

# CONNECTIONS



FALL/WINTER  
2022

## Working Together to Create a Stronger Future

by Kai Yael Gardner-Mishlove, JSS Executive Director

I am extremely grateful and honored to embark on this journey as the next executive director of JSS. I am standing on the shoulders of many who came before me – and stand in awe of the successes and innovation of previous directors, as well as the tenacity of previous and current staff, board members, donors, funders, and community partners.

What an auspicious time we are in now, coming out of challenges of navigating a pandemic. JSS – like our world – has been in a period of transition, navigating many challenges while finding new ways to fulfill our mission. Now is the perfect time for JSS to review our strategic plan, and to analyze our successes, failures, and dreams. We continue to look for more opportunities to collaborate with community partners to work toward our vision: *A community of people living with dignity and hope.*

JSS serves our vulnerable neighbors, as our Torah teaches us to do. JSS has and will continue to fulfill our mission by providing exceptional services to many different populations in our community,

despite multi-layered challenges. The dedication of our staff and generosity of our donors and volunteers has enabled us to continue to embody Jewish values in the face of these challenges.

Our mission is to build hope by empowering families and individuals across generations and cultures to build community and attain self-sufficiency. We will continue our strong commitment to the Jewish community and, inspired by Jewish values, to the vulnerable in the wider Dane County community.



“*May we increase our impact with the assistance of our community, working together to find new ways to create hope for all.*”



**We are grateful to our recurring donors for helping JSS be a beacon of hope for those who need it.**

**Follow us on social media!**



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**Web:** [jssmadison.org](https://www.jssmadison.org)

# JSS's Newest Staff Members Strengthen Dane County's Future



“We will continue to analyze our successes, failures, and dreams and to look for more opportunities to innovate and collaborate, towards our goal of assisting and empowering vulnerable communities across generations and cultures in Dane county.”

- Kai Yael Garner-Mishlove (Executive Director)



“When I arrived as a refugee last year to the USA, I was a client with JSS. One year later, I decided to be a part of the JSS team. JSS is giving me the chance to give back to this great country and to our community. Thanks, JSS!”

- Duha Alhamidi (Program Assistant)



“The most fulfilling part of this work is getting to be there with people as they make a new life. It means a lot to me to play a role in ensuring that our new neighbors are comfortable and feel secure in their new homes.”

- Autumn Yael Fearing-Kabler  
(Housing & Community Outreach Coordinator)



“JSS is expanding its services to meet the needs of our growing community. I am proud to be a part of this team with our continued dedication to empowering individuals and families.”

- Rachel Follett (Case Manager)



“I'm thrilled to be working for an organization that helps so many in our community. I would like to help JSS grow and make the important work that we do more visible and accessible to everyone!”

- Jakob Heinemann (Office Manager)



“JSS programs are solid and growing. We are energized about our mission of serving the community. With a bigger team, JSS can get creative about meeting new community needs head on, while still taking good care of current clients and program participants.”

- Kate Shenker (Social Worker)

## Refugee Resettlement Update

JSS helped 143 newcomers make Madison their home in the past fiscal year. They came from Afghanistan, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Myanmar, and Burundi. Each new neighbor relied on JSS and Open Doors for Refugees' hardworking volunteers. JSS expresses deep gratitude to the tireless volunteers who help our new neighbors in countless ways.

JSS worked with Dane County League of Women Voters, Catholic Multicultural Center, Literacy Network, and Dane County Immigrant Affairs to hold an Immigrant Town Hall meeting. Newcomers

had a chance to speak with local elected officials to understand the roles they play in government, ask questions and to share their achievements and challenges.

We have hired people to fill all of our open positions and now have staff who speak the main languages of our new neighbors.

JSS and ODFR are looking for volunteers to accompany newcomers who are using the city bus to get to appointments. We will help volunteers learn to use the bus system if needed. Please contact [Becca@jssmadison.org](mailto:Becca@jssmadison.org) to learn more.

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

For questions, or to volunteer for any of these events and programs, contact Paul Borowsky at 608-886-6777 or Paul@jssmadison.org.

## LECHAYIM LUNCHTIME PLUS Mondays through mid-May.

Call or email Paul to RSVP by the Wednesday before at (608) 442-4083 or Paul@jssmadison.org

### Schedule:

11:00 a.m. Chair yoga, 11:30 a.m. lunch, 12:30 p.m. program

### Upcoming Dates:

12/5, 12/12, 12/19 (Hanukkah with Yid Vicious!), 1/9, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27

## SHABBAT AT OAKWOOD VILLAGE Third Fridays at 3:00 p.m., Nakoma Room All are welcome

## SHABBAT AT CAPITAL LAKES First Fridays at 3:00 p.m., Grand Hall All are welcome

### HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

**Oakwood Village West:** Friday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m., Nakoma Room

**Lechayim:** Yid Vicious is playing December 19, 12:30 p.m., Beth Israel Center

**Capitol Lakes:** Tuesday, December 20 at 3:00 p.m., Grand Hall

**All are welcome.** You only need to RSVP if you want a meal at Lechayim on 12/19. (Please contact Paul by Wednesday, December 14 to RSVP for the December 19 lunch).

## Tribute Donations JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2022



### In Celebration of All Refugees James and Cindy Van Akkeren

### In Celebration of Lauren Mazur's Graduation From Law School Jim Mackman Stacy Graff

### In Celebration of Lou and Pat Bernhardt's Birthdays Carolyn Weinhaus, MD

### In Celebration of Marilyn Kupferberg's Birthday Robert M. Breslow

### In Celebration of Sheryl and Jeff Spitzer-Resnick Theresa Michel

### In Honor of Rabbi Renée Bauer Lynne Graff Ballesta Dr. Robert and Rosylnd Bauer Eve-Lynn Siegel Brian Edwardson

### In Honor of Becca Schwartz Jerri and Bob Schwartz

### In Honor of Karen Shevet Dinah Haya and Moshe Yuchtman Rabbis Renée Bauer and Laurie Zimmerman

### In Honor of Toby and Bernie Cohen Judy and Ben N. Sidran

### In Honor of Jim Mackman Eve-Lynn Siegel

### In Honor of Paul Borowsky Eve-Lynn Siegel

### In Memory of Carol Mendelson Rayla G. Temin

### In Memory of Dr Sarah Nager Grajower Fay Nager

### In Memory of Florence Greenbaum Grossberg Paul Grossberg, MD

### In Memory of Harriet and Michael Amsterdam Sara Berg

### In Memory of Harriet Goldstein Richard Gallis

### In Memory of Jim Bessman Ms. Ruthanne Bessman

### In Memory of Lois and Al Frank Phyllis Lee

### In Memory of Marilyn Sumkin Joan Sumkin, MD

### In Memory of Rosalind Levin Bernard Micke Marsha M. Mansfield Terry Kopel Richard Bernstein Stuart Rossmiller Scott Greene Ester and William I. Hawkins Judy and Ben N. Sidran Eve-Lynn Siegel

### In Memory of Sheldon Klein Carol Klein

Anyone can donate in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Please go to our website at [www.jssmadison.org](http://www.jssmadison.org) or call/email (608) 442-4060/Jim@jssmadison.org to learn more.

## Get to know JSS Board of Directors!

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Published by Jewish Social Services of Madison

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*JSS staff work hard to ensure a brighter future for our community.*

## Hanukkah: Small Flames, Enduring Light

*By Rabbi Renée Bauer, JSS Director of Spiritual Care*



Hanukkah candles are small. They do not cost much. They do not efficiently light up a room. They do not last long. But they do evoke powerful

memories. They bring families and friends together. And they bring light and hope to the darkest time of the year.

Many services that JSS provides clients are like the Hanukkah candles. They are not flashy. They may be short in duration. They may be personal rather than efficient. However, each of them brings sacred light into the lives of people facing life's hardest moments. When I bring apples and honey to a Jewish woman who lives with mental illness and is on the edge of homelessness, her

face lights up and she shares memories of Rosh Hashanah with her grandparents. When our social services team welcomes seniors to the Lechayim lunch program, they are bringing friends together. When our refugee resettlement team unites family members who have been separated by long waits in the refugee admissions process, they bring light to those who have experienced the darkness of persecution and violence.

Each of these moments of light – bringing hope to those who are forgotten, connecting people who are isolated, and providing security to those who are traumatized – are like the candles of the Hanukkah menorah which have a lasting impact on our lives long after the flames are gone.

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