



Community is Central at JSS

By Dawn Berney, Executive Director



Full confession: I've restarted this article seven or eight times. I began in late April, before most people were vaccinated. The mask ordinance was still in effect, and few public venues were open. The focus of this issue

of *Connections* is again one of JSS's eight core values. This time we are focusing on the **Centrality of Community** in all of our work. But most of JSS's community programs were not active when I started writing this article. How was I going to write about a value that seemed to be "on hold"?

"Community" sounds like a static thing, but it's made up of many intersecting moving parts. And what a community needs to succeed is constantly changing. JSS promotes community by working closely with other partners and organizations. While COVID shut down in-person programs at JSS for over a year, it has allowed us to forge new partnerships, so that we could expand our impact on the larger community. For example: through a grant distributed by the Jewish Federation of Madison from the Cheryl Rosen Weston Fund, JSS helped the Literacy Network find tutors for its current students. Like all good partnerships, everyone benefits; these tutors will be prepared to help JSS clients move from refugee to citizenship status.

We also partnered with the Catholic Multicultural Center, which had received funding from the county to connect with hard-to-reach populations.

"We value this partnership because it prioritizes the needs and goals of adult learners and their families, building a strong community of support. We are honored to collaborate with the dedicated staff and volunteers of JSS to this end. - Jeff Burkhart, Executive Director, Literacy Network"

Together we helped refugees and other underserved groups find accessible opportunities to get a COVID vaccine. Our collaboration increased the vaccination rate in Dane County and helped bring about relaxed restrictions that many are enjoying now.

While the mask requirement has been lifted, the crisis is not over for many. We are still responding to so many pressing needs among our neighbors. Working to address these needs has allowed JSS to connect with other agencies that help those hit hardest. Through an informal network of churches, synagogues, not-for-profits, schools, colleges, and government agencies, people throughout the county have learned about JSS's work.

JSS and its supporters are now an integral part of moving the county out of this crisis. It is our imperative to help our community to continue recovering from the economic and social crisis created by the pandemic, and we are grateful for the chance to work with many new partners to do so.



Nancy Granda Duarte,
CMC Vaccine Navigator



Jeff Burkhart, Literacy Network
Executive Director

Connecting Across Generations

This spring, Jewish Social Services staff started a new program to combat loneliness and isolation during the pandemic. Inspired by JSS supporter, community member, and artist Kathy Mazur, we created a two-pronged program that we are calling “L’Dor v’Dor” (“From Generation to Generation”).

First, JSS staff connected a dozen people as pen pals or friendly callers. Local high school students were matched with seniors in hopes of creating long-lasting relationships.

JSS also worked with UW-Madison Hillel Foundation, where over 35 students gathered to write Passover greetings to nearly 100 area seniors on beautiful notecards that Kathy donated.

WHAT SENIORS ARE SAYING:

“My pen pal is very good about writing me. He’s 16 and I’m 69! He is very bright and active. It’s been a pleasure getting to know him.”

“I like talking to new people! Getting to know my phone buddy and hearing his viewpoints on things has been very satisfying.”








Two groups hit hard emotionally by pandemic restrictions – seniors and college students – had a way to feel connected during the second pandemic Passover.



“Something that seems so small made a huge impact on our students and the community.” - Shelby Fosco, UW Hillel Foundation

Helping those hit hard by pandemic

Covid Barrier Relief funds distributed through JSS are helping families maintain stability and independence.

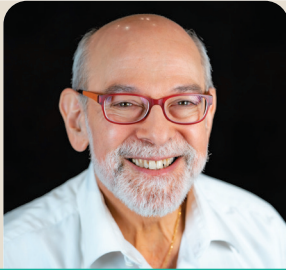
	
Helped Over 50 Families	Prevented Evictions
	
Repaired Cars	Paid Medical Bills
	
Secured Temporary Housing	Avoided Electric, Gas, Phone, and Internet Shut-Offs
\$60k	
Provided over \$60,000 in support	Over 90% of recipients were people of color

Special thanks to Tim & Kathy Mazur for their generous support of this fund!

To support this powerful work, call 608-442-4081 or donate online at bit.ly/Covid-JSS



How JSS Cares for Our Community



“ In my almost 16 years of serving my synagogue, I have seen JSS support Jews in need of case management, as well as a constant friendly and helpful presence in their lives. Whomever I speak to, they always mention the assistance and direction of a JSS staff person or volunteer, who has reached out and made someone’s life qualitatively better. -Rabbi Jonathan Biatch, Temple Beth El



“ Providing compassionate service to community members in need, respectfully engaging the elderly in regular programming, comforting the bereaved, and enhancing the ability of members of the Jewish – and broader – community to thrive, are among the most important values of our Jewish heritage. JSS carries out these values while being an invaluable symbol of communal responsibility and cohesion. -Rabbi Betsy Forester, Congregation Beth Israel



“ As a non-congregational rabbi, I am occasionally asked to officiate at funerals for unaffiliated Jews. Many times, the deceased is an elderly person who had been living in one of the senior adult residences and had no family in the area. Always, a JSS representative is there at the graveside, to ensure that the mitzvah to accompany the dead is fulfilled. -Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Executive Director, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice



“ Over the 18 years that I have served as the rabbi at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, I have depended on Jewish Social Services in a variety of ways. Their social workers are always available to consult with me on issues such as mental health, domestic violence, chronic illness, and aging. I often benefit from their suggestions about how I can better serve our members. I also frequently make referrals to their social work team. I am grateful that they are available to be of assistance and provide these services for our congregation and the Madison Jewish community. -Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman, Congregation Shaarei Shamayim

THANK YOU! to Our 2020 Volunteers!

Lillian Abrams	Cari DiTullio	Satoko Hayami	Aaron Marcus	Debbie Spear
Stephen Abrams	Stu Dolnick	Helen Hazelmare	Kathy Mazur	Michael Spoerl
Betsy Abramson	The Double Double	Charles Hefty	Tim Mazur	Richard Steeves
Hilde Adler	Reeders	Ruth Hein	Mourine Mbaka	Rabbi Andrea Steinberger
Shawn Ahern-Djamali	Gary Edelstein	Cynthia Hirsch	Bob McGrath	Merle Sternberg
Eman Alzirjawi	Lori Edelstein	Andrea Hobright	Jessica Meinert	Lois Stoler
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Sammy Angelina	Nevine El-Nossery	Cate Inman	Doug Moe	Madeline Ura-neck
T Angelina	Samir El-Omari	Nancy Ishikawa	Pamela Phillips Olson	Nancy Vue
David Aronin	Bob Fairman	Jill Johnson	Ken O'Neill	Amy Walsh
Livia Asher	Sandra Farkas	Sari Judge	Candy Oylar	Lynn Williamson
Attic Angels	Nancy Feingold	Stormy-Kito Justice	Candace Pantoga	Janis Wrich
Ken Baun	Molly Fifield-Murray	Dori Kalish-Huza	Marie Pauls	Jim Youngerman
Carousel Bayrd	Julie Foertsch	Mike Kantor	Judy Pierotti	Nan Youngerman
Marla Becker	Donald Folberg	Ariela Karasov	Michael Pressman	
Arnie Benardette	Barbara Forrest	Rajya Lakshmi	The Raging Grannies	
Lily Benig	Jane Fox	Katragadda	Ahmad Rashed	Local Youth Groups:
Harry Bennett	Zach Galin	Estelle Katz	Linda Reivitz	B'nei Brith Youth Organization
Janet Billerbeck	Denny Geller	Harsha Keister	Petra Ressler	Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
David Bookstaff	Gary Geller	Rochelle Klaskin	Michele Rohan	MaTTY of Temple Beth El
Margaret Brauer	Barry Gidal	Laura Kline	James Roseberry	MOUSY of Beth Israel Center
Bob Breslow	Felyce Gilford	Lorna Kniaz	Rachel Rosenfeld	
Chris Brockel	Grant Gillaspay	Jacqueline Komada	Susan Rotter	
Sarah Byer	Daniel Goldman	Todd Kummer	Martin Saunders	
Andrea Carvin	Shira Goldman	Merilyn Kupferberg	Jim Scheuerman	
Michael Christopher	Brad Goldstein	Anne Lacy	Ken Schneck	
Leslie Coff	Louise Goldstein	Nancy Leff	Erica Serlin	
Jill Cohen Kolb	Sue Goldstein	Amy Lessing	Sarah Sherman	
Susan Curtis	Jerry Goodman	Ike Lewis	Eve Siegel	
Steve Davis	Megan Gross	Jeffrey Lindholm	Karen Sielaff	
Helene Demont	Rosalind Gusinow	Nathan Lipton	Simon family	
Barbara Dickey	Peggy Hager	Mary Malaney	Kim Sines	
Karen Shevet Dinah	Betsy Haimson	Paul Malischke	Sherie Sondel	

We ♥ our Volunteers

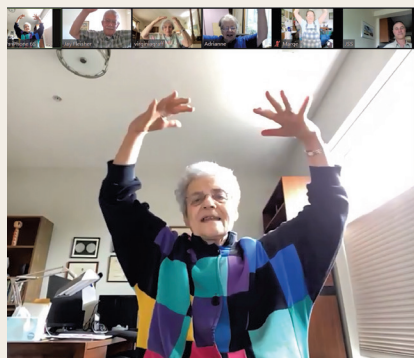
We try our best, but if we missed your name or you see any inaccuracies, we apologize. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Paul Borowsky at Paul@jssmadison.org or 608-442-4083 with corrections.



Celebrating Shabbat together at Capital Lakes. We gathered in person in June for the first time in over a year!

Staying Connected – While Staying Apart!

By Paul Borowsky, Volunteer and Event Coordinator



Chair Yoga teacher Betsy Haimson announces, "Time for our personal and group hugs!"

We have just completed our weekly 30 minutes of online yoga breathing and movement. We are all on Zoom in our own rectangles – like the quiz show *Hollywood Squares*. We are maintaining our connections to each other, and making new connections too, despite the pandemic. We look forward to being together again in person! See this page for upcoming events.

During such a challenging time, staff receive as much as we give from our work at JSS, and we give thanks to all of you for allowing us the privilege of being part of your lives.

JSS's Annual Summer Barbecue Returns!



WHEN: Monday, August 30, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

WHERE: Goodman Jewish Community Campus
7762 County Hwy. PD, Verona, WI

TO RSVP: Mail a note with your name, phone number, preference for vegetarian or meat entree(s), and a check for \$9 per meal made out to Jewish Social Services, by August 20. JSS, 6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719.

QUESTIONS: Call or email Paul to ask questions, RSVP, or arrange a ride or a fee reduction. 608-442-4083 or Paul@jssmadison.org

Lechayim Lunchtime Plus Returns This October!

WHAT: Great food, friends, conversation, and interesting programs, IN PERSON!

WHERE: Beth Israel Center,
1406 Mound Street, Madison

WHEN: Most (but not all) Mondays,
October 2021 through mid-May 2022.
Dates below.

TIME: Chair Yoga at 11:30 am. Lunch at
12:00 pm. Program at 1:00 pm

TO RSVP: Order a meal by 3:00 pm the
preceding Wednesday: 608-442-4083 or
paul@jssmadison.org. Please let us know at
that time if you want a vegetarian meal.

COST: If you are 60 years old or better, a
donation of \$4.00 is suggested (but please
pay what is comfortable for your budget).
For those younger than 60, meals are \$9.07.

PROGRAMS: If you cannot attend
the meal, join us for the FREE program
at 1:00 pm (no RSVP needed).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
reservations, transportation, or
cancellations, contact Paul Borowsky at
608-442-4083 or Paul@jssmadison.org.

*Many thanks to UW-Madison Hillel
Adamah Catering for making and
delivering our delicious kosher meals!*

LECHAYIM DATES:

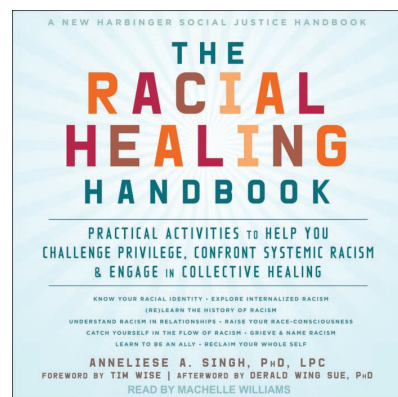
- October 2021: 4, 11, 18, 25
- November 2021: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- December 2021: 6, 13, 20, 27
- January 2022: 3, 10, 24, 31
(no Lechayim on MLK Jr. Day)
- February 2022: 7, 14, 21, 28
- March 2022: 7, 14, 21, 28
- April 2022: 4, 11, 25 (no Lechayim during
Passover)
- May 2022: 2, 9 (May 9 is the last
Lechayim until fall 2022)



Racial Healing Work at JSS

By Rachael Wortzel, MSW, Program Assistant

In April, JSS staff participated in the 10th and final meeting of our monthly staff book club, based on *The Racial Healing Handbook* by Dr. Anneliese Singh. This book was selected because the author provides written exercises as well as knowledge and concepts related to racism and the process of healing from and standing up against racism. Staff spent time reflecting on their own experiences, sharing them with the group and discussing how to collectively engage in racial healing at JSS. Regardless of where each of us started in this journey of racial healing, everyone gained insight and skills from the book club. If you'd like to learn more about *The Racial Healing Handbook*, please call the publisher at 800-748-6273 or visit www.newharbinger.com.



Refugee Resettlements Starting Up Again!

By Becca Schwartz, JSS Refugee Resettlement Director

There has been a lot happening in Refugee Resettlement in the last several months! At the end of April, we resettled our first family in over seven months. Within five weeks we had three more families arrive – a total of 19 people. Currently, several individuals or families are arriving each month. We are so pleased to be able to welcome refugees to our community again. Needless to say, we have been extremely busy!

Our biggest challenge by far is locating safe, affordable housing for arriving families. Without appropriate housing, we simply cannot resettle families here. We will have to turn down potential arrivals. If you own properties, know someone who does, or would like to help us search, please reach out to me at Becca@jssmadison.org or 608-442-4086.

We are also in need of volunteers for our move-in teams. Move-in volunteers drive a small truck and carry furniture and household items into apartments. Volunteers also set the apartments up so they are ready for arriving families. (Open Doors for Refugees collects most of these items, but we are always in need of certain things. See our current list at bit.ly/RR-JSS.)

We always need occasional drivers to drive families to appointments. If interested, email OpenDoorsVolunteers@gmail.com to learn more.

Our mentorship program Aljirani, also needs people to serve as weekly mentors for current refugee clients. Mentors help clients feel welcome and learn about Madison and life in the U.S., and also help clients meet their personal goals as they create new lives here. Contact Sam at sam@jssmadison.org to learn more.

We may be resettling up to 130 people in the next 16 months! Our BIGGEST challenge is locating safe affordable housing for arriving families.

Financial support to pay for housing is always welcome. JSS pays for deposits and the first few months of rent until families get settled and find work. Call Jim at 608-442-4081, or direct your internet browser to bit.ly/JSS-RIS.

We are so thankful for our partnership with Open Doors for Refugees and the ongoing dedication of many dedicated JSS staff, volunteers, and donors. We may be resettling up to 130 more people in the next 16 months, and we would not be able to help these families restart their lives without your help and support.

Tribute Donations

MARCH-MAY 2021

In Celebration of the Kindness and Sweetness of Hashem
Benjamin and Sarah Arm

In Honor of Dawn Berney
Aaron Albert

In Honor of the Birth of Monica & Dan Lyon's Granddaughter
Niles and Linda Berman

In Honor of Marilyn Kupferberg
Rita Applebaum

In Honor of Francie Smith Saposnik
Chaplain Guta Cvetkovic and Paula Harris

In Honor of Arthur & Jeannie Waldman
Kim Waldman

In Memory of Susan Axelrod
Niles and Linda Berman

In Memory of Larry Birkner
Barbara Spierer
Paula Winnig
James and Nancy Youngerman

In Memory of Shirley Botwinick
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In Memory of Dr. Ivy Dreisin Edelman
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In Honor of Isadore and Jeanette Elbaum, for Father's Day
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In Memory of Debbie Giesfeldt
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Beth Giles-Klinkner
and Jeff Klinkner

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Blake Griffin
Eve Siegel
Barbara Spierer
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Judy and Ben Sidran
Ina and Theodore Smolker
Barbara Spierer
Julie Swedarsky
Frank and Barbara Tuerkheimer

In Memory of Gerda Wasserman
Ken and Judy Balkin

Anyone can donate in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Please go to our website at www.jssmadison.org or call Jim at 608-442-4081 to learn more.

JSS Needs YOU! Volunteer Opportunities are Expanding

By Paul Borowsky, Volunteer Engagement & Events Program Manager

As COVID restrictions ease, our need for volunteers is growing. **We need:**

- ✓ Friendly visitors, shopping partners, and other regular helpers
- ✓ Assistance at Shabbat and holiday gatherings
- ✓ Drivers for client appointments*

**JSS has a van that can be used to transport larger refugee families. If you are comfortable driving our van (or have a larger vehicle) we are always in need of occasional drivers.*

We understand that volunteers and clients have varying degrees of comfort regarding in-person interactions. We will work together to keep everyone comfortable and safe.

For more information about volunteering or programs, please contact me at Paul@jssmadison.org or 608-442-4083.

JSS 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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

www.jssmadison.org



Look inside for updates about in-person events!

Rabbi's Corner: Lifelong Communal Responsibility

By Rabbi Renée Bauer, JSS Director of Chaplaincy and Outreach



The famous Rabbi Hillel said, "Do not separate yourself from the community" (Pirke Avot, 2:4). Judaism is a communal religion both in practice and in law.

Prayer, celebration, mourning, and learning happen in community. Jewish law directs us to care for everyone, especially the neediest among us. JSS enables us to live out the principle of caring for everyone by serving vulnerable populations. This care takes many different forms, and occurs at all points in the lifecycle.

The chaplaincy program serves many clients and their families at the end of life. In addition to spiritual



and emotional needs, some families have financial needs at the time of death. Therefore, JSS is working with three local partners, the Jewish Burial Association of Madison, Cress Funeral Service, and StoneMor Inc. (owner of Sunset Memory Gardens where Beit Olamim, the Jewish cemetery, is located) to create a Jewish Community-

Supported Burial Program. This program will serve Jewish families who do not meet the stringent criteria for state burial assistance, but cannot afford the cost of a basic Jewish funeral and burial. If someone you know is in need of this assistance, please contact me at Rabbi@jssmadison.org or 608-424-4033.

JSS is a beneficiary agency of:



Jewish Federation
OF MADISON



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families