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**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT****JCC SoCo | Friendship Circle**

*June 2026*

Dear Friends of Friendship Circle,

We are writing to share an important update about our beloved Friendship Circle program.

After five years of extraordinary leadership, Friendship Circle Program Director Sandy Andresen will be retiring effective June 30, 2026. Sandy came to us with this decision, and while we will miss her enormously, we respect and fully support her choice. She stepped into this role and gave it everything — guiding the program during COVID and its aftershocks, preserving the core programming that has made Friendship Circle meaningful to so many people for 40 years, and caring deeply for every member of this community along the way. We are profoundly grateful for her service and wish her all the best in this well-deserved next chapter.

Looking forward, Friendship Circle has the full backing and support of the JCC SoCo Board of Directors, and we are committed to ensuring it continues to thrive. We are currently redesigning the program's staffing structure to build a more sustainable and layered model of support — one that will serve this community for the next 40 years, not just the next few. We are already building toward that future, with an active search for a Program Coordinator currently underway.

In the meantime, JCC SoCo Executive Director Heather Muntzer is directly overseeing the program. We have prepared answers to questions we anticipate you may have, which you'll find below.

With deep gratitude,

Heather Muntzer,  
*Executive Director*

Deborah Burg-Schnirman  
*Board President*



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Friendship Circle Program Transition

**Is the Friendship Circle closing? No.**

Friendship Circle is not closing. The program has the full backing and support of the JCC SoCo Board of Directors and will continue operating. Sandy's retirement marks a leadership transition, not the end of the program.

**Will programming continue this summer and into the fall? Yes.**

Programming will continue. Sandy and the Advisory Committee have already completed the calendar for the next three months and Heather Muntzer, JCC SoCo's Executive Director, will directly oversee these events, and the program during this transition.

**Why isn't JCC SoCo hiring a direct replacement for Sandy?**

Because we believe Friendship Circle deserves more than a direct replacement — it deserves an integrated staffing model designed for today's funding and programming landscape. We are taking this moment of transition as an opportunity to think carefully about how to build a structure that is sustainable, resilient, and gives the program the broadest possible support. We are already in motion: an open search for a Program Coordinator is currently underway, and we will share more as our planning develops.

**Who is in charge of the program right now? Heather Muntzer, Executive Director of JCC SoCo,**

is directly overseeing Friendship Circle during this transition. She is accessible and committed to this program's continuity. She is fully supported by her Board of Directors, including Board President Deborah Burg-Schnirman and the board's Friendship Circle liaison Barry Sovel.

**When will new staff be in place? We have already begun.**

An open search for a Friendship Circle Program Coordinator is currently underway, and we are working toward a fuller staffing structure within the next year. We will keep our community informed as plans develop.

**How can I support Friendship Circle during this transition? The best thing you can do is stay engaged! Attend programs.**

Spread the word. And if you are in a position to make a financial contribution to help sustain the program during this transition, we welcome your support. Please reach out to Heather Muntzer or Barry Sovel (see below).

**How do I stay informed about updates?**

Check our weekly eNews for updates as we will share updates through our regular JCC SoCo communications channels.

You can also contact us directly:

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