

The Ethnic Connection entertains at Lechayim with music from across the globe.



The Ethnic Connection “Part of the Lechayim Family”

Among the most enduring of Jewish Social Services’ volunteers is the musical folk group, the “Ethnic Connection.” George Calden on mandolin, Ruth Calden on recorders and flutes, Lee Burkholder on autoharp and Doleta Chapru on accordion volunteer their talents

on a regular basis at Harry J & Belle Goodman, parents of Irwin A & Robert D Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus. Indeed, since their formation in 1982, they have played at Lechayim over 40 times!

Meeting at George and Ruth’s house, the air was fragrant with the aroma of fresh popcorn that is standard fare for their rehearsals. It didn’t take long to discover the secret of their success: they love folk music, and they enjoy each other. Like a long-married couple, they finish each other’s sentences, gently correct each other and have “a collective single memory” that allows them to remember events by piecing together what they know individually. “We argue well,” Doleta asserts, and Lee adds that, “One of the joys is how we start something and work it out, the keys, harmony, and number of verses...”

They all bring their individual gifts: George, a retired psychologist, has written many songs, including “Never Call a Bagel a Doughnut.” Doleta is a retired music teacher who can memorize songs with many verses and has mastered Yiddish pronunciation (Lee says of herself that she “massacres it”). Ruth, who taught in the Madison schools, learned to play the quena (Incan flute), and Lee, who manages the “Global Express” fair trade store, is an endless source for colorful ethnic clothes.

The group first played together very informally at a Marquette School carnival in 1982. Someone spotted them and invited them to

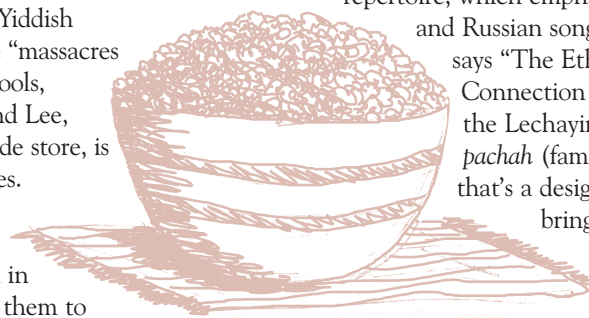
play at the grand opening of the then-new State Street Mall, and by the way, what was the group’s name? They quickly invented the “Ethnic Impurities,” which was later refined to the “Ethnic Connection.”

Their repertoire is drawn from their extensive travels, people they meet and their own record collections. They remember everyone who ever gave them a song, such as the late Angelina Paratore, a Lechayim regular who gave them “Yellow Bird,” a Haitian song she had learned in Paris.

The Ethnic Connection has played for political events, international students gatherings, and the Holiday Art Fair. Memorable and perhaps quirkier performances have included a wedding at Devil’s Lake dubbed the “Marriage on the Rocks,” a Bar Mitzvah during a tornado and a release party for the first volumes of the Dictionary of Regional English, edited by Fred Cassidy. Later they played at Fred’s wedding, and, sadly, at his memorial service. They remember a tricky-to-play hot air balloon rally and “Skippeth out of Work Early” evenings at APT. The Frank Lloyd Wright family engaged them to play at their Unity Chapel, and during the “Wright Stuff” bike ride, they served as pit stop entertainment.

The Ethnic Connection first came to Lechayim through Doleta’s connection with Francie Smith Saposnik at the School of Social Work. Francie asked them to perform at Lechayim as volunteers, and thus a mutual love song was created that’s lasted for 23 years. Lechayim audiences “...are favorites because they are appreciative and *haimish* (home-like).” What’s more, Lechayim has shaped their

repertoire, which emphasizes Jewish and Russian songs. Francie says “The Ethnic Connection is part of the Lechayim *mish-pachah* (family),” and that’s a designation that brings them great satisfaction.



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“One Who Saves a Single Life

is considered as to have preserved the whole world” –Talmud

A pseudonym and changes in some facts protect confidentiality.

Michael lived with his parents all of his life. His mental health disorder worked against his ability to grow up, move out and move on. His parents were loving and supportive. They brought him to doctors and therapists; but nothing seemed to work. Michael continued to say that he couldn't cope and that he could do nothing for himself. He attributed his difficulties to several physical ailments and a number of phobias.

Michael's parents didn't have the heart to insist that he leave home. They continued to do everything for him because they didn't know what else to do. But, as the years passed, first one parent died and, ultimately, the other passed away, leaving Michael completely alone because he had never been able to sustain relationships, and he is an only child.

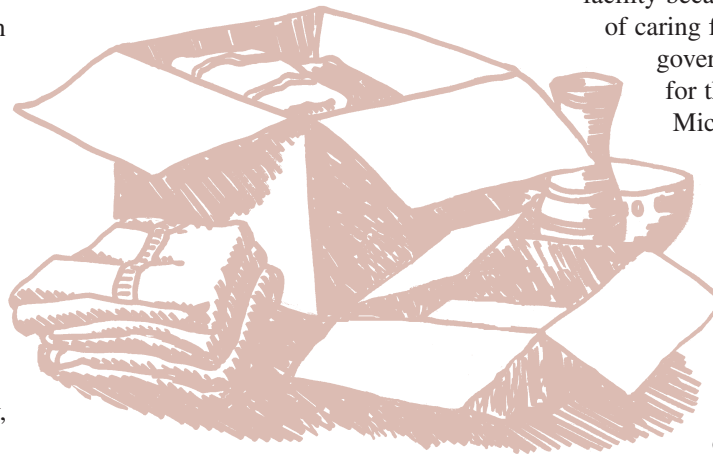
For years Michael and his surviving parent had combined their meager Social Security checks, and managed to mostly scrape by. JSS paid for a prescription here and there, and compassionate strangers tried to help a very elderly parent struggling to care for her very dependent child. Once Michael was alone, these altruistic individuals tried to help him; but, inevitably, he burned them out and they withdrew.

JSS did not have that option. We had to try and help. Staff social workers set out to devise a case plan. First, we showed Michael that he needed someone to manage his money. Without that, his poor credit history would preclude anyone from renting to him, and he needed a subsidized apartment to make ends meet. Thus, JSS became his Representative Payee. Next, we located a suitable apartment and convinced the landlord to rent to our client. Fortunately, some of the individuals who had helped out before, agreed to do one last thing – a huge job – pack and move Michael to his new home.

Michael had long ago lost his Social Security card and had no ID. He never

learned to drive and never held a job. Without ID, we couldn't help him apply for Food Stamps or Energy Assistance. Getting him to go for his Wisconsin ID was no small task because Michael seldom leaves his apartment. Even going to the mailbox is a struggle for him. He regularly cancels appointments, saying he doesn't feel well. While his apartment building offers social activities, he alternates between saying that he'd like to make friends and telling us that he is a loner.

*It is very hard
to help Michael; but JSS
must keep trying.*



Michael was losing weight because his parent always did the shopping and cooking. He says that meal preparation is just too hard because he is always exhausted. JSS arranged for Meals on Wheels to begin to address the problem.

Michael has several physical ailments. To arrange for home visits from a nurse and for cleaning help, JSS brought a staff member from the Community Living Alliance to meet Michael and explain their program. However, while he maintains that he needs help, at the same time, Michael is fearful of losing control to others. For the moment, he will not agree to an intake assessment. JSS and his doctor continue to try to persuade him.

Michael is in deep mourning over the loss of his beloved parents, the only people who were able to give him unconditional love. Any attempts to convince him to accept psychotherapy or medication have failed. He had too much of it long ago and doesn't want to try again. What he says he really wants is to move to an assisted living facility because he believes he is incapable of caring for himself. But it is the

government that would have to pay for this level of care. Because Michael does not have dementia and can dress, bathe, and toilet himself, it is unlikely that he would be approved. Besides, Michael is not elderly, and these living arrangements were really meant for seniors. Yet, Michael says he will die if he continues to have to live on his own.

It is very hard to help Michael. But JSS must keep trying. Although his behavior can be very challenging, he is suffering greatly. And there are many individuals out there just like Michael.

Personality Disorder

According to the National Mental Health Association, “Those who struggle with a Personality Disorder have great difficulty dealing with other people. They tend to be inflexible, rigid, and unable to respond to the changes and demands of life. Although they feel that their behavior patterns are “normal” or “right,” people with personality disorders tend to have a narrow view of the world and find it difficult to participate in social activities.”

www.nmha.org/

Thank You

for Your Tribute Gifts

The following contributions were recorded between July 1, 2006 and September 30, 2006

IN HONOR OF:

Jillian Adler & Raphael Thomadsen, marriage
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Trudy & Harvey Barash, new grandson Leo
Sheila and Marcus Cohen
Janice Beers
Sophia and Paul Moroz
Lawrence Bensky, 60th birthday
Betsy Abramson and David Seligman
Corine Cohn, 80th birthday
Francie Smith Saposnik
Gerry and Warren Randy
Erwin Deutsch, 90th birthday
Hildegard and Julius Adler
Betsy Haimson
Cherie & Ron Diamond, 60th birthdays
Sheila and Marcus Cohen
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Nancy Leff and K.C. Lerner
Bobbie and Bill Malone
Bilha Mirkin and Yair Mazor
Irene and Barry Mirkin
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Nancy Dodge and David Watts, assistance
David L. Sperling
Helen Frank
Mary Ramberg
Maxa dai Frank, speedy recovery
Gerda and Sheldon Sweet
Janet & Byron Frentz, wedding of Jenny & Aaron
Sheila and Marcus Cohen
Eve Galanter
Deena and Peter Williams
Louise Goldstein, in appreciation
Beatrice Levine
Louise Goldstein & Bruce Thomadsen, Raphael & Jillian's marriage
Bilha Mirkin and Yair Mazor
Louise Goldstein & Bruce Thomadsen, Jordana & Nathan's engagement
Bilha Mirkin and Yair Mazor
Sue Goldstein, new grandson, Jacob Matan Weiss
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Sylvia Grunes

Judy and Ben Sidran
Sylvia Grunes, 80th birthday
Stanley Goldfarb
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen
Leah and Raymond Kessel
Susan and Jonathan Lipp
Bilha Mirkin and Yair Mazor
Nancy and James Youngerman
Sylvia Grunes, in appreciation
Marian and Rowland Todd
Sylvia Grunes, 1st time reading Torah
Susan and Jonathan Lipp
Bilha Mirkin and Yair Mazor
Claudia Haus, speedy recovery
Corlie and Sol Blumenfeld
Molly Catherine Hayes & Aaron Lerman O'Neill, marriage
Joan Lerman and Ken O'Neill
Linda Jameson & Ron Arm
Trude Arm
Joseph Kauffman z"l
Joan and Kenneth Riggs

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The theme of this year's annual JSS Friends campaign is *tso'ris*. We're using that expressive word for trouble to underline our mission – to alleviate the *tso'ris* that sometime or other comes into everyone's lives.

But before we close the books on this tax year, we are eagerly waiting to hear from our Friends who traditionally make their commitments between December 1st and December 31st. Together, you contribute nearly half of what we receive—so you can understand why your end-of-year gift is absolutely critical.

Forty-nine percent of the JSS annual budget comes from people like you. That goes a long way toward reducing the amount of *tso'ris* in our community.

We hope we can count on you because so many count on us.

Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

Robin & Michael Kohl-Riggs, generosity & devotion to family

Hava and John Kohl-Riggs

Roslyn Kopelberg, 80th birthday

Corine Cohn

Diane Becker Krasnick

Deborah Hoffman and Mark Hazelbaker

Jean & Lawrence Landweber, 40th anniversary

Judith and Michael Rothschild

Lechayim Volunteers

Sara and Ron Ben-Ami

Ruth Levey, birth of great grandson, Lincoln Samuel

Lorraine and Gerald Borsuk

Rose Steinig

Marcia Lewis z"l

Eve Siegel and Anatole Beck

Susan and Jonathan Lipp, anniversary

Sylvia and Julius Grunes

Elizabeth Mae

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Arnold Miller

Francie Smith Saposnik

Paul Minkus, retirement

Darlene and Stuart Schwartz

Sandie Ottenstein

Nina and Gregori Kleiman

Sandy Porter, speedy recovery

Judith and Robert Rubin

Gerry Randy, birthday

Judith and Robert Rubin

Warren Randy, speedy recovery

Corlie and Sol Blumenfeld

Sally and Howard Mazur

Warren Randy, 80th birthday

Judith and Robert Rubin

Nancy and David Resnick, marriage of Tamar and Daniel

Bilha Mirkin and Yair Mazor

Kenneth Riggs, speedy recovery

Corlie and Sol Blumenfeld

Karen and Harry Roth, new grandson, Jacob Roth Novack

Judith and Robert Rubin

Judith and Michael Rothschild, becoming new grandparents

Diane Kravetz and Mark Saltzman

Francie Smith Saposnik

Elaine & Erwin Sackin, 67th anniversary

Judith and Jeffrey Kravat

Francie Smith Saposnik, in appreciation

Beatrice Levine

Francie Smith Saposnik

Freddrika Kammer

Cynthia Laitman

Celeste Robins

Francie Smith Saposnik, Gili's Bat Mitzvah

Rhoda and David Berman

Sarah Schooler

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Darlene & Stuart Schwartz, marriage of Debbie & John

Francie Smith Saposnik

Florence Shapiro, 90th birthday

Sylvia and Julius Grunes

Ruth and Daniel Siegel,

marriage of Deborah & Dave

Judith and Michael Rothschild

Barbara Spierer

Sophia and Paul Moroz

Judith Ross and Richard Bowman

Josh Spierer and Amy Kubala, wedding

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Sherry and Paul Minkus

Adel Stern, birthday

Florencia Mallon and Steve Stern

Lois & Norton Stoler

Judy and Ben Sidran

Julie & Louis Swedarsky, Sarah's engagement

Darlene and Stuart Schwartz

Renee & Leo Weinshel, 50th anniversary

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Vicki and Jerry Stewart

Deena & Peter Williams, new grandchild,

Allison Rose Mantz

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Francie Smith Saposnik

Susan Zipkoff, birthday

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IN MEMORY OF:

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Continued on page 5

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Irving Levy

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How Tributes Help

We appreciate when you honor and remember others with a gift to JSS. Gifts that are unrestricted in nature allow JSS to use them where the greatest needs exist.

Every donation means a great deal to us. We have made every effort to make sure our thank you lists are accurate and complete, but if we have inadvertently neglected to list your name, please let us know. Call Svetlana Yegorova, 278-1808. Thank you.

Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

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Frances Richman

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Francie Smith Saposnik

Gary Seltzer

Paul Rock

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Eli Wolman

Ellen and Richard Wolman

Special Tax-Benefit Opportunity for Donors

IF you are 70½ years old or older, a new law gives you a philanthropic opportunity with special tax benefits.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows you to give a specified amount from your IRA (whether a traditional or Roth IRA) to a qualified charity such as Jewish Social Services and exclude that amount from your 2006 gross income for tax purposes—as long as the gift is made to the agency by December 31, 2006. A second gift can be given in 2007.

Previously, while charitable donations made from other cash or assets could be excluded from gross income for tax purposes, donations made from an IRA were not. The law is allowing this tax benefit only for the years 2006 and 2007.

This is great news for anyone who has wanted to make a charitable gift to JSS from their IRA during their lifetime, but has hesitated because of the tax implications. Now, only for these two years, people can make a lasting legacy that will make a difference in peoples' lives for years to come and enjoy the tax benefit for themselves as well.

To make a gift from your IRA to JSS, please consult with your personal tax professional and then contact your IRA custodian for the necessary forms. Call Barbara Spierer at 278-1808 should you require assistance from JSS. **We encourage people to take advantage of this opportunity by December 31, so they can enjoy the benefits for their 2006 taxes.**

Thank You

Foundation For the Future Donors

Helen Adler z"l	Howard and Sandy Goldberg	Merilyn and Joel Kupferberg
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	Ester Sweeney	

* New since August, 2006

Thank You

to Vehicle Donors

Contributions were recorded between September 2005 and September 2006.

Thanks to the following who donated a car to JSS this past year. Dollars generated by the sale of these vehicles are vital to JSS programming. To arrange to donate your car, truck or boat, with title in hand, call Sherry Minkus at 278-1808.

Susan Coppersmith	Frank Salomon
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Estate of Leon Epstein	Sara Sherkow z"l
Vladimir Gurevich	David Sulman and Anne Altschuler
Mel Pearlman	Joshua Sulman
Paul Rabinowitz	

Did you know..?

- County Executive Kathleen Falk has appointed Director of Senior Services, Francie Smith Saposnik to the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes.
- Louise Goldstein, JSS Volunteer Services Coordinator, has been awarded the credential, "Certified in Volunteer Administration." (CVA), by the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration. The CVA is awarded after a rigorous process that includes an extensive self-evaluation, preparation of a performance-based portfolio and a written exam. It is the only credential in the field that is recognized internationally. Louise becomes one of only 700 individuals who have attained this credential as a demonstration of their professional excellence.

Jewish Social Services of Madison

Maria Cancian, *President*

Steven Morrison, *Executive Director*

Barbara Spierer, *Associate Executive Director*

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Connections

Barbara Spierer, *Editor*

Christine Pavelko, *Designer*

Janice Beers, Louise Goldstein,
Barbara Spierer
Contributing Writers

INTERNATIONAL CORNER



JSS Makes Healthcare Accessible

Tens of millions of individuals in this country have no health insurance coverage. Among them are several elderly JSS clients who emigrated to the US legally, but with a status that makes them ineligible for Medical Assistance or Medicare. Janice Beers, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Services is grateful that, in these instances, she can turn to a colleague agency that has always come through for those in need.

Since 1982, Access Community Health Centers has been removing the financial, cultural and language barriers that stand in the way of adequate health care for individuals and families in Dane County. ACHC works hand in hand with a network of community partners with one goal – improving health and improving lives by reaching out and responding to the growing needs in our community.

Janice has worked closely with the staff of ACHC to ensure quality medical and dental care for her Russian speaking clients who often have serious and painful conditions.

"Janice's Russian interpretation skills and her knowledge of the patient's particular circumstances are invaluable in coordinating affordable comprehensive care for her clients," comments Sarah Rowe, Adult Nurse Practitioner at ACHC. Janice is also able to arrange for transportation and for free or low-cost medications.



ACHC Nurse Practitioner, Sarah Rowe, values the partnership with JSS.

This year, with the help of organizations like Jewish Social Services, Access Community Health Centers will provide 20,000 medical visits and 10,000 dental visits to people from throughout Dane County. These are the numbers, but Janice knows some of the faces. And she hears the words of gratitude when treatment brings relief from suffering.

Mazel Tov, Howard!

The JSS Foundation For the Future Endowment Committee nominated Attorney Howard Sweet as the 2006 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year, and he won! On November 3rd, as friends and colleagues looked on, Howard received this prestigious award at the Philanthropy Day luncheon sponsored by the Madison Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. It is a tremendous honor and one that is well deserved.

Thanks go to Norma Sober who drafted the JSS nomination letter and to Paula Bonner, UW Foundation, Patty Franson, Meriter Foundation, Jane Taylor Coleman, formerly of the Madison Community Foundation and to Brad Binkowski, former president of the Capital Times Kids' Fund, each of whom was pleased to write a letter of support. Thanks also to JSS Board President, Maria Cancian and her husband, Chuck Kalish who generously underwrote the cost of a table so that the JSS



professional staff could attend the luncheon.

Howard's superb leadership, hard work, and unflagging optimism paid off as the Endowment surpassed its initial goal of \$1 million. It was a huge undertaking for JSS which does not have any development staff. It is Howard's hope that community members will continue to grow the *corpus* of the Fund by contributing to the Endowment for many years to come. Four percent of the interest earned annually is utilized to support the work of JSS.

The award also recognizes Howard's work with the New Harvest Foundation, Meriter Foundation and the Capital Times Kids' Fund. Mazel Tov, Howard! We are so proud.

Lori Edelstein: “A People Pleaser”

For many years Marcia Lewis, RN, took blood pressure readings at Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus on a monthly basis. It was “her gig” and she took it seriously but also enjoyed it immensely. She earned the trust and friendship of many Lechayim participants, who came to feel like she was their personal nurse. Just over three years ago, Marcia was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer. Throughout her treatment, she kept her “gig” at Lechayim as often as she could. Lori Edelstein, RN, was called in to substitute for those times when Marcia was unable to come. Sadly, Marcia recently lost her fight with cancer and passed away. We will miss her smile and wit, and we’ll miss seeing her at Lechayim. Her responsibilities have now been officially transferred to Lori, who brings her own set of special attributes to the job.

It doesn’t take long to understand that what motivates Lori Edelstein is to be helpful. This self-described “people pleaser” has been a registered nurse since she

graduated from UW-Madison in 1980. Most of her career has been at UW Hospital, working almost exclusively in orthopedics. It gives her great pleasure to see her patients get better as the direct result of her efforts.

Lori comes from a family of volunteers and people pleasers and she continues the tradition with her daughters and husband when they cook dinner for Interfaith Hospitality Network at Temple Beth El. Indeed, cooking is her main passion, since providing nourishment is the ultimate way to please people and be helpful. She is also a long-time volunteer for political campaigns, and she brings brownies to the other volunteers to help sustain them and make their experience pleasurable



Lori began volunteering with Jewish Social Services in 1999 when she was recruited to draw blood for Tay-Sachs testing. In 2003 she was asked to take blood pressure at Lechayim on a substitute basis, and by now it should be obvious why she said yes! She enjoys the people there and loves hearing bits of their life stories. She is especially touched by Holocaust survivors who want no sympathy for having high blood pressure, which they say is “nothing” compared to their past experiences. It may seem a small thing to them, but it is no small thing to have the dedication of volunteers like Lori who only want to be helpful.

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