

JFS Matters

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COMMUNITY PROFILE Fran Hasson



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DARA ROSENWASSER PHOTOGRAPHY

In the nine years since Fran Hasson took over the Food Basket Program, she has volunteered over 1,100 hours in creating hundreds upon hundreds of custom centerpieces, one by one, for special events and family celebrations throughout the community.

WHAT'S AN "EMPTY NESTER" TO DO?

That was Fran's dilemma nearly a decade ago. With her daughter away at school, Fran suddenly was looking for something worthwhile to fill the void. "I went through that crisis of no children at home," she recalls. "My dear friend Alicia Siegel suggested that I contact JFS because they're always looking for volunteers. They had a need, I had the time...and we've been connected at the hip ever since."

(Continued on Page 3)



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Laura Stusser-McNeil

Something unusual happened here recently. *Can you believe that the temperature actually hit 90 degrees in May?* People spilled outdoors, grateful for the first sunburn of the year. The heat seemed to lift our communal mood, made heavy recently by bad economic news and the tragic consequences of far-off natural disasters. (Not to mention seeing snow here in April.)

While attending the 6th Annual JFS *Community of Caring Luncheon* on May 6th, I experienced something similar. The Westin Grand Ballroom was packed with nearly 1,100 people and infused with a mood of generosity and joy. In spite of busy schedules and a never-ending stream of worthy causes, people happily came out for JFS. The Ballroom felt transformed into an extended living room. Hearts (and wallets!) opened, and a positive buzz filled the air.

Why is that exactly? Why do we so willingly give our time and dollars to Jewish Family Service? After nearly a year as President of the JFS Board of Directors, I try to regularly check in with my own motivations just to make sure I remember. A

"This is a most caring community, one I am proud to be a part of..."

sense of obligation to give back — sure, that plays a part in it. But it's something more. Through JFS, I find a connection to my community by way of people I'll never meet — a connection that makes me know in my gut that I'm a part of something bigger than myself. It's a profound experience, inter-connectedness, and I have a hunch I'm not the only one who finds purpose in that type of awareness. It is why our Luncheon fills the Ballroom. We all thrive on connection, whether we know it or not.

We often wrestle with how to share the breadth and depth of the programs at JFS — how do we talk about what JFS does without ticking off a dry laundry list of services? And yet, it is just that variety that speaks to the ever-changing

human condition and the types of needs facing our community every day: aging, sudden job loss and other unforeseen crises, challenging family dynamics, starting over in a new country, breaking free from addiction or abusive relationships.

JFS is there to help us through these familiar situations and so many others. And presto, just like that, the laundry list transforms and comes alive. We're linked once more to each other when we know that real lives change and individual circumstances do indeed improve with help and support. JFS is here for all of us.

This is a most caring community, one I am proud to be part of and happy to have lunch with at least once a year. We know problems are not solved that easily and the work continues, day in, day out. But as we share an hour and a half, we tap into a deep well of shared humanity and it feels terrific — like iced tea on a 90 degree day.

All the best,

Laura

P.S. I'd love to hear your story and why JFS matters to you. Please drop me a line at ljstusser@comcast.net.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

FRAN HASSON (Continued from Page 1)

"I feel so blessed to have found a niche, and now knowing all that JFS does for the community, it's just a joy to be a part of it." — Fran Hasson

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Back in 1999, JFS had a very modest Food Basket Centerpiece Program. There were a few volunteers trying to find time to make baskets for events to raise money for the *Food Bank*. It was clear that additional help was required if the program was to survive.

In stepped Fran Hasson. Her first contact was with Jane Deer-Hileman, Director of JFS *Volunteer Services*. "When I came to visit, Jane asked me if I was good at flower arranging. I didn't understand why until Jane took me downstairs and showed me the basket program work space. All of a sudden, things clicked. That was it, and I took over the program."

JUMP FORWARD TO 2008.

Fran has reinvented the Food Basket Centerpiece Program into a thriving community-oriented enterprise. She has updated the look of the baskets (including "flat bottom" baskets that are easy to see over) and made them more financially viable. "To help keep costs down, we use French wire ribbons that can be pressed after each use. The cost is minimal. The only thing I can't reuse is the cellophane, which isn't all that expensive in the first place."

A LABOR OF LOVE.

In spite of her demanding schedule as a representative for a fashionable line of shoes, Fran comes to JFS weekly to prepare baskets for each custom order. The baskets have become an increasingly popular way

for families to decorate for special events, with proceeds directly benefitting the *Food Bank*. There are three sizes of baskets — display baskets, buffet baskets and table baskets. You have the choice of either a food-filled or faux-fruit basket. Each is finished with a gift card indicating that a donation has been made to the *Food Bank*, along with a printed gold sticker with the commandment to feed the hungry. Another JFS volunteer then delivers and picks up the rented baskets, so there is little overhead.

"When they told me the Food Basket Centerpiece Program has raised over \$110,000, I was truly amazed. It was so easy, so effortless, so wonderful," Fran confessed. "Jane Deer-Hileman has made it possible by supporting me every step of the way. The JFS staff is so incredible and so embracing, they make it a joy to volunteer. When I don't have an order for a week or two, I really miss coming in and seeing everyone."

WHEN ASKED "WHY JFS?"

"I'm not sure how to answer that," Fran mused. "I'd volunteered with a variety of organizations, but JFS was different. It just felt like it was meant to be. I have a creative outlet and, at the same time, an opportunity to contribute to the community. It is such a great feeling."

For information on volunteer opportunities or to order a Food Basket Centerpiece, please call Jane Deer-Hileman, Director of JFS Volunteer Services, at (206) 861-3155 or e-mail volunteer@jfsseattle.org

The Food Basket Centerpiece Program benefits the JFS *Food Bank* which serves, on average, 1,400 people a month (including over 300 isolated, homebound and frail elderly clients through the Home Delivery Program).

The *Food Bank* is a member of the Seattle Food Committee and the King County Food Coalition; providing nearly 20,000 pounds of food each month to the homeless and unemployed, the working poor, single parent families, people with disabilities or mental illness, survivors of domestic violence and others in need. Funds donated to the *Food Bank* are used to provide healthy food in an environment of respect and generosity.



ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, July 24, 7:30 p.m.

HOWARD BEHAR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF STARBUCKS, TO SHARE HIS PRINCIPLES ON LEADERSHIP



Howard Behar, former President of Starbucks

Using his new book *It's Not About the Coffee - Leadership Principles from a Life at Starbucks*, Howard Behar will share with us the ten principles that guided his leadership and success — and not one of them is about coffee.

Howard Behar began his career in the furniture business where he discovered it was the people he loved, not the furniture. His sense of the customers as people, his concern for their needs, and his experience of being a part of people's dreams for their homes and their lives helped him make the next successive moves in his retail career.

"People are not assets," Howard Behar reminds us, "they are human beings."

During his many years as a senior executive at Starbucks, Behar helped establish the Starbucks culture. He was (and is) an ardent advocate for recognizing the importance of *people over profits*. He coached hundreds of leaders at every level and helped the company grow into a world-renowned brand.

A long-time JFS supporter and Board Member, Behar will let us in on the values learned from his experiences and the rewards one receives from giving back to community. Admission to this dessert reception is complimentary. Reservations required by Friday, July 18, 2008.

Howard Schultz, Founder and CEO of Starbucks, says of Behar, "Howard helped us put our values into action. If you follow just some of the principles in this book, you will be a wiser, more effective and more successful human being and leader. There is no better teacher than Howard Behar."

Endless Opportunities is a community-wide program offered in partnership with Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation for active, healthy, Jewish adults aged 50+. EO events are open to the public and are free of charge.

Note: The two-part *Family Life Education* article from the Spring issue of *JFS Matters* will be continued in the Fall.

"People Over Profits" with Howard Behar

July 24th (Thursday)
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Temple De Hirsch Sinai
1441 16th Ave, Seattle

Complimentary
Dessert Reception

RSVP: Ellen Hendin at
(206) 861-3183 or
endlessopps@jfsseattle.org

Co-sponsored by:

TEMPLE
De Hirsch Sinai

DID YOU KNOW?

- Andre O'Donnell and Jeanne Roxby, Case Managers in the SAJD's *Supported Living Program*, recently passed the Care Manager Certification Core Exam offered by the National Academy of Certified Care Managers (NACCM). This is a recognition of their professional skill and knowledge, and a credential that is increasingly required in the field.
- Congratulations to two employees of the *JFS Refugee & Immigrant Service Center* in Kent. Oksana Volostnova and Yelena Butylev passed their citizenship tests and have been sworn in as U.S. citizens!

THANK YOU:

Klaus Stern

The story of Klaus Stern is one that is rich in personal triumph, unwavering determination and an inspiration for generations to come. Klaus managed to survive the Holocaust under extraordinary circumstances and ended up in Seattle. He and his wife Paula were the first Holocaust survivors in the area.

As President Emeritus of the Jewish Club of Washington and a member of the *Holocaust Survivors Emergency Assistance Advisory Committee*, Klaus has been a longtime leader in Seattle's Jewish community. For nearly 20 years, Klaus has been instrumental in

arranging for the Jewish Club to purchase, out of pocket, hundreds upon hundreds of pounds of food annually that is then delivered to the *Food Bank* at JFS. The Club negotiates with local grocery stores to buy at wholesale plus 10%, so they are able to make a very substantial donation in the fight against hunger. 2008 is no exception. On a cold and dreary morning this past January, over 750 pounds of food unexpectedly arrived on our doorstep. The food translates into hope, heart and sustenance for those in our community who have nowhere else to turn.

On May 1st, 2008 – Yom HaShoah – Jewish Family Service was honored to have Klaus Stern make a presentation to the JFS Staff about his time in concentration camps during the Holocaust.* The continued resilience and desire of Klaus to share his story motivates those who hear him to lead better lives and help those around us. Hopefully we can all help as many individuals as has Klaus.

**In the camps, when Number 117033 was called for work detail, it meant life. But in late 1944, after more than a year and a half in the Nazi death camp and deemed no longer fit for work, Stern heard his number called for what he thought would be the last time. After a periodic inspection by camp physicians, the ailing Stern was selected for execution. But the morning his number came up Stern's face had become bloated by malnutrition, fooling a guard with its grotesque illusion of health.*

The guard barked out, "Hey you with your big fat face, don't you know what it means to be in that group?" Stern played dumb. At which point the guard said, "You'd better get back to work."

Waiting to be led to the gas chamber, Stern's life was saved.

ABOUT THE JEWISH CLUB OF WASHINGTON:

- Founded in the 1930's, it was formed by four early arriving refugees from Germany who banded together to assist others fleeing persecution integrate into our local Jewish community while starting new lives in America.
- Following World War II, the Jewish Club broadened its purpose to help refugees find housing and employment in the Greater Seattle area while providing support to those who had lost friends and family.
- Now over 70 years old, it has become a social club for members who are today all senior citizens.
- For additional information about the Jewish Club of Washington, please contact Walter Oppenheimer, President, at (206) 381-1338.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Single Parents & Big Pals/ Little Pals Program: Help at our Picnic in the Woods...set up, prepare for lunch, lead sports and games, and then pack up on Sunday, July 13th, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Eastside Food Bank: Tuesdays July 15th and August 12th, help with setting up and handing out food on the Eastside. Call for times and to register in advance.

ESL Tutoring: JFS Bellevue office is seeking a volunteer to lead an Advanced ESL Class for the month of June. The class is set up in a "talk time" format and meets 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Holiday Baskets: Help us provide holiday baskets for seniors. Call to find out how you can help make and deliver holiday baskets for Rosh Hashanah on Sunday, September 28th.

To volunteer, please call Jane Deer-Hileman, Director of JFS Volunteer Services, at (206) 861-3155 or e-mail volunteer@jfsseattle.org

PERSPECTIVE

Alternatives to Addiction

A DISCUSSION WITH EVE M. RUFF, JFS ADDICTION RECOVERY COORDINATOR



Eve M. Ruff, JFS Addiction Recovery Coordinator

Q: HOW DID THIS NEW JFS PROGRAM COME ABOUT?

Eve: There is this prevailing misnomer that addiction is not a problem in our Jewish community. In other words, denial is rampant.

The JFS Strategic Planning Committee identified chemical dependency and addiction as a priority that must be addressed. JFS was not alone. The more internal resources that were committed, the more external funding came forward. First was The Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation which, thanks to Kenny Alhadeff, became the primary benefactor. Next, the Special Initiatives Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle...joined shortly thereafter by the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound. These partners have been so generous in allowing JFS to provide a Jewish component to the issues of prevention, assessment and recovery.

Q: WHAT DO YOU SEE OVER THE NEXT COUPLE YEARS?

Eve: The JFS *Alternatives to Addiction* Program seeks to increase awareness and offer a response to addiction in the Jewish community. If we don't talk about it, we are giving in to the stigma and shame. **Our friends, family and loved ones must know that no one has to do this alone. Respecting the privacy of each client goes without saying.**

We've already identified close to 3,000 people in our local Jewish community who could benefit from these services. Imagine this many people who are actively in addiction, and then add their circle of loved ones and friends. This truly is a family disease that is impacting more and more of us than ever before. The toll is devastating. Denying that it exists doesn't make it so.

The confidential JFS *Alternatives to Addiction* Program has four tiers:

1. **outreach services**
2. **peer support for those in recovery**
3. **clinical services**
4. **approach to advocacy**

This Program has the potential for being an innovative, proven model for implementation in Jewish communities, big and small, all across America.

Q: HOW DID YOU COME INTO THIS FIELD?

Eve: Funny you should ask. I'm a librarian by training, having worked 22 years in the research biomedical field. My longest tenure was at The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research

Center, where I was Director of Libraries. I was also an alcoholic at the time.

When I went into recovery, I wanted to work with people who had *my disease*. So I went back to school, to Seattle Central Community College. My Master's Degree is from a prestigious university; but, in retrospect, SCCC was some of the best education I've ever received.

I've been in recovery six years, in the field five years. I was an inpatient counselor at Residence XII, a women's treatment center in Kirkland. Then on to Swedish Medical Center. But JFS is where I'm meant to be.

Q: WHY IS JFS THE RIGHT FIT?

Eve: Oh my gosh, I love it here. I feel this job was made for me, and me for it. This is a homecoming of sorts, working with clients who share my faith. It feels like the true meaning of t'shuvah. It's a great fit.

If you or someone you care about is struggling with an addiction, there is help. For more information, contact Eve M. Ruff, JFS Addiction Recovery Coordinator, (206) 461-3240 or e-mail emruff@jfsseattle.org

AA Meetings at JFS

A gathering of men and women who share their experiences, strength and hope to help each other recover from alcoholism.

Tuesdays beginning June 24th 7:00 p.m.

Held at JFS, 1601 16th Ave., Seattle
Contact Eve M. Ruff at (206) 461-3240 or emruff@jfsseattle.org

SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FOR JEWISH ADULTS AGED 50+

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

A free, community-wide program in collaboration with Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation

An Accidental Journey with Len Kashner

June 4 (Wednesday)
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Form & Freedom: Songwriters' Experiences with Jennifer Spector & David Tieman

June 17 (Tuesday)
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon on Seattle Transportation Issues with Rep. Judy Clibborn & Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger

June 26 (Thursday)
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

"People Over Profits" with Howard Behar

July 24th (Thursday)
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Contact Ellen Hendin at (206) 861-3183 or endlessopps@jfsseattle.org

FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

Bringing Baby Home "Summer Sampler"

June 26, July 10 & July 24 (Thursdays) 6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Picnic in the Woods

4th Semi-Annual Jewish Single Parent Family & Big Pals Summer Cook-Out!

July 13 (Sunday)
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Meaningful Mitzvot for Our Children

For Jewish single parent families
September 7 (Sunday)
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Contact Marjorie Schnyder at (206) 861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org

FOR THE COMMUNITY

AA Meetings at JFS

Tuesdays beginning June 24 7:00 p.m. at JFS

Contact Eve M. Ruff at (206) 461-3240 or emruff@jfsseattle.org

Gay Relationships

July 9 (Wednesday)
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Contact Adam Halpern at (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org

Brunch with Rabbi Twerski (via teleconference) & Rabbi Kletenik

July 13 (Sunday)
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (tentative)

Contact Project DVORA at (206) 461-3240 or contactus@jfsseattle.org

Shabbat Dinner for Interfaith Couples & Families

July 18 (Friday)
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Contact Marjorie Schnyder at (206) 861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org

I Don't Know What to Say: Comforting the Dying & Bereaved

Session one of our *Death & Dying Series*

September 8 (Monday)
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Contact Adam Halpern at (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org

FOR JEWISH WOMEN

Programs of Project DVORA (*Domestic Violence Outreach, Response & Advocacy*) are free of charge

Rosh Chodesh

June 15 (Sunday)
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Confidential Support Group

Ongoing

Contact Project DVORA at (206) 461-3240 or contactus@jfsseattle.org

HELPING HIS COMMUNITY

Sam Koppel wanted to give back to his community. With his Bar Mitzvah just around the corner, he sat down with his family and talked about potential volunteer projects he could do around his neighborhood. After a long discussion, Sam came to the conclusion that he would work with his friends and family to collect bags of food for the *Food Bank* at JFS. "I just wanted to stop a little bit of world hunger. If I could just do one area at a time, it would be good. I wanted to do my part."

Sam began by getting some grocery bags donated by Trader Joe's. He then attached notes to each bag explaining his project and left them at various homes in his neighborhood. His community responded in a big way and the food started to pour in. With the help of those close to him, Sam was able to go above and beyond his goals. On April 9th, Sam came to the *Food Bank* with his mother (and long-time JFS supporter) Yasaman Koppel, and **donated over 500 pounds of food.**

As Sam puts it, "people need to help each other."



Sam bringing a few boxes of the over 500 pounds of food he collected for the Food Bank at JFS.



MISSION

Jewish Family Service helps to ensure the survival and strength of our community by identifying needs and offering programs and services which incorporate Jewish culture, ethics and principles. We support and assist individuals and families in the tradition of helping people help themselves. In so doing, we recognize and welcome the opportunity to be responsive to the broader community.

JFS Matters is published quarterly by Jewish Family Service.

For more information call (206) 461-3240 or visit www.jfsseattle.org

Laura Stusser-McNeil, *President*
Ken Weinberg, *Chief Executive Officer*
Richard Rosenwald, *Editor*
Jake Groshong, *Writer*

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www.jfsseattle.org

A Commitment to Community since 1892



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
116th Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, August 14, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM
Hillel UW (*Courtyard – weather permitting*)

Please join us for hors d'oeuvres and a special gathering of family and friends as we honor Board Members (incoming and outgoing alike) and give special recognition to the JFS Volunteer of the Year.

Hillel UW, 4745 17th Avenue NE, Seattle

RSVP no later than August 5, 2008 to Gail Pollack at (206) 861-3151 or e-mail gpollack@jfsseattle.org



JEWISH **FAMILY** SERVICE

Jessie Danz Building
1601 16th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-4000