

## Arlene, Muriel and Roy Rotter Volunteering: A Family Affair

**Muriel, Roy and Arlene Rotter: Volunteers Extraordinaire**



Being helpful – a legacy from their parents and passed on to their children and grandchildren, comes naturally to Muriel and Roy Rotter, and to Arlene Rotter, whose late husband, Hershel, Roy’s cousin, was a quiet, behind-the-scenes volunteer.

Arlene served in the 1960s as Sisterhood President at Temple Beth El, and then became involved with Jewish seniors through the Madison Jewish Community Council’s Senior Adult Committee. She remembers driving people to the Sunshine Club, a forerunner of the Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus

Program. When JSS incorporated as a non-profit, Arlene was on the first Board of Directors. Still on the Senior Adult Committee at JSS, Arlene volunteers weekly at Lechayim.

For 28 years, Arlene has been an “angel” with the Attic Angels service organization. She also volunteered at the old Methodist Hospital, and was asked to be on the committee that planned the Methodist (then Meriter, now Capitol Lakes) Health Center.

Without even realizing she was volunteering, Muriel also assisted older adults through the Senior Adult Committee in the days before JSS incorporated. She, too, was an early JSS Board member. In addition, she delivered Meals on Wheels, was in the Women’s Medical Society and volunteered in her children’s classrooms. She is still an integral member of the Senior Adult Committee and is a stalwart volunteer at Lechayim.

For many years, Roy and Muriel hosted the JSS senior summer BBQ at their home. Roy and his friends

handled the grill, and Muriel’s friends came over to cut up large quantities of fruit and other goodies. It was a huge affair and a lot of work, but they loved doing it.

Before he retired, Roy was an Associate Clinical Professor with the UW Medical School and volunteered his time weekly to work with medical students. He enjoyed teaching and found that he learned a lot from the students. He was also active in the Civitan Club, a service organization in Milwaukee. After he retired, Roy, too, volunteered at Lechayim.

Volunteering continues with the second and third generations of Rotters. Arlene’s son Ron and his son Ben spent years moving donated furniture and other household goods to the homes of newly arrived refugees and other people in need. For this work, Ben received the Briarpatch 2000 Youth Award in the “Unsung Hero” category. Ben is off at college now, but Ron continues to drive his company’s truck whenever it is needed. The Rotters’ other children and grandchildren participate in fund-raising walks, take dogs to visit at nursing homes, and volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

How was it that Arlene, Muriel and Roy came to be such caring people? Asked if volunteering was ever discussed in their homes as they grew up, they said their parents just did things that they thought needed doing. They described their mothers as, “...giving, generous and good to other people.” Their parents lived their values modestly and taught by example. Helping was just something you did without thinking about it – like breathing.

Arlene says about volunteering, “I enjoy it mentally, it’s fun to talk to people and you feel better about yourself.” Muriel and Roy agreed that all in all, it’s just plain fun to be helpful.



To learn about JSS volunteer opportunities, call Louise Goldstein at 278-1808 ext. 227 or go online to [www.jssmadison.org](http://www.jssmadison.org)

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# Hey, Brother, Can You Spare a Job?

*Details have been altered to protect confidentiality*

**E**mployment: It pays the bills, often provides health insurance, lends structure to one's life, and may offer opportunities for forming friendships. If you need one and don't have one, it can be devastating. Nationally, we have seen the effects of the faltering economy which have triggered massive layoffs. Down the road in Janesville, things have been very rough. People are losing their jobs in Dane County, as well.

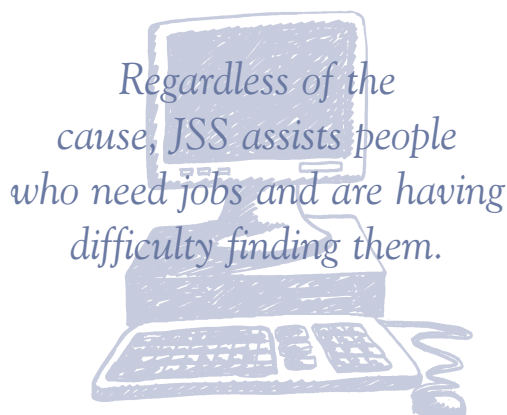
At the same time, there are reasons having nothing to do with the economy that create unemployment. Regardless of the cause, JSS assists people who need jobs and are having difficulty finding them.

Geraldine was laid off in another city. She found temp work, but with no benefits and no future, with depleted savings and the cost of living high, she read in Forbes Magazine that Madison was #1 among the "10 Cities Where They're Hiring." So, she packed up her kids and moved before school began. She's submitted 70 applications and received 4 interviews. She's trying to stay positive, but it's hard.

Charlene's work history has a hiatus – about 20 years. She left a job after her mother died and her disabled dad was unable to care for himself. Charlene never dreamed that her father would linger so long, but he did. Now that he's gone, she needs to find work with health insurance, before her modest inheritance runs out.

Henry's story is typical of many immigrants. A teacher in his home country, he had to start over in the U.S. He worked in a store, while earning a Certified Nursing Assistant's credential. It was a ticket to an immediate job with excellent family health insurance. He worked hard for almost a decade. He was reliable, skilled and compassionate. While he doesn't earn a lot of money, longevity makes his pay about twice the minimum wage. But CNA work is very tough on the body. First his knees and then his back caved under the pressure. His doctor says he needs to find another line of work. But what will that be, especially in this job market?

Geraldine is a sophisticated job seeker. She utilizes the Internet extensively. She has a profile on a website linking job seeking professionals, monitors generic job sites, and watches for listings posted on employer websites. She has utilized the Dane County Job Center, but wants to make sure that she leaves no stone unturned – thus her visit to JSS.



Geraldine has developed a resume, but there is room for improvement. The JSS counselor shows her how to do it. The worker suggests some Dane County employers her client can check out and recommends several individuals with whom to network. Geraldine will take it from there.

In the meantime, the counselor mentions a support group on campus for unemployed professionals, and tells her about social service programs that could help make ends meet. Because Geraldine expresses an interest in participating in the Jewish community, the social worker acts as a bridge to the various institutions and activities.

Charlene's needs are very different. Her skills are out of date and job references, non-existent. While age discrimination is illegal, the fact that she is over 55 does not work in her favor. She has hit the pavement and applied for entry-level jobs, but she's had almost no interviews.

Fortunately, Charlene's age and her extremely low income should make her eligible for a program called "Experience Works." Federally funded, it matches participants with non-profit agencies providing internships with a stipend. The hope is that these opportunities will lead to permanent positions with the organization. If not, the participant comes away with updated skills and reliable job references.

The JSS social worker has been the link between Charlene and the Experience Works staff, meeting together with the intake worker and helping Charlene complete a self assessment form and gather financial documentation. The JSS worker also provides the moral support so essential for someone away from the job market for so long.

Henry has a very complex situation. Consulting with a *pro-bono* attorney, the JSS social worker has helped her client apply for coverage under the Family Medical Leave Act and his short term disability policy, a time consuming undertaking. At the same time, the worker assisted Henry in applying for job retraining and other services offered through the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Unfortunately, there is a long waiting list. In the meantime, a wonderful JSS volunteer has helped Henry apply for Food Share (formerly Food Stamps) and look for part time sedentary work that will not jeopardize his health.

While JSS cannot magically place clients in jobs offering family supporting wages and solid fringe benefits, there are many ways that the agency and its volunteers can be of assistance.

## Vocational Resources

The Dane County Job Center  
[www.danejobs.com](http://www.danejobs.com)

Experience Works  
Senior Community Service  
Employment Program  
[www.experienceworks.org](http://www.experienceworks.org)

Wisconsin Division  
of Vocational Rehabilitation  
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>

Support Group for Unemployed  
Professionals  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
[www.dcs.wisc.edu/info/job\\_resources.htm](http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/info/job_resources.htm)

## JSS Offers A Sincere

# Thank You

## for Your Tribute Gifts

*The following contributions were made between October 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008*

### IN HONOR OF

*Shirley & Joe Aaron*

*Dan & Bettine Lipman*

*Danny & Lisa Abelson, 40th Anniversary*

*Judy & Ben Sidran*

*Altai Eru Irving Abrams; 2.5 year birthday*

*Lillian and Steve Abrams*

*Felix Solomon Abrams; Birth*

*Lillian & Steve Abrams*

*Suzanne & Joshua Abrams; 1st Wedding Anniversary*

*Lillian & Steve Abrams*

*Leslie Berney; Happy Birthday*

*Dawn Berney & Ed Angelina*

*Maria Cancian*

*Susan Anderson and Ron Serlin*

*Flora and Joshua Chover*

*Susan and Steve Reusser*

*Jane Diane Corcoran; Granddaughter*

*T'filla Bensche*

*Ari and Josh Davidson, College Graduations*

*Janice Wexler and Ronald Walker*

*Nancy Dodge*

*T'filla Bensche*

*Leon Dworkin*

*Judy Ettinger*

*Mimi Farber, Speedy Recovery*

*Barbara Spierer*

*Janet and Byron Frenz, Marriage of Adam and Brooke*

*Shelley and David Schwarz*

*Les Goldsmith*

*Lottie Frank*

*Louise Goldstein*

*T'filla Bensche*

*Adam Gratch; Passing the Illinois Bar*

*Linda & Chuck Barrett*

*Diane Gutmann*

*Judy Schreiber*

*Stephen L. Heilprin*

*Pamela Magee*

*Rabbi Leah Herz; Installation*

*Amy Lakritz*

*Gail Jacob; Happy 60th Birthday*

*Judy & Dan Pierotti*

*JSS Staff*

*Marian & A Rowland Todd*

*Diane Becker Krasnick & Marc Krasnick*

*JSS Board; In appreciation*

*Janice Beers*

*Al Kadushin*

*Sandy & Stanley Kutler*

*Esther & Milton Kalish*

*Dori Kalish*

*Cindy Kamps*

*Jeanne and Joe Silverberg*

*Sara & Josh Kaplan; Naming of daughter*

*Hannah Kaplan*

*Ruth & Allen Zacharias*

*Richard Katz, Speedy Recovery*

*Rose Steinig*

*Evan Harry Klein; Birth*

*Louise Goldstein & Bruce Thomadsen*

*Larry Kohn*

*Elisha Terre*

*Mike Kramsky; Speedy Recovery*

*Marlene and David Gershaw*

*Evelyn Medow, Speedy Recovery*

*Rose Steinig*

*Paul Moroz, Speedy Recovery*

*Barbara Spierer*

*Steven Morrison; Award given at GA in Israel*

*Ghita Bessman*

*Rachael Pierotti & Jerry Lavery; Engagement*

*Linda & Chuck Barrett*

*Judy & Dan Pierotti; Anniversary*

*Kathryn Klibanoff & Jeremy Pierotti*

*Lynn and Marty Preizler, Happy 40th Anniversary*

*Shelley and David Schwarz*

*Rose Rodenstein*

*Judy Ettinger*

*Shirley Roman*

*Lauri Roman*

*Judy and Jeff Ross, Happy 40th Anniversary*

*Shelley and David Schwarz*

*Francie Smith Saposnik*

*T'filla Bensche*

*Laurie Buchalter & Lawrence Kohn*

*Lottie Frank*

*Michael Lichtenstein & Family*

*Sari Rotter & Bill Gardner*

*Judy Schreiber*

*Francie Smith Saposnik; Happy Birthday, Mazel Tov on Liron's Bat Mitzvah*

*Janice Beers*

*Rayla Temin*

*Francie Smith Saposnik & Herb Lewis, Marriage*

*Dan & Bettine Lipman*

*Karen & Harry Roth*

*Eve Siegel & Anatole Beck*

*Esther & Max Ticktin*

*Dean Ziemke & Paul Grossberg*

*Daniel Roth Schottenstein; Birth*

*Linda and Chuck Barrett*

*Anna Schuster*

*Constance Markey*

*Continued on page 4*

# Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

Anna Schwartz

Darlene & Stuart Schwartz

Diane Seder ; MJCC Distinguished  
Service Award

Karen and Harry Roth

Margaret and Lewis Toppel

Leo Sidran; Marriage

Stanley Kutler

Jeanne Silverberg, Happy Birthday

Lisa and Steve Silverberg

Jeanne & Joe Silverburg

David Silverberg & Elizabeth Huebel

Bob & Joann Skloot; 40th Anniversary

Judy & Ben Sidran

Rose Steinig; Moving

Arlene Rotter

Rose Steinig; Many Thanks

Sara & Ron Ben-Ami

Dan & Bettine Lipman

Bob & Joann Skloot; 40th Anniversary

Judy Sidran

Barbara Spierer

T'filla Bensche

Laurie Buchalter and Lawrence Kohn

Kathleen & Donald Miner

Judy Schreiber

Barbara Spierer; Happy Birthday

Janice Beers

Barbara Spierer; In greatest esteem  
and appreciation

Betsy Haimson

Sylvia Thal, Speedy Recovery

Barbara Spierer

Bruce Thomadsen

Phyllis and Steve Wainger

Nancy Thomadsen

Phyllis and Steve Wainger

Jim & Nan Youngerman; celebrating being 121  
years young

Dan & Bettine Lipman

Nan Youngerman, Birthday Wishes

June and Herb Gronik

Barbara Spierer

Dean Ziemke and Paul Grossberg

Barbara Spierer

Eliana Zimbauer; Rabbi Laurie and Rabbi  
Renee's new baby

Jackie Kaplan

## IN MEMORY OF

Jonathan Aked

Milton & Joanne Yatvin

Annabelle Argand

Judith Nelson-Stern

Dan Ausman

Annette Howards

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Jennifer & Drew Bernat

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Lowell Lakritz

Steven Morrison & Goldie Kadushin

Judy & Dan Pierotti

Francie Smith Saposnik & Herb Lewis

Allen & Ruth Zacharias

Betty Brown

Shirley Volpiansky

Judge Ervin Bruner

Gloria Berman

Lenore Coberly

Esther Kaplan

Beverly Cohen

Carol Cohen

Evelyn and Mark Colburn

Kenneth Colburn

Stf Sgt Ben Derman, Madison Jew who gave  
his life in war action

Sam Moss

Joyce Engle

Shelley and David Schwarz

Herman Eisenberg

Natalie Borenstein

Bud Felsenthal

Deena & Peter Williams

Libby Fromstein

Dan & Bettine Lipman

Ethel Goldstein

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Sarah Knupp

Irene and Theodore Knupp

Julie Lakritz

Judith Faber

Gloria Landsman

Abraham Landsman

Sy Levey

Ruth Levey

Irving Lewis

Alice and David Schneiderman

Dr. Francis Lima; Father of Carlos

Ruth Levey

SP4 Bernard Mazursky; Madison Jew who  
gave his life in war action

Sam Moss

*Continued on page 5*

# Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

## Norman Morganstein

Barbara and Dan Esser  
Betsy Haimson  
Judy and Jeff Kravat  
Abraham Landsman  
Francie Smith Saposnik & Herb Lewis  
Debbie & Jack Spear  
Bunny & Bill Spitz  
Liz and Russ Whitesel

## Sam Nager

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Judy and Dan Pierotti  
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## Ben Nelson

Judith Nelson-Stern

## David Ottenstein

Judith Nelson-Stern

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## Dorothy Packer

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## Therma L. & Dr. Ellis R. Princer

Diane & Jose Lezama

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Arnie and Ellen Wald

## Ida Relles

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## Paul Rock

Kathi Johnson Rock and Michael Rock

## Gerald Rosenberg

Sally Mandell-Rosen and Mel Rosen

## Orville Rosenblum

Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen  
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson  
Abraham Landsman  
Francie Smith Saposnik & Herb Lewis  
Barbara Spierer

## Sophie Rosenblum

Paul Grossberg & Dean Ziemke

## Hershel Rotter

Abraham Landsman  
Shelley and David Schwarz

## Irv Saposnik

Kathleen and Donald Miner

## Harry Schackter

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## Rosalyn Schwab

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Barbara Roth

## Shirley Sidran

Barbara Spierer

## Sidney Siegel

Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen  
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson  
Jean & Larry Landweber  
Francie Smith Saposnik & Herb Lewis

2nd Lt. Arnold Simon; Madison Jew who gave  
his life in war action

Sam Moss

## Joyce Stanton

Harriet Stanton

## Alexandr Sternberg

Yelena & David Kurolapnik

## Norton Stoler; Beloved husband

Lois Stoler

## Lillian Slade

Nerissa Victor

## Belle & Julius Spitz

Dennis H. Trosch

Qm Reuben Stein; Madison Jew who gave his  
life in war action

Sam Moss

## Leah Sweet

Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen

## Howard M. Temin

Rayla G. Temin

## Jack Wald

Arnie and Ellen Wald

## Bernard Weinstein

Rhoda and David Berman  
Betsy and Bezalel Haimson  
Jean & Larry Landweber  
Francie Smith Saposnik & Herb Lewis

## Lillian Aked Yatvin

Milton & Joanne Yatvin

## Shirley Yaffe

Marlene Barmish

## Haya Yuchtman's mother

T'filla Bensche

## Rosalyn Zoob

Sharon and Mitch Rapkin

## 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 Melissa Austin, 278-1808. Thank you.

# Named Endowment Funds

*These Lasting Tributes Help Support JSS in Perpetuity*

Liesl Blockstein Endowment Fund

Marvin L. and Mildred Conney Endowment Fund

Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Endowment Fund

Paula Grzyb Endowment Fund

\*Julia Lakritz Immigration Services Endowment Fund

Edward Pickett Endowment Fund

Harriet Rosenthal Endowment Fund

Arnold Rusky Endowment Fund

Shalom Bayit Endowment Fund

Gwen and Herman Shapiro Endowment Fund

Steven R. Tarkow Endowment Fund

Pearl Turchik Endowment Fund

\*New Endowment Fund in 2008

# Thank You

## to Vehicle Donors

Contributions were recorded between November 2007 and February, 2009

Once again, JSS extends its sincere thanks to the following who donated a vehicle to JSS in the last 16 months. 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 Melissa Austin at 278-1808 ext. 221.

Laura Blustein

Merle Cohen

Cecelia Corona

Nancy Dodge & David Watts

James Frey

Walter Gray

Stanley Hanen

Daniel Hausman

Valeri Lapidus

Sherwood Malamud & Barbara Spar

Mort Perlmutter

Jacqueline Rothstein

Ruth Saecker

Harold Tarkow

Jane & Thomas Taves

## Did you know...?

- Saul Richman, JSS Social Work Intern, is preparing for his second career. Currently, he is the Training Director for Pizza Hut of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.
- Melissa Austin has replaced Beau Martin as JSS Administrative Coordinator. Beau has assumed the Administrative Manager position with MJCC. Best of luck to each of them.
- The correct contact number for the Meals-on-Wheels evening meals program is 204-0923. We regret the error made in the last issue of Connections.

### Jewish Social Services of Madison

Diane Gutmann, *President*

Steven Morrison, *Executive Director*

Barbara Spierer, *Associate Executive Director*

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*Vehicle Donations*

Melissa Austin, Ext. 222

E-mail may be sent to [jss@mjcc.net](mailto:jss@mjcc.net)  
Jewish Social Services, 608-278-1808

### Connections

Barbara Spierer, *Editor*

Christine Pavelko, *Designer*

Janice Beers

Nancy Dodge

Louise Goldstein

Barbara Spierer

*Contributing Writers*

## INTERNATIONAL CORNER



# From Victim to Citizen

*Details have been altered to protect confidentiality*

She arrived in the United States several years ago and settled in a large city. Like many, she was forced to leave her children behind because she could not afford to bring them with her. She dreams of being reunited. Her face lights up when she describes the rare occasions when she gets to talk with them on the phone.

One day, she was robbed, beaten and held at gunpoint. She reported the crime, and her assailant was arrested. After she testified at the trial, her attacker sent his wife to deliver the following message: He would look for her when he was free and he would kill her. The victim decided it was time to get out of town.

Where could she go? She thought of a family she knew who lived in a place called Madison, Wisconsin. She came here, and the people put her up for a while. But then they couldn't anymore. When Janice Beers, JSS Immigrant and Refugee Services Director met the woman, she was homeless and living in a shelter, using up her allotted days.

Janice heard the woman's story and verified it with authorities in the city where the attack occurred. Janice determined that the victim's willingness to testify about the violent crime provided grounds to apply for a special "U" visa. The paperwork was daunting and Janice worked closely with authorities in the large city to gather supporting documentation. Local immigration attorney, Saejung Lee, consulted without charge. Helping the victim to write her personal statement was an important part of the process. Finally, after months of preparation, everything has been submitted to the U.S. Government. Now, it's a waiting game.

In the meantime, the victim needed medical care, help with transportation, food and clothing. Janice arranged it all. Recently, a newly made friend took Janice's client into her home. It has had an enormously positive impact on the victim's emotional health.

"I don't know how I would have survived all of this if it wasn't for the help of Jewish Social Services, Janice's client tells us. "I was homeless and had no place to turn. Now I have hope for the future for myself and my family."

If the visa is approved, our client will be able to apply to bring her children to the U.S. Then, they can embark on the path to citizenship together.

## Seventh Annual Spring Luncheon for Family Caregivers

Save the date for the Area Agency on Aging Caregiver Alliance annual spring luncheon to be held on **Friday, April 17, 2009** at Lussier Family Heritage Center. Registration opens at 11 a.m., when members of the Caregiver Alliance will be available to answer questions and share information about their agencies. This is also a time to meet old friends prior to the official start of the luncheon.

This year our special guest speaker is Dr. David Rakel, Director of University of Wisconsin Integrative Medicine, speaking on

The Caregiver's Inner Journey to Self-Care. Dr. Rakel will speak about the importance of self-awareness and healing for caretakers and health care professionals.

The luncheon offers an opportunity to gather for a time of renewal and friendship and enjoy a delicious meal in beautiful surroundings. Reservations are required. Please call the Area Agency on Aging if you are interested in receiving an invitation and reserving a spot: 261-5679. **If possible, we prefer to email the invitation and response card.**

# Joanna Berke – Intern, Volunteer, Client, Donor

Joanna Berke learned about JSS from the inside out. Armed with a BA in psychology and years of teaching young children, she entered the UW-Madison School of Social Work in 1982, to earn a masters degree. Her emphasis was in aging and education and one of her placements was with JSS.

1982/83 ushered in a changing of the guard at JSS. Laurie Lemel Melrood and April Lax departed and Barbara Spierer and Francie Smith Saposnik came onboard. As a consequence, Joanna enjoyed an embarrassment of riches of sorts, as she learned from four mentors. Not only did she immerse herself in a geriatric caseload, Joanna authored a nursing home guide.

When her stint at JSS ended, Joanna found that she wanted to stay involved. There was a perfect opportunity. JSS had become a Corporate Guardian. Joanna became a friend and advocate for one of the

agency's first wards. She remembers with fondness this special relationship.

After graduation, Joanna became a social worker with the Belleville School System, melding education and social service. But, now, she had a new goal. As a single, "older" Jewish woman, she wanted to adopt a child. Little did she know, this would prove to be a daunting undertaking.

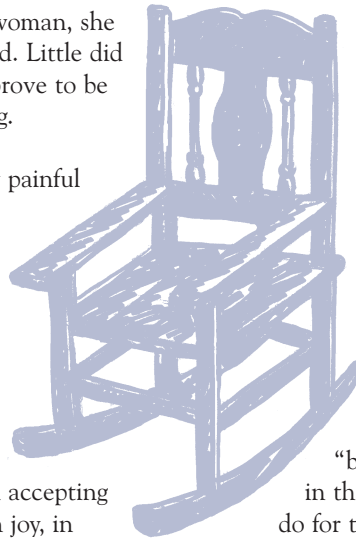
After a particularly painful experience with one adoption agency, Joanna turned to JSS for information and support. She was referred to a well regarded non-sectarian agency outside Madison, known for flexibility in accepting adoptive parents. With joy, in

1985, Joanna adopted her daughter, now a young adult and married student.

The heartbreak of what she describes as a "hideous experience" with the first adoption agency propelled Joanna to tell her story. To protect her daughter and herself, she employed a *nom de plume*. Today, she feels comfortable in revealing that she is indeed, "Shaina Maidel," author of **Hola: An Adoption Adventure**.

After her daughter came into her life, Joanna met and married John Lynch. Together they formed a strong family. Sadly, he was lost to cancer in 2008.

Asked why she regularly donates to JSS, Joanna replies, "because of everything JSS did for me in the past and all that JSS continues to do for the community today."



Jewish Social Services of Madison  
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Jewish Social Services of Madison

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