



Speak EZ

Your Monthly MetroWest E-Newsletter

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October 13
Financial Wellness Workshops

October 16
Genocide in Darfur Conference

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Walkathon and Health Fair

October 18
National Premiere Film, with Father Patrick Desbois

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The Next Step

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Meet the Authors Educators' Conference

through October 25
Project Keshet: Jewish Women in the Ukraine Photo Exhibit

DONATE NOW

or make a Tribute Gift to the UJA Campaign

Voice of UJC Leadership

A Timely Opportunity

by Andrew J. Stelman, President, Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest NJ

It is rare to find a true win-win situation at any time. These days, in the current difficult economic climate, it seems even more difficult.

However, creating win-win situations is precisely what the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) does.

JCF is the planned giving and endowment arm of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ. For the past 60 years, we have been in the business of helping MetroWest donors accomplish two goals — help the Jewish community by achieving their philanthropic goals, and help themselves by using their assets wisely and in an informed, targeted way.



Andrew J. Stelman

JCF has a wealth of knowledge about the needs of the Jewish community, and access to experts in the field of tax and estate planning. Our mission is to provide donors with the educational tools, the consultations, the library of information — the *knowledge* — they need to use their assets to live well, and to live generously, helping those whose welfare is their greatest personal concern. It's a win-win situation, and it's what we do.

Those are the kinds of opportunities we offer donors, and they are always available, even in the midst of the many challenges we are all facing in the ongoing economic downturn. For example, there has never been a better time to create a Charitable Gift Annuity, or "CGA."

The premise of a CGA is simple — charities will pay donors to be philanthropists. In exchange for a gift to the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest (JCF), donors will receive a fixed income for life and an immediate income tax deduction. Typically, a portion of the fixed income payments are completely free of income tax. The total effect of these tax benefits is substantial.

Many charities have been offering CGAs to their donors for years. What makes CGAs particularly attractive now is the relatively high payout rates they offer. These rates greatly exceed the current yields on savings accounts, CDs, and many other fixed income investments.

CGAs are very simple. In exchange for a contribution, JCF will agree to pay a donor — or someone else the donor names — an annual income for the rest of the person's life. The payments are a contractual obligation of JCF

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Joint Chaplaincy Committee distributed over 600 holiday packages to people in hospitals and conducted holiday services and programs for over 300 seniors.

and are guaranteed by the Foundation's assets. When the annuity ceases to be paid, funds remaining from the gift will be used by JCF in support of its charitable activities locally, in Israel, and around the world.

Donors can customize CGAs to suit their needs. The annuity can be paid to one person or to a husband and wife together. The payments can be used as a tax-advantaged supplement to retirement income. Using appreciated assets to fund a CGA increases the tax advantages offered to the donor.

A CGA allows you to help yourself while you help others. I cannot think of a better "win-win" situation than that. For more information, contact Joshua Rednik, JCF's executive director, at (973) 929.3060 or jrednik@ujcnj.org.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and professional staff of JCF, I offer my best wishes for a sweet and peaceful new year.

Issues of the Day

JVS: Returning to our Roots After 70 Years of Service

by Dr. Leonard C. Schneider

Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest was founded in 1939 as the "Community Employment Service" in order to provide job placement assistance to the unemployed of our community following the Great Depression. Today, as the agency celebrates its 70th anniversary, JVS continues to find itself at the very center of the community's response to helping unemployed residents of MetroWest cope with the harsh realities of the current economic crisis.

Despite signs that the economy may have hit bottom and has begun to improve, the unemployment rate continues to climb, reaching 9.7% in August. Economists forecast double-digit unemployment for the second half of 2009, with no new job growth for the foreseeable future. Moreover, while the country is facing an unemployment rate of 10% or more, the actual number of people out of work is much larger. For example, official labor statistics don't count the untold number of people who have dropped out of the labor market, whose unemployment benefits have expired, or who haven't sought work within the last four weeks; they don't include 2009 college graduates who have been unable to find employment and have moved back home with their parents; nor do they include those graduates who thought they had a job offer only to have it rescinded. While employment prospects are uncertain for many of those who find themselves on our caseload, the road ahead may be hardest for those over the age of 50, whose expertise and experience is often overlooked by employers who assume mature individuals are more costly to employ.

Clearly, signs of increasing national prosperity, however welcome, don't tell the story on the ground – a story the Career Placement staff at JVS hear every day from the people they serve. With the support of UJC's MetroWest HELPS, JVS was able to provide job placement assistance to 2,639 individuals in Fiscal 2008-2009 – almost double the number of individuals served in the previous year. Many of our clients are "older workers" – adults over the age of 50, who have been among the hardest hit in these trying times. In addition to individual counseling, JVS staff have offered weekly

support groups for job seekers and community-wide workshops throughout the year, at which attendance soared to over 100 individuals per event. In cooperation with our network of 45 MetroWest area synagogues, JVS continues to identify hundreds of openings in the “hidden job market” – openings identified by community members – and posts these positions on our dedicated website: MWjobs.org.

While media and community attention has been focused on the “middle income unemployed” in our community, JVS has continued to provide job placement assistance and other services to many other populations that face significant barriers to employment – for example, people with disabilities. According to the census bureau, 64% of people with disabilities are unemployed – and, that is in a stable economy. Through JVS’s Vocational Rehabilitation Department, people with disabilities receive comprehensive vocational assessment services, career counseling, skills training, job coaching, and community based work experience, culminating in job placement. JVS is the only agency in New Jersey whose vocational counselors are trained to administer the TTAP, a specialized vocational assessment tool designed specifically for individuals with Autism spectrum disorders, and our staff provides vocational evaluations for high school students with special needs to help determine career paths and post-secondary school training and college options. These evaluation results are used by school districts throughout the state as part of a student’s School to Work Transition Plan.

Even as we – and the nation – face unprecedented economic challenges, JVS staff have redoubled their efforts to seek new sources of support and are implementing creative solutions to be able to continue to provide a wide array of services to all those in need of our help. We continue to serve the needs of immigrants and refugees by providing career services, case management, and English as a Second Language and citizenship classes; we help mature adults “age in place” through the provision of companionship and non-medical home care and home repair services; we educate and engage Baby Boomers who look forward to our annual Creative Maturity Expo, which attracted over 500 attendees last year; and we assist students seeking financial aid to pursue postsecondary education through the JVS

Scholarship Loan Program – a program that has provided nearly \$2 million in critically needed, interest-free loans to nearly 600 students through the generosity of its donors. The program is now in its 31st year.

As an agency that takes pride in “*Helping People Help Themselves*,” our work remains unfinished; and, as we enter our 71st year of service, we look forward to continuing to fulfill our mission of extending Maimonides’ highest degree of charity to those most in need, in partnership with our most generous community.

Dr. Leonard C. Schneider is Executive Director of Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest, a UJC beneficiary agency.

Working Together with Our Partner Agencies

Riback Gives Back: A Community Project Benefiting JCC MetroWest Seniors

by Mia Edelstein, Hannah Gardner, Zachary Nessel, and Chandler Wald

The theme of summer 2009 at Camp Deeny Riback (CDR) was *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World). To help fulfill the summer’s theme, the 2009 Leaders in Training (LIT) at CDR participated in a mitzvah project called “The Big Give.” After much thought, it was decided to dedicate this year’s Big Give to an important Jewish value – *L’Dor V’Dor* (From Generation to Generation). To help fulfill this goal, the 37 CDR LITs looked within their own community and chose to orchestrate a renovation of the Margulies Senior Center at the Leon & Toby Cooperman JCC in West Orange, NJ.

To raise funds for the project, the LITs ran a fundraiser at Camp Deeny Riback in Flanders, NJ—it was a Hot Dog Eating Contest with 33 participating CDR staff members. The winner of the contest was Jeremy Knoepfler, a senior counselor who consumed 18 hot dogs in 3 minutes! The hot dogs were generously donated by Fresh ‘N Tasty, the food company that provides lunch every day to CDR campers and staff. The LITs raised over \$600 in donations from the CDR community. This was added to a \$1,500 grant from the JCC Association/Legacy Fund to finance the project.

The main focus for the renovation of the Margulies Center was the Communication Center that provides the seniors all the information about services and programs provided by JCC MetroWest, including flyers for trips and classes. Based on feedback from the seniors, the Communication Center now features a large slat wall, two dry erase boards, and a corkboard – all to display pertinent information. The LITs also purchased two large computer tables and a large storage cabinet to make daily life in the Margulies Center more enjoyable.



The LITs spent two full days at JCC MetroWest, befriending the seniors while re-organizing and cleaning the Margulies Center. On their first visit to the Senior Center, the LITs played games with the seniors (bingo, Scrabble, chess, and more) and taught them how to use their brand new Nintendo Wii. They all ate lunch together and enjoyed a song session while the piano was played by one of the seniors. This day was not only memorable for the LITs but it gave them a true feel for the population their mitzvah project was serving.

Through the inspirational guidance of their unit leader, Carly Freidel, and the Director of Camp Deeny Riback, Diana Ackerman, the LITs were able to make “The Big Give” a stunning success once again.

Mia Edelstein, Hannah Gardner, Zachary Nessel, and Chandler Wald are 2009 – Leaders in Training – at Camp Deeny Riback. Camp Deeny Riback is conducted each summer by JCC MetroWest, a partner agency of UJC MetroWest.

Making a Difference

The Satisfaction of Truly Making a Difference

by Oren Attiya

My name is Oren Attiya. I am 18 years old, from Rishon LeZion, Israel. I recently finished the Diller ISS (Israel Summer Seminar) as the Junior Counselor with the Rishon LeZion - MetroWest partnership.

I will be joining the Israeli army this upcoming December.

Last year (2008), I had the honor to be one of 39 Diller Teen Fellows who were the first cohort of the partnership. After having an indescribable experience, I knew that I wanted to become a Junior Counselor for this amazing program and give to others what I got to experience. I went to the tryouts and, happily, got accepted. Being a junior counselor in Israel means that, after graduating from the program as a participant, you get the chance to volunteer as a counselor for a new group of Diller teens (for the entire year experience, of course). It also means that you become an inseparable part of the staff – the Diller Israeli office runs a year-long training for all Junior Counselors, and it teaches you about responsibility, working together, putting to action your leadership skills, etc.

Obviously, I had two totally different experiences while being in Diller – one as a counselee and one as a counselor. If I was asked to describe these two experiences in two sentences, I would start by saying: It’s impossible. However, if I had to, I would say: As a counselee, I earned the tools and qualities to be a Jewish leader and a person who makes a change. As a counselor, I learned how to put those tools and qualities into action.

Now, after a second year in the program, I can tell you that my life has changed. I am a different and a better person; I can actually consider myself a leader. I learned so much in these past two years, things that I hadn’t learned before. I got the chance to meet amazing people from both Israel and the North American side, and, even more important, I got

to have a family on the other side of the world. In addition, I was lucky enough to have shaped my Jewish Identity through Diller. Seeing so many different views, thoughts, customs, and opinions made me realize who I am as a Jewish soul on this Earth, and this is something I do not take for granted.

The skills I've earned during my time in the program are above and beyond anything I would have ever imagined myself earning. I learned what it is to have a huge responsibility on my shoulders, and, to tell you the truth, to also know that I absolutely love having this kind of responsibility.

I learned to work with an amazing staff, people that I am so thankful for meeting because they taught me so much (whether they intended to or not). I felt what it's like to see a change in a person that you are counseling, and to be able to sense the amazing feeling of satisfaction and happiness of watching a person grow and evolve. This change could also be referred to as empowerment, a term that was introduced to me and that I understood in its full meaning only through Diller. It basically means giving someone the sense of self-efficacy, the grasping that he or she is important, is capable of doing anything, of making a difference.

It's not just a coincidence that Diller is constantly being referred to as family – because just like in a family, when the parents are so pleased and happy to see their children grow and change, as a counselor, I feel the same way, and I'm pretty sure most of the staff have the same kind of feelings towards the kids in the program.

I guess there is one indicator as to how much this program affected me: it's the DNP (Diller Next Phase) program that I and a few other Dillers from last year decided to initiate and build. I'll sum up the program as a sense of pride, accomplishment, and satisfaction for truly making a difference. We've helped so many people, had so many good times, and experienced Israel all over again with our American partners from last year.

I am truly trying my best to explain how I feel about Diller, but I feel like I can't make the message go through with the words I chose to use. On the last evening of the Rishon LeZion - MetroWest ISS, as I was saying goodbye, I said something that I want to share. I said: "How can

I describe the kind of feelings that I'm having right now? I guess the only thing I can say is that the phrase "words can't describe" couldn't be more appropriate."

I feel like that is really the best that I can do to describe my emotions for this program.

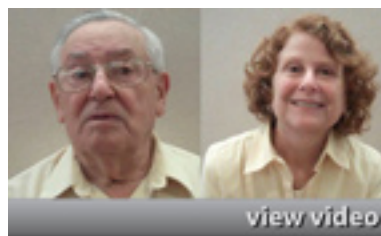
As I'm leaving the nest right now, to join the army, I am hoping to rejoin the Diller family once my service is done, and to go back to educating young leaders to "do good well."

Oren Attiya, a teen from Rishon LeZion, Israel, is a participant in UJC MetroWest's Diller Teen Fellows program.

Making a Difference

Café Europa: A Highlight for Holocaust Survivors

Visit www.ujcnj.org/europa and listen to Salo Ennis, a Holocaust survivor and participant in Café Europa at Temple Oheb Shalom, South Orange. Café Europa is a program of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, a UJC MetroWest beneficiary agency.



The Lore Ross Café Europa is supported by a bequest from the estate of Lore Ross.

Making a Difference

Tamir Goodman: From Basketball Star to Director of Haifa Hoops for Kids Charity Program

The Haifa Hoops for Kids program is a joint initiative between Maccabi Haifa and United

Speak EZ

Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ that distributes VIP Maccabi Haifa tickets to underprivileged and special children in Israel, who otherwise could not afford to attend a professional basketball game. The program works with charitable organizations, community centers, and schools in the metropolitan Haifa area.

The program has just gotten a big push forward, and a lot of publicity, because a major Israeli basketball star has become its director. On September 16, Tamir Goodman, the “Jewish Jordan,” announced his retirement from professional basketball, and that he has been named the Director of the Haifa Hoops for Kids charity program.

“Haifa Hoops for Kids is an innovative way to use basketball as a tool to bring light to the world, connect people to Israel, and create a stronger Israel for tomorrow,” Goodman said.

Goodman, an Orthodox Jew, has been an advocate over his career for assisting victims of terror as well as underprivileged and special needs children. He first garnered national media attention in 1998 while starring at the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore, where he was named the 25th best high school player in the country. He averaged 35.4 points his junior year (1998-1999) and 24.6 points his senior year (1999-2000), leading his team to a 65-11 record over two seasons in the competitive Baltimore City Conference.

Goodman’s success led to more than 700 media interviews, including *60 Minutes*, ESPN, CBS, and Fox Sports, as well as cover stories in *The New York Times*, the *NY Daily News*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Baltimore Sun*. Goodman was also featured in a four-page spread in *Sports Illustrated*, in which he was dubbed the “Jewish Jordan.”

In 1999, Goodman turned down a full scholarship at the University of Maryland, College Park due to scheduling conflicts and instead accepted a scholarship at Towson State University, where the entire American East Conference (AEC) rearranged the league schedule so that the majority of games would not interfere with the Jewish Sabbath. After playing two seasons at Towson, Goodman was signed by Maccabi Tel Aviv to begin his professional career in Israel. Goodman played five seasons in Israel

for four different teams, reaching the Israeli Cup finals and Israeli Premier League Semifinals in 2003 with Maccabi Givat Shmuel. Goodman also served in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), earning the “Outstanding Soldier Award.”

In 2007, Goodman became the first Orthodox Jewish basketball player to play professionally both in the U.S. and in Israel, when he returned to the United States to play for the Maryland Nighthawks of the newly formed Premier Basketball League (PBL), but was limited to two games due to injuries.

Goodman resides in Cleveland, Ohio, with his wife, Judy, and their three children.

Maccabi Haifa, an Israeli Premier League basketball team, has a long and storied legacy as they were one of the original eight teams to form the Premier League during the 1954 season. This past season under the ownership of American businessman Jeffrey Rosen, the team earned an appearance in both the Premier League Finals as well as the State Cup Finals in the team’s first season back in the Premier League after a 10-year absence. The team was purchased by Jeffrey Rosen in July 2007. For more information about Maccabi Haifa, please visit www.mhbasket.co.il.

For more information on Haifa Hoops for Kids, please visit www.ujcnj.org/haifahoops.

Community Relations Committee Update

CRC in Action

Become an informed and active advocate

Genocide in Darfur: Remnant or Present Reality? NJ Forges A Pathway to Peace, October 16, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Kean College, sponsored by the NJ Coalition Responds to the Crisis in Darfur and the Kean University Human Rights Institute.

There is currently a shift in U.S. and international policy toward Darfur. This conference will bring together Darfuri refugees with national and international influentials to help shape effective strategies for action to end the violence and achieve peace and

reconciliation in Darfur.
RSVP to NewJersey@ajc.org.

Violence continues to deeply affect the lives of innocent victims in Darfur and neighboring refugee camps, while the international community debates whether or not there is still a genocide taking place. This conference will inform participants on the current status of international diplomacy and the Obama administration's policy on Darfur as well as explore effective strategies for achieving peace and reconciliation in this new era.

The day-long conference will include: Insights from the Academy: Placing this crisis in the context of history, political theory, and social understanding; Reports from the Refugee Experience: From recent visits to the camps and Darfurians here in the United States; International Diplomacy: Strategies for achieving peace in Darfur; and National Advocacy: How are we doing?

Featured Speaker will include General(Ret.) Scott Gration, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan.

RSVP Required. Contact: NewJersey@ajc.org.

For the conference schedule and details, visit www.njDarfur.org.

Iran Advocacy: Keep the Pressure On. The world is at a pivotal moment in history as it increases its engagement with Iran to deter their nuclear enrichment program. Our advocacy is working but action is still needed at the local level to keep the pressure on! Now is the moment to act. For action ideas or information on divestment and United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) registry project, visit www.ujcnj.org/stopiran.

Pro-Israel Christians: What do they believe? What do they want? How can we work together? The CRC is strengthening its collaboration with Christians United for Israel (CUFI). Many support the positive contributions of this pro-Israel grassroots network and the need to strengthen our ties with them on the single issue of political support for Israel. In partnership with Temple Beth Shalom, the CRC is sponsoring two community programs on this topic: a discussion with **Zev Chafets**, renowned author and columnist on November 4, and a program with **The Reverend Robert Stearns**, Regional Director for Christians United for

Israel (CUFI), on November 30. Stay tuned for more information.

Project Keshet: Women and Jewish Renaissance in the Ukraine Photo Exhibit, in the arts lobby at the JCC in West Orange.

The exhibit is a photo essay by internationally acclaimed photographer Joan Roth, portraying women in countries of the former Soviet Union who are engaging in social activism through the work of *Project Keshet*. Joan Roth will be providing a tour of her exhibit on October 7.