

**making a difference**

## Two River Hill Residents Receive Honors for Their Work in the Community

Jill Oletsky and Rob Freedman are two longtime River Hill residents who share not only the same neighborhood, but also a love for giving back to community. Both Jill and Rob are being honored by the Jewish Federation of Howard County at their annual Fed Live! awards dinner and reception this coming June.

Jill has a long history of working to help others. Her work as an HR Manager in the Employee Relations department at Verizon afforded her the opportunity to help those going through struggles in the work place, and her work heading the Chesed Committee at Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia, MD affords her ongoing opportunities to help members of the congregation who are sick, bedridden, hospitalized or going through financial difficulties. After retiring from Verizon, Jill was looking for ways to spend more time volunteering, something that has always been very important to her. "I grew up with 'tzedakah' in my family where you help others and don't look for acknowledgement. You simply do for others and don't expect acknowledgement. I feel good about myself when I help others, whether I know them or not," said Jill. So the Rabbi at Beth Shalom suggested that Jill would be good fit to head up the Chesed Committee. Jill has been heading the Chesed Committee for three years, and over that time she has organized countless outreach initiatives and has impacted scores of families and individuals in need. Jill will soon be transitioning to a new role at Beth Shalom where she will be able to serve the congregation on an even larger level. The Jewish Federation is honoring Jill with the 2016 Community Builder Award.

Rob Freedman is a successful commercial real estate broker and Senior Vice President at Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL). Rob, a quintessential cheerleader, said he believes his gift of giving lies in working behind the scenes to create ways to encourage others to get involved in community and have fun doing it. "I'm the guy that tries to think of something you can do that's fun and leads to good," said Rob. According to Rob, he first began looking for ways to get involved in community back in 2006 when he joined Leadership Howard County. Leadership Howard County (LHC) provides a forum where members can learn about emerging challenges in the county, create networks of business and community leaders, and participate in meaningful community service. Many of Rob's service engagements have grown organically through existing relationships or community connections. Rob noted being particularly proud of his work with 24 Hours of Booty in Columbia, a 24 hour, charity bike race that raises money for the Ulman Cancer Fund. Rob organized a team of riders made of members from Temple Isaiah in Fulton and the Jewish Federation of How-



Jill volunteering to build a salon in Ashkelon, Israel



Jill with Beth Shalom Rabbi, Susan Grossman



Rob with co-volunteer Mike Cline at 24 Hours of Booty Charity Bike Ride

ard County, and they called the team "The Booty Tribe". The Booty Tribe raised over \$10,000 in their first year of riding. Rob is a member of Temple Isaiah, and he volunteers with several initiatives that not only support the Temple, but also send funds to support community organizations like Grassroots, Dream Builders and HopeWorks. All in all, Rob has volunteered with (mostly in leadership capacities and for multiple years at a time) an impressive nine local nonprofits. The Jewish Federation is honoring Rob with the 2016 Business Professional Award.

Congratulations to Jill and Rob, we applaud their service and their dedication to community!

The Jewish Federation of Howard County Presents

Fed Live!  
★ stars & ★  
**STRIPES**  
featuring The Capitol Steps

**The Capitol Steps LIVE**  
in HOWARD COUNTY

**Thursday, June 9, 2016**  
Doors open 7:00 pm  
Show begins at 7:30 pm

**Give for Good Live Auction  
to Benefit the Jewish Federation**

Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center,  
Howard Community College

**Tickets are \$50**  
JewishHowardCounty.org/CapitolSteps  
410-730-4976

"They're the best! There's no one like them, no one in their league."  
Larry King, CNN

Always fresh and crispy, right from the headlines!

 