



**March 2018**

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**MayFest 2018**

**Monday, May 21, 2018**

**Walk This Way**

**Sunday,**

**September 23, 2018**

**Celebrating**

**Sara Koffman**

**Steven Rubenstein  
Memorial Scholarship  
Application Deadline**

**Forest Springs Update**

**Forest Springs  
Wish List**

## Celebrating Sara Koffman

As Sara prepares to leave Construct's board, we sat down with her for a chat about what brought her to Construct. Through our conversation, we got to know Sara, and her sensitivity to others' struggles was apparent. It was both heartwarming and inspirational to learn about her community involvement. Volunteering became her avocation, passion and eventually her profession.



Sara Koffman

Sara's drive to make a difference in the community did not waiver and continued for 61+ years. Her compassion to give back to the community was obvious; whether it was from the 1970's, until recently working with Israel's vulnerable population by helping students of all backgrounds receive college scholarships based on a criteria of financial need, academic ability and community service. Sara served on NY State Council of the Arts for over 12 years, she founded and was administrator for an organization that worked with a NY City public high school to provide tutors, mentors and financial assistance for teacher projects and student emergency funds. Sara has served on a variety of Boards, finally landing with Construct in 2014, to help achieve its goals with fund raising and public relations.



Sara with her husband Richard and Ira and Shirley Yohalem

Celebrating Sara continues on page 2



## OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

**Deborah and Bill Ryan**

**The Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick Trust**

**Iredale Mineral Cosmetics,**

**Jane Iredale and Robert Montgomery**



Webb Wealth Management Group



**Wealth  
Management**

# Celebrating Sara Continued

## Board of Directors

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Elizabeth Rosenberg

### VICE PRESIDENT

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Evan Hardcastle

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John James

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Mark Rosengren

Deborah Ryan

Anne Schnesel

Elaine Silberstein

Susie Weekes Roeder

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jane Ralph

Many years ago, she and other housewives in their community felt they were more capable than some of the professionals sent to their community by national organizations. On a dare, Sara applied to and was accepted by the New School in NYC to study fundraising and management of not-for-profit organizations. The Master's degree she acquired, along with years of experience, helped her achieve all she has in the subsequent years. She never asked for a salary for her work. The satisfaction she received, knowing she helped change lives for the better, has been her best reward. As she has retired now, Sara will miss not only the excitement of planning and achieving goals but she says, people who care about strangers make the best friends and the people who work for Construct, who volunteer and sit on its Board are the best of the best and she shall miss them all.

Construct will miss Sara as well, she has been an incredible asset to the board, staff and clients. We wish Sara the best and welcome her to the President's Advisory Council.

## Forest Springs Update

The construction at Forest Springs, 316 State Road , Great Barrington is moving along on schedule. The 3 buildings are up, roofs are on, siding is being installed, kitchen and bathrooms are being plumbed and the electrical fixtures are being wired in. It is beginning to look like a desirable place to live. Tenants will be moving in on April 1. Construct will be hosting an open house after Construct's Annual meeting on Wednesday, June 20.

There are still opportunities for you to underwrite expenses for Forest Springs:

- 1) Dishwashers for accessible units
- 2) Plant materials for landscaping
- 3) Vegetable plants, top soil, fertilizer, garden hose, lumber and materials to construct raised vegetable beds
- 4) A swing set / jungle gym set



## Construct awards Scholarship Honoring Steven Rubenstein

This Scholarship opportunity has been provided by Kenneth and Francine C. Rubenstein in memory of their son, Steven Rubenstein, who was a professor of Anthropology and Director of the Research Institute for Latin American Studies at Liverpool University (UK).

Students who are studying in the fields of human services, anthropology, environmental science, women's studies or Latin American studies are encouraged to apply, as are those whose college studies will prepare them for work in the world that will help improve the lives of others who live in poverty, and/or create a more just and peaceful world.

The Steven Rubenstein Scholarship application is available on line at :[www.constructinc.org](http://www.constructinc.org), or stop in to Construct offices at 41 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, between 8—4.

**For more information about Steven and his accomplishments visit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven\\_Rubenstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Rubenstein)**



Steven in Macas, Ecuador in  
1988



*Last year's scholarship  
winner Kelsey Netzer  
with her mom*



Steven Rubenstein

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## WALK THIS WAY 2018

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**

**Start Point:** : Ski Butternut

**End Point :** Great Barrington Fair Grounds

**Registration :** 12:30

**WALK Starts :** 1:00



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## Construct's Mission Statement

To change and save lives through housing options and a continuum of related services



Construct Inc.

41 Mahaiwe Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**SAVE THE DATE !!!**  
**Construct Presents**  
**MAYFEST 2018**

**An Evening of Food and Wine Tastings to Benefit Construct**

**Monday, May 21st**

**Crissey Farm, Great Barrington, MA**

**5:30- 8:30. Tickets \$95.00**



**THANK YOU TO OUR MAYFEST SUPPORTERS TO DATE**

**Barbara and Roger Manring**

**Michael Alper and Bruce Moore**

**Shirley and Ira Yohalem**

**Elaine and Ben Silberstein**

**Elizabeth and Eugene Rosenberg**