

To Benefit The Arc.
of Bergen & Passaic

April 29, 2025

White Beeches Golf & Country Club

Haworth, MJ





To benefit The Arc.
of Bergen & Passaic

Sicilian Family Charitable Trust **Event Sponsor**



Cocktail Reception

FEATURING A SELECTION OF HORS D'OEUVRES

Prepared by Chef David Cohen

White Beeches Golf & Country Club, Haworth, NJ

Paired with Prima Perla Prosecco, Treviso, Italy ,2023

Amuse Bouche

Prepared by Chef David Cohen
White Beeches Golf & Country Club, Haworth, NJ

First Course

Burrata and Truffle Stuffed "Candy Pasta"

Served with Parmigiano Fondue

Prepared by Chef CLAUDIA ROVEGNO

From Scratch, Ridgewood, NJ

Paired with Château d'Esclans Whispering Angel Rosé, France, 2024

Second Course

STEELHEAD TROUT WITH MITAKE MUSHROOMS, ASPARAGUS,
SORREL CREAM, FARRO AND SPRING ONION
Prepared by Chef CONOR BROWNE
Lula, Ridgewood, NJ
Paired with Paul Hobbs CrossBarn
Sonoma Coast Chardonnay, California, 2023

Third Course

BRAISED BEEF SHORT RIB IN A RED WINE REDUCTION SAUCE
OVER PUREED SWEET POTATO AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES

Prepared by Chef CRAIG CHOMSKY

Craig's Kitchen, Waldwick, NJ

Paired with Black Stallion Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, California, 2022

Dessert Course

TOASTED ALMOND SEMIFREDDO WITH A
CHERRY BOURBON SAUCE AND SALTED ALMOND BRITTLE

Prepared by Chef JENNIFER MAIS

Palma, New York, NY

Paired with Araciel Malbec, Argentina, 2023



Shining Stars Dinner Gala Committee

Co-Chairs

Chena Dederian Norman Mais

Committee Members

Andy Gatto
Nader Ashway
Frank Biasi
John J. Corcoran
Jackie Smithson
G. Thomas Croonquist, Jr.

Mike Dawson Nicholas Donato, Jr. David Cohen Christine Martinez Gayle Scirocco John Scirocco

The Arc Representatives

Marianne Balazs Kathy Walsh

Tonight was made possible through the expertise, generosity and tireless efforts of the Committee.

The Arc is grateful for their support!

Program



John Corcoran

Master of Ceremonies

Welcome

Chena Dederian, Co-Chair Shining Stars Dinner Gala Committee

Video

Kathy Walsh, President/CEO
The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties

Shining Stars Project

7estimonial Carolyn Hayer

Musical Performance
Moses Choi

Live Auction

Thank You to the Chefs

Norman Mais, Co-Chair Shining Stars Dinner Gala Committee

Music by Harpist Merynda Adams

Cocktail Reception and Amuse Bouche



Chef David Cohen White Beeches Golf and Country Club

Our host for the evening, David Cohen has been generous with his kitchen, his time and his expertise in bringing the 2025 Shining Stars Dinner Gala to fruition. Chef David is an experienced executive and personal chef specializing in American, Italian, French and Asian cuisines. Chef David is a graduate of Johnson and Wales University's Culinary Arts program with over 25 years cooking experience. With many years as a personal and executive chef, his resume includes Montammy Golf Club and Essex Fells Country Club here in NJ. He joined White Beeches Golf and Country Club in Spring 2024 and serves as their executive chef.



Born in Rome, Claudia Rovegno learned to cook from her grandmother starting at the young age of five. She then honed her skills at her family's restaurant in Italy. Chef Rovegno moved to the States and began cooking and selling authentic Italian food which she delivered to on-line purchasers. The business took off and she opened her restaurant "From Scratch" in Ridgewood. Her restaurant features many of the same recipes she learned as a child. "My idea always was to have a very small place where I could spoil my customers with all my grandma's recipes." She wants her customers to come into her restaurant and feel like they are in her home and in Italy. Everything is made, naturally, from scratch, in-house. Most of her ingredients are imported from Italy and what isn't, she purchases from local farms.



Chef Claudia Rovegno From Scratch



Conor Browne's training began at the International Culinary Center in NYC. He refined his craft under James Beard Award-winning chef Jonathan Waxman and Ginger Pierce at Jams in NYC, where he learned the art of ingredient-driven, seasonal cooking. His culinary evolution continued at Turtle+The Wolf in Montclair, one of the top restaurants in NJ. He played a key role in launching Felina in Ridgewood, another top-ranked NJ dining destination, where he worked with renowned chef Anthony Bucco. Chef Conor lead the kitchen at St. Eve's in Ho-Ho-Kus before setting out to fulfill a lifelong dream-opening Lula. Inspired by his love for family, community, and great food, Lula is the culmination of his experience, blending refined culinary expertise with a welcoming, neighborhood feel.



Chef Conor Browne Lula





Chef Craig Chomsky Craig's Kitchen

Craig Chomsky is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park New York. After graduating top of his class, he spent a year in Tuscany, Italy studying and working on his craft. Inspired by his father's love of food and cooking, Chef Craig knew since the age of five that the world of food would be his life's passion. This passion led to the creation of Craig's Kitchen where Chef Craig presents high end catering and cuisines of all kind. Each private event gets its own custom menu based on client's food preferences and dietary restrictions. Chef Craig makes fresh sourdough bread weekly and Craig's Kitchen also does weekly healthy meal prep for pick up every Sunday.





Chef Jennifer Mais Palma

Jennifer Mais has had a long-standing passion for pastry. Creating delicious and satisfying confections is an artistic, as well as a culinary endeavor. With a Master's Degree as a Physician's Assistant, Chef Mais worked in the medical profession while going back to school to study the culinary arts and hone her pastry skills. Her talents were soon recognized and after a short stint at the Craft House she was hired as the Pastry Chef at Rails Steak House where she developed a reputation for delicious house-made creations. This led to a position working with the pastry chef in the kitchen at the prestigious Per Se in New York until the pandemic. Now, as the pastry chef of Palma, Jennifer Mais' creativity inspires each delicious confection.

Audio Visual Sponsor

Scirocco

Family

Thank You!



GROUP HOME KITCHEN PROJECT

Help The Arc to renovate the kitchen in one of our homes so that the residents and staff have a nice, functional place with proper storage where they can cook together. We started the fund here last year, let's complete it tonight!



Be a Shining Star by donating to the renovation fund tonight. Opportunities available at the Raffle/Auction Table.

Golden Ticket Raffle A Night to Remember



Sebastain Maniscalco: It Ain't Right
September 26, 2025 at 9 pm
Section 1, Row JJ, Seats 1-2

Two Tickets for Performance and \$250 American Express Gift Card for Dinner and an Overnight Stay at Ocean Casino Resort, Atlantic City

RAFFLE TICKETS \$100 FOR 1 TICKET \$350 FOR 5 TICKETS \$500 FOR 10 TICKETS

Donated By Nick Donato & John & Gayle Scirocco

Ocean Casino Resort, 500 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08401



The Arc...

Helping children and adults with disabilities to achieve their dreams.

The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties is a private, not for profit 501 (c) 3 organization for individuals with disabilities such as autism, down syndrome and cerebral palsy and their families.

The first organization of its kind in NJ, The Arc has been serving the Bergen and Passaic communities for over 75 years.

Services are available for children and adults spanning from birth through the senior years and are also there to help their families along the way. Programs operate in over 20 locations throughout the two county area.





Thank You

For Helping The Arc To Annually Assist Over 1,400 Children and Adults With Disabilities and Their Families

Your Support Helps...

Infants and Toddlers Receive Early Intervention Services

> Adults Participate In Adult Day Programs

Adults Receive

Vocational Training &

Supported Employment

Children and Adults Participate In **Summer Camp & Recreation**

Families Receive
Family Support, Respite & Advocacy

Adults Live In

Group Homes & Apartments



John and Gayle Scirocco

are proud to support the wonderful work of



and the dedicated workers who make it all possible

Thank you to all who attended tonight for your support.



Michael and Donna Sicilian Congratulate



On Another Great Evening

Thank you to all of
The Arc Team
for what they do for our
Residents day in and day out.



Dinner Course Sponsor

Bettina Daly And Don Strangfeld

Thank You To The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties for all you do to serve our community!





Special Thanks To This Year's

CHEFS, SPONSORS

AND

DINNER COMMITTEE

Andy and Susan Gatto





Bici Restaurant Chena Dederian and Kevin Curtin Claudia Rovegno Conor Browne Craig Chomsky David Burke Donato Financial Group Carmen and Gina Pagnozzi

Thank You!



Auction & Raffle Donors

Hector and Christine Martinez

John and Gayle Scirocco

Lula Restaurant

Nick Donato, Jr.

Ora Restaurant, Tom Silvestri

Primola Restaurant, Giuliano Zuliani

White Beeches Golf and Country Club

Saddle River Inn

Thank You!

About Our Speakers & Performers

Moses Choi



Moses has been a beloved member of The Arc's residential community since 2020, when he joined our Dumont Supervised Apartment Program. Known for his warm personality and remarkable memory — he never forgets a name — Moses brings joy to every Arc event. He builds Independence and skills at his day program. An avid tennis player, Moses proudly represents his community in the Special Olympics. His passion for music is

just as strong — he's been taking weekly piano lessons for years and loves nothing more than sharing his music. Moses's enthusiasm, determination, and kind spirit are an inspiration to all who know him.



Carolyn Hayer is the parent of an adult with autism. She has been working personally and professionally as an advocate for over thirty years. Carolyn is the Past Chair of The Arc's Board of Trustees and a current Board member. She is the Executive Director of SPAN, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network. She is also the Director of the Center for Parent Information and Resources, assisting parent centers

CAROLYN HAYER



across the country. Carolyn speaks with passion about the experience of being the parent of a child with a developmental disability. She is a tireless advocate for services for individuals and supports for their families. Carolyn knows first-hand the important work of The Arc in furthering this goal.



Together, let's continue to make a meaningful difference.

Bergen Linen is proud to support The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties.





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We support the ARC with all our hearts.





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Photography Is Art:

"My World Through a Lens"

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT DURING THE COCKTAIL HOUR.

IT WAS OUR PLEASURE TO

SHARE WITH YOU THIS UNIQUE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE CREATED BY OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

Featuring Photography By:

Abdul Shehu, Theresa Basile, Donna Pecoraro, Maria Arguello, Marcela Oquendo, Mary Riley, Sarah Rothman, Barbara Dean, Mary Hutchinson, John Grove, Siobhan Reeves, Dominic Linder,

Chad Ramcharan & Rickie Ramos

The Arc



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ADULT DAY SERVICES PHOTOGRAPH CLUB
AND IS SUPPORTED WITH A GRANT FROM
THE ROTARY CLUB OF HACKENSACK.

The Arc





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Wish The Arc
Continued Success



Chena Dederian

For her Leadership,
Expertise and Extraordinary Effort in
bringing us the 2025
Shining Stars Dinner Gala

You are our Shining Star!

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White Beeches Golf and Country Club



Proud Supporter And Host Of The Shining Stars Dinner Gala

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