to \$4,000, can be obtained for many purposes, including medical and dental bills, debt consolidation, small business loans, lifecycle events, family emergencies, car and home repair, camp fees, school tuition and fees, adoption and fertility services.

Monthly payments begin one month after the loan funds are disbursed until the loan is paid in full. Terms and payments are determined for each loan by the Loan Committee in consultation with the borrower. All information is kept in the strictest confidence. As loans are repaid, funds are recycled to make new loans.

For more information about the Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program, contact Federation CFO Don Cronin at 315-445-2040 x118 or dcronin@jewishfederationcny.org.