



JSS is committed to helping keep our community healthy. As we go to press, we are still making plans in the face of quickly changing circumstances. For now, our office is closed to drop-in visitors. Staff will be available to answer calls and emails, and will be still be working (remotely for the most part). Chaplaincy visits will be by telephone or video chat until further notice. We will keep our website and Facebook page up to date.

1. If you are an active client or a family member with a pressing need, call or email your JSS case manager (or call 608-442-4081 if you cannot reach them).
2. If you need help or would like to have a volunteer who can check in with you by phone, contact Case Manager Joni Pico at 608-424-4568 or [joni@jssmadison.org](mailto:joni@jssmadison.org) (not for medical questions or emergencies).

3. If you need Chaplaincy Services, contact Rabbi Renee at 608-424-4033 or [rabbir@jssmadison.org](mailto:rabbir@jssmadison.org)

All April programs are canceled. For May and beyond, check our Facebook page, go to [jssmadison.org](http://jssmadison.org), or call 608-442-4081.

- For emergencies: call 911
- If you have medical questions, call your clinic or nurse line.
- For updated epidemic information, please call the city/county coronavirus hotline at 608-243-0587.
- If you need help getting your basic needs met, call United Way's referral hotline at 211.
- For home-delivered meals: if you have an underlying health condition and need Home Delivered Meals, call SSM Health at 608-276-7598.

Middleton area residents: call Candice Martin at 608-512-0000 Ext. 4006.

## JSS Could Not Exist without its Volunteers

by Dawn Berney, JSS Executive Director



In our last issue, I wrote about what a privilege it was for me to volunteer with my family at JSS Senior Shabbats when my kids were younger. In February, my (now college-aged!) daughter came to an Oakwood Shabbat celebration as song leader. It was a joy for me to see her interacting

with Oakwood seniors as a young adult, rather than as a child, especially watching her recognize how good volunteer work makes you feel when your musical skills (and not your mom!) are the primary reason you are there.

If you ask JSS volunteers why they do it, most will say it is because they gain more than they give. JSS volunteers know that when people look out for one another, they help create a better world. As Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says,

"(Volunteering) is an expression of shared responsibility for common good... It is active citizenship of the highest order."

Please think of this edition of JSS's *Connections* newsletter as a love letter to our volunteers. You do amazing work for our organization and our community. You allow our staff to do more with less. You help us fulfill JSS's vision: A Community of People Living with Dignity and Hope. You are part of us.

# Bring Help and Hope to the Neediest in These Difficult Times



COVID-19 is increasing the isolation and creating immediate needs for many vulnerable people in our community.

Your donation can bring immediate relief.

Only with your help can we do our work of serving vulnerable populations, inspiring community engagement, and helping members of our community meet acute needs. During this crisis, we continue to offer limited financial assistance, short-term advocacy, long-term case management, Jewish spiritual care, and immigration services. We serve people of all ages and backgrounds.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a tax-deductible gift today.

Or go to [jssmadison.org/ways to give](https://jssmadison.org/ways-to-give) and click DONATE ONLINE to make a one-time credit card donation. You can also set up automatic recurring weekly, monthly, or quarterly donations.

Or call 608-442-4081 to make a credit card donation by phone.

Your support allows us to bring Jewish values to life, by ensuring a community of people living with dignity and hope.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Add Something Special to Your Life - Volunteer!

**Apply online now at [jssmadison.org](https://jssmadison.org) under the Volunteer menu**

**Friendly Caller:** Call people in their homes or in continuing care facilities. Your calls will reduce loneliness and isolation, and help give family caregivers much-needed breaks. Scheduling can be flexible. Some training will be provided in case the people you call have needs you cannot address on the phone. (Visits will resume after COVID-19 mitigation restrictions are lifted.)

**Drivers Needed:** We may have pick-up or delivery tasks for homebound and at-risk clients. This will be highly dependent on COVID-19 restrictions. Volunteer drivers should be willing and able to follow COVID-19 prevention protocols. We never want a volunteer to do a task they are uncomfortable doing, and will assign tasks accordingly.

**Office Help:** Remote help needed organizing, recording, and tracking of volunteer tasks, names, and hours.

# Why We Love Volunteering for JSS

By Lechayim Lunchtime volunteers



“I love being a part of a vibrant community, where age is only a number, and doesn't define us.”  
-Estelle Katz



“Nothing can substitute for hearing people's life stories.”  
-Mike Pressman



“Lechayim is the happening place for camaraderie, good food, and good programming. The volunteers are terrific, and we look forward to our time together!”  
-Merilyn Kupferberg



“I enjoy volunteering at Lechayim because it's being able to work with a great group of volunteers!”  
-Debbie Spear



“I love the opportunity to connect with more people in our community! I also like using skills I have to help others.”  
-Eve-Lynn Siegel



“I enjoy the opportunity I have to assist, listen to, and learn from the participants. They have brilliance, humor, and depth. Where else can you sit down and hear a deeply moving story that will stay with you for life? The participants open your heart, bringing laughter, tears – and sometimes even outrage! Each week I get an education in living well, and it never gets old.”  
-Pam Phillips Olsen





# What is *Jewish* about Jewish Social Services?

By Rabbi Renée Bauer, JSS Chaplain



A framed certificate honoring my grandmother's volunteer service at Jewish Family Services of Dallas, Texas in 1956 hangs in my office at JSS. I stayed in my grandmother's house during the last week of her life and slept on the pull-out couch in her study. One morning I spotted this certificate on a wall crowded with awards and photos. I was very moved to know that I am

*I am continuing my grandmother's legacy in a real way through my work at JSS.*

continuing my grandmother's legacy in a real way through my work at JSS.

Jewish communities around the country founded volunteer-led organizations to help meet basic needs of newly arriving Jewish immigrants and pioneers as early as the 1850s. These evolved into today's Jewish family service agencies. JSS traces its roots back to the "Madison Welfare Fund," created in 1940 to resettle Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust.

The Jewish social service agency that my grandmother volunteered for in the 1950s was different than the agency I serve today. However, the foundation of Jewish values remains the same across time and place. Over time JSS and our sister agencies around the country have

been professionalized and diversified. We now have trained social workers, communal service professionals, and rabbis on staff, and we serve the wider community. Despite this professionalization, we still depend heavily on our dedicated volunteers.

As we serve a more diverse population, we stand on the shoulders of our Jewish grandparents and great-grandparents who founded and volunteered for Jewish social service agencies. They answered the Jewish call to take care of the vulnerable and needy among us, as we do today. Our Jewish roots run deep, and they continue to anchor JSS as our branches extend ever wider to serve needy and vulnerable people from all backgrounds.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JSS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR PAUL BOROWSKY

By Joni Pico, MA, MSW, JSS Staff Social Worker

JSS volunteers frequently tell the JSS staff how much they enjoy working with Paul. They say that he is good-natured and that he deeply cares about the seniors in our community. Programs participants also tell us that they just love Paul. Folks say that Paul has a good "neshama" (soul) and that they are so grateful that he works for JSS!



# Todah Rabah! (Thank You!) To Our 2019 Volunteers\*

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Lillian Abrams	Barbara Forrest	Dave Klinkner	Petra Ressler
Steve Abrams	Jane Fox	Sherry Klinkner	Judy Ries
Betsy Abramson	Lottie Frank z"l	Larry Kohn	Michele Rohan
Hilde Adler	Howard Fried	William Kolb	Jim Roseberry
Shawn Ahern-Djamali	Denny Geller	Jacqueline Komada	Rachel Rosenfeld
Rozan Anderson	Barry Gidal	Todd Kummer	Susan Rotter
Ed Angelina	Grant Gillaspay	Merilyn Kupferberg	Olga Roubachkina
T Angelina	Les Goldsmith	Ann Lacy	Pam Sacaridiz
Sammy Angelina	Brad Goldstein	Meg Lamm	Francie Smith Saposnik
David Aronin	Sue Goldstein	Colleen Larsen	Jim Scheuerman
Livia Asher	Louise Goldstein	Janet Lesgold	Suzanne Scheuerman
Ken Baun	Jerry Goodman	Amy Lessing	Ken Schneck
Carousel Bayrd	Stacy Graff	Jeff Levy	Erica Serlin
Arnie Benardette	Raging Grannies	Ike Lewis	Rhonda Shapiro
Harry Bennett	Robert Greenberg	Madeline Light	Sarah Sherman
Inga Berg	Megan Gross	Jeff Lindholm	Charlie Shoham
Youth of Beth Israel Center	Paul Grossberg	Bettine Lipman	Eve-Lynn Siegel
Janet Billerbeck	Roz Gusinow	Nathan Lipton	Karen Sielaff
Gail Bliss	Peggy Hager	Efrat Livny	Bob Skloot
David Bookstaff	Betsy Haimson	Alice Loew	Maddy Smilowitz
Sammy Bouska	Mason Hakes	Mary Malaney	Sherie Sondel
Margaret Brauer	Helen Hazelmare	Rick Margolis	Emilie Sondel
Bob Breslow	Zach Hefty	Zach Masa-Myers	Debbie Spear
Ruth Bronston	Ruth Hein	Kathy Mazur	Rabbi Andrea Steinberger
Hymavathi Chinta	The Hillel Foundation	Tim Mazur	Mark Stransky
Judy Clark	Alison Hlathein	Mourine Mbaka	Julie Swedarsky
Charles Cohen	Andrea Hobright	Sven Midelfort	Bruce Thomadsen
Marsha Cohen	Jim Hornik	Ewa Miernowska	Brian Tragash
Jill Cohen-Kolb	Nancy Ishikawa	Jan Miernowski	Mikhaylo Turchanov
Youth of Congregation	Sally Jones	Don Miner	Galyna Turchanova
Shaarei Shamayim	Dori Kalish-Huza	Matt Nonemacher	Madeline Urameck
Terri Connelly- Cronk	Christina Kantor	Ken O'Neill	Sam Van Akkeren
Shannon Davidson	Mike Kantor	Candy Oyler	Carol Van Deelen
Helene Demont	Cathy Kaplan	Jessica Ozalp	Paula Volpiansky
Diane Dempsey	Ariela Karasov	Pam Phillips-Olson	Kevin Wamalwa
Barbara Dickey	Corliss Karasov	Judy Pierotti	Lynn Williamson
Stu Dolnick	Sara Karon	Jane Pizer	Mike Wisdom
The Double Double Reederers	Rajya Lakshmi Katragadda	Mike Pressman	Sara Wisdom
Lori Edelstein	Estelle Katz	Olexandr Prus	Suzanne Wolf
Gary Edelstein	Harsha Keister	Mariya Prus	Janis Wrich
Samir El-omari	Amber Kerk	Jeff Reis	Jan Yoder
Bob Factor	Steve Kessler	Ingrid Reis-Glass	Nan Youngerman
Sara Farsiu	Rochelle Klaskin	Linda Reivitz	Grace Zimmer
Nancy Feingold	Yid Vicious Klezmer Ensemble	David Resnick	
Donald Folberg			

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*\*We try our best, but if you see any inaccuracies, or someone we missed, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Paul Borowsky at [paul@jssmadison.org](mailto:paul@jssmadison.org) or 608-442-4083.*

# Meet Some of Our Dedicated Volunteers



## Meet Lillian Abrams, Friendly Visitor

By Christina Kantor

**Lillian Abrams, Friendly visitor to area seniors for nearly 20 years!**

Twenty years ago, when her children were small and she was working part time, Lillian Abrams spotted a JSS ad for “friendly visitors” – volunteers who visit area seniors in need of companionship. Immediately, she

thought “That’s what I can do!” Without family living nearby, she missed relationships with elders.

Lillian developed cherished friendships through volunteering, and is still in contact with some of them. “It’s a privilege for me to do this work. I am so grateful to have gotten to know these people.” She has met people who left their home countries before WWII and made new lives for themselves in America. “Learning about their lives expands MY life. It’s like opening a living history book!”

Lillian advises others to put aside their hesitation about

visiting people with disabilities, or those in assisted living facilities or nursing homes. Lillian suggests discussing current events, weather, hobbies, pets, and learning about the clients’ lives, thoughts, and memories – NOT just current conditions or infirmities. But she warns that this level of connection takes time and dedication. “As you get to know someone – after about a year – their age, accent, disability, etc. disappear, and they just become people you care about. I would encourage everyone to do it and stick with it because the time spent will help you build a strong bond which you will have forever.”

**“If you just be yourself, you will find things you have in common and over time you will discover that you have made a new friend.”**



## Meet Tracey Gemmel, English Tutor

By Tracey Gemmel

As a British citizen living in the USA, I’m always interested in learning where others come from and what brought them here. That interest intensified when immigration and refugee issues took on pivotal roles during the last presidential

election. It made me recognize my privilege as a Brit in my adopted country. I decided to find ways to welcome others as I’d been welcomed.

I began volunteering with Open Doors for Refugees (a close partner of JSS), watching children whose parents attended English classes. As a speech-language pathologist and conversational French speaker, JSS matched me with a refugee family from a French-speaking country in Africa. I provided weekly English lessons in their home for nearly two years.

Muddling by in French, we share good laughs, cultural outings, and interactions with other refugee families in the

neighborhood. I found this experience transformative in numerous ways. As I worked to welcome others, I myself felt welcomed – enough to seek US citizenship! I also developed a clearer understanding of my responsibilities as a global citizen and a heightened sense of belonging to a world-wide community.

But the friendship of this amazing family, which will follow me when I return to England, has been the greatest gift of all. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities that volunteering with JSS provided. “I gained so much more than I could have ever guessed.”





## Meet Ann Lacy, Volunteer Driver

By Christina Kantor

Ann first learned about JSS through her volunteer work with Open Doors for Refugees. In 2018, a JSS case manager asked Ann to give a ride to Marta (not her real name) and her children, who were staying in a shelter to escape an untenable domestic situation.

Ann was struck by Marta's positive attitude and her kindness. When they first met, Marta asked Ann to pick up some personal items she had left at the shelter. Then Marta decided to give some of her things BACK to the shelter – for others who needed them more than she did.

Though Marta struggles with English, Ann and Marta always find ways to connect. Marta is always proud to show Ann pictures of her granddaughter, and they share a love of cats.

When Ann takes Marta to a food pantry, she hears about the life situations that bring people

there, and it has been a real eye-opener for her. She says candidly, "If I'd had just a little more bad luck in my life, I could very easily BE one of the people I meet there."

Ann Lacy is a lifelong Madison resident who worked in the Department of Natural Resources library for many years. Now retired, she loves to read (with some help from her four cats), attend film festivals, and putter in her garden.

Ann says her sense of the human condition has deepened because of her work as a volunteer. "Everyone has their own unique mix of challenges and joys," she says. Luckily for Marta, Ann has the flexibility and willingness to meet this family's unique needs.

*Everyone has their own unique mix of challenges and joys...*

## Meet JSS's Newest Staff Member



## Social Worker Joni Pico, MA, MSW

I am thankful to have arrived here at Jewish Social Services – even though it took many years and thousands of miles to get here! My journey started in 2000 when I earned a master's degree in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University. My studies included fundraising, Jewish education, and working with people across the life span. Before and after

Brandeis, I lived in Alaska and worked as a social worker.

You're probably wondering what brought me to Wisconsin after living in Alaska for 30+ years (and loving it). Well, it was my daughter, a flute player studying music at UW-Madison.

One of the delights of my job is attending the Lechayim lunch programs; everybody there makes me feel right at home. One day I was tickled to find myself at a table full of fellow Cubs fans! We long-suffering but loyal fans shared our joy about the World Series win. You can imagine our spirited conversation: sharing memories of watching the game from the

bleachers at Wrigley Field, and heading to the old Comisky Park to watch the White Sox, when the cost of a ticket was 50 cents.

Meeting community members and volunteers at Lechayim and Shabbat gatherings is another joy of my job. Recently I asked a volunteer what inspires her to give her time. She quoted Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Reconnecting with the Jewish community in "the lower 48" makes me happy and proud. Thank you, everybody, for your warm and encouraging welcome to Madison.

# Tribute Donations

November 2019–February 2020

Anyone can donate in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Please go to our website at [jssmadison.org](http://jssmadison.org) or call Jim at 608-442-4081 to learn more.

## NOVEMBER 2019

### In Honor of Anna Edelstein and Dan Marlin

Lori and Gary Edelstein

### In Honor of Caren Minkoff

Barbara Spierer

### In Honor of Miriam Robinson

Mary Subkoviak  
Barbara A. Dickey

### In Honor of Tim and Kathy Mazur

Jim Mackman

### In Memory of Fredric "Fritz" Arm - Beloved Opi

Benjamin Arm

### In Memory of William "Noel" Jameson - Beloved Grandfather

Benjamin Arm

### In Memory of Jeff Golden

Ken and Jeanette Golden

### In Honor of Jeff Levy

Jim Mackman  
Paul Borowsky  
Rebecca Schwartz

### In Memory of Lauri Saltzman

JoAnn Salin

### In Memory of Mabel Ruth Neaverson

Bernard Biales

### In Memory of Muriel Lipman

James and Nan Youngerman

### In Memory of Sol and Miriam Rabinowitz

Judy Rabinowitz

### In Memory of Sylvia Unterman

Stanley Kanter  
Anonymous

## DECEMBER 2019

### In Honor of Rabbi Andrea Steinberger

Marjorie Tobias

### In Honor of Arthur & Jeannie Waldman

Kim Waldman

### In Honor of Barbara Spierer

Francie Smith Saposnik

### In Honor of Dale Kushner

Erica Serlin and Ken Kushner

### In Honor of Doris Lubet

Dana Lubet

### In Honor of Fay Nager

Seth Weiner

### In Honor of Francie Saposnik

Michael Sonduck

### In Honor of Herman Goldstein

Francie Smith Saposnik

### In Honor of Janice Beers

Francie Smith Saposnik

### In Honor of Jeanne & Joe Silverberg

David and Cindy Kamps

### In Honor of Jeff & Kristen Korab

Nadine & Steve Korab

### In Honor of Jennifer & Debra Davis

Jeffrey Davis

### In Honor of Jim Mackman

Eve-Lynn Siegel

### In Honor of JSS Staff

Paula Winnig

### In Honor of Kris Rasmussen

Cheryl Rowe

### In Honor of Linda Reivitz

Jean Espenshade

### In Honor of Louise Goldstein

Francie Smith Saposnik

### In Honor of Margaret Brauer

Anonymous

### In Honor of Maya Garbuz

Stephen and Lillian Abrams

### In Honor of Paul & Carole Kantor

Michael & Christina Kantor

### In Honor of Paul Borowsky

Stephen & Lillian Abrams  
Eve-Lynn Siegel

### In Honor of Rabbi Renée Bauer

Celeste Robins  
Robert & Rosylind Bauer  
Francie Smith Saposnik

### In Honor of Sherie Sondel

Steven Koslov

### In Memory of Ada Mitchell

Karin Twilde-Sheifer

### In Memory of Anne Marion

Margaret Maroney

### In Memory of Aren Wish

Carol & Joel Wish

### In Memory of Arnold Simon

Samuel Moss

### In Memory of Barbara Labelle

Stephen & Susan Labelle

### In Memory of Ben Derman

Samuel Moss

### In Memory of Bernard Mazursky

Samuel Moss

### In Memory of Brian Maloney

Laurie Bartz

### In Memory of Diane Schwam

Emanuel Schwam

### In Memory of Diane Zolot

Judith Sidran

### In Memory of Herman Goldfarb

Stanley Goldfarb

### In Memory of Jayne Grant

Myrna Casebolt

### In Memory of Julia Lakritz

Elana Weiner

### In Memory of Kurt & Livia Bergen

Dorit Bergen

### In Memory of Marrian & Sidney Schwartz

Frede Hammes

### In Memory of Meyer & Beatrice Sweet

Merle and Patti Sweet

### In Memory of Minnie Dabrin Solomon

Joan Polner

### In Memory of Ray Naomi Hoffman

Deborah Hoffman

### In Memory of Reuben Stein

Samuel Moss

### In Memory of Robert & Sara Schwartz

Lawrence & Barbara Schwartz

### In Memory of Rona & Harvey Malofsky

Lyn Malofsky

### In Memory of Ronald Weiss

Margaret Weiss

### In Memory of Sally Rubin

Sharon Lezberg

### In Memory of Shirley Ostrovitz

Erica Serlin and Ken Kushner

## JANUARY 2020

### In Honor of JSS Staff

Elaine Borowsky

### In Honor of Julie Swedarsky

Elaine Borowsky

### In Honor of Miles Kalish

Michael Yaffe

### In Honor of Rabbi Renée Bauer

Elaine Borowsky

### In Memory of Charles Borowsky

Frances Weinstein  
Eve-Lynn Siegel  
Mike Pressman and  
Marsha Cohen  
Paul Borowsky &  
Extended Family

### In Memory of Gilbert Palay

Harry and Karen Roth

### In Memory of Harold Tarkow

Theodore Tarkow

### In Memory of Herman Goldstein

Jim Mackman

### In Memory of Jana Scheuer

Helena Tsotsis

### In Memory of Jules Newman

Dori Kalish-Huza



**In Memory of  
Muriel Kirschner**  
Donald Kirschner

**In Memory of Sandra Porter**  
Paula Jones  
Nicole Weber  
Jeff Jensen

## **FEBRUARY 2020**

**In Honor of  
Annabelle Loeb's  
100th Birthday!**  
Betty Shovers

**In Honor of Michele Rohan**  
Kris Rasmussen

**In Memory of  
Charles Borowsky**  
Julie Swedarsky  
Denice and Gary L. Geller

**In Memory of  
Crannie (Aunt  
Crannie) Weinstein**  
Marc and Sheila Cohen

**In Memory of  
Daniel Kopstein**  
Eve-Lynn Siegel

**In Memory of  
Herman Goldstein**  
Eve-Lynn Siegel

**In Memory of Hilda Mirkin**  
Jonathan, Dana & Alon Mirkin  
Susan and Nick Kiernan  
Meredith and Tom Degen

**In Memory of Jerry Shriberg**  
Judith & Michael Rothschild  
Marc and Sheila Cohen

**In Memory of Sandra Porter**  
Susan Jahr  
Joe Puishys  
Barbara Spierer  
Max and Betty Rosenbaum  
Ann Paulen  
Fay and Mitchell Kaye  
Connie Tumm  
Beverley Pieper  
Carolyn Seeger  
Wayne Seeger  
Ron Seeger  
Brenda Prochnow  
Eve-Lynn Siegel  
Georgette Davis  
Patricia Beithon  
Dr. Beverly Wolfgram

**In Memory of Sue Knudson**  
Barbara Spierer

# **RABBI'S CORNER by Rabbi Renée Bauer**

## **Disruption and Uncharted Territory: Passover during a Pandemic**

On Passover we are commanded to tell the story of the Exodus as if we were there in Egypt. This year, as we cancel our Passover travel plans, scale back the Seder to include just members of our household, and maybe attend virtual Seders online, we have the opportunity to more fully embrace the story as our own.

Our lives have been radically disrupted: our routines upended, our gathering places closed, our communication transformed, and our coping skills tested. Many of us feel anxiety, malaise, or fear. We might be fighting with our loved ones. Aspects of staying at home may be appealing, but it is nonetheless a disorienting shift.

When our ancestors escaped slavery in Egypt, their routines and assumptions about daily life were similarly thrown into turmoil. When we think about our ancestors becoming free, we assume they felt joy and

*"And you shall explain to your child on that day, 'It is because of what the God did for me when I went free from Egypt.'" (Exodus 13:8)*



gratitude. They probably did, but we should also assume that they felt anxiety and disappointment. The Torah tells us multiple times that the Israelites complain and argue with God during their 40 years of wandering in the desert.

With little warning – remember, there was no time for the bread to rise – our ancestors transitioned from a life that was highly prescribed under slavery to a life of wandering in the desert with no clear destination. How uncomfortable that must have been!

Our ancestors' story is even more poignant this year as we are experiencing sudden

restrictions and changes to our way of life. We do not know when the COVID-19 pandemic will be over. We are profoundly uncomfortable.

When we sit down to tell the story of the Exodus, we know the ending of the story. The Israelites, however, did not know how events would transpire when they fled from Egypt. They did not have a timeline or a map as they wandered in the uncharted territory of the desert. Neither do we. But we have each other, our traditions, and our resilient spirits to buoy us on the journey ahead.



## UPCOMING JSS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

► PLEASE VISIT [JSSMADISON.ORG](http://JSSMADISON.ORG) OR CALL 608-442-4081 TO FIND OUT ABOUT CANCELLATIONS RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS MITIGATION.

### Harry J. and Belle Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus

**WHAT:** Join us for great food, friends, fun, and interesting programs at Lechayim Lunchtime Plus.

**WHERE:** Meeting at Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound Street, located on the corner of Mound Street and Randall Avenue.

**WHEN:** Most (but not all) Mondays from September to mid-May. Check online or call for the schedule.

**TO RSVP:** If you would like a meal, contact Jewish Social Services at 608-442-4081 or email [office@jssmadison.org](mailto:office@jssmadison.org) no later than 3:00 pm the preceding Wednesday. A vegetarian option is available with a reservation.

**COST:** If you are 60 years or older, a donation of \$4.00 is suggested, but please only pay what is

comfortable for you. The cost of the meal is \$9.07 for those younger than 60. If you cannot attend the meal, please join us for the free program at 1:00 pm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION about the meals and programs, to ask about transportation, or to check about cancellations, contact Paul Borowsky at 608-442-4083 or [paul@jssmadison.org](mailto:paul@jssmadison.org).

Many thanks to UW Hillel Adamah Catering for providing our delicious kosher meals!

### APRIL MENU AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

**Monday, April 6 NO LECHAYIM**

**Monday, April 20 NO LECHAYIM**

**Monday, April 27 NO LECHAYIM**

## UPCOMING JSS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Because of the "Safer at Home" order, all JSS in-person programs are on hold until further notice. Please check your email and JSS's Facebook page for virtual programs and new event schedules after the order is lifted.

### MAY MENU AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

#### Monday, May 4 (PENDING LIFT OF "SAFER AT HOME" ORDER)

- 11:30 am–12:00 pm: Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
- 11:30 am–12:30 pm: Complimentary blood pressure check with nurse Lori Edelstein
- 12:00 pm–1:00 pm: Beef brisket, garlic-roasted red potato, roasted carrots, fruit, brownie (vegetarian option: meatless sauce with pasta)
- 1:00 pm–2:00 pm: "Joys of Flight," presentation by Joe Imilkowski

#### Monday, May 11

- 11:30 am–12:00 pm: Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
- 12:00 pm–1:00 pm: Herb-roasted chicken, potato kugel, vegetable medley, market salad, matzah ball soup, brownie (veggie option: herb-roasted jackfruit and garbanzo)
- 1:00 pm–2:00 pm: Tom & Lisa Nelson Beard: music for piano

*Lechayim will resume in September 2020!*



## 2019 Highlights!



**JSS  
VOLUNTEER**  
HIGHLIGHTS of 2019

**5,272 HOURS  
DONATED**



**203 PEOPLE  
VOLUNTEERED THEIR  
TIME**

**\$134,097 WORTH  
OF VOLUNTEER  
WORK**

Volunteer time is valued at  
\$25.43 per hour according  
to IndependentSector.org



**343 EIGHT-HOUR  
WORK DAYS**

of support provided to the  
Refugee Resettlement  
program

**190 RIDES  
PROVIDED TO  
SENIOR CLIENTS**



Graphic courtesy of Paul Borowsky and Rachael Wortzel.



## JSS Brings Shabbat to Our Seniors



Our monthly Shabbat gatherings include candle-lighting, challah, singing, and discussion. Residents, family and friends of residents, and rehab patients are welcome to attend.

### CAPITOL LAKES SHABBAT:

Grand Hall, 333 West Main St.

May 1, 2020, 3:30–4:30 pm

A program of Jewish Social Services and Capitol Lakes Retirement Community.

Led by Rabbi Andrea Steinberger with help from UW students through the Hillel Foundation.

### OAKWOOD VILLAGE SHABBAT:

Oaks Community Room, 6225 Mineral Point Rd.

May 15, 2020, 2:30–3:30 pm

A program of Jewish Social Services and Oakwood Village University Woods.

Led by Rabbi Renée Bauer with help from JSS staff and volunteers. Music by the talented pianist Paul Grossberg.

### ATTIC ANGELS SHABBAT:

Garden Room, 8301 Old Sauk Rd.

May 22, 2020, 2:30–3:30 pm

A quarterly program of Jewish Social Services and the Attic Angel Association.

Led by Rabbi Renée Bauer. Music by the talented guitarist Les Goldsmith.

## Celebrate Passover with JSS!



Capital Lakes Passover Seder is on ~~Monday, April 13, 2020, 11:30 am–2:00 pm~~

Oakwood West Passover Seder is on ~~Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 4:00–6:30 pm in the Nakoma/Westmoreland room.~~

~~Outside guests should call or email Paul Borowsky to register at 608-442-4083 or paul@jssmadison.org. Co-sponsored by JSS.~~

Community Seders have been canceled. Please check with your facility chaplain about safe Seder and Passover celebration opportunities.



## 2020 Levy Summer Series has Been Canceled

Check Summer Connections for information about possible Levy events this coming fall.

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## Save the Date for the Annual JSS Barbeque

Monday, August 24: 11:30 am–1:00 pm

All are welcome! Held at the annual BBQ on Goodman Campus in Verona.

*More info coming soon.*

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## “Stepping On” Fall Prevention Class Starting Soon

*For Seniors, A Fall Could Change Everything!* One in four people age 65 or older has a fall each year. You don't have to be one of them. Participating in a “Stepping On” class can help you avoid a dangerous and costly fall so you can keep doing the things you love to do. The class has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 30 percent!

In just seven weeks, you'll learn:

- To identify and remove or avoid fall hazards in your home
- How vision, hearing, medication, and footwear affect your risk of falling
- Strength and balance exercises you can adapt to your individual level

- How to get back to your feet the right way if you do fall

**Where:** Max Weinstein Jewish Community Building  
6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719

**When:** Dates to be determined

**Cost:** \$35 (Scholarships are available)

**For More Information:** Please contact JSS at [office@jssmadison.org](mailto:office@jssmadison.org) or 608-442-4081

*Sponsored by JSS and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging.*



# Chaos and Confusion at the Border

Adapted from Temple Beth El's Social Justice Spotlight



*Paul Ratje/AFP/Getty Images.*

This past summer JSS restarted its Immigration Legal Services program when Carrie Fox-Kline became an Accredited Representative through the U.S. Department of Justice. She provides assistance with applications for Green Cards, family reunifications, travel documents, and citizenship, among other services. She mainly serves JSS refugee clients but also receives referrals for other cases, including asylees. In September of 2019, Carrie traveled to El Paso, Texas, through HIAS' Border and Asylum Network, to ensure that asylum seekers received much-needed legal aid.

Asylum seekers have fled persecution in their home country, are seeking safe haven in a different country, but they have yet to receive any legal recognition by the United States government. The right to seek asylum was created by

international agreement following the Holocaust, and after WWII 146 countries signed a treaty agreeing to allow asylum claims.

The U.S. created a more formal process after the influx of asylees in the wake of the Vietnam war. Historically, asylum seekers appearing at a port of entry into the U.S. would undergo a "credible fear" interview by immigration personnel. If they passed this credible fear interview, they would be scheduled for a hearing with an immigration court judge. Although some were detained pending this hearing, others were able to post bond and remain free in the U.S. while attending immigration court hearings.

In 2018, the U.S. government began to limit the number of asylum seekers it would let into the country. Since then, asylum seekers have been waiting in the border cities of Mexico,

often for months, to have their interview. Many are required to return to Mexico between hearings, living in tent cities or in shelters, with no way to earn a living, but unable to safely go back to the homes they fled. According to Carrie, the current system causes confusion and chaos. Without a permanent address, asylum seekers in Mexico have difficulty receiving correspondence from the courts regarding their hearings.

There is no "public defender" system in U.S. immigration law so asylum seekers must find their own representation; most do not have any legal representation. Free or low-cost legal representation is difficult to access when asylum seekers are forced to wait in Mexico. The number of petitions granted is very low. Even with clear allegations of domestic violence, police persecution, or LGBTQ harassment, asylum seekers are often sent back to wait months before their cases are called. There is an estimated backlog of 1 million cases (asylum and other types of cases) pending in the immigration courts.

This already broken system is now under further strain and stress due to COVID-19. All immigration court hearings involving non-detained individuals have been canceled for the time being, and those in detention are reliant upon the availability of video and phone conferencing to continue accessing legal council while



their cases proceed in immigration courts. Crowded conditions in immigration detention facilities as well as on the Mexico side of the border mean asylum seekers are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19. Meanwhile, Immigration and Customs Enforcement continues its operations on the interior of the U.S. to detain and deport individuals. Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc (of which JSS is an affiliate) has reported, "ICE indicates that it does not conduct enforcement operations at medical facilities, except under extraordinary circumstances, according to its <https://www.ice.gov/ero/enforcement/sensitive-loc-sensitive-locations-policy>. This is contrary to news reports indicating otherwise."

Here in Madison, Carrie continues to work with clients remotely, adapting our new program to incorporate videoconferencing technology with both clients and language interpreters. USCIS is still accepting applications at this time, though not scheduling any in-person appointments.

JSS will publish additional volunteer opportunities to support immigrants and refugees in Madison at a later date, but while facing COVID-19 concerns,

please consider how you may support immigrants and refugees through financial giving, and through advocacy efforts from home.

*To give to support immigrant services in Dane County, you can:*

Give directly to JSS at:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/jssmadison1>

Give to the Dane County Immigrant Assistance Collaborative at:

[madisongives.org/immigrantassistance](http://madisongives.org/immigrantassistance)

*To read more about advocacy efforts and how to get involved:*

Check out CLINIC's website

for the latest news on immigration advocacy:

[cliniclegal.org/advocacy](http://cliniclegal.org/advocacy)

Visit HIAS' website with advocacy action steps for refugees and asylum seekers:

[hias.org/get-involved/take-action](http://hias.org/get-involved/take-action)



## JSS WISHLIST

**DONATIONS TO JSS ENABLE US TO HELP CLIENTS DEAL WITH THE COVID CRISIS:** Vulnerable clients are encountering unexpected and potentially devastating financial barriers to needed goods and services that can be very important for independence, health, and safety. Help us help clients with a financial donation today. Mail a check, donate online at [jssmadison.org/ways-to-give](http://jssmadison.org/ways-to-give), or call the main desk at 442-4081.

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Help JSS clients by purchasing items from our Amazon Wishlist at [tinyurl.com/jss-wishlist](http://tinyurl.com/jss-wishlist) (Call the office at 608-442-4081 for help making Amazon purchases.)

**GIFT CARDS FOR HOUSEHOLD NEEDS:** (from Woodman's, Walmart, Target, or Metcalfe's for kosher and Passover food) are an easy and effective way to help our clients.

Gift cards should be mailed to 6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53717 until office reopens to the public.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Jewish Social Services of Madison  
**CONNECTIONS**

Published by Jewish Social Services of Madison

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[www.jssmadison.org](http://www.jssmadison.org)



*Please note that our main phone number is now 608-442-4081*



*A Happy, Healthy and  
Hope-filled Passover  
from all JSS Staff*



JSS is a beneficiary agency of:



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