

CONNECTIONS

Jewish Social Services of Madison

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Winter 2003, Vol. 2, No. 3

Dozens of volunteers went hand in hand or hand to paw with Lillian, Sarah and even Buttercup this summer

Lillian Yatvin and Sarah Aked JSS is "Sweetness Shared Onward"

BY STACY SCHIFF, M.A., JSS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



A year ago Lillian Yatvin and her husband Jonathan Aked faced an overwhelming plight, battling cancer at the same time. Tragically, Jonathan passed away, leaving Lillian and their daughter Sarah, then 11, with the heartache of grieving and sharing a household just for two.

Lillian enjoyed a brief remission, then the cancer returned last summer. Now alone, her life became a myriad of treatments while she tried to continue going to work and maintaining Sarah's school and summer camp routines. Daily tasks once taken for granted turned into huge challenges. Lillian's family was out of state; she was exhausted and scared about her and Sarah's future.

Asking favors of willing friends and neighbors was too hard, and Lillian – herself a social worker – was frustrated with navigating through other agencies when she called Jewish Social Services. "I asked for the basics, such as help with transportation and meals, but it came with the emotional support I needed."

Through the Hand in Hand program, JSS staff organized a troupe of caring individuals – some friends of Lillian and Sarah, but many unknown to them.

Using a care-sharing model, JSS became a clearing house for everyone and everything Lillian and Sarah

needed to get done every day, setting up a detailed schedule with slots to fill and e-mailing it out to everyone who showed an interest. Soon staff and volunteers were driving Sarah to school and camp, accompanying Lillian on appointments, taking their dog Buttercup to the vet, preparing and delivering meals. JSS found a mother's helper, too.

Sarah says, "People have really stepped up to the plate. I'm overwhelmed by the warmth in people. They helped me look on the positive side."

Lillian knew that people enjoy helping others, but she was surprised when they thanked her for letting them help! "I feel very connected," Lillian says. "I'm traveling up a very steep hill. But through JSS, there are people holding my hands. JSS is sweetness shared onward."

Sarah turned 13 in January and will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah in April – a young woman caring and insightful well beyond her years. "JSS showed me it wasn't just me and my mom alone. I'm stronger now and I'm willing to reach out to others because so many people have reached out to me."

And that's just what we intended Hand in Hand to be. To volunteer to hold someone's hand, contact Stacy at 278-1808 or stacyjss@mjcc.net.

inside

Case Management 2

Good Books 2

Tribute Donors 3-4

Russian Corner 5

Volunteer Connection 6

Then and Now

BY BARBARA SPIERER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jewish Social Services of Madison is celebrating its 25th birthday this year. What has changed?

You might say everything. The social service staff has grown from one position to six, while the agency has eight times the clients. Today, we confront tough issues like substance abuse and domestic violence which the Jewish community didn't recognize even existed 25 years ago. We have many more seniors in our midst and increased

longevity has required more complex case planning. Our foreign born speak Russian instead of Yiddish.

And technology in the form of data entry, e-mail and voice messaging has given us new solutions (as the care-sharing story above attests.)

Still, one thing has remained the same: Our devotion to one person, one family at a time, in a way that's most professional and sensitive.



JSS is there for someone in danger of falling through the cracks in the system

Taking the Time to Talk Things Out

BY HARRIET BROWN

Imagine having your words come out broken and slow. Imagine hearing other people's words like a tape on fast forward, speeded up and unintelligible. Imagine being trapped in a body that won't do what it's supposed to do.

Now you have a taste of what it's like to be Kathy (not her real name). Ten years ago Kathy, then age 40, had a debilitating stroke that left her with physical limitations and aphasia, which impairs the brain's ability to process language.

Because Kathy speaks slowly, with an odd mechanical inflection, some people assume she's mentally retarded. Many don't have the patience to talk with her. And it's hard for her to understand others unless they speak very slowly.

After the stroke, Kathy went through intense rehabilitation, and recovered enough to go back to work. But last year another stroke-like event, plus a heart condition, derailed her once more.

Kathy faced bills to pay, an apartment to clean, an employer pressuring to know when she'd return to her job and mounds of paperwork, from applications for Social Security Disability to riding the Metro Plus bus – paperwork that was impossible for her to handle.

Last summer, Kathy's psychotherapist began looking for someone who could provide case management that wasn't going to bankrupt her. He called eight or nine agencies, and every one of them said, "Sorry, we can't help you."

Then he called Jewish Social Services.

"We knew there was no other agency to do the job," explains JSS associate executive director Barbara Spierer. "Kathy was too young for the elderly service network. And though she's not wealthy by any means, her income exceeded the Medical Assistance guidelines, and that disqualified her for most local disability agencies. JSS considers this type of client on a case-by-case basis. How could we turn her down?"

"Her psychotherapist called eight or nine agencies, and every one of them said, 'Sorry we can't help you.'"

Often family members take on the Herculean task of being both caregiver and case manager, while trying to work and care for their own families at the same time. For Kathy, who is single with no family in Madison, family care wasn't an option. JSS's willingness to take on her case management was a godsend.

The JSS social worker has become Kathy's mouthpiece and advocate. She is Kathy's liaison with the outside world – with her physical therapist, primary physician, rehab doctor, labor union, employer and attorney. She negotiates with the Social Security Administration, the disability insurance company and all the other organizations that now have so much power over Kathy's life.

She's quick to point out that Kathy organizes her own life and care, tracking payments, taxes, and other complex issues. "I'm just her facilitator," she emphasizes.

"She's like a translator, an interpreter for me," says Kathy. "When others can't understand what I need, she understands, and she can explain why."

Most importantly, the social worker sees Kathy as a whole human being despite her disabilities. She understands Kathy's frustration and distress.

"I used to be articulate and capable," Kathy says, and pauses to let the tears come. "The people at JSS have made this bewildering time so much easier for me."

JSS can continue to help those like Kathy who fall between the cracks of the system as long as our funding sources, such as private donations, don't require clients to meet specific criteria.

Harriet Brown is a writer in Madison.

Case Management

"A case manager is the 'traffic cop,' coordinating services among a complex array of providers who often don't know what the others are doing," explains Barbara Spierer. "She's also an advocate for the client." A speech impairment, language barriers, cognitive deficits, a lack of education or sophistication—any number of cognitive and/or physical disabilities can make daily life nearly impossible.

Case management is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Small agencies like JSS often don't have the resources to provide enough of it. "We don't take on a case unless we think we can do it right," says Barbara.

We'll Lend You an Ear...And a Book

JSS social worker Nancy Dodge maintains the JSS resource library, which has free of charge information on senior housing options and

local resources for adult children concerned about their parents. Nancy's picks for top three books are:

How to Care for Aging Parents, by Virginia Morris.

Helpful and comprehensive. Copies available for loan.

Share the Care, by Cappy Capossela & Sheila Warnock.

Presents a model for family and friends to provide assistance to a seriously ill person.

The 36-Hour Day, by Nancy L. Mace & Peter G. Rabins.

The bible for Alzheimer's Disease caregivers. Complete guide to behavioral, emotional, financial, legal and practical issues related to dementia.

Check them out!

JSS Offers A Sincere

Thank You

for Your Tribute Gifts

The following contributions were made between November 8, 2002 and January 31, 2003

IN HONOR OF

Betsy Abramson's sermon at the Sisterhood Shabbat

Temple Beth El Sisterhood

Hilde Adler, presenter at interfaith forum

Church Women United in Madison WI, Inc

Ron Arm & Linda Jameson for their loving help during recent illness

Trude Arm

Sue & Mike Baumblatt, thank you for terrific Thanksgiving

Irving Shapiro

Robert Greenberg

Rabbi Jan Brahms

Cary Demont

Cancian/Kalish Family

Irv and Francie Saposnik

Anne Celnicker

Mary and Edward Celnicker

Evelyn Colburn

Max and Betty Bodenheimer

Nancy Dodge

The Family of Claire & Alex Swartz

Betty & Sig Ettinger

Judy Ettinger

Kathleen Falk and Peter Block marriage

Kathy and Michael Blumenfeld

Bob Fox, speedy recovery

Warren and Gerry Randy

Helen Frank

Mary Ramberg

Roberta Gassman appointment as Secretary of the Department of Work Force Development

Kathy and Michael Blumenfeld

Maxine & Kokie Goldenberg, 65th wedding anniversary and Kokie's 91st birthday

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Albert Goldstein being named recipient of Rotary Club's Swarsensky Award

Sheldon and Gerda Sweet

Robert & Irwin Goodman

Alan R. Orenberg

Miriam Greenberg

Robert Greenberg

Claudia Haus, speedy recovery

Robert and Sandy Schwartz

Sol and Corlie Blumenfeld

JSS Guardianship program

Mimi Farber

In celebration of the fabulous JSS staff

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Bradley Koritzinsky & Erica Fox forthcoming wedding

Allan and Kathy Koritzinsky

Diane Krasnick, speedy recovery

Therma Princer

Rachel Krinsky

Steven Koslov and Mary Fulton

Grandchildren: Alex & Kaitlin Kutler and Nathan Rohn Saltzman

Stanley and Sandra Kutler

Sy and Ruth Levey, Happy Anniversary

June Klein

Ed Pickett, speedy recovery

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Michael Rothschild, Happy 60th Birthday

Lawrence and Jean Landweber

JoAnn Salin

Michele and James Rohan

Synthia Saltoun and Norm Sievet marriage

Kathy and Michael Blumenfeld

Irv Saposnik, speedy recovery

Gary Friedman and Bonnie Denmark

Friedman

Marsha Cohen and Michael Pressman

Harvey Temkin and Barbara Myers
Temkin

Barbara Roth and Larry Shapiro

Abraham Landsman

Daniel and Ruth Siegel

Harry and Karen Roth

Helen S. Sweet

Joyce Temkin

Lucile Levy

Miriam and Ruben Reinger

Rosalind Levin

Stuart and Darlene Schwartz

Therma Princer

Warren and Gerry Randy

Frances Weinstein

Francie and Irv Saposnik

Rayla G. Temin

How Tributes Help

We appreciate when you honor and remember others with a gift to JSS. Gifts that are unrestricted in nature allow JSS to use them where the greatest needs exist.

Every donation means a great deal to us. We have made every effort to make sure our thank you lists are accurate and complete, but if we have inadvertently neglected to list your name, please let us know. Call Sherry Minkus, 278-1808. Thank you.

Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

Jeanne & Joe Silverberg 50th anniversary

Steven Morrison and Goldie Kadushin
Rosalind Levin
Ralph and Charlotte Musin
Michael and Sue Baumblatt
Irv and Francie Saposnik
Robert and Sandy Schwartz

Barbara Spierer

Neil and Marjorie Buckholtz

Jeff, Sheryl and Josh Spitzer-Resnick

Gloria and Sandy Spitzer

Greg Steinberger being named a 2002 Richard
M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence

Kathy and Michael Blumenfeld

Rose Steinig, 80th birthday and debut with
Madison Opera

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Marge Sutinen conversion

Joan Rothberg and Steven Segall

Bruce Thomadsen

Phyllis and Steve Wainger

Nancy Thomadsen

Phyllis and Steve Wainger

Jean Wein

Anna Heifetz

Sol & Ruth Weiner 60th Anniversary

Bettine and Dan Lipman

Pat Weinswig

Sandy Wright and Michael Soref

Jim Youngerman, Happy Birthday

Herbert Gronik

IN MEMORY OF

Joanne Anderson

Dougherty Management Associates Inc

Alex Blumenfeld

Ralph and Charlotte Musin
Rosalind Levin

Lou Bodenheimer

Harvey Temkin and Barbara Myers
Temkin

Richard Boyar

Paula Volpiansky

Norris Demont

Cary Demont

Stan Dunn

Mary Stamstad

Murray Edelman

Bacia Edelman

Alexander Elyanov

Kenneth and Amanda Goldstein

Max Freeman

Harvey Temkin and Barbara Myers
Temkin

Sherry Goldstein

Albert Goldstein

Dave Jaffe

Stanley Goldfarb
Therma Princer

Helen Kaplan

Bacia Edelman
Bobbie and Edward Krinsky

Sarah Knupp

Theodore and Irene Knupp

Mauricio Bernardo Kolodny

Luciano and Adriana Kolodny

Mark Krasno

Irv and Francie Saposnik
Lowell and Julie Lakritz
Rosalind Levin
Sheldon and Gerda Sweet

Nukhim Kurolapnik

David and Yelena Kurolapnik

Burr Levin

Irene Messnick
Sol and Corlie Blumenfeld

Sol Levin

Steve and Lillian Abrams

William and Anna Levine

Deborah Laurel

Florence Macaluso

David and Sandie Ottenstein

Adele Pratzel

Michael and Barb Pratzel

Nelly Rothschild

Irv and Francie Saposnik

Esther Scheinman

Jon Scheinman
Ted Scheinman
Doleta Chapru

Blanche Schwartzstein

Alan and Laurie Schwartzstein
Irving Handelsman

Ruth Seder

Gary Friedman and Bonnie Denmark
Friedman
Harvey Temkin and Barbara Myers
Temkin
Irv and Francie Saposnik

Nadine Shapiro

Jeanne and Joe Silverberg

Alfred Shovers

James and Nancy Youngerman
Lawrence and Jean Landweber
Stuart and Darlene Schwartz

Adolph & Miriam Silver

Larry and Beatrice Harris

Bob Silvers

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Russell Sinaiko

Norton and Lois Stoler

Etta and Abraham Singer

Bessie Barkoff

Alex Swartz

Charlotte and Ervin Schwartz
Norton and Lois Stoler

Burnie Sweet

Sue Sweet

Irwin Weiner

Alan Weiner



Would You Like To Receive Connections In The Mail?

JSS *Connections* is published four times a year. If you're not currently receiving it in the mail and would like to be, please call Sherry Minkus at 278-1808, or complete and mail this form to JSS, 6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How did you hear about *Connections*?

Did you know..?

■ Al Goldstein was the recipient of the prestigious Manfred Swarsensky Award from the Madison Downtown Rotary. He donated a portion of his honorarium to JSS. Menachem Mansoor, of blessed memory, did the same in 1993.

■ Church Women United of Madison made a donation to JSS after Hilde Adler represented Jewish women in an interfaith forum with her Muslim and Christian counterparts. The donation plate was divided three ways.

■ JSS Group Work Coordinator Lauren Meyers and Volunteer Coordinator Stacy Schiff attended a conference sponsored by the The Jewish Healing Center in New York on Jewish spirituality in bereavement and supportive counseling for life cycle challenges and losses

■ JSS will be co-sponsoring a luncheon called "Feeding the Soul" at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on Friday, April 25, Noon-1:30 p.m. for people who are care giving their loved ones. Call Lauren Meyers for details at 278-1808, ext. 27.

Jewish Social Services of Madison

Stefanie Kohn, *President*

Steven Morrison, *Executive Director*

Barbara Spierer, *Associate Executive Director*

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Francie Smith Saposnik, LCSW, Ext. 19

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Janice Fiksel, MA, Ext. 17

Volunteer Services

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Connections

Rachelle Richardson, *Editor*

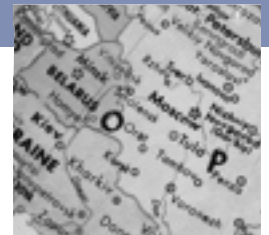
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RUSSIAN CORNER

Family Ties

In common English, a "parolee" is someone who's been let out of prison on condition. In immigration talk, a parolee has also been freed from a kind of prison, and with conditions.



Gennadiy Karluk came to Madison from the Ukraine as a refugee in April, 2001. A year and a half later, the U.S. Government allowed his mother Polina, age 77, his daughter Nataliya, 29, and his granddaughter, Katya, age 6 to join him.



Meet four generations of the Karluk family, Gennadiy, his mother, Polina, daughter, Nataliya and granddaughter, Katya. They are thrilled to be part of Madison's Jewish community.

For some reason, they were granted a sparingly used humanitarian status called "parolee." Unlike refugees who may apply for government programs, parolees may not. They must be sponsored by a relative or friend who vouches for their financial support.

While Nataliya quickly found a preschool teaching job with fringe benefits for herself and her daughter, Polina, at 77 and with no English, could not go to work. She wasn't eligible for Medicare, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps or a Social Security benefit. And her son was just starting his own life all over again.

JSS Resettlement Coordinator Janice Fiksel has helped Polina find low cost or *pro bono* medical care, affordable housing and a volunteer English tutor. "Polina worries about being a burden to her family," says Janice. "She helps by providing childcare for her granddaughter. Polina is a beautiful person who always puts her family's needs before her own."

Семейные узы

В общем употреблении словом «parolee» называют человека, условно освобожденного из тюрьмы. На языке эмигрантов слово это означает в общем-то то же самое— освобожденного из «тюрьмы» на определенных условиях.

В апреле 2001 года Геннадий Карлюк приехал по статусу беженца с Украины в Мэдисон. Полтора года спустя его мать Полина, дочь Наталья и внучка Катя получили от правительства США разрешение на въезд.

По неизвестной причине, вместо статуса беженца они получили пароль. В отличие от беженцев, люди со статусом «пароль», не имеют права на участие в различных правительственных программах по оказанию помощи эмигрантам. Вся ответственность за благополучие новоприбывших ложится на родственников и друзей.

Наталья быстро нашла работу воспитателя в детском саду, обеспечив при этом себя и дочь всем необходимым (медицинской страховкой и другими льготами). Но Полина в свои 77 лет и без знания языка работать не могла. Ее статус не давал ей ни бесплатной медицинской помощи, ни пенсии, ни денежной поддержки. А ее сын сам вынужден был начинать жизнь сначала...

Дженис Фиксель, координатор ЕСС, помогла Полине найти дешевые медицинское обслуживание и квартиру, а также начать изучать английский. «Полина переживает, что является обузой для своей семьи», - говорит Дженис. - Она помогает тем, что сидит с правнучкой. Полина необыкновенный человек, ставящий нужды своей семьи выше своих собственных».



Roll Up Your Sleeves, Have A Laugh or Two

Fearing immodesty, our featured volunteer asked for anonymity. He retired as a business consultant and now spends his time teaching, driving for the Red Cross, enjoying his home among the lakes in northern Wisconsin, voraciously traveling – and being a JSS volunteer.

How did you get interested in JSS?

I used to be a volunteer visitor in Milwaukee. When I got to Madison Francie (Smith Saposnik) asked me if I wanted to be a visitor. So I did some shopping and spent some time with people who were older than I. Then I ended up being on the Board of JSS and working at Lechayim (the JSS senior adult lunch program). No big deal.

You resigned from the Board. Why?

Because I wanted to do direct service, because I learn from these people. It gives me a better understanding of the life experiences of others.

Tell us about some of the people you've met.

I would go to lunch with a man who used to have a retail store downtown – he's one of the most fascinating people I ever met in my life. He was in his late 90s, had outlived all his friends. It was a thrill for me. He wanted to see modern day stores, so we went into Bed Bath and Beyond and he'd give me all these commentaries about it. He was a perfect gentleman. I never heard him say a negative word about another human being.

Through Lechayim I met a man who told me how he'd lived in five different countries (in Eastern Europe) always in the same house. He'd look at what flag was flying so he knew what country he was in that day.

And then there's the woman who used to go to concerts in Mexico City with Frida Kahlo (the artist depicted in the film *Frida*).

And any unusual situations?

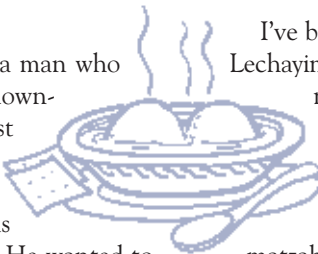
I've been the second assistant cook at the Lechayim picnic, where somebody handed me seven pounds of solidly frozen hamburger meat and told me, "People are hungry, cook it fast." We served kosher hot dogs instead.

Or when I made 400 or so matzah balls for the Senior Seder with another volunteer and she went out of town. We spent the better part of a day frantically scaring around trying to find them. They were in her freezer all the time.

What would you like to tell others?

That we need them. It's a lot of fun and a real learning experience. And one other thing – you can begin an endowment at JSS. I started with a little money and add to it.

For volunteering opportunities, please call Stacy Schiff; for giving, contact Steven Morrison, both at 278-1808.



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