



THE NICHOLAS CENTER AND LANDMARK ON MAIN STREET *Celebrate* IMPACTFUL LIFE

Submitted by Lee Anne Vetrone
Photos by The Nicholas Center

THE NICHOLAS CENTER (TNC) AND LANDMARK ON MAIN STREET partnered to host a community screening of the documentary "Life, Animated."

Taking place as part of the Conversations from Main Street series and sponsored by the Angela and Scott Jagger Foundation, the event brought together community leaders to explore neurodiversity and paths to independence. The event coincided with the start of Autism Awareness Month in April.

The evening featured the film followed by a personal panel discussion featuring TNC Regional Programming Director Brooke Mellett, self-advocate Robert Valli, sibling advocate Cory Levine, and School Board Member Sandra Alvarez. The panelists shared diverse perspectives on the importance of community-integrated spaces and the vital role of local support networks.

The discussion highlighted the "scaffolding" provided by The Nicholas Center to assist individuals as they transition from school at age 22 into the community and workforce. By focusing on an individual's passions rather than a diagnosis, the panel explored how to bridge the gap between school-age services and a fulfilling adult life.

"The story of "Life, Animated" proves that every individual has a voice; we just have to learn the right language to hear it," said Nicole Ferrara, executive director of The Nicholas Center. "The meaningful dialogue sparked last night reinforces that Port Washington is ready to lead the way in creating a truly inclusive community."



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