

WurzweilerUpdate

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends WINTER 2005



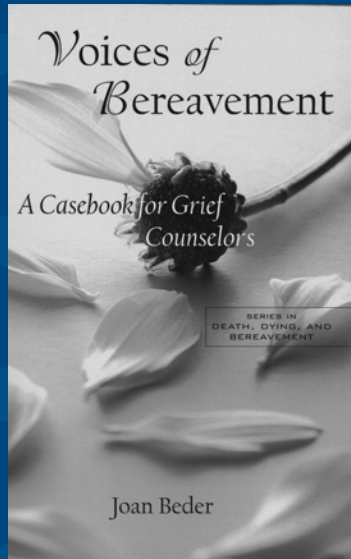
WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK | YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



Social Workers
in Public Office

Tools for the social work profession

*Important new publications by
Wurzweiler School of Social Work faculty*



Joan Beder

*Voices of Bereavement: A Casebook
for Grief Counselors*
New York and Hove:
Brunner-Routledge, 2004

Voices of Bereavement is a collection of compelling case studies drawn from the author's experiences as a grief counselor, each of which reflects on an unusual set of circumstances. With cases as varied as the bereavement of an identical twin, the death of an adolescent's disabled sibling, and a husband's grief after a miscarriage, this book is a unique resource for both counselor and student. Each chapter presents an extraordinary bereavement situation and discusses relevant theoretical treatments while sharing the impact that each case had on the author.

Forthcoming Publications

Nancy L. Beckerman

Couple of Mixed HIV Status
Binghamton, NY:
Haworth Press, 2005

Nancy Beckerman addresses the unique emotional challenges facing today's couples of mixed HIV status and provides a conceptual framework for assessment and intervention. The book offers examples of how to apply emotionally focused couple therapy to help them work through issues such as disclosure, the fear of HIV transmission, shifts in emotional intimacy, and family planning. It presents the findings of a research study involving 44 mixed HIV status couples in the Northeast and is illustrated with tables that make complex research results easy to understand.

Richard K. Caputo (ed.)

*Challenges of Aging on US Families:
Policy and Practice Implications*
Binghamton, NY:
Haworth Press, 2005

This book thoroughly examines the economic demands of aging on families, then focuses on different roles elderly family members are likely to play over the next several decades. It presents the latest original research on the changing roles of caregiving along with the economic and emotional effects on the family unit. Respected authorities discuss long-term care and the standard of living of families, with a focus on the effects of changing family structures on families themselves and society at large.

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A Voice for Hispanic Women

Evelyn Laureano '04W is a vital advocate for the needs of the Hispanic elderly in the Bronx, where she runs an agency that focuses on their strengths.

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AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WurzweilerUpdate

EDITOR
Kelly Berman

DESIGNER
Emily Scherer Steinberg

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Norman Goldberg
Peter Robertson
Jane Windsor

CONTRIBUTORS
June Glazer
David Hillstrom
Cara Aidone Huzinec
Esther D. Kustanowitz
Helen Kuttner '79F

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DEAN'S MESSAGE



In each issue of *Update* we try to keep alumni and friends abreast of developments at Wurzweiler and the impact our faculty, students, and graduates have on the profession. The role that faculty scholarship plays in both our curriculum and the educational process is illustrated in the listing of publications and presentations at regional, national, and international conferences. We are proud of the contributions of our faculty and alumni to social work practice and the field of Jewish communal service throughout the world.

We have again experienced an increase in enrollment-no small thanks to the role that alumni play in referring potential students to us and serving as an extension of the admission process (see page 9).

As in most organizations, we experience changes in personnel that reflect both personal life circumstances and program needs. Roberta Rohdin, assistant director of field work (Block Program), has relocated to Illinois, and Alison Link, alumni coordinator and doctoral student, has attained full-time employment. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Patricia Bryant joined us in the field office (PEP) replacing Donna Harris, who moved with her family to Pennsylvania (see page 13). Raesa Kaiteris, long time adjunct in the field program (Block), has joined us as associate director of field work, and Patricia Fitzgerald '99W has joined us as alumni coordinator (see page 22). Marva Perrin '94W has joined Joyce Brenner '83W, DSW, in supporting our 28 students in field placement in Israel. We also welcome Stephen Pimpare, PhD, assistant professor of political science at Yeshiva College, to our faculty (see page 11) and we look forward to fall 2005 when Adrienne Asch, PhD, joins YU as University Professor of Bioethics. Dr. Asch holds degrees in social work and social psychology from Columbia and will be based at Wurzweiler. She will play an important role in the creation of a new University Center for Ethics and Civilization. We also welcome back Joan Beder '93W, DSW, from her fall sabbatical and wish Norman Linzer Y, '60W,R, PhD, success with his research agenda during his spring 2005 sabbatical.

I would also like to welcome three new members to the Wurzweiler Board of Governors: Madaleine Berley, Robin Hirtz Meltzer, and David B. Chapnick (see page 17). We look forward to their input and guidance, which is critical given the loss of long-time governors Philip Zaro and Freda Leff '78W (see page 27), whose commitments to the school were monumental.

Sheldon R. Gelman
Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean, Wurzweiler School of Social Work

A Voice for Hispanic Women

BY HELEN KUTTNER

The artist in **Evelyn Laureano '04W, PhD**, is fascinated by the striking female images in the paintings of Diego Rivera—perhaps because they evoke the strong, dignified Latina women she has encountered in nearly three decades of working with New York's neediest seniors.

A former painter herself, Dr. Laureano is executive director of Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons Project (SHOPP), a South Bronx agency that advocates for the area's Hispanic elderly. A recent doctoral graduate from Wurzweiler, her dissertation focused on perceptions of successful aging among older Puerto Rican women. From both experiences, she has learned that, despite concerns about isolation in this growing community of elderly Latinas, their sense of faith enables them to continue active lives well into their 70s and 80s.

"My philosophy is to look at the strengths of people I serve," said Dr. Laureano, also a WSSW adjunct instructor teaching social work practice with elder persons.

Most of the Latinas who come to the agency opt to grow old at home, in their communities. What keeps them aging in place? "Next to God, there is a sense of family," she explained. "Although they are poor, elderly women of color, they consider themselves rich. There is a sense of interdependence because they help their families and volunteer at their church."

"They believe the more they help others, the more others will help them. So, my first question to the client is not 'What brought you here' but 'What has brought you so far?'"

Dr. Laureano views the self-help model as empowering participants—the



term she prefers to use when talking about clients—to go out into the community. The agency does not function as a senior center; it reaches out to where seniors gather, such as church halls, to provide them with services. "We organize seniors to help each other," she said.

After graduating from NYC's Fashion Institute of Technology in 1970, she got a job as a community liaison worker at Bellevue Hospital's Geriatric Mental Health Comprehensive Clinic, the first pilot program that dealt with geriatric mental health patients facing such discharge issues as homelessness. There she became part of a multidisciplinary team comprising medical doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers,

and paraprofessionals. After 20 years and armed with an MSW from Hunter College, she joined SHOPP as associate executive director.

Since Dr. Laureano's arrival in 1990, SHOPP has grown from a small agency in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx with an operating budget of \$300,000, to a flourishing, \$1.5-million multiservice organization. The agency offers group work programs, case assistance, transportation, and wellness and elders abuse services.

"One of our key features is that we involve the participants in the development of activities and programs," she said. "One third of our board is made up of participants in the program."

Dr. Laureano's expertise and her proud Puerto Rican heritage have made her a vital advocate for the needs of Hispanic elderly. She also sits on NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Advisory Council for the Department for the Aging and has served as executive chair of the Bronx Interagency Council on Aging (BRICA), which strives to maintain government funding for programs serving the borough's elderly.

Wurzweiler has played an important role in furthering Dr. Laureano's professional growth.

As a doctoral student, she was one of 10 minority doctoral fellows of the National Gerontological Society of America. Under the direction of Margaret Gibelman, DSW, doctoral program director, she was able to apply her experiences at SHOPP to her doctoral research.

Dr. Laureano's personal life reflects her focus on the importance of family. She joked how her twin grandchildren run the multigenerational home she shares with her husband, son, daughter, and son-in-law and how "my elderly mother takes care of me" during visits to Puerto Rico.

Now that her doctorate is over, Dr. Laureano hopes to return to painting and spend her summer visiting museums to reacquaint herself with various masters.

"I am looking forward to some free time," she said. ❖

Making a Difference:

SOCIAL WORKERS IN PUBLIC OFFICE

Social workers are well suited to careers in politics, as these Wurzweiler alumni, faculty members, and students show.

BY KELLY BERMAN

When **Rose Beck** '80W decided to run for the City Council of Homer, Alaska, she canvassed the town's residents and consulted a book on how to win a local election. She was well known in Homer's close-knit community for her work as a therapist and mediator. But it was her social work focus on "listening to the client" that motivated her most to run for public office, she says.

"I believe we can have a political process where we are truly trying to listen to each other," says Ms. Beck, elected in October 2002. "We don't have to succumb to political maneuvering to accomplish goals."



Rose Beck '80W

She sees her private and public roles stemming from the same set of values. “One of the things drummed into us at Wurzweiler was that clinical social work was all about relationships. My counseling job and political job are about nurturing relationships no matter who that’s with.”

The small scale of local politics in Homer, which serves about 12,000 people, also encouraged this WSSW alumna to run for office. “People here were looking for some hope—someone to acknowledge that we are on a cusp in our growth and reflect that in decisions,” Ms. Beck says. Some of the issues she has dealt with during her term include whether to allow large-scale national chain stores into the area, annexing land to expand the water and sewage systems, and building an animal shelter and a library.

Two years into the job, she is still surprised at the time it takes to accomplish these goals. She spends about fifteen hours a week making direct, personal contact with people, attending meetings, and answering people’s questions.

But keeping in touch with her constituents is what drew her to the task in the first place. “It’s important to take the time to be present with people, to listen to where they are coming from,” she explains.

Social workers are well qualified for political leadership because they have first-hand knowledge of exactly where and how the social service system fails. They see the effects of social policy in human terms. “Everything you do in social work is about helping people, getting your clients better services,”

says another Wurzweiler alumnus in public office, **Noach Dear** '77W. He sits on NYC’s Taxi and Limousine Commission and was NYC Council Member for the 44th District (Central Brooklyn) for 19 years. “It’s important for social workers to get involved in politics because when budgets are cut, there’s no one else advocating for you,” Mr. Dear says. “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.”

Mr. Dear’s experience in the NYC Council opened his eyes “to the power that a limited number of people have,” he says. “I saw how important it is for clients to be represented. Social workers have to be a part of the political system—by either working for an elected official or getting elected themselves.”

NYS Assemblyman **Vito Lopez** (D-Brooklyn), a 1970 WSSW graduate and former adjunct instructor, has stayed true to his social work roots throughout his 20-year career in the state legislature. He is a staunch advocate for the elderly, having founded the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center—one of the largest and most comprehensive senior programs in the state—and a number of other organizations serving the aged.

Assemblyman Lopez has maintained close ties with his alma mater, delivering the keynote speech at the school’s post-commencement ceremony in 1991 and presenting an Assembly proclamation honoring Wurzweiler on its 40th anniversary in 1997. His daughter Stacey graduated from WSSW in 2000.

“Social workers at the macro level in particular are highly qualified for public office,” says Charles Trent, PhD, associate professor at WSSW. “They



Vito Lopez '70W



Noach Dear '77W



have experience managing large numbers of people and building allegiance among staff and the community.”

Speaking from his own experience as head of the East Harlem Committee on Aging for 11 years and founder of the East Harlem Interagency Council For Older Persons and the Manhattan-Wide Interagency Council, Dr. Trent notes that social workers also learn to use the language of politics through the relationships they develop with officials.

This is precisely what Susan Bendor, DSW, WSSW associate professor, advises social workers to do in her article “The Social Cost of Public Decisions: How Social Workers Can Use the Language of Economics to Promote Their Own Agenda,” published in the *NASW Newsletter* (Nassau Division) in 2004. Since economics dominates all policy considerations in the US, she writes, social workers need to use economic concepts to influence the political debate.

“When I speak to students, I say political action for social workers is not a choice—it is a mandate by their professional code of ethics,” says Dr. Bendor.

The NASW Code of Ethics stipulates that “social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully.” Wurzweiler considers the code of ethics so important, Dr. Bendor points out, that the school includes it in the manual given to every student at registration.

Dr. Bendor is chair of WSSW’s Social Action Committee (SAC), which plans events and suggests course materials to motivate students toward social action and raise their awareness of the relationship between policy and practice. The SAC held a teach-in last March to educate students about the importance of registering and voting.



Tamara Melgarejo '05W

“This is one of the most significant educational experiences for our students,” Sheldon R. Gelman, PhD, WSSW’s Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean, said at the teach-in. “We think that as social workers, we change one individual at a time. Getting involved in the electoral process is a way to broaden our impact.”

One of the committee’s goals is to “help students realize that they can make a difference,” Dr. Bendor explains. Social workers can join a political campaign or a NASW committee, such as Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE), which endorses candidates and holds them accountable, lobbies for

progressive legislation, and fights destructive legislation. “They can write letters to elected representatives and give testimony on state or city forums when welfare legislation is passed,” Dr. Bendor says.

As part of her field work at the office of NYC Council Member Miguel Martinez, MSW student Tamara

Melgarejo '05W helps address the needs of residents in Washington Heights and Inwood, where she grew up. The second-year student has organized various initiatives to counter violence among the neighborhood’s children.

“It feels good to help the community in which I live,” Ms. Melgarejo says. “I know what people need—for example, I see children on the streets in the afternoon so I know they need more after-school programs.”

Wurzweiler taught her “to start where the client is.” Applying that to a community means

assessing its needs, which Ms. Melgarejo does in the monthly community meetings she co-leads.

“Social workers have skills to help people—individuals and communities—attain goals and make their lives better,” she says.

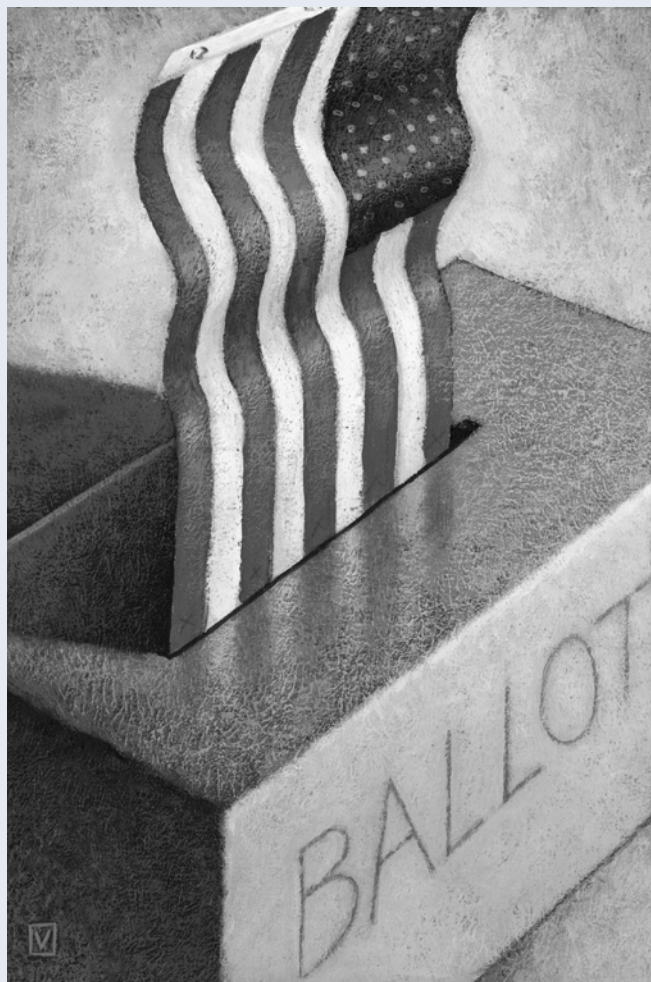
If democratic politics is about representing the interests of the people, social workers are highly qualified—the well-being of their clients is the profession’s *raison d’être*.

“Social work takes a holistic view of people and all the factors that influence their environment,” says Ms. Beck.

“I think we social workers are made for it.” ❖

Post-Election Quarterbacking

BY MARGARET GIBELMAN, DSW
Professor and Director of Doctoral Program



PAUL VISMARA

On November 3, the day after the US presidential election, the American media began the inevitable process of “Monday Morning Quarterbacking”—providing their slant on why the election turned out as it did and what significance it holds for our immediate and longer-term future. Social workers may have their own perspectives to add to this dialogue, foremost regarding the implications for the profession of social work, human service agencies, and, of course, the millions of people they serve.

Traditionally, social workers have been perceived, often in derogatory form, as “bleeding heart liberals” because of their support for social programs and their belief that only government has the resources to finance these programs. Although hard data are lacking, one can hypothesize that a majority of social workers vote Democratic because this party has been associated with higher levels of commitment and spending for domestic programs. The New Deal, the New Frontier, and the Great Society, for example, were initiatives of Democratic presidents who sought to further a progressive social agenda. But the composition of the social work labor force is as diverse as that of the general public and the profession includes liberals, moderates, and conservatives.

However one voted—and why—the election signifies some clear directions for social work and the people social workers serve. First are economic considerations. More tax cuts are on the way, we are promised. This means less money for everything that government does. Stimulation of the economy through tax cuts (putting more of our dollars into the private market) may or may not work. Economists argue both sides. Since war and the fight against terrorism demand a huge public investment of dollars, the portion of the decreasing federal revenues available for health and human services is similarly shrinking.

And then there is that pesky federal deficit, forecast to grow to \$3 trillion dollars. In the past fiscal year alone, the debt increased by \$415 billion. John Kerry, too, would have faced this huge budget deficit, the largest national debt ever, and costly defense expenses. At the same time, tax cuts mean lower revenues. The net result is that more and more of the federal budget goes to paying interest on our national debt—more than is paid for education, homeland security, veterans, justice and law enforcement, international aid, and space programs combined!

In earlier eras in which belt-tightening was required at the federal level, states often compensated by increasing their own funding levels for social services. This fallback option is no longer available. State budgets are in the worst shape in 20 years, with no immediate prospects for improvement. They

The rise in human need occurs in a period in which the concept of “entitlement” to public benefits has been erased.

have dipped into their reserves and, much like the situation with the federal government, budget surpluses are gone.

The alternative systems that have worked in the past to ensure at least a modicum of a safety net can no longer be counted upon to serve this function. For individual agencies, answers may lie in making hard choices about program priorities and instituting severe cutbacks in some service areas. Following corporate patterns of survival, longer-term solutions may lie in mergers, consolidations, and partnerships. Alliances need to be

strengthened to pool resources when possible, avoid service gaps, and monitor and document how budget cuts impact upon individuals, families, and communities.

Moral values figured prominently in the verbiage of this election. The eleven states that voted to ban same-sex marriage or civil unions did so, we are told, on moral principle. The problem with value-based arguments is that

we are not a one-value society. There is no right or wrong value. Values are beliefs about what is good and what is not good. So, exactly whose values are we talking about? And what happens to the concept of pluralism?

Values will play out on the political scene in regard to judicial appointments, the most prominent of which are anticipated vacancies on the Supreme Court. We are going to see ideological battles over these appointments. At issue—and at stake—is the future of choice for women, actualized through *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. Affirmative action is also subject to renewed scrutiny. Both abortion and affirmative action have repeatedly been argued before the Supreme Court. While some of the protections have been whittled away, the essence of the original decisions remain. Will that continue to be the case? If the answer is “no,” what meaning does this hold for the people with whom social workers work? What will the impact

be on social workers’ role in advocating for clients and fostering self-determination?

Values are also evident in President George W. Bush’s faith-based initiative. Although the measure failed in Congress, it didn’t matter. Changes in regulations resulted in preference for faith-based providers. We are not talking about Jewish Family Service, but instead congregations that may have experience with informal support services, but not with the provision of professional services.

Privatization is another buzz word. Social security was a major topic of pre-election debate. Social security, we heard, would not be privatized. Two days after the election, privatizing social security was on the agenda. Social security was intended as a safety net; private investment accounts are subject to the vagaries of the market. What happens if the market does not perform? In that scenario, older age for the next several generations of Americans will be very bleak.

The need for human services has grown, rather than diminished. Throughout the nation, fears of terrorism and the actuality of war has had an economic as well as psychological impact. The downturn in the economy brings with it rising unemployment, greater emotional stress, increased homelessness, and the like. The rise in human need occurs in a period in which the concept of “entitlement” to public benefits has been erased.

There are important lessons from this 2004 election. Americans are not indifferent to politics; they become engaged to the extent that the issues are clearly delineated and they know their vote makes a difference. The level of involvement of the average citizen in this election belies the apathy and indifference that seemed to have been the norm in recent history. Such civic energy also applies to the profession of social work. The profession functions within a larger socio-political context. Rather than reacting to events after-the-fact, we need to fine-tune our proactive and advocacy abilities. Social workers need to “sell” human services as an indispensable component of a civil society. The agenda is challenging, but critical in shaping our future. ❖

MSW Incoming Fall Enrollment Climbs By 20 Percent

Under the direction of Ruth Bigman, MSW, the department of admissions has implemented new procedures to offer prospective students more consistent and positive customer service, contributing to a growth of 20 percent in new student enrollment for fall 2004.

The department hired new personnel, including Joel Karpp, MSW, assistant director of admissions and career development coordinator. Mr. Karpp, previously a WSSW adjunct professor for 19 years, has extensive experience in program development and management at JCCs in and around NYC.

Staff members Joshua Bowden and Joe Morris also came on board, joining longtime staff member Beatrice Lee.

Last year, the school de-

vised a new recruitment tool to build on the success of Open Houses: Open Classes, taught by full-time faculty. Norman Linzer, PhD, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor in Jewish Family Social Work, came up with the concept for these classes.

"Applicants love it," said Ms. Bigman. "It gives them a good sense of what it's like to be in a class at Wurzweiler."

The school created merit-based scholarships to reward academic excellence and outstanding work or volunteer experience. Both merit and needs-based scholarships are awarded as close to the time of acceptance as possible.

"This helps applicants figure out their actual costs and makes our school more competitive," Ms. Bigman said.

The department keeps in

regular contact with prospective students throughout the application process, from the point of inquiry to the deposit phase. It developed an application booklet, designed to guide applicants through each step and to complement an attractive viewbook, reflecting Wurzweiler's diverse student body and faculty.

Ms. Bigman also noted an increase in alumni referrals of new applicants. "We appreciate alumni efforts on behalf of Wurzweiler," she

said. "We also utilize out-of-town alumni to interview candidates when appropriate. They have been very helpful, which enables us to move applications along and be more responsive to applicants."

The admissions department continues to be open to new ideas to expand recruitment efforts and make more people aware of the great opportunities that a Wurzweiler education can offer them. ❖



Ruth Bigman and Joel Karpp

More Students Choose Jewish Communal Service Program

Enrollment in Wurzweiler's Certificate in Jewish Communal Service Program is at its highest level in years. Sixteen students have chosen to supplement their social work education with specialized courses and activities that focus on practice in Jewish agencies.

The Certificate Program prepares students for practice and administration in settings such as JCCs, federations, family service agencies, educational institutions, vocational services, and human service agencies. A strong component of extracurricular activities—including lectures, seminars, field trips, and spe-

cial events featuring prominent Jewish communal leaders—is supported by a grant from the Atran Foundation.

In October, students attended a presentation on Jewish teens at risk by Rabbi Yehoshua Eliovson, founder and CEO of TheLockers.net, a Web site that offers Jewish teens a forum to speak anonymously about sensitive subjects. In the near future, Certificate students will serve as online moderators for the Web site, giving them first-hand experience at working with Jewish adolescents who are struggling with critical life issues.

In November, Eliezer Jaffe, professor

at The Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work, spoke to students about the nonprofit sector in Israel. Professor Jaffe has been a consultant to the Israel Ministry of Social Affairs, and has served on numerous committees under the Prime Minister.

Upcoming events include field trips to Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services in Boro Park, Brooklyn, and the Jewish Community Center Association in Manhattan, as well as a presentation by Lynn Levy '98W, director of premarital education for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. ❖

Faculty Research Projects

The GED Factor

Richard K. Caputo, PhD, professor, is examining the relationship between mid-to-later life outcomes and education among those whose highest grade completed was high school or less,



with a focus on comparing GED recipients' mid-to-later life outcomes with conventional high school graduates and high school dropouts. Many employers, college admission officers, and government officials—as reflected in related reports—often lump GED recipients and conventional high school graduates together. This may be a mistake, especially if it can be shown that GED recipients are more likely to resemble high school dropouts who do not have a GED. This is because they would be more likely to face poverty and other less desirable outcomes.

Responsible Research Conduct

Margaret Gibelman, DSW, professor and PhD program director, was awarded a second-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, Office of Research Integrity, for a project that seeks to identify curricula approaches and research review and oversight procedures utilized by educational programs in the US in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, counseling, psychiatric nursing, and social work. The goal is to highlight issues in promoting and ensuring the responsible conduct of research. The first-year grant surveyed the programs; the second year grant focuses on qualitative research. Interviews are being conducted with deans or program directors to delve more deeply into educational practices and issues concerning responsible research conduct. Terry DiLorenzo, PhD, assistant professor of psychology at YU, is senior researcher and Nigel Bark, MD, director of the Schizophrenia Research and Residency Training Unit, Bronx (NY) Psychiatric Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is a consultant.

Patterns of Volunteering

Dr. Gibelman and Jay Sweifach, DSW, assistant professor, are conducting a multi-staged study to determine the extent to which human service professionals engage in volunteer activities and the factors that influence their decisions to volunteer. A sample of 7,500 licensed social workers in 20 states was surveyed. Licensed psychologists and counselors will be surveyed as the research continues. The researchers hope to extend the study to human service professionals in other countries to build a comparative framework. Survey findings will be used to identify implications in regard to professional and organizational education, role socialization, and adherence to ethical codes.

Staying in Child Welfare

Charles Auerbach, PhD, professor, is collaborating with faculty from SUNY at Albany and Columbia University on a Children's

Bureau-funded research grant. The purpose of the study is to develop methods to increase the retention of child welfare workers. Turnover in NYS has grown from 16 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2002, which exceeds the national average of 15.4 percent. As of now, six counties in NYS are participating in the research. The study has been funded for a five-year period during which strategies to reduce turnover among child welfare workers will be developed.

Social Worker Infractions

Daniel Pollack, MSW, JD, professor, and James Marsh, JD, attorney at Marsh & Gaughran, co-authored a study of disciplinary actions against social workers in NYS, 1994–May 2004. Using Professional Discipline Actions records from the NYS Education Department, Office of the Professions, they drew up an overview of a variety of infractions related to sexual and financial impropriety, privacy, confidentiality, improper treatment, impaired practitioners, and fraud. Out of 143 infractions, they found that men and women committed infractions in almost equal numbers. On average, the number of infractions has been growing steadily over the years.

Meeting Educational Needs

Susan E. Mason, PhD, professor, and Heidi Heft LaPorte, DSW, assistant professor, are pursuing three evaluation research projects for the NYS Social Work Education Consortium, a



partnership between NYS schools of social work and the state's public child welfare agencies: the Office of Children's and Family Services (OCFS) and the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). Drs. Mason and LaPorte completed two years of surveys to evaluate the effectiveness and relevance of the coursework in social work education for child welfare workers.

They are analyzing data from surveys of OCFS agency supervisors, which measured their views on the value of social work education for their workers. Finally, they conducted an evaluation of an ACS student unit at the Butler Child Protection Center at Montefiore Hospital in the spring and distributed a preliminary report to Consortium professional staff. Thus far, the data are showing positive responses to social work education from the public child welfare sector.

Coping With Stress

David Strug, PhD, associate professor, and Susan E. Mason, PhD, professor, are investigating how older Hispanic immigrants and non-Hispanic residents of Washington Heights, NY, cope with stressful life events, including the aftermath of 9/11 and the war in Iraq. An important aim of their study is to understand the role that culture plays in how older Hispanic immigrants cope with trauma. The investigators have interviewed community residents at two senior center day programs in Washington Heights. Upon completion of the pilot study, Drs. Strug and Mason expect to carry out a larger follow-up study on how members of the local community access services to deal with the psychological consequences of trauma.

Dan Pollack Leads Study of Adoption Law's Religious Roots

While race and ethnicity are hot topics in adoption, religion rarely factors in today's adoption laws. That wasn't always the case, according to a recent article in *Notre Dame Law Review* by a group of legal experts, who illustrate that religion played a central role in adoption long before the first adoption laws were passed in the US in 1851.

The article presents religious views toward adoption in Christianity, Orthodox Judaism, and Islam in an unprecedented treatment of the topic, according to co-author Daniel Pollack, MSW, JD, professor at Wurzweiler.

Professor Pollack is a senior fellow at the Center for Adoption Research at the University of Massachusetts, which commissioned "Classical Religious Perspectives of Adoption Law" for the February 2004 issue of the journal. He wrote the article in conjunction with Moshe Bleich '96W, '03W, who heads Eshkol Academy in Columbia, Md; Charles J. Reud, Jr., associate professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Mohammad H. Fadel, attorney at law, NYC, who contributed the Jewish,



Christian, and Muslim perspectives respectively.

"Adoption began as a religious and social institution long before it was mandated by the law," said Professor Pollack. "This article provides thousands of years of legal and religious history that everyone knows is there but that hasn't been examined in detail."

Aside from emphasizing the religious underpinnings of adoption,

the article makes the point that an awareness of religious orientation can have a practical impact in legal cases. According to Professor Pollack, "The more social workers, lawyers, and the courts are sensitive to the child's religious experience, the better the placement will be if religion is important to the prospective adopted child or prospective adoptive family." ♦



Stephen Pimpare To Teach Social Welfare Policy

teach a section of Social Welfare Policy this spring.

Dr. Pimpare, who received his doctorate in 2002 from the City University of New York, is the author of *The New Victorians: Poverty, Politics, and Propaganda in Two Gilded Ages* and previously worked as executive director of Artists to End Hunger and of NYC's Food and Hunger Hotline.

"Much of my academic work emerges from my professional experience, and has focused on welfare and welfare history, poverty,

and social policy reform," said Dr. Pimpare, whose dissertation—supervised by activist and scholar Frances Fox Piven—analyzed the national welfare reform of 1996 and compared it with similar city and state reforms of the late 19th century.

As part of Wurzweiler's core curriculum, Social Welfare Policy is a second-year course that continues from Social Welfare Organization. The classes focus on policy analysis across a number of areas, examine the way social problems

are defined and how social policies are created (or dismantled), and bring a critical analysis of the political system to bear on practical evaluations of what policy advocates can hope to achieve.

Besides equipping students with the knowledge they need to be qualified social workers, the goal is to train them "to think critically about the actual operations of the political and policy-making worlds, and how they might best effect change within them," Dr. Pimpare said. ♦

In an innovative step, a professor from an undergraduate college will teach a course at Wurzweiler. Stephen Pimpare, PhD, assistant professor of political science at Yeshiva College, will

Faculty Conference Presentations

Regional and Local

- **NANCY BECKERMAN**, DSW, '91W, "Couples of mixed HIV status: Clinical issues and interventions" and **JOAN BEDER**, DSW, '93W, "Crisis intervention: Theory, practice and intervention—aka how in the world do I handle that?" at the New Jersey NASW conference, Atlantic City, NJ.
- **JOAN BEDER**, DSW, '93W, "The minority experience—Perspectives in breast cancer care for health professionals," at the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, Long Island, NY.
- **SUSAN BENDOR**, DSW, "Discovering and rediscovering strengths in our clients: The challenge of strengths-based care management for older adults," a training seminar for the staff of the Nassau County Dept. of Social Services; "The importance of hope and action in times of adversity," a guest lecture for residents of the Osborne Life Care Community in Rye, NY; "Parenting your parent: The challenges and the rewards," at Pathways for Women's Health, Manhasset, NY.
- **SHELDON R. GELMAN**, PhD, "Issues surrounding initial intervention" at 'Advocating for change: The status and future of America's child welfare system thirty years after CAPTA' at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and "What ACS workers need to know about record keeping" at the 2nd Quality Writing for Child Welfare Practice Conference, Satterwhite Academy Children's Center, New York.
- **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, '87W, '00W, "Group work 101: The art of group facilitation" at the annual NJ NASW conference in Atlantic City, NJ, and "Group work facilitation: Technique and skill" at the annual meeting of NYSSWEA in Syracuse, NY.
- **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, "A program evaluation training workshop," at the 15th Annual Staff Development Training Institute of the NYS Child Welfare Agencies, West Point, NY.
- **JOANNA MELLOR**, DSW, "Special

aging populations: Entitlements and benefits" at 'Entitlements Training Day,' Hunter College School of Social Work, and at the Annual Kermit Schooler Symposium, the State Society on Aging of NY, Albany.

- **DAVID STRUG**, PhD, "Change in Cuban social work education: Government response to emerging societal problems," at 'Cuba today: Continuity and change since the "Periodo Especial"' at the Bildner Center for Hemisphere Studies, The Graduate Center, CUNY.
- **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, '88W, '02W, "The development of a teen program: Skills, values and knowledge" for AJCP and JCCA in Deal, NJ.

National

- **CHARLES AUERBACH**, PhD, "Child welfare workforce retention" at the Society for Social Work Research in New Orleans, LA.
- **NANCY BECKERMAN**, DSW, '91W, "Clinical treatment approaches for couples living with HIV/AIDS" at HIV/AIDS 2004 Social Work Response Fifteenth Annual National Conference in Washington, DC.
- **JOAN BEDER**, DSW, "Loss of the assumptive world—How we deal with death and dying" at the 43rd Annual International Conference for the Advancement of Private Practice in Philadelphia, PA.
- **SUSAN BENDOR**, DSW, led workshops at the Partnerships for Aging conference in Kansas City, Mo., and at the 2004 World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust in Denver, CO. She also presented "Preparing gerontology students to use international experience in aging" at the 2004 Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) Conference in Richmond, VA.
- **MARTIN BIRNBAUM**, PhD, **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, and **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, "Group work education at risk in the classroom and in the field: Perceptions and experiences of foundation students" and **DR. BIRNBAUM** and alumni **BARBARA**

- JACKSON '02W, SHANAZ MO-HAMMED '03W, MARILYN MYLES '92W**, presented "Strengthening group work throughout a large city-wide child welfare agency" at the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups in Detroit, MI.
- **RICHARD K. CAPUTO**, PhD, "Increased wealth and income as correlates of self-reported retirement decision" at The Gerontological Society of America, 57th Annual Scientific Meeting, Washington, DC, "Parent religiosity, family processes and adolescent behavior" at the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA and "Redistributive schemes that skirt poverty: Reconsidering economic justice in light of Parijs and Zucker" at the Third United States Basic Income Guarantee (USBIG) Congress/Eastern Economic Association in Washington, DC.
- **SHANTIH CLEMANS**, DSW, "Mutual aid in the classroom: Infusing group work elements into a first-year MSW practice class" at the Association of the Advancement of Social Work with Groups Conference in Detroit, MI.
- **JONATHAN FAST**, DSW, '99W, **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, **ROZETTA SCHAEFFER**, PhD, and **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, "Enhancing community in a graduate social work school through Commons Day" at the annual meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Anaheim, CA.
- **SHELDON R. GELMAN**, PhD, presented "Impact of commercialism on gate-keeping on social work" at the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work in San Diego, CA.
- **SHELDON R. GELMAN**, PhD, and **MARGARET GIBELMAN**, DSW, "An analysis of cases of scientific misconduct and implications for behavioral health research" at the 2004 ORI Research on Research Integrity Conference in San Diego, CA.
- **MARGARET GIBELMAN**, DSW, and **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, "Do human

- service professionals volunteer?" at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Conference, in Los Angeles, CA.
- **RONNIE GLASSMAN**, DSW, chaired a panel of the Fieldwork Symposium at the CSWE APM on "Field education as a vehicle for professionalizing agency service" in Anaheim, CA.
- **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, and **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, "Coursework incentives for child welfare workers and field placements for social work students" at the 7th Annual Conference of Society of the Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
- **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, and **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, "Social work student attitudes about working with older clients" at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, DC.
- **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, and **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, "The role of school social workers in HIV/sex education" at the Social Work Association of America school in San Francisco, CA.
- **NORMAN LINZER**, PhD, "Spirituality and ethics in long-term care" at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and "An ethical dilemma in elder abuse" at the Gerontological Society of America Conference in San Diego, CA.
- **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, "The need for evidence-based group work" at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups in Detroit, MI.
- **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, and **DAVID STRUG**, PhD, presented "9/11 and its impact on the psychological wellbeing of older Hispanic immigrants in New York City" at the Second National Gerontological Conference in Anaheim, CA.
- **DANIEL POLLACK**, MSW, JD, "Record management in the digital age" at the 7th National Child Wel-

fare Data Conference in Washington, DC, and serves on the organizing committee for the Symposium for the Benefit of Children in New York.

■ **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, and **MICHELLE MAIDENBERG**, PhD, '01W, "The Haitian culture and the provision of HIV/AIDS related services" at the National AIDS Conference in Anaheim, CA.

■ **CHARLES TRENT**, PhD, chaired sessions at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in San Francisco, CA, and at the Symposium of the Association for Community Organization (ACOSA) in Anaheim, CA.

■ **ADELE WEINER**, PhD, "A model for evaluating Internet resources in social work education" at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

International

■ **JOAN BEDER**, DSW, "Grief reactions to the death of a therapist—A very unplanned termination" and "A mother's anguish—Death by murder" at the London International Biannual Grief and Bereavement Conference in London, Canada.

■ **SUSAN BENDOR**, DSW, "Discovering and rediscovering strengths in the terminally ill" at the 15th International Congress on Care of the Terminally Ill in Montreal, Canada.

■ **RICHARD K. CAPUTO**, PhD, "Equalization of meeting needs vs. equalization of income distribution: Reconsiderations of basic income and economic justice in light of Van Parijs and Zucker" at the 10th Basic Income European Network Congress in Barcelona, Spain and "Poverty reduction vs. reducing income inequality: Framing distributive justice in light of Van Parijs and Zucker" at the Social Justice Conference 2004 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

■ **SHELDON R. GELMAN**, PhD, and **MARGARET GIBELMAN**, DSW, "A loss of credibility: Patterns of wrongdoing among nongovernmental orga-

nizations" and **MARGARET GIBELMAN**, DSW, and **JAY S. SWEIFACH**, DSW, "Acting on our values: Do human service professionals volunteer?" at the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR), Sixth International Conference in Toronto, Canada.

■ **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, and **GERTRUDE SANDERS**, DSW, "Social work student attitudes about working with older clients" and "Adult

women caretakers of family members in nursing homes" at the International Conference on Health and Social Work in Quebec, Canada.

■ **NORMAN LINZER**, PhD, "Same-Sex Marriage" at the Conference of the Social Capital Foundation in Brussels, Belgium.

■ **DAVID STRUG**, PhD, "Social work with the elderly: The US versus Cuban situation," University of the Older Adult Conference on the Elderly in Havana, Cuba.

■ **ADELE WEINER**, PhD, and **KIM LORBER**, PhD, '97W, '04W, WSSW adjunct assistant professor, "Childhood trauma and the relationship to HIV status among streetwalking sex workers in NYC,"; "Sexual patterns, condom use and HIV among streetwalking prostitutes in NYC"; and "Marginalized women: A comparison of those who engage in sex work with those who don't" at the XV International Conference on AIDS in Bangkok, Thailand.

Other Faculty News...

JOEL KARPP, MSW, was appointed assistant director of admissions and career development coordinator. Mr. Karpp worked in Jewish communal organization for almost 50 years. He retired three years ago as executive director of the Rosenthal JCC in Pleasantville, NY. Since then he has been deputy director of the Red Cross September 11 Recovery Program, which provided case management and support for families of the victims, and program coordinator of the Welfare-to-Work Substance Abuse Program at Visiting Nurse Services of New York. He intends to draw on his many ties to the social service world of the NYC metro area to connect Wurzweiler graduates with employers. He also aims to use his experience on the other side of the table, as someone who frequently hired social workers, to help graduating students understand what employers are looking for. See also page 8.

MARGARET GIBELMAN, DSW, professor and director of the doctoral program, was appointed to the board of the Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities, Bergen County, NJ.

RUTH BIGMAN, MSW, director of admissions, was elected for a second term as member-at-large of the board of directors of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc. An active member of the Community Relations Committee, Ms. Bigman also recently became chair of the Campership Campaign, championing the cause that every girl should have the opportunity to go to camp.

PATRICIA BRYANT, MSW, has been appointed assistant director of field instruction.

Ms. Bryant came to WSSW from the Northside Center for Child Development, a community mental



health facility providing therapeutic and educational services to children and families in Harlem. While there, she functioned as a clinician, supervisor, and social work administrator. She coordinated community education and outreach

activities designed to decrease the stigma associated with mental illness and to improve access to mental health programs and services among minority populations within the Harlem community.

Ms. Bryant is a PhD candidate in social welfare at CUNY-Hunter College School of Social Work. In addition, she is a teaching fellow in the sociology department at Hunter College, teaching courses in social work and social welfare to students who are considering careers in social work.

JOAN BEDER, DSW, '93W, associate professor, was quoted in an article in the *Wall Street Journal* in August, entitled "The Empty Chair: How Patients Cope With the Death of Their Therapist." She also recently published *Voices of Bereavement: A Casebook for Grief Counselors* (Brunner-Routledge).

ROBERTA ROHDIN, MSW, former assistant director of field instruction, recently left Wurzweiler to relocate to Illinois.

WSSW Hosts Practice Research Forum

Integrating research and practice was the focus of a conference sponsored by the NYS Social Work Education Consortium (NYSSWEC) and NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) at Wurzweiler. The NYSSWEC is a



Irwin Epstein

partnership between schools of social work in NYS and the state's public child welfare agencies: the Office of Children's and Family Services (OCFS) for upstate and ACS for down-

state. The practice research forum, held November 5, brought agency employees together with local faculty to learn about using their practice for the purposes of research.

"One of the consortium's initiatives is to send agency employees to social work schools," said Ronnie Glassman, DSW, WSSW director of field instruction. "The forum was intended to reap the fruits of this education."

The keynote speaker, Irwin Epstein, PhD, professor at Hunter College School of Social Work, introduced the audience to a more practitioner-friendly model of research, which he termed "practice-based research."

Engaging practitioners in research, Dr. Epstein said, was an alternative to

researchers conducting studies on their own and then assuming practitioners would read and apply the research. He defined practice-based research as "practitioners' use of research-based principles, designs, and information-gathering techniques, within existing forms of practice to answer questions that emerge from practice in ways that inform practice."

Ultimately, Dr. Epstein explained, such studies "can help people articulate best practices."

Other speakers at the practice research forum included Michael Katch, PhD, associate commissioner of ACS's Direct Congregate Care; Heidi Gersh Rosner, director of ACS's Professional Development Program; and Roger Biagi, executive deputy commissioner of OCFS.

Nancy Sivright, PhD, who completed her PhD at WSSW earlier this year, and



Mayra Juliao-Nunez

Mayra Juliao-Nunez, a WSSW doctoral candidate, presented their research in child welfare as examples of practice-based research.

Participants broke out into groups to generate research ideas based on

their actual jobs. "They generated a ton of ideas—each of the 10 groups came up with eight ideas on average," said Dr. Glassman.

After the conference, Wurzweiler collected the research ideas and sent them to the participants.



Prof. Trudy Festinger, NYU School of Social Work, and Michael Katch, ACS associate commissioner

HELENA LEE WINS SCHOLARSHIP FROM NASW FOUNDATION

Helena Lee, a first-year student in the PEP program, was awarded the Verne LaMarr Lyons Memorial MSW Scholarship by the National Association of Social Workers Foundation (NASWF).

"It was encouraging to be chosen from among so many. Working full-time and studying has its challenges, especially being an older student," said Ms. Lee.

The scholarship is given to MSW candidates who express an interest in or work with the African American community through practice in health or mental health, according to the NASWF.

Ms. Lee has worked for 10 years as coordinator of the department of OB/GYN and Women's Health at North Central Bronx Hospital and Jacobi Medical Center. She is doing her field work at the Institute for Urban Family Health, a family health center in Manhattan for the underinsured or uninsured.

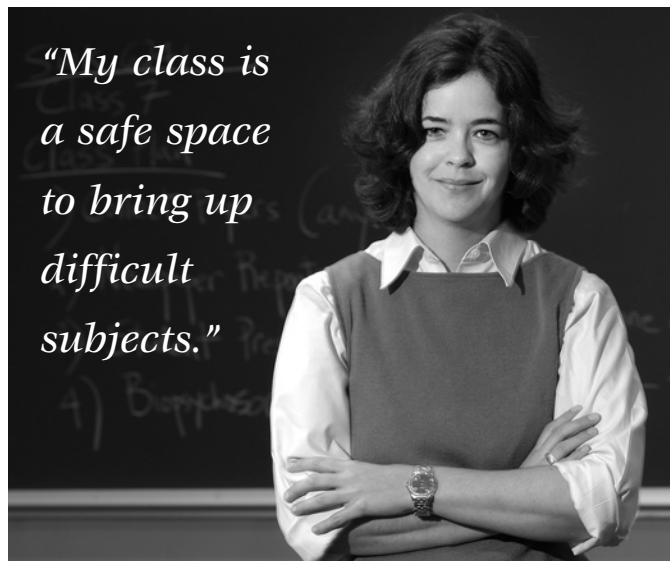
Ms. Lee says her ultimate goal is to open a settlement house for HIV-positive women who are detaching from methadone. There are no such services for women—only for men, she says.

Saying 'No' to Violence Against Women

BY ESTHER D. KUSTANOWITZ

To put it in her own words, **Shantih E. Clemans**, DSW, loves teaching at Wurzweiler “more than anything.”

One of the newest additions to the school's faculty—she joined in Sept. 2002—the assistant professor brings a youthful energy and a passion for political engagement to her teaching. Wurzweiler's small classes provide the intimate teaching environment that Dr. Clemans has always wanted—a high level of faculty—student interaction, with training for students that is intensive, personal, and effective.



“My class is a safe space to bring up difficult subjects.”

Under Dr. Clemans's instruction, the required Cultural Diversity class has become a non-traditional exploration of different cultures. The curriculum is based on the students' personal experiences with other cultures and steeped in the instructor's confessed “addiction” to movies. As part of an assignment, she suggested students watch films such as “Boys Don't Cry,” “Billy Elliott,” and “Philadelphia,” and reflect on them using concepts from class. Dr. Clemans sees popular culture as an effective educational tool, as it addresses issues of victimization, power, race, gender, and sexuality in an entertaining, non-threatening way.

“People have biases they don't realize they have; it's not their fault—they just don't have the reference point to understand cultures that are different than their own,” Dr. Clemans said. “This is a class about developing one's self-awareness.”

Her area of expertise and interest is trauma, particularly the area of vicarious trauma, which is a conceptual framework for understanding how trauma work affects social workers and other workers themselves.

With 17 years' experience as a therapist and director of sexual assault programs, Dr. Clemans has seen how social workers can be affected by continued exposure to trauma. As director of the Rape Crisis Intervention/Victims of Violence Program at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn (she still works for the hospital part-time), she sat on the steering committee of several community-based and public sector task forces addressing violence, including New York City Rape Treatment Consortium, New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, and New York State Department of Health.

“Particularly in the fields of rape crisis and domestic violence, giving, giving, giving to your client can be damaging for social workers and can make them feel vulnerable and afraid,” she said. “It is hard [for social workers] to be confident with the level of violence against women in society; client after client, you are reminded of how cruel people can be to each other.”

Some of her past students are survivors of sexual violence; a few have even had the courage to write or talk about their experiences in class. “There's a lot of silence around,” Dr. Clemans said, noting the fact that, although one in four women is sexually assaulted during her lifetime, most don't want to talk about it. “My class is a safe space to bring up difficult subjects.”

In 1993, Dr. Clemans had the opportunity to bring the reality of sexual violence to a television audience, as a rape education consultant to ABC's popular soap opera “One Life to Live.” A sexual assault therapist at Safe Horizon Family Assistance Project in Brooklyn at the time, she met with the actors and reviewed the script for accuracy.

She found that the actress playing the victim was able to give a more convincing portrayal than the male actors as the perpetrators. “We live in a culture where women are afraid,” Dr. Clemans observed, noting that since all women have experienced that fear on varying levels, it was easier for the actress to tap into her emotions.

Her political activity as a member of various statewide coalitions on the state and city levels focused on the issue of rape and sexual assault in the legislative arena. A staunch Democrat and feminist who believes in the power of the electoral process, Dr. Clemans recently helped coordinate a non-partisan voter registration drive at Wurzweiler.

“I teach about ideological diversity,” she said. “I am passionate about social work, which is about social justice. Social workers need to look at society and make changes.” ❖

A Knack for Bringing People Together

BY JUNE GLAZER

By age 66, **Anne Dunbar** thought that she'd be taking cruises and sipping champagne. Instead, the would-be retiree is a second-year MSW student in the community organization track at Wurzweiler.

If that doesn't keep her busy enough, Mrs. Dunbar works as an advocate for grandparents who are raising grandchildren.

Located in St. James Park in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, the St. James Grandparents Support Group is an affiliate of the NYC Department for the Aging Grandparent Resource Center. Ms. Dunbar, a single mother whose son is now grown, did her field placement at St. James Community Center/NYC Department of Parks last year. Afterward, she stayed on to help her clients with issues that range from custody and guardianship to entitlements, kinship foster care, and health care.

"The grandparents wouldn't let me leave when my internship was done," said Ms. Dunbar, who received the Dr. Georgia McMurray Student Award from the National Association of Social Workers NYC Chapter at commencement in May 2004.

While earning an MS in education, guidance and counseling at Brooklyn College in the mid-1970s, she worked as director of financial aid for the SEEK Program at Hunter College. Since then, she's been director of community relations at the NY State Department of

Correctional Services, management consultant for Girl Scouts, USA, and deputy administrator for community affairs at the NYC Human Resource Administration, Office of Community Affairs.

"They [the grandparents at her field placement] said, 'When you came here, you promised to make sure we were taken care of. You're a social worker. You have to stick to your promises.'"

Ms. Dunbar, who professors at Wurzweiler liken to prominent African Americans such as Percy Sutton, Charles Rangel, and Oprah Winfrey, speaks of her stint at St. James as if resigned to a fate not of her own making. In fact, much of the impetus for her graduate study and leadership positions came from mentors who saw strengths in her that Ms. Dunbar did not know she possessed, and who pushed her toward successive goals.

"My field supervisor told me I have a knack for bringing people together, for making them do what they don't want to," the Wurzweiler student said.



Perhaps it is a talent she nurtured through examples in her own life: Dolly Robinson, the former US Goodwill Ambassador to Liberia, enrolled Ms. Dunbar in Brooklyn College's Small College Program over her objections. She went on to earn a BA in sociology and urban affairs and her MA degree there. Dr. Mary Huff Diggs, former NYC Youth Board Commissioner and the first



tenured African American professor at Hunter College, steered her toward community activism and an MSW; Dr. Kenneth B. Clark and his late wife, Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark, founders of Harlem's Northside Center for Childhood Development, gently urged her on and kept her sights trained on social work.

Friend and social worker Evelyn Furman pointed Dunbar toward Wurzweiler; and professors there guided her into the school's community organization track. At commencement last year, Assistant Professor Rozetta Wilmore-Schaeffer, PhD, prodded her to start thinking about a doctorate. "Every time she sees me, she smiles and I say 'Yes, I'm still thinking,'" Ms. Dunbar said.

"Community organization, community, and people come easily to me because I am from a family of social workers without the benefit of the degrees," said Ms. Dunbar. "It was always drilled into us that we had to help each other, that we were responsible for each other, and so, what I'm doing with my life now is simply an extension of that." ❖

Robin Hirtz Meltzer

Robin Hirtz Meltzer, an experienced psychologist and psychoanalyst, joined Wurzweiler's board out of a desire to



broaden her participation in therapeutic and social endeavors. "I wanted to become more involved in this vibrant educational institution and was impressed by the diversity of the stu-

dent body, the faculty, and Dean Sheldon R. Gelman," she said.

Dr. Meltzer has a private practice treating adults and adolescents in NYC. Born and raised here, she received a joint MA-Med from Columbia University in 1977 and a doctorate in psychology from New York University in 1986. She later graduated from the NYU Postdoctoral Training Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy.

She and her husband, Roger, are on the fundraising committee for Mount Sinai Hospital and support a wide variety of community, educational, and religious programs.

David B. Chapnick

Supporting education has long been an interest of David B. Chapnick, Esq., a



NYC native and resident of Larchmont, NY. He is a member of the board of trustees of Union College, his *alma mater*, and serves as a life trustee and member of its executive committee.

Wurzweiler presents a slight change of focus, but it is a shift that he finds easy to make, he

said. "The way social services are delivered in this country, it is important to have a well-educated group of professionals doing their best to work the system," Mr. Chapnick said. "This institution does an excellent job of training dedicated professionals."

Mr. Chapnick is of counsel at Simpson Thacher and Bartlett LLC, a law firm in NYC. He joined the firm as an associate in 1967, became a partner in 1970, and later, a senior partner. He is a corporate lawyer specializing in corporate finance and governance and mergers and acquisitions. He graduated in 1962 from New York University Law School.

Madaleine Berley

Madaleine Berley and her family are no strangers to supporting education at Yeshiva University. She and her husband, Arnold Penner, endowed a scholarship for medical students and established a fellowship for students doing research abroad at YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where Mr. Penner is a board member. He received Einstein's Humanitarian Award and is a Fellow of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Ms. Berley, a therapist in private practice for almost 20 years, joined Wurzweiler's board because she "would like to see that the quality of social workers we graduate is kept to a high standard." She said she was inspired by the faculty, who "really care about the school."

"It is not just a job for them—they have an enduring dedication to the profession," she said.

Ms. Berley, who lives with her family in NYC, is a graduate of Columbia School of Social Work and the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy and Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. She holds certificates in psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, analytic group psychotherapy, and supervision to the psychoanalytic process. She is assistant director of training in the Group and Couples Department at the Training Institute for Mental Health.

Wurzweiler School of Social Work

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A Well-Rounded Life

BY ESTHER D. KUSTANOWITZ

Until he was 40, **Robert Schwalbe**, PhD, was enmeshed in the family real estate business. But when a close friend contracted AIDS, the man now at the helm of Wurzweiler's board found himself profoundly affected.

It was an intensely personal experience that changed his life. He enrolled in an MSW program at NYU School of Social Work and emerged committed to helping the disenfranchised, specifically people living with HIV and AIDS. He continued his education at the American Institute for Psychotherapy and trained as a clinician at the Karen Horney Clinic.

Today, Dr. Schwalbe has a practice in dynamic psychotherapy and psychoanalysis and works with a full range of people in various stages of life—from adolescents to the elderly. He focuses on individual therapy and long-term psychoanalysis, and leads a men's group.

In his PhD dissertation—he graduated from NYU last spring—Dr. Schwalbe examined issues related to grandparents who raise their grandchildren. This has opened his practice up to dealing with potential conflicts experienced by baby boomers, whose personal lives are impacted by older age and retirement.

Dr. Schwalbe became a member of Wurzweiler's board in 1992. "I believe in the significance of social work and what it can do for others," he said. "I also come from a family of people who know the value of Jewish leadership."

He and his wife, Janie, are also connected to YU through two of their sons:

James, a graduate of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, is currently a member of its board of directors, and Jeremy is a graduate of Yeshiva College.

After joining the board, Dr. Schwalbe discovered that the school's curriculum lacked an HIV/AIDS component. Under his leadership, Wurzweiler launched a major effort to address the subject in all courses, and held five conferences on HIV and diversity. In addition, Dr. Schwalbe and his wife endowed the Schwalbe Fund for HIV/AIDS Education, which sponsors the annual conference and provides scholarships for Wurzweiler students planning careers in the field.

Dr. Schwalbe proudly notes the board's growth and the addition of dynamic people from diverse backgrounds. He also reaffirms his commitment to providing further support for outreach into minority communities. "The challenge is to keep abreast of the diverse groups who live in New York City," he said.

In his practice, Dr. Schwalbe is drawn to people who feel isolated from society. "It is a tremendous challenge to work with marginalized populations—with immigrants, for example, who are still living in two worlds," he said.

His parents were Belgian immigrants themselves, who, on arrival in America in the late 1930s, had to learn a new language and culture. "The ability to adapt is a sign of mental health," he says. "[Immigrant populations] need support—more than that, a venue—to talk about their misgivings about abandoning their parent culture, even though doing so gives their children a better life."



Now that HIV and AIDS can be controlled by medication, Dr. Schwalbe said, the diagnosis more often is seen in the US as a chronic disease, and not a fatal one. Although he sees far less of this population than he did five years ago, he notes that there is still preventative work to be done. "The behaviors that lead to contracting the virus must be focused on and altered."

Dr. Schwalbe is enthusiastic about his second career. "It is important to go to bed at night and look forward to the next day," he mused. He considers himself exceedingly fortunate to be devoting his life to addressing the social issues that concern him. "Working with people—my family, friends, and patients—and the energetic feeling in the hallways of Wurzweiler make my life worthwhile and well-rounded," he said. ♦

A Word of Thanks...

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* These represent contributions, not pledges, received from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. If you have any questions, please contact the WSSW alumni office.

A Memorable Milestone

Altogether, Wurzweiler sent more than 150 new social workers out into the world this year—120 from the winter program and 34 from Summer Block. Also, the school awarded four PhDs to graduates advancing their careers in education, management, practice, and research.

Yeshiva University President Richard M. Joel, keynote speaker at the May ceremony, told graduates that WSSW holds a special place among the family of schools at YU. “Our university is ennobled by Wurzweiler. As America’s Jewish university in service to humanity, we are validated by your commitment,” he said.



South Dakotan Returns Home to Help Native American Families

PRISCILLA NIKOLAS, (above left) who received WSSW’s Research Award and Dean’s Award at the Block Program graduation, worked with Native American families in her field work at Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Sioux Falls, SD.

“There is a higher per capita percentage of Native Americans in prison and foster care in South Dakota,” said Ms. Nikolas, whose studies concentrated on community organization. “That is because of the poverty they live in and the discrimination they face.”

At CASA, she identified a service gap regarding non-custodial fathers, who weren’t eligible for the same child welfare benefits as the mothers and were penalized for not contributing to child support. “This disregarded the high rate of unemployment in the area and the fact that many of the fathers didn’t have the skills to find work,” she said.

“As a result, many young men ended up in prison to work off their debt to the state, while still accumulating further debt.”

The experience, said Ms. Nikolas, piqued her interest in working in policy and research. Her dream job, she said, would be to analyze policy on a local level and then consult on a national level.

The South Dakotan native trained to be a court advocate at CASA, and developed a strategic plan with a timeline of service delivery to extend the agency’s reach into three more counties, which she hoped would “be up and running in five years.”

At the Block graduation, Noah Levine, MSW, ’81W, associate executive director of Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, received an award for his many years of service to the Jewish community. Honors also went to the many graduates who excelled in their field-work practice, research, advocacy, and writing. And, as usual, family members shared the joy, with as many as four generations attending the celebration. Congratulations and mazal tov!



1. Mark Poznanski, Inna Portnov, Michelle Rabinowicz, and Priscilla Nikolas
2. Sampson Beawin and Joan Sadinoff Katz '80W (at left)
3. Joanna Model and Felix Francisco Mauras
4. PhD graduates Joyce Kuykendall, Evelyn Laureano, and Kim Lorber
5. Renee Leitner, Dawn Sklar, and Michael Lambricht
6. Faculty Award winners Renee Leitner, Judith Harris, and Shanaz Mohammed with Dean Sheldon R. Gelman
7. Yehuda Meir Sales, son of Miriam Shapiro-Sales
8. Ariella Zakheim with four generations of her family: mother Faygie '95W, sister Michal '05W, grandmother Eva Rand, baby Miryam and grandmother Sarah Zakheim



Graduate Wins Award for Work with Abused Elderly

When **EMILY BROOKS** began her studies at WSSW, she chose the elderly as her area of focus. "I had a very strong relationship with my grandparents, which inspired me to go into the field," said the May 2004 graduate.

Her dedication paid off when she was given the Evelyn Pliego Award for Outstanding Social Work Student by the Queens Interagency Council on the Aging (QICA). The award, given to one student in the borough of Queens, recognized her high level of dedication in working with victims of elder abuse in her second-year field placement in the Legal Elder Abuse Prevention Program at the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA) in Queens, NY.

At JASA, Ms. Brooks provided weekly individual counseling to elder abuse victims and facilitated a support group for women survivors who were being victimized by their own children, who typically suffered from mental illness or a substance abuse disorder.

Now, Ms. Brooks works at Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale, NY, as a resident services coordinator. "I work on a skilled nursing floor and a short-term rehab floor, providing social work services as part of an interdisciplinary team," she said.

Most of her clients are in their mid-80s and 90s and need total assistance with daily living. Many have dementia-related disorders and mood state impairments such as depression.

"In a nursing home, you are often also dealing with the families, addressing issues or concerns that might arise while being an intermediary between them and the rest of the clinical team," she said.



WSSW Alumna to Lead Alumni Relations

After a career in the fashion industry, Tricia Fitzgerald '99W, Wurzweiler's new director of alumni relations, decided that she wanted to spend her life doing something more meaningful. She chose a career in social work and enrolled in the MSW program at Wurzweiler in 1997.



During her first year, she was a family services coordinator in the Early Head Start Program at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center in the Bronx. For her second-year field placement at Wurzweiler, Ms. Fitzgerald worked in the Housing Relocation Assistance Program at All Children's House Child and Family Center in New York.

Her professional interests have focused on working with children and families. For the past two years, she was a social worker at New Alternatives for Children, a foster care and adoption agency in New York City for special needs, medically fragile and developmentally delayed children. She acted as liaison between children in foster care, foster parents, and birth parents.

In November 2004, the Wurzweiler alumna began her current job as director of alumni relations at Wurzweiler, where she will coordinate outreach to alumni.

"This is a whole new arena for me," Ms. Fitzgerald said. "Instead of being on the front lines, I will be involved behind the scenes."

She plays a key role in helping to "keep alumni connected to the life of the school" by planning alumni events throughout the year and staying up-to-date on professional and personal developments of WSSW alumni.

Tricia Fitzgerald can be reached at 212-960-5400 ext. 5779 or at fitzgera@yu.edu. ❖

Wurzweiler Hamptons Area Event

If you live (or have a vacation home) on eastern Long Island, please let us know. We would love to have a Hamptons Area Event this summer and would like to include you. Please contact Leslie Waltzer Pollak by e-mail at lpollak@yu.edu or fax 212-960-0869 with your name, class year, address, and phone number.

Drop Us a Line!

Find out what your old classmates are doing and keep them updated about developments in your life. Fill in the tear-out card on the inside back cover of this magazine, or write us a note with your news. We would love to hear about your promotions, publications, speaking engagements, and family events. We publish photographs, too. Mail to Tricia Fitzgerald at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, 2495 Amsterdam Avenue, Belfer Hall 725, New York, NY 10033-3201 or e-mail fitzgera@yu.edu.

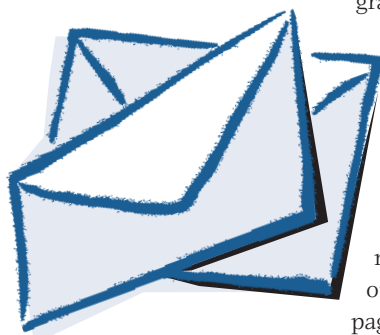
Clergy Reunion

Planning is underway for a gathering of graduates of the Interdenominational clergy program for Fall 2005 contact Tricia Fitzgerald at fitzgera@yu.edu if you are interested in participating.

Annual Fund 2005

Please contribute to this year's current Annual Fund to support student scholarships! Your gift provides the resources to support Wurzweiler and helps maintain our university's ranking among the nation's leading academic research institutions.

Wurzweiler's dedication to education, social work practice, and research is strengthened by the generosity of



graduates and friends like you. Help us reach our goal of 25 percent alumni participation.

Make it easy...Use the enclosed envelope or contribute online.

Online giving is a quick and safe way to make a gift to Wurzweiler. Our Web site includes the latest security features to insure that the information you send across the Internet cannot be read by others. Visit www.yu.edu and click on "Giving Online to YU" at the bottom of the page. This will take you to a secured gift form.

1960s

Dr. Joyce (Rosman) Brenner '64W, '83W, coordinator of the WSSW Unit in Israel, is a board member of the Counseling Center for Women and chair of the committee on gender issues at the Israel Association of Social Workers. She recently moved to Geshet HaZiv, in the north of Israel.

Steven J. Rod '68W is vice president of professional development services at the Jewish Community Center Association in NYC. He has a one-year-old grandchild, Rachel Mara Schwartz, born to daughter Elana and Seth Schwartz.

Terry (Reitman) Zalma '67W retired after 30 years in the field of substance abuse and addiction, most recently at Mineola Community Treatment Center, The Zucker Hillside Hospital, in Mineola, Long Island, NY. She still runs her private psychotherapy practice in Baldwin, NY.

1970s

Sheryl (Benson) Bellman '72W is a psychotherapist specializing in marriage counseling, and individual and family therapy. She is studying for a master's in organizational management at the University of Phoenix. Congratulations to her and husband Kurt Cira on the birth of granddaughter Hannah to Michael Bellman and Rachel Fleischer.

Shelley Berman '79W, community relations coordinator at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, Conn., spoke about "Memory Loss in Aging" at Atria Stratford Assisted Living. She also maintains a private practice in Trumbull, Conn.

Janis Brodie '73W is psychiatric social worker, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, where she makes home visits to people in acute distress with psychiatric symptoms, and makes arrangements for follow-up care and hospitalization if needed.

Dahrys Druck '73W is a board member of NORC in Queensview/NQV Houses in Long Island City, Queens, where she lives. She is retired and would love to hear from her former classmates.

Cheryl (Weiner) Gersh '79W is program director at Benjamin Rosenthal Senior Center, Selfhelp Community Services, Inc, a position she has held for 15 years. She received a certificate from Adelphi University School of Social Work as a field instructor.

Dr. David J. Grand '76W wrote, produced, and directed a play, "I Witness," about his experiences treating 9/11 survivors. It was performed at the Duke Theatre in NYC September 2004. His book *Emotional Healing at Warp Speed: The Power of EMDR* was released in hardcover by Crown in 2003. He lives with wife **Nina Cohen** '75W in Massapequa Park, NY.

Dr. Rosa Perla (Resnick) Helfgot '76W celebrated the birth of a grandson, Nehemiah Devir, born to Rachel (Brenner) '02S and Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot YH,'85Y,A,R.

Robert Kafes '72W, clinical director of the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault, received the Governor Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Terry Goddard Award for Excellence for 2003 Outstanding Sexual Assault Mental Health Professional. He is on the faculty

of the Southwest Institute for Psychoanalytic Studies and lives in Tucson, Ariz.

Simon S. Kaminetsky '79W received the Honor of Distinction from Congregation Ahawas Achim B'nai Jacob and David in West Orange, NJ at its 38th annual dinner. He helped found and staff the synagogue's beginner's minyan (prayer quorum) and served on its board, 1997-99. He is executive director, Israel Cancer Research Fund, and serves on the boards of the Jewish Services for Developmentally Disabled of MetroWest and the Association of Jewish Community Organization Professionals.

Ilan Mamber '79W is a cantor at Temple Beth Rishon in Wyckoff, NJ. He is a member of the Cantor's Assembly and former president of the NJ Chapter of the Cantor's Assembly.

Dr. Carl Mazza '77W, '94W is professor of social work, Lehman College of the City University of New York. He specializes in criminal and juvenile justice, re-entry services, adolescent parenting, and child welfare.

Deborah (Simon) Patrucker '74W is a clinician and supervisor specializing in gender identity disorders.

Gretchen Phillips '72W is a probation officer at Probation Intake in Brooklyn, NY, where she does intake, case management, and crisis counseling.

Robert S. Schwam '74W founded the Brooke Street Family Project, a group of private family therapists in Irvington, Westchester, NY.

Chana (Mincer) Simmonds '74W presented a workshop, 'Mind Body Skills: Pathways

to Healing and Wellbeing,' at the Nefesh conference, and a paper, 'Taharat Mishpacha and Mikveh: Psychological Issues,' at the Nishmat Conference on Women's Health and Halakhah, both in Jerusalem. She is a psychotherapist in private practice in Teaneck, NJ.

Dr. Edwin Simon '75W is a part-time psychotherapist, Mercy Medical Center Out Patient Mental Health Clinic and faculty field liaison for Adelphi University School of Social Work. He is a member and treasurer of the Long Island Chapter of Association for Advancement of Social Work with Groups and editor emeritus of *The Social Work Forum*, published by WSSW, which he edited for 10 years. Dr. Simon says his 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson keep him very busy.

Dr. Meir Wikler Y, '72W, '83W spoke on "The Art of Being Positive" at the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation in February. A video of his address was shown to audiences in over 200 locations across the US and around the world. He is a psychotherapist in private practice in Brooklyn, NY.

Miriam (Glassner) Zucker '71W is a newly elected member of the Professional Advisory Committee of Visiting Nurse of Westchester. She is a geriatric consultant in professional geriatric care management at Directions in Aging, New Rochelle, NY. Her son, Jonathan Zucker, is completing his first year of study at WSSW.

1980s

Marcia Blau '89W is a psychotherapist specializing in eat-

ing disorders, couples work, women's issues, and families of children with special needs. She is in the process of writing two books and has two children.

Rabbi Herman Cohen '82W celebrated the marriage of daughter Nadine to Steven Dickstein. Rabbi Cohen is a retired chaplain, living in East Brunswick, NJ.

Jill Ferson '88W is director of a methadone maintenance treatment program at Mount Vernon Hospital, NY, and runs a private psychotherapy practice. She is a PhD candidate in clinical social work at New York University, a certified substance abuse counselor, and vice president, Lambda Peer Support Services in White Plains, NY.

Rabbi Zvi Friedman '81W is director of development, at Hebrew Academy of Nassau County in West Hempstead, NY. He lives with wife Tobi in nearby Woodmere. Mazal tov to them on the birth of granddaughter Talia Michal to Aviva and **Eliav Friedman** '05W.

Ora Gittelsohn-David '80W became a teacher at Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School after retraining at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles.

Mirele B. Goldsmith '85W is a consultant to non-profit organizations, specializing in program evaluation. She is a PhD candidate in environmental psychology at CUNY Graduate Center, where she is researching citizen participation in policy-making for the NYC water system. She serves on the boards of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and the Hadassah Foundation.

Diane L. Gorenstein-Fontanetta '82W runs a private practice,

specializing in women's issues, adolescents, depression, and suicide. She lives with husband Ron and their two teenage daughters in East Northport, NY.

Martin William Haberer '88W is assistant executive director at Sarasota Manatee Jewish Federation in Sarasota, Fla. He lives with wife Lori and children Danielle and Noah in Bradenton, Fla.

Ingrid (Pasternak) Herskovics S,'80W is a school social worker at Board of Coopera-

tive Educational Services (BOCES) in Garden City, NJ, and a certified clinical hypnotherapist.

Irene (Kahana) Hertzberg '86W and husband Isaiah Hertzberg '50Y,R celebrated the birth of their first great-grandchild, Zechariah Chaim.

Ilene (Stein) Himber '82W recruits nurses for Metropolitan Jewish Health System in Brooklyn, NY.

Rabbi Ira Kronenberg '81W is director of religious services at Daughters of Miriam

Center, The Gallen Institute in Clifton, NJ. He is a reserve army chaplain with the rank of lieutenant colonel, and was mobilized in January 2003 for two years as deputy installation chaplain at Fort Dix, NJ. Mazal tov to him and wife Faigie on the birth of a grandson, Akiva Michael, to daughter **Miriam (Kronenberg) S**,'04W and Aryeh Morris '01SB.

Marcia (Cohen) Leeds '87W is president, the NYS Society of Clinical Social Workers, Westchester Chapter.

Rosemarie Gates '99W Launches Web Site for Office Space

BY ESTHER D. KUSTANOWITZ

When she decided to start her own practice, **Rosemarie Gates** '99W had a hard time finding office space. The process, she found, was tedious and inefficient. "I was really biting my nails. I used *The New York Times*, I networked, and something worked out. But then I had a hard time finding someone to share the space with me."

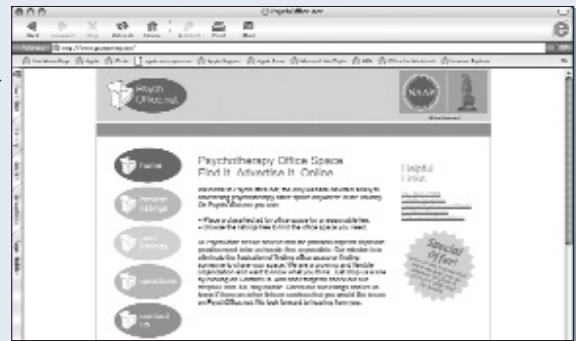
Frustrated at the lack of appropriate vehicles to help in her search for both an office and office-mate, Ms. Gates—a psychoanalytic psychotherapy graduate of the Washington Square Institute for Psychotherapy and Mental Health—started her own. She developed a sophisticated e-commerce Web site, **PsychOffice.net**, a nationwide resource devoted to advertising psychotherapy office space. Launched in May 2004, it draws advertisers from Massachusetts and Illinois, but for now most users are in the New York metro area.

Such enterprise is not surprising for someone who came to social work from a career in market research at Prodigy, the online service launched by IBM, Sears, and CBS. "I took all of the marketing and Internet expertise I had gained over the years and channeled it into this enterprise," said Ms. Gates, who also holds an MBA. "From the positive feedback we've received so far, I feel optimistic that PsychOffice.net will soon become the best source for psychotherapy office space in the country."

"Just because you're a social worker doesn't mean you can't be entrepreneurial at the same time," Ms. Gates pointed out. "This is a practical aspect of the field that really impacts people in clinical social work."

Future plans for PsychOffice.net include expanding the site into a general resource for practitioners, which will include links to continuing education opportunities, information about licensing, and how and where to furnish the office space.

Rosemarie Gates can be contacted at excel@psychooffice.net ❖



Yaron Ziv '04W Markets Therapy Cards

BY KELLY BERMAN

Sometimes, in talk therapy, words are not enough. So Gestalt therapist **Yaron Ziv '04W** turned to pictures. He created a set of cards depicting men and women in various relationships to each other, using them as ice-breaking tools with couples.

"The cards act as a trigger," said Mr. Ziv, a resident of Herzlia, Israel. "They always bring up things to talk about. They make it easier to confront issues because they work as mediators."

The set of cards, called "Duet," is one of three lines the Block Program graduate has developed. "Spectra" caters to individuals in therapy, and "Inner Child" to clients working through childhood trauma.

Mr. Ziv markets the cards to therapists and educational counselors at psychology conferences in Israel and the US, and

holds training workshops on how to use them. The cards have been recommended by the Israeli Psychological Association.

A specialist in Gestalt and cognitive behavioral therapies, Mr. Ziv is a firm believer in using creative tools in his practice. In Gestalt workshops and private sessions, he turns to music, movement, and psychodrama to help clients explore their feelings.

Mr. Ziv has trained intensively in Rational-Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) at the Albert Ellis Institute in NYC. He applies its principles in his private practice and as a psychological counselor for the Teachers' Union in Israel. In this role, he counsels on psychological matters (such as school violence and teacher burnout) in the educational system and trains teachers to manage their class through self-discipline and self-control. "I teach them to

use their authority smartly, not self-righteously," he said.

In fact, *Be Smart, Not Righteous* is the title of his second book, a guide for effective teacher and parental authority based on dialogue. His first, a Hebrew textbook called *A Handbook for Group Facilitators*, evolved from his extensive experience in group work, which he taught at Beit Berl College in Kfar Sabah for 17 years.

The enterprising Mr. Ziv has already moved on to his next project: establishing his own Group Facilitator's Training Program. Affiliated with Alabama State University and Manchester Metropolitan University in England, it will teach group work with an emphasis on the non-verbal, creative arts. Faculty will be educational counselors and organizational consultants well known in group work training in Israel. ❖

Thomas F. Livoti '86W is a board member of Peconic Community College in Westhampton, NY, treasurer of Suffolk County Council, and produces and hosts a local cable TV program, "Making the Human Connection" (on Cablevision Channel 20, Sundays, 8pm). He has a private psychotherapy practice in Riverhead, NY.

Dr. Joanne R. MacDonald '82W runs a private practice in Manahawkin, NJ.

Jay Neinstein '81W provides guidance and counseling for elementary school-age children at Torah Umesorah-Counterforce, a Jewish day school in Brooklyn, NY.

Rev. Andres J. Reyes '88W is pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Church in Jersey City, NJ, and runs a small private practice.

Dr. Anita (Nezri) Septimus '82W is director, Family AIDS Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center. It is a family-centered case management program for children and families living with HIV/AIDS. She is an associate on the pediatrics faculty at Einstein, and an advanced clinical hypnotherapist and breath therapist.

Jeffrey M. Sheckner '87W is executive director of the American Jewish League for Israel (AJLI) in NYC. He and his partner, Jay Mandel, are the parents of twin sons, Harlan and Joshua, age 7.

Robin (Smelasky) Sloma '86W is a private consultant for adoption and an adoption home study provider.

Audrey Stein '81W is vice president and chief develop-

ment officer, Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, Conn.

Lilly (Monderer) Zohary '84W founder of the Outreach for the Homebound program at Yad Sarah Organization, is retired. She now works there as a volunteer, training other volunteers and providing legal aid to the elderly.

1990s

Cheryl Birnbaum '90W was promoted to director of Jewish programming, Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS). She also oversees Pathways to Care, Westchester's regional center of the Jewish Healing & Hospice Partnership, a UJA-Federation.

Lynn J. Bouganim '98W provides counseling for children

with learning disabilities in grades 1-8 at Geshar Yehuda Yeshiva and works in the academic guidance department at Yeshiva of Flatbush-Middle Division, both in Brooklyn, NY.

Suzanne Engel '93W has retired from teaching and runs a private practice. She sings in the chorus of the United Federation of Teachers, and is on the board of the UFT Players, a drama group.

Rabbi Simcha Feuerman '93W authored *How to Have Fun Without Getting Into Trouble*, a book about religion and psychology published by Rowman and Littlefield. He is the director of the Lifetime Care Foundation in Brooklyn, NY.

Anna Frolova '97W directs the adult day health-care program,

Sarah Neuman Center for Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Mamaroneck, NY.

Grace M. Gibbs '93W is director of an intensive family preservation program at The Village in Hartford, Conn.

Nechama (Topola) Ginzberg '93W made aliyah to Israel in August and hopes to continue practicing social work in Jerusalem.

Laurel (Richter) Gladstone '96W is a therapist at Long Island Consultation Center in Rego Park, NY, working with adults with severe mental problems. She is the secretary of Friends of Hospice in Manhasset, NY.

Dr. Rosalie (Russo) Gleicher '95W celebrated her marriage to Adam Gleicher '86Y, investment accounting manager at YU. They live in Forest Hills, NY. She received her PhD from Hunter College two years ago and is working as a rehabilitation counselor in the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities at NYS Education Dept.

Andrea Marie Herman '99W directs the HIV/AIDS program at the Citizen's Advice Bureau in the Bronx, NY.

Jane L. (Rudolph) Herscovici '95W lives in Denver, Colo., where she devotes her time to raising her two daughters. She and husband Serge co-chaired the Denver Community Kolle's sixth anniversary dinner.

Elaine (Matelli) Hoch '93W is a medical social worker at Hospice of New Jersey. She is the deacon and elder in her church.

Alicia Jackson '99W is a senior social worker in the psychiatric in-patient ward at Kings County Hospital Center, Brooklyn, NY. She writes for her union's newsletter.

Stacey Klein '95W is a psychotherapist at Mount Sinai Medical Center and in private practice in Manhattan.

Barbara P. Korson '93W is coordinator of professional services at FECS Health and Human Service System in the Bronx, where she supervises developmentally delayed, mentally ill, and physically challenged clients in a sheltered workshop. She is also a field instructor for several colleges. She and her husband, Murray, live in Yorktown Heights, NY, and have three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Lisa J. Marcus '95W maintains a private healing practice in NYC. She is a 2004 graduate of the Barbara Brennan International School of Healing.

Lori (Sperling) Nevins '93W is a clinical evaluator of candidates for the White Plains Bariatric Surgery Program (gastric bypass surgery), White Plains Hospital Center.

Eric M. Robbins '92W is associate executive director, JCC MetroWest, and teaches in WSSW's Summer Block program.

Pamela J. Rosmarin '95W is a psychoanalytically-oriented psychotherapist in Toronto. Previously, she was a professional consultant to Bereaved Families of Ontario.

Winston Saigo '97W supervises six caseworkers in child support enforcement at Human Resources Administration in Brooklyn, NY.

Beverley Schneider '95W conducted a workshop, "God Laughed," at the spring retreat of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis (NPAP), which focused on a Talmudic midrash, using the

particularly Jewish dilemmas posed in it to explore issues in the psychoanalytic world as well as the larger world.

Judy (Freund) Shanberg '95W is a clinical social worker at Hackensack University Medical Center, NJ. She also works in the Red Cross's training service of survivors and is continuing her education in trauma work.

Dr. Darren Skinner '97W, '02W, division director of Co-occurring Programs, Gaudenzia, Inc., testified before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, House Judiciary Committee, Informational Meeting on Community Corrections in Harrisburg, Pa. He was awarded a Junior Research Investigator's Award at the Complexities of Co-occurring Disorders Conference in Washington, DC for his doctoral research at WSSW.

June A. (De Roux) Smith '90W published a book, "Why Good Relationships Go Bad—What To Do About It." She is associate professor in the departments of counseling and development, Long Island University on the CW Post Campus, where she recently received tenure.

Paul C. Smith '94W works part-time as a home health and hospice social worker at Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice in Heppner, Ore., and as a mental health specialist at Morrow-Wheeler Behavioral Health, in Fossil, Ore.

Helen (Iskin) Spelansky '94W is an adult, family, and child psychotherapist in Manhattan, a member of the American Psychotherapy Association, and consultant to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

Ethel Teichberg-Sabath '96W is

a psychiatric social worker, working with children with developmental disabilities and their families at the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, AECOM. She lives in Irvington, NY.

Madeline Queck '90W is the chaplain in the children's oncology, pediatrics, and neonatal departments at Stony Brook University Hospital, Long Island, NY.

2000s

Caroline Greene '01W is a consultant and instructor, Alcoholism Council of New York. She lectures in the Drinking Driving Program of the NY Department of Motor Vehicles, and provides assessments and referrals for people convicted of DUI or DWI.

Karliese Greiner-Laurie '04W is a clinical social worker in the Outpatient Addictions Treatment Program at Realization Center in NYC. She is a certified hypnotist and is focusing on practicing hypnotherapy to treat pain, phobias, and stress.

Julio A. Hernandez '00W is a supervisor of the eligibility units at the Agency for Child Development at Administration for Children's Services in the Bronx, NY.

Jill (Gartenberg) Jaclin '00W is associate campaign director, United Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks.

Rochelle Ann Jacobson '01W is a MICA coordinator and substance abuse therapist in Jamaica, NY.

Amanda S. Kaiser-Bluth '03W is a campaign associate at UJC of MetroWest, NJ.

Dennis J. McDougale '04W is the coordinator of the agency mentoring program at Hu-

man Resources Administration, NYC.

Joyce L. Robinson '04W is a case manager in the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) at Human Resources Administration, NYC.

Dr. Jessica (Millet) Rosenberg '03W is assistant professor of social work in the BSW program at Long Island University. She is a consultant to the 1199 SEIU health care union, has presented numerous times on NYS licensing law for social work, and has a book contract with Brunner-Routledge to edit a text on community mental health.

Ellayda (Yaroslavskaya)

Trubetskoy '02W has published her poems in seven books and is a member of the International Society of Poets. She is a social worker at JASA in Brooklyn, NY.

Melanie Michelle Usher '04W is a child welfare specialist in Congregate Care at ACS in Brooklyn, NY.

Michael G. Williams '04W is a hemodialysis social worker at the Bronx Veteran's Association Hospital, where he manages dialysis patients and coordinates visual impaired services. He lives in Ridgefield Park, NJ.

Dr. John Winer '00W has been appointed executive director of the Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities in Hackensack, NJ. A WSSW adjunct instructor, he was written up in the October issue of the *New Jersey Jewish Standard*.

We Mourn

Dr. Toby Berman-Rossi '85W, professor of social work at Barry University, who passed away in October.

In Memoriam

Wurzweiler Mourns Loss of Two Board Members

Wurzweiler lost two board members this year, both passionate supporters of the school whose names live on in scholarship funds that provide students with much-needed financial assistance.

FREDDA LEFF

Fredda Leff '78W, a vice chair of the WSSW board of governors, died in August 2004. Because of Mrs. Leff's



commitment to YU, her family requested that contributions in her memory be made to WSSW's Fredda and

Bruce Leff Scholarship Fund.

A WSSW alumna, Mrs. Leff joined the board in 1990 and became one of the school's most insightful, enthusiastic, and devoted members. She was the owner and president of Integrated Power Solutions, and vice president and controller of Lincoln Electric Products, a manufacturer of electrical equipment in Union, NJ.

"Fredda was a dynamic personality who was passionate about the school, its services to the Jewish community, and how it influenced her life and provided her with the skills that made her a successful businesswoman," said Sheldon R. Gelman, PhD, Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean. "She clearly articulated our mission and had no problem telling others why they should ensure that the school had the resources to prepare top-quality practitioners."

As a social worker, Mrs. Leff formerly served several Jewish communal organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith and the Jewish Community Federation of MetroWest, NJ.

PHILIP ZARO

Philip Zaro, a WSSW board member, died in May 2004. He joined the board in 1985 and became assistant secretary a year later. In 1995, he became treasurer.

"Phil was a kind and soft-spoken gentleman who cared deeply about Wurzweiler," said Dean Gelman. "He had an abiding interest in Israel and in services to developmentally disabled individuals."

A native of Lublin, Poland, Mr. Zaro was co-founder of the Zaro's Bread Basket bakery chain. Originating as a small bakery founded by his immigrant father in Newark in the late 1920s, Zaro's had grown to 21 stores by the 1970s. Today, the chain maintains 12 stores in transportation hubs like NYC's Grand Central Station, Penn Station, and Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Mr. Zaro and his wife established WSSW's Dorothy and Philip Zaro Endowed Scholarship Fund. They were also YU Guardians and Fellows of Wurzweiler and YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

He was chairman emeritus of The Shield Institute, which helps mentally retarded and developmentally disabled children. According to a *New York Times* obituary, he helped forge an alliance between that organization and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, of which he was an honorary trustee. Mr. Zaro was also a major contributor to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Passage from India

BY MANOJ PARDASANI '96W, '03W

An unexpected culture clash at a summer camp in the Berkshire Mountains taught

Manoj Pardasani about overcoming difference.

In 1993 at the age of 23, I left my home in Bombay, India, to spend the summer as a camp counselor in upstate New York. I had found the summer job through a newspaper ad and assumed it was a camp for children and teenagers.

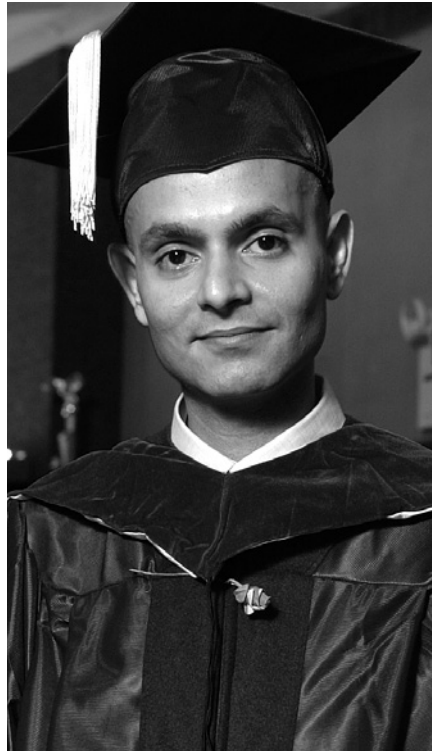
I was so excited about my adventure that I was the first person to arrive at the bus that would take the campers and me from New York City to the town of Copake in the Berkshire Mountains. Crowds of elderly people began arriving and, mistaking me for the porter, they instructed me to load their baggage onto the bus. It was only during the journey that I learned that Bronx House Emanuel Camp catered to seniors—Jewish seniors, at that. Being Hindu and growing up in India, I knew nothing about Judaism.

I was in for an education.

The staff at the camp had a tradition of greeting new arrivals by standing in a long row and introducing themselves one by one. When it came to my turn, they spoke loudly and used some kind of exaggerated sign language to spell out their names. I thought, “Oh my God, what have I gotten myself into?” I thought it was a camp for hearing-impaired Jewish seniors. After a while, I realized they were speaking loudly only to me. They thought I couldn't understand English!

After that initial confusion, I settled into my job quickly. In fact, I enjoyed it so much that I returned for the next

two summers. During my third summer, I stayed on to work full-time as a program director in the camp's office at a senior center in the Bronx.



Many of the seniors were Holocaust survivors and had endured the most hateful experiences during the war but had come through loving, kind, and tremendously compassionate. Their stories were devastating, even overwhelming at times. But they taught me that people can survive, learn, and grow despite tragedy. My interest in social work began with this lesson. They helped me as much as I helped them.

Many of them spoke of themselves as a minority, but in that context, I was the minority. Initially, it was difficult to get past the age gap. They challenged me. “Why should you be here helping us?” they asked me. “I don't know,” I answered. “But why don't you tell me

more about your experiences? What are your thoughts? How do you see things?”

As I got to know them, I found many similarities between our experiences. I too struggled to fit into American culture. For those first few years in the US, I was constantly seen as a representative for my country.

My father was born in Pakistan in 1947, the year it gained independence from the British. The country decided overnight to expel all non-Muslims, forcing my grandparents and their five children to flee to India with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They joined the thousands trying to cross the border during the night. In the frenzy, they became separated, and were unable to find each other for six months. They suffered terribly. They both lost family members who hadn't made it across the Pakistan border in time and were killed in riots. My grandmother always refused to talk about it.

During my nine years working at Bronx House, I saw that humans have similar aspirations no matter where they're from, and that suffering is not the prerogative of one group or people. After learning about Wurzweiler from the Bronx House staff, I enrolled in the MSW and Certificate in Jewish Communal Service programs. I grew very interested in the role of senior centers in supporting the health and well being of the elderly. That's what spurred me on to do my PhD.

In Indian culture, the elderly are revered for their wisdom. Wurzweiler gave me the opportunity to make that value the basis of my career. ♦

Manoj Pardasani, PhD, '96W, '03W, is assistant professor of social work at Indiana University and a former WSSW adjunct instructor.

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WurzweilerUpdate

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