



Christie's auctioneer, George McNeely with award-winning chef Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger

JF&CS Celebrates 140 Years!

On November 8, 2003, 450 guests dined, danced and celebrated 140 years of service to the Greater Boston community at JF&CS's Black Tie Event. The evening raised a record \$675,000, which goes directly to programs which serve the most

Thanks to all those who made the evening such a success.



JF&CS President Alan Dana and Margie Dana with Chairs Betsy Rosen and Amy Bloomstone

vulnerable members of our community.

Center for Family Assistance Toy Drive

The holidays can be a source of joy to many, but to families in crisis it can be an added stress. This year, the community responded overwhelmingly to the Center's request for toy donations by providing enough toys for almost 400 children. Over 50 synagogues, schools, companies and individuals participated in toy collections making this a holiday to remember for families in need. Thank you for your support!

Sy Friedland's 10-Year Anniversary

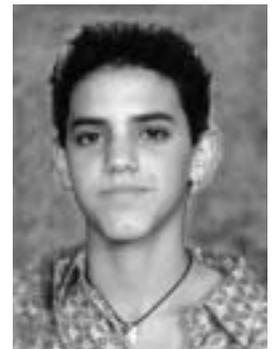
JF&CS is proud to recognize the 10th anniversary of its executive director, Dr. Sy Friedland. Sy has presided over one of the most successful and innovative decades in the Agency's 140-year history.

A psychologist with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Clark University, Sy is also a consultant, professor, published author and international presenter. He has written and spoken extensively on issues surrounding treatment, management and delivery of high-quality mental health services.



Daniel Connection Launched

With the specialization of medicine, many families now find themselves seeking treatment far from home. Now, JF&CS can offer support to Jewish patients and their families who have come to Boston to receive medical care.



A new program at JF&CS which partners with other local Jewish agencies, the Daniel Connection will help meet the unique needs of Jewish families who are away from their homes at a difficult time. The program, being piloted at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital, provides a wide range of connections to the Jewish community in Boston including support for Shabbat and holiday observance, sibling care, Kosher food, temporary housing and other services.

Sheila Tamkin Simons, MSW, will coordinate the Daniel Connection. Sheila is a licensed social worker who has worked in a number of social work settings including New England Sinai Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, Goodard Nursing Home and Brockton High School.

This special program is named in memory of Daniel, a courageous young man from Columbia who was diagnosed with Leukemia at age 13 and later succumbed to the disease. His family was the inspiration for this program. They hope it will help other families whose children need to undergo specialized medical treatment in Boston. After their experience they wanted to make sure that other families living away from their local communities and friends would be able to have a connection with our local Boston community.

It is with Daniel's spirit in mind that we begin our coordinated Jewish community response to patients and families in medical crisis.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we start 2004, many of us are thinking about what we can do to make the world a better place for our families and our community.



Reaching out to others is one way you can make a difference. Whether it's bringing groceries to the elderly couple across the street or visiting a new mother, a small gesture can have a big impact.

This issue of the JF&CS newsletter includes many examples of reaching out, and especially how two families are making a difference in the lives of others.

The Daniel Connection is our new program started by the parents of a terminally ill child who came to Boston to seek medical care. After living away from home, they sought to help others in that same situation by helping us initiate a program that connects families to our local Jewish community.

Another family, the Sniders, has been connected to JF&CS for over 50 years. Through the generations, members of this family have played many different roles within the Agency from hands-on volunteer to board member to president.

This year I urge you to reach out to those around you in ways large and small. Each year, JF&CS helps 25,000 people in need in the Greater Boston area. With over 1,800 volunteers, we know first hand what an important role each of us plays in making our community better. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at JF&CS please call our volunteer coordinator at 617-558-1278.

Extend your helping hand to just one and you'll make a difference that will be felt all year long.

Sincerely,

Seymour J. Friedland, Ph.D.
Executive Director

New Russian Adoption Program

JF&CS Adoption Resources is expanding its services to include the adoption of Russian children. Janet Hirsch, Adoption Resources Director, said, "We're very excited to be able to offer this new service. There are many children waiting to be adopted."



To provide this option, JF&CS has partnered with an agency that has been bringing children home from Russia for eight years and has placed over 100 children. Janet said, "This is a wonderful option for people who don't want the uncertainty of waiting for a domestic adoption."

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Russian Adoption Program is welcome to attend a special orientation on Wednesday, March 3, 2004 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the JF&CS Newton office.

Parents who have adopted from Russia will be there with their children. Please call Janet Hirsch, Adoption Resources Director, at 617-614-1926 with any questions.

Chaverim Shel Shalom Presents at Workshop in NYC

Chaverim Shel Shalom "Friends of Peace," a program of Jewish Healing Connections, offers programming for Jewish adults living with a chronic psychiatric illness. It is a very unique and well-respected program, and is viewed as a model for those hoping to establish similar programs at healing centers around the country.

Nancy Smith, Coordinator for Chaverim Shel Shalom, and Rabbi Karen Landy presented at "Seasons for Healing: Drawing Spiritual Resources from the Jewish Holidays." The conference, held November 10, 2003, was sponsored by the National Center for Jewish Healing in New York City.

200 clergy, social workers, physicians, mental health professionals and consumers attended the conference. Rabbi Amy Eilberg, MSW, delivered the keynote address.

The Chaverim Shel Shalom workshop, entitled, "Creating Community for Those with a Psychiatric Illness: Welcoming through Jewish Ritual and Holiday Observance," included an overview of chronic psychiatric illness and the particular difficulties facing this population.

Nancy and Rabbi Karen discussed their work at JF&CS and described how they include adults living with psychiatric illness and their families in the larger Jewish community through programs which draw extensively on Jewish ritual, Jewish holidays and Jewish healing wisdom.

The feedback was extremely positive and the JF&CS presenters were praised for their efforts to educate the public about this important issue.

» » » » » » » volunteer spotlight

Amy Hearne Helps Deliver Food with Dignity

Amy is a 10-year volunteer with Family Table, Greater Boston's only Jewish food pantry. She lives in Sharon with her husband and three children.

What does Family Table accomplish?

We serve people in need with dignity, respect and warmth. My daughter has been coming with me since she was an infant in a backpack and is now coming as part of her Bat Mitzvah project. Last time we went she brought a friend. The friend asked, "Why don't people just come here and pick up the food?" My daughter explained that we deliver the food so they're not embarrassed, so it's more comfortable for them and I thought, "Wow, she really gets it."

What makes Family Table special?

It's kindness with a Jewish spin. I've worked at a town food pantry and this is different because we deliver Jewish items and observe Jewish holidays.

Why did you choose to get involved with JF&CS?

I got involved in Family Table through Combined Jewish Philanthropies' Young Leadership Development group and have stayed with it for over 10 years. Over the years my involvement has taken different shapes. When my daughter was in pre-school, I made her school a collection site for food. Now I help at my synagogue.

I have a lot of respect for the breadth of services that the Center for Family Assistance offers and appreciate that Family Table is part of that. None of these families have just one problem – they have clusters of needs. JF&CS helps them in many ways, not just with food.

Why do you like working with Family Table?

It's very immediate, very hands on, and I love the community part of it. I love working with the other volunteers. There's a really good spirit that day and I get to meet people I wouldn't ordinarily come in contact with. It's the only place where everyone comes together: young singles, senior citizens and young families. Some of us come every month and it's like a family.

I've made nice contacts with the recipients. There are four or five families I was with for several years until they went off the program. They send me holiday cards – we have a real bond.

How do you make time for volunteering?

Half the time I bring a child with me. I do it for myself as much as for other people. I think, 'It's only once a month, for a few hours, I can do this!' and I'm so happy when I go.



“It’s kindness with a Jewish spin. I’ve worked at a town food pantry and this is different because we deliver Jewish items and observe Jewish holidays.”

50 Years of Connection: The Snider Family and JF&CS

For 140 years, Jewish Family & Children's Service has provided a safety net for people in need. As these needs have changed over time, JF&CS has evolved to anticipate and respond to the new requirements of the community. Through it all, the Agency has remained vibrant, alive and relevant to each successive generation of clients, staff, board members, and volunteers.

Over the Agency's history, many individuals and families have given their time and energy to make JF&CS a successful organization. Although the work of the Agency has broadened considerably since its early days, one thing has stayed the same. The Agency has always attracted people who want to help.

One committed family has maintained this connection for over 50 years. The Sniders – Miriam and Robert and their children, grandchildren, and now great grandchildren – are a wonderful example of the bond many families have with JF&CS.

From CHAI to Visiting Moms to Family Table, the Snider family has been involved in developing many of the Agency's most innovative programs. Betsy (Snider) Gross said, "One of the things that has kept us connected to JF&CS is



Betsy Gross and Miriam Snider at the Woman's Breakfast

the Agency's focus on family and obviously that means a lot to us."

The entire family feels strongly about the Agency's mission and their contributions to it. Susan Snider said, "If JF&CS didn't exist, we would have to create it." Betsy added, "We really are making a difference. We see it and we feel it."

The Snider's involvement with JF&CS began over 50 years ago when Miriam began volunteering for the Women's Committee. As a young wife in the 1950s, Miriam devoted considerable energy to her volunteer work at the Agency.

At that time adoption and new Americans were our main focus.

Miriam and her husband Robert worked with orphans and foster parents and helped recent immigrants find and furnish apartments.

Robert, with a career in real estate, was also on the building committee for the Agency's New Chardon Street office. He said, "I took pride in seeing what happened and how it happened."

Robert noted that since they first became involved the Agency has broadened its scope beyond the Jewish community. He said, "There was a Jewish feeling of taking care of Jewish needs. Now the Agency is non-sectarian." In fact, 40% percent of the people we currently serve are not Jewish.

Miriam and Robert's daughter Betsy grew up watching her mother's passion for this work and it inspired her own devotion to the Agency. She eventually became its president – the first woman to hold that position. Betsy said, "The Agency continues to be relevant because the work we're doing continues to be relevant."

Betsy, a consultant and her husband Peter, a physician, remembered the 1980s as a particularly intense time of transition for the Agency. With a new executive director, JF&CS started a number of its signature programs, including Visiting Moms and CHAI (Community Housing for Adult Independence). The Agency also responded to the needs of a huge wave of Russian immigrants and a new focus on adoption in which the rights of birth mothers and adoptive families were gaining attention. Betsy said, "I learned a lot about my community through my years of service."

Susan Snider, a former social worker, was "pulled in" by Betsy, her sister-in-law. She was instrumental in helping launch the Visiting Moms program and sat on its committee. Susan said, "As the Agency has grown, one of the things that's kept me connected is that our core mission hasn't changed. We've evolved as the community has changed, but we've been able to keep our Jewish soul."

The Snider's son Jim, a physician, found his work with JF&CS meaningful because of the Agency's mission. He said, "Giving support to people in need is fundamental. And it was even more personal because my mother and sister were involved."

When asked what she feels is the most meaningful work of the Agency, Miriam said, "I really feel

**“ If JF&CS didn't exist,
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We really are making a difference.
We see it and we feel it.”**

that the programs working with new families are the most important. If you don't save the mothers and babies you won't have any society."

Betsy and Peter's daughter Melissa and her husband Jonas have just welcomed the fourth generation of Sniders – their son Carter. Miriam believes Melissa is fortunate to be able to raise her son with the support of a loving family and she is proud of the support the Agency provides to less fortunate new moms. She said, "There are a lot of Melissa's [new moms] out there who don't have support systems, but they have JF&CS. They know now that they have a place to come to. And that is what it's all about."

Miriam and Robert continue their connection to JF&CS while passing the torch to subsequent generations. Miriam said, "The young people on the committees are so devoted. They feel they've found a niche to focus their interests. It gives them great satisfaction."

Melissa echoed this feeling and is now involved herself as a member of our Young Leadership Series. She said, "I definitely have a sense of connection to the Agency. I grew up with it. My mom always involved us. It was something she was passionate about. It gave us a sense of community." She added, "I learned you can make a difference by giving part of yourself."



The Snider Family: Susan & Jim, Miriam & Robert, Betsy & Peter and Melissa & Jonas

Sy Friedland Anniversary *continued*

When he joined JF&CS in 1993 as interim director, Sy worked quickly to address a number of changes at the request of the board of directors. He “fell in love” with the organization, threw his hat into the ring after a national search had been conducted and was hired in 1994.

Sy’s tenure has included the launch of many award-winning programs including the Center for Early Relationship Support, Family Table, Kol Isha, Community Housing for Adult Independence (CHAI) and Jewish Healing Connections. Since 1993, the Agency’s annual budget has grown from \$6.5 to \$16.5 million and the number of programs has more than doubled.

These programs were developed to build upon the Agency’s distinctive and unique capabilities. Sy said, “Early on I saw we had great skill in programs that dealt with early relationships and we built on those. We did the same with senior services.”

JF&CS has anticipated and responded successfully to many of the demographic changes in the Greater Boston community. Sy attributes this success to the organization’s agility, saying, “You don’t survive for 140 years if you’re not responsive to changes. As the community in Boston has changed, we’ve changed.”

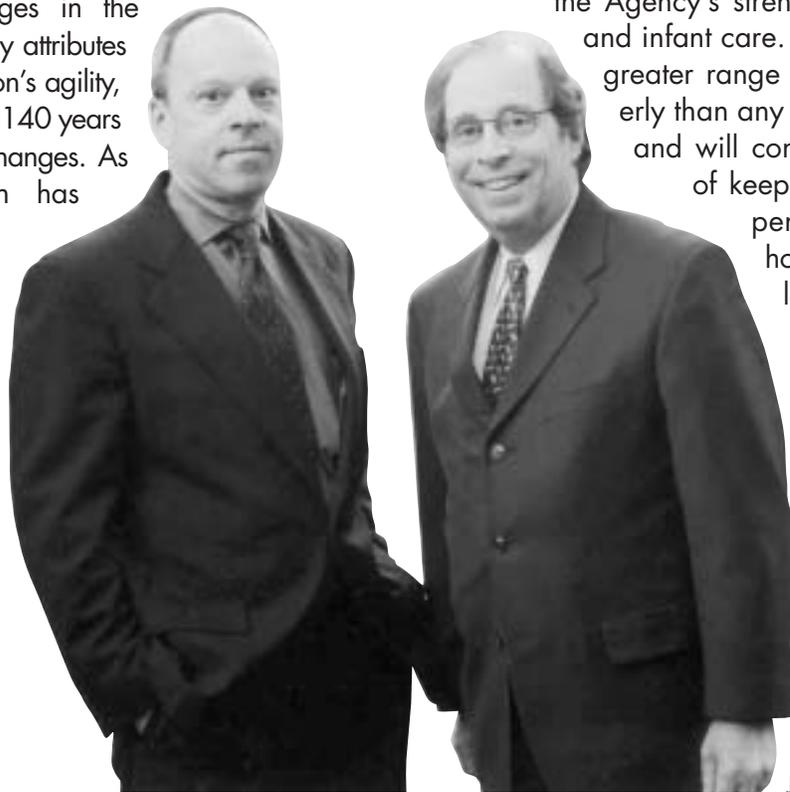
Sy described the progress of the agency over the past 10 years by saying, “We’ve kept the same values with different ways of implementing them.” In particular, the Agency has become more aware of poverty in the Jewish

community and has created a number of programs focusing on families in distress and individuals without traditional support systems. He added, “We’ve become specialists in helping people find their way through major life cycle phases – birth and parenting, middle age, old age, and death.”

Sy is especially proud of the team approach at the Agency. He said, “One of the things that’s gratifying about working at the Agency is that there’s an easy flow between staff, community and board.” He added, “We’re working with people who are excited about developing new ideas.”

Dick Blankstein, former president of JF&CS and the Association of Jewish Family & Children’s Agencies, noted, “Sy is clearly recognized by his peers around the country for his leadership in innovative programming and in energizing volunteer leaders.”

Looking ahead, Sy plans to continue to capitalize on the Agency’s strengths in senior services and infant care. JF&CS now provides a greater range of services for the elderly than any other agency in Boston and will continue to pioneer ways of keeping people living independently in their own homes with dignity for as long as possible. JF&CS is also one of the only agencies working on infant mental health and Sy foresees opportunities for training programs, clinics and other services based on that ability.



JF&CS President Alan Dana and Sy

Sy, congratulations and thank you for a wonderful 10 years!

An invitation to join the 1864 Society

A tradition of support began in 1864 with Nathan Strauss, a Boston businessman who called a meeting to organize an effort to help the most vulnerable members of the Greater Boston community. This effort would someday become Jewish Family & Children's Service.

In the late 1800's continuing through today JF&CS is dedicated to addressing the needs of recent immigrants, families, children and the aged. At JF&CS we make miracles happen. We do this every day in countless ways. But we do it only with the generous support of the community. Together we make sure that no one with a problem is ignored and that no one in need goes unassisted.

No matter how difficult, together we can make the resources available to help solve the problem, bring joy into many lives and see the fulfillment of our mission to help others. With your support we can continue to go above and beyond and give hope to people in need.

We will honor our history by forging our future

You can join us in our commitment to helping those in need through a bequest by will or a planned gift. Most people know how important it is to have a will to protect your family and loved ones. Once you have provided for the people in your life, we hope you will consider a bequest to JF&CS. Bequests of any size can help insure that JF&CS will be there – helping individuals and families in need for generations to come.

Please accept our invitation to become a charter member of the 1864 Society during our 140th anniversary year. If you have questions about:

- How to include JF&CS in your will.
- How to make a gift of a life insurance policy to benefit JF&CS.
- How to make gift of appreciated stock.

Or to let us know that you have already provided for JF&CS in your will, please call or email Marla Kannel in our development office mkannel@jfcsposton.org or 617-227-6641 ext. 4107.

Helping Survivors of Terrorism

For many survivors of a terrorist attack, the trauma includes not only physical injuries – disability, disfigurement and rehabilitation – but also the psychological stress of witnessing and living through a traumatic event.

At a recent workshop co-sponsored by JF&CS, an Israeli physician spoke about methods she uses to help survivors and their families deal with the impact.

On November 24, Dr. Judith Guedalia, Director of the Neuropsychology Unit and Chief Medical Psychologist at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, presented “Helping Terrorism Survivors, Their Families, and the Community Cope: Clinical Intervention Used in Helping.”

Dr. Guedalia, who was born in the United States but has lived in Israel for 35 years, treats victims of terrorist attacks suffering from Acute Stress Disorder in the emergency room of Shaare Zedek, one of four primary hospitals in Jerusalem receiving the dead and wounded.

At the workshop, she discussed the ramifications of recent traumatic events in Israel, and gave examples of interventions with patients and families that have been helpful during this critical period.

The workshop, held at Temple Reyim in Newton, was attended by 60 clinicians from a wide range of settings. It was co-sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Service, the NASW Disaster Network, and the Reyim Israel Advocacy Group.



Dr. Judith Guedalia

Celebrating 140 Years of service to the Greater Boston community.

We would like to thank the Event Chairs, Amy and Ben Bloomstone and Betsy and Steve Rosen and the entire event committee for their dedication and hard work. Clearly their efforts paid off. The evening, designed by Rafanelli Events, was held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston and included dinner, dancing and a live auction. Auction highlights included a dinner for 10, cooked in the winner's home by celebrity chef Ming Tsai; a Rafanelli party for 30 at MAX Ultimate Foods, with entertainment from Opera Boston; and the first pitch at a Red Sox home game.



Marianne and Ken Novack



Jeffrey Savit and Lori Barnett; and Patty Ribakoff



Kenny and Karen Kaplan, President of Hill, Holliday; JF&CS board member Del Alberts



Sy Friedland, JF&CS Executive Director; Marilyn and Don Rodman

Thanks to all those who made the evening such a success. Your generosity helps JF&CS make a difference in the lives of 25,000 people in need every year.

save the dates To learn more about these Events, please call the development office at 617-227-6641.

* Women's Breakfast

Thursday, June 3

Pine Brook Country Club, Weston

The Center for Early Relationship Support will host its annual Women's Breakfast to support the Center's award-winning programs.

* Russian Community Spring Ball

Saturday Night, May 1

Marriott Copley Place, Boston

New American Services, hosts its Sixth Annual Spring Ball to support the Russian-speaking community.

* CHAI Event

Wednesday, May 19

Four Seasons Hotel, Boston

To better serve our growing number of supporters, instead of the POPS we are moving to the Four Seasons for an incredible evening of dinner, entertainment and more.

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