



Family Matters

A Newsletter for the JFS Family - Summer 2019



Honoring Our Past, Envisioning Our Future

Honoring Our Past, Envisioning Our Future was the theme for JFS' 64th Biennial Meeting held in June. The meeting began with a welcome by JFS CEO Kelly Burroughs and an invocation by Cantor Jennifer Reuben of Ohel Sholom Temple.

Jeff Cooper, board president from 2016-2019, gave an update on the state of affairs at JFS. He shared indicators of organizational health in relation to the vitality of the organization: how well the agency achieves its mission, how well an organization engages its team, and how well it balances its mission to margin. "JFS operates in a challenging environment," said Jeff. "In such an environment, our organization has to look at itself carefully, and to our credit I think JFS has been doing a good job to respond to this year's challenges."

Kelly Burroughs, JFS chief executive officer, highlighted several of JFS' programs and encouraged people to learn more by visiting the agency's new website. "The complexities of what we do every day cannot be fully explained in such a brief time," said Kelly. "But I encourage you to get involved. JFS loves its volunteers who provide nearly 7,000 hours of volunteer service every year."

As Kelly highlighted each of the programs, she remarked that the agency's leadership team has over 100 years of combined service, knowledge, and experience, and thanked them for their dedication to serving the Tidewater community.

During the meeting, JFS installed Ellen Rosenblum as the president for 2019-2021, thanked Jeff Cooper for serving as president from 2016-2019, installed new board and executive committee members, and presented several recognition awards. See page 5 for information on award honorees and photos. •

Rooted in Giving Back

Lisa Delevie was born and raised in Norfolk. She says, "The Tidewater area gave me my Jewish identity as it instilled in me an understanding of how important a strong Jewish community really is." Though Lisa moved away from the area at age 18, she says, "My roots are in Tidewater."

Four years ago, Lisa and her husband Mark returned to the area from Florida to continue her parents' work of giving back to the community.



Arlene and Jerry Stein, of blessed memory, were both very active, volunteering for several area agencies and creating the Arlene Stein College Scholarship. "My parents taught me about giving what they didn't have," says Lisa.

Lisa works in her family-owned businesses of Grand Furniture and Ashley Furniture. She is proud of a program they established called Chance to Dream Grand, through which they donate beds to underprivileged children. "It's our way of giving back to the community."

Lisa first became connected to JFS many years ago after she adopted her two daughters and attended a support program for adoptive parents at the Jewish Community Center in Norfolk.

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"Those who work to strengthen the community will always be a source for good."

These were the words engraved on the plaque presented to Jeff Cooper, JFS board president from 2016-2019, at this year's biennial meeting. Jeff served three years as board president, helping to maintain a smooth transition as I joined the agency in September 2018. It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognize Jeff for all his contributions to JFS.

In her opening remarks as new board president, Ellen Rosenblum stated: "Since 1946, the agency's legacy of service has been a testament to the vision and commitment of generations of staff and board members. The needs in a community never remain stagnant and the JFS staff and board of directors are always identifying new opportunities to serve while maintaining a strong organization."

I continue to be inspired by the dedication of people like Jeff and Ellen, who give freely of their time and energy as 'sources of good' for our community. Their passion and compassion exemplify the work that we do every day at JFS – and have done for decades.

The theme for this year's biennial meeting was "Honoring the Past, Embracing Our Future." I hope that as you look through this newsletter and visit our website, you will pause to reflect on how JFS has been a source for good in our community in the past, in the present, and will be the future, thanks to support from this community.

Kelley Burroughs



Greetings from Kelly Burroughs

JFS Chief Executive Officer

Meet Ellen Rosenblum New JFS Board President



New board president Ellen Rosenblum says, "JFS is transforming lives with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. In considering today's volatile and uncertain world, the need for the vital services that JFS provides has never been greater." Ellen was installed as president of JFS in June.

Born and raised in Virginia and a graduate of Norfolk Collegiate, Ellen earned a bachelor of science degree in communication disorders from Emerson College. She then received a master of science degree in speech and language pathology from the University of North Carolina. After practicing in a variety of pediatric settings, Ellen became actively involved coaching forensics at her children's school.

Ellen's involvement within the Jewish community began when she joined the Hebrew Academy of Tidewater (HAT) board of directors. She later joined the UJFT woman's cabinet and served as a president of ORT. Her involvement with JFS began in 2011. She has enjoyed being on many committees and looks forward to her upcoming term.

Ellen feels fortunate to have the love and support of her husband of 27 years, Scott, and her children Andrew, Julia, and Jack. She gives credit to her parents, Aaron and Carol Peck, for stressing the importance of community involvement and a compassionate life.

Ellen says, "Being asked to serve as the president of the JFS board gives me the opportunity to lead an incredible and impactful organization that makes a meaningful difference in so many people's lives." •

JFS Board of Directors 2019 - 2020

Executive Committee

Ellen Rosenblum, President

Kim Gross, Vice President

Anne Kramer, Vice President

Stephanie Peck, Secretary

Lawrence Steingold, Treasurer/
Past President

Jeff Cooper, Immediate Past President

Dr. Marcia Samuels, Past President

Ashley Zittrain, Member-At-Large

Board of Directors

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Lisa Delavie

Erinn Portnoy

Scott Flax

Cantor Jen Reuben

Kristy Foleck

Jenny Sachs

Laura Goldstein

Rebecca Tall

Dr. Laurie Goldsticker

Scott Vooss

**Hebrew Ladies Charity Trustee*

JFS returns to Toras Chaim

JFS will soon be providing in-school counseling/social work services for Toras Chaim Day School. For the past 25 years, JFS has established a solid positive reputation for providing these services to local Hebrew day schools.

Rabbi Mordechai Loiterman, Toras Chaim principal, requested that JFS return and create a daily presence in his school; he knew the students and their families needed this service. Rabbi Loiterman said, "Being attentive to our students' emotional and social needs is becoming more critical in our current society. Students need to be supported to learn important skills that will help them successfully navigate through the emotionally complex world in which they are growing up."

Debra Mayer, LCSW, JFS Clinical Director, said, "We're so pleased to reestablish this important partnership with Toras Chaim and their community of students, families, and staff."

Emily Bettendorf Riley, MSW, has been hired by JFS to work at Toras Chaim starting in August. She will have an office at the school and will be there for part of each day to meet with students and work closely with their families and teachers. Emily worked at JFS as the special needs case manager from 2010-2013 and has since worked with children and teens in multiple settings (home, school, and hospitals). Emily is excited to take on this new role. She can be reached after September 3 by email at ERiley@TorasChaim.net.

These services are made possible through generous funding from Toras Chaim. •

JFS honors home health aide for dedicated service



Patsy Bryant was recently honored as JFS' Home Health Care Worker of the Year. Patsy, who is from Trinidad, earned her certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificate

from Tidewater Community College. She began her career at Beth Sholom Village.

Patsy has worked for JFS' Embrace Home Care for over 16 years. She speaks very fondly of her current patient who she helps with personal care, companionship, and taking her to the store or to medical appointments. "It gives me joy," says Patsy. "It makes me happy. I love to take care of people."

Jan Ganderson, director of nursing, said, "As JFS is actively recruiting and hiring new CNAs to work in our private care program, it is aides like Patsy who serve as role models and mentors by always performing their job in a highly professional and competent manner." •

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"Working with my husband's awesome aide has made the home recovery process much easier and less stressful on both of us."



JFS 64th Biennial Meeting

June 17, 2019



JFS recognized the United Way of South Hampton Roads with its **Community Partner Award** for their outstanding support of JFS. Jeff Cooper presented the award and said, "The two agencies share many core values - both strive to create opportunities for a better life for the most vulnerable people in our community. Through this partnership, JFS is able to help feed more hungry people, enhance the health care of older adults, reduce social isolation, and improve the mental health and wellness of hundreds of people throughout the region.



New board president, Ellen Rosenblum, with Jeff Cooper, who served as JFS president from 2016-2019.



Danial Watts (left) and Zach Sissel (right) of the Emerging Philanthropists Council present a check for \$500 to Kelly Burroughs. The money is to be used to purchase 50 \$10 gift certificates so families in need can obtain perishable food.

The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes individuals who have given of themselves to help support the mission of the agency. This year, JFS selected Mrs. Patti Wainger, who has served on the JFS Board of Directors for 11 years, most recently serving on the executive committee as board secretary. Patti has been instrumental in coordinating and planning several of JFS' Spring Into Healthy Living events, bringing in speakers such as Joan Lunden, Jane Gardner, and most recently, Dr. Janet Wright of the office of the U.S. Surgeon General. She has also helped to foster multi-year relationships with Linda Kaufman, EVMS and WHRO, and now LifeNet Health through JFS' most recent event, *Organ Donation: The Gift of Life*.



Ellen Rosenblum (far left) and Kelly Burroughs (second from left) presented the Community Partner Award to the United Way of South Hampton Roads at their headquarters in Norfolk.



JFS recognized four youths for their generosity and *zedakah* on the occasion of their *bar* and *bat mitzvahs*. Each of them conducted food drives to donate to JFS' food pantries. *From left to right:* Debbie Mayer, JFS Clinical Director; Brayden Dobrinsky; Matthew Helman; Wyatt Jones; and Kelly Burroughs, JFS CEO. (Not pictured: Elizabeth Goldstein)

"In the short time I've known Patti," said Kelly Burroughs, "she has had a tremendous influence on me personally with her care and concern, humor and sheer determination to make things happen. Her passion is contagious and her energy is boundless." •



JFS honored Patti Wainger (right) with the Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contributions to the agency over the years.

Celebrating LONGEVITY AT JFS

With the theme "Our Success is Rooted in Kindness," we celebrated and honored employees at our Employee Appreciation Luncheon. Before the awards, JFS also presented a workshop on self-care and how to become 'stress-resistant.'

"It's very difficult to care for others if you're not caring for yourself," said Kelly Burroughs, JFS CEO. "We start by building awareness, and with the understanding that the stress in our day-to-day lives causes true and profound changes in our brains and bodies. One of the easiest things we can do for ourselves, and for others, is to practice intentional (not random) acts of kindness. Intentionality and self-awareness are keys to longevity – in life and in work."

The following JFS employees were honored:

20 Years:

- Marlene Aikman, Personal Affairs Management
- Shela Cook, Personal Affairs Management

15 Years:

- Linda Badgley, RN, Home Health
- Patrice Conley, Personal Affairs Management
- Cathy Gavin, Clinical Department
- Robert Lang, Personal Affairs Management

10 Years:

- Heather Cole, RN, Home Health
- Rodney Wilson, Home Health (not pictured)

5 Years:

- Cherrie Good, Personal Affairs Management
- Cara Vickers, Personal Affairs Management



20 Years of Service: Marlene Aikman (center) with Linda Glickman and Dorothy Salomonsky, director of Personal Affairs Management department



20 Years of Service: Shela Cook (second from right) with Hope Cuffee, Abby Keen, and Dorothy Salomonsky, director of Personal Affairs Management department



15 Years of Service: Linda Badgley, RN (center) with Jan Ganderson, RN, director of nursing, and Allison Madore, RN.



15 Years of Service: Cathy Gavin (center) with Debbie Mayer, director of clinical services, and Michelle Fenley, LCSW



15 Years of Service: Patrice Conley (second from left) with Amid Gilkes, Christa Franc, and Dorothy Salomonsky, director of Personal Affairs Management department



15 Years of Service: Bob Lang (second from right) with Brenda Parson, Deanne Dwyer, and Dorothy Salomonsky, director of Personal Affairs Management department



10 Years of Service: Heather Cole, RN (center) with Jan Ganderson, RN, director of nursing, and Judy Laster, RN



5 Years of Service: Cherrie Good (center) with Meredith Sherman and Dorothy Salomonsky, director of Personal Affairs Management department



5 Years of Service: Cara Vickers (center) with Al Duseault and Dorothy Salomonsky, director of Personal Affairs Management department

In March of 1902, Mrs. Fannie Brenner was profoundly touched by the plight of the financially distressed people living in Norfolk. Although well-meaning friends and neighbors with the best intentions rallied to help, it was at the expense of the recipients when their identities and circumstances were revealed.

Mrs. Brenner decided to do something about changing this situation. She called together a group of young Jewish matrons: Mrs. Rosa Brener, Mrs. Ray Cohen, Mrs. Rebecca Goodman, Mrs. Sara Legum, Mrs. Frieda Schapiro, Mrs. Henny Shaeffer, Mrs. Bertha Siegel, and Mrs. Annie Spensky. These nine Orthodox Jewish women sought to make a difference, one small gift at a time and with that, Hebrew Ladies Charity Soci-



ety (HLCS) was born. Their mission was to meet the needs of individuals in the Jewish community requiring immediate financial assistance but to do it in a way that protected privacy and confidentiality.

Now, 117 years later, JFS continues to honor these ladies by carrying on their mission through the JFS Food and Financial Assistance program.

Today, JFS relies on the support of the HLCS's members to carry on this good work. Each year, the HLCS Endowment Fund provides JFS with funds to continue the HLCS mission. With your annual gift, we are able to continue the mission begun in 1902 in perpetuity. *HLCS members: check your mailbox to see how HLCS' mission carries on today and how you can help!* •

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After returning to the area, Lisa joined the JFS board of directors in 2018. "Serving on the board of JFS has given me the opportunity to serve and help others," Lisa says. "One other important impact of being part of this community is that it inspired Mark to volunteer. Mark, a lawyer, serves on the board of Beth Shalom Village and also does pro-bono work for Legal Aid.



This year, Lisa and Mark committed to participate in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY™ program, which promotes after-lifetime giving. "Giving to JFS through LIFE & LEGACY is our way of helping future generations," says Lisa.

She and Mark enjoy the additional blessing of having both of Lisa's brothers and their families in the area. The couple has four children between them – three in Raleigh, NC, and one in Richmond, VA. They also enjoy being close to their two young grandchildren. •



Program speakers, left to right: Al Diaz, Kathryn Barrett, Wallace Green, Dr. David Baran, Dr. Janet Wright, Thom Hutchins, & Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz

Spring Into Healthy Living Program Raises Awareness for Organ Donation

The theme throughout the evening was awareness, but as the stories unfolded, an even stronger message came through: organ donation is LOVE. JFS' program, "Organ Donation: The Gift of Life" featured keynote speaker Janet S. Wright, MD FACC, Acting Director of Science and Policy with the U.S. Surgeon General's office, and a special panel of speakers. Attendees were treated to inspiring stories by donor families and a donor recipient as well as some eye-opening facts and dispelled myths from the other speakers.

Dr. Wright told the audience about the initiatives of the Department of Health and Human Services related to organ and tissue donation. She outlined a plan for everyone to follow, which includes exercise, healthy diet, smoking cessation, and regular medical check-ups.

Only about 60 percent of Virginians are registered donors, although almost anyone age 13 and up can become a donor, either by signing up at the DMV or online. The organs from one person can save up to eight lives, while a single tissue donor can enhance the lives of more than 75 people. Corneas can go to help others, as can blood vessels. There are also living donors, in which living people can donate an organ or part of an organ – kidneys and livers – to a person in need of a transplant. ***With your gift, a life may be saved!***

***For more information about organ donation, visit LifeNetHealth.org.
To register as a donor, visit RegisterMe.org.***



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Have you seen our new website?

JFS has a new updated website! There you can learn more about all of our many services, explore ways to give or volunteer, and find out about any upcoming events. The website changes on a regular basis, so be sure to check it periodically!



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We can accomplish great things when we #LIVEUNITED!



The United Way of South Hampton Roads' annual campaign kicks off this fall. We are proud to say that JFS is a partner agency! Your direct designation to JFS through the United Way allows JFS to provide vital programs and quality services to those in need in our community.

Please write "Jewish Family Service of Tidewater" on your United Way pledge card. **THANK YOU for your support!**