IAJVS International Association of Jewish Vocational Services

Executive Quarterly Report

Vol. 5, No. 2 • April – June 2002

1845 Walnut Street, Suite 640, Philadelphia, PA 19103
• Voice: 215-854-0233 • Fax: 215-854-0212
Edited by Genie Cohen, Executive Director • coheng@iajvs.org
Written by Bill Lynch, Executive Assistant • lynchw@iajvs.org
Contributions from Lucy Klain, National Projects Director •klainl@iajvs.org

Inside this Issue

IAJVS/AJVSP 2002 Annual Conference Report…… Page 1
2002 IAJVS/AJVSP Awards…… Page 2
Bank of America awards Grant to IAJVS…… Page 3
IAJVS/AJFCA Lobby Day…… Page 3
IAJVS at National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service…… Page 4
Grants Update…… Page 4
Agency News…… Page 4
New Book on Disabilities…… Page 10
Mazal Tov!…… Page 10
Save the Date…… Page 11
How to Contact Us…… Page 11

Members of the IAJVS Executive Committee at the Host Reception and Awards Ceremony of the 2002 IAJVS Annual Meeting in Toronto:(l–r) Vivian Seigel, David Saltman, Genie Cohen, Karen Goldenberg, Gail Magaliff, and Peter Bloch

IAJVS/AJVSP Annual Conference Report

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this year's annual conference, *The Power to Change: Our Agencies, Our Clients, Ourselves*, a tremendous success.

IAJVS is extremely happy with the outcome of this year's annual conference, which took place June 2 – 4, in Toronto. Even while the conference was in progress, IAJVS staff were approached by participants deeming the annual meeting "top notch," "the best yet," and simply "excellent."

Praise and constructive criticism continued to makes its way back to IAJVS, as 33% of conference participants returned their evaluation forms. Karen Goldenberg and her staff at JVS of Greater Toronto were thoroughly complimented for their helpfulness, terrific work in assisting the conference's organization and their ability to bring in terrific local speakers. In particular, many enthusiastic compliments were bestowed on James G. Frank, Vice-President & Chief Economist of the Conference Board of Canada, whose Monday morning plenary, entitled "Job Prospects Through 2003: Getting Much Brighter," was well-received.

Approximately 28% of the surveys received expressed a desire for more networking opportunities. Attendees suggested that more time be devoted to meeting participants from

other cities, who are working on similar programs. In this light, some people commented that the Program Showcase should have been held on the first day of the conference, with more time dedicated to mingling with the presenters and getting more information on the programs that were highlighted. In addition, a few participants said that they liked the idea of the "Special Interest Groups," but were disappointed that they were not well attended, and in some cases, not attended at all.

Barbara Feinberg, Sharon Almon, Stephanie Spiegel and Jon Firger take advantage of a networking opportunity.

Other suggestions included placing more emphasis on a site visit to one of the host community's programs. People who attended this year's visit to Youthinc. said that those who did not attend missed out on seeing an amazing program. Moving the site visit to the first day of the conference and/or having additional pieces of programming at the site were given as possible ways to boost attendance. While the organization and content of the conference were by and large complimented, some attendees felt that the days were too busy. They recommended that more time was needed between breakout sessions and fewer options for breakout session topics. Conversely, others praised this year's conference for its variety of programming and streamlined agenda, covering in three days what used to be covered in four.

Lucy Klain joins Carla Richert and Leah Temkin of JVS Minneapolis for some hors-d'oeuvres.

The staff at IAJVS appreciates the feedback we received. We are already thinking ahead to the annual conference of 2003, to be held in Los Angeles. The suggestions and recommendations that were shared will be used to make next year's meeting as successful as this one. If you would like to make additional comments regarding this year's Annual Conference, please Email Bill Lynch at lynchw@iajvs.org. We hope to see you in L.A.!!

2002 IAJVS/AJVSP Awards

As a gentle hum of music from the Apollo Chamber Ensemble filled the air, attendees of the 2002 IAJVS/AJVSP Annual Conference gathered in the Park Ballroom at the Inn on the Park for the Host Reception and Awards Ceremony. This exquisite evening, arranged by JVS of Greater Toronto, was generously co-sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Quartet Service Corporation. Before the presentation of the awards, conference participants networked with one another, while sampling the delicious variety of hors d'oeuvres and wines.

On behalf of IAJVS, President Vivian Seigel presented six awards, followed by Leah Rosenbaum and Larry Greenbaum, who bestowed two additional awards upon members of AJVSP. The 2002 IAJVS Awards and Recipients are:

- **Samuel S. Greenberg Leadership Award** presented in memory of David Mouckley
- **Bernie Rosenthal Executive Director Award** presented to Karen Goldenberg, Executive Director of JVS of Greater Toronto

Vivian Seigel Presents Karen Goldenberg with the Bernie Rosenthal Executive Director Award.

- **Benjamin S. Lowenstein Award** presented to Ellen Stoller, Assistant Vice President of Community Services, Training and Consumer Affairs/Behavioral Health Division of F.E.G.S New York.
- **Special Distinguished Service Award** presented to Gail Zukerman, COO of Employment and Training at JEVS Philadelphia.
- **IAJVS Corporate Award** honoring Fresh Fields, a division of Whole Foods Markets.
- **IAJVS Program Award** honoring the Skills, Aptitude, Guidance and Employment Program (SAGE) of JVS Los Angeles.

The 2002 AJVSP Awards and Recipients are:

- **Claudia Fogel Award** presented to Sylvia Goldsmith, Executive Vice President of JCS of South Florida.
- **Ron Coun Award** presented to Amanda Harris, Project Manager Canada InfoNet of JVS of Greater Toronto.

Bank of America Awards Grant to IAJVS

IAJVS proudly announces receipt of $20,000 from Bank of America. The grant will be used to translate financial education materials into Russian, Bosnian and Farsi. The languages were selected after polling IAJVS' member agencies regarding the largest groups on immigrants and/or refugees served.

The translated materials will address areas of importance to immigrant populations that are not readily accessible in their native language. Possible topics include: saving for retirement, investing, buying a home, saving for education and basic money management. IAJVS will translate and print literature based on some of the aforementioned categories. Because of the close ties with these communities across the JVS network, IAJVS is also responsible for disseminating the translated materials to these immigrant communities.

In late 2000, IAJVS and Bank of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to form a partnership to promote workforce development in communities mutually served by the two organizations.

IAJVS/AJFCA Lobby Day

Reprinted with permission from Tachlis.

AJFCA (Association of Jewish Family and Children Agencies) and IAJVS brought together 30 JFS and JVS CEOs and lay leaders for a joint Advocacy Day in Washington, DC on June 19, 2002 to introduce agency leaders to congressional members and to advocate on issues that impact our agencies.

Four concerns were the focus of over 30 discussions with congressional leaders:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization
- Increased funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Passage of mental health parity legislation and
- Increased funding for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) appropriations.

"AJFCA, joining forces with the IAJVS and UJC, proved to be an effective and vital voice," remarked Michael Bernstein, President and CEO of Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, FL, and Chair of AJFCA's Legislative Committee. "In this time of budget shortfalls, I was delighted by the turnout for the mission. I know that the elected representatives and policymakers we met were impressed with our mission and the work on behalf of those in need. Our presence made a difference," he concluded.

Diana Aviv, Vice President for Public Policy for the UJC Washington Action Office and Barbara Rosenbaum, Executive Director, JVS Boston, briefed the participants prior to the meetings. The day concluded with a session at the Department of Health and Human Services with several deputy directors from the Office of Family Assistance and the Office of Community Services.

IAJVS Represented at National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service

The 2002 National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service was held June 9-12 in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. The Corporation of National and Community Service collaborated with the Points of Light Foundation to create a program that was both reflective and promoted a bright future for volunteers.

"Sharing the American Spirit," the theme of the conference was evident in the opening session as individuals and corporations shared their experiences related to the 9/11 tragedy. First Lady Laura Bush concluded the conference, expressing what many Americans believe: that every human being should be treated with dignity; and that no child should be left behind in school, or in life.

Ilene King, Director of Work and Community Service at JEVS Philadelphia, represented the IAJVS network at the conference. Ilene directs JEVS Philadelphia's youthAbility, a national collaboration among 10 IAJVS affiliate agencies. Ilene also presented a session at the conference entitled *Service-Learning and Youth Volunteers with Disabilities.* The session focused on Service-Learning as an effective tool for engaging youth with disabilities in community volunteer activities and exposing them to new opportunities.

Grants Update

disAbility Employment Initiative Receives New Grant

IAJVS is thrilled to announce that the U.S. Department of Labor refunded our successful disability Employment Initiative. The first national collaboration undertaken by IAJVS and five affiliates (JVS Boston, JVS Chicago, Gulf Coast JFS, JEVS Philadelphia, and JVS San Francisco), the program provides computer-based training to individuals with disabilities. Over the 3-year program, the sites provided vocational training to 218 individuals with disabilities, with more than 60 percent of those consumers finding employment following training. Of the 18 programs in the last funding period, IAJVS was one of only five previous grantees to be funded for this subsequent grant period. In addition we received the full amount requested—$500,000. Congratulations to our participating agencies!! All 5 sites are in the process of program start-up, and IAJVS staff already traveled to Washington, DC in May to meet the new grantees and learn about program and U.S. DOL updates.

youthAbility Program Going Strong

The network's youthAbility program, which provides outreach to and recruitment of young people with a broad range of disabilities into national and community volunteer service, exceeded its first program year goals. After just one year of outreach, nearly 12,000 individuals have learned about youthAbility and more than 400 students are volunteering in their community. During this last quarter, Lucy and Thea Kachoris, the Corporation for National and Community Service Program Officer, visited three program sites—Chicago, Baltimore, and Rockville. At all three agencies, we found exciting programs and satisfied customers. Keep up the good work!

Agency News

*A special thank you to everyone who submitted information for this column. If you would like us to print something about your agency in our next quarterly report, please send your news to Bill Lynch (*lynchw@iajvs.org*)!!*

Boston

Neighborhood Business Builders, the economic development program at JVS Boston, is pleased to announce the launch of

BusinessLINCBoston.com. BusinessLINC is a website produced under a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

BusinessLINCBoston.com is one of only a handful of BusinessLINC sites nationwide. The mission is to encourage "business-to-business linkages that enhance the economic vitality and competitive capacity of small businesses, particularly those located in economically distressed urban and rural areas."

In keeping with this mission, JVS Boston offers many services designed to help New England small businesses, as well as numerous opportunities for small and large businesses in the region, to interact. These include:

- A small business database that larger businesses, and others, can search to find vendors.
- Access to information and registration forms for NBB's business mentor program, loan program and training program.
- A comprehensive listing of New England-based small business resources.
- A calendar of events of interest to local business people.
- A bulletin board system, which can be used for discussions.
- Articles profiling local entrepreneurs and other information of interest.
- A monthly newsletter for subscribers.

JVS Boston is hoping to leverage its existing relationships with large businesses through its Career Moves and workforce development programs, to encourage participation in the community economic development. Please contact Eric Korsh, Director of Lending at 617-451-8147 x122 , for more information.

Chicago

The Duman Microenterprise Entrepreneurial Seminar, held at the LaSalle Bank corporate headquarters in downtown Chicago, attracted 72 attendees. The seminar featured Andrea S. Hochberg, former CEO of Sportmart, who spoke on "Start-Up Strategies."

JVS Chicago's Career Connections for Young Professionals, in conjunction with the Jewish United Funds' Young Leadership Division, held an author/expert event in partnership with Barnes & Noble, which focused on strategic networking.

A consortium of three congregations and a local church requested a roundtable discussion for their unemployed congregants, which was organized by the Jewish Employment Network (JEN) and Career Connections programs. Forty-six middle managers and unemployed IT professionals learned the latest in networking techniques.

JVS Chicago's Academic Scholarship Program is now online at www.jvschicago.org. For the first time, applicants to JVS can view the online application for eligibility and guidelines, and fill out the application forms in dorm rooms near and far.

Each year, Chicago Federation agencies orient new staff to the life and culture of the Orthodox community. JVS Chicago staff worked on the interagency committee that planned this year's Orthodox Community Tour. The tour offered the chance for new agency personnel to observe and understand many aspects of the Orthodox community, such as the *mikva* (ritual bath), the *mechitsa* (for gender separation during prayer) and religious education.

Maxine Topper, Supervisor of Employment Services at JVS Chicago, presented a workshop "From Anger to Anger." The program was offered to United Airline employers who lost their jobs through downsizing and the direct effect of September 11.

Detroit

Detroit Live! A benefit for JVS Detroit

JVS Detroit is gearing up for Detroit Live! featuring Jay Leno at the fabulous Fox Theatre on Saturday September 14, 2002. Jay Leno is making this special, one night appearance for JVS Detroit in celebration of its 60th anniversary.

The night will be a memorable experience for all involved. Not only is Jay Leno performing his live stand-up act in Detroit for the first time since 1987, sponsors and special guests will be able to get up close and personal with him at JVS Detroit's Pre-Glow Party. JVS Detroit will also hold a raffle and a special edition program guide, filled with personal regards, client profiles and an historic overview of the agency. This is the first time JVS Detroit has coordinated and implemented an event of this magnitude.

Gulf Coast

Gulf Coasts Jewish Family Services' Noncustodial Parent Employment Program, which is one of the largest programs in the nation providing employment services to noncustodial parents, was recently highlighted in a feature news article in the eighth largest daily newspaper in the nation, New York's *Newsday*. Written by the newspaper's Washington, DC staff writer, the article was part of a weekly feature on the impact of TANF reauthorization by Congress, and focused on fatherhood issues. Several members of Congress and national fatherhood advocates urged the writer to visit Gulf Coast JFS' program, which is frequently cited as a national model. The newspaper spent two days in Florida interviewing clients, employers and agency staff before writing the feature article.

Israel Elwyn

Israel Elwyn formally opened its new facility for direct mail processing in the Talpiot industrial area of Jerusalem. The new facility, purchased by Israel Elwyn with the support of the National Insurance Institute, replaces the rented facility at Moshav Ora. Israel Elwyn's direct mail processing business, the largest of its kind in Jerusalem, provides employment for nearly 30 individuals with special needs, while helping prepare them for supported jobs in the community, when appropriate. The facility processes more than 2.5 million pieces of mail per year for the Jerusalem Post International Edition, the Jerusalem Theatre, the Jerusalem Cinemateque, the Israel Museum, the Jerusalem Foundation, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Israeli Foreign Ministry, JNF, Yad Vashem and many other institutional and business customers.

Israel Elwyn is also expanding its operation in the Beer Sheva area, with the introduction of a supported employment program there, in addition to its current job training and placement program. Also planned for the Beer Sheva area is a transitional school-to-work program for special education students between the ages of 18-21.

Israel Elwyn has begun its new Endowment Fund Campaign; with nearly $1,000,000 raised from its inner leadership circle, the campaign will now move into Phase II. It is hoped that every member of its Board of Directors will participate in this ambitious undertaking.

The Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn has undergone a leadership transition, in which a new, invigorated board has assumed the helm, led by newly elected chairman of the board, Cary Wolgelerenter. Thanks to the leadership and generosity of Karen Goldenberg of JVS of Greater Toronto, for her direct personal involvement and for providing the Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn with office facilities. The organization, based in Toronto, has plans to widen its leadership base and increase its activities.

Los Angeles

With the nursing shortage showing no signs of abating, JVS LA has found an innovative solution. Funded by the Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board, JVS trains longtime welfare recipients and refugees for careers as Certified Nurse Assistants. Students even earn wages while in the program! Not only that, but JVS LA guarantees all graduates a full-time, permanent job with the Jewish Home for the Aging. Participants receive classroom training, clinical experience and vocational ESL workshops. JVS LA also counsels students through the process of earning California state certification.

When Dr. Boris Kogan, inventor of the analog computer and winner of the USSR State Prize came to Los Angeles, he had no trouble finding a job. But many of his colleagues were not as fortunate. Dr. Kogan teamed up with JVS LA to start a program that would help accomplished scientists from Russia and Iran jump-start their careers in the United States. Partnering with UCLA, JVS LA provides individual counseling, vocational skills, job-preparedness workshops, and mentoring. A stipend from the Hebrew Technical Institutes covers parking and lab fees.

Are you on the road to success? Then FasTrak is for you! JVS LA is introducing FasTrak to help young professionals (ages 25-40) achieve their goals faster and more efficiently. This executive education program is led by an Ivy League educated MBA, and offers leadership-development techniques, professional networking strategies and more.

JVS LA's fifth annual Strictly Business Luncheon was a resounding success, raising more than $140,000 for programs and services at the agency's award-winning career resource centers. Keynote Speaker and Harman International Industries Chairman, Sidney Harman, addressed over 450 people, representing more than 350 businesses. Veteran TV journalist Jim Moret was master of ceremonies.

JVS LA is one of six outside vendors that provides vocational assessments to participants in Los Angles County's welfare-to-work programs. The County requires reports done on these programs and clients. The agency was commending for its extremely high accuracy and compliance in these reports. JVS LA has a compliance rate of 99.03%, well above the state acceptability range.

MetroWest

JVS MetroWest currently has the following job openings:

Case Manager

JVS MetroWest, a Statewide leader in providing employment and training services to NJ residents since 1939, has an immediate opening for an experienced case manager to assist Essex County welfare recipients to overcome barriers to employment. Requires masters in Social Work, Counseling, Vocational Rehabilitation or related, plus min. 3 yrs. Experience. (BA deg. Candidates with 5 yrs direct exp. may apply.) Candidates must be detail oriented and computer literate. Use of own car req. Competitive salary and excellent benefits pkg. Resumes to Mr. M. Schwartz, JVS, 111 Prospect St., East Orange, NJ 07017, fax 973-674-7773, or email mschwart@jvsnj.org.

Case Manager/Employment Specialist

Minimum Qualifications: Master's degree from an accredited college of university and at least three years experience in counseling or other social service activities. Consideration would also be giving to B.S./B.A. with 5 years of related experience. Use of own car for all case management duties, as well as coverage for job placement specialists.

Responsibilities: Under supervision of the Program Director, will maintain a caseload of participants and will assist them in dealing with the many barriers to job placement including social, emotional, and environmental issues; acts as a liaison with various governmental offices, regarding benefits, sanctions, etc. Through interviews with participants, will identify the nature, extent and credibility of the present problems and issues. Will help the participant formulate both short and long term educational, vocational and placement goals. Prepares both verbal and written reports as requested by JVS administrative staff. Performs other duties not calling for materially different skills, especially providing coverage for the job placement specialist(s) as directed.

Resumes to Mr. M. Schwartz, Program Director, JVS, 111 Prospect St., East Orange, NJ 07017, fax 973-674-7773 or email mshwart@jvsnj.org.

Social Worker/Case Manager

F/T- MSW preferred- to provide pre-migration and resettlement services for refugees and their sponsoring families. Candidates must have at least 3 years of exp., (BSW with at least 5 years exp. would be considered) in working with various émigré populations in providing a full service resettlement program including casework services. Must be able to interact with other social service agencies and legal entities and be detail oriented, computer literate, and have use of own car. Some home evaluations and visitation needed. Competitive salary; excellent benefit package. Please send resumes to Dept. LCS, JVS, 111 Prospect St., East Orange, NJ 07017, email drlen@jvsnj.org, or fax 973-674-7773.

Miami

A new senior activities program is being offered in Sunny Isles, Florida by JCS of South Florida's Senior Adult Division. The Sunny Isles Center for Creative Living offers a variety of classes and activities for seniors age 55 and over. Classes offered include music and movement, book reviews, Russian Choir, world affairs, yoga for life, games, lo-impact aerobics, crafts, line dancing, Tai Chi and a Russian club. This program is funded in part by a $1,800 grant given by Commissioner Gwen Margolis, Department of Human Services.

JCS of South Florida's Behavioral Health Division has moved into their new location at 750 N.E. 125th Street, North Miami. Funded by a $200,000 grant from the South Florida Workforce, the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) functions as a One-Stop Career Center for out-of-school youth. Servicing either school drop-outs, or youth who are high school graduates or have a GED that need more training for employment, the JCS of South Florida YOC will provide the youth with comprehensive assessment, guidance, training and support. Opportunities for these youth include returning to school; direct placement into a job; placement into an established short-term training program; placement into a long-term certificate of degree program; preparation for apprenticeship programs; military service; job corps or the Greater Miami Service Corps.

JCS of South Florida has recently contracted with KOF-K to provide kashrut supervision for the JDC of South Florida Food Division. The KOF-K is a worldwide organization with an international network of regional coordinators and rabbinic representatives, all of whom are strictly Orthodox in their personal practices and synagogue affiliations. The administration of the KOF-K is governed by a committee of world-renowned authorities in kosher law. They review and decide all questions of Halacha (Jewish Law), which may arise.

JCS of South Florida's Food Division provides kosher food for the Kosher Senior Meals on Wheels program of Miami-Dade County, five congregate meal sites in Miami-Dade, senior centers in Broward County, and various synagogues, schools, day camps and nursing homes. JCS of South Florida's Gourmet Kosher also provides catering for special occasions and supplies kosher food to Publix SuperMarkets and other local delis. KOF-K regional coordinators, in conjunction with their administrative staff, will provide ongoing monitoring of Sidney L. & Miriam K. Olson Commissary located in Ft. Lauderdale. The move was necessitated by expanding food operations. For more information about JCS of South Florida's Kosher Food Program, call Herman Cohen, Vice-President, 305-576-6636 or 954-779-7003.

Middlesex

JFVS Middlesex has been actively involved with the United Way of Central New Jersey September 11th Task Force and its efforts to assist displaced workers. The JFVS Vocational and Clinical departments have coordinated their efforts to provide counseling and career services to assist these individuals through this difficult time. Initially, JFVS began its association with displaced workers by completing intakes to determine the need for financial assistance for close to 300 individuals. This quickly led into providing job search skills and individual and group counseling to assist in the many issues presented throughout the intake process.

The focus for these individuals is employment, however this remains a struggle. The staff has also been impacted by these struggles and continues to provide innovative programming to assist in the job search. Programs such as "How to Start a Small Business" and "Determining Your Credentials to Teach," have been offered to the displaced workers, as well as Credit Counseling and Financial Planning courses. The Job Seeker Support Group, held weekly, has grown in numbers and topics addressed include: interviewing skills, networking and goal setting. The JFVS Career Specialist facilitates the group and often guest speakers have been included to promote and enhance the issues being presented.

In connection with this group, the displaced workers are also included in a counseling support group to discuss anxiety issues, frustrations, fears of returning to work, depression from not having found employment, and the trauma September 11th has left in their lives.

Due to a lack of employment, the need for financial assistance and the trauma that still exists because of 9/11, the displaced workers from Central Jersey continue to have a place where all of the needs may be met. JFVS staff supports these individuals and will continue to provide services and develop new initiative to assist displaced workers.

FEGS

AllSector Technology Group Awarded Grant from New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

ALLSector Technology Group, Inc. an affiliate member of FEGS was awarded a contract from the New York Coalition Against Sexual Assault. This will involve installing a software product, licensed to ALLSector, to assist agencies to track incidents of violence in Rape Crisis Centers across New York State (NYS). This will be installed in 76 not-for-profit agencies throughout NYS from now through June 30, 2003.

FEGS' Project Liberty Blankets NYC With Outreach: Diversity and Cultural Relevance Key in Reaching New Yorkers Post Sept 11th

FEGS has reached thousands of New Yorkers by hiring staff indigenous to various communities for its Project Liberty services.

In Jamaica, Queens, Oneychi A. goes to the homes of undocumented immigrants identified by church and community leaders. They are afraid to come to a clinic or a public session because they are undocumented. But they open theirs homes to Oneychi, who is Ethiopian and a neighbor because he understands the experience of coming to America for freedom and now, after Sept. 11th, being afraid all over again. They have told him of their children's plight—being tormented in the schoolyard by other children and told to go back to their country. One man from Egypt had been ostracized at work because his co-workers assume he is Muslim—he is not, he is Christian, but it doesn't matter. Nobody will talk to him or eat with him.

Cultural competence and cultural sensitivity have long been talked about. But reaching people in the wake of a mental health emergency, in a very diverse city, requires theses issues to be addressed more fully. In order to find people who may be suffering silently, FEGS moved its operations out into the community. FEGS' cadre of newly hired staff have connections to community centers, schools, synagogues, churches, businesses and store owners. They offer Project Liberty services, public education sessions, and group and individual crisis counseling in Spanish, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, Swahili, Russian, Creole, Mandarin and Cantonese. Breaking down the barriers to traditional mental health services requires that FEGS combine community organization and public health models with mental health services. It requires flexibility and a redefinition of FEGS' role as helpers and requires listening to the community in new ways and finding out how the community communicates.

Responding to the needs of New Yorkers in the aftermath of September 11th has taken mental health services to the streets—disguised them in some ways but perhaps broke down some of the stigma as well. Although FEGS is providing outreach in many neighborhoods, in many languages and to peoples from many cultures, there are common themes post Sept. 11th—love of family, love of community, love of New York.

Philadelphia

JEVS Philadelphia was selected by the Association for Women in Communications 2002 Clarion Award winner for it Public Policy Forum in the Special Events category. The Association is a national organization of communications professionals. Communications professionals evaluated the Forum for substance, style, originality and achievement of event objectives.

JEVS' Public Policy Forum, *Overcoming Barriers to Meaningful Life & Work: The Jewish Community & Disabilities,* was held in March 2001. The Forum was spearheaded and carefully planned by JEVS' Public Policy Committee. The Public Policy Committee comprises members of the JEVS Board of Directors and key staff who are charged with advocating for JEVS' constituents, following Public Policy issues and sharing Public Policy information internally and externally. The Forum served to tie together JEVS' direct work with people with disabilities, JEVS' commitment to communal service and the Jewish Values upon which JEVS was founded. The event embodied JEVS' mission to *help people help themselves.* For more information about the Public Policy Forum or the Clarion Award, contact Patricia Lewis, Special Events Manager, at 215-854-1894 or via email at lewisp@jevs.org

New Book on Disabilities

IAJVS would like to draw your attention to a valuable new resource, *Building a World Fit for People: Designers with Disabilities at Work*, a book that describes the career development of 21 designers with disabilities from around the world. The book was written and published by Adaptive Environments and funded by NEC Foundation of America.

Building a World Fit for People promotes the design professions as a viable career opportunity for people with disabilities. The book describes the earliest motivations, successes and roadblocks that the sixteen men and five women encountered while pursuing their education and work. *Building a World Fit For People* is for young people with disabilities, to let them know that design-related work is an opportunity for them. It is also for career counselors, to confirm that design is a profession that youngsters with disabilities can enter; and for the many design teachers who have never had a student with a disability, to illustrate the barriers that they can remove in order to welcome students into their studies. It is for the staff of disabled student services offices, to help them reach out to the design faculty and find ways to assist students; for the vocational rehabilitation counselors who may not know that design is an important field. It is for employers in design firms that many never have had an employee with a disability, to raise their expectations about the potential of designers with disabilities. For more information visit: www.AdaptiveEnvironments.org.

Mazal Tov!

On behalf of its member agencies, IAJVS would like to wish a very warm *Mazal Tov* to Joel Ollander on his upcoming retirement. Joel will conclude a 44-year career in the field of Jewish Communal Service, the last 20 of which have been in the position of Executive Director of the Jewish Communal Services Association. The network of Jewish Vocational Services wishes Joel much happiness and the best of luck in all future endeavors.

Save the Date

IAJVS Board of Directors' Winter Meeting

December 7 – 9, 2002

Loews Miami Beach Hotel
South Beach, Florida

Highlights include:

- Guest speaker Dr. Jeffery Solomon, President of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies.
- Saturday evening dinner at the home of David and Pemmy Saltman.

Registration materials will be mailed in September.

2003 IAJVS/AJVSP Annual Conference

June 1 –3, 2003
Los Angles, CA

How to Contact Us

Genie Cohen
215-854-0235 • coheng@iajvs.org

Lucy Klain
215-854-0281 • klainl@iajvs.org

Bill Lynch
215-854-0233 • lynchw@iajvs.org

IAJVS Fax
215-854-0212

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

IAJVS
International
Association of
Jewish
Vocational
Services

1845 Walnut Street, Suite 640
Philadelphia, PA 19103
tel: 215.854.0233 fax: 215.854.0212
www.iajvs.org