

Win a pair of Red Sox Tickets >>

JF&CS Survey

We need your help to make our newsletter better. Please fill out the enclosed survey in this issue and mail it back or fill it out online at jfcsboston.org by July 31. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a pair of Red Sox tickets!

JF&CS in the News

* JF&CS was sought after to comment on the Catholic Charities adoption controversy. We were quoted in a front-page article in the Boston Globe on March 11, in the Boston Metro on March 16 and in the MetroWest Daily News on March 3, just to name a few.

* Kol Isha sponsored a teen dating violence event, "When Push Comes to Shove, It's No Longer Love" and received full-page coverage in the Boston Herald on April 3.

* On May 14 (Mother's Day), Visiting Mom's was highlighted in the Globe North section of the Boston Globe.

Dental Assistance for Holocaust Survivors

JF&CS is spearheading a collaboration with Holocaust survivors, volunteers from the dental and medical communities and the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity to launch DASH (Dental Assistance for Holocaust Survivors).

During the Holocaust, survivors endured years of malnutrition and starvation, which had detrimental effects on their oral health. With DASH, they have access, at no cost, to dental screenings at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and treatment to ultimately prevent disease, reduce pain and restore function.



Sanna gets her smile back

Ellen Ogintz Fishman, JF&CS Director of Schechter Holocaust Services, said, "This is a wonderful service that has a huge impact on survivors' lives and their ability to age with dignity." Ellen continued, "In April 2004, we started a waiting list of clients who needed assistance with dental care and the list grew rapidly." Yet because dental care is so costly, the Agency did not have sufficient funding to meet these needs.

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Breaking Down Barriers

Chaverim Shel Shalom Seder

The theme of Passover is freedom. For adults living with chronic psychiatric illness, the Seder can symbolize being able to break free of the symptoms and the barriers of their disorders.

On April 17, over 100 adults living with chronic psychiatric illness and their friends and families gathered for a Seder at Temple Beth Zion in Brookline. Rabbi Moshe Waldoks led the highly successful annual event, hosted by Chaverim Shel Shalom, which is a program for Jewish adults living with a chronic psychiatric illness.

The Seder was a joyous and inspiring occasion that provided attendees with a rare opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company while connecting with Jewish ritual.

>>> 6

Dear Friends,

I am proud to share some good news with you about THE CAMPAIGN FOR JF&CS. As you know, the goal of the Campaign is to raise \$8 million to support the growth and stabilization of our services and secure the success of the Agency for future generations. Since our last newsletter in January 2006 we have raised an additional \$1 million, bringing our Campaign total to over \$5 million.

The outpouring of support from our board of directors, the community, our staff and clients has been truly overwhelming. We have received gifts, both large and small, from individuals and families. Some have been one-time donations, while others have made longer-term commitments through gifts of cash, stock or bequests. One thing has not varied — our supporters' commitment to ensuring that our programs remain available for generations to come.

As the Campaign moves into our public phase, I am pleased to announce that Amy Bloomstone will serve as chair, stepping in for Lauren and Mark Rubin who have steered the Campaign through its very successful launch.

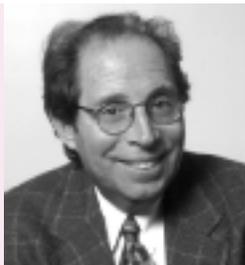
Amy Bloomstone is an active and dedicated member of the JF&CS family and the Greater Boston community. Amy has been on our Board of Directors since 1999. She is currently serving on the Executive Committee, is chair of the Nominating Committee and has chaired various Agency fundraisers. Amy also donates her legal expertise to our Bet Tzedek Program. She is a member of Temple Emanuel in Newton and lives in West Newton with her husband Ben and their three children.

I am grateful for the generous commitment of time and energy that Lauren and Mark have made to the success of THE CAMPAIGN FOR JF&CS and I look forward to working with Amy. Their efforts, and the work of our staff and board, will mean we can continue to operate as a forward-thinking organization that develops services to make wishes become reality.

Sincerely,



Seymour J. Friedland, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Looking for Residents of Group Homes

In the early 1940's, JF&CS operated several group homes for children whose parents were unable to care for them. These homes were open until the late 1950's and were a safe and stable environment for the many children who passed through them on their way to foster homes. Now one man is looking for others who shared his childhood experience as a ward of JF&CS.



Ben and his younger brother Michael, 1952

Ben Gordon was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts and lived with his parents until age 11. In the early 1950's his parents could not care for him and his younger brother Michael. His mother was physically and mentally ill and was in and out of hospitals for much of their childhood. Needing help, his father sought out JF&CS. The two boys became wards of the Agency. Ben has very positive feelings about his experience. He said, "The situation at home was untenable. I was lucky to find JF&CS."

Now Ben has begun writing a book about his childhood and is eager to hear the personal stories of others who lived in these homes. If you or someone you know has information about JF&CS group homes, please contact Ben Gordon at 203-938-9108 or bensuz@aol.com.

Center for Early Relationship Support to Present in Paris

JF&CS has been invited to present a "clinical teach-in" at the World Association of Infant Mental Health conference on July 9, 2006 in Paris, France.

Peggy Kaufman, Director of the Center for Early Relationship Support, said, "This invitation is a major honor. It gives us visibility and recognition in the international community of infant mental health practitioners and researchers."

The teach-in will share the work of CERS' Early Connections program and the results of qualitative interviews with Early Connections clinicians conducted in partnership with Boston University. Looking through the lenses of both case material and the voices of clinicians, the presentation will focus on CERS' Early Connections treatment of depressed new mothers.

Peggy and Eda Spielman will present with Ruth Paris, Assistant Professor and Director of the Family Therapy Certificate program at BU's School of Social Work.

Connecting Families: Disability Resource Network

Now in its fifth year, the Disability Resource Network has helped countless families connect with the help and advice they need.

The Network is an information and referral service for people with disabilities and their caregivers. It provides information about services related to religious life, education, social and recreational concerns, housing, legal advocacy and community life.

Director Sandy Slavet manages a “huge computer database” and works closely with other agencies and providers “to find programs and services that are accessible to ensure that consumers have the most up-to-date information.” Sandy said, “We’ve been able to provide greater opportunities for people with disabilities.”

She feels strongly that having a central referral service is important. She said, “Many families have no idea where to start. I feel really good that there’s a number that they can call that will put them in a forward direction, instead of spinning in place.”

Sandy provides all types of assistance. In one case, a widow contacted Sandy to help her set up a vacation for her two adult sons who have Mental Retardation. Due to the recent death of her husband, the woman, who lives out of state, would not be able to take her sons on their usual family trip. Sandy was able to provide information about several organizations that offer specialized trips for adults with mental retardation and the mother has booked her sons on a “Trips Unlimited” cruise to Panama.

In another case, a family with a fifteen-year-old son with Autism was seeking social and recreational programs in their community. Sandy was able to send information about nine programs that provide services for teens with Autism.

The Network continues to offer hope and help for families of people with disabilities. To learn more, contact Sandy Slavet at 781-647-JFCS (5327) or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

American and Israeli Teens Meet in Haifa

In April, 10 Russian-speaking teens traveled from Boston to Haifa, Israel for eight days of immersion into Israeli life. The teens are participants in the JF&CS Boston-Haifa Russian Teen Connection Program called “Putting Israel on the Map.”

Ena Feinberg, JF&CS Director of New American Services, said, “The goal is to allow these teens to put Israel on their personal maps by getting acquainted with its people, problems, traditions, music and history.”

The program began two years ago when JF&CS hosted a group of 10 teens from Haifa. Because both groups of teens have Russian roots and are the children of immigrants or immigrated themselves, they have a common bond based on their experience.

Alla Denisenko, JF&CS Teen Program Coordinator, said, “The teens wanted to see their heritage, to see with their own eyes what’s going on in Israel.”

While in Israel, the Boston teens visited important historical and modern sites in Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Golan Heights and the Dead Sea.

Alla said the highlight of their time in Jerusalem was their tour of the Holocaust Museum. She said, “That impressed them so much. They were crying and stunned, yet they didn’t want to leave.”



Sitting (l-r): Sergey Tsilenko, Anna Khorkin, Dvora Pinsky, Alexandra Zlotnikova, Slava Starkin, Olga Sibiriyov. Standing (l-r): Ena Feinberg, Vitaly Manevitch, Eugene Goldin, Daniel Volkov, Greg Vulich, Andrew Hashkes, Gayla Berg, Eli Gershtein, Jason Hashkes, Jennie Leikin, Marina Akhmetova, Gadi Raviv.

Although Alla said the teens were happily surprised by the freedom their peers in Israel have, they also experienced some of the fears of their new friends. While they were in Jerusalem, there was a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. They found out about the attack when their cell phones began ringing with calls from anxious parents in the U.S.

Ena believes that the friendships that have evolved from emails and visits will have life-long implications. She said, “This helps form their attitude toward life in general. These friendships make them think about a lot of different things in different ways and strengthens their Jewish identity.”

The Simone Lottor Exceptional Service Award

The Simone Lottor Exceptional Service Award is presented annually to a JF&CS volunteer who has made a vital contribution to the community. The 2006 recipients of the Lottor Award are Renée Rubin and Carl Goldman of Newton, who have volunteered for the First Friends program of JF&CS for the past 12 years.

First Friends, a program of JF&CS' New American Services, helps immigrants from the former Soviet Republic make the transition to life in the United States.

With dictionary in hand, Renée and Carl met with families and tried to figure out how they could be of assistance. During weekly visits, they helped new arrivals adjust to many challenges of life in a new country. Everything from navigating the astonishing variety of goods at the supermarket, to applying for jobs, doing homework, using appliances, riding the T and filling out tax forms. Renée and Carl also had a lot of fun. Together with their new friends they celebrated holidays, hosted backyard barbeques and took families on journeys to Maine and New Hampshire to show them the beauty of New England.



Renée Rubin and Carl Goldman

“The most rewarding part of our experience was getting to know these wonderful people...”

Renée said, “The most rewarding part of our experience was getting to know these wonderful people and helping them in their early days to adjust to the U.S.”

Carl and Renée became involved with the New American Program in the early 1990's, when Carl

was teaching at Brookline High School. He was asked to teach English to elderly Russian Jewish immigrants. He felt that since America had given his grandparents a chance to lead a good life, he wanted to help people who were in similar circumstances. Renée said, “When we heard about the need for volunteers to help with the New Americans Program, we decided it would be a wonderful opportunity for us to work together. And were we right!”

Carl also volunteered for JF&CS as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher in a program for Russian-speaking elders and together the couple has trained new volunteers for the First Friends program.

Volunteering at JF&CS

Volunteers are a vital part of Jewish Family & Children's Service. For more information on how you can help isolated seniors, new parents, recently arrived immigrants, people with disabilities and others in need, call our volunteer coordinator at 781-647-JFCS (5327) or visit jfcsboston.org to find out more.

New Website Connects Care Givers and Elders Online

For those living apart from elderly parents, keeping track of daily needs and medical conditions can be a huge challenge. JF&CS has launched an innovative website to help ease the stress. The website provides a secure, confidential way for caregivers to get up-to-date information about elders' activities and medical status.

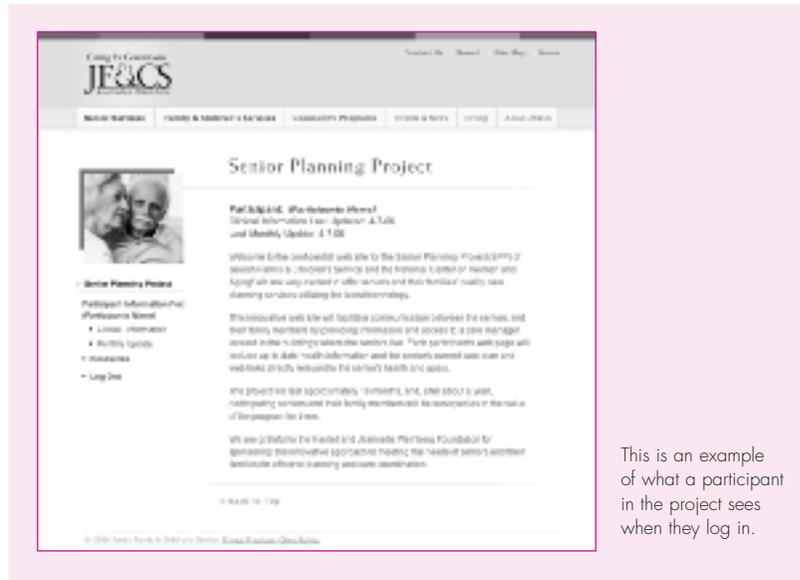
The website is part of a collaboration between JF&CS and Brandeis University called the Senior Planning Project. With the assistance of a grant from the Weinberg Family Foundation, the goal of the project is to explore innovative ways to help caregivers and the elders they're involved with.

The project will ultimately measure whether having the opportunity for information on individual websites, as well as links that are relevant for the elders' particular issues, will improve the quality of the relationship between caregivers and elders.

Currently, 38 elders in Malden and Brookline are participating in the project.

The elders are part of JF&CS' Aging Well at Home program. In 2004, JF&CS was awarded a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging to bring services to areas that have high concentrations of elderly with the goal of helping people "age well at home."

JF&CS created a web page for each resident who is participating in this project. This password-protected website provides customized information about



This is an example of what a participant in the project sees when they log in.

his or her health status, concerns and activities. It also provides links to other sites which offer useful advice and tips for elders and caregivers in several key topic areas, and an email message board for relatives, elders and their care manager to send each other messages.

Once a month, or more as needed, Care Managers Donna Tarutz and Nora Willcutts meet with each elder and post an overall update that includes activities they're participating in, how they are doing medically and a care plan update.

While most caregivers communicate with their family members quite frequently by telephone and in-person visits, all welcome the assistance and information offered through the Senior Planning Project to help them better manage their care giving responsibilities. Caregivers are also grateful for an objective, third-party assessment of their family members' condition.

In the fall, a team at Brandeis will conduct interviews with participants to collect and analyze the results of the project.

...the goal of the project is to explore innovative ways to help caregivers and the elders they're involved with.

Dental Assistance for Holocaust Survivors *continued*

At the same time, Dr. Robert Berger, who is a Holocaust survivor, was brainstorming about ways that he could make a difference. He approached Dr. Nathan Birnbaum and Dr. Selwyn Oskowitz to begin rallying dentists. They met with JF&CS in February 2005 and the program evolved from their mutual dreams.

Dr. Berger said, “This program was initiated by survivors who mobilized the professional world to provide care. It’s a productive partnership between survivors, volunteers, JF&CS and Tufts Dental School.”

There are more than 300 survivors who have shown interest in receiving services through DASH. To date, nearly 100 volunteer dentists have agreed to provide pro bono dental treatment to at least one patient each. Since October, the program has screened 29 clients and six have completed treatment.

Sanna Markish is a Russian immigrant who has received treatment through DASH. Born in Leningrad in 1934, she was raised in Odessa by her aunt and grandmother after her parents were sent to Siberia by Stalin’s regime. She said,

“The dental technique was so poor I couldn’t stand it.”

When she arrived in the U.S. in 1994 she feared she would have to have all her teeth pulled. Fortunately she was introduced to DASH by her optician and, after a series of visits, has avoided dentures. “A million thanks for this,” she said, adding, “I’m so grateful.”

“We have seen tremendous results from our patients who have gone through the DASH program to date,” remarks Tanya Shvayetsky, DASH program coordinator and Tufts University graduate. “Many of our patients come into our program with their teeth missing or rotten. There is a psychological stigma that is alleviated when someone improves their smile and the pain in their mouth decreases... their whole outlook on life improves.”

Programs like this couldn’t happen without the support of people like David Schechter, who has made a significant contribution to support the newly named Schechter Holocaust Services. David said, “There are survivors in desperate need of medical, dental and all types of care. I hope my gift will help relieve the suffering of people who have had all too much suffering in their lives.”

Breaking Down Barriers *continued*

Ellyn Salkin, Clinical Director of JF&CS’s Services for People with Disabilities, is the coordinator of Chaverim Shel Shalom. Ellyn said, “Being able to individually and collectively speak about [the barriers of mental illness] in a Jewish forum is very powerful.” She added, “The struggles of the Jews leaving Egypt resonate with participants since they have struggled as a marginalized group.”

The catered traditional Seder, for some their only Seder, was free for participants, family members and friends. Participants read from a powerful Haggadah, written by Chaverim Shel Shalom members, that specifically reflected the experience of Jews with psychiatric conditions. Ellyn said, “I was sitting with three people who do not suffer from psychiatric illness but who came in support of those who do. They find the Seder so inspiring and attend year after year.”

Chaverim Shel Shalom offers an important sense of community for many that feel isolated by their disorders. Sadly, while these adults have the same interests as the rest of the population, they’re not always accepted into other groups. The program provides an opportunity for socialization with a group of peers and friends.

Every month, people come together to talk about their struggles in relationships, at their places of employment, with their families, and in society in general. Ellyn said, “It’s a safe place to discuss their issues. It’s also a place to let go of that and just socialize without having to worry about how they appear. It’s a very relaxed environment.”



Michael Lillian, Cynthia Segal and guests enjoy the Seder.

Chaverim Shel Shalom includes adults living with psychiatric illness and their families in the larger Jewish community through programs that draw extensively on Jewish ritual, Jewish holidays and Jewish healing wisdom.

Along with Ellyn, JF&CS social worker Breanna Robinson, Rabbi Karen Landy and Marjie Sokoll, Director of Jewish Healing Connections, coordinate numerous events throughout the year. Activities range from casual picnics, walks through the Arnold Arboretum and movie nights to “Lunch and Learns,” monthly discussions of Jewish topics taught by Rabbi Karen.

Chaverim Shel Shalom welcomes anyone who would like to become involved. To find out more or to be added to the mailing list, email css@jfcscs.org or call 781-647-1913.

Adoption Resources Featured at JF&CS Annual Meeting

For some couples hoping to become parents, adoption offers a wonderful answer to their prayers. Yet adopting a child can be a challenging process, both emotionally and financially.

Happily, JF&CS Adoption Resources is creating options for adoptive parents through a unique partnership and two generous funds. These initiatives were the featured topics at the JF&CS Annual meeting on May 16, 2006.

Betsy Hochberg, Director of Adoption Resources, described the benefits of two generous funds, The Anne Salvi Fund and the Lindelil Fund, created to provide financial assistance for adopting families. The Lindelil Fund is for those who wish to adopt hard-to-place children such as children of color and children with medical issues.

Betsy said, “These funds make adoption a reality for families who might not otherwise have thought of adopting. And it benefits children who might not otherwise have found families.”

Board members heard the experiences of two families who spoke about adopting children with JF&CS. Betsy also presented a collaboration between Adoption Resources and Jubilee Christian Church. She said, “We’ve been doing outreach into the African American community to recruit adoptive families of color and to educate women about adoption as an option.” The Agency is able to subsidize these adoptions with the help of the Lindelil Fund.



Betsy discussed the changing face of adoption and its link with the history of Boston. “We have over 100 years of records,” she said, adding “JF&CS has a proud history of placing children with ‘non-traditional’ families, including gay and lesbian parents, singles and older couples, and we will continue to do so.”

About Adoption Resources

To find out more about donating to Adoption Resources or to learn more about Adoption Resources, please contact Director Betsy Hochberg at 781-647-JFCS (5327) or via email at bhochberg@jfcsboston.org.

New Board Members Inducted

Beth Lebovitz Backer

Originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Beth moved to Boston nine years ago to pursue a marketing career with Timberland’s Social Enterprise Division. Beth is an avid runner, swimmer and cyclist whose accomplishments include three marathons (Boston twice and Chicago once), and numerous triathlons including a “half iron man” 1.2 mile swim, 55 mile cycle, and 13.1 mile run. Beth is a member of our Marketing Committee, the JF&CS Black Tie committee and the Center for Early Relationship Support committee. She lives with her husband Dan and their three children in Chestnut Hill.



Cindy Goldman Blotner

A native New Yorker and now a converted Red Sox fan, Cindy was an Art History major at Boston University after which she worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Wang Center. She has her J.D. from New England School of Law and is a member of the New York and Massachusetts Bar Associations. She is on the JF&CS Black Tie committee and volunteers for Bet Tzedek, JF&CS’ pro bono legal service. In addition to her work at JF&CS, Cindy volunteers extensively at Jewish Vocational Services and The Rashi School, which her children attend. She lives with her husband Mark and their three children in Newton.



save the date

To learn more about these Events, please call the development office at 781-647-JFCS (5327).

* JF&CS Community Shabbat Dinner

Celebrate Shabbat with your JF&CS friends and family.

Honoring: *The Weintraub Family (Jamie, Rob, Jessica, Dana and Lauren) will be presented with the JF&CS Family Tzedakah Award.*

When: *Friday, October 6, 2006, 6:00 p.m.*

Place: *Jewish Family & Children's Service, Waltham Headquarters*

* CHAI 2006 Celebration

Raises vital funds for our programs for people with disabilities.

Event Chairs: *Carolyn Cohen & Alan Dershowitz
Sherri Ades Falchuk & Dr. Kenneth Falchuk*

Honoring: *Milly and Harold Solomon*

When: *Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 6:30 p.m.*

Place: *Four Seasons Hotel Boston*

* Kol Isha Event

This annual event raises money for Kol Isha, our Jewish Domestic Violence Program.

Event Chair: *Trish Karter*

Speaker: *Anna Quindlen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author*

When: *Thursday evening, November 16, 2006*

* JF&CS Black Tie Event

*Dinner, Dancing and Auction...
Another Great Night is in the Works.*

Event Chairs: *Neal Balkowitsch & Donald Nelson*

When: *Tuesday, March 31, 2007, 7:00 p.m.*

Place: *Westin Boston Waterfront*

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