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Work Above the Bull: Shelter from the Storm

Brenda Gevertz, JCSA Executive Director

One of the lessons of Sukkot is that our structures are temporary, exposed to the elements and fragile. Rain and wind often alter our plans for celebration. We are taught that possessions are temporary and that Nature prevails. We ask that we be protected in peace.

We do not anticipate that our homes will be swept away by raging waters; that trees and walls will fall like match sticks. In moments, our lives are upended like the roots of mighty oaks against the storm.

Yesterday we were donors and today we are recipients from the kindness of strangers. Across the costal corridor of the Northeast, Jews and their neighbors are suffering. In a time of crisis, we are grateful that there are organizations and individuals that have emergency plans and stretch their strength to save us. This is a time when our community organizations galvanize and show the value that preparedness provides. It is also a time when I am awed by the goodness, knowledge and skills of our colleagues.

One story out of many heroes: Renanit Levy is the Director of Philanthropic Partnerships at Hazon and lives in Brooklyn. As with hundreds of Facebook Friends through this work, I barely know her but enjoy her posts, which often consists of mouth-watering menus for Shabbat and holidays. This week, Renanit immediately began volunteering at the Brooklyn Armory, organizing volunteers and making sure there was food, clothing and blankets for the storm refugees. She posted pleas for help, volunteers and supplies. She provided updates, but also exemplified the value of skills and knowledge she undoubtedly honed while earning degrees in Social Work and Jewish Communal Leadership at the University of Michigan. Thank you, Renanit—you make us proud.

Repair the World has compiled multiple sites for volunteering (<http://tinyurl.com/cfj4m8t>). Met Council is caring for basic needs. UJA-Federation of New York has already pledged \$10 Million to hurricane relief (<http://tinyurl.com/cuobxkc>). The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest New Jersey has a Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund (<http://tinyurl.com/b8nsusd>), as does the Jewish Federations of North America (<http://tinyurl.com/bo7jpe9>). Our colleagues in New Jersey are working tirelessly, even as their own homes are without heat and worse. This is surely a challenging time, but it is also a time when we can be thankful for our many networks, friends and colleagues who are there for us. They have spread their sheltering wings over us and we are grateful.

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In 2007, the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service* in collaboration with the Jewish Federations of North America, published an issue on *Disaster, Planning, Preparedness & Response*.

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/accdtan> for more on this issue.

A limited number of copies are available.

Visit the BJPA for pdfs: <http://tinyurl.com/b2htk4q>



Honoring Exemplary Leadership

THE JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

In conjunction with
The Darrell Friedman Institute
JFNA Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence
&
The World Council of Jewish Communal Service
Invites your participation
at our

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

7:30 AM EST

Room 324-325 Baltimore Convention Center

Breakfast Buffet

&

PRESENTATION

The Sacred Partnership

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, URJ



Rabbi Rick Jacobs

AWARDS

Mandelkorn Distinguished Service Award

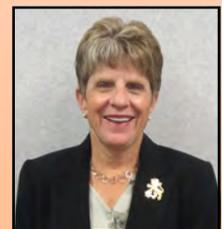
Marsha F. Hurwitz

JCSA Young Professional Award

Mindy Eklove and Daniel Septimus

Norman Edell Scholarship

Meredith Grabek



Marsha F. Hurwitz



Mindy Eklove



Meredith Grabek

Congratulatory Remarks

Jerry Silverman, President & CEO, JFNA



Daniel Septimus

JCSA Professional Leadership Awards

The Jewish Communal Service Association of North America will honor a veteran leader and three young professionals who have distinguished themselves through exemplary service in their agencies and communities as part of the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America, convening November 11-13, at the Convention Center in Baltimore, Md., it was announced by Howard Charish and Jay Spector, Co-Chairmen of the JCSA Awards Committee.

Marsha F. Hurwitz Cited With the Mandelkorn Distinguished Service Award

Mindy Eklove and Daniel Septimus Receive the JCSA Young Professional Award

Meredith Grabek Awarded the Norman Edell Scholarship

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, Will Address the Group

The Awards ceremony will be part of JCSA's breakfast session on Tuesday, November 13 (7:30-9:00 AM), highlighted by an address by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America.

Marsha F. Hurwitz will be honored with the Mandelkorn Distinguished Service Award that annually recognizes significant and sustained contributions to Jewish community organization practice. The award is named for Ben Mandelkorn, founding President and first Executive Director of the Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel (AJCOP) and the first Executive Director of the Columbus Jewish Federation, which established this award to honor his more than 43 years of leadership and dedication.

The JCSA Young Professional Award, presented to Mindy Eklove and Daniel Septimus, recognizes the exemplary service to their agencies and communities by talented individuals, nominated by their colleagues, who are dedicated to professional careers in the Jewish community. The Award recognizes outstanding work and honors the invaluable contributions of young professional leaders in the Jewish communal sector.

The Norman Edell Scholarship, given this year to Meredith Grabek, sends a young professional from a small or intermediate federation or national agency to the General Assembly, giving her national exposure to Jewish leaders, colleagues and best practices, and motivation to continue a career in Jewish community work. The Scholarship was established in loving memory of Norman Edell, in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Jewish communal service.

"These outstanding honorees reflect today's exceptional leadership and the promise of the generation to follow," said Howard, who is the National Director of Development, American Friends of Bar-Ilan University. "As our challenges become more difficult, it's comforting to know that our future will be in such excellent hands."

"These awards are a tribute to all Jewish community professionals, not just the winners," said Jay, who is President and CEO of JEVS, the Jewish Educational and Vocational Services of Philadelphia. "Their intent is to inspire those already dedicated to their communities, and the young people who are just embarking on their careers of service."

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is President of the Union for Reform Judaism, the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America. In 20 years at the Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, N. Y., and prior service at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, he has been a dynamic, visionary and spiritual leader devoted to creative change. He has reshaped communal worship, transformed his congregations into communities of lifelong learners, and strengthened their commitment to vibrancy and inclusion. He pioneered "green" sanctuaries, founded the first synagogue-based homeless shelter in New York -- and has held numerous leadership posts within national and international organizations. He is active in global social justice issues, including disaster relief in Haiti, the plight of Darfur refugees, and efforts to build understanding among Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders.



MISSED OUR RECENT CALL ON JEWISH SERVICE-LEARNING?

LISTEN HERE: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/CYY69XG](http://tinyurl.com/cyy69xg)

Giving Purpose to Our Work

Arthur Sandman, Jewish Agency for Israel, Executive Vice President

On Shemini Atzeret, the last day of Succoth, we began to insert into our prayers the notation that God is *Mashiv HaRuach u'Morid HaGeshem*—the One who brings the wind and causes rain to fall. The prayer is said throughout the rainy season in Israel, so as to invoke God's grace in assuring a fertile crop.

I had the ironic fortune of traveling to Israel shortly before the hurricane, finding myself invoking yet another prayer for rain whose recitation, outside of Israel, is delayed until December. I was hardly seeking another opportunity to ask for rain at this particular moment knowing what was about to strike the East Coast, even though when drops fall here in Israel, they seem so filled with blessing.

But it is noteworthy that the *Mashiv HaRuach* insertion is added in the blessing known as *Gevurot*, describing God's strength—"the King who causes death and life and salvation to blossom." While its motivation is for the rain's life-sustaining aspect, our prayers bundle it with the wind and remind us that they reflect not God's beneficence, but His power.

Indeed, the Psalmist similarly notes (Psalm 149), "Praise the Lord from the earth: sea monsters and all the deep seas, fire and hail, snow and mist, storm winds that obey His word." It is disconcerting to be told to praise God for His destructive forces. But, the Psalmist continues, "Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds, kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all judges on earth, youths and maidens, old and young. Let them praise the name of the Lord." The good too derives from God's strength.

And so for those of us who, at the moment, have no power, our tradition reminds us that God does. And because He does, so too will we once again—hopefully speedily, might I even wish this very day.



Arthur Sandman

Mazal Tavs

Mazal Tov to **Aileen Gitelson**, CEO of the Jewish Association Serving the Aging, on her retirement after 17 years.

Mazal Tov to **Rebecca Kaplan Zinger** on her new position at Dorot.

Mazal Tov to **Karen Sponder** and husband, Marc Sponder, on the birth of their son.

SEND IN YOUR MAZAL TOV'S TO [INFO@JCSANA.ORG](mailto:info@jcsana.org) FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Welcome and **Mazal Tov** to JCSA's new board members

Gail Magaliff, CEO of FECS, and **Marc Young**, Program Coordinator at JTS.

Deadline for news you would like to share in the December 2012 issue of the

JCSA Newsletter is *Monday, November 26*. Contact info@jcsana.org.

Events & Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE

Face-to-Face Meets Facebook:

Paths to One Purpose
in Bikur Cholim

"Build a world of lovingkindness"
שלום חסד יבנה - (Psalm 89:3)

25th
ANNIVERSARY
**Annual Conference
on Visiting the Sick**

Bikur Cholim is Hebrew for visiting the sick



Sunday, November 11, 2012 | 9:00AM-3:30PM

UJA-Federation of New York | 130 East 59th St., New York, NY

A full day conference with inspirational
keynote presentations and workshops that will
offer insight and practical skills.

Co-sponsored with
UJA-Federation of New York
in partnership with:
Plaza Jewish Community Chapel
Met Council



KEYNOTE:

Rabbi Benjamin Blech

Internationally recognized educator, recipient of the American Educator of the Year award, prolific author, and lecturer in 25 countries. Rabbi Blech has appeared on national television (including The Oprah Winfrey Show, 20/20, and Nightline), and writes regularly for major newspapers and journals.

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Essential Visiting Skill How To's; Lessons on Prayer from the Chaplaincy; Visiting with Seniors and the Memory Impaired; The Wounded Healer, Visiting at End of Life; Using the Telephone to Visit; Art & Soul: Innovative Programming with Children; Jewish Meditation for Self Care; Technology and Bikur Cholim.

To Pre-Register and to receive a brochure
please send the following information via:
Email: bikurcholimcc@jbfc.org or Fax: 212.399.2475

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (H) _____
Phone: (C) _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Synagogue/Group Affiliation: _____

Fees: Individuals: \$36 (Includes light breakfast
and lunch) Kosher dietary laws observed ☺
Early registration postmarked by October 1:\$30
Discount available for synagogue groups of 4 or more
Call 212.632.4730 for more details.

Credit Card Information:

Full name: _____
Credit Card Number: _____
Exp. Date: _____

Checks payable to: JBFC/BGCC
Mail to: JBFC/BGCC Attn: BC Conference
135 W. 50th St., 6th FL, New York, NY 10020

**TO PRE-REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
EMAIL [BIKURCHOLIMCC@JBFC.ORG](mailto:bikurcholimcc@jbfc.org)**

**HURRICANE SANDY HAS LEFT MANY PEOPLE
WITHOUT POWER, WATER, OR A PLACE TO LIVE.
LISTED BELOW ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN
CONTRIBUTE:**



* **Repair the World** is has compiled a list of
comprehensive volunteer opportunities for you to get
involved in recovery efforts.

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/cf4m8t>

* **JFNA** is coordinating relief. Click the
link below to donate:

<http://tinyurl.com/bo7jpe9>



* **UJA-Federation of New York** is looking for
volunteers! <http://tinyurl.com/cz9de74>



BALTIMORE HEBREW INSTITUTE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Presents

Professor Amy Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University
Divinity School
"Scripture Under the Lens:
Jews, Christians and the Bible"

Thursday, December 6, 2012, 7:00 PM

Towson University -
West Village Commons Ballroom

For more information:

Michelle Taylor
410-704-7118

mtaylor@towson.edu

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION



Introducing Wexner Field Fellows

WEXNER FIELD FELLOWS ARE:

- Young Jewish communal professionals
- Working full-time in a Jewish communal organization based in North America
- Seeking professional development
- Committed to continuing to pursue a career as a professional leader in the North American Jewish community

Visit www.wexnerfoundation.org to learn about
the eligibility requirements, financial reimbursement
toward professional development, and application deadlines.

www.wexnerfoundation.org

Employment Opportunities

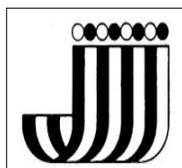
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life has many openings. Positions include Executive Director, Director of Jewish Life, Engagement Associate, Senior Jewish Education, and more. Visit www.hilleljobs.com for a complete list of openings and job descriptions.

Stephen Wise Free Synagogue is excited to announce the position of **Director of Community Programs**. The individual in this position will be responsible for in-reach and outreach activities that deepen member engagement in our community. This position requires communal service, programmatic, interpersonal, and counseling skills. Master in Social Work required with 3-5 years of relevant experience. Send resume and cover letter to rabiassistant@swfs.org, attn: Director of Community Programs.

Moving Traditions is seeking a talented **Director of Development**. The ideal candidate will be a strategic thinker and persuasive communicator with a successful track record in development and excellent teambuilding skills. Applications are welcomed from those living in or near Philadelphia and New York. To apply, send resume and cover letter to Robin Cohen, Director of Finance and Operations, rcohen@movingtraditions.org.

Local Group Events

The New Jersey Association for Jewish Communal Service



Fall Program

“Can I Tweet My Performance Review?”

Featuring Naomi Korb-Weiss of PresenTense

Friday, November 16, 2012 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey

\$30 for Members, \$40 for Non-Members, Dairy Kosher Breakfast will be served.

For more information call 973-929-3089 or to register visit: <http://tinyurl.com/bvktg5>



JPro St. Louis invites you to

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CHANUKAH(AND THIS TIME OF YEAR) IN 90 MINUTES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

11:45 am - 1:15 PM

Chanukah Lunch & Treats



For more information and to register, contact Marci Mayer Eisen at meisen@jfedstl.org, or 314-442-3810

The **Darrell Friedman Institute** these workshops you can attend!

- * From Cyber Bullying to Sexuality: Addressing Evaded Issues with Teens, **Thursday, November 8, 9:00 - 10:30 AM** with Howard Reznick, Jewish Community Services



- * Supervisor as Coach, Tuesday, **November 6, 8:30 - 10:30 AM** with Beth Gansky, The Gansky Group

- * Retaining Volunteers: What Makes Them Stay? **Thursday, November 29, 8:30 - 10:30 AM** with Kate Scherr, Owner KS Solutions, LLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CONTACT CINDY GOLDSTEIN AT CGOLDSTEIN@ASSOCIATED.ORG

JCSA Benefit Plans

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE?

You know that it protects your loved ones.

You know that it can pay the mortgage and other very important bills.

You know that it can provide for you children's college education.

So.....why are you waiting?

The JCSA Group Term Life Insurance Plan:

Can help you add to your current insurance protection

Can help you start your life insurance program

The JCSA Group Term Life Insurance Plan features:

- ⇒ Short application
- ⇒ Physical exam is rarely required
- ⇒ Coverage is portable
- ⇒ Accidental Death & Dismemberment option is available
- ⇒ Coverage Available \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 (up to 10 X basic annual earnings)
- ⇒ Non smoker rates available

Call for further information!

Contact our administrators for JCSA Benefit Plans, Brian and Irving Silberberg at:

Telephone: 1-800-597-9245 E-mail: bsilberberg@multifin.com Website: www.jcsabenefitplans.com

JCSA Benefit Plans offers the following plans and services to our members on an individual and agency basis:

- ◆ Long Term Disability
- ◆ Tax Sheltered Annuities
- ◆ Retirement Disability Plan
- ◆ Life Insurance Plan
- ◆ Fixed Annuities
- ◆ Fixed Index Annuities
- ◆ 529 College Fund Plan
- ◆ IRA Plans
- ◆ Long Term Care Plans
- ◆ 24 Hour Accident Plan
- ◆ Agency Pension Planning

Jewish Communal Service Association of North America

JCSA

Connecting & Enhancing Professional Leadership

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Mission

The Jewish Communal Service Association of North America supports the enhancement of professional Jewish communal leadership, uniting a broad spectrum of individuals, entities and disciplines sharing a commitment to advancing their communities guided by Jewish values.

Visit our website: www.jcsana.org

Newsletter Staff — Layah Blacksborg, Editor

Marc B. Terrill, President Brenda Gevertz, Executive Director

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Your e-mail will be automatically added to our listserv through Constant Contact. It is free, fast and easy!

www.JCSANA.org