



Currents

FALL 2011

JFCS/EAST BAY VOLUNTEERS

When **Susan** retired and moved to the East Bay five years ago, she came to JFCS/East Bay looking for volunteer opportunities. She had recently completed training to become an ESL (English as a Second Language) and literacy tutor and wanted to put those new skills to work. Ever since, Susan has devoted one entire day a week to helping our Afghan and Iranian clients—many of whom are illiterate in their own languages—become more proficient and comfortable in speaking and reading English. She has helped an Afghan teen with reading and writing as she worked toward her high school graduation, and assisted an

older Afghan woman prepare for her U.S.

citizenship interview. On top of that, Susan facilitates a weekly book, literacy, and discussion group for older Afghan women at the Mt. Diablo Center for Adult Day Health in Pleasant Hill. Susan will read a couple paragraphs of a book that reflects the participants' experiences, such as *Three Cups of Tea* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. A translator will then translate those paragraphs for the participants, and then the whole group will discuss what was read. For women who have never read a book before, this active group reading and discussion has given them profound and powerful access to stories about their own lives that they never would have had otherwise.



Susan with members of JFCS/East Bay's Afghan book group.

Photo by Habiba Palyal

The Art of Living 2011

**Our fifth annual benefit.
Please save the date!**

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2011

Time: 5:30 pm

Place: Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College

Featured Guests:

Robert Reich

Former Secretary of Labor
Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy,
UC Berkeley

in conversation with

Michael Krasny

Host of KQED Radio's *Forum*

~ Raffle ~

Savories, wines, and sweets
(dietary laws observed)

Catering by Wendy Kleckner, Too Catering

Register now at www.jfcs-eastbay.org or
email lfrieband@jfcs-eastbay.org to receive
an invitation in the mail.

Malka and Eric came to JFCS/East Bay about a year ago wanting to help someone in need in the community. They started by delivering holiday and Shabbat meals to homebound seniors and people with disabilities. Then Eric learned of a JFCS/East Bay client with disabilities who needed computer assistance. He now talks to the client on the phone almost daily, helping him do email so he can maintain connections with people in his life. In the meantime, Malka and Eric discovered that one of our homebound meal recipients needed help with grocery shopping and errands. Malka developed a list of the client's favorite foods and she and Eric often bring many bags of supplies to her home, stocking her refrigerator, and attending to other needs. Malka has continued an ongoing phone friendship with this client, checking in weekly to make sure she is all right. This committed friendship and support has prevented both of these clients from becoming extremely isolated and lonely.

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by enduring Jewish values, the mission of Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay is to promote and strengthen the social and emotional well-being of diverse individuals and families throughout the entire East Bay community.

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VOLUNTEER WITH JFCS/EAST BAY

Share your talents by being a friendly visitor to a homebound senior, delivering meals, or helping immigrants acculturate to American life. To learn more, please call (510) 704-7480, ext. 529 or (925) 927-2000, ext. 529.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This is a challenging time for us, along with all agencies providing critical mental health and social services in California. Even programs geared toward prevention and early intervention, which ultimately save money while also helping people in need, are being seriously threatened and sometimes eliminated. We have weathered the storm pretty well so far, but the forecast is worrisome.



Photo by Rufus Diamant/Oakland

Meanwhile, we continue to abide by our commitment to provide excellent services to our clients and community: counseling for children and adults, emergency assistance, care management for older adults and their families, early childhood mental health consultation, and an array of services for refugees and immigrants. Even in this turbulent time, we are proud to add and increase selected programs, including the following:

- We just received confirmation of additional funds from the Claims Conference to help Holocaust survivors afford much-needed home care services. Some of these funds may be subject to matching donations from our community; we will keep you posted.
- We are upgrading to a new level of skill and formal certification to assist refugees and immigrants in acquiring green cards and attaining full citizenship. We expect to serve an increasingly diverse spectrum of immigrants and will be in a good position to provide services should there be new pathways to legalization for the large number of undocumented residents of our community.
- We are proud to be one of four Alameda County agencies piloting a federally funded "family partner" program, strengthening our early childhood mental health services through the addition of a highly skilled peer advocate.
- We recently experienced a tremendous surge of applications from past refugees seeking to bring over their family members, as the legislative framework for the resettlement of religious-minority refugees from the former Soviet Union and Iran expired at the end of May. We are also moving forward in our efforts to welcome refugees fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, currently expecting new clients from Uganda and Iran.

To help us accomplish all this and much more for as long as needed, we have continued to launch our Legacy Society program, encouraging community members to include JFCS/East Bay in your estate plans. We invite you to join us in our long-term commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community with compassion, skill, and creativity.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you on Sunday, October 30, for our 5th annual Art of Living. We treasure this opportunity to gather, learn, and celebrate with all of you.

As always, I extend all my good wishes to you and your families.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Avi Rose".

Avi Rose
Executive Director

THANK YOU JFCS/EAST BAY SUPPORTERS!

KAVOD SOCIETY

Members of our Kavod Society (Society of Honor) are dedicated supporters who contribute \$1,000 or more each year to JFCS/East Bay. This generous commitment enables us to act upon the Jewish values of compassion, community involvement, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) in the work we do.

CIRCLE OF COMPASSION

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

The Sylvan C. Coleman, Clarence B. Coleman and Joan F. Coleman Charitable Foundations
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The gifts listed here were received between July 2010 and June 2011. Giving circles are by fiscal year. If we have inadvertently omitted your gift or listed it incorrectly, please contact us so we can adjust our records.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE KAVOD SOCIETY

To join other community leaders as a member of the Kavod Society, or to learn more, please contact Lynn Simon at (510) 704-7480, ext. 760 or lsimon@jfcs-eastbay.org.

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Children's Support League of the East Bay
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Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay

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and

SUSE MOYAL

CENTER FOR OLDER ADULT SERVICES

2484 Shattuck Ave., Suite 210

Berkeley, CA 94704

Main: (510) 704-7475

Older Adult Services: (510) 558-7800

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CONTRA COSTA OFFICE

1855 Olympic Blvd., Suite 200

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Phone: (925) 927-2000

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FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

470 27th Street

Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: (510) 704-7480, ext. 700

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