



# IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report

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### IAJVS Infiltrates the new UJC Committees

As we continue to strengthen linkages with the new entity United Jewish Communities, I am happy to report that we now have two representatives from our network on two of the four committees under the Human Service and Social Policy Pillar. Dr. Jennie Rothschild, Executive Director, JVS Baltimore will be our representative on the *Planning and Research for Human Service Delivery Committee*. This committee will identify national trends and needs of communities regarding the human service agenda, share successful practices and joint problem solving among Federations, and encourage Federations to work to ensure that their human service agenda is comprehensive and integrated. Dr. Ernest Kahn, Board Member, JEVS, Philadelphia will serve on the *Public Policy and Legislation Committee*, which will analyze public social policy developments and legislation likely to impact the human service agenda of local federations. My sincere thanks to both of them for volunteering to serve on these committees and helping to push our network and issues forward.

### IAJVS Task Force on Governance Convened in Philadelphia

On June 6<sup>th</sup> the Task Force on Governance met in Philadelphia. Facilitated by Janet Unger, the group was charged with deciding on a new governance structure and associated transition plans. We discussed critical issues related to board structure such as size and composition, and grappled with the hardest question at hand – What is the best governance structure for IAJVS? By the end of the long day, we all left with a feeling of satisfaction, accomplishment, and a lot of work yet to do. We hope that the members of IAJVS will concur with the task force recommendations. A draft outline will be distributed in the coming weeks.

### Meet the New IAJVS Board President: Interview with Barry Perlis

Barry R. Perlis is Executive Vice President of S. Freedman & Sons, Inc., a wholesale paper distributor and retailer of party supplies in Landover, Maryland (outside of Washington, D.C.) He began his career as a Physical Chemist and spent nearly 10 years in the high-tech biomedical field before coming to the paper

industry. He has an MBA in Marketing and Finance as well as a PhD in Physical Chemistry.

Barry has served as President of the Washington-area Jewish Social Service Agency, Chairman of the National Paper Trade Association, current president of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, and President of Save-a-Child's Heart Foundation (an international organization that brings needy children from third world countries to have life-saving operations). Barry also serves as the lay spiritual leader for a large group who live in a senior citizen residence and is on the advisory board for the Chaplaincy services in the Washington area.

**What sparked your interest in doing JVS volunteer work on the local level?**

I have always had a strong belief that it is extremely important not only to provide for myself and my family, but to give my time and effort to give back to the community. I have always been interested in helping and providing support to others less fortunate, so it seemed quite natural to meld my business expertise and background and work very closely with the Executive Director of J.S.S.A., Assistant Executive Director of J.S.S.A., and our JVS Director to help identify the issues. They helped mentor me and supported me on many programs.

**What connections led you into doing this on a national level?**

I have been fortunate to have held a number of leadership positions in national and international organizations. Several years ago I was President of the National Paper Trade Association (a consortium of paper distributors in North America and Europe), and currently I am the President of Save a Child's Heart Foundation. In addition, I serve on the Executive Board of Paper First Affiliates, a national party organization. Therefore, it seemed quite natural, and I had the national overview experience. I was honored to be asked to join the IAJVS Executive Board.

**Describe some of your experiences as a JVS volunteer.**

As a JVS volunteer, my experience in terms of finding jobs and financial aid for refugees, immigrants, mentally and physically disabled, and white-collar employees who have been the victims of downsizing have really touched me significantly. Knowing that I've definitely made a difference in someone else's life has given me greater satisfaction than almost anything else I can do. Without gainful employment and positive self-esteem which comes from employment, the entire family structure breaks down and many more become seriously threatened. Recently, my wife, Linda, wrote a book entitled "Parents as Mentors" in which she described the importance of the stability of the family unit – one leg of the stool being good stable employment and its inherent self-esteem.

**What encouragement do you have for other people considering JVS lay leadership?**

When I think about my involvement in JVS leadership, I am humbled in that I feel I have received so much more than I have given. It is such a worthwhile venture knowing you've positively impacted other people's lives. The most important thing is to initially get involved and stay involved so you can make a difference! I also encourage them to do work with the help of the professional staff both as mentors and "mentees". Each of us has a different set of talents that can complement one another, bringing out certain synergies and creating something better than what could have been done separately. There is tremendous opportunity to "think outside the box" – to be creative and innovative. It's a great challenge and I would be glad to assist anyone who wants to help make a difference.

**✿ Israel Elwyn joins IAJVS!**

We are delighted to have Israel Elwyn as our 29<sup>th</sup> member agency. Founded in 1984 as Jerusalem Elwyn at the initiative of the Municipality of Jerusalem and the Government of Israel, the agency served eighty adults as the first program of the U.S.-based Elwyn, Inc. Today, Israel Elwyn is an independent, non-profit, Israeli organization serving more than one thousand adults and children with developmental disabilities in Jerusalem, Haifa, and Herzliya. Israel Elwyn's goals and mission are familiar

ones – shared by our entire network – to provide individuals with the tools they need to lead more independent lives within the community. The organization provides an array of services including: Preschool and Adult Development Centers, Work Activities Centers, Small Business Unit, Supported Employment Services, Job Placement and Vocational Training Services, Transitional Employment Programs, Residential Services, and Supported Group Homes.

**Strictly Business Highlights: Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Detroit**

Nearly 300 business and community leaders attended JVS Los Angeles' Third Annual Strictly Business Luncheon on May 9, 2000. Keynote speaker was Bruce Karatz, Chairman/CEO of Kaufman & Broad Home Corporation; the program also featured CNN Anchor Jim Moret as master of ceremonies; Deputy Los Angeles Mayor Rocky Delgadillo; and Andrea Van de Kamp, West Coast Chairman for Sotheby's.

Abby Snay's quarter century dedication to JVS San Francisco and the thousands of people it has served was in the spotlight at this year's Strictly Business luncheon. The tribute included a slide show that chronicled Abby's 25-year career at JVS, first as a counselor, then assistant director, and executive director since 1984. Abby received recognition from public officials for guiding JVS in its mission of helping people become independent and productive through work, including the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Willie Brown, who proclaimed April 6, 2000 as Abby Snay Day!

Approximately 600 business and community leaders attended JVS Detroit's Strictly Business luncheon, held on June 7, 2000 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Harold Kutner, Group Vice President, Worldwide Purchasing and North American Production, Controls and Logistics, General Motors Corporation was the keynote speaker. Co-Chairs of the event were Kenneth Eisenberg, CEO of Kenwal Steel; Joshua Mondry, Vice President of M Group Inc.; and Dorie Shwedel, President of Dorie Shwedel and Associates, Inc.

## Faces in the JVS Network



### **Milton Cohen Award Presented to Alan Goldstein**

Alan Goldstein, Executive Vice President of JVS Chicago, was presented with the Milton Cohen Lifetime Achievement Award at the NISH National Awards Banquet. Presented by the National Council of Work Centers, the award recognizes an "individual who has dedicated many years of service in support of people with disabilities and whose efforts have been national in scope." For more than thirty years, Alan has devoted his professional life in helping to advance the employment opportunities for people with disabilities. He has served on numerous boards, from the local to the national level, and has played a key role in developing professional standards for the vocational rehabilitation industry. To name a few of his many activities, Alan has served as Chairperson on the NISH Board of Directors, Chairman of CARF, and is one of the founders of the National Rehabilitation facilities Coalition. From all of us, Mazel Tov, Alan!

### **Ron Coun Celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at JVS MetroWest**

Ron Coun celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary at JVS MetroWest on May 3, 2000, starting his "stepping stone" job at the agency on that date in 1965. Congratulations Ron, we look forward to 35 more years!

### **Diane Schneider wins the Alan J. Kassin Award**

Diane Schneider, director of JVS Los Angeles' Pre-Employment Training Programs, won the Alan J. Kassin Award for Outstanding Professional Development through the Jewish Community Professionals of Southern California. Diane joined JVS in 1998 as a vocational counselor, and since then has revitalized and expanded the program to serve new immigrant populations and to provide a broader scope of pre-employment and acculturation services.

### **Bea Gordon wins the Dora and Charles Mesnick Award**

Bea Gordon, San Fernando Valley Regional Director for JVS Los Angeles, won the Dora and Charles Mesnick Award for Achievement in Senior Adult Programming, through the Jewish Community Professionals of Southern California. Bea created a unique program called Seniors Achieving Generational Equality (SAGE) to provide a full array of JVS classes, workshops and support groups just for people in their 50s, 60s and 70s.

### **Agency News**

*Special thanks to everyone who submitted information for this new column. If you would like us to submit something about your agency in our next quarterly report, please send us your news!*

### **JVS Kansas City**

JVS Kansas City received a \$76,000 grant from the State of Missouri to provide Interpreter Training and Interpreter Services. The agency is contracting with the Cross Cultural Health Care Project in Seattle, Washington to provide comprehensive training and will develop their interpreter bank and begin providing high quality interpreter services in the community.

In April, JVS Kansas City opened a satellite office in Olathe, Kansas. They are co-locating with the community college ESL program, child services, a food pantry, and Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Services. JVS Kansas City is providing Community Employment Services, Immigration Counseling and Refugee Employment Services out of the new location.

### **JVS Los Angeles**

JVS Los Angeles opened a full-time career counseling, assessment and training center at Gateways Beit T'shuva, a 12-step- and Torah-based residential facility for Jewish people with addictions. The career center is funded through a grant from the Nimoy Family Foundation.

JVS expanded its WoMentoring program with two yearlong sessions for minority women, and women starting entrepreneurial business. These programs are funded through grants from Union Bank and Wells Fargo. WoMentoring is a

program of guidance, training, and support for women who are entering the workplace due to economic necessity. JVS also provides a regular, ongoing WoMentoring program open to all qualifying participants.

The JVS Jewish Community Scholarship Fund, administered by Jewish Vocational Service, will give a record \$330,000 in academic scholarships in 2000.



### **JVS Montreal**

Emploi Quebec, the Quebec Employment Ministry, just renewed two important grants for JVS Montreal. One grant is for the Mature Worker Program- *Access 45+*, which provides job placement and related support services to applicants age 45 and over. The second grant is the Supported Employment Program, which places challenged individuals into competitive industry. These grants are especially significant because, following funding cutbacks, they have now been fully reinstated at a level of 250% more than last year.

### **FEGS New York**

The Hadassah Foundation awarded a two-year grant to FEGS for its proposal to adapt, for Jewish girls, 'Full of Ourselves', a curriculum developed by Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair, ED.D, director of education, prevention, and outreach at the Harvard Eating Disorders Center (HEDC). The curriculum aims to promote girls' well-being by placing an emphasis on personal power and overall mental and physical health. Numerous requests for help to treat young Jewish girls with eating disorders prompted FEGS to review the literature and approach the Foundation to recommend adaptation of Dr. Steiner-Adair's work.

### **JSSA Rockville, MD**

JVS Rockville, a JSSA department celebrated its relocation in April 2000. The new suite, located in Silver Spring, MD was donated to the Jewish

Federation of Greater Washington, which is leasing it for a nominal fee.

JVS is thrilled with its convenient new location. According to JVS director, Roberta Feigen, "Moving to Silver Spring offers JVS the opportunity to serve a broader range of clients in the metropolitan area. We're a block away from the Forest Glen Metro station. We're close to many state and county employment offices with whom we work, and we're much closer to D.C. In our new, very professional space, JVS can take better advantage of the well-established reputation that Jewish Vocational Services has earned throughout the country."

Their new address is:

- ❖ Jewish Vocational Services of the Jewish Social Service Agency  
9900 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
Phone: (301) 587-9666  
Fax: (301) 587-1541

### **JVS San Francisco**

JVS San Francisco was awarded a three-year Community Technology Center Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The award will support their Technology Access Center, providing increased access to computers, training and the internet for low-income residents of San Francisco.

They were also awarded a two-year grant from the Charles and Helen Schwab Family Foundation to build the capacity of their Employer Services Department. This grant will enable the department to distribute job listings online.

JVS has also recently expanded their career advancement services for low-wage workers. With a grant from the Koret Foundation, they will be helping working-poor émigrés upgrade their computer skills and improve their English language proficiency to advance in their careers and achieve self-sufficiency.

### **National News Update**



#### *Medicaid Update*

Prior to welfare reform, eligibility for Medicaid and welfare assistance were linked: If you received one, you received the other. After the welfare reform signing in 1996, Medicaid and welfare assistance became "delinked." You can now be eligible for Medicaid even if you are no longer on welfare. A \$500 million delinking fund was established to help states transition to the new Medicaid rolls.

A large amount of the funds have been used for outreach efforts, however a good portion remains unspent. Advocacy groups say that the remaining money could be very useful in ensuring that individuals who are moving off welfare are informed that they are still eligible for Medicaid. To learn more, visit the Families USA Website at [www.familiesusa.org/medwel.htm](http://www.familiesusa.org/medwel.htm)

Covering Kids, a \$47 million project from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is an example of an outreach effort. The program's goal is to increase the number of uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP but are not enrolled. Children who are insured have better access to preventive and primary care, which will keep kids from taking off school due to sickness and will improve their overall well-being. Sarah Shruptine, Director of the Covering Kids National Program feels that "one of the biggest tasks in outreach is making people understand the difference health care makes in a child's life." For more information, visit: [www.coveringkids.org](http://www.coveringkids.org).

#### **IAJVS Submits National Grant Proposal**

IAJVS applied for an Immigration Related Anti-Discrimination public education campaign through the Department of Justice. The grant will target two groups: work-authorized non-citizens, mainly refugees and immigrants who are clients of the JVS network and employers who are part of the JVS network.

Local IAJVS sites will implement a three-part national model which includes:

*Targeted Information Dissemination*

IAJVS will prepare mailings to JVS clients and employers to educate them using brochures.

*Anti-discrimination Curriculum Component*

JVS agencies will incorporate an anti-discrimination component into their existing programs and seminars. The training program will be available at [www.iajvs.org](http://www.iajvs.org).

*Anti-discrimination in the Workplace Workshops and Seminars*

Approximately 100 workshops will be conducted nationally to inform work-protected individuals and employers about their rights and responsibilities regarding IRCA. Half of the workshops will be geared towards the refugees and non-citizens in the community, while the other half will focus on employers. IAJVS will prepare the curriculum for both of the workshops. This curriculum will also be available on the IAJVS website.

*Thanks to all of you for your support and for providing us the information necessary to write the grant.*

**IAJVS Staff on the Move**

Lucy and I continued to make the rounds of agencies participating in the two national grant programs. We traveled to San Francisco on April 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> to conduct a monitoring visit and also had the pleasure to attend JVS' Strictly Business luncheon, which honored JVS Executive Director Abby Snay. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lucy visited JVS Boston as part of a RETAIN monitoring visit. At both agencies, we found exciting programs and satisfied customers. Keep up the good work!

IAJVS participated in the National Skills Summit at the invitation of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. Sponsored by the Department of Labor, the day-long event featured Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan as the keynote speaker. In his address, Mr. Greenspan stressed the increasing need for skilled workers in this

fast-paced economy. Also in April, Lucy acted as a panelist at the "Faith-Based Conference on Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization" convened by Washington DC's Mayor Anthony Williams.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

✓ EDC Meeting
November 11 – 12, 2000 Palmer House Hilton Chicago, IL
✓ IAJVS / AJVSP Conference 2001
June 3 – 6, 2001 DoubleTree Hotel Philadelphia, PA

*If you are interested in volunteering for the 2001 conference program committee, please let us know!*

**How to Contact Us**

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**We welcome your comments and suggestions.**



