



Jewish Family Services



TRANSITIONS

by Laurie Gordon Harris, MSW, CCSW - Interim Director

I, like many of you, wonder how long transitions take. I wish I could give a black and white answer, but truth be known, transitions are a passing from one condition or place to another, without a specific timeframe or schedule. Sometimes, the faster we want to move through a particular transition, the harder it is to sit still and allow the process to unfold. The final state requires a beginning and middle phase, and like building a house, raising a family, or any other positive yet stress-filled project, it may not correspond to a particular schedule that we had in mind. I imagine that's where the adage "patience is a virtue" originates.

And the Board and Agency's patience has won out! JFS is happy to announce the hiring of Penny Wagner-Schuster, MSW, ACSW as the new Director of the Agency beginning mid-July. The Staff and Board look forward to working with Penny and sharing her energy and vision. I for one look forward to reading her articles which will be appearing with the next issue of our CJN!

Our agency is fortunate to have Marilyn Tuckman as continuing Board Chairperson, Gene Marx as continuing Treasurer, Alan Goldberg as Friends Campaign Chairperson, and the following new and/or returning Board Members for 1997: Bob Abel, Naomi Bergman, Helmut Brandt, David Framm, Linda Goldberg,

Gail Green, Susan Helbein, Judy Kaufmann, Lawrence Margolis, Judy Pliner, Dicky Shapiro, Marilyn Shapiro, Lora Solomon, Ellen Stern, Dina Stolpen, Milt Tager, Brett Goodman and Bob Yudell.

On a personal note, I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve you as the agency's Interim Director since February, 1996. I look forward to working with Penny in my former role as senior adult clinical social worker. JFS is your representative to the Jewish and non-Jewish communities, providing education, referral, emergency assistance and service opportunities for those wanting to give to the community. The success of JFS depends on the efforts of many individuals and we thank those visible and those working quietly behind the scenes. It is a mitzvah to be able to do the work that we do, and I am fortunate to work with a skillful, educated, talented and professional staff and dedicated, caring, responsive volunteer Board.

Please let Penny or one of our Board members know of your concerns, interests and ideas. We thank you for your continued support of our annual Friends Campaign, Tribute Card Program, Tzedakah Fund, Food Pantry, and general donations. A happy and healthy summer to all! ☆

Crack Down On Con Artists Defrauding Immigrants

With the recent changes in the welfare and immigration laws, resulting from legislative initiatives of the 104th Congress, there is a lot of confusion around the legislation. In many cases, implementation procedures are not in place and it is easy to see how panic and misunderstanding would ensue for those affected by the recently enacted legislation. Unfortunately, there are swindlers out there who regard this as a good opportunity to make some "easy" money, and have taken advantage of the situation by defrauding their "clients."

HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, would like to commend Congressman Nadler for his leadership on behalf of immigrants in the United States. His concern for newcomers who may be victims of hustlers who prey upon the vulnerable is laudable and we applaud him for

raising the issue with Attorney General Reno.

Our best advice to immigrants who are concerned about their status and how the new laws might affect them is to seek qualified legal guidance from an immigration attorney or agency accredited by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). There are a number of non-profit organizations also in a position to offer assistance. Your local JFS may be able to direct you to the proper agency.

HIAS is the international immigration agency of the Jewish community. It is dedicated to assisting persecuted and oppressed people around the world, and delivering them to countries of safe haven. Since its founding in 1880, the agency has rescued more than four million people worldwide. ☆

What are my alternatives?

Alternatives is a free training program for displaced homemakers and single parents who want to reenter the job market. Professional presenters provide information on self esteem, goal setting, career choices, resume writing, interview techniques, career wardrobe, financial management, and basic computer. Additional

training may be provided depending on individual needs. The next Alternatives sessions will run June 13-27, 1997, from 9 am until 12 noon. For more information or to enroll, please call the Mecklenburg County Women's Commission at 336-3210. ☆

ACTION ALERT!!

Your attention is called to a forthcoming mailing from the Federation about welfare reform as it affects our resettled Jewish immigrants and refugees and what you can do to help. Please respond immediately as outlined in this mailing. Thank you for your continued efforts to help others.

JFS receives Citation

Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Community Center received award citations from the United States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service for hosting at Shalom Park on April 15, a training seminar for agencies working with elderly and disabled immigrants. The seminar focused on the change in procedures for disabled immigrants filing for citizenship through naturalization. Over 16 agencies statewide were represented at this training held by James Wilson, INS District Adjudication Officer and Don Young, INS Charlotte Officer in charge.

This is the second training seminar that JFS and JCC have hosted this past spring regarding immigrant concerns.



From left to right, JFS Interim Director Laurie Gordon Harris, INS Officer in charge Donald Young, Immigrants' Legal Assistance Project/NC Center for Justice Attorney Alison Brown

Celebrating Our Donors

The following individuals purchased donation cards in April through Jewish Family Services:

In Memory Of

Dora Heydeman (sister of Ena Stern & Sally Aschenberg) from Florence and Ben Jaffa

Henry Tager (brother of Milt Tager), from Florence and Ben Jaffa, Harry and Gloria Lerner, Gerson and Wilma Asrael, Gerald and Fay Sinkoe

Mother of Philip Joffe from

Harry and Gloria Lerner, Ruth and Alan Goldberg

In Honor Of

Josh Stalford (Bar Mitzvah) from Emily Rotberg, Alfred Stalford & Rita Weinstein

B'nai mitzvah of Josh Stalford, Emily Nordin, Brett Strumwasser, Brian Goldsmith, Matthew Weiss, Haley Shafranek from Emily Rotberg

Stacy and Todd Gorelick (Birth of Daughter) from Neal and

Naomi Bergman

Elizabeth & Walter Klein (Marriage of Grand-daughter), Jodi and Bryan Speizman (Birth of Son), Carol and Robert Speizman (Birth of Grandson), Vera and Jack Mendel (Birth of Grandson), Bea and Milton Kantor (Birth of Great Grandson), Selma and Sonny Melasky (Birth of Great Grandson) from Margot and Werner Moritz

Barbara Sussman (Happy Birthday), Cynthia Abrams (Happy Birthday) from Ruth and Alan Goldberg. ☆

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