



IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report

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Genie Cohen goes to WIIA Signing

I was honored to have been invited to the signing ceremony for the Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 on December 17. Held at the FDR Memorial, it was a moving experience. Watching President Clinton, Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth, and Moynihan, and members of the Cabinet, I was touched by the fact that I was a witness to history in the making. In his closing remarks, the President reminded us all of Mr. Roosevelt's guiding words "No country, however rich, can afford to waste its human resources."

Panel Begins on Help for Small Firms

A Small Business and Self-Employment Service (SBSES), developed by the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, is a useful and popular new information service. The SBSES provides information, counseling and referrals about self-employment and small business opportunities for people with disabilities.

The SBSES's staff consists of trained consultants from the committee's Job Accommodation Network who provide knowledge about **starting a business, managing a business, and disability issues**. They are available Monday-Thursdays from 8:AM to 8:PM and Fridays

8:AM to 7:PM Eastern Standard Time at 800/526-7234 or 800/232-9675.

Technology Update

Special Addition, by guest columnist, Hal Allen, JEVS Information System Director

Computer Virus:

By now, you're probably scared to death of computer viruses: They'll eat your files, trash your programs, and kill your computer.

Last March will long be remembered by anyone who uses a PC as the day the Melissa virus hit. Melissa was a frightening new virus that perpetuated itself through personal info stolen from e-mail address books. In a matter of hours, Melissa spread throughout the world, replicating itself on tens of thousands of PCs. Perversely, the publicity Melissa generated had a positive effect, underscoring the importance of anti-virus software.

Anti-virus Software

Using anti-virus software is important. According to the International Computer Security Association, an independent organization that certifies antiviral software, virus incidents are on the rise: Your chances of getting hit by a virus in any given month are now about 1 in 10, about double the rate of just a year ago. Viruses are more destructive, and the bad guys (and they are mainly guys) are better

organized. Where once we contended with hackers who wrote relatively harmless viruses to show off their programming skill, we now see criminals who pull credit card information and other sensitive data off unprotected PCs for the purpose of making money. With this development, the message is clear: If you buy just one utility, make it an anti-virus application.

There are two to three new virus programs being created every day. Even at that, I may have understated things: While writing this article three new viruses have cropped up and two of them are extremely hostile.

Fred Langa in his Langa List (www.langa.com) warns a nasty virus called the "W32.Mypics.Worm." It arrives as an email with the subject line "Here's some pictures for you!" and with an attachment called "pics4you.exe." When you run it, nothing seems to happen, but what goes on behind the scenes is (1) the worm infects your system with a deadly bug that was expected to cause major trouble on January 1, 2000; and (2) it sends itself to 50 people on your Outlook address list.

The New Year's "payload" is ugly: Even if your system is Y2K compliant, the worm will simulate a BIOS problem and cause your system to halt with a "CMOS Checksum Invalid" message. That's not too bad in itself--- you can easily fix that by re-entering the BIOS values using the built-in BIOS setup program on your PC. But when you reboot, the real nastiness starts: The worm reformats your hard drive. No doubt about it: This is a bad one; a worm created by a genuinely ill person.

Only slightly less malevolent, the Worm.ExploreZip (pack) worm also is self-propagating. It arrives as an email with the message: I received your email and I shall send you a reply ASAP Till then, take a look at the attached zipped docs. The "attached zipped docs" are a file called "zipped_files.exe."

When Worm.ExploreZip (pack) runs it searches all hard drives on your machine, and any it can reach via a network, and deletes all files

containing any of the following extensions: .h, .c, .cpp, .asm, .doc, .xls, .ppt.

This worm is a compressed variant of the original Explore.Zip work that arrived a while ago; because this version has been compressed, it may slip past your antivirus scans if your virus definitions aren't fully up to date.

What reasonable things can you do to protect you PC:

First, install an anti-virus program. The February, 2000 issue of PC World recommends Norton Anti-Virus as its first choice at about \$40 street price and MCA's Virus Scan (second choice) for \$ 19. Both of these applications work well in my experience and both have network versions. There are also two anti-virus programs that you can download free from the internet; CS Virus Free and InoculateIT, but they charge for updates.

So if, by chance, you don't yet have a fully up to date anti-virus software application, give yourself a present and go get one now! I personally use Norton and so does JEVS, but there are other excellent anti-virus programs available as well.

Second, Update the anti-virus program that you have installed every week. Both the latest Norton Anti-Virus and McAfee Virus Scan make it very easy to connect to the internet and get the latest antiviral profiles. The only way to keep your anti-virus program up to date, with two to three new virus' coming out every day is to connect and upgrade it weekly.

Third, you should never, ever run any executable file emailed to you unless you know absolutely, positively for sure what's in it; if you don't know what it is, simply delete the file or at least run an anti-virus scan on the attachment using the very latest anti-virus updates from your anti-virus vendor.

Last, don't send or re-send emails to other users warning them about some virus scare you have heard about. Most virus warnings are hoaxes. There is also a tendency by virus programmers to spread virus in virus warnings. If you are

really interested in a virus, check it out on internet at the Norton and or the McAfee site to see whether it is a real threat.

For more virus information go to www.symantec.com, www.mcafee.com, www.pcworld.com and www.microsoft.com/technet/

IAJVS Staff on the Move, Part I: Grants Updates

Program managers and staff from Boston, MetroWest, Middlesex, Minneapolis, North Shore, and Philadelphia participated in the IAJVS Welfare-to-Work conference on October 18-19, 1999. During the two-day conference for the RETAIN welfare-to-work grantees, staff heard the business perspective on welfare-to-work from a local employer, presented best practices for job readiness, case management, and effective job retention, and discussed common issues and concerns facing their programs. IAJVS also trained agency staff on financial management and the new client tracking database developed specifically for IAJVS and RETAIN. One highlight of the two-day conference was dinner out at a local restaurant, which provided everyone the opportunity to get to know one another “outside the office.” We are looking forward to getting together again in Tampa next month!

Also new in the welfare-to-work arena is the Welfare-to-Work Amendments of 1999, which loosened eligibility requirements for welfare-to-work programs thereby allowing grantees to serve both hard-to-employ welfare recipients and non-custodial parents of low-income parents more effectively. For more information, visit the Department of Labor’s website at wtw.doleta.gov.

The DEI grant got under way for its second year this fall, after a successful first program year during which more than 200 clients were served. Through September 1999, 124 persons received computer-based vocational training at one of the five participating agencies, and 42 clients found employment at an average wage of \$10.24 per

hour. DOL is compiling best practices from the national demonstration programs and has hired Berkeley Planning Associates to evaluate the success of these national projects. An evaluator from BPA visited IAJVS November 30 – December 2, 1999, spending the first day at the IAJVS offices and two days with JEVS Philadelphia staff reviewing their program. Thanks to JEVS Philadelphia staff for spending their valuable time with the evaluator.

IAJVS Staff on the Move, Part II: Conferences and Site Visits

Lucy and I were busy once again this quarter making site visits. In addition to visiting the staff at Jewish Family and Career Services in Atlanta during the General Assembly, I visited the Jewish Vocational Service of Baltimore. Thanks to Jennie Rothschild and her staff for an informative as well as fun visit.

In October I attended the HIAS sponsored “World Refugees: An American Jewish Conversation.” The conference examined the many issues, policies, and perspectives surrounding the American Jewish Community’s commitment to world refugees and human rights. The highlight of the event was hearing former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich give a rousing speech honoring the value of immigration to this country.

Thanks to all who attended the Executive Directors Council meeting last October in Chicago. Our full agenda covered a number of topics including discussions on the new dues policy and new Board Governance proposal. The dues assessment schedule has been finalized and put in place for 2000. Work is continuing on exploring Board restructuring for IAJVS. We are working with an outside consultant who is still gathering information through one on one interviews, conference calls, and meetings. It is our hope that a final paper with recommendations will be mailed out in the next two weeks in order to give Board members a chance to reflect on the report and be prepared for discussion at the annual Board Meeting.

In November, I attended the third national consultation on “ Long Term Care Services in the New Marketplace: Implications for the Jewish Community”, sponsored by the United Jewish Communities. I had the opportunity to learn about the many long- term care programs taking place in Jewish communities around the country as well as giving a voice to the JVS role. The fourth and final consultation will convene on February 8th, 2000 in Washington, DC. My participation in this symposium led to my involvement at the UJC General Assembly in Atlanta as one of the Facilitators for the roundtable discussion: “Comprehensive Care for Elderly Jews.” You’ll hear more about care for the elderly along with the other three critical issues that make up the Human Services and Social Policy Pillar at the annual meeting.

Lucy attended a DOL-sponsored training session on financial management for welfare-to-work project managers in Washington, DC from October 5 – 7, 1999.

In addition to her Welfare-to-Work site visit in Minneapolis on September 27th, Lucy spent the day at the JEVS Philadelphia computer-training program on December 1st. The program is for people with disabilities, as part of the evaluation visit by Berkeley Planning Associates.

Conference Reminder and Highlights

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the IAJVS/AJVSP Annual Conference 2000 at St. Pete Beach, Florida and are very enthusiastic about the many events planned. Some of the highlights of this year's conference include presentations from Gerald Miller, of Lockheed Martin; Morton Asch, of UJA Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York; Robert Wilhite, Director, Business Liaison, WAGES

State Board; Dr. Donna Cohen of the Department of Aging and Mental Health; Gema Hernandez of the Department of Elder Affairs; John Loftus, Board Member and Vice President of Education of the Holocaust Museum; Jonathan Young, Associate Director for Disability Outreach in the White House Office of Public Liaison; and Richard Jacobs of United Jewish Communities. Registration for this year's conference is very high, so in order to keep us updated as to which special events you will be attending, **please remember to send back all registration forms.** Last of all, remember to attend our beach party on Tuesday night, have fun, relax, and enjoy the sunny Florida weather.

How to Contact Us

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

