



Percolator Memory Café Network at JF&CS
Wins \$20,000 from The 2017 Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in
Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards in Creative Expression

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We are so excited to be 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. In celebration of the 10th year of the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards, Family Caregiver Alliance and The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation awarded the JF&CS Percolator Memory Café Network this grant, in the category of Creative Expression.

JF&CS Alzheimer's/Related Disorders Family Support coordinates the [Percolator Memory Café Network](#), which meets regularly to offer memory café coordinators a forum to share ideas and work together toward common goals.

Memory cafés offer social connection, support, invigorating activity, and information. Cafés 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. Cafés 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 cafés are part of the growing movement to make our communities “dementia friendly.”

The [Percolator Memory Café Network](#) (Percolator) reduces social isolation and increases 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 cafés in the nation. Accomplishments include supporting the launch of more than 70 new memory cafés, including two Spanish speaking cafés and 13 cafés 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 cafés.

JF&CS opened the second memory café 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 cafés, a sustainable approach that would foster cafés to fit each unique neighborhood. The Percolator has grown to 418 participants; 62 teaching artists participate in the guest artist directory; more than 2,500 caregivers and persons with dementia participate in a café activity annually. The Memory Café 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 café.



For 150 years, Jewish Family & Children's Service has provided exceptional human service and health care programs, guided by Jewish traditions of social responsibility, compassion, and respect for all members of the community. With an integrated network of more than 40 programs serving communities throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts, JF&CS helps people of all faiths and backgrounds meet life's challenges. JF&CS programs focus on serving particularly vulnerable populations including seniors living with chronic conditions—providing information and support to individuals and families confronting changes and challenges brought on by dementia, and caring for the whole person by offering creative outlets and social opportunities that give life meaning and joy. JF&CS both supports individuals and families who are directly affected by dementia, and collaborates with other organizations to reduce stigma and promote dementia friendly communities. Visit www.jfcsboston.org for more information.

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