

## Memory Cafe Network awarded \$20K

Percolator Memory Cafe Network at Jewish Family & Children's Service has been selected as one of three winning organizations – each with outstanding programs that address the needs of caregivers for people with Alzheimer's disease – to receive \$20,000.

Beth Soltzberg, of Arlington, serves as director of the Alzheimer's/Related Disorders Family Support Program, which coordinates the Percolator Memory Cafe Network. The memory cafe meets regularly to offer its coordinators a forum to share ideas and work together toward common goals.

The \$20,000 grant was awarded by the Family Caregiver Alliance and the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation in celebration of the 10th year of the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards. The grant was awarded in the category of Creative Expression.

Memory cafes offer social connection, support, invigorating activity and information. Cafes are for individuals living with Alzheimer's or a related

disorder, and they are also for family members, friends and professional caregivers of these individuals.

Cafes are a cost-effective model that can be developed and run by many types of organizations, including social service or health care providers, faith communities, colleges, museums, restaurants and more. Memory cafes are part of the growing movement to make local communities "dementia friendly."

The Percolator Memory Cafe Network reduces social isolation and works to increase meaningful activity and creative expression among people living with dementia and their caregivers by scaling access to high quality memory cafés throughout Massachusetts.

The Percolator has enabled dementia support providers to share knowledge and resources rather than competing, thereby making Massachusetts home to the largest number of memory cafes in the nation. Accomplishments include supporting the launch of more than 70 new memory cafes, including two Spanish speaking cafes and 13

cafes designed to include people who have both dementia and a developmental disability.

The teaching artists – who lead dance, singing, drumming, theater games, poetry writing, art making and more – share their expertise among the cafes.

JF&CS opened the second memory cafe in Massachusetts in spring 2014. Guests immediately asked for more hours and locations. JF&CS responded by starting the Percolator to help other organizations launch cafes, a sustainable approach that would foster cafes to fit each unique neighborhood.

The Percolator has grown to: 418 participants; 62 teaching artists participate in the guest artist directory; and more than 2,500 caregivers and persons with dementia participate in a cafe activity annually. The Memory Cafe Toolkit (also in Spanish) has been downloaded over 450 times since its release in August 2016. New community sectors, including two libraries and several houses of worship, have used the Toolkit for help in starting their own cafe.

