



“Welcome, ~~Stranger~~ Neighbor!” Putting Our Values to Work at JSS

By Dawn Berney, Executive Director



Early in my tenure at Jewish Social Services, some staff members asked me about the core values of our agency. We decided to use a collaborative process to define our agency's values. See the infographic we created as a result. We try to ensure that every program decision we make is aligned with one or more of these values. Our next several issues of *Connections* will focus on how JSS puts these core values to work.

Because Pesach (Passover) is coming (the story of when Jews were strangers in the land of Egypt) we decided to

focus this newsletter on “Welcoming the Stranger.” The Torah reminds us to care for the stranger 36 times! Not even remembering the Sabbath comes up as often. What does this mean at JSS? Our clients and volunteers may find themselves either being welcomed in some way here, or helping welcome others. Whether we help those who have moved to Madison from another part of the country, support those who are joining the Jewish community for their first time, or set up a new home for someone coming from the other side of the world, many aspects of our work embody this value.

Chag Sameach and Happy Passover!



Respecting the Stranger

By Maya Garbuz, MSW, JSS Case Manager,
and Christina Kantor, JSS Program Assistant



The University of Wisconsin-Madison attracts faculty and staff from the former Soviet Union, and many of

them bring parents or grandparents who speak no English. JSS Case Manager Maya Garbuz has been assisting these families for many years.

Many older Russian-speaking immigrants have advanced degrees, and had successful careers in their homeland. But learning English is a real barrier for many of them, and Maya is one of the few professionals in the area fluent in Russian.

[Continued on page 2](#)

This edition of Connections is dedicated to the memories of Jeanne Silverberg, Phil Levy, and Debbie Giesfeldt. All three were strong advocates for JSS' work to welcome the stranger. We miss them. May their memories be a blessing.

These immigrants need help understanding and navigating social and economic programs in America, and have come to rely on Maya's steadfast help.

Maya works very hard to get agencies here to treat them with respect. Because they are low-income by American standards, and cannot communicate well in English, professionals working with them sometimes assume

"Many older Russian-speaking immigrants have advanced degrees, and had successful careers in their homeland. But learning English is a real barrier for many of them."

they are not intelligent or accomplished people, and treat them like children.

Many of these immigrants have created a satisfying life for themselves here, and have an active and supportive community. Still, many are anxious about keeping and managing their limited resources, and sometimes hesitant to lean too hard on their adult children for help. A few have no family members nearby at all. Jewish Social Services is the agency they know to call when they need help.

I Am the Stranger

By Vivi Velasquez, JSS Refugee Resettlement Intern and Edgewood College Student



My name is Vivi Velasquez and I am a stranger in America. While I've been in the U.S. for 20 of my 21 years now, my legal status is uncertain

because I have DACA. DACA ("Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals") is a program created by President Obama that allows folks who arrived in the U.S. as children, the opportunity to acquire a driver's license, work, and be in the U.S. without the fear of deportation for a renewable two-year term. I live with the fear that a change in this policy could interrupt my life in America, as DACA does not offer a permanent solution to the legal limbo it creates.

President Biden has said that he will introduce an eight-year plan that will allow 11 million

undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship. Those with DACA could gain citizenship in just three years. As someone who has never been able to visit my home country, it brings me a sense of optimism and relief that I may be able to travel back to my country of birth, and live a normal life without worry or the sense of being unwelcome in this country. Barriers to higher education, job access, and social mobility will be shattered for me and many others, allowing us to participate as full citizens in American life.

JSS 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Brad Goldstein (President)

Carousel Bayrd (Vice President)

Barry Gidal
(Immediate Past President)

Nathan Lipton (Treasurer)

Rachel Rosenfeld (Secretary)

Livia Asher

Bob Breslow

Ariela Karasov

Stormy-Kito Justice

Nancy Leff

Amy Lesson

Nathan Lipton

Sarah Sherman

Giving Hope – and Opportunity

By Rachael Wortzel, JSS Program Assistant



“I’m grateful for the chance to help our clients build new lives here, because every human deserves hope and opportunity.”

Two years ago, I worked as an intern with the JSS refugee resettlement program. When I started my internship, I knew very little about refugees and the U.S. immigration system, but by the end I recognized it as perhaps one of the greatest humanitarian crises of this century. I was surprised to learn that, of the millions of people around the world seeking refuge, a mere 1% will be resettled worldwide. I was proud to learn that, since the signing of the Federal Refugee

Act in 1980, the United States resettles more refugees than all other nations combined. Even after 9/11, and even in economic recessions, America still welcomes people in need of a safe place to call home.

Since 2019, I have been the program assistant for JSS Immigration Legal Services. I am also a graduate student in social work, and I believe strongly in the value of hope and opportunity. I am also the great-grandchild of Jewish immigrants, who came

to the U.S. looking for exactly those things. Welcoming the stranger is deeply important to me. For immigrants, actually getting to America is just one hurdle. Building a new life in America presents a new set of challenges, and JSS gets to make that easier. In my time here, our program has helped many refugees obtain their green cards. Immigration policy is complex and unforgiving, so I consider each of those cards a triumph. I’m grateful for the chance to help our clients build new lives here, because every human deserves hope and opportunity.

Federal Refugee Admission Program Numbers Set to Quadruple

By Becca Schwartz, JSS Resettlement Director

Over the last four years, the number of people allowed into the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program has decreased year after year. In Fiscal Year 2020, only 11,814 refugees were resettled in the U.S., less than half of the previous lowest number (FY2002). Through all of this, as many resettlement agencies were laying off staff and sometimes closing, JSS managed to keep

all of our staff and even increase the number of staff and programs serving refugees and asylees in Dane County.

On February 12, the new Biden Administration provided a Report to Congress on their intention to substantially increase the number of refugees allowed into the country for the remainder of the fiscal year. The proposed plan includes raising this year’s refugee admissions target from

15,000 to 62,500. We are eager for the chance to welcome more people who are seeking refuge and a chance to build a new life in the Madison area.



How We Welcome the Stranger at JSS



*So many people move to Madison to be closer to family, for a new job, or for a slower pace. No matter why you come to Madison, JSS is here to say, "Welcome, **Stranger** Neighbor!" -Dawn Berney*



Welcoming the stranger means recognizing our shared humanity and standing in solidarity with our community newcomers.

-Sam Van Akkeren



"I welcome the stranger when I work with individuals"

who have been disengaged from Judaism for many years. By being present at critical life moments, I let them know that they belong in the Jewish community. -Rabbi Renée Bauer



When we are welcoming of those who are different, the opportunities for connection, empathy, and love multiply. This is the kind of world I want to pass on to future generations.

-Becca Schwartz



"JSS welcomes"

strangers, helps them settle in, and teaches them how to be Americans, but we do not try to change how they worship or ask them to give up their identity or cultural values.

-Rihab Taha



There is a saying in Russian, "to give your last shirt," that describes one of the best traits of Russians: generosity – giving without restraint. A stranger, a guest, anyone who enters your home is welcomed. I am reminded of this every time I enter a client's home and meet the incredible big-heartedness of people who don't have much but are willing to share everything.

-Maya Garbuz



Welcoming the stranger to me means offering kindness and understanding. It also means building a foundation of trust and being a strong support in people's lives when a lot of changes are happening for them.



Whatever minor role I have in helping our clients build their lives here, I'm grateful for it because every human deserves to know opportunity.

-Rachael Wortzel



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Through Aljirani Madison

By Sam Van Akkeren, JSS Refugee Support Programs Coordinator

Nowhere is the value of welcoming the stranger more evident than in the amazing support JSS volunteers provide for our refugee neighbors. After a great experience interning with JSS last year, I was thrilled to rejoin the agency last fall as the Refugee Support Programs Coordinator. With funding from HIAS, we were able to kickstart a new refugee mentorship program we are calling "Aljirani Madison" (from Swahili "jirani - neighbor" and Arabic "aljar - neighbor").

We knew that launching this program during a pandemic would be a real challenge, but the need for community support and connections are more important than ever. Thanks to the amazing efforts of our volunteers and clients, the program is already making a difference! We have had nine volunteer partnerships working remotely on everything from English practice to career development. One volunteer was able to help his refugee partner (who has with limited vision) gain access to an assistive computer. Thanks to his Aljirani volunteer, our client is now connected virtually and able to access online religious services as well as our community support groups.

I'm excited to see where the program goes and the community connections we can help make between our neighbors. None of it would be possible without our awesome volunteers!

"We knew that launching this program during a pandemic would be a real challenge, but the need for community support and connections are more important than ever. "

Transportation Assistance Available!

Need help paying for rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other basic needs?



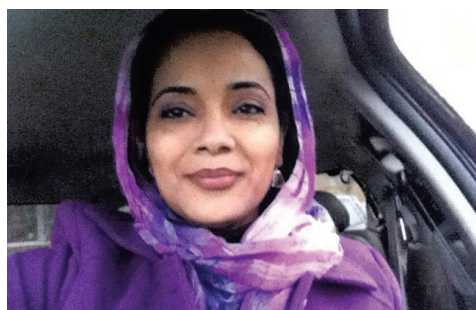
JSS received a grant from Bader Philanthropies of Milwaukee to allow us to

provide rides for older adults in Dane County who don't drive and have limited resources. Rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and similar necessities will be made available for a maximum of \$8.00 round trip if JSS cannot find a volunteer driver for you. Fee waivers are available for those who need them.

If you or anyone you know might benefit from this program, call (608) 442-4081 or email office@jssmadison.org. We will connect you with one of our social workers who will be happy to help you access this service. We thank Bader Philanthropies for their support of our community.

"She Looks Like Me" – Rihab Taha's Unique Role With JSS

By Christina Kantor, JSS Program Assistant



Many traditional Muslim homes have a guest room ready for a stranger who may appear in need of refuge. This ancient custom recalls the time when Mohammad and his followers were driven out of Mecca by idol worshippers. These earliest

followers of Islam sought refuge from persecution in the city of Al Madina, and later in modern-day Ethiopia. Hence Islam explicitly tells its followers to help the stranger (Q'uran; Al-Hashr: 8-9).

This commandment of hospitality

Continued on page 6

is one of many links that Rihab Taha, a case manager for JSS Refugee Resettlement, identifies between her faith and Judaism. From the Unity of G-d, to the directive to care for widows and orphans, to the importance of sharing food (prepared according to similar purity laws), to welcoming the dispossessed – Judaism and Islam are woven from sister threads.

Muslim refugees are sometimes apprehensive about being resettled in the U.S. by a Jewish agency. One-sided portrayals of the Israel-Palestine conflict in some Middle Eastern media have left them with fears of being dependent on Jewish people when they arrive.



“Many traditional Muslim homes have a guest room ready for a stranger who may appear in need of refuge.”

Meeting a Muslim woman who works with the Jewish community organization is an eye-opening experience. Rihab, who wears the traditional hijab, and explains that she can say her daytime prayers at work, gives these

new immigrants confidence that they too will be accepted. They quickly come to understand that JSS respects their identity and their faith, and will help them adapt to life here without giving up their heritage.

Many of us have found ourselves strangers in a land not our own. When Rihab came to America nearly 20 years ago, she was highly educated and widely traveled, but still found building a life in this country a challenge. Now she is an ambassador for JSS, sharing the organization's mission to help refugees learn to navigate life here, while still drawing strength from their culture and religion.

THANK YOU

2020 Donors

Jewish Social Services receives financial support from individuals, foundations, and organizations of many kinds. We would like to thank every one of our donors for their valuable contributions. Big or small, your gifts demonstrate your care for our community. Please join us in recognizing the following for their generous contributions in 2020. (If we missed you in this list, please forgive us, and let us know at (608) 442-4081 or office@jssmadison.org)

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

HIAS
Irwin A. and Robert D.
Goodman Foundation
Jewish Federation of Madison
Tim and Kathleen Mazur
Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

\$25,000–\$49,999

Joshua Chover z"l
County of Dane
Stanley Kanter and Sarah Grimes

\$10,000–\$24,999

Dane County Immigrant Assistance Fund
Thomas Dyhr
Nancy Leff and KC Lerner
Irving and Dorothy Levy Family
Foundation Inc.
Jeffrey Levy
Raube Marks
Ethel and Joseph Spatz
Family Foundation
Bernard Weisblum

\$5,000–\$9,999

Eric Adelman and Katherine Gast
Arnold N. Rusky Community Fund
Epic Systems Corporation
Miles and Amy Epstein
Forest Foundation Inc.
Alan Kalker and Abigail Cantor
Marvin Levy
Valerie Mannis
Stefanie Moritz and Vincel Jenkins
NewBridge Madison, Inc.
Ellen Louise Schwartz
Donor Designated Contributions
through United Way

\$2,000–\$4,999

Bader Philanthropies
Niles and Linda Berman
Dawn Berney and Edward Angelina
Marc and Sheila Cohen
Howard and Pam Erlanger
Bonnie Denmark Friedman
Svetlana and Michael Gerdes
Stanley Goldfarb and Sandra Arnn
David and Ellen Goldstein
Harriet Hyman

Nancy and Jesse Ishikawa
Jeffrey and Marcia Kushner
Francis Levy
Barbara Myers Temkin and Harvey Temkin
Mitchell and Sharon Rapkin
Linda Reivitz
Andrew Rotter
Rotter Family Foundation, Inc.
Jeanne z"l and Joseph Silverberg
Francie Smith Saposnik
and Herbert Lewis
James and Nancy Youngerman

\$1,000–\$1,999

Livia Asher
Lawrence and Janice Bensky
Elaine Borowsky
Saretta Burke
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
Dane County Bar Association
Richard and Susan Davidson
Jenny Elyanov
Rick Ezell and Kristen Bernard
Robert Factor and Kris Rasmussen
Jean Feinstein-Lyon and Stanley Lyon
Brad Goldstein and Rachel Rosenfeld

Barbara Granick
Rachel Groman and Dan Resnick
Simon and Billie Hellerstein
Deborah Hoffman and Mark Hazelbaker
Hollis Jellinek z"l
Rochelle Klaskin
Diane Kravetz and Mark Saltzman
Edward Krinsky
Amy Lakritz and Mark Weiner
Laurence & Frances Weinstein
Foundation, Inc.
Phillip Levy z"l
Madison South Rotary Foundation
Jill Maidenberger and Richard Thal
Howard and Sally Mazur
Kathy and Don Miner
Wendy and Rich Nelson
Seymour and Ruth Parter
Monroe Rosner and Ronnie Hess
Robert and Judith Rubin
Diane Seder and Bruce Rosen
Jenny Sereno
Elliott and Norma Sober
Steve Stern and Florencia Mallon
Julie Swedarsky
Merle and Patti Sweet

Continued on page 7

Jane Taves
Rayla Temin
Michael and Nancy Yaffe

\$500-\$999

Anonymous
Betsy Abramson and David Seligman
Marjorie Aiello
Benjamin Arm
Janneke Baske
Arnie Benardette
Louis and Sandi Bernhardt
Robert and Jean Breslow
Bernard and Toby Cohen
Charles Cohen and Christine Schindler
Gordon and Gail Derzon
Jane Eisner
Bela Elkin and Roman Kaplan
Jordan Ellenberg
Sandra Farkas
Michael Feldman and Sandra Wolens
Michael and Jane Fox
Howard and Debra Fried
Miriam Goldberg
David Goldenberg
Leslie Goldsmith and Dale Kunin
Ellen Goldstein
Paul Grossberg and Dean Ziemke
Steven and Roberta Jellinek
Jewish Federation of Nashville
& Middle Tennessee
Thomas and Catherine Kaplan
William and Corliss Karasov
Judy Karofsky
Theodore and Irene Knupp
Lawrence Kohn and Laurie Buchalter
Judy and Jordan Konisky
Thomas and Margie Krauskopf
Jack and Marlon Krebs
Helaine Kriegel
Rachel Lefevre
Joan Lerman and Ken O'Neill
Allan and Sandra Levin
Daniel and Kathy Levin
Titus Levy
Barbara Lorman
Barbara Miller
David and Trudy Mylrea
Gilbert Nathanson and Mary Saecker
Erik Nielsen
Melvyn and Mary Pearlman
Judith Pierotti
Evan and Jane Pizer
Martin and Lynn Preizler
Daniel Quint
Francis and Sally Schrag
Margaret Schwarze and Joshua Mezrich
Erica Serlin and Ken Kushner
Jack Sherman and Jodi Bruss Sherman
Judy and Ben Sidran
Carl Sinderbrand and Maryann Sumi
Louis and Elsbeth Solomon
James and Melissa Sosman
Harriet Steinberg
Janice Steinberg and Jack Cassidy
Daniel Stolz and Judy Greenberg
Charles Vetzner
Burton and Georgia Wagner
Grace Wahba
Henry Wertheimer
Deena and Peter Williams
Rabbis Laurie Zimmerman
and Renée Bauer

\$250-\$499

Hildegard and Julius Adler
Phillip and Sara Barak
Robert and Roslynd Bauer
Carousel Bayrd and Tim Sobota
Linda and Howard Bellman

Leslie and Stuart Berney
Sandra Booth
Howard and Heidi Bregman
Warren Buckles and Wendy Rakower
Tatyana Budker
Martin Burns
Carol Cohen
Marsha Cohen and Michael Pressman
Ronald and Nicole Dolin
Anthony Eastham
Frederick Edelman and Ivy Dreizin Edelman
Gary and Lori Edelstein
Shanee Ellison and Neil Kodesh
David Falk and Jo Anne Robbins
Dorothy Farrar-Edwards and Jan Greenberg
Nancy Feingold and Douglas Green
Ted Finman
Jay Fleisher
Marc and Eve Galanter
Denny and Gary Geller
Barry and Nancy Gidal
Bernie and Lenora Goldstein
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Leslie Grant & William Schwab
Geraldine Gurman
Frede Hammes
Lisa Hempstead and Scott Meskin
Roselyn and Noah Hershkovitz (z"l)
Craig and Wendi Joseph
Benjamin Kadis
Jonathon and Rebecca Kaiser
Carole and Paul Kantor
Kenneth and Tamara Sue Kaplan
Joan Karan
Murray and Susan Katcher
Kathleen Katz
Claudine and Daniel Kavanagh
Stephen Kessler and Donna Anderson
Donald Kirschner
Marilyn Kupferberg
Burt and Dale Kushner
Howard and Judith Landsman
Jeff and Donna Landsman
Amy Lessing and Beau Thompson
Sharon Lezberg
Constance and William Markey
Ellen Meyer
Irene and Barry Mirkin
Carol Murray
Carol Ottenstein and Ronald Sklansky
Donald and Marjorie Passman
Kato Perlman
Scott Perlman
Bobby Present
Paul Rabinowitz and Birgit Christensen
Eileen Rabson
Michele and Jim Rohan
Max and Betty Rosenbaum
Elaine Rosenblatt
Ron and Cathy Rotter
Emanuel Schwam
Barbara and Lawrence Schwartz
David and Shelley Schwarz
Sherwood Seigel
Nadav and Miriam Shelef
Kyra and Abdulcadir Sido
Eve Siegel
Paul and Sherie Sodel
Barbara Spierer
Sheryl and Jeffrey Spitzer-Resnick
Merle and Gerald Sternberg
Howard Sweet and Jamie Warren
Suzanne Swift
Temkin Iron and Metal, LLC
Frank and Barbara Tuerkheimer
Arnold and Ellen Wald
Janice Wexler and Ronald Walker
Charlotte Woolf

Clarice Wortzel
Daniel and Irene Zimmerman

\$100-\$249

Stephen and Lillian Abrams
Aaron Albert
Majid Arabshahi
Jane Armstrong
Josh Arnold
Ninel Babinskaya
Adam Balin and Karin Mahony
Jo Bannister
Lawrence and Sharon Barish
Laurie Bartz
Patricia Beithon
Sara Berg
Dorit Bergen
Joanna Berke
Ronald and Kris Berman
Hannah Bernard-Donals
Kerri Berney
Mark Bernstein and Tracy Honn
Rabbi Jonathan Biatch and Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Linda Bloom
Evan Bluestein
David Bookstaff
Stephen and Danielle Boorstein
Albert Borokhim
Marc Brand
Allyn Bress
Eileen Bruskewitz
Andrea and John Carvin
Joseph and Carol Chulew
Judy Coburn
Diana Cohen and Wesley Slaymaker
Ronald and Harriet Dinerstein
Robert Dorson
Martin Drapkin
Doris and Richard Dubielzig
Charlie Edelman
Rabbi Irvin and Vivian Ehrlich
Leslie Eisenberg
Jean Esch-Theobald
Barbara and Dan Esser
Judy Ettinger
Zoe Faivre Werth
Judith Feder
Kenneth and Laura Felz
Eli and Lisa Feret
Ellen Fisher and Douglas Yanggen
Emily Fite
Marshall and Lisa Flax
Norman Fost and Renie Schapiro
Albert Friedman and Susan Tikalsky
Susan Friedman-Hill and Gregory Hill
Milton and Jacki Friend
Jac and Edith Garner
Jennifer Ginsburg
Ken and Jeanette Golden
William and Susan Goldenberg
Shira and Daniel Goldman
Brian Goldstein
Irene and Donald Golembiewski
Beverly and Lawrence Gottlieb
Dina Granilshchikova and Victor Aksenov
Janice Gratch and Steven Wilensky
Robert Greenberg
Molly Grupe
Diane Gutmann and Thomas Palay
Sheldon Haber
Dennis and Victoria Hill
Phyllis Holman Weisbard
Karin Horler
Steven Huss-Lederman
Ann Imig
Mark Isenberg
Ben Jacobson
Jeff Jensen
Sarah Johnson

Mary and Ben Johnston
Paula Jones
Dori Kalish
David and Cindy Kamps
Joanne Kanter
Michael and Christina Kantor
Janice Kaplan
Ariela Karasov and Daniel Torres-Rangel
Neal and Marci Katz
Andrea Kaufman
Alice Kavanagh
Anatoly and Irina Khazanov
Gary Kippur
Nadine and Steven Korab
Allan and Katherine Koritzinsky
Steven Koslov and Mary Fulton
Sandra Kutler
Esther Lange
Regis Lecoanet and Robin Moskowitz
Sherry Lessing
Rosalind Levin
Howard Levine and Marcia Vandercook
Judith and Victor Levine
Victor and Susan Levy
Jayne and Larry Libman
Daniel and Bettine Lipman
Steven and Judith Lippmann
Jordan and Jessie Loeb
Yael and Eric Lund
Jim Mackman
Helen and Ernest Madsen
Ron Malul and Christian Paar
Bala Mani
Ellen Marendaz
Jesse Markow and Teryl Dobbs
Diane Mayerfeld and Michael Bell
Jerri McCallum-Schwartz and Robert D. Schwartz
Janet Mertz and Jonathan Kane
Caren Minkoff and Ari Lampear
Joel and Deborah Minkoff
Michael and Elaine Minkoff
Daniel Minkus and Doreen Allen
Jonathan Mirkin
Melvin Morgenbesser
Samuel Moss
Network for Good
Kathleen Nichols
Carol O'Neil
Jessica and Alperen Ozalp
Mark and Judy Paschen
Ann Paulen
Jane Pearlmutter
Serge and Eugenia Perepel
Jessica Peters-Michaud
Antje Petty
Patricia Podgers
Michael and Barbara Pratzel
Joe Puishys
Michael and Linda Puls
Judith Rabinowitz
Rachel Reed
Mikhail and Tatyana Reyfman
Joan Riggs
Camille Rivas Rutherford
Pamela Robbins and David Friedman
Sean and Elena Robbins
Celeste Robins
Lauri Roman
James Roseberry and Susan Jane O'leary
Ruth Rosen
Gregory Rosenberg
Michael Ross and Kirsten Fruit
Mary and Kendall Rouse
Catherine Rudin
Kim Santiago
Adam Schesch and Tracy Suprise
Mary Schneider
David and JoAnn Schoengold
Dana Schreiber

Continued on page 8

John Schuster
 Lisa Seidman
 Nicholas Shepherd
 Sarah and Adam Sherman
 Lynn Silverman
 Robert and JoAnn Skloot
 Ina and Theodore Smolker
 Myrna Solganick
 Steve Somerson and Helena Tsotsis
 Jesse Sondel
 Michael Sondheim
 Debra and Jack Spear
 Michael Spierer and Renate Bennett
 Bill and Bunny Spitz
 Rabbi Andrea and Gregory Steinberger
 Rochelle Stillman
 Lois Stoler
 Priscilla Storm
 Joshua Sulman and Erin McGrath
 Susan Swartling
 Joseph Talmadge and Hannah
 Diment-Talmadge
 Ted and Margie Tarkow
 Leonard Teiber
 Laura Thomas
 Russell and Karen Tomar
 Francine Tompkins
 Victoria Topp
 Ronald and Ann Trachtenberg
 Kira Vanderwert
 Uri and Hagit Vardi
 Laurence Victor
 Stanley Wachs
 Bernice and Michael Wahle
 Phyllis and Stephen Wainger
 Jean and Arthur Waldman
 Nicole Weber
 Alan Weinberg and Claire Weiss
 Harvey and Bonnie Wendel
 Christine White
 Elizabeth Whitesel
 Joel Winnig
 Carol and Joel Wish
 Mitchell and Suzanne Wolf
 Richard Wolman
 Jim and Janis Wrich
 Sol Zaichick
 Clarice and Newton Zinder
 Claudia Zitzmann
 Nancy Zucker and Michael Burns

UP TO \$99

Richard Adelman
 Todd Barnett
 Linda and Charles Barrett
 Jack Bernfeld
 Josh Bieber
 Virgene Koehler Biggers
 and Dale Biggers
 Jessica Bluestein
 Randall Blumenstein and Marci Gittleman
 Paul Borowsky
 Rachel Brenner z"l

Marc and Jenny Chipault
 Roseanne Clark
 Lawrence and Becky Cohen
 Michael Cooper
 Michelle Crow
 Diana Cutts
 Claire Dalle Molle
 Georgette and Larry Davis
 Meredith and Tom Degen
 Royce Dembo
 Barbara Dickey
 Andrew Dzambo
 Louise Elbaum
 Pearl and John Fantle
 Miriam Farber and William Rowley
 Stephanie Fassnacht
 Carol Faynik and Peter Wehrle
 Elissa Fernandez
 Beth and David Fowler
 Janet and Byron Frenz
 Donna Friedsam and Tim Astfalk
 Maya and Alexander Garbuz
 Allison Garner
 Hiam Garner and Nancy Deaton
 Rena Gelman-Lauer and Robert Lauer
 Todd and Deborah z"l Giesfeldt
 Felyce Gilford
 Jaimee Gilford
 Molly Ginsberg
 Marcia Glennon
 Randall Gold
 Cecilia Goldschmidt
 Joe Goldstein
 Susan Goldstein
 Jerry and Carolyn Goodman
 Shari Gootter
 Ben Gould
 Alex and Svetlana Govorukha
 Daniel Grabojs and Meg Lamm
 Stacy Graff
 Virginia Graff
 Megan Grinde & Brian Weber
 Lyudmyla Grytsenko
 Rosalind Gusinow
 Naomi Gusowski
 Vicki Gustafson
 Yevgeny and Marina Guterman
 Helen Hanau
 James and Marsha Harnett
 Marc and Judith Herstand
 Melanie Herzog and Norman Stockwell
 Victoria and David Hestad
 Valerie Hickman
 Sharon Hirschfeld
 Cory Hoffert
 James Hornik and Janet Yoder
 Elayne Ihnchak
 Susan Jahr
 Katherine James
 Julita Jankowska and David Karpe
 Kimberly Joboulian
 Michael Rock and Kathi Johnson Rock
 Stormy-Kito Justice

Linda and Steve Kailin
 Rajya Lakshmi Katragadda
 Stephen Katz
 Fay and Mitchell Kaye
 Marena Kehl and Peter McKeever
 Nancy Kendall
 Andrew Kessel
 Susan Kiernan
 Norma Klagos
 Carol Klein
 Genya Kleyman
 Susan Kniebes
 Alex Kommatas
 David and Patricia Kopstein
 Tatyana Kudinenko and Sergei Saveliy
 David and Yelena Kurolapnik
 Ann Lacy
 Larissa Larson
 Lynn Lederman
 Nir Leibovitch
 Michele Lenoff
 Cheryl and Gary Lerner
 Andrea Levy
 Jeffrey Lindholm and Leslie Fields
 Nathan and Becca Lipton
 Timothy and Susanna Lodge
 Irene Lugassy Geller
 Elizabeth Macasaet
 Justin Margolies
 Margaret Maroney and Ed Marion
 Jeffrey Martin
 Andrea Miller
 Kathleen Miller
 Paul and Sherry Minkus
 Barbara and John Mitchell
 Steven Morrison and Goldie Kadushin
 Michael and Cheryl Moskoff
 Janis and John Noonan
 Mitchell Nussbaum
 Ava Olsen
 Patrice and Michael Onheiber
 Carla Oppenheimer
 Alan Orenberg
 Michael and Karen Ostrov
 Leslie and Seth Perelman
 Jill and Jacob Pfeiffer
 Beverley Pieper
 Susanne Policano
 Karen Pollak
 Joan Polner
 Brenda and David Prochnow
 Saul and Simcha Prombaum
 Kris Rasmussen
 Miriam Ratner
 Katharine and Benjamin Reiser
 Arden Rice
 Julie Rivchin
 Ilona Rodan
 Marianne Rosen
 Kimberly Rosenthal
 Robert Rosenthal
 Judith and Jeffrey Ross
 Harry and Karen Roth

Judith and Michael Rothschild
 Jane Tzinberg Rubin and Ken Rubin
 Jane Sadusky
 JoAnn Salin
 Leora Saposnik and Irwin Goldman
 Irina Savina
 Margaret Schmidt
 David Schoenholtz
 Myra Schultz and Arthur Polans
 Kathleen Schuster
 David and Tina Schwartz
 Griffin Schwed
 Hanna Schwing
 Ellina Seckel
 Carolyn and Le Roy Seeger
 Ron and Marie Seeger
 Wayne and Debbie Seeger
 Susan Shands
 Lailah Shima
 Betty Shovers
 Marc Shovers and Jan Loeb
 Judy Siegfried
 Jeni Smilowitz
 Harvey and Judith Sokolow
 James Stein
 Chelsea Stillman-Coyne
 Marylyn and Stewart Stroup
 Michael and Mary Subkoviak
 Judith Swartz Marcus and Joel Marcus
 Lawrence and Jessica Sweet
 Leon and Barbara Swerin
 Robin Taylor
 Katrina Thornburgh
 Linda Tuchman-Ginsberg
 and Alan Ginsberg
 Jeffrey and Connie Tumm
 Karin Twilde-Sheifer and Stuart Sheifer
 The United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
 Marie Udulutch
 Robert Van Der Leest
 Regina Vidaver
 Thuan Thi Vu
 Lawrence Warman
 Mona Wasow and Richard Brualdi
 Alan Weisbard
 Sara Wendell
 Mark Wexler and Kathy Heady
 Kevin Wheeler
 Bruce and Carol Winkler
 Rabbi Paula Winnig
 Alene Wiseman
 Susan and Lawrence Wolfinsohn
 Beth Wortzel
 Haya and Moshe Yuchtman
 Abby and Anthony Zampardi
 Michael Zis
 Brenda and Robert Zitowsky

JSS would like to thank the following people, who pledged almost \$9,000 to JSS in 2020 through United Way of Dane County's Donor-Designated Giving Program:

Eric E Adelman
 Leslie Bernstein
 Sybil R. Better
 Kathy K. Blumenfeld
 Jennifer Brown
 Alta Charo
 Lynn Currie

Jon T. Eckhardt
 Patti Epstein
 Dorothy Farrar-Edwards
 Donna A. Friedsam
 Sarah Tamar
 Galanter-Guziewski
 Billy J. Gates
 Jill E. Genter

Chad A. Goldberg
 Rahel Goldstein Greenlee
 Steve Goldstein
 Francine Hirsch
 Faith A. Kamps
 Beth Kaplan
 Dixon B. Kaufman

Rena B. Kornblum
 Steve P. Lipton
 David B. Lorman
 Debbie Machalow
 Joel S. Minkoff
 A. Paul Olsen
 Sylvia Fredericks Ramirez

Beth-Anne Reid
 Daniel K. Resnick
 Tori C. A. Richardson
 David Sebag
 Fourteen Anonymous Donors

Staying Active and Involved with JSS

By Volunteer and Event Coordinator Paul Borowsky



Merilyn Kupferberg and Roz Gusinow are two faithful and valuable JSS volunteers. Merilyn started to volunteer at

Lechayim 18 years ago. She has helped set a welcoming tone over the years checking in Lechayim guests. While she says that nothing will take the place of being physically present with each other, Merilyn enjoys getting to just be a participant in online events these days. She often starts her week at Monday morning yoga. "Betsy is terrific and I enjoy the social, physical, and mindfulness aspects of the Monday morning program."

Merilyn also looks forward to our end-of-week programs. She likes the variety of topics as

"I received as much – or more – happiness and satisfaction as I was able to give."

well as third Thursday "Torah Study and Tradition: with Rabbi Renée." She enjoys the opportunity to learn with others and to join in our discussions.

Roz is also a frequent program participant who asked me a few years ago if we could use another volunteer at Lechayim. A welcome and hard-working volunteer, Roz says, "Everyone involved – JSS staff, other volunteers and guests – are so kind and welcoming. It inspired me to continue volunteering AND join in on additional activities. I look forward to everyone being able to get back together again!"



Merilyn and Karen, another dedicated volunteer, chat while waiting to welcome guests for Lechayim Lunchtime Plus (February 2019).



Badger Backer Roz gets ready to deliver Purim treat bags (March 2021).

Purim 2021

By Paul Borowsky,
JSS Volunteer and Events
Coordinator

JSS Volunteers and Staff:
Thank you for making Purim
happy for all of us by helping
fill and deliver Purim treat
bags! You do a great job –
and make everything you
help out with good and fun!
(Treat bags included some
delicious hamentaschen
from Adamah Catering.)



Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, opportunities include no-contact delivery of groceries, phone contact with isolated people, or tech help for Zoom. As COVID restrictions continue, we want to thank all our volunteers for staying involved!

For further information on programs or volunteering, contact Paul Borowsky at paul@jssmadison.org or (608) 442-4083.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April End of Week:

A Left-Handed Whopper: Celebrating April Fool's and Laughter

How did this tradition of April Fool's come about? A chance for some gags, pranks, and laughter. Join in with Betsy Haimson and Paul Borowsky to celebrate the day.

Thursday, April 1, 3:30–4:30 pm

The Arab Spring: Ten Years Later

Although autocrats still rule the Middle East, what lessons have we learned and what are the prospects for positive change and reform? Join Professor Daniel Stolz for a look back and ahead.

Friday, April 9, 10:00–11:00 am

Torah Study: Fasting: A Spiritual Practice or a Religious Obligation?

with Rabbi Renée Bauer

In solidarity with our Muslim siblings who will be fasting this month for Ramadan, we will learn about the tradition of fasting in Judaism. We will look at the origins and goals of Jewish fast days, and explore the deeper spiritual underpinnings of fasting.

Thursday, April 15, 3:30–4:30 pm

Earth Day 2021: Restore Our Earth

Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson established an office to support thousands of grassroots environmental efforts, but proclaimed that "Earth Day planned itself," when an estimated 20 million Americans gathered on April 22, 1970, to confront ecological troubles and demand action.

Thursday, April 22, 3:30–4:30 pm

Schmoozing and Yoga continues every Monday Morning

Schmoozing at 11:00 am and Yoga from A Chair at 11:30 am

Go to www.zoom.us/join and type in Meeting ID **406 575 567**.

No computer? Join by phone! Call (312) 626-6799 then when prompted, type in Meeting ID: **406 575 567#**.

To Find Links to All Upcoming Zoom Programs:

- Watch for an email. If you are not on the list, but wish to be, please let us know.
- From a web browser go to jssmadison.org/calendar and choose a program by date. Click on the event title to open up a window with details and a Zoom link for that program.

How Do You Want to be Remembered?



Everyone wants to make life easier for those they love. But not everyone likes to plan ahead – especially not for something like a funeral. However, there are very compelling reasons to arrange and pay for your final wishes ahead of time.

- You will spare your loved ones the stress of making dozens of decisions during a time of grief and emotional upheaval.
- You will relieve your survivors of the financial burden of paying for funeral and burial services. Even if you have resources to cover costs, they are not likely to be available immediately.
- You are securing today's prices for funeral and burial services and for your plot.

How Can You Plan Ahead?

- Talk with your congregational Rabbi, or call JSS community chaplain Rabbi Renée Bauer at (608) 442-4081 if you do not have one.
- Learn more about Madison's Jewish cemetery at jbamadison.org. Use the online contact form, or call (608) 467-3493 with questions.

Tribute Donations

NOVEMBER 2020–FEBRUARY 2021

tribute noun 1 a sp
of praise, thanks,

In Celebration of Brad Goldstein

Michelle Crow
West Holden

In Celebration of Macalester Table Tennis Team

Robert Rosenthal

In Celebration of Mark and Rachel Yaffe

Michael and Nancy Yaffe

In Celebration of Chris Shanahan

Jim Mackman

In Honor of Brad Goldstein & Rachel Rosenfeld

Shari Gootter
Bobby Present
Jane Tzinberg Rubin
and Ken Rubin
Robert and Susan Weintraub
Charitable Fund
YouthBridge Community
Foundation

In Honor of Bunny and Bill Spitz

Frank and Barbara
M. Tuerkheimer

In Honor of Dawn Berney

Stu and Leslie S. Berney

In Honor of Deborah (Debbie) Jameson

Benjamin Arm

In Honor of Efrat Livny

Monroe Rosner and
Ronnie Hess

In Honor of Eve Siegel

Christina J. Kantor

In Honor of Francie Saposnik

Howard and Pam Erlanger
Jim Mackman
Ilona Rodan

In Honor of Gail Snowden

Kris Rasmussen

In Honor of Harriet Steinberg

Janice Steinberg and
Jack Cassidy

In Honor of Herb Kessel

Andrew Kessel

In Honor of Izzy Liam Rosenfeld Goldstein

Jim Mackman
David Schoenholtz
Chelsea Stillman-Coyne

In Honor of Jeanne z"l and Joe Silverberg

Cindy and David Kamps

In Honor of JSS Staff and Volunteers

Valerie S. Mannis

In Honor of Linda Reivitz

Rabbi David and
Patricia Kopstein

In Honor of Mary Schettler

Eve Siegel

In Honor of Paul Borowsky

Virginia C. Graff

In Honor of Rabbi Renée Bauer

Dr. Robert and Roslynd Bauer
Felyce Gilford
Joseph Talmadge and
Hannah Diment-Talmadge

In Honor of Rebecca Schwartz

Rachel Lefevre

In Honor of Tom and Jeanne Foss

Benjamin Arm

In Honor of Liz Askey

Benjamin Arm

In Honor of All the JSS Volunteers

Marc Shovers & Jan Loeb

In Memory of Ben Kahn

Myra Jo Schultz and
Arthur Polans

In Memory of Brian Maloney

Laurie Bartz

In Memory of Charles Borowsky

Elaine Borowsky
Paul Borowsky

In Memory of Diane Schwam

Emanuel Schwam

In Memory of Donny Ettkin

Linda and Charles Barrett

In Memory of Eleanor Onheiber

Patrice and Michael Onheiber

In Memory of Florence Grossberg

Anita and Mike Froehlich

In Memory of Frances Mann

Marc Shovers and Jan Loeb

In Memory of Ghita Hill Bessman

Jim Mackman
Irene and Barry Mirkin
David and Shelley Schwarz
Marc Shovers & Jan Loeb
Barbara Spierer
Bill and Bunny Spitz
Merle and Patti Sweet
Frank and Barbara Tuerkheimer

In Memory of Harry Zitowsky

Brenda and Robert Zitowsky

In Memory of Harvey Robbins

Judy and Ben Sidran

In Memory of Jack Mahler

Elayne Lohn Ihnchak

In Memory of Jeff Mintz

Michael Zis

In Memory of Josh Chover

Barbara Spierer
Alan Weinberg and
Claire Weiss

In Memory of Judith Smith Leland

Janneke C. Baske
Dr. Marcus and Sheila Cohen
William S. Goldenberg
Louise Goldstein and
Bruce Thomadsen
Stacy Graff
Debra Hershkovitz
Jon and Becky G. Kaiser
Deborah and Ron Konkol
Marilyn Kuperberg
Paula Lewis
Jim Mackman
Bobbie and Bill Malone
Steven Morrison and
Goldie Kadushin
Monroe Rosner and
Ronnie Hess
Francie Smith Saposnik
and Herbert Lewis
Eve Siegel

Debra and Jack M. Spear

Barbara Spierer
Rabbi Paula Winnig
James and Nancy Youngerman

In Memory of Justine Eisenberg

Dori Kalish-Huza

In Memory of Larry Willis

Frank and Barbara Tuerkheimer

In Memory of Loris (Lou) Levy

Andrea Levy

In Memory of Madison Jews who gave their lives in war action: Reuben

Stein, Ben Derman, Arnold
Simon, Bernard Mazursky
Samuel Moss

In Memory of Marrian and Sidney Schwartz

Frede Hammes

In Memory of Martin Heisler

Dr. Marcus and Sheila Cohen

In Memory of Marvin Wick

Linda S. and Charles Barrett

In Memory of Mathilde Salomon

Laurel Mark

In Memory of Max (Mordecai) Katz

Ms. Marsha Cohen and
Mike Pressman
Louise Goldstein and
Bruce Thomadsen
Stacy Graff

In Memory of Muriel Rotter

Madelyn and Bruce Donoff
Miriam Farber and
William Rowley
Louise Goldstein and
Bruce Thomadsen
Stephanie Howard and
Michael Delman
Harriet Hyman
Marilyn Kuperberg
Lisa Larson
Daniel and Bettine Lipman
Joan Lerman and Ken O'Neill
David and Susan Rotter
Ron and Cathy Rotter
Sally Rotter
Barbara Spierer
Diane Zillner

In Memory of Noah Hershkovitz

Dr. Marcus and Sheila Cohen

In Memory of Menucha (May) Zinberg

Dr. Marcus and Sheila Cohen

In Memory of Patricia Waukau

Elizabeth Schrimpf
and HJ Waukau

In Memory of Phillip Levy

Dawn Berney and
Edward Angelina
Louise Goldstein and
Bruce Thomadsen
Bobette Heller

Jim Mackman
Joel and Deborah Minkoff
Katie and Doug Reuhl
Gerald Ring
Harry and Karen Roth
Diane Seder and Bruce Rosen
Judy and Ben Sidran
United Way of Dane County
Rabbi Paula Winnig

In Memory of Renata Laxova

Dr. Marcus and
Dr. Sheila Cohen
Albert Friedman and
Susan Tikalsky
Marilyn Kuperberg
Marc Shovers and Jan Loeb

In Memory of Robert and Sara Schwartz

Barbara and Lawrence Schwartz

In Memory of Ruth Canter Cohen

Marc Shovers and Jan Loeb

In Memory of Justice Shirley Abrahamson

Monroe Rosner and
Ronnie Hess
Eve Siegel

In Memory of Simon and Lenke Kohn

Michael Cooper

In Memory of Susan Axelrod

Judy and Ben Sidran
Robin Taylor

In Memory of Susan Jacobs

Marla and Jon Snyder

In Memory of Susan McQuade

Donna Peckett

In Memory of Susan Shapiro

Niles and Linda Berman
Jon and Becky Kaiser
Joan Lerman and Ken O'Neill

In Memory of Tamar Haimson Simpson

Janneke C. Baske
William and Susan Goldenberg
Louise Goldstein and
Bruce Thomadsen
Stacy Graff
Marilyn Kuperberg
Jim Mackman
Monroe H. Rosner and
Ronnie Hess
Eve Siegel
Debra and Jack M. Spear
Barbara Spierer
James and Nancy Youngerman

To make a donation in honor or memory of someone, please see jssmadison.org or call (608) 442-4080.

JSS is a beneficiary agency of:



Jewish Federation
OF MADISON



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, Wis.
Permit No. 1341

Jewish Social Services of Madison
CONNECTIONS

Published by Jewish Social Services of Madison

6434 Enterprise Lane
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 608-442-4081
Fax: 608-278-7814
info@jssmadison.org

www.jssmadison.org



*It's Passover! Look inside to see how JSS
"Welcomes the Stranger"!*

Passover 5781: A Bittersweet Moment



By Rabbi Renée Bauer

We are in a strange time. Many of us are vaccinated, yet we still wear masks and limit travel. COVID cases are going down, but not all children are back in school.

Spring is blooming, but we are not quite sure what lies ahead. And many of us are celebrating a second COVID Passover. Our mixed emotions are like the those of Israelites after escaping slavery. Many of us have moved out of a time of distress, but are not sure how hopeful to be about what lies ahead.

The structure of the Passover Seder mirrors our spiritual and emotional journey through the pandemic. Rabbi Ben Lanckton suggests that this moment is like the "Korech," when Seder participants eat a sandwich of matzah with bitter herbs and sweet charoset.

A year ago, it felt more like the first moment in the Seder when we eat Matzah – giving up the familiar and comfortable as we fled the virus. We have moved beyond maror, the bitterness and tears during the height of the pandemic. But we are not enjoying freedom or

singing praises ("Hallel") in celebration of the end of the pandemic either.

Korech symbolizes the bitterness of slavery mixed with the sweetness of freedom. Just as there is no special blessing for the bitter-sweet sandwich, we may lack words to describe the feelings of grief, fear, and joy that swirl around us at this unusual moment in history. The Passover Seder can help us embrace and honor our full range of feelings. May each of us allow ourselves to taste the bitterness of this pandemic while also enjoying the sweetness of the freedom that we glimpse ahead.

