

Jewish Social Services of Madison CONNECTIONS

Newsletter Sponsored by the Anna & Oscar Bentley Fund

Fall 2002, Vol. 2, No. 2

Sharon has fun every day, but Sundays are for you.



Sharon Kessel To Know Her Is to Love Her

BY BARBARA SPIERER AND STACY SCHIFF

If you spend a Sunday with Sharon, you could get to meet half of Madison. Sharon Kessel, 33, is a young woman with a developmental disability who loves to go places, do things, and help others. She is so outgoing that, wherever she goes, she seems to run into a friendly, familiar face.

Sharon has had a supported job at the Wisconsin Clearing House for twelve years and also works at Arby's. As a singer in the Special Arts Choir, she's performed at the Governor's Mansion. She's spent many summers assisting at Camp Shalom, takes classes at the Y and has competed in Special Olympics. It's no wonder lots of people know and like her!

Sharon's two devoted parents, Leah and Raymond, with whom she lives, go out of their way to include Sharon in every outing that they possibly can. However, with the family business, Calabash Gifts, and Raymond's responsibilities at the University, it is beneficial to them and enriching for Sharon to spend

time with other people. So that's why Jewish Social Services became involved.

Kessel family friend Judy Rothschild first thought of the idea of *Sundays with Sharon*. Here's how it works: JSS volunteer Betty Bodenheimer schedules a network of couples and individuals who sign on to spend a few hours with Sharon on a Sunday every few months. They don't necessarily plan special activities. Grocery shopping, getting the car washed, or visiting with friends of the volunteer are all fun for Sharon. Lunch at a restaurant, a free concert or hanging out on the Union Terrace, however, are wonderful treats!

"Sharon is playful, social, cooperative, enthusiastic, and a pleasure to spend time with," says Sheila Cohen, another JSS volunteer and family friend. With a wide smile, she tells us that Sharon loves people – and it's easy to see why we love her.

Sharon's world gets a little larger with each new person she meets. Yours can, too, by joining her for a delightful Sunday. Please contact Stacy Schiff, JSS Volunteer Coordinator at 278-1808 or stacyjss@mjcc.net.



inside

In Sickness and in Health 2

Donor Connection 2

Tribute Donors 3-4

Russian Corner 5

Vehicle Donors 6

Make Me A Match

Stacy Schiff, who has her master's degree in counseling psychology, is the woman behind the scenes who makes a lot happen at JSS. She is both cheerful and super-organized, and has a knack for deploying 500 volunteers of all ages and ilks into jobs from rides, meals and visits for the sick to baking sponge cakes for the Senior Seder.

Besides her professional credentials, we believe she's so good at matching people's interests and personalities because she herself has done so much as a volunteer – Big Sister, crisis hotline worker, literacy tutor, hospice aide, theater usher, phone bank fundraiser, tea hostess, and companion to developmentally disabled adults. Stacy was nominated Civilian Volunteer of the Year in 2002 for her work at the Wisconsin Air National Guard Family Support and Readiness Unit.

Her philosophy is, "I know what it's like, and I treat people like I would like to be treated." So next time you receive a phone call or e-mail from her, keep in mind, she might just have your best interests at heart.



“In Sickness and In Health”

For their 45th wedding anniversary recently, Don Levy wrote a long love letter to his wife Adele.

Don, 67, a retired executive, has undergone two different surgeries on his brain within the last six months. Adele, a full-time teacher, is his caregiver.

While their story is unique, Adele’s feelings and frustrations are not. Her life has been turned upside down, though she appears to take things gracefully in stride. She has forged an uphill battle with the medical establishment, has mastered the finances, worries about Don’s health and faces an uncertain future.

Don’s diagnosis took years, and he almost died twice. “It was so wearing,” recalls Adele, “because Don and the doctors were just waiting for emergencies.” She decided to become the expert on Don’s problems, find her own solutions and take on the role of Don’s advocate.

Last summer, the Levys took dramatic measures and moved to a rented apartment in downtown Chicago so Don could get the specialized surgery and rehabilitation he needed. Adele was stranded from home and friends, and she had to take over

November is National Caregivers Month. JSS honors all our clients who do this important work and thanks Don and Adele for offering to share their personal story with our readers.

the finances, which were being depleted every day. “I was scared to death,” she says.

“Don was always in control, then I had to be in control, and I was very thankful that Don let me be in control.” The shift in power is often a source of conflict and guilt when a child or spouse becomes a caregiver.

JSS Associate Executive Director Barbara Spierer worked with them. “Caregivers need the Three R’s – reassurance, respite and resources, and that’s what we tried to give Adele and Don.” JSS kept up with them in Chicago, so when Don returned home he had rehab, and Adele had support.

A few weeks later, Don hit his head, causing a clot in his brain, and underwent a second surgery in Chicago. His release happened unexpectedly, but in nearly no time, JSS found someone to be with Don so Adele could go to work the next day.

volunteers whose regular friendly visits break Don’s isolation and depression. “They restored dignity and respect to my life,” he remarks. “I was really down one day and the *bikur cholim* visitor turned me completely around. It was like a ray of sunshine.”

JSS also found a speech therapist who helps retrain Don’s memory. He’s already back to work as a volunteer for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, where he trains organizations like JSS on how to run depression support groups.

Adele has kept her sense of humor while letting nothing stand in her way. “I have my daughter call the doctors and say, ‘This is Dr. Levy.’ She gets the answers right away. They don’t have to know she’s a veterinarian.”

“In sickness and in health” has new meaning for them both. Don says, “Our love has grown and matured.”

JSS co-sponsored a county-wide Day of Renewal for Caregivers on November 15. If you are a caregiver, JSS can help you get through your “36-hour day.” You can also find advice and a caregiver’s manual at www.altc.washington.com/powtools.html.



Adele and Don Levy

Now, Adele says, “It’s a challenge to go to work knowing Don is at home.”

Besides the paid caregivers who help with household tasks, JSS coordinates

Caregivers need the three R’s – reassurance, respite and resources.

— Barbara Spierer

DONOR CONNECTION

Nachas from Nadine

During this season of dreidels and chocolate gelt, it is wonderful that a number of less fortunate children have had Hanukkah gifts thanks to Nadine Shapiro. For many years now, Jeanne Silverberg has honored her late friend by making a donation for this purpose.

How did your donation come to be?

I was on the JSS Board, and it came up that kids needed something for Hanukkah, and I just jumped on it. It was a great thing to keep up.

Why did you choose to give in Nadine’s name?

Nadine was my best friend, and she was the editor of the (MJCC) *Monthly Reporter*. She was close to JSS and made sure JSS had coverage in it. I do it to keep Nadine’s memory alive. Everyone loses great friends and we don’t always have opportunities to do something. I couldn’t think of anything she’d get more joy out of.

What would you like to tell other people about your philosophy?

My husband and I have done lots of little things where there’s a need, and it takes a little to get it going. I’m a rather spontaneous giver. I like to see things done while I’m living. My kids know my contribution mentality. It’s the little things that make the difference, not always the big stuff. We’ve been lucky. Our kids have never wanted at Hanukkah.

Thank You

for Your Tribute Gifts

The following contributions were made between July 26, 2002 and November 7, 2002

IN HONOR OF:

Lillian Abrams
Daniel and Ruth Siegel

Eve Becker
Diane Becker Krasnick and Marc Krasnick

Betty Bodenheimer
Daniel and Ruth Siegel

Ilana Caplan
Brenda P. Caplan

Evelyn Colburn (mother of Barbara Spierer),
speedy recovery
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Rachelle Richardson

Kenneth Colburn
Barbara Spierer

Harry & Joyce Coppel's 52nd
wedding anniversary
Ann Coppel

Bernice Falk
Sylvia F. Epstein

Julie Feldman's marriage
June Klein

Janice Fiksel
Paul and Sophia Moroz

Happy Birthday, Boby Frank
June Klein

Aviva & Ben Gelman
Richard and Sheila Plotkin

Al Goldstein receiving the Manfred Swarsensky
Humanitarian Award from Madison Rotary
Mark and Ilene Laufman

Marriage of Louise Goldstein & Bruce
Thomadsen
Tillie Mendelson

Sharon & Robert Goldstein
Jane Kapusta

Ruth Goodof's 80th Birthday
Paul and Andrea Miller

Helen Grabow 80th Birthday
Aleen Grabow

Grandchildren-Deborah Aletha Rudin and
Maxim David Lando
Adrienne Borisy-Gross and Jerrold Gross

Ann's birthday September 12th
Ann Gusinow

Maria Hansen's wedding
Michael Gelman

Cindy Hausfeld for her generosity and great
graphics
Irv and Francie Saposnik

My colleagues at JSS
Nancy Dodge and David Watts

In appreciation to JSS
Betty Orman Joseph

Speedy recovery Goldie Kadushin
Paul and Sherry Minkus
Barbara Spierer

Birthday of Jack Kaplan
Richard and Janice Kaplan

Rosa Karlin
Paul Grossberg and Dean Ziemke

Helen & Oscar Karp's 60th anniversary
Eve L. Siegel

Wedding anniversary of Lloyd & Dolores
Kornblatt
Marc and Judith Kornblatt

Abraham Landsman
Caroline Hoffman and Bob Kann

Judith & Lewis Leavitt, new grandson
Jerilyn Goodman

Bettine Lipman's birthday
Lucile and F. Lester Levy

John & Cheryl Lubotsky
Kevin and Sari Schiff

Lauren Meyers & Maria Hansen who led the
bereavement group
Marjorie Winkler

Michael's birthday from Karen
Karen Ostrov

Adam Paschen's Bar Mitzvah
Mark and Judy Paschen

Therma Princer's 92nd Birthday
Mark and Ilene Laufman

50th wedding anniversary of
Joseph & Dorothy Raineri
Jerome and Lois Keisler

Michael Rosenblum, speedy recovery
Barbara Spierer

Barbara Roth & Larry Shapiro marriage
Janice Geimer and John Fenske

Synthia R. Saltoun & Norman L. Sievert
marriage
Sol and Corlie Blumenfeld

Francie Smith Saposnik
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Diane Becker Krasnick and Marc Krasnick
Bobbie and Bill Malone
Daniel and Ruth Siegel

Irv Saposnik, speedy recovery
Kathy and Michael Blumenfeld
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Jeffrey and Judith Kravat
Roberta and James Lazarz
Paul and Sherry Minkus
Steven Morrison and Goldie Kadushin
Rachelle Richardson
Paul and Sherie Sondel
Barbara Spierer
James and Nancy Youngerman

Stacy Schiff
Diane Becker Krasnick and Marc Krasnick

Marsha Seltzer being named director of the
Waisman Center
Barbara Spierer

Marriage of Erica Sharkansky and Larry Isaacson
Ina G. Sharkansky

To acknowledge the gracious hospitality of Jeanne
and Joe Silverberg
Irving Shapiro

Barbara Spierer
Steve and Lillian Abrams
Jane Brotman-Austin and Stephen Austin
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Diane Becker Krasnick and Marc Krasnick
Paul and Sophia Moroz
Gerald and Merle Sternberg

Speedy recovery, Len Steinig
June Klein

Adel Stern
Steve Stern and Florencia Mallon

Miriam Sugarman's 90th birthday
Michael Gelman

Get well and feel better soon, Harry Sweet
Rosalind Levin

Special birthday, Helen Wagner
Florence Sinaiko

Andrea Weiss
Judy and Ben Sidran

IN MEMORY OF:

Janice Abrams
Lucile and F. Lester Levy
Paul and Sherry Minkus
James and Nancy Youngerman

Jonathan Charles Aked
Lillian A. Yatvin

Mildred Bauman
Steven and Karen Bauman

Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

IN MEMORY OF:

- Livia Bergen
Dorit Bergen
Kurt Bergen
Max Becker and Louise Becker
Eve Becker
Liesl Blockstein
Ester Sweeney
Alex Blumenfeld
Barbara Spierer
Lou Bodenheimer
Lowell and Julie Lakritz
Richard Boyar
Shirley Volpiansky
Sylvia Brambir
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Pat Bugenstein
Irving Shapiro
Stanley Cohen
Marsha Cohen and Michael Pressman
Dr. Stuart L. Cohen
Merle Cohen
John Culbertson
Frances Culbertson
Sandra Dutch
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Charlotte Martin
Janice K. Wexler
Robert and Dianne Zimmerman
Howard Eisenberg
Jeanette Frank
Frieda Epstein
Mark and Ilene Laufman
Stanley Felber
Norton and Lois Stoler
Frieda Goidl
Irv and Francie Saposnik
Eli Goldman
Barbara Spierer
Sherry Goldstein
Gerald and Lorraine Borsuk
June and James Dalton
Joan Feldman
Herbert and Sylvia Frank
Jerilyn Goodman
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Charlotte Martin
Jeffrey Martin
David and Sandie Ottenstein
Edward Pickett
Jeanne and Joe Silverberg
Sue Sweet
Harvey Temkin and Barbara Myers Temkin
Avishai Halevy
Amit and Aron Hose
Patricia Mary Johnson
Kathi Johnson Rock and Michael Rock
Helen Kaplan
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Alfred and Sylvia Kadushin
Solomon and Elizabeth Levine
Florence Sinaiko
Miriam Weinstein
Reveta & Alexander Katsnelson
Leonid Katsnelson
Nukhim Kurolapnik
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Abraham Landsman
Irv and Francie Saposnik
Rose Landweber
Lowell and Julie Lakritz
Paul and Sherie Sondel
James and Nancy Youngerman
Mollie Leffler
Richard and Joan Leffler
Josh Lerner
Greg Steinberger and Andrea Lerner
Sol Levin
Jerilyn Goodman
Florence Sinaiko
Dorothy Levy
Harvey Temkin and Barbara Myers
Temkin
Paul Lichtenstein
Judith Lichtenstein
Heidi Lott, DVM, PhD
Sandra Lott
Susan Beth Louis
Denny and Gary Geller
Elaine Marks
Arnold and Evelyn Miller
Edie Newman
Beverly Bassin
Betty Orman-Joseph
T'filla Bensche
Bess Paskin
Judith Nelson-Stern
Miriam & Nathan Pressman
Marsha Cohen and Michael Pressman
Sol & Miriam Rabinowitz
Judy Rabinowitz
Mack Raymond
Aimee Siegler
Fran Richman
Armand Richman
Edith Rissman
Andrea H. Levy
Joe & Dora Roberts
David and Mary Wandel
Samuel & Pauline Rosenthal
Frank Peterson and Judi K-Turkel
Esther Scheinman
David and Rhoda Berman
David Garno
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Cecelia Hiesiger
Richard Horst
Janet F. Kramer
Bessie Sweet
Florence Wetzell
Ben, Benice and Betty Schubert
Annette Howards
Dr. Ben Schulak
Murray and Susan Katcher
Hyman & Rebecca Schuster and Nadine
Schuster Shapiro
Donald and Sue Schuster
John Schuster
Constance Markey
Irma Schwartz Papai
Leslie Shear and Laurel Holgerson
Ruth Seder
Lawrence and Jean Landweber
Mark and Ilene Laufman
Barbara Spierer
Robert Silvers
Robert H. Adams
Michael Bacsai and Patricia Seger
Jeff and Lisa Chottiner
Bill Dodge
Stuart and Marsha Dymzarov
John and Bobbie Everts
Jack Fox
Jerilyn Goodman
Phil and Sharon Granitz
Maureen Griffin and Max Weber
Abraham Landsman
Israel and Faye Rubinstein
Jerry and Nancy St. Clair
Irv and Francie Saposnik
Barbara Spierer
James and Nancy Youngerman
Russell Sinaiko
David and Rhoda Berman
Jerilyn Goodman
James R. Hanaway
Lowell and Julie Lakritz
Mark and Ilene Laufman
Charlotte Martin
Jeffrey Martin
Sara J. Sherkow
Florence Sinaiko
Paul and Sherie Sondel
Emmanuel (the spaniel) Skloot
Judy and Ben Sidran
Ann Smith
Mitchell and Sharon Rapkin
Joyce Stanton
Harriet Stanton
Sherman Stern
Florence Sinaiko
Dr. Boris & Malcka Stern
Jill and Gaspar Gonzalez-Jay
Claire Swartz
Judith Nelson-Stern
Alex Swartz
Beatrice Sweet
Roberta Newberry
Zelda Vigotsky
Sidney Sweet
Joseph Wandel
David and Mary Wandel
Sylvia Wasser
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Steven Morrison and Goldie Kadushin
Irv and Francie Saposnik
Barbara Spierer
Harold & Lillian Weber
Beth Weber
Betty Weinstein
Harriet Brown and James Young

Did you know..?

- Every year JSS distributes almost 50 menorahs to senior care facilities. We could use more volunteers to deliver them and visit with older adults till November 29 (stacyjss@mjcc.net).
- If you want to do a mitzvah on Christmas, holiday volunteers are needed by United Way to package and deliver meals, play games with disabled or elderly people, or work the Red Cross blood drive. See www.uwdc.org or call Stacy Schiff, 278-1808.
- JSS began a new group, Nitgaber, for people with serious illness and disability. Another Bereavement Support Group, co-sponsored with HospiceCare, is forming to begin Wednesday, January 8, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Call Lauren Meyers for more information, 278-1808, ext. 27 (laurenjss@mjcc.net).
- Two volunteer professionals helped JSS plan and conduct workshops at the Caregivers Day of Renewal event: occupational therapist Andrea Kivolowitz and bodyworker/counselor Deborah Wunnicke. Thank you!

Jewish Social Services of Madison

Stefanie Kohn, *President*

Steven Morrison, *Executive Director*

Barbara Spierer, *Associate Executive Director*

Services to Individuals & Families in Stress

Barbara Spierer, LCSW, Ext. 21

Senior Services

Francie Smith Saposnik, LCSW, Ext. 19

Nancy Dodge, LCSW, Ext. 18

Group Programming

Lauren Meyers, MSSW, Ext. 27

Refugee & Immigrant Services

Janice Fiksel, MA, Ext. 17

Volunteer Services

Stacy Schiff, MA, Ext. 26

Vehicle Donations

Sherry Minkus, Ext. 12

Connections

Rachelle Richardson, *Editor*

Christine Pavelko, *Designer*

Maya Garbus, *Translator*

RUSSIAN CORNER

Auto Mechanics

Larry Shapiro has a way with steel, and a heart of gold. His business, Quality Collision Repair and Refinishing, rehabilitates damaged cars. They're pros at smoothing out dents, rebuilding structure or simply spiffing up the paint job so a car maintains its value. Most referrals are from the insurance industry and satisfied customers.



Larry has also made significant volunteer contributions to JSS. During the heydays of Russian resettlement in Madison over the last decade, many people wanted to donate their cars to JSS so that incoming refugees would have transportation. In turn, Larry and his partner wanted to use their skills and contacts to do something for the Jewish refugees.

So whenever a car was donated, Larry explains, "We'd do a safety inspection and make sure the car was safe and roadworthy." JSS notes no repair bills were ever submitted.



JSS still gives away a few cars a year to people who need them, with Larry's generous help. But with Russian resettlement slowing down, it's more efficient for us to sell donated cars to generate cash for JSS programs (see list of donors page 6).

Still, Larry, who used to be a social worker, modestly says, "This is one very, very small way for us to do something to help the new members of the Madison community to improve their lives."

Larry Shapiro has given émigrés freedom to travel and choice of jobs.

Автомеханики

Ларри Шапиро умеет обращаться с металлом. А еще у него золотое сердце. Его фирма «Quality Collision Repair and Refinishing» занимается кузовными работами.

Кроме того, Ларри является волонтером ЕСС. В период расцвета русской эмиграции в Мадисон многие люди безвозмездно отдавали свои автомобили еврейской общине с целью помочь беженцам, обеспечить их транспортом. В свою очередь, Ларри и его партнер решили помогать новоприбывшим тем, чем могли – своими профессиональными знаниями.

Каждый подаренный автомобиль «...проходит инспекцию. Мы должны убедиться в том, что машина исправна и безопасна для владельца», – объясняет Ларри. Еврейская община добавляет, что не получила ни одного счета за починку подаренных автомобилей.

ЕСС, с великодушной помощью Ларри, до сих пор жертвует несколько машин в год людям в них нуждающимся; но в самом со слабом русской эмиграции все более эффективным становится продавать машины и тратить вырученные деньги на другие программы.

Ларри, в прошлом социальный работник, скромно считает, что «это один очень-очень маленький способ помочь новым членам общины улучшить их жизнь».



Create a Moving Experience

Donate Your Old Car, Truck, Boat or Trailer to JSS

Thank you to Vehicle Donors, August 31, 2001 – October 31, 2002

Lend real support to people in need with your tax-deductible contribution of a vehicle in working order. We'll tow it, if necessary. For details, call Sherry Minkus, 278-1808, and have your title ready.

Irv Anders
Jeffrey and Margaret Anders
Annabelle Argand
Marc and Margaret Ast
Paula Bassoff
Allon and Gloria Ben-Ami
Jonathan and Susan Breitzer
Carolyn and Brian Butler
Karen Dana and Gary Cohen
Cherie and Ronald Diamond
Nancy Dodge and David Watts
Miles and Amy Epstein
Robert Fairman
Emma Feyman
Dave Finet
Howard and Debra Fried
David and Debra Friedman
Kathleen Friend and
Armin Sternberg
Laurie Frost and Jeff Nehriques
Les Goldsmith and Dale Kunin
Justin Gottlieb and
Barbara Blodi

Jerrold Gross and
Adrinne Borisy-Gross
Vladimir and Darya Gurevich
Gary and Vicki Gustafson
Galina Guterman
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson
Lori Hawkins
Tom Hecht and Sue Burrows
Jacob Heifetz
Jonathan Heimowitz
Cara Hoffert and Doug Batty
Deborah Hoffman
Mark Idzik
Stephen and Linda Kailin
Michael and Debbie Kanter
Michael Kaplan and
Beverly Richey

Sabah Karimi
Jacqueline Kelley
Steve Klaven and Marija Eisen
Kendra Laabs
Janet Laube
Michael Leaderman
Daniel and Kathy Levin
Laurel B. Mark
Rebecca Minsley and
David Gulisano
Eric Ness
Irving Perlman
Edward Pickett
Evan and Jane Pizer
Quality Collision
Repair & Refinishing
Nancy and David Resnick
James and Estelle Rissman

Michael Rosenblum and
Justine Harris
Jacquelynn B. Rothstein and
Michael Daly
Gary B. Seltzer
Samantha Sheridan
Daniel and Ruth Siegel
Steve Silverberg and
Lisa Gaumnitz
Paul and Sara Soglin
Steven Sperling
David and Judy Suchman
Thomas Sullivan
Clara Sweet
Peter Thompson
Phyllis and Steve Wainger
Colleen Wall
James and Nancy Youngerman
David Zoesch
Alan Zuckerman

*Every donation means a lot to us.
Please excuse us if we've inadvertently
neglected to mention your name.*

Jewish Social Services of Madison
6434 Enterprise Lane
Madison, WI 53719-1117

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, Wis.
Permit No. 1341

Jewish Social Services of Madison

CONNECTIONS

Published by Jewish Social Services of
Madison four times a year



JSS

6434 Enterprise Lane
Madison, WI 53719
Tel (608) 278-1808
Fax (608) 278-7814
E-mail jss@mjcc.net

www.jewishmadison.org/JSS



Affiliated with the
Association of Jewish Family &
Children's Agencies

*Please remember
JSS in your year-end
charitable donations*