

## Opinion

# The constancy of change in challenging times

I took over the helm of Daughters of Israel in West Orange more than year ago. I don't consider my position a job; I am entrusted with the sacred responsibility, handed down from one generation to the next, of upholding a 103-year-old nonprofit institution that is critical to serving the needs of the MetroWest Jewish community. From those who require long-term and Alzheimer's care, to those requiring rehabilitation and living with assistance, Daughters of Israel provides a warm and nurturing environment coupled with the highest quality of care.



Susan Grosser

The economic climate has been changing rapidly and so have the needs of our community. In order to steer through these challenging times, Daughters of Israel needs to adapt without compromising its quality of excellence in caregiving. In light of this, Daughters of Israel has implemented some changes that will serve to enhance the quality of our care and help sustain our budget.

We are pleased to announce that we are

introducing a new state-of-the-art subacute rehabilitation program, with services provided by Select Medical Rehabilitation Services, an affiliate of the world-renowned Kessler Institute. Our residents will benefit from the most advanced equipment and services available for comprehensive subacute rehabilitation care, on both a short- and long-term basis. For those unfamiliar with the term, subacute care is a program for those who have been discharged from a hospital or acute rehabilitation facility but are not yet prepared to return home. Our new program is ideal for those recovering from strokes, joint replacement, fractures, and complex wounds, as well as those seeking relief from carpal tunnel syndrome, edema, contractures, arthritis, and chronic pain. Our state-of-the-art rehabilitation and recovery suites will be open to those of all ages. The new rehabilitation facility, which will be housed in the current Herr Adult Medical Day Center in West Orange, is scheduled to open in the late fall.

Unfortunately, we will be closing the doors of the Herr Adult Medical Day Center on Aug. 31. Due to decreasing attendance and proposed Medicaid cuts to adult medical day care facilities statewide, the Herr Center and other already struggling adult medical day care centers are facing drastic times. A June 24 article in *The Star-Ledger* predicted

the ominous repercussions of these proposed Medicaid cuts. After much deliberation, we felt it was in the best interest of Daughters of Israel to place our Herr clients in other local adult medical day-care programs and

### Daughters of Israel closes one chapter and opens another.

focus on building a niche for our facility in the area of subacute rehabilitation. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Herr Adult Medical Day Center director, Jennifer Rutberg, who has done a wonderful job over the past several years running the center.

Another fiscal responsibility we have undertaken, also critical to enhancing the lives of residents, is our current construction project. We are on the verge of finishing the final phase, completely renovating the 114-bed Slobodien and Women's League Pavilions. The renovation has been extensive, with new windows, lighting, bathroom facilities,

flooring, and furnishings for residents' rooms. This newly refurbished area of the facility boasts 26 private and 42 semi-private rooms, all with modern amenities and greater personal, private living space. A variety of available room layouts are designed to meet the varying needs of our community members and their families. In addition to the residents' rooms, a complete refurbishment has upgraded the pavilions' dining and bathing areas, solarium, and brand-new, state-of-the-art nurses' stations.

As a leader, it is important to constantly evaluate and reevaluate and think about the greater good, however difficult those decisions may be. Although we are sad to say goodbye to the Herr Adult Medical Day Center, we are excited about our new developments, which will significantly affect the quality of life of our residents and help sustain us financially through this economic climate.

If you are interested in seeing our facility, I would be glad to take you on a tour and share with you the joy that we bring to the lives of our residents every day. Feel free to contact me at [sgrosser@doigc.org](mailto:sgrosser@doigc.org).

**Susan Grosser, LNHA, is executive director of the Daughters of Israel Plafsky Family Campus in West Orange.**