

ARI Celebrates 65th Anniversary



Louis Lotstein's grandchildren and family are honored on behalf of the Lotstein family, from ARI board chair Peter Buck.



Members of the ARI Self-Advocacy Committee dance the night away.



Barbara Aronica-Buck and David Aronica are honored on behalf of the Martin family, from ARI board chair Peter Buck.

In 1952, our founding families began an agency to provide much needed services for children with developmental disabilities. Today, ARI is as focused on our mission as the day it opened its doors. This was evident on October 27, at The Waters Edge at Giovanni's, when over 280 people joined us to celebrate our 65th anniversary. This milestone was shared by individuals served by ARI, family members, staff, board members, past board chairs and others closely connected with ARI. Words cannot express the excitement and joy shared by everyone in the room. From Rita, niece of founder Thelma Martin, who was honored for being served by ARI for the longest time, to Barbara Aronica-Buck, Thelma's granddaughter, to founding member Louis Lotstein's four grandchildren – we reminisced and looked toward the future with new motivation. We reconnected with past members of the Women's Auxiliary and past board members. And, we met new friends, with whom we will share the next 65 years.

Ira Joe Fisher, Master of Ceremonies, recognized the invaluable contributions of our founders, Thelma Martin and Louis Lotstein. Awards were presented to their family members, who are still involved with the organization three and four generations later. Most of our past Board Chairs were also recognized for their contributions to our organization.

Following the program, everyone filled the dance floor and celebrated our milestone together. The Martin and Lotstein families' dream has allowed thousands of people with intellectual disabilities to live full and rich lives. Paul Macari, board chair of Friends of ARI proudly stated, "It was a pleasure to sponsor such an event and to see ARI history unfold before our eyes."



This evening far exceeded our expectations and would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors and sponsors; **65th Anniversary Sponsor: Friends of ARI; Gold Sponsor: The Families of Barbara Lotstein Benowitz and Edward Lotstein; Silver Sponsors: Connecticut Pharmacy, First County Bank, The Norgren Family, Jane and Phil Molstre; Bronze Sponsors: The Arestia Family, Barbara Aronica-Buck and Peter Buck, KAF Manufacturing, Nina and Norman Lotstein, The Schuster Group, The Umbrella Club and Webster Bank.** We also appreciate the generous in-kind donations of time and talent from JB Lighting Design, DJ Jeffree Kiley Stroffolino, Springdale Florist, MBA Graphics, John Martin Photography, and all of the donors and supporters of our silent auction.

Past ARI board chairs (from left to right) Mario Musilli, Peter Buck, Barbara Aronica-Buck, Ed Granelli, Sari Jaffe, Phil Molstre, Paul Macari and Arlene DuBiago were honored for their service and recognized by Master of Ceremonies, Ira Joe Fisher (far right).

All 65th Anniversary photos by John Martin Photography

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities and their families by enabling them to achieve their fullest potential at home, at work and in the community.

From the President & CEO

Photo by Bernie Weiss



It's the most wonderful time of the year! My own personal excitement, is greatly enhanced as I share the joy that is shared by the people we serve. As the year comes to a close and I reflect back on 2017, I am filled with gratitude for all of the support we have received and the success we have achieved. As a result, I look forward with

great hope to the year ahead.

This year has been filled with many ups and downs, accomplishments and challenges, hopes and fears. While we were (and continue to be) concerned about the financial crisis in our state, we remained focused on our mission and the needs of the people we support. We ensured that they were healthy and safe and that their lives were enriched with many social and recreational activities. To make this possible, we turned to our dedicated donors for support, and they responded. We also reconnected with friends and donors from whom we hadn't heard in a while, while we added some new supporters.

The highlight of the year was our 65th Anniversary Celebration! I am so thankful for our committee co-chairs, Barbara Aronica-Buck, Peter Buck, and Cathy Granelli, for taking the idea and making it an incredible reality. The ballroom was filled with energy, joy, celebration and generosity! Thanks to our 65th Anniversary Sponsor, Friends of ARI, and to all of our sponsors and supporters, we exceeded our event goal by 50%! See the article and photos in this newsletter for additional information.

In the year ahead, we will be faced with continued and new financial challenges. The budget crisis in the state, combined with changes to federal tax laws, will require us to continue to change, adapt, and think in new and creative ways. This will require all of us to work together. We will ask more of staff, family members and supporters in order for us to continue to fulfill our mission and to enrich the lives of the nearly 150 people served by ARI. It is these very people, who give us the energy, inspiration and passion to work harder every day. They fill us with great joy, not only during this holiday time, but throughout the year.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you and your family the very best in the New Year!

With sincere appreciation,
Susanne D. Kuligowski
President & CEO

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter and other communications from ARI electronically, please email gasparinog@arict.org.

IN MEMORIAM



Gladys Martin Cohen passed away on November 15, 2017 at her home in Stamford, CT. She was born January 27, 1927 at Stamford Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband Morton Cohen, her parents Thelma and Nathan Martin and her brother Bruce Martin, who was served by ARI almost all of his life. She is

survived by her brother Arthur Martin, who still lives in the Martin House in Norwalk, and her children Barbara Cohen Aronica-Buck (Peter Buck) and Robert Cohen (Cathy). She was Rita Wolfson's first cousin and guardian for many years. For decades, she served on the Board of ARI of CT, which was co-founded by her family in 1952. She was instrumental in the creation of GARP and countless other initiatives at ARI. She was also an instrumental part of the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament committee since its start twenty-three years ago.



ARI Wish List – You can help!

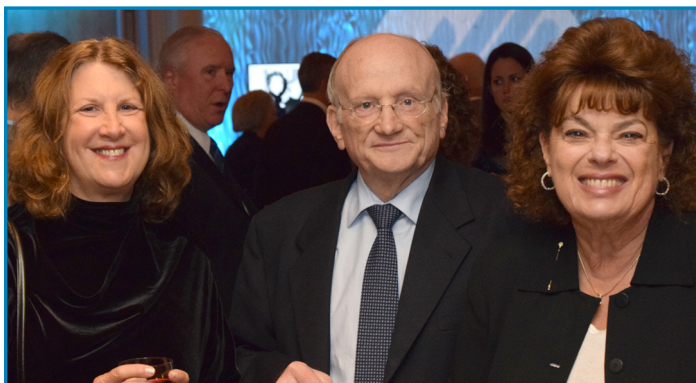
There is an opportunity at ARI for everyone to participate and support our programs. Whether you are looking for a once-a-year project for a few hours, a weekly commitment, or something in between, we have an opening for you! If you have a skill, hobby, or interest you would like to share with ARI, let us know. If you have time, but aren't sure what you would do for ARI, we can help you figure it out. You can make a real difference in the lives of the people we support by giving your time, talents and/or treasures to ARI.

- Join the Board of Directors
- Join a committee – Finance, Nominating, Development, Special Events (Walk, Golf Tournament, etc.)
- Share your talents
 - Teach dance, exercise, arts & crafts, knitting, gardening, etc.
 - Complete property repair/maintenance projects
 - Website design, event photography, social media communications

For more information, please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

ARI 65th Anniversary Celebration

Visit our website for more photos and the 65th Anniversary slide show.



Sheila Romanowitz, Alan Jaffe and past ARI board chair, Sari Jaffe



Past ARI board chair and Friends of ARI board chair, Paul Macari, Mary Jane McDonough, Sheila McCaffrey, Polly Morrow, and Clinton Hamilton



Elena, Nefiali, Marie and Marcus, of ARI



ARI board member, Lynne Fife and past ARI board member, Gail Malloy, at the silent auction



Justin Chapman, ARI board member Calvin Chapman and Deborah Chapman



Past ARI board member and GARP president, Jane Norgren and Nick DuBiago



Latoya, Darlene Caviness, Sheila Joyce and her sister, Anne Marie



Alice Knapp and past ARI Women's Auxiliary member, Christel Truglia



Past ARI board chair and Friends of ARI treasurer, Ed Granelli, past ARI board chair and past Friends of ARI chair, Phil Molstre, Allan Benowitz and Andy Benowitz

Day Services



Bobbi working at Zody's 19th Hole Restaurant

As the saying goes, when one door closes, another one opens. As a result of the changes in federal law that required us to close the "sheltered workshop," we have been working on developing and expanding opportunities for individuals in our day program. We are so pleased to share that Bobbi and Matthew were hired for their first jobs in the community. Bobbi is working at Zody's 19th Hole Restaurant where he is responsible for cleaning the restaurant and helping in the kitchen. Matthew is working at The Ferguson Library, returning the books to the shelves. He has done so well that, after only a month, they are already talking about expanding his hours! Meanwhile, David completed an assessment at Marshall's and is working on building his resume while he applies for jobs. We thank these employers for recognizing the value of employing these individuals.

Several other individuals are working on career plans and looking for work. We look forward to partnering with employers in our local community to develop these opportunities. For more information on how you can hire an individual served by ARI, contact Cliff Beaulieu at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3035.

We also celebrated with individuals who "retired" from their jobs this year. They are now participating in other activities at ARI and in the community, and are also volunteering with other nonprofits. We all truly value the opportunity to "give back" and help others in need.

Finally, we have expanded our Individualized Day Program, providing one-on-one supports for people in their homes and throughout the community. This program is designed to meet specific needs and interests on a one to one basis.

Every challenge is a new opportunity to think creatively, and to connect with new members in the community. We look forward to forming mutually-beneficial relationships with our local businesses, and neighbors, as we help more people achieve their highest potential.

Residential Services



We are delighted to welcome new staff to every one of our residential programs this season. See below for a list of our new hires. These new employees will help to ensure that the highest quality of service is provided in our residential programs.

Our staff accompanied the people we serve on several fall outings including the Big E and Silverman's Farm in Easton. At the Big E, they enjoyed rides, other entertainment, and an array of delicious local foods. At Silverman's Farm, they were able to visit the animal farm and pick pumpkins in preparation for Halloween.

On November 18th, everyone enjoyed an evening of fun at their "Friendsgiving" dinner, hosted by Palermo House. This winter, they attended the Nutcracker Ballet and a Charlie Brown Christmas at the Palace Theatre, and, of course, the much anticipated annual ARI holiday parties.



Friendsgiving event at Palermo House

Staff News

New Hires:

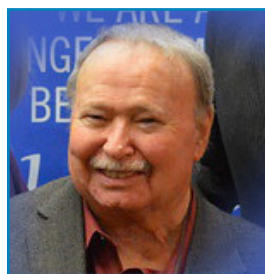
Linda Augustin, *Residential Counselor, Lotstein*
Cedric Bufkin, *Skills Instructor, Day Service Options*
Tierra Francis, *Residential Counselor, Floater*
Delvea McKoy, *Network Administrator*
Diana Davila, *Residential Counselor, Truglia*
Kelly Johnson, R.N., *Medical Department*
Pleshaun Bing, *Residential Counselor, Tally Ho*
Donna Welsh, *Residential Counselor, Tally Ho*
Debra Jimenez, *Residential Counselor, Lotstein*

Recreation and Volunteers



Thank you to the Stamford Police Association for sponsoring the annual holiday party at the Yerwood Center on December 8, 2017

The ARI Artists' Initiative resumed in September, under the direction of local artist Carolyn Lyngholm. As the class began, we recognized the loss of the initiative's founder, Donald Axelroad. Don was a past ARI board member whose support extended far beyond the art classes. He hosted annual parties for the ARI family and generously supported all of our events.



ARI Artists' Initiative founder and past ARI board member, Don Axelroad

Twenty individuals finished another Challenged People in Motion Golf Program. Congratulations to Francine McMillian for being recognized with the Michael Burl Award as the Most Outstanding Golfer of the Year! The award is named after the late Michael Burl, who was served by ARI for many years and was an avid golfer. Joseph Maslan was recognized as most improved golfer and Marlene Serrano was recognized as most spirited golfer. Thanks to Peggy Hagan and the entire volunteer team for another outstanding season.

The fall Special Olympics program concluded last month with several individuals competing in bowling and weightlifting.

All of these recreational events are made possible by the tireless dedication of an incredible group of volunteers. We are truly grateful to them for leading and assisting with recreational activities and other ARI events. For more information on how you can get involved with the ARI recreation program, contact Gerard Gasparino at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023.

Grants and Community Support



We are grateful for the generous support we receive from the community. Without it, we would be unable to fulfill our mission and enrich the lives of the people we support. In November, we received a donation of \$70,000 from Friends of ARI for the purchase of two new mini-vans for our residential program. This funding will also serve as a matching grant component of a CT State Bond Grant for \$311,000 to purchase an additional eight new vehicles.

ARI has also been approved for a City of Stamford Community Development Block Grant for a \$70,000 project to repave the parking lot at our Richmond Hill Avenue day program location.

In addition, we are thankful to the employees of Ernst & Young who spent Friday, October 6 working at our Palermo Residence as part of their annual EY connect Day. Twenty-three employees painted the interior hallways and completed an extensive fall clean up in our gardens. This is the seventh year Ernst & Young has included ARI in their EY Connect Day, and we are very grateful for their continued support. *(see photos above)*

For more information about how your corporation can participate in a service project with ARI or support ARI with a corporate or foundation grant, please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.



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SAVE THE DATES!

**12th Annual
ARI Walk for Independence
Sunday, April 29, 2018***

**23rd Annual
Lotstein / Martin Golf Tournament
Thursday, June 21, 2018***

*dates subject to change

Shopping online? Go to our website www.arict.org and click on the AmazonSmile logo on the ARI website. Designate ARI of CT and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us whenever you shop. You can also click on the Goodshop Logo and a portion of purchases made on this site will be donated to ARI.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. • Established 1952

Susanne D. Kuligowski
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