



JSS Board and Staff Extend Their Gratitude to Dawn Berney



By Carousel Bayrd, President, JSS Board of Directors



JSS's longtime Executive Director Dawn Berney announced earlier this year that she would be

retiring from JSS on May 1, 2022. Please join me in thanking Dawn for her tireless service to JSS and her commitment to both the Jewish Community and to greater Madison. Dawn has been a part of JSS for an astonishing 17 years! She started with JSS as a volunteer, then became a board member, and has served as our Executive Director for the past seven years. JSS has grown tremendously under Dawn's leadership!

During Dawn's tenure, JSS grew to serve a wider population, and our budget has tripled. We started Madison's first Jewish chaplaincy program for unaffiliated Jewish residents of Dane County. We restarted our refugee resettlement program, resettling and serving more than 240 refugees while providing them benefits and financial support beyond what is required by federal government.

Internally JSS has also seen many improvements. We modernized human resources, communications, donor development, and program management systems, streamlining services and ensuring greater

service capacity. We acquired additional office space to meet the growing needs of staff and clients. We also expanded JSS's employee benefits and now offer floating holidays for our diverse staff to observe their holidays.

Please join me in thanking Dawn for her tireless service to JSS and her commitment to both the Jewish Community and to greater Madison.

JSS has also been recognized during Dawn's leadership by both the Wisconsin Jewish community and the wider Dane County community for our work serving all in need. JSS has also earned media coverage more than 60 times. Recently, JSS worked with incredibly generous private donors to start the life-changing COVID Emergency Fund, ensuring that many Dane County residents were able to weather the challenges of the pandemic. JSS maintains a donor retention rate of 60-70% (significantly higher than the national average of 42%).

Please join me and the entire JSS Board of Directors in congratulating Dawn on a job well done and wishing her the best of success in her future endeavors!

A Note from Dawn



Dawn started helping with Oakwood Shabbat in 2005 when her kids were little.

I will be retiring in May, so this is the last time I will be writing for the *Connections* newsletter. I will be forever grateful to JSS staff, volunteers, clients, donors, and strategic partners, both local and long distance. You have made me

proud to be the Executive Director of this amazing organization. It's been an incredible seven years.

JSS became a part of my life nearly 17 years ago, so I am not going to entirely disappear. I know that



Introducing the Blockstein lecturer in 2017.



Dawn and Francie Saposnik dancing to a band playing for Lechayim guests in 2015.

the people who make up JSS will continue to do the wonderful work they have done for the past four decades.

JSS VOLUNTEERS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

By Sarah Friedman & Christina Kantor, JSS Program Assistants

JSS clients frequently comment to Volunteer Coordinator Paul Borowsky about how intelligent, caring, and compassionate JSS volunteers are. Many of our volunteers have been involved with the organization for years – and some for decades. And as a result of their long-term associations, many have formed close relationships not only with clients, but with each other and with JSS staff members.

Paul, for example, has gotten close to many JSS volunteers since he started at JSS in November of 2016. This deep sense of connection and community was evident in the final years of Paul's mother's life. During those few years, Paul and his family learned first-hand how essential strong community support is for those facing life's toughest challenges. Indeed, throughout her illnesses, Paul's mother often expressed her gratitude for the support of JSS volunteers and staff.

While Paul cannot guess what the future will bring, he finds comfort in knowing that JSS has a team of volunteers who "are smart and compassionate – and will be there!" Paul is also amazed at the resilience and dedication of volunteers throughout the pandemic. Volunteers dealt with "uncertainty on top of more uncertainty, and none of them have quit!"



To Our Volunteers:
JSS staff are grateful for your critical help with our mission, your commitment, AND your heartfelt friendship and support.



Many volunteers have been involved for years – and some for decades.

INTER-RELIGIOUS SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES



"Everyone deserves help."



Tom Hubl presents the funds he helped raise to Dawn.



Baxter Richardson (left) and Mark Bauman (right) present gift cards, etc. to Becca Schwartz.

Support for Afghan evacuees in Dane County has brought people together across political, economic, and religious divides. A wide variety of local faith-based organizations developed a response to the Afghan evacuee crisis.

One such effort was made by Tom Hubl from Madison, who believes that "Everyone

deserves help." Last fall, Mr. Hubl organized a fundraiser for JSS at All Saints Retirement Neighborhood, which is owned by Catholic Charities of Madison. Thirty-six donors raised \$2,100. The group then obtained \$1,000 more through a matching grant from Catholic Financial Life, a not-for-profit financial services organization, of which Mr. Hubl has been a member for 58 years.

Members of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ and Madison Mennonite Church also donated over \$2,000 in cash, bus passes, and gift cards for refugees. Members Baxter Richardson and Mark Bauman spearheaded the effort, inspired by the call in the Bible to "welcome the stranger."

And it wasn't only financial support that JSS received. According to Jim Mackman, Development Associate at JSS, countless people called and emailed. They offered to share their homes, donated gift cards, clothing, and household items, and volunteered language skills, friendship, and other support for Afghan clients.

Our dedicated and hardworking case managers are so grateful to our wonderful interfaith and broader community for your help welcoming our new neighbors and making sure their most pressing needs are met.

Some of the organizations that donated to JSS to resettle Afghan evacuees as well as our other refugee clients:

Beth Israel Center
Bethel Lutheran Church's Blessing Circle
Christ Presbyterian Church
Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
Congregation Shalom
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison
Grace Episcopal Church
Islamic Relief USA
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Madison Mennonite Church
Monona United Methodist Church
Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ
Perry Lutheran Church
Plymouth Congregational Church
Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Sinsinawa Dominicans
Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran

Social Services Update: Maya has been VERY busy!



Between January 1 and March 21, JSS Case Manager Maya Garbuz took on seven new clients. In addition, she has (through your generosity) offered financial assistance to eight clients struggling to pay rent and medical bills, and helped nine search for and apply for housing. She also assisted numerous clients with applying for medical insurance,

long-term care assistance, rental assistance from the county, and green cards.

Maya was recently promoted to Director of Case Management services at JSS and will help supervise other case managers. She is also serving on the Board of Directors' Executive Search Committee.



Thank You

2021 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 caring for our community and allow us to do our work. Please join us in recognizing the following for their generous contributions in 2021:

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A very special thanks to JSS recurring donors. We can do what we do because of your generous dedication to championing our mission.

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Recurring donors empower local people in need and give them hope, health, housing and community. Contact Jim Mackman at jim@jssmadison.org, 608-442-4081 with questions, or go online to: tinyurl.com/JSS-monthly and choose RECURRING DONATION, and then choose your preferred recurrence (weekly, monthly or quarterly option).



YOU ARE INVITED: Community Dedication at Beit Olamim

Please join us at Madison's newest Jewish cemetery to see the new garden and join us in learning, song, prayer.

Bring a stone, explore this sacred space and enjoy the serenity.

(Seating provided)

**May 15, 2022, 1:00 PM
(14th of Iyyar, 5782)**

**In Sunset Memory Gardens:
Enter from Westfield Rd.
(north of Mineral Point Rd)**

7337 Tree Lane, Madison

Tribute Donations

OCTOBER 2021–FEBRUARY 2022

**In Celebration of
Jane Avner's Birthday**
Benjamin Avner

**In Celebration of
Dr. Charman**
Debi Leeper

**In Celebration of The
Wedding of Elly Davis
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**In Celebration of Howard
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Bat Mitzvah of Their
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Who Gave Their Lives in
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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.

Save the Date for JSS's Annual Summer Barbeque



✓ Monday, August 29, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

✓ Goodman Jewish Community Campus, 7762 County Hwy. PD, Verona

Transportation will be available through Transit Solutions. Look for registration information this summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Find changes, updates, and new information about JSS programs on our website, www.jssmadison.org

Harry J. and Belle Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus

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

Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound Street, located on the corner of Mound Street and Randall Avenue.

TO RSVP or get more information: If you would like a meal, contact Paul at (608) 442-4083 or paul@jssmadison.org **by Wednesday preceding**

the meal. If you are 60 years or older, a donation of \$4.00 is suggested, but please pay what is comfortable for you. The cost of the meal is \$9.07 for those younger than 60.

COVID POLICIES: Beth Israel Center is now requiring proof of vaccination to enter the building. If you do not have proof of vaccination but would like a meal, you can buzz at the Randall St. parking lot entry door for carryout.

Please bring an N95 or a KN95 mask.

UPCOMING DATES and MENUS:

Monday, April 11:
Chicken Schnitzel (Veg option: Corn Schnitzel)

Monday April 18:
NO LECHAYIM (PASSOVER)

Monday, April 25:
Braised Balsamic Chicken
(Veg option: Vegan Cholent)

Monday, May 2:
Indonesian Beef (Randang),
(Veg option: Indonesian Tofu)

Monday, May 9:
Chicken Marsala (Veg option: Tofu Marsala)

LECHAYIM SCHEDULE:

11:00 – 11:30 am:
Yoga from a chair

11:30 am – 12:30 pm:
Meal (meat and vegetarian options)

12:30 – 1:30 pm:
Programs (performances, speakers, etc.)

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



CELEBRATE PASSOVER TOGETHER

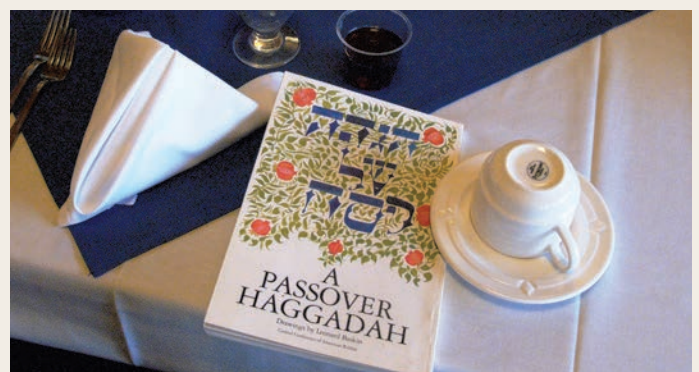
Community members are welcome to attend either of these Community Seders:

Oakwood Village West Passover Seder

- Monday, April 18, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Nakoma Room
RSVP: christina@jssmadison.org
Cost: TBD

Capitol Lakes Passover Seder/Luncheon

- Wednesday: April 20, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Seasons Dining Room
RSVP by 4/13: Ami at (608) 283-2037 or ashimanek@retirement.org
Cost: \$24



A BIG WELCOME, JOVIAL SMILE – AND GREAT STORY!

By Paul Borowsky, JSS Volunteer and Events Coordinator



These are the things I look forward to whenever I visit Don Kirschner. Don's history with JSS

extends back to when he was primary caretaker for his late wife, Muriel. Recently Don reconnected with JSS through visits from our volunteer, Dori Kalish, whom Don fondly refers to as "the menorah lady." Dori first met Don several years ago when she visited him at his assisted living facility with a treat bag and an electric menorah to use for observing Hanukkah.

On a recent visit, Don couldn't resist proudly telling us about his granddaughter and showing

us a photo. His current project is to record for his granddaughter the story of how he and his wife met, fell in love, and married.

Dori and I got a preview of that story – as well as hearing about Don's career. Don told us that he was being encouraged to become an accountant, but he didn't find that very appealing. Luckily he got a timely call from an uncle that launched him into a long and satisfying career in the lumber industry.

Don also told us about the challenges of caring for his wife. He feels that Francie Smith-Saposnik and Hal Blottner figuratively and literally saved his life after years of caring for his beloved wife Muriel. With their support and friendship, Don got involved with and eventually became a presenter for the Alzheimer's Dementia Alliance of

Wisconsin. He was then able to help others find information, get support, and develop coping skills for their challenging roles as caretakers.

Recently Don reconnected with JSS through visits from our volunteer, Dori Kalish, whom Don fondly refers to as "the menorah lady."

Dori and I also invited Don to Lechayim programs and lunches. To our delight, Don offered JSS a generous contribution to support Lechayim! We hope to get him to join us for lunch at Lechayim very soon.

Thanks to Don for his generosity and his spirit in living and giving to others.

JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS!

All are welcome!



Capitol Lakes:

First Fridays, September through May
Grand Hall
333 West Main St., Madison
May 6, June 1, July 1, August 5:
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Oakwood Village West:

Third Fridays, year-round
Nakoma/Westmoreland Room
6205 Mineral Point Rd., Madison
May 20, June 17, July 15, and
August 19: 3:30 – 4:30 pm
No advance registration necessary
for Shabbats. Face masks required.
(KN95s will be available to all guests.)



Rabbi Renée led a Purim/Shabbat celebration at Capitol Lakes in March.



Remember This Day: Passover as a Meditation on Memory

By Rabbi Renée Bauer, JSS Director of Chaplaincy Services

When we join together at the Passover seder we are told not only to “Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt (Exodus 13:3)” but to relive it.

We are meant to experience it as an event that happened to us.

The Haggadah says: “In every generation, each person should feel personally redeemed from Egypt. You shall tell your children ‘It is because of what the Eternal One did for me when I went free out of Egypt (Exodus 13:8).’ For the Eternal One redeemed not only our ancestors: we were redeemed with them.”

This idea of remembering an event that did not happen in our lifetime does not seem unusual in this context. Jewish history is also a timeless present. We accept this idea each year as we recite these words at Passover. However, when a person with dementia or other cognitive impairments talks to us as if they are living in a time that we know is long past, we are confused, frustrated, and look on them with pity. An 89-year-old woman (of blessed memory) would ask me at a meal, “Do you like this food my mother made?” I knew that

her mother had passed away decades before, but I joined her in her timeless present.

People, even in the late stages of dementia, recognize loving touch, react to familiar melodies, or relate to long-lost people as if they are there.

Serving senior adults in memory care has opened me up to understand memory and to the divine spark within each person in new ways. When we say that a person has forgotten everything, we are limiting our idea of memory to a linear, cognitive framework. People, even in the late stages of dementia, recognize loving touch, react to familiar melodies, or relate to long-lost people as if they are there.

I pray that this year opening ourselves up to the timeless present of the Passover story will allow each of us to expand our notions of history, memory, and divinity.

HOLIDAYS • HAPPY PASSOVER • חנוכה שמח • פסח שמח



New Monthly Programs for Russian-Speaking Jews

By Maya Garbuz, MSSW, JSS Director of Social Services

Jewish Social Services is looking for people to help create programming for Russian-speaking Jews in the Madison area. We hope to organize monthly programs to engage Russian-speaking Jews in Jewish life and culture and to promote intergenerational connections. Please contact Maya Garbuz at maya@jssmadison.org or call (608) 229-1754 if you want to help.

Еврейская социальная служба ищет людей для участия в проекте по созданию программ для русскоязычных евреев. Целью проекта будет создание ежемесячных программ для русскоязычных евреев всех поколений. Мы надеемся создать программу, которая привлечет людей разных возрастов к участию в еврейской культурной жизни. Если вы заинтересованы в участии, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с Майей Гарбуз по адресу maya@jssmadison.org или позвоните по телефону (608) 229-1754.

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*See inside for updates, new partners and programs,
and in-person event schedules!*



Welcome Back to Levy Summer Series!

Tuesday, June 14

Cindy and Harry Handler will discuss the fascinating life of Harry's grandfather, Fritz

Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer, a German Jew, served in the German army during WWI, and then immigrated to the United States, where he became special assistant to the State Department for German and Austrian affairs, and advisor to the Secretary of State.

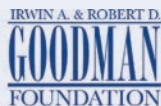
Location: Nakoma Golf Club in Madison

Schedule: 10:30 – 11:00 am check-in
11:00 am – 12:30 pm presentation
12:30 – 1:30 pm luncheon

More details on how to register, menus, and July and August dates and presenters coming soon!



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