



## **MENTORING BRUNCH 2015**

**Lil Arbogast**

Chairperson

**Elana Oppenheim**

Co-Chairperson

**Jodi Schaiman**

Co-Chairperson

**Elana Oppenheim**

Masters of Ceremony

### **SPEAKERS**

**Charlie Renner our Youth Ambassador**

**Justin Farmer**

A university student and active member of the Tourette Association NYC Chapter. Justin would like to pursue advocacy with the environment and individuals with disabilities.

**Jonathan Fried**

An accountant for a law firm in Manhattan. Jonathan is another active member of the Tourette Syndrome Association NYC Chapter.

**Elana Oppenheim**

A part-time student and social worker. Elana has traveled abroad extensively and continues to educate others about TS.

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- *Take a Chance Raffle – Take a chance to win some great prizes*

*We will graciously accept any donations. This event is supported solely by the donations of our members and friends of TS*



### **Justin Farmer**

Justin Farmer is a 21 year old Jamaican American from Hamden, Connecticut. He was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in 2012 after displaying a number of symptoms for a few years. He first became aware that something was different about him during his sophomore year in school and decided to read the DSM-IV to determine what the cause of his peculiarity was. Eventually, he was able to find the Yale Child Study Center where he was diagnosed with TS. He has had to repeatedly fight with his school for accommodations and his symptoms have been mistakenly identified as a Seizure Disorder, Autism, and even violent juvenile delinquency which once resulted in his removal from the school by police in handcuffs. To this day, police sirens and flashing lights remain triggers for his tics. Eventually, Justin sought out lawyers from the CT State Office of Disability and Advocacy who helped him to find (*and fund*) an alternative high school which better understood his medical challenges and were better able to foster his skills. He is currently a student at Southern Connecticut State University and has gone through the process of getting accommodations from four different universities. He is interested in pursuing a lifelong interest in a career in marine biology but has more recently also considered a career in advocacy, possibly for the environment or the rights of the disabled.

### **Jonathan Fried**

Jonathan Fried was diagnosed at 11 with Tourette Syndrome. He obtained his bachelor's degree in computer science after high school and worked in IT for several years. Later, he became a high school math teacher while attending grad school. Jonathan recently got a second bachelor's in accounting and now works in the accounting department at a law firm. Some of his interests include, karate, which he has practiced for four years, biking, exercising, fiction and science books, drawing, and helping others.

### **Elana Oppenheim**

Elana Oppenheim was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at age 6. Later, she was diagnosed with co-morbid OCD and sensory processing issues. Elana obtained her bachelor's degree in Spanish and sociology at SUNY Buffalo and later acquired her Master's degree in Social Work. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe and South America. She currently is a part-time student at CUNY Baruch pursuing a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration. Elana has the aspiration to be an advocate for American and international students with disabilities in a higher education setting. Some of her interests include studying foreign languages, traveling, salsa dancing and spending time with family and friends.

### **Charlie Renner**

Charlie is a 15 year old sophomore at Millennium High School. He is an avid soccer player and plays for both his high school varsity team and his club team. He enjoys filmmaking and editing and has made a variety of short films/YouTube videos.

 **Tourette Association of America**  
New York City Chapter

