

CONNECTIONS

“My life is finally my own again.”

—Anonymous

Typically, Connections features a photo on page one; but this issue is an exception. Anonymity is essential in bringing this story to you. It is about a woman who worked very long and very hard to escape an abusive marriage.

When they met, she was drawn to him. He was smart, educated, well employed, good-looking and charming. They had fun together. But soon there were little signs – signs she says she should have heeded, but chose to ignore or explain away. He began to tell her what to do; but she told herself he just wanted to take care of her. He insisted on choosing her clothes and hairstyle; but it just meant he had good taste and wanted to be proud of her. He always selected the movies, plays and concerts they attended; but that was because he was more cultured than she.

The courtship led to marriage. And then the signs became more menacing. He stringently controlled the finances. He disapproved when she talked with family and friends, wanting her to spend all of her time with him. He did nothing to help with the children, expecting his needs be met first and the children be kept quiet and the house orderly.

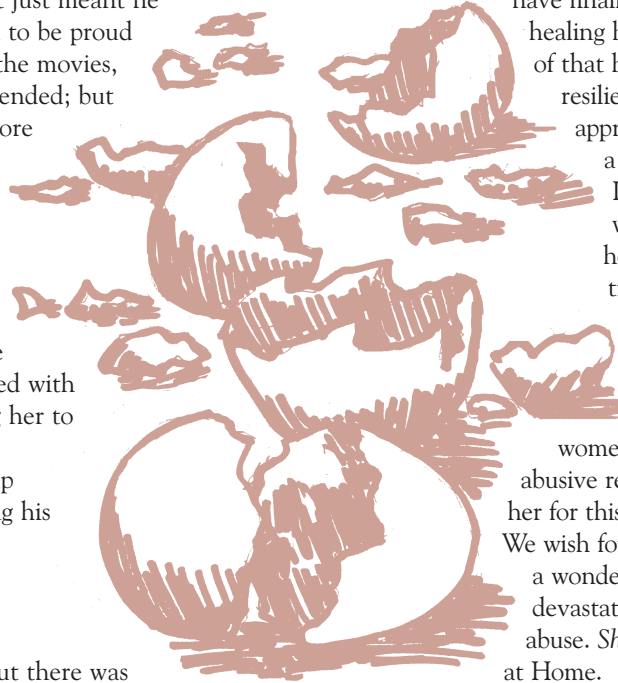
There was no hitting. But there was yelling, and the constant put-downs, the sarcastic comments, the belittling in front of the children and others. Whenever she tried to talk to him about any of this, he was derisive, saying that good wives didn't complain about such things. His words were weapons directed at her soul. Without realizing it, she walked on eggshells. Little by little, she came to believe his words, and her self-esteem crumbled.

She wanted to leave, but how could she? The children were young and she had no money of her

own. Where would she go? Would he get in a rage and hit her if she tried to leave? He was powerful in the community and could afford a good lawyer. Would she be granted child support, or would he get custody of the children?

Her parents offered little support. They thought she was lucky to have married a good provider. It took years to marshal her forces. But with the help of a supportive therapist, a strong attorney and wonderful friends, she was able to force him to move out.

The divorce proceedings, nasty and prolonged, have finally ended. Her own healing has begun. As a part of that healing process, this resilient woman has approached JSS to establish a small endowment fund. It isn't as large as she would like, but she hopes it will grow over time. Each year, interest will be used for only one purpose: to purchase services needed to help women and men leave abusive relationships. We thank her for this very meaningful gift. We wish for her and her children a wonderful life, free from the devastating effects of domestic abuse. *Shalom Bayit, Peace at Home.*



Perpetrators of domestic abuse can be men or women, gay or straight, parents or adult children, old or young. Regardless, there is help for the victims. Call or email, in confidence, Barbara Spierer at Jewish Social Services. 278-1808 Ext 21; spiererjss@mjcc.net or contact the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) crisis line 251-4445. IF YOU ARE EVER IN DANGER, DIAL 911.

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JSS is Just a Phone Call Away

To protect client confidentiality, some facts have been altered.

Helen is a proud woman. She didn't want to ask for help, but her failing eyesight, together with progressive hearing loss and balance problems, made it impossible to continue performing her job. She had been diagnosed with Usher Syndrome, a form of Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP).

Helen has always been a loner. She prefers to connect with people via email on her adapted computer or by phone. Family – what is left of it – is far away and aging. When the JSS social worker came to call, she had the sense that few people visited Helen.

The worker found Helen living in a marginal neighborhood, in a neglected building, and in an apartment with holes in the wall. Housekeeping was a challenge because Helen was unable to see the dirt or spills. The JSS staff person helped Helen to apply for subsidized housing in a well-maintained building, located in a safe neighborhood; but there was a waiting list. In the meantime, the worker arranged with another agency to provide the subsidized chore service for which Helen qualified.

JSS also helped Helen through the daunting process of applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). While SSDI can be an important safety net entitlement for those who have worked, the government sets the qualification bar very high. With its unending forms and

mandatory documentation, it is not unusual for the process to require several appeals, often spanning a year or more.

In the meantime, Helen's savings dwindled, until one month, she couldn't make her rent. At that point, JSS arranged for an emergency loan to tide her over. She was very grateful and paid it back the minute her first disability check arrived.

Today, Helen lives in an affordable apartment that she likes very much. JSS hears from her now and then when the need arises. Once, it was for help in purchasing a microwave oven, a necessity for someone who finds a stove to be a potential fire hazard. Another time, through the generosity of Hadassah's Collectors Corner, Helen received some very nice clothing. Recently, the request was for large print religious books. Stefanie Rose, the Beth Israel Center Librarian, located and provided them within days.

Helen isn't really interested in getting out more. She is comfortable in her home, surrounded by considerate neighbors and in a building maintained by a conscientious landlord. Most reassuring, she tells us, is the knowledge that JSS is just a phone call away, should the need arise.



Resources

Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired

754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703
608-255-1166 or 800-783-5213
www.wcblind.org

The Council provides low vision evaluations, vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility training, home visits, technology training and support, recreation activities, seminars, advocacy and adaptive products from our Sharper Vision Store. We can also provide support group information.

Office for the Blind & Visually Impaired (State organization)

P.O. Box 7851, Madison, WI 53703
608-266-3109 or 800-879-0017

OBVI can provide rehabilitation teaching and a variety of other services.

Department of Workforce Development/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

608-266-3131

DWD/DVR can be helpful to individuals who are of working age and ability.

Volunteer Brailleists and Tapists, Inc.

517 N. Segoe Rd. #200
Madison, WI 53705
608-233-0222
www.vbti.org

This all-volunteer organization will transcribe into Braille or provide audio tapes of almost any material needed.

The following organizations are not located in Dane County, but they don't require consumers to come to them – everything happens through the mail, over the phone, or over the Internet!

Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

414-286-3045

Home to the "talking books" program, through which anyone with a print disability can get almost any title delivered to their home on audio cassette.

Hadley School for the Blind

847-446-8111 or 800-323-4238
info@hadley.edu

Hadley offers all kinds of distance-learning courses for people who are blind and visually impaired, their families, and for professionals in the field.

According to the Foundation Fighting Blindness:

Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) refers to a group of inherited diseases causing retinal degeneration. Forms of RP and related diseases include Usher syndrome, Leber's congenital amaurosis, rod-cone disease, Bardet-Biedl syndrome, and Refsum disease, among others. Night blindness is one of the earliest and most frequent symptoms of RP, which is typically diagnosed in adolescents and young adults. It is a progressive disorder and most people with RP are legally blind by age 40.

An estimated 100,000 people in the U.S. have RP, mainly caused by mutated genes inherited from one or both parents. If a family member is diagnosed with RP, it is strongly advised that other members of the family also have an eye exam by a physician who is specially trained to detect and treat retinal degenerative disorders. Discussing inheritance patterns and family planning with a genetic counselor can also be useful. (<http://blindness.org>)

Thank You

for Your Tribute Gifts

The following contributions were recorded between July 1, 2007 and September 30, 2007

IN HONOR OF:

Margot Asher & Seth Kleinman, wedding	Sarah Maier & David Cohen, birth of their daughter Leora	J. Handelsman
Livia Asher	Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen	Irving Handelsman
Janice Beers	Sheila & Mark Cohen, for your warm friendship	Annette Howards' loving family
Tatyana Kudinenko	Linda and Chuck Barrett	Annette Howards
Sophia and Paul Moroz	Nancy Dodge, in appreciation	JSS Staff, thank you for your help
Anna Bentley	Beatrice Levine	Sam Sherman
Lillian and Steve Abrams	Helen Frank	Judy Karofsky, wonderful daughter
Sandy Bierman, get well	Mary Ramberg	Lillian Deutsch
Ghita Bessman	Aviva & Ben Gellman	Diane & Marc Krasnick & Family
Gayle and Chuck Mazursky	Sheila and Richard Plotkin	Eve Becker
Adrienne Borisy-Gross, birthday	Louise Goldstein	Ruth Lessing, special birthday
Pamela and Howard Erlanger	Jodi Cohen	Bettine and Dan Lipman
Pauline Brodsky	Les Goldsmith	Kathy & Dan Levin
Robert Greenberg	Lottie Frank	Lillian and Steve Abrams
Camp Shalom Staff	Nicole Gratch, social work degree	Susan & Jonathan Lipp, anniversary
Judi Rubin	Janice Gratch and Steven Wilensky	Sylvia and Julius Grunes
Maria Cancian	Leslie Grendahl, new twin grandsons	Mildred Mailick, 80th birthday
Judy and Ben Sidran	Brady & Owen Kobbe	Beth Bar
	Sally Balkin	Becca Seltzer
		Marsha Mailick Seltzer

Continued on page 4

How to be a Mensch

Personal gifts are the single most important source of support for JSS – nearly half of our operating budget. Every gift to Friends of JSS has a positive impact on someone else's life. We think that fact alone qualifies every donor as a mensch.

Before we close the books on this tax year, we're eagerly waiting to hear from those who traditionally make their gifts in December. Together you contribute nearly half of what we receive. That's why your end-of-year gift is absolutely critical.

So be a mensch! Please contribute to the Friends of JSS campaign this year.

A reminder: if you are 70 and a half or older and have an IRA account, you can make tax-free distributions to JSS until December 31, 2007. To make a gift from your IRA to JSS, please consult with your personal tax professional and then contact your IRA custodian for the necessary forms.



Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

Isadore Marcus

Barbara and Daniel Esser

Evelyn & Arnold Miller, *fond farewell as you move to AZ*

Francie Smith Saposnik and Herb Lewis

Deborah Minkoff, *Happy Anniversary*

Joel Minkoff

Sherry Minkus, *speedy recovery*

Ghita Bessman

Betsy Haimson

Dale Dunin and Les Goldsmith

Bettine and Dan Lipman

Shelley and Dave Schwarz

Judy and Ben Sidran

Barbara Spierer

Sam Moss, *speedy recovery*

Gayle and Chuck Mazursky

Annette Pearl's *special birthday*

Bettine and Dan Lipman

Judy and Dan Peirotti

Shelley and Dave Schwarz

The Petasnick Family, *birth of your granddaughter*

Shelley and Dave Schwarz

Judie & Ralph Rice, *wedding anniversary*

Yael and Eric Lund

Shaina Robbins, *Graduation from Culinary Institute of America.*

JoAnn and Robert Skloot

Rose Rodenstein

Judy Ettinger

Ruth Rothstein

Harvey Dym

Marsha and Stuart Dymzarov

Evie Rudnick, *90th Birthday*

Bunny and Bill Spitz

Francie Smith Saposnik

Sylvia and Jack Brakarsh

Jodi Cohen

Stanley Langer

Francie Smith Saposnik,

25th Anniversary with JSS

Bettine and Dan Lipman

Evelyn and Arnold Miller

Francie Smith Saposnik, *Retirement from U.W. School of Social Work*

Rhoda and David Berman

Evelyn and Arnold Miller

Judi Rubin

Leora Saposnik & Family

Renata Laxova

Ann Schuster

Jon Aaronson

Anna Schuster

Constance Markey

Shelley & David Schwarz, *new granddaughter*

Gali Schwarz

Sally Balkin

Julie Shovers, *Bat Mitzvah*

Joan Feldman and Bob Fey

Barbara Spierer, *25th Anniversary with JSS*

Mara and Hamil Agushi

Judi Ross and Rick Bowman

Judi Rubin

Barbara Spierer

Jane Brotman-Austin and Stephen Austin

Kathleen and Donald Miner

Sophia and Paul Moroz

Bunny & Bill Spitz, *for your wonderful friendship*

Linda and Chuck Barrett

Sheryl & Jeff Spitzer-Resnick

Jackie Kaplan

Sheryl & Jeff Spitzer-Resnick, *anniversary*

Cheryl Robinson and Leonard Cizewski

Scott Weiner

Carolyn and Larry Weinhaus

Vicki & Jerry Stewart, *50th anniversary*

Evette and Burt Chudacoff

Norma and Elliot Sober

Bunny and Bill Spitz

Ilene, Jeff and Seth Wasserman

Elli, Solomon, Rebecca, Alexandra & Max Sweet

Merle and Pat Sweet

The Syvertsen Family

Karen Shevet Dinah

Barbara & Frank Tuerkheimer, *arrival of grandson Leo*

Bettine and Dan Lipman

Shoshanah Margalit Weiner, *Bat Mitzvah*

Sandy and Bob Schwartz

Frances Weinstein, *birthday*

Gerry and Warren Randy

IN MEMORY OF:

Lew Beers

Judy and Ben Sidran

My family that perished during *The Holocaust*

Alice Birnshak

Norman Brown

Karen R. Shevet Dinah

Eli & Stanley Cohen

Marsha Cohen and Michael Pressman

Evelyn & Mark Colburn

Barbara Spierer

Rhe Kailin Cole

Sylvia F. Epstein

Yona & Yosef Dahari

Ester Dahari-Sweeney

George Davidson

Judy and Ben Sidran

Norris & Cyrus Demont

Robert Demont

Rose & Tauba Dubrovskaya

Maria and Roman Dubrovsky

Elizabeth Dinerstein

Alice and David Schneiderman

Professor Emeritus Paul Lustig

Cindy and Ken Thomas

Continued on page 5

Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

Jeffrey Erlanger

Leslie Shear and Laurel Holgerson
Gerda Lerner
Susan and Murray Katcher
Robin Taylor

Arthur Epstein

Patricia and Steven Epstein and Family

Lillian Golden

Jeanette and Ken Golden

Rose & Irving Goldfarb

Stanley Goldfarb

Gaspar Gonzales-Jay

Jill Gonzalez-Jay

Samuel Greenbaum

Paul Grossberg and Dean Ziemke

Neil Grossman

Andrea and Greg Steinberger

Josif Guterman

Dina Gezhes

Jack Haskin

Mary Michal and David Haskin

Grace Hiles

Estelle and David Goldenberg
Shelley and Dave Schwarz
Lowell Lakritz
The Family of Sidney Sloane
Sandy and Bob Schwartz

Rose Juranek

Sharon and Robert Glass

Hyman Katz

Abe Landsman

Sheldon Klein

Carol W. Klein

Erin "Ace" Karp

Norma D. Klagos

Molly & Iver Karp

Norma D. Klagos

Harry Kniaz

Valerie and Kent Mannis

Ilse B. Mack

Amy Lanritz and Family

Lowell Lakritz

Kathleen and Donald Miner

Merilyn and Joel Kupferberg

Frida Lerner

Rita Kozmits

Solomon Levine

Elizabeth J. Levine

Bernard Lipman, father & grandfather

Tina and David Schwartz

Daniel Martin

Robin Taylor

Frieda and Frank Melnik

Corlie and Sol Blumenfeld

Ilse R. Meyer's parents

Ilse R. Meyer

Edith Milan

Lowell Lakritz

Merilyn and Joel Kupferberg

Ben Nelson

Judith Nelson-Stern

Lee O'Brasky

Sue and Michael Baumblatt

Bettine and Dan Lipman

Judi Rubin

Sally Balkin

Judith and Daniel Pierotti

Wallace Olson

Deena and Peter Williams

David Ottenstein

Sandie Ottenstein

Dorothy Packer

Nerissa Victor

Michael Phelps

Sylvia and Julius Grunes

Judy and Ben Sidran

Rona and Harvey Malofsky

Alina Pressman

Jennifer Pressman and Deborah Ptak

Mickey & Nat Pressman

Marsha Cohen and Michael Pressman

Therma L. & Ellis R. Princer

Diane and José Lezama

Miriam & Sol Rabinowitz

Judy Rabinowitz

Fran Richman

Armand Richman

Continued on page 6

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 Beau Martin, 278-1808. Thank you.

Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

Renee Richmond

The Richmond Family
Gary Seltzer

Paul Rock

Kathi Johnson Rock and Michael Rock

Parker Rosefelt

Charlotte and Ralph Musin
Lois and Norton Stoler
Betsy Haimson
Eva Deutschkron

Johnnie Ross

Bunny and Bill Spitz
Merylyn and Joel Kupferberg
Bettine and Dan Lipman
Jean and Larry Landweber
Linda and Larry Shriberg
Shelley and Dave Schwarz

Emanuel Rotter

Gerry and Warren Randy
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Irv Saposnik

Kathleen and Donald Miner
Judith Schuster

Gerry and Warren Randy
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Rebecca & Hyman Schuster

Sue and Donald Schuster

Nadine & Irving Shapiro

Sue and Donald Schuster

Lawrence Shapiro

Barbara Roth

Rose Sherman

Sam Sherman

Bob Silvers

Abe Landsman

Edith Steckelis

Dale Kunin and Les Goldsmith

Leonard Steinig

Rose Steinig

Alexander Sternberg

Roman Kaplan
Yelena and David Kurolapnik

Bernie Sweet

Sue Sweet

Clara Sweet's sister, Sidell Patton

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Miriam & Ben Sweet

Judy Zvara and Richard Sweet

Elizabeth Teicher

Shelley and Dave Schwarz

Linda Tetzlaff

Barb and Michael Pratzel

Ruth Tsotsis' parents

Ruth Tsotsis

Ayala & Joseph Weisblum

Bernard Weisblum

Arthur Wortzel

Helen and Irwin Klibaner

Thank You

to Vehicle Donors

Contributions were recorded between October 2006 and October 2007.

Once again, JSS extends its sincere thanks to the following who donated a car or boat to JSS this past year. Special kudos to Gary and Vicki Gustafson who parted with two cars and a boat! Dollars generated by the sale of these vehicles are vital to JSS programming. To arrange to donate your car, truck, or boat, with title in hand, call Sherry Minkus at 278-1808.

Boris Bukshtam	Sanford and Susan Rotter
Gary and Vicki Gustafson	David Schwartz and Beth Ann Yaeger
Stan and Sue Hanen	Mark and Kathy Shulman
Rachel Krinsky and Scott Titus	Theadora Smith
Stuart Mondschein and Ruth Frawley	Martin Wolf
Jonathan and Elissa Pollack	

Thank You

Foundation For the Future Donors

The Foundation For the Future Endowment Fund was created in 2003 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of JSS. Four percent of the interest earned annually is utilized to support the work of the agency. It is vitally important that the *corpus* continue to grow. To make a gift to JSS that will last forever, contact Barbara Spierer, 278-1808, or spiererjss@mjcc.net.

Julius and Hildegard Adler

Helen Adler z"l

Anonymous - 4

Annabelle Argand z"l

Sally G. Balkin

Michael and Sue Baumblatt

Anna Bentley

Kurt Bergen z"l

Dorit Bergen

Leonard and Norma Berkowitz

Stanley and Marjorie Berlow

Sol and Corlie Blumenfeld

Amy and Gregg Bogost

Maria Cancian and Chuck Kalish

Sharon and Mark Chernoff

Marcus and Sheila Cohen

Bernard and Toby Cohen

Marv and Mildred Conney

Ester Dahari-Sweeney

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Ethel Dunn

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Jenny Elyanov and Bela Elkin

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Howard and Pam Erlanger

Robert Factor and Kris Rasmussen

Edgar Feige and Elizabeth Palay

Amy and Marty Fields

Larry and Marla Frank

Sylvia z"l and Herbert Frank

Albert and Susan Friedman

Dave z"l and Bernice Fromstein

Jac and Edie Garner

Denny and Gary Geller

Howard and Sandy Goldberg

David and Estelle Goldenberg

Jacob E. Goldenberg Foundation,

Betsy Goldenberg Haimson, Director

Stanley Goldfarb

Les Goldsmith and Dale Kunin

Albert Goldstein

Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen

Irwin A. Goodman and Robert D. Goodman,

in memory of Harry J. and Belle Goodman

Kaete Granick

Paul Grossberg and Dean Ziemke,

in memory of Samuel Greenbaum

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Simon and Billie Hellerstein

Noah and Rosalyn Hershkowitz

Marcie and Robert Holding

Richard Horst

Nancy and Jesse Ishikawa

Deborah Kades

Alfred Kadushin,

in memory of Sylvia Kadushin

Cindy Kahn and Steven Marker

Stephen and Linda Kailin

Stanley Kanter

Esther Kaplan

Thomas and Cathy Kaplan

Jeffrey Kassel and Alison Einbender

Margery Katz

Stephen Kessler and Donna Anderson

Judith K. Klehr

Carol Klein

Daniel Kleinman and Susan Bernstein

Diane Becker Krasnick and Marc Krasnick

Estelle Krasno z"l

Thomas and Margie Krauskopf *

Alexander and Julia Krichevsky

Miriam Cohen Kuhn and Joe Kuhn

Kal and Bobbie Kunin

Merilyn and Joel Kupferberg

Continued on page 8

Thank Foundation For the Future Donors (continued)

Kenneth Kushner and Erica Serlin	Robert and Janelle Pasch	Francie Smith Saposnik
Stanley and Sandra Kutler **	Penny and Zorba Paster,	Elliott and Norma Sober
Howard and Judy Landsman	<i>Paster Family Foundation</i>	Paul and Sara Soglin
Lawrence and Jean Landweber	Judy and Daniel Pierotti	Barbara Spierer
Stanley H. Langer	Lester Pines and Roberta Gassman	William and Barbara Spitz
Mark and Ilene Laufman	Evan and Jane Pizer **	Mary Stamstad
Roberta and James Lazarz	Purple Moon Foundation	Dan Stein
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Rosalind Levin	Debbie Reitman Judge	Greg and Andrea Steinberger
Daniel and Kathy Levin	Linda Reivitz	Ida Swarsensky
Elizabeth Levine	Daniel and Nicole Resnick	Bessie Sweet
Steven A. Levine	Joan and Kenneth Riggs	Howard A. Sweet
Irving Levy,	Stefanie Rose	Rayla G. Temin,
<i>in memory of Dorothy Levy</i>	Michael Rosenblum and Justine Harris	<i>in memory of Howard Temin</i>
Judith Lichtenstein	Harry and Karen Roth	Louise Trubek and David Max
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Yael and Eric Lund	Arlene and Hershel Rotter	Lauren Vogel and George Turnbull
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Ralph and Charlotte Musin	Sara J. Sherkow z"l	<i>in memory of Lillian Aked Yatvin & Jonathan Aked</i>
Linda Newman	Karen R. Shevet Dinah	James and Nancy Youngerman
Paul Olson	Judy and Ben Sidran	
Sam and Maria Onheiber *	David Silverberg and Elizabeth Huebel	
Kenneth Opin and Jan Silvers	Steve Silverberg and Lisa Gaumnitz	* <i>New since October, 2006</i>
Thomas Palay and Diane Gutmann	Jeanne and Joe Silverberg	** <i>Additional Gift since October, 2006</i>
H. K. and Anita Parks	Cindy Silverberg Kamps and David Kamps	

Did you know..?

- Represented by Janice Beers, Sara Fountain was granted her permanent resident status in September. Sara's husband, Tim is the nephew of the late Albert Fountain, featured in the Summer, 2007 issue of *Connections*.
- There was excellent attendance at the Planning for the Future: Midlife and Aging Families of Persons with Serious Mental Illness conference in October. Co-sponsored by JSS, the UW-Madison School of Social Work and NAMI, WI, the evaluations were uniformly positive.

Jewish Social Services of Madison

Diane Gutmann, *President*

Steven Morrison, *Executive Director*

Barbara Spierer, *Associate Executive Director*

Services to Individuals and Families Under Stress

Barbara Spierer, LCSW, Ext. 21
spiererjss@mjcc.net

Senior Services

Francie Smith Saposnik, LCSW, Ext. 19
franciejss@mjcc.net

Nancy Dodge, LCSW, Ext. 18
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Immigrant & Refugee Services

Janice Beers, MA, Ext. 17
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Volunteer Services

Louise Goldstein, MSW CVA, Ext. 26
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Vehicle Donations

Sherry Minkus, Ext. 12
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Connections

Barbara Spierer, *Editor*

Christine Pavelko, *Designer*

Janice Beers, Nancy Dodge,
Louise Goldstein, Barbara Spierer
Contributing Writers

INTERNATIONAL CORNER



A Win-Win Situation

Steven Meili became interested in immigration and human rights issues while attending law school. During his clinic fellowship, he supervised students who were helping Haitian and Salvadoran refugees seeking political asylum in the US.

Today, Professor Meili is Director of the UW Law School's Consumer Law Clinic. The number of immigrants requesting clinic services has been growing. This has prompted Steve to begin preparing students to offer immigration-related assistance.

When Professor Meili learned about JSS's program at Centro Hispano, he thought it seemed an ideal setting for a service learning opportunity. We agreed! This semester, on Monday afternoons, students from Professor Meili's immigration law class assist Janice Beers, JSS's certified immigration specialist. They interview clients at Centro and research immigration issues related to pending cases.

Law student, Hugo Rojas, is enthusiastic. "I appreciate the opportunity to see first-hand how our community actually experiences the law. It helps me understand the critical role that certified professional advisors like Janice play. The immigration process is complex, expensive, and the stakes are high. Simple mistakes can have serious consequences. Janice's knowledge of the law and her caring demeanor really put her clients at ease and give them hope." The fact that this is a subsidized program for low income individuals makes it affordable.

For her part, Janice sees the JSS/UW Law School partnership as a win-win situation. "The students bring a fresh perspective to our program at Centro. Many of them are bilingual and have been outstanding interpreters. Their research has been excellent. In the end, the clients receive top-notch assistance, and the students, a first rate, real life learning opportunity." Janice is hopeful. "The need for talented, compassionate immigration attorneys will always be there. Perhaps some of these students will heed the call."

Law students, Hugo Rojas and Katherine Lindsay at Centro Hispano.



Sandy, You Have Been a Gift to Us

Sandy Booth, JSS and MJCC Director of Finance, is retiring. No doubt she is more than ready for some R&R, after nearly 25 years with both organizations. But we will miss her very much.

From the moment she arrived as a "temp to perm" secretary in 1984, Sandy displayed a warmth and genuine concern for people, together with total competence and reliability.

When Sophie Sweet retired, Sandy was a shoe-in for the bookkeeper position. After that, her responsibilities continued to grow, along with both organizations and the computer system. Through it all, Sandy never missed a beat – or a payroll, for which many remain grateful and humbled.

Sandy's door is always open, and given the sterling quality of her listening skills and counsel, there should have been an honorary shingle placed on the doorpost long ago. Anyone who has sat in "The Chair" next to Sandy's desk knows the serenity and the comfort within.

Enjoy your retirement, Sandy; but promise to never be a stranger. You are such an important part of the family.



JoAnne Kloppenburg

Time Stops & Nothing Intrudes

JoAnne Kloppenburg has tutored an elderly JSS client in English as a Second Language for three years. During this time the two women have discovered, to their delight, that they give each other something that no one else can provide.

Tell me about the woman you tutor.

She's a very warm, giving, perceptive, and resilient, and she doesn't let hardships get her down. She takes joy where she can find it. She has a real zest for life, she smiles and her eyes sparkle. In Baku she taught Russian language and literature; her educational background comes through in her English reading and writing, which are very good. She loves music, art and dance and had studied in a music conservatory. She's fearless, she takes the bus to MATC or her daughter's house, and she's learned how to call a cab.

How have things changed over the three years you've been volunteering?

At first we focused on lessons and homework from MATC; now she is more confident and needs less help. She tells me how she spent her week and what's going on with her friends and family. The tutoring has taken on a life of its own and I think I've become her 'American companion.' She's protective of the time we have together and doesn't like interruptions; she says, "this is MY time." It's very important to her.

What has surprised you?

How cloistered her life is here. She's from a big city and had a good life, but left because of threats. Here she has a tight circle of Russian friends and family. It's hard to start in a new society as an older



person and she has fewer opportunities here, but she takes them as they come.

This sounds like a uniquely meaningful experience for you both.

What I put in is a fraction of what we both get out of the experience. It's very satisfying for both of us; we enjoy each other immensely. I do this so there's more to my life than work and obligations at home. As a lawyer I work with words, and I couldn't imagine what it must be like to be here and not understand. What I do is very small and inconsequential, but it's a nice counterpoint to my work. When we're together, time stops and nothing else intrudes. I always feel better after the hour we spend together.

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