Jewish Family News



April 2016 Volume 12 No. 1

JFS Announces Emergency Fund for Refugee Services

Jewish Family Services announces the creation of the Emergency Fund for Refugee Services and a \$25,000 lead gift from Harvey Belsky, creator Harvey Belsky Fund (supporting JFS wherever programs, the need is greatest).

In March, United Way of Silicon Valley announced that it will not be making allocations in the coming year. The JFS Connections to Work for Refugees Program (providing vocational

English training) has received \$50,000 -100,000 annually in United Way funding for the past decade. News of this impending financial loss for JFS reached the *San Jose Mercury News* - and received 1,100 views on JFS' Facebook page. Harvey approached JFS Executive Director Mindy Berkowitz with an offer to help. As Harvey tells it, "I felt a compelling need to help when I read in the *Mercury News* about the imminent loss of United Way funding. I wanted to help prevent a probable loss of personnel and the



Connections to Work A mother and daughter who recently arrived from Azerbaijan receive food for Refugees Program packages from Azita Eshagh.

programs they represent."

Supporting JFS' refugee services is personal for Harvey: "It basically goes back to my family history. My grandparents got out of Belarus in 1908. I've been chatting with people in your VESL class. I really felt a similarity. My grandfather being chased by the Cossacks and the refugees you help left for the same basic reasons. As Jews we've always had a history of moving on. We've moved for reasons that weren't of our own making. As Jews we feel a similarity to what is going on in the present situation."

Harvey continues, "When I come to JFS for a quick coffee, I get to talk with the refugees you're helping. They are really good people – whether they're Jews or non-Jews."

Harvey sees more reasons to support the Emergency Fund for Refugee Services. "There weren't many organizations that would've helped my grandfather and his family. Now we have more

organizations doing this important work. It's a compliment to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley and their proven track record that agencies like HIAS contract with them to resettle refugees." In addi-

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The Jewish Family News is published four times a year by Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley 14855 Oka Road Suite 202 Los Gatos, CA 95032 (408) 556-0600 www.jfssv.org

From Our President

Miracles Happen Here

Richard Namm



"Miracles
Happen Here."
That's the invisible sign by the entrance to the
JFS office on the 2nd floor of the JCC in Los

Gatos. The door may look like any other in the building, but step inside and you'll be amazed.

Most people in our community are familiar with the activities of JFS. However, lives are truly changed by the work of the agency and a staff of 18 (plus 500 volunteers!) stretched to capacity in tight quarters.

At our annual Good Morning JFS! breakfast on February 24th, we heard inspirational tales from clients directly impacted by JFS. Let's take a moment to consider some of our accomplishments from 2015:

- Food Assistance: 1,200 people received Shabbat meals, supermarket gift cards, fresh garden vegetables and food packages.
- Embrace-A-Family: 500 donors contributed 1,500 gifts and \$16,500 worth of gift cards for vulnerable children and adults.
- Connections To Work: 137 refugee students became productive members of the U.S., and 105 adults got their first jobs in this country.
- Looking back over the past 10 years, the **Knitzvah** knitting group created 20,000 beautiful items, such as blankets, sweaters and scarves for thousands of people over 25 different organizations.

Donations made to JFS throughout the year, whether monetary or as a volunteer, make all the difference in the world to people down on their luck, new to the U.S. or who simply need a helping hand in difficult circumstances. We appreciate every bit of your support.

Next time you enter the JFS office and cross that threshold into an atmosphere buzzing with activity, I'm sure you'll reach the same conclusion I do on every visit...Miracles Happen Here.

Rich



From the JFS Family to Yours

Staff Direct Numbers

Area Code 408

Area Code 408				
Avital Agam35	57-7450			
Anna Bennett35	57-7425			
Mindy Berkowitz35	57-7455			
Galina Chyorny32	57-7458			
Lori Cinnamon3	57-7467			
Valerie DuBose3	57-7542			
Azita Eshagh35	57-7457			
Caroline Golpashin35	57-7449			
Elena Kulvets35				
Natalie Lazar3	57-7448			
Zoya Lazer3	57-7452			
Tami Levi 32	57-7454			
Sheila Monheit 3	57-7451			
Kathy Paster55	6-0600			
Helen Sappa3	57-7459			
Patrick Soricone3				
Gary Spivey3	357-7453			

Executive Director's Message

May All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat on Passover

Mindy Berkowitz



Dear Friends,

As you read this, I hope your house is redolent of your Passover seder. In my home, it's my

special matzoh ball soup and Pesach mandelbread that lures my family into the kitchen.

Hard to believe - it's the 10th anniversary of our **Annual Passover** Food Drive. We are so grateful to all our partner agencies and synagogues, donors, and volunteers for helping us distribute thousands of food packages over the years.

If you are part of a household that **needs food assistance** or other help during Passover (or any time), please do not hesitate to contact JFS. Seniors who need assistance should contact Avital Agam at (408) 357-7450. Families and adults needing help at Passover should be in touch with Anna Bennett at (408) 357-7425. JFS is here for you.

We are once again thankful to the Jewish Federation for sponsoring our annual seder for hundreds of Russian speakers. The Passover seder has very special meaning to those who were émigrés from the Former Soviet Union. The freedom they commemorate at the seder tastes doubly sweet.

Jewish Family Services is here for you in other ways that make life better. In this issue of *Jewish Family News*, we are featuring expanded

counseling services, a special caregiver support workshop on the changes and challenges of aging — and an opportunity to help JFS ensure that refugees to our country will be welcomed and supported. And isn't that what Passover is really all about?

As always, thank you for your support of Jewish Family Services. Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy Passover.

Hag Pesach Sameach, *Mindy*

P.S. Special thanks to Harvey Belsky for jumpstarting our Emergency Fund for Refugee Services. Thanks to Harvey, we're halfway to our \$50,000 goal.

Giving Adults, Children and Families Better Lives in Silicon Valley

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend Jewish Family Services

Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 7:00 PM Levy Family Campus Adult Lounge

- Stories from the People We Help
- Honoring Volunteers for Outstanding Community Service
 - Installation of New Slate of Board of Directors

Celebrating Our Successes Festive Dessert Reception

R.S.V.P. to jfs@jfssv.org; 408.556.0600

Why One Family Chose Centerpieces for Tzedakah: An Interview with Heidi Eisips



Centerpieces for Tzedakah brought beauty and meaning to Yoni's Bar Mitavah. Joel Gringorten

We recently met with Heidi Eisips to ask her about her experience with Centerpieces for Tzedakah at her son Yoni's bar mitzvah.

JFS: Heidi, why did you choose Centerpieces for Tzedakah?

Heidi: I brought Yoni to my installation on the Federation Board and those were the centerpieces. Yoni and I thought this would be a great idea for our event.

JFS: Was there a Jewish component in this choice?

Heidi: It tied in so nicely with his Torah portion where Moses told the people how they must treat the poor and needy in their community.

JFS: How did the centerpieces fit with your party?

Heidi: We were able to match the colors. They were visually appealing and all the food is kosher. They were perfect. For people on a budget who want to do good, this is the perfect solution.

JFS: What's another reason someone should choose Centerpieces for Tzedakah?

Heidi: I think anyone can benefit from these centerpieces. I don't like waste. Knowing that they're reused and also benefit the JFS food program feels like a win-win-win-socially conscious and environmentally conscious at the same time. The tax-deductible donation was really great, too. We were able to give our partygoers a message on every table. It was there in front of them at all times. It was a very present reminder of how we can make a difference in people's lives.

JFS: Any plans going forward?

Heidi: It made us aware of what JFS is doing. For us, the Centerpieces for Tzedakah opened up a relationship with JFS and we're now volunteering as a family and coming to events.

JFS: Thank you Heidi and Yoni

Emergency Fund • continued from page 1 tion, Harvey says, "It's great for the American economy when refugees and immigrants are trained to work and be successful. By teaching refugees English and the skills they need to join the workforce, you create a 'trickle up' situation. These students produce more income in America. The taxes they will eventually pay support the economy."

Please join Harvey Belsky in supporting the JFS Emergency Fund for Refugee Services. You may use the form on the back side of the newsletter and give from your heart. Questions? Please contact Mindy Berkowitz, executive Director at (408) 357-7455 or mindyb@jfssv.org

Link to *Mercury News* article about loss of United Way funding: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci-29618975/silicon-valley-nonprofits-set-to-lose-united-way-funding



Yoni Eisips at his Bar Mitzvah

for selecting Centerpieces for Tzedakah and for the vote of confidence for Jewish Family Services.

Choose Centerpieces for Tzeda-kah at your next simcha! Contact us at (408) 556-0600 or centerpieces@jfssv.org.

JFS Expands Counseling Services

Jewish Family Services is expanding our counseling services. We offer a full range of counseling for individuals, couples, families, and elders.

Kathy Paster, MSW, a clinical social worker with 28 years of experience, has joined the JFS team. She has worked with clients from the whole spectrum of life stages.

JFS offers an affordable sliding fee schedule. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Kathy Paster, MSW at (408) 357-7456 or Anna Bennett, MSW at (408) 357-7425.

New Women's Group Forming

JFS is starting a new women's group to talk about the challenges women face around work, family, relationships and throughout modern life. Members will share their experiences and concerns in a supportive, safe place. Exploring feelings and life events together will help group members learn from and encourage each other.

Group dates and time: to be determined by group members. Available time slots include late afternoons and early evenings.

For more information and to register, contact Kathy Paster, MSW at kathyp@jfssv.org or (408) 357-7456.

Discover the J.

Jewish education, cultural events, preschool, camp, fitness, aquatics & more.



Addison-Penzak JCC of Silicon Valley Levy Family Campus www.apjcc.org

Changes and Challenges of Aging A Special Workshop for Those Caring for Loved Ones Wednesday, May 11, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Jewish Family Services invites spouses and adult children who are dealing with loved ones who have memory loss and dementia to this special workshop for the members of our Caregivers Support Group. It is free and open to members of the community. These topics will be covered:

- Depression related to the changes of aging (seniors and love ones)
- Coping with physical deterioration
- Timeline of dementia/what to expect
- Getting help for your loved one and yourself
- Process of acceptance of changes and deterioration

The session will be co-led by two members of our social work staff: Avital Agam, BSW and Kathy Paster, MSW, who have vast experience working with seniors, adult children, and caregivers. Refreshments will be served. For more information and to register, contact Avital Agam at (408) 357-7450.

Special thanks to Kaiser Permanente for sponsoring this workshop.





Board Retreat March 2016: Our JFS Board of Directors convened for a board retreat at Co-President Robin Sabes' home. Special thanks to Michele Bolton of Executive Edge for her excellent facilitation.

Donations and Volunteers Made Embrace-A-Family a Great Success

We at Jewish Family Services are so thankful for the Embrace-A-Family generosity and bounty that once again surrounded us. More than 1,000 gifts of all kinds poured out from every office. We appreciate the 80 smiling Embrace-A-Family volunteers who greeted our guests, created and restocked our dreidel boards, beautifully wrapped gifts - and so much more. Donors of all ages - from shy preschoolers to knowing great grandpas - generously brought bags and bags of gifts. Hanukkah food packages lined the crowded hallways and offices.

Thank you to everyone who once again made Embrace-A-Family a great success!



Members of Neshikot B'nai Brith Girls wrapped gifts and helped make Embrace-A-Family a winner.

YA-LIVE! Young Adult Leadership Initiative Plans Yom HaShoah Dialogue



JFS YA-LIVE! and Hatikvah House enjoyed Hanukkah together.

YA-LIVE! Young Adult Leadership Initiative for Volunteer Engagement, is a Jewish Family Services group of people in their 20's and 30's engaged in leading service projects. They invite all young adults to attend a Yom HaShoah Dialogue

on May 1st, 2-4 PM at the Levy Family Campus, in the Adult Lounge.

Y A - L I V E! members have i n t e r v i e w e d survivors to hear the survivors' stories, understand how the Holocaust shaped their lives, and learn the lessons they wish

to impart to the next generations. This event, held in partnership with ENGAJ, Engaging the Next Generation of Adult Jews, is an invaluable opportunity for young adults to meet and get to know local Holocaust survivors.

About YA-LIVE!

YA-LIVE! meets bi-monthly and finds projects the members feel passionate about that repair our own part of the world. They have been meeting and doing good all year long. In December the group hosted a Hanukkah party for Hatikvah House residents and the parents of the residents.

For more information about YA-LIVE! or the May 1st event, contact Lori Cinnamon contact Lori Cinnamon, Manager of Community and Volunteer Engagement, loric@jfssv.org or (408) 357-7467.

Thank You to Our Community



WHAT A GOOD MORNING IT WAS!

Our Good Morning JFS! guests had so many good things to say about our event.

"Delightful, light, positive! I would definitely come back again."

"The whole thing was well done. You should be proud of yourselves."

"Wonderful, wonderful. Very well run. Perfect. I loved everything."

"It was all I could do not to burst into tears. I really want to get involved.

I also really like how you're helping refugees."

"I thought it was extremely well done, outstanding."

"Speakers were great, video was great."

"I was blown away by the number of people in the room."

"Yasher koach to you!"

"Every time I go, I learn more about JFS. I hope you'll do it next year."

A very special thank you goes to our Table Hosts for filling their tables. 265 guests joined us at breakfast to hear JFS stories - and came away with so much more than lox and bagels.

Loved the video? Watch it again: https://www.youtube.co/watch?v=qYKwp6L9hTA&feature=youtu.be

This was our best fundraiser ever! We are grateful for our sponsors, donors and community partners for helping us be so successful. Your support means the world to Jewish Family Services! Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts for making it a Good Morning for JFS.

Save the Date for Next Year: Good Morning JFS! March 15, 2017

Want to do it again? Please let Mindy Berkowitz (mindyb@jfssv.org) or Lori Cinnamon (loric@jfssv.org)know if you'd like to be a Table Host next year or work on planning the event.

JFS Welcomes Patrick Soricone

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Patrick Soricone as Director of Community and Social Service Programs.

Patrick is no stranger to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley. Zoya Lazer and Mindy Berkowitz worked closely with Patrick for 10 years at United Way Silicon Valley in his capacity as Vice President Community Building & Impact Director Economic Self-Sufficiency & Program Evaluation. Patrick brings 25+ years of nonprofit and public sector experience in family support, organizational development, fundraising, public affairs, crisis communications, strategic planning, grant making and administration. He has worked in various settings domestically and internationally to build effective community development partnerships. A love for travel and adventure has helped to develop his competency and respect for cultural diversity. Service with four United Ways provided an excellent grounding in community building strategies and the integral connectedness between deploying resources and achieving impact.



A native of Rochester, NY, Patrick holds a Master of Social Work degree from University of Washington. He earned his B.A. at Hobart College, Geneva, NY. Patrick and his spouse Todd Tressler live in the Japantown area of San Jose.

Of his new role Patrick says, "I am deeply honored to join the JFS team. I look forward to supporting the Social Services Department staff, and to help them build upon the amazing foundation JFS has offered in serving the community."

Patrick, we look forward to building on the great partnership we established with you more than a decade ago.

Patrick can be reached at (4508) 357-7456 and patricks@jfssv.org.



At one time, you were proud of that old car.

Now, you can be proud of it again.

Donate your unwanted vehicle to Jewish Family Services and support vital programs for families, children, and older adults in need.



Donate Today!
1-877-JFS-4-CAR
1-877-537-4227
www.jfssv.org

Thank You to Our 2015-2016 Funders

Jewish Family Services relies on corporate, foundation and government support for three quarters of the income we use to provide essential services for vulnerable families and seniors. It is our honor to recognize the fine institutions that help JFS ensure that those in need can get the assistance they deserve.

- Claims Conference: services for vulnerable Holocaust survivors
- County of Santa Clara Social Services: Connections to Work Program
- Emergency Food and Shelter Board: emergency food packages for seniors, adults and families
 - HIAS: refugee resettlement
- Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley: overall support, transportation for low income seniors, community seder for Russian speakers, quality of life scholarships for low income seniors, home care scholarships for low income seniors, 75% discount of occupancy cost
- *Koret Foundation:* Project NOAH Food Assistance Program
- Myra Reinhard Family Foundation: Project NOAH services for vulnerable adults and families
- Office of Refugee Resettlement: employment services for refugees
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation: Connections to Work Program
- Safeway Foundation: Project NOAH Food Assistance Program
- SanDisk Corporation: Project NOAH for Children and Families
- *United Way Silicon Valley:* Family Connections to Work
- Western Digital: Connections to Work Program
- Wish Book Foundation: Project NOAH services for vulnerable adults and families

We appreciate your partnership!

Donations

Addie and Ray Kopp Memorial Fund

In memory of Addie and Ray Kopp: Carol and Richard Anderson

In memory of Rosalie (Cookie) Sogolow: Debra Byford and James Currie, Paula and Steven Sneddon

Elaine Moise

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Sophie and Bernie Weinzimmer, in honor of their

45th wedding anniversary

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Bonnie Wohl

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Janet Wolf

Donna and Philip Wolkstein, to benefit children's programs

Gail Bates and Peter Yessne

Gary Zatkin

Richard and Carol Zbriger, in memory of Sol Zbriger and Florence Steiner

Big Hearted Birthdays

In honor of Mindy Berkowitz's birthday: Susan Greenberg Englander and Jeff Englander, Steve Schleimer and Cyndi Sherman

In honor of Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz's 20th anniversary: Bettina and Dan Rosenberg

In honor of Rhonda Farber's birthday: Frances Greenberg

In honor of Donna Gilbert's 50th birthday: Heidi Eisips, Korala Consulting

In honor of Frances Greenberg's birthday: Laura Rocker and Jeff Baddaley, Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz, Marty and Nancy Newman, Bettina and Dan Rosenberg

In honor of Ruth Miller's birthday: Frances Greenberg

In honor of Shell Rubenstein's 80th birthday: Fagie Rosen

In honor of Robin Sabes' birthday: Diana Perkins In honor of Lil Schwartzberg's birthday: Fagie Rosen



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Burt and Sandy Epstein, for speedy and complete recovery of Cherie Ravel, Ken Entin and Ellie Gerstley; in honor of Rita Jacobson for her receipt of the Janet Berg Award; and in memory of Lou Kaplan, Joan Stone, Leonard Rosenthal and Helen Matzner Gilda Forrester

Rita and Jerry Jacobson, for a speedy recovery of Sandy Epstein, and in memory of Aaron Gross Fagie Rosen, for get well wishes to Sandy Epstein

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Your job responsibilities include conducting intake and assessment, career counseling, résumé writing, interview preparation, creating linkages with potential employers, and helping clients overcome barriers to success.

You must be caring, friendly, positive, flexible and highly organized, with the ability to multi-task on a regular basis. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Requirements:

- MS in Career Counseling (or related field) from an accredited university
- Prior experience working with immigrants and refugees
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and on a team
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Two years experience career counseling/job development fields
- Valid California driver's license
- Bilingual Farsi, Amharic or Arabic a plus

Résumés to: jobs@jfssv.org

Summer Internship Opportunity at JFS

JFS is pleased to announce an internship opportunity for a college student interested in non-profit management, program development volunteer engagement, and social media. We are seeking a summer intern (June-August, flexible dates) to work with JFS' Department of Volunteer Engagement.

The internship will support ongoing volunteer engagement and also coordinate events and community drives. Areas of focus will include our YA-Live! Group for young adults, Equipped to Learn Backpack Drive and emergency food assistance. Qualified applicants should have prior social media and event organizing experience – and a "can do" attitude.

The internship is 15-20 hours per week at our offices at the Levy Family Campus in Los Gatos. It takes place during business hours with some evening and weekend work. Call Lori Cinnamon, Manager of Volunteer and Community Engagement, at 408-357-7467 or email résumés and inquiries to loric@jfssv.org.

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