adelyn was a successful businesswoman. She and her husband led a full life, and thought they had planned well for the birth of their first baby. But then reality hit. Joshua arrived. When Madelyn came home from the hospital the baby was continuously fussy. Madelyn could not get more than two hours sleep at a stretch, and was depleted in every way — she just had not expected it to be this difficult. The baby didn't sleep, did not nurse well and just cried. Madelyn didn't know what to do. Her nurse practitioner recommended the JF&CS Center for Early Relationship Support.

Visiting Moms

“It’s not an uncommon situation,” says Debbie Whitehill, LICSW, who is the director of the Visiting Moms program. “When a new baby arrives, parents are often amazed at the way it changes their lives. There’s no preparation for the sleep deprivation and lack of emotional support. In a case like Madelyn’s we sent a Visiting Mom, a trained volunteer, to visit Madelyn and her baby for a year. In a short time, Madelyn was able to share her insecurities and fears with her Visiting Mom. During the course of this nurturing relationship, Madelyn learned to trust herself as a mother and to adjust her expectations for life as a parent. She and her baby are now doing very well.”

Visiting Moms was the original program that inspired the Center for Early Relationship Support. Now in its eleventh year, the program has been emulated around the country. Hundreds of new mothers and babies have benefited from the program over the years. “Because we are such a mobile society,” says Whitehill, “often times young families are living far away from grandparents or extended family. There is no one a new parent can turn to for comfort and guidance. Visiting Moms bridges that gap.”

continued on next page
Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to speak to you again through this edition of the JF&CS News. As you may be aware, JF&CS offers services to individuals and families at all stages of life. We may be introduced to an infant when we work with a birth mother to find an appropriate adoptive family, or to a new mother and baby through one of our programs in The Center for Early Relationship Support. We may work with a young child with learning disabilities in our Early Intervention program, with families and/or individuals as they face end-of-life issues, or an elderly person in need of care at home. Whatever the situation — JF&CS is available.

Of course we are there to celebrate special holidays with our clients, provide new and innovative programs throughout eastern Massachusetts, and host events for the community as a whole.

In this issue, you will meet some of the extraordinary people and hear about some of the superior programs that make our agency unique. It isn’t often that you find out about one agency that tackles so many important issues and works with so many different audiences. Therefore, we know you will enjoy reading this issue and meeting some of the special individuals that make JF&CS such an outstanding agency.

Have a healthy, safe and warm winter.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Lebovitz
President

Seymour J. Friedland, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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**Early Connections**

What happens, however, when the issue between mother and baby needs more than a volunteer once a week? The Center for Early Relationship Support also helps families that need specific therapeutic interventions. Eda Spielman, Psy.D., clinical supervisor of Early Connections, says that the program reaches new mothers who need extra help feeling connected to their babies. “These mothers may be suffering from an emotional postpartum disorder, they may have a history of loss or neglect, and they may need our help to feel competent in themselves as a mother and in their capacity to nurture their baby.”

Spielman relays this story. Recently, Nancy and her infant Jason were referred to Early Connections. Nancy was struggling with feelings of deep worry about Jason’s well being, and felt like a failure as a mother. When Jason cried she felt overwhelmed and confused. A therapist in Early Connections began visiting Nancy and Jason, learning more about Nancy’s past and supporting her efforts to respond to her baby’s needs. As Nancy’s needs were addressed, she felt she could better understand Jason’s needs, and their connection began to grow. In addition to working with an Early Connections clinician, Nancy received support from a Visiting Mom and attended one of the Center’s weekly groups for new mothers. “We worked with her for about a year,” says Spielman, “and we even made some references regarding childcare.”

Spielman says that Nancy is wonderful with the baby now two and a half years old. “Mother and toddler are doing well, feeling connected, and enjoying each other’s company.

**Elders and Dads**

“Sometimes,” says Peggy Kaufman, director of The Center for Early Relationship Support, “we forget that some of the best experiences for the new mother and the baby may be an intergenerational experience. Therefore, we have set up a Nurturing Room in the living room of a senior residential facility.” Older women, often in their 80’s and 90’s come together with new mothers and babies, to give comfort, support, or just have a cup of coffee or tea. The rooms also act as a place for impromptu support groups — because a number of new mothers and elders will gather for conversation. All the healthy senior women are trained in advance, and work closely with JF&CS to ensure they provide appropriate support to the new mothers.

What about the Dads who also need time to adjust to a new baby and a new role? The Center for Early Relationship Support has a number of support groups, including two New Fathers Groups. “One of the meeting dates for the Cambridge group had to be canceled this past August,” says Kaufman, “so, to stay connected, the dads got together, with their babies as usual, at someone’s home. We can’t forget dad needs support as well.” For new dads there may be the issues of being the sole support for the family, the relationship between the husband and wife is changing, and the whole idea of being a dad may take some getting used to.”

**Special Programs**

The Center for Early Relationship Support provides a range of services for families with multiple challenges. For couples/individuals who want children but experience a miscarriage or late pregnancy loss, there is a support group that meets regularly. Teenage pregnancy is a fact of life, and the Healthy Families program offers home visiting and groups for teen parents and their families. The Center also makes available specialized home consultations for any family experiencing challenges with:

- Sleep issues
- Couples’ adjustment
- Managing multiples
- Post-adoption
- Lactation

For more information please call 617-558-1278.
On June 22, 2000, Jay and Jane Fialkow celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They renewed their vows while on a cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey, and celebrated 50 good years of a healthy and happy life that includes three children (now all married) and six grandchildren. Their children, Linda and Rick, Debby and Dan, and David and Nina, also celebrated their parents 50 years together by setting up the Jane & Jay Fialkow Fund to support adoption services, with a specific emphasis on international and special needs adoptions.

“Our children originally approached Barry Shrage at Combined Jewish Philanthropies with the idea,” says Jay Fialkow. “Barry suggested the money go directly to Jewish Family & Children’s Service Adoption Resources program. We have always thought very highly of JF&CS, and were glad to know our fund can help those who wish to build their families.”

Jay says that he has been in contact with JF&CS through the years in his professional and personal life. “I had my knees replaced three years ago, and had a wonderful physical therapist from JF&CS. Also, I sent some of my clients (Fialkow is a retired lawyer and former assistant attorney general of Massachusetts) to the agency for various types of counseling.” “But,” he continues, “this fund is a real testament to Jane and her commitment to our children and grandchildren, and to children in general.”

“My children and grandchildren, of course, mean the world to me,” says Jane, “but I have also had the opportunity to be involved in projects that have made a difference in the lives of children. In the early 1980’s, I chaired the effort at Temple Mishkan Tefila in Newton to resettle a Cambodian family. There were several children involved in that process and all are doing well today. I was an early member of the board of CJP, and co-chaired Six Tuesdays, an education program that presented subjects of interest to the women of CJP. The prospect that the Jane & Jay Fialkow Fund could help children with special needs or overseas is just wonderful. Our children and grandchildren have given us a great gift.”

Jay says, “Our children made the initial gift, and continue to contribute to the fund as we do.” Additionally, Jay and Jane have completed their estate planning and have left funds to the JF&CS program, Adoption Resources. “I can’t think of a more lasting legacy to a loving relationship than this kind of fund.” says Jane. “Children from all over the world will find good homes long after Jane and I are gone, and that is what is most important to both of us.”

“As a former CJP campaign chair, and a member of their board as well as a member of the board of trustees of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, I know that JF&CS performs meaningful services to our community,” says Jay. “We are, therefore, very proud to be associated with this organization.”

Contributions to the Jane and Jay Fialkow fund can be made in their honor to JF&CS Adoption Resources. For more information on estate planning, call the JF&CS development office at 617-227-6641.
The loss of a loved one is one of the greatest crises a person can face. To help people cope, and to provide needed services in times of crisis and transition, is at the core of the JF&CS mission.

The ways that JF&CS reaches out to help those who are experiencing such a loss goes across departments, across programs, and across disciplines. On every level - spiritual, psychological, and practical — programs at JF&CS are finding unique and innovative ways to help people of all ages, backgrounds, and faiths through the grieving process.

"There is a special kind of link" between JF&CS’s mental health services and one particular program, Jewish Healing Connections, says Marsha Frankel, LICSW, director of geriatric mental health of JF&CS. "In the grieving process, there is a spiritual component as well as a mental health component. People who see a grief counselor don’t necessarily think of it as mental health, because grief is a normal process that everyone goes through. But we have clinicians who can help anyone who has lost someone close to them — in a support group setting, or in individual counseling." Mental Health services and Jewish Healing Connections have been increasing their collaborations in an effort to reach out to people in need of bereavement counseling.

"We live in a culture that does not always offer support to those who suffer a loss. So often people experiencing the death of a loved one feel very isolated and alone during
“IN THE GRIEVING PROCESS, THERE IS A SPIRITUAL COMPONENT AS WELL AS A MENTAL HEALTH COMPONENT. PEOPLE WHO SEE A GRIEF COUNSELOR DON’T NECESSARILY THINK OF IT AS MENTAL HEALTH, BECAUSE GRIEF IS A NORMAL PROCESS THAT EVERYONE GOES THROUGH.”

the grieving process,” says Marjorie Sokoll, M.Ed., director of Jewish Healing Connections. “We as an agency can provide a needed sense of connection.” Sokoll notes that many aspects of Jewish tradition have psychological wisdom such as the seven-day Shiva period, which recognizes the time needed for the grieving process, and encourages the participation of friends and family.”

“During the Jewish holidays,” says Sokoll “Passover, Shavuot, Yom Kippur, and Shemini Atzeret, we light a memorial candle in memory of those we have lost. Every year, on the anniversary of a loved one’s passing, we light a Yahrzeit candle that symbolizes the eternity of the soul. Also, giving to a charity on the anniversary of a loved one’s death is a traditional Jewish custom.”

“Often, after the ritual period of mourning has ended, that is a time when people feel most alone, and can benefit from what JF&CS can offer them.” says Sokoll.

Jewish Healing Connections offers many resources for bereaved people. A new drop-in bereavement support group has begun to meet every Monday at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Newton, MA, and is facilitated by Barbara Sternfield, M.A., program specialist for Jewish Healing Connections. “This program is unique,” says Sternfield, “because it is offered specifically to the Jewish community, so that they too can have a place where they can go to share their grief with others, and to feel supported by others.”

A support group for widows and widowers, facilitated by clinician Carol Marks, was recently started at Temple Isaiah in Lexington. Sokoll in conjunction with Rabbi Keith Stern facilitated a bereavement spiritual support group at Temple Beth Avodah in Newton. Area hospices in greater Boston and the South Shore can turn to Rabbi Karen Landy, spiritual consultant for Jewish Healing Connections. If a Jewish client is in a hospice, and requests a rabbi at the end of life for spiritual counseling, Rabbi Landy is available to provide this service.

Jewish Healing Connections also sponsors conferences in collaboration with other community organizations. On Sunday, April 29, 2001, Jewish Healing Connections together with area synagogues, the Leventhal-Sidman JCC, The Synagogue Council, and generous support from Combined Jewish Philanthropies will hold a community-wide conference on Creating Caring Communities with keynote speaker, Rabbi Samuel Chiel, author of “For Thou Art With Me: The Healing Power of Psalms.” And, Interfaith Family Services will offer a workshop in April on death and mourning in an Interfaith Family.

Jewish Healing Connections distributes free copies of “A Jewish Guide on Death and Dying,” now a highly popular resource. Marilyn Herman Ross, a client whose father was in a nursing home, wrote this book. “Marilyn's father participated in our Nursing Home Shabbat Program. She expressed her gratitude to facilitator Barbara Sternfield and the agency by compiling this wonderful guide,” explained Sokoll.

Anyone calling JF&CS with a question about bereavement is referred to Sokoll, who can provide referrals to healing services held at area synagogues, as well as other bereavement resources in the community. Sokoll even facilitates healing circles for the staff of JF&CS.

For more information contact Marjie Sokoll at 617-558-1278.
**JANUARY**

- **AIDS: Jewish Voices** will be hosting a Shabbat Dinner at the Boston Living Center for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Another dinner will be held in May. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Raising Children in an Interfaith Family, Parts I and II.** Four-part workshops will begin in January, and will explore child-rearing issues specific to interfaith families. Workshops will be held in Newton and Norwood. Sponsored by Interfaith Family Services. For More Information call 781-821-4990

Tuesday, 1/9. **The Past As Present.** An interactive workshop of storytelling and improvisation with Naava Piatka, actress/playwright of the internationally acclaimed show, "BETTER DON'T TALK!" Piatka will use improvisation exercises, stories, movement and props to inspire participants to transform their Holocaust-related heritage into meaningful gifts for today and tomorrow. Enrollment limited. Pre-registration required. Admission: $20.00. Presented by Legacies: Programs for Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors. For more information call 617-558-1278.

Tuesday, 1/9. **Breaking Up in Non-Traditional Families: Special Problems for Unmarried and Same Sex Couples.** "Advice From The Professionals" is a monthly lecture series co-sponsored by Center for Divorcing Families and The Divorce Center, Inc., and will be held at JF&CS Newton. For more information call 617-558-1278.

**MARCH**

- **AIDS: Jewish Voices** will sponsor a Purim Party at the Boston Living Center for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Genealogical Research Symposium.** For children and adult grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Join us to hear about the search process of a child of Holocaust survivors, and learn of methods and resources. Sponsored by Legacies: Programs for Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Raising Children in an Interfaith Family, Part I.** Four-part workshop will be held in mid-March, in Arlington, and will explore child-rearing issues specific to interfaith families. Sponsored by Interfaith Family Services. For more information call 781-821-4990.

**FEBRUARY**

- **AIDS: Jewish Voices** will be offering a half-day workshop for Children age 5 – 12 and parents who are coping with separation and divorce. Fun activities and group interaction for the children. Adults will have their own group. At JF&CS Norwood. For more information call 781-821-4990.

- **Raising Families** offers a half-day workshop for teenagers age 12 – 17 and parents who are coping with separation and divorce. Refreshments, a video, and the acclaimed Parent and Teens Together workshop will be held. At JF&CS Norwood. For more information call 781-821-4990.

- **Center For Divorcing Families** offers a half-day workshop for teenagers age 12 – 17 and parents who are coping with separation and divorce. Refreshments, a video, and the acclaimed Parent and Teens Together workshop will be held. At JF&CS Norwood. For more information call 781-821-4990.

**Inspiring Tribute Donations**

- Dr. Harold Solomon, a member of our Board of Directors, celebrated his 60th birthday in November. Sy Friedland was one of the many people asked to attend a party at Harold’s home. Instead of gifts, Harold asked that his friends and family donate to the agency in his honor. To date, we have received over seventy gifts totaling more than $18,000! This amazing result is a direct testament to Harold’s work in the community, both as a doctor and on behalf of the agency. Please join us in wishing Harold a happy birthday and extending him a sincere thank you!
**APRIL**

- **AIDS: Jewish Voices** will co-sponsor the *Peter Daniel Clark Passover Seder* for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Seder will be held at Temple Beth Avodah, Newton. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Chaverim Shel Shalom** will sponsor a *Passover Seder* for Jewish Adults with a psychiatric condition and their loved ones. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Family Circle** will offer an an eight week session of *The Parenting Journey* to early intervention parents beginning in April. The Parenting Journey offers families the opportunity to explore parenting techniques, and to learn relaxation techniques. **Family Circle** is a program for parents of children with neurological disorders, and is made possible by a grant from HALO, Inc. For more information call 781-551-0405.

  **Tuesday, 4/10:** *Fathers in the Limelight: Rights and Issues. Advice From The Professionals* is a monthly lecture series, co-sponsored by **Center for Divorcing Families** and The Divorce Center, Inc., and will be held at JF&CS Newton. For more information call 617-558-1278.

  **Wednesday, 4/18:** *Death and Mourning in an Interfaith Family.* How do we mourn in an interfaith family? What are Jewish mourning customs? How do we mourn a loved one of a different faith? These and more questions will be explored. Workshop will be held in Canton. Sponsored by **Interfaith Family Services.** For more information call 781-821-4990.

  **Monday, 4/23:** *Parents of Interfaith Couples.* What is the impact when our child chooses a partner of another religion? What is our role in passing on our values and customs to our grandchildren? Join other parents of interfaith couples as we explore these issues. Workshop will be held in Newton. Sponsored by **Interfaith Family Services.** For more information call 617-558-1278.

  **Sunday, 4/29:** *Jewish Healing Connections,* together with area synagogues and the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, will hold a community-wide conference on *Creating Caring Communities,* with keynote speaker, Rabbi Samuel Chiel, author of *For Thou Art With Me: The Healing Power of Psalms.* Made possible by a grant from CJP. For more information call 617-558-1278.

**MAY**

- **Eleventh Annual Evening At Pops** will be held May 22 at Symphony Hall to benefit CHAI (Community Housing for Adults with Disabilities). For more information call 617-227-6641.

- **Beginning in May:** *Caring For Your Aging Survivor Parents.* A symposium on the aging process and its impact on Holocaust survivors, related emotional challenges for children of survivors, and available support services. Sponsored by Legacies: Programs for Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **AIDS: Jewish Voices** will be hosting a Shabbat Dinner at the Boston Living Center for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information call 617-558-1278.

  **Tuesday, 5/8:** *Selecting and getting the Most From the Professionals. Lawyer, Accountant, Therapist, Mediator. Advice From The Professionals* is a monthly lecture series, co-sponsored by **Center for Divorcing Families** and The Divorce Center, Inc., and will be held at JF&CS Newton. For more information call 617-558-1278.

  **Wednesday, 5/9:** *Finding a Spiritual Home: Choosing a Congregation.* Workshop for will explore ways to find a faith-based community where interfaith families can feel comfortable. Sponsored by **Interfaith Family Services.** For more information call 781-821-4990.


**Ongoing Programs for this Winter and Spring will include:**

- **Adoption Resources** holds monthly information sessions to answer questions about the agency's placement services, at JF&CS, Newton. For more information call 617-332-2218.

  **A monthly support group is held for Alzheimer's Caregivers** in Canton. For more information call 781-821-4990.

- **Chaverim Shel Shalom** hosts bi-weekly social/spiritual/cultural programs for Jewish adults with a psychiatric condition. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Center for Divorcing Families** offers a weekly support group for divorced adults at JF&CS Newton. The Center will continue to offer its two-part divorce education class for parents, “For Our Children,” in Stoughton, Newton and Boston. For more information call the Canton office at 781-821-4990.

- **Family Table** holds monthly food distributions, meeting at Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline. For more information call 617-566-0333.

- **A monthly HIV/AIDS Task Force meeting** is organized by **AIDS: Jewish Voices,** and held at Temple Israel, Boston. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Interfaith Family Services** will hold ongoing discussion/support groups in Newton, Canton and Arlington. These support groups will be for: 1) Couples in interfaith relationships, 2) those considering conversion or recently converted, and 3) parents of interfaith couples. For more information call 781-821-4990.

- **Jewish Healing Connections** will hold a *Drop-In Bereavement Support Group,* for those experiencing the death of a loved one. Facilitated by Barbara Sternfield, M.A. Also, JHC offers a *Drop-In Spiritual Support Group* for Jewish women and men who are living with illness and for those caring for loved ones living with illness. Co-facilitated by Marjorie Sokoll, M.Ed. and Rabbi Karen Landy. Both groups are at the Leventhal-Sidman JCC. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Legacies: Programs for Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors** holds Eight-week group sessions for children of Holocaust survivors who are interested in the opportunity to express feelings, thoughts, and questions related to the impact of the Holocaust on their own lives. For more information call 617-558-1278.

- **Parent Programs/Visiting Moms:** Holds ongoing drop-in support groups and Nurturing Rooms for moms, babies, toddlers, and fathers throughout the Greater Boston area. For more information call 617-558-1278.
Hanukah Celebrations

Sponsored by Chaverim Shel Shalom (Friends of Peace) over 30 people celebrated Hanukah with family and friends. The Chaverim Shel Shalom program offers members of the Jewish community with a psychiatric condition a social/spiritual/cultural connection to Judaism and the Jewish community. The program offers holidays celebrations through the year, and hosts events, such as visits to museums, plays, the symphony, etc for participants. It not only offers a connection to an individual’s spiritual and cultural background, but also offers an opportunity for those suffering from mental illness the chance to gather together with family and friends in a safe and welcoming atmosphere.

For more information, please call Nancy Smith at 617-558-1278.

Jewish Family & Children’s Service
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Boston, MA 02114