

## Anne Marion and Michal Osier *Friendship is Ageless*

**A**nn Marion and Michal Osier met six years ago through the JSS Friendly Visitor Program. Their story is one of friendship and even love.

Anne lives her life with drama.

She is like an actress who has enjoyed the roles of mother, grandmother, entertainer and artist.

The many "acts" of her life have included writing and performing songs and practicing hypnotism in the Borscht Belt,

learning to sculpt when in her '80's, and writing and producing plays. This is the story of

one recent "act," starring Anne and her JSS Friendly Visitor volunteer, Michal Osier.

This two-woman production began when Michal stepped onto Anne's stage six years ago, and mutual delight bloomed right away. Michal has a history of volunteering and working with people, and her warmth and calm, caring manner endeared her to Anne. Anne says the room gets brighter when Michal walks in – you might say the stage lights come on – and no matter how tired Anne feels, she comes alive. Michal is greeted with "Hi, Baby," gives Anne a kiss, removes her shoes and plops down on Anne's bed.

Each gives only glowing reviews of the other: Anne says of Michal, "She's wonderful! She's so much younger but we're so compatible." Michal values Anne's "...wit, warmth, unquenchable curiosity, incredible creativity and determination to do everything..." She describes her friend as "...loving, open-hearted and opinionated which, of course, I love!"

Michal and Anne have enjoyed little adventures together: rides in the countryside, lunch at Quizno's, guilty pleasures at Michael's Frozen Custard. Michal is a professional counselor for an adolescent trauma treatment program and once brought Anne to her office to be part of their cultural competency training. With her poetry and stories of another time and place, Anne represented a culture that has all but disappeared. She charmed everyone.

Anne has never stopped taking on new roles. In recent years she's learned to use the computer, e-mail and electronic keyboard. She's learned new forms of art such as sculpture and jewelry-making. When Anne wrote her play, "Papa is Mama?" which she produced and directed at Oakwood, she tried out the songs and acts with Michal first. She discovered that although Michal was a good sounding-board, she wasn't much of an actor, but that didn't matter. Recently Anne regaled Michal from the keyboard with authentic Broadway tunes, and Jewish liturgical and folk music – all of which were Anne's own compositions.

For Anne, nature is a never-ending hit show featuring little animals. Once she video-taped a small deer nibbling on a newly-planted sapling; as it stripped the tree bare of all its tender leaves. Her voice-over cooed, "...so sweet, so pretty, oh, look...he's eating the leaves on the new trees, he must be hungry. Are you still hungry, little deer? Eat as much as you want." Michal cracked up; was it comedy or schmaltz? Or both?

Michal says, "I love her and I'll never, ever forget her...I feel privileged to be one of the many people Anne loves best." Anne and Michal: winners in the category of "Best Continuing Series!"



Anne Marion and Michal Osier, best of friends.

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# Food For Thought

To protect client confidentiality, details have been altered.

Abraham Maslow, educated at the University of Wisconsin and chair of the psychology department at Brandeis from 1951 to 1969, is most famous for the creation of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. At the very base of the pyramid, one finds Physiological Needs. Among them are oxygen, water, and, of course, food. Struggling to meet any basic need makes it impossible to concentrate on anything else.

These days, anyone who takes a trip to the grocery store will be hit with sticker shock. According to the US Department of Labor, the rate of price increase for America's grocery shoppers has been the highest in 18 years. For a person living on the economic margins, the impact is devastating.

Sheila left an abusive husband. She has four children living with her in a small apartment. She has filed for divorce; but at the moment, she must feed her family on the salary she earns working part time at a local grocery store.

Len is 85 years old. A car accident 35 years ago ended his career. Today he lives in subsidized housing and survives on Social Security and SSI for a total of \$740 per month.

Maria also left an abusive husband. She has two very young children. Her immigration status is in transition. Until she receives authorization to work, she has no means of financial support and no family in this country.

Sylvia is elderly and homebound. Her income is low. She cannot get out to shop and she cannot prepare meals. She lives alone.

Bob and Angela hold down minimum wage jobs. Trying to pay the rent, utilities and childcare, put food on the table and gas in the car means that money runs out before the end of the month.

All of these scenarios can be found in the files of Jewish Social Services. Our

caseload has always included those who struggle month-to-month to make ends meet. But, in this economy, things have gotten worse.

Thankfully, there are programs in Dane County to assist those trying to feed themselves and their families. JSS makes it a priority to help enroll clients-in-need in every program for which they are eligible.

Sheila's income qualifies her for Food Share (formerly Food Stamps). JSS staff helped her make application to Dane County. Now she has an electronic card that allows her to go to the grocery store and buy food products. Money from her salary covers toilet paper, cleaning products and other necessities not allowed by the Federal Program.

Len's building is the location of a federally subsidized meal site sponsored by one of the Dane County Senior Coalitions. He pays what he can afford, placing the amount in a small envelope so that his dignity is preserved. The Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus Program sponsored by JSS is another one of the County's meal sites.

Sylvia is eligible for Meals-on-Wheels. Every day a volunteer delivers a hot meal and makes sure that she is doing OK. This daily interaction has become a lifeline for her.

Like Sheila, Maria receives Food Share; but it isn't enough because she cannot work at all. Fortunately, she and her very young children are also eligible for the WIC (Women, Infants, Children's) Program that provides formula, milk and food, which help feed her family each month.

Bob and Angela make too much money to qualify for Food Share but not enough to get by. They are now participating in another program, SHARE WISCONSIN. It is a buying coop that can save the family a substantial amount on food each month. The couple is hoping to qualify for the Madison Area Community Supported Agricultural Coalition's Partnership Program which would provide the family with a subsidized member-

ship in MACSAC's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Then, the next growing season, the family will receive produce from local farmers.

For anyone who is in need, there is a free meal served somewhere in Madison every day. There is also a network of food pantries coordinated by the Community Action Coalition and stocked by Second Harvest, individual donors and religious institutions, among others.

Anyone needing help in finding food resources can contact JSS at 278-1808 or dial 211, the United Way Help Line.

*The rate of price increase for America's grocery shoppers has been the highest in 18 years*

## Important Food Resources

Food Share (formerly Food Stamps)  
<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare>

Women Infant Children's Program  
<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic>

Madison Area Community Supported Agricultural Coalitions (MACSAC)  
[www.macsac.org](http://www.macsac.org)

SHARE WISCONSIN  
[www.sharewi.org](http://www.sharewi.org)  
Food buying cooperative with no income or eligibility requirement

Community Action Coalition  
[www.cacscw.org](http://www.cacscw.org)  
Coordinates the food pantry network, community gardens, farmer's market vouchers, and other programs.

Second Harvest  
[www.secondharvestmadison.org](http://www.secondharvestmadison.org)  
Collects donations of food and money to stock area food pantries.

Meals-on-Wheels  
608-276-7598 (mid-day meals)  
608-204-0423 (evening meals)  
Provides home delivered meals for qualified seniors.

For income-eligible school-age children contact the school regarding subsidized meals.

# Thank You

for Your Tribute Gifts

The following contributions were recorded between July 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008

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*Continued on page 4*

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*Continued on page 5*

## 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. A card notifying the designee or family is sent immediately.

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 Beau Martin, 278-1808. Thank you.

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*Continued on page 6*

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The theme of this year's annual JSS Friends campaign is "Oy vey," the familiar Yiddish words of dismay in reaction to life's unpleasant surprises. When real trouble comes, it's comforting to know that Jewish Social Services can help.

Personal gifts are the single most important source of support for JSS — nearly half of our operating budget. Every gift to Friends of JSS has a positive impact on someone else's life.

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.

We hope we can count on you, because so many people count on JSS. You may use the envelope provided on page 8. Thank you.



Oy Vey

# Thank You

## Foundation For the Future Donors

The Foundation For the Future Endowment Fund was created in 2003 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of JSS. Four percent of the interest earned annually is utilized to support the work of the agency. It is vitally important that the *corpus* continues to grow. To make a gift to JSS that will last forever, contact Barbara Spierer, 278-1808.

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*Continued on page 8*

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\* *Additional Gifts in 2007*



## *Caring. Connections. Solutions.*

# Did you know..?

- If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 tax free to JSS directly from your traditional IRA. The law has been extended to cover 2008 and 2009
- In 2007: JSS made financial assistance grants to 126 individuals
- 37% of our clients had incomes under \$18,000
- 23% of our clients were disabled
- 16% of our clients were unemployed

## Jewish Social Services of Madison

Diane Gutmann, *President*

Steven Morrison, *Executive Director*

Barbara Spierer, *Associate Executive Director*

### *Services to Individuals and Families Under Stress*

Barbara Spierer, LCSW, Ext. 230

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Janice Beers,

Laura Burns

Louise Goldstein,

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*Contributing Writers*

## INTERNATIONAL CORNER



# Bienvenido, Laura

In 2007, almost 25% of JSS clients received Immigration Services. All of the cases require careful preparation, submission and tracking of detailed government paperwork. 163 of the 237 clients served last year were Latino. Janice Beers, program director, continues to study Spanish, but has not yet attained fluency. To assist her, the agency recruited a ten hour per week Spanish-speaking assistant

Laura Burns is the newest member of the Jewish Social Services staff. As a senior at UW-Madison, she is studying Spanish, International Studies and Environmental Studies. After she graduates, she plans to volunteer in Latin America and then apply to law school.

While she spent years studying Spanish in the classroom, Laura says her volunteer experiences in Costa Rica and a semester abroad in Spain provided the greatest learning opportunities. While in Costa Rica, she traveled to a small mountain village of fifty to help locals establish sustainable eco-tourism. Laura's semester in Spain, while the most challenging five months of her life, was also the most rewarding. She lived with a host family, took classes in Spanish and immersed herself in Spanish culture. Her semester abroad not only solidified her commitment to the Spanish language, but also gave her new perspectives on immigration issues.

Upon her return to the U.S., Laura was anxious to continue using her Spanish. Her job as bilingual assistant at JSS has allowed her to do just that, while at the same time providing an opportunity to learn about immigration law. Laura works with Janice, translating Spanish documents into English, interpreting during appointments, helping prepare immigration applications and documents and "shadowing" Janice. Laura says she is amazed at what Janice has accomplished, building the Immigration and Refugee Services Program -- individuals from different countries and backgrounds, who find themselves in a wide variety of circumstances.



Laura's favorite part of the job has been interacting directly with immigrants seeking services at JSS. "My best day was when I walked into the office and a Hispanic client was sitting in the waiting area. I said, 'Hola' and spoke a few quick words in Spanish. Immediately his face lit up. I was delighted that just by knowing his language, the man was put at ease. I am proud to be a member of JSS, an organization that not only helps people, but also strives to welcome them to their new home."

**Laura Burns is the newest member of the JSS staff.**

**Since its inception, the JSS Immigration Services Program has assisted individuals from the following countries:**

Albania, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Gambia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Somalia, Togo, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Viet Nam.

# Volunteer Coordinators: Respected and Appreciated

It is said that Madison has more non-profit organizations per capita than anywhere else in the United States! As they all need volunteers – indeed, are often run by volunteers – opportunities for volunteers to be engaged in our community are plentiful. And it isn't just Madison; in 2006, Wisconsin had the sixth-highest volunteer rate for young adults, ninth-highest for college students and the tenth-highest rate for older adults.

All those volunteers need to be recruited, trained, given the tools to do their jobs, supervised and appreciated. This – and much more – is the job of the volunteer coordinator. Most volunteer coordinators “fell” into the job; when was the last time you heard a child say that he wanted to coordinate volunteers when he grew up? However, there is a growing trend to professionalize the field, in recognition of the body of knowledge necessary to do these tasks well.

Volunteer coordinators share many of the functions of Human Resources professionals and must pay attention to risk management. They also help volunteers through personal crises and share their joys. For many in the community, volunteers are all they'll see of an agency; indeed, the volunteer IS the agency for them. It's important that volunteers understand this and see themselves as partners with the organization, which they truly are.



There are many resources for volunteer coordinators, including the United Way of Dane County Volunteer Center, and the national group, Association of Volunteer Resources Management. Here in Madison one of the most important resources for volunteer coordinators is a professional association, Dane County Administrators of Volunteers Services. Members are kept

up-to-date with interesting and topical programs six times a year, and a half-day conference is co-sponsored by DCAVS and the United Way of Dane County Volunteer Center. Like many organizations, DCAVS is run entirely by volunteers.

The most important learning seems to take place when members network during the “Lunch and Learn” programs, and when they serve on committees. Like being a parent, volunteer coordinators are expected to learn on the job and, as with new parents, getting together to share ideas with peers builds confidence and increases knowledge. Agencies, volunteer programs, clients and volunteers themselves are the beneficiary of this process.

If you'd like to volunteer, contact Louise Goldstein at 608-278-1808, ext. 227, or check out the JSS website at [www.jssmadison.org](http://www.jssmadison.org).

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