



SEECConnections

Fall/Winter 2007

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SEEC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enabling persons with developmental disabilities who have significant needs to live and work as contributing members of the community through individualized advocacy and support.

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Circles of Support for Achieving Goals

All of us have goals for personal achievement. For some it may be to improve our health, get a college degree, or something as simple as getting a new pet.

Achieving goals takes planning and making small steps towards the end product.

Men and women with developmental disabilities have goals and aspirations for a fulfilling life but may need support from others to accomplish their dreams. In October, SEEC held the first in a series of 12 all-day trainings for direct care staff to learn the concepts and practices of creating Circles of Support.

A Circle of Support is a means to provide assistance to someone who, for one reason or another, needs help to achieve what they want in their life. A "circle" of family, friends, and community members can help identify the steps and supports a person will need to achieve his or her goals. Members of the circle are determined by the individual, and he or she is in charge of deciding who to invite to circle meetings, and what will be discussed. Typically, a paid staff person helps the individual create their circle, but over time, the circle primarily consists of unpaid members who are there simply because they care about the individual's well-being. The person requesting support drives the energy of the group, and designates a facilitator to keep the circle on track.

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Gail Godwin conducts the first of "Circle of Support" workshop in October.



Staff members work together on a Circle of Support exercise.

Making Every Day Count

Hillary Reston is always on the go. She is a star employee, a sailor, a cyclist, and musician. All this despite the life threatening health issues she endured during her childhood, and the resulting challenges Hillary now faces.

With support from her parents and her direct care provider, Linda Copeland, Hillary has made astonishing accomplishments. For more than two years she has worked 20 hours a week, shredding old

documents in the Books Division of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). She well earns her \$10.15 per hour pay, holding the record for the number of bags filled in a four-hour shift (25!). As Linda notes, "Hillary receives constant cheers and applause from her coworkers. It is clear they see her as a competent, contributing member of their team. They really care about her."

When not working, Linda and Hillary spend their time out in the community. She likes to ride her bike in her neighborhood, watch trains at Union Station, and go out to eat. She also volunteers at Steven Knolls School in Kensington. At home she sets the table, makes her bed, and performs other chores. Twice a month, Hillary and her friend, Halle, go to music class where she plays piano and xylophone

Hillary and her mother, Denise Leary, like to sail in the Baltimore Harbor. "Hillary absolutely loves sailing. I believe she is truly the happiest on the water. The two of us puddle about in a specialized boat that cannot capsize. Sometimes Hillary takes the tiller while I handle the sails. She does not stop smiling. One time there were several

Continues on page 4



Hillary is a regular volunteer at the Stephen Knolls Nursery.



Hillary works well with her supervisor, Cecilia Scott at the Books Division of MCPS.



Accredited for Excellence
in Program Services

Happy Holidays From All
Of Us At SEEC



STAFFnews

All Aboard *The Spirit of Washington*

On a beautiful October day, members of the SEEC staff enjoyed dining, dancing, and fun while cruising the Potomac



SEEC's executive director, Karen Lee, passes the raffle grab-bag aboard *The Spirit of Washington*

aboard *The Spirit of Washington*. "Our staff worked tirelessly throughout the year," stated **Karen Lee**, SEEC's executive director. "In honor of our upcoming 20th Anniversary, we wanted to do something extra special to recognize their dedication to helping others."

During the cruise, tribute was made to employees who were nominated for "Rising Star" and "All Star" awards for exemplary performance and outstanding contributions to the agency. Ms. Lee noted that while these individuals were honored, all staffers are stars for helping people with developmental disabilities reach their fullest potential.

Staff attending had a chance to win a number of raffle items, including an iPod Nano, a portable DVD player, jewelry, and a number of beautiful theme-based baskets. Each staff member was also given a cozy SEEC blanket to keep them warm in the winter months ahead!

Congratulations to our 2007 All Star and Rising Star winners, and Honorable Mentions:

All Stars

(Includes employees who have worked for SEEC for more than a year)

Michael Cunningham, Vocational Services
John Eusebe, Administration
Patricia Harrison, Community Living

Honorable Mentions

Charles Agyer, Vocational Services
Marina Bangura, Community Living
Maria Fofona, Community Living
Cathy Klienhuys, Administration
Joe Pastow, Vocational Services
Shannon Poole, Vocational Services

Rising Stars

(Includes employees who have worked for SEEC for less than one year)

Alise Anderson, Vocational Services
Elias Belda, Community Living
Christopher Craig, Administration

Honorable Mentions

Itayiah Botoe, Community Living
Nicole Harrison, Administration



Mike Cunningham receives his All Star Award from Steve Blanks for excellence in vocational services.

Montgomery County Salutes Residential Support Staff

At a reception and buffet dinner held this fall at the North Bethesda Marriott and Conference Center, local dignitaries honored the hard work of people providing residential supports to county residents with significant disabilities.

Among those giving special recognition presentations were County Executive **Isaiah Leggett**, Sue Swenson, Executive Director of The Arc of the United States, and **Janice Stallworth** of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration. All commended the direct support staff for their hard work and dedication to improve the daily lives of people they support.

Michael Jackson, uncle to SEEC consumer **Sharon Jackson**, spoke from



SEEC Staff member, Tashi So, and Michael Jackson.

the heart of his gratefulness for the care his niece receives from the people who support her at SEEC. "Since Sharon's parents passed away, it has been my responsibility and desire to find her the opportunity to live independently, as any woman her age should. Sharon is in a great place, sharing an apartment with a roommate of her choosing. She now truly has an expanded family of people who care about her."

This 13th Annual Community Living Staff Appreciation was attended by more than 150 people, representing nearly a dozen agencies throughout the country.

SEEC Staff Receive Statewide Recognition for Excellence

At the September Conference for Direct Support Workers, the Prince George's Providers Council and the Southern Maryland Regional Office of the Developmental Disabilities Administration recognized **Leona Gordon** and **Mike Cunningham** for their long-standing commitment



Steve Blanks congratulates Leona Gordon at the SEEC staff appreciation party.

to bettering the lives of others.

Both Leona and Mike have been with SEEC for more than ten years. Leona received the Outstanding Achievement in Promoting Community Inclusion award, and Mike received the Above and Beyond award.

The conference was co-sponsored by Prince George's Community College Workforce Development. Sessions throughout the conference focused on "Tools for Conquering the Real Disability: The Importance of Belonging."

Both Leona and Mike have dedicated their careers to opening doors for community access and belonging for the men and women they support. Congratulations!

STAFF and BOARD news

Richard Barsky Named SEEC Board President

At its annual meeting in September, the SEEC Board of Directors unanimously appointed **Richard Barsky** to serve a two-year term as president. Richard has served on the SEEC Board since 2002 and has been a stalwart advocate and fundraiser for SEEC consumers and others in the disability community.

Richard's interest in serving on SEEC's Board was inspired by his daughter **Anne Butler**, who has a Master's Degree in

Special Education, and wife **Carol**, who volunteered at a home for children with disabilities during her high school years. He has been a tireless fundraiser for SEEC since his appointment, and an advocate for the rights of people with developmental disabilities at the state and federal levels.

Richard was a founding partner of a CPA firm, which he later sold to American Express Tax & Business Services. After 35 years in public accounting, Richard recently



Richard began his two year term as president in September.

became the Chief Financial Officer for a high definition television production company.

Richard's solid business sense, coupled with his financial expertise and passion for helping people with disabilities, makes him a perfect fit for his new role as president of SEEC.

SEEC Welcomes New Board Members

Involvement in SEEC is a family affair for **Rachel Williams**. Her sister, **Angela**, receives support from the organization and her father, **Conrad Williams**, served as SEEC Board member and Board President. Rachel recently returned to her hometown of Washington, DC after graduating from Brown University with a B.A. in Economics.

Rachel is employed with an engineering firm as a financial analyst. Her knowledge of financial issues and her family's special relationship to SEEC makes Rachel an ideal addition to our board and its finance and fundraising committees.



Rachel Williams (right) and her sister Angela

Debora May is a founding partner of May & Barnhard, PC, a certified public accounting and financial consulting firm dedicated to providing full service financial planning, tax auditing, and other accounting services. Debbie has 34 years of experience in public accounting with substantial experience in tax, financial planning for individuals and closely-held businesses, divorce litigation support and negotiation for financial settlements in divorce. She has been voted by her peers as one of the top financial planning experts in the DC area in two polls sponsored by *Washingtonian Magazine* (October 1994; December 2002).

Debbie learned about SEEC through Kevin Murphy, a current Board member. "I was so impressed with SEEC's work to intergrate people with developmental disabilities in the community, that I welcomed the opportunity to join the SEEC Board. While I do not have a family member with a disability, I want to become more knowledgeable and sensitive to those in need."



Denise Thomas Expanding Accessible Public Transportation Options

Denise Thomas, manager of **Project Ride**, was presented with the **Edward Bynum Advocacy and Leadership Award** at the Third Annual Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary's Conference on Accessible Transportation held in September at Towson University. This award recognizes someone who displays initiative, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, leadership, and overall excellence in activism in the disability community, notably in the area of accessible transportation. The conference was sponsored by the Maryland Transit Administration's Office of Accessibility.

Nominated by **The Maryland Developmental Disability Council** (MDDC), Denise was recognized for her significant achievements in breaking down transportation barriers for people with intellectual disabilities. Through a three-prong approach, including sensitivity and customer service training for transit providers, "Train the Trainer" workshops for professionals supporting riders, and individualized travel-trainings, Project Ride seeks to promote systems change in public transportation supports and services statewide for people with cognitive impairments.

Project Ride is funded primarily through the MDDC, with additional support from



Denise Thomas (center), with SEEC's Nichole Harrison and Belinda Frye (lower left and center back, respectively) is joined by Angela Castillo-Epps (back row left) and Cathy Lyle of the MDDC.

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Call for Board Nominees

Are you interested in contributing your time and expertise as a member of the SEEC Board of Directors? Do you have friends or coworkers who are looking for a good cause to support? SEEC is recruiting for several positions on our volunteer

Board. We are particularly interested in individuals with expertise in marketing, public relations, fundraising, grant writing, or connections with grant-making organizations. If interested, please call SEEC's Executive Director, **Karen J. Lee**, at 301-576-9006.

Circles of Support

(continued from front page)

For example, Sam's goal may be to work out at the gym four days a week. Sam's circle of support would help him identify the steps needed to make this goal a reality and take on tasks to help him accomplish each of those steps. One member may scope out local fitness facilities, determine costs, or find a community center that charges nominal fees. Another member may investigate transportation options; a third may secure a trainer to teach Sam how to safely use the equipment; and a fourth may find a "buddy" to accompany Sam on his trips to the gym. Together the team creates a budget and schedule that will enable Sam to accomplish his goal. The circle meets

monthly, or more often, until Sam is working out regularly as he desired.

Sam may call future circle meetings to help him achieve another goal, such as learning how to prepare his meals or participate in activities that can help expand his social network.

SEEC's Circle of Support trainings are conducted by **Gail Godwin** of **Shared Support Maryland**. Throughout the year Gail will provide a series of 12 trainings for our staff. SEEC trainings are made possible through the generosity of local and national foundations that support our Person-Centered Thinking and Planning initiative.

Making Every Day Count

(continued from front page)

tall ships sailing around the harbor and a big passenger tour boat with a lot of school kids on it. People on board waved and cheered wildly at our little boat. Hillary just knew the applause was all for her. She was thrilled."

"Hillary is truly blessed to have such loving, dedicated parents who give her opportunities to enjoy the wonders of sailing, gardening at the family's country home, and traveling," says Linda. "I have worked with Hillary for more than four years. She is like a daughter to me and a constant inspiration. Her accomplishments, no matter how small,

gives me great joy." Hillary certainly is an inspiration in perseverance, acceptance, and a longing to make every day precious.

Hillary's mom learned about this special sailing program through Cathy Dirksen at SEEC. "We are thrilled with the care Hillary receives from Linda and are appreciative of the support she receives by the fine employees of SEEC."

You can learn more about Hillary's incredible life, by reading her father's highly-acclaimed memoir, Fragile Innocence: A Father's Memoir of His Daughter's Courageous Journey. (James Reston, Jr., 2006).

Happy Holidays



On December 2nd SEEC consumers and their families



celebrated the holiday season with a party at the Julius West Middle School. After dining on a huge buffet, the real fun began with singing and dancing led by our in-house vocalist, **Bobby John**, with **Mike Mullenix** serving as DJ. We thank everyone who contributed to our feast, and in particular, SEEC staff members **Keysha Porte**, **Cathy Kleinhuis**, and **Roslind Chavis** for making this event such an enjoyable party for everyone.



Pictured above: Bobby John gives Manoj Kumaroo a turn at the mic; Gregory Fainberg and his mother Ilene Martin pose for a photo; Leslie and Samuel Kaplan dance with their son Joseph; Miriam Alpern dances with two at a time; Waid Lechner and her son Garry Harmatz.

In Memoriam

Kevin Crockett

March 6, 1978 – November 24, 2007



Kevin Crockett, Jr. passed away at the young age of 28 due to complications from surgery. Kevin was a gregarious person who enjoyed lively

conversations, hip-hop music, cool cars, and Xbox games. He was also a talented artist who dreamed of starting his own business called "Kool Kreationz." As a member of the Ghandi Brigade, a young adult film-making group, Kevin made a short film showcasing his artistic talents, which was shown at the American Film Institute in Silver Spring in 2005 and can be seen on YouTube.com.

Kevin received vocational and

residential supports from SEEC for nearly 10 years. His sudden death had a profound effect on the staff who have supported him and befriended him for many years..



Francis Ignatios Rodrigues

December 30, 1951 – August 25, 2007



After a long term illness and multiple hospitalizations, **Francis Rodrigues**, who participated in

SEEC's vocational program, passed away. Francis received residential supports from The Arc of Montgomery County and died in his group home under hospice care on August 25th. Francis was a very friendly and gentle man who enjoyed music, exercising at the gym, and just about anything that involved socialization and friendship.

Our condolences go to the Crockett and Rodrigues families for the loss of their loved ones.

EMPLOYMENTservices

Snyder, Cohn, Collyer, Hamilton & Associates Receives Disability Hiring Award

Eddie Snyder and Mitch Siegel proudly accepted the Disability Hiring Award on behalf of **Snyder, Cohn, Collyer, Hamilton & Associates, P.C.** at The Montgomery County Workforce Investment & Economics Awards Breakfast on October 30th. Held at the Marriott Bethesda North Conference Center, the event attracted hundreds of community business leaders and elected officials.

SEEC nominated Snyder Cohn for the award in recognition of the firm's contributions to the disability community. Two of Snyder Cohn's CPAs have volunteered their time to serve on SEEC's Board of Directors for many years. More than a year ago, **Arnold Stein**, who receives SEEC's vocational supports, was

hired by the Bethesda accounting firm to work in its filing and records department. They pay Arnold a very competitive wage for his work, and he is a valued colleague to the company's 75 employees. Clearly, Snyder Cohn and its employees are committed to Customized Employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Arnold Stein (right) poses with Eddie Snyder and Mitch Siegel of Snyder Cohn at the Montgomery County Workforce and Community Development Awards Breakfast.

Freedom In Transport

Three SEEC consumers who previously relied on MetroAccess cabs are now traveling throughout the area using bus and rail systems as their primary means of transportation. No longer reliant on costly and unpredictable paratransit cabs, **Arnold Stein, Graham Tubbs, and Chris Liles**



Chris Liles consults the bus schedule to get to his destination.

now have the freedom to go where they want, when they want. All three men were travel trained through SEEC's Project Ride, a program funded by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council.

Three days a week, Arnold travels from his Rockville home to his Bethesda job at a CPA firm using Metrobus. He knows the route and timing by heart and always reports to work promptly.

Graham uses the Metrobus to get to his job and to meet up with SEEC staff in the community. He also loves taking the subway to sightsee in downtown DC.

Each weekday, Chris takes the Ride-On bus to travel from his apartment at Inwood House to meet up with SEEC staff at the Silver Spring Library. Says Chris, "I like to ride the bus because I like to be with people and make new friends."

An added benefit to the freedom these men now enjoy is as MetroAccess cardholders, they can use public transportation for free and use the money they save on other things!

For more information about Project Ride and travel training visit www.freedomintransit.org.

List of Employers

SEEC employers represent a wide range of businesses throughout our area. We hope you will patronize them to show your support for the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in our community workforce.

Asbury Nursing Home, Gaithersburg
Barnes & Noble, Rockville
BAPA Imagination Stage, Bethesda
Bethesda Cares Soup Kitchen, Bethesda
Big Lots, Gaithersburg
Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Bethesda
Cradle of Hope Adoption Agency (COH), Silver Spring
CVS, Silver Spring and Hillandale
Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Germantown
Discovery Communications, Silver Spring
East County Community Center, Silver Spring
Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Rockville
Goodwill Industries, Rockville
Golden Bull Restaurant, Gaithersburg
Just a Dream Horse Farm, Potomac
Kensington Park Library, Kensington
La Madeleine, Rockville
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Martin
Luther King Park, Silver Spring
Montgomery County Public Schools

(MCPS), Rockville
National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda
Pizza Hut, Gaithersburg
Pleasant Groom-N-Inn, Rockville
Quality Suites, Gaithersburg
Red Lobster, Gaithersburg
Safeway, Gaithersburg and Rockville
Salvation Army Thrift Store, Germantown
Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), Washington, DC
SEEC, Silver Spring
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Rockville
Shopper's Food, Germantown
Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Silver Spring
Snider's Foods, Silver Spring
Snyder, Cohn, Collyer, Hamilton and Associates, PC, Bethesda
Special Olympics, Inc., Washington, DC
Suburban Hospital Healthcare System, Bethesda
The Ivy Mount School, Potomac
TJ Maxx, Germantown, Rockville
Tuesday Morning, Aspen Hill

Denise Thomas

(continued from page 3)

area foundations and SEEC. First launched in Montgomery County in 2005, Project Ride is now in its third year and has extended the program to Prince George's and Howard Counties and other areas throughout the state. To learn more about Project Ride visit its interactive website at www.freedomintransit.org.

HOLIDAY giving

'Tis the Time for Holiday Giving!

Please support SEEC as generously as you can this holiday season. Your contributions help others who often go without the everyday pleasures most of us enjoy. Donations to SEEC are used to defray expenses for class tuitions, fitness programs, medical and dental expenses, and job training, and other opportunities to broaden the lives of people who face the challenges of living with a developmental disability.

There are many ways you can support our work:

- ◆ Make a cash contribution
- ◆ Make a donation in honor or memory of your loved ones
- ◆ Donate appreciated stock (a tax savings for you; a gift to someone in need)
- ◆ Volunteer your time and expertise
- ◆ Designate SEEC as your charity of choice on GoodShop (see accompanying article for details)
- ◆ Make an in-kind donation of goods or services
- ◆ Donate your car in good working order
- ◆ Solicit others to support SEEC in these and other ways

Please use the order form below to make your financial contribution to SEEC. For more information on other ways to give, visit www.seeonline.org, or call Cathy Dirksen at 301-576-9043.



Your Internet Purchases Can Earn Money for SEEC

With just a click or two of your mouse, your online shopping can help better the lives of people with disabilities – at no extra cost to you!

Go to www.goodshop.com, designate SEEC as the charity you “Good Shop For,” click “Verify” and you’re on your way for generating donations from national retailers with each purchase you make – this holiday and throughout the year. Among the participating stores are:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Amazon | Ebay |
| Best Buy | Macy’s |
| Land’s End | PetSmart |
| Barnes & Noble | Old Navy |
| Nordstrom | The Gap |
| Home Depot | The Container Store |
| iTunes | Tavelocity |
| Target | And dozens more! |

So, make your online purchases knowing you’re helping others by Good Shopping! Spread the word. The more people shopping Good Shop for SEEC, the more money we can raise for our neighbors and friends with developmental disabilities.

Wish List

Donated products and services directly benefit the people we support, help lower our overhead expenses, and improve office efficiency. Please consider one or more ways you can make an in-kind contribution to SEEC.

Equipment and Supplies

- ◆ Art Supplies of all types
- ◆ Computer and Office Equipment
- ◆ Digital Cameras
- ◆ Used Vehicles
- ◆ Home and Office Furnishings

Professional Services

- ◆ Graphic Design
- ◆ Promotional Copy Writing
- ◆ Grant Writing
- ◆ Interior Design
- ◆ Printing Services

Giving to SEEC is easy to do. Just complete the form below and mail it in! It’s that simple.

Or, go to our website to make your donation. Visit www.seeonline.org.

I would like to make a contribution to SEEC to help provide customized, community-based supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

I have enclosed my check payable to SEEC.

Please charge my gift to: VISA MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Your Name: _____
(as it appears on your credit card)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Return to: SEEC, Attn: Development Office, 8905 Fairview Road, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20910

All donations to SEEC are tax deductible as provided by law.

GIVINGthanks

SEEC staff, consumers, family members, caregivers, and members of the Board of Directors are appreciative of the generosity of others who share our vision. Your gifts help make The American Dream possible for people with developmental disabilities. We extend heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their recent support of our work.

Contributions from Individuals June 15 – November 30

Gifts of \$1000+

Mercantile Potomac Bank
Patricia and David Lee

Gifts of \$500-\$999

Mary and Kevin Murphy
Suzanne and David Maybee

Gifts of \$100-\$499

H&R Block Foundation
Sandi Johnson
Waid Lechner
James and Margaret Long
Karen Pollitz
Gloria and Conrad Williams

Gifts Up to \$100

Marguerite Autry
Barbara and Beril Abraham
Steve and Debbie Brynes
Marilyn Funk
Theresa and James Mannion
Barbara and Edward Patigalia
Nolan and Gail Rappaport

In Kind Support

Marguerite Autry
Carl and Sherry Migdail
Barbara and Edward Patigalia
Nolan and Gail Rappaport

FY 07 Foundation Support (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

For Person-Center Planning

The Morris and Gwendyon Cafritz
Foundation
The Gannett Foundation
The Special Hope Foundation
The United Way
The William S. Abell Foundation

For Community Living

The Montgomery County Council of the
Knights of Columbus

For Project Ride

The Maryland Developmental Disability
Council

SEEC Participants Give Thanks

Your contributions make opportunities like these possible for SEEC participants.



Swimming is both recreational and therapeutic for Joseph.



Job Club activities help Cris identify options.



Working out at the gym helps Elmer build endurance.



Jeff loves to bowl at Strike Bethesda.



Waid and Amy enjoy the great outdoors.



SEEC is appreciative of the contributions and donations made by members of our community. If you have made a contribution during this time period and your gift is not acknowledged above, please contact Cathy Dirksen at 301-576-9043 so we may correct our records.

Gifts Made in Memory of Samuel Weintraub

Ricardo Aldama, Ramon & Mercedes Bakalchuck, Jeff & Jennie Bernstein, Clara and Israel Berens, Anita Bigelman, Terry & Evelyn Blanks, Gil Bonwitt, Michael & Denise Cetta, Jill Cork, Reinaldo Costa, Rebeca & Jack Delaster, David & Beth Ertel, Jose & Raquel Esquenazi, Abram & Marta Gavcovich, Michael Glinsky & Co., Marcos & Emilia Grabb, Martin & Shirley Greenbaum, Michael & Roberta Higer, Mollie & Marc Kallen, Ivy Kaplan, Sara & Rafael Kapustin, Michele Kelemen, Peter Klein, Phyllis & Jerry Korman, Wendy Krantz, Riven & Mary Kratz, Lidia & Moises Kriger, Paul Kruss, Don & Judy Levan, Lawrence & Nancy Levin, Vaccaro & Montes Lidsky, Hector Llevant, The Lusky Family, Maria & Pedro Marques, Gary & Ariela Mars, Dori Maya, Jonathan & Elise Mayer, Carl & Sherry Migdail, Cheryl Morris, Evelyn Nevett, Oscar & Marta Olchyk, Zippora & Mark Orland, Marla Parvey, Sarita Parvey, Hilda & Bernard Peljovich, Karen & J. Nevett Post, Beth Redlich, Carina Rodriguez, Frank & Miriam Rudman, Laya Seghi, Deborah Serbin, Rupert Seymour-Newton, Vivian Silverberg, Lisa Tobin, Michael & Leslie Tobin, Lorna & John Ulmer, Emily Waldman, Garnet Watchorn, David & Elena Weck, Murray & Ursula Weil, Alma Weintraub, Rebecca & Amiel Weisfogel, Sergio & Rosa Zelcer. (These memorial contributions total more than \$7,500.)

Samuel Weintraub was born in Havana, Cuba. He attended Yeshiva in Brooklyn and married his wife Alma in Israel. For more than 40 years the couple lived in Florida where he was a real estate developer. He was a generous man, filled with love and intellectual curiosity, who gave from the heart to many causes. He is survived by Alma, his wife of 46 years, his brother Moises, his children Avi, Miriam and her husband, Steve Blanks, and Henry and his wife Susan. He was the beloved grandfather to three grandchildren. We are grateful to the Weintraub family and his friends for honoring Samuel's life through donations to SEEC.

BACKpage

Save The Date SEEC's 20th Anniversary Gala Thursday April 17, 2008

Leslie and Samuel Kaplan, chairs of our Gala Committee, invite you to join us for a one-of-kind celebration to honor two decades of SEEC's community-based supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



The event honors Congressman **Chris Van Hollen**, a former member of SEEC's Board of Directors and stalwart advocate for people with developmental disabilities, both as a member of the Montgomery County Council, and now as Congressman for the State of Maryland.

Entertainment will be provided by award-winning actress and singer, **Julia Nixon**, who recently released her widely-acclaimed CD, *"Keeping on Track,"* which she debuted in November at a Lincoln Theater concert. Julia will sing her new releases as well as tunes from her performances in *"Ain't Misbehaving,"* classic R&B hits, and stunning ballads in her incredible 4 1/2 octave voice. She will be accompanied by the irrepresible pianist **Dave Ylvisaker**.



Enjoy cocktails, dinner, great entertainment, and a silent

auction at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Thursday April 17, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Break into Spring with this Gala, and have fun supporting a great cause! Reservations can be made after January 15 at www.seeconline.org or by responding to the invitation you will receive by mail. For more information, call Cathy Dirksen at 301-576-9043

SEEC Salons Are Coming!

We are in full planning mode for the 2008 SEEC Salons Season. This year, our Salon events will be held over a period of three months beginning with a Mardi Gras party in February and culminating in a sensational celebration of SEEC's 20th Anniversary.

This is our ninth season of hosting these unique fundraising events held in the homes and businesses of SEEC supporters and friends. This year we will repeat some of our most popular salons, including a wine tasting, American Girl® tea, hands-on cooking demonstration and feast, and more.

Look for your invitation to these events in your mail in January or visit www.seeconline.org after January 15.



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www.seeconline.org

Helping people with developmental disabilities achieve The American Dream.