



In Memoriam—Herbert H. Schiff

Herbert H. Schiff, a highly respected international leader of world Jewry from Columbus, OH, and the founding chairman of Wurzweiler's Board of Governors, died May 2. Mr. Schiff, who became chairman emeritus of the WSSW Board in 1994 after a decade of leadership, was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University for 15 years.

Mr. Schiff and his wife, Betty, were YU Benefactors. In 1984, he established the Herbert H. Schiff Chair in Management and Administration, currently occupied by Dr. David J. Schnall YC'69, RE'72, who is now also dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.

The son of Lithuanian immigrant parents, Mr. Schiff was born in Columbus. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, he followed his father into the footwear business, later becoming chairman and CEO of SCOA Industries.

Although he was well known for his financial acumen, he was also admired for his help in developing many local and national organizations through his philanthropy. Among the many awards acknowledging his professional and charitable work was an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Yeshiva University.

Mr. Schiff was a key leader in communal endeavors, including serving as director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and American ORT Federation, chairman of the Foundation of the Columbus Jewish Federation, president of the United Jewish Fund and Council of Columbus, a member of the national executive council of the American Jewish Committee, and a trustee of the United Jewish Appeal, Temple Israel Foundation, and the Peddie School.

He was also a member of the President's Clubs at State of Israel Bonds, Ohio State University, and the University of Miami. He served as a trustee of Children's Hospital and director of BancOhio National Bank in Columbus, and on the executive committees of Brandeis University and the American Friends of Hebrew University.

Mr. Schiff is survived by his wife, Betty Topkis Schiff; daughters, Suzanne Gallant of Branford, CT, Patricia (and Richard) Hershoin of Sarasota, FL, and Jane Schiff of Atlanta, GA; six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and sisters, Florence "Fredie" Levin and Mildred Lee.

Recent Faculty Publications

Beckerman, N.L. (2001). Couple therapy and depression: Assessment and treatment approaches. *Family Therapy*, 28(1), 19-29.

Beckerman, N.L. (2002). Couples coping with discordant HIV status. *AIDS Patient Care*, 16(2), 57-61.

Beckerman, N.L. (2002). Couples of mixed HIV status: Psychosocial issues affecting intimacy. *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy*, 1(4), 89-101.

Beckerman, N.L., & Sarracco, M. (2002). Emotionally focused couples therapy: Intervening with an emotionally abusive couple. *The Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy*, 1(3), 57-70.

Beckerman, N.L. (2002). Informed consent: An overview. *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying* (pp. 842-861). New York: Gale Publishing.

Beckerman, N.L. (2002). Intimate sexual violence in the United States: Social work and family therapy interventions. *The Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 8(1), 23-36.

Caputo, R.K. (2001). Depression and health among grandmothers co-residing with grandchildren in two cohorts of women. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 82(5), 473-483.

Caputo, R.K. (2001). Economic mobility in a youth cohort. *Journal of Poverty*, 5(3), 39-63.

Caputo, R.K. (2002). Adult daughters as parental caregivers: Rational actors versus rational agents. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 23(1), 27-50.

Gibelman, M., & Gelman, S.R. (2001). Grading: A problem of accountability. *Arete*, 25(2), 1-11.

Clary, G., **Gibelman, M.**, & Ostrander, S. (2001). Introduction-special issue. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 30(4), 654-659.

Gibelman, M. (2002). Managed Care and ethical social work practice: An oxymoron? *The Social Work Forum*, 35, 47-65.

Gibelman, M., & Mason, S.E. (2002). Treatment choices in a managed care environment: A multi-disciplinary exploration. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 30(2), 199-214.

Lens, V. (2001). When the personal and political collide. *Journal of Social Work*, 1(3), 361-363.

Lens, V. (2002). Managed care and the judicial system: Another avenue for reform? *Health & Social Work*, 27(1), 27-35.

Lens, V. (2002). Public voices and public policy: Changing the societal discourse on "welfare." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 29(1), 137-154.

Linzer, N. (2001). Building an inclusive and caring Jewish community. *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*, 78(1), 43-48.

Linzer, N. (2002). Teaching values and ethics. *The Social Work Forum*, 35, 29-45.

Miller, R., & **Mason, S.E.** (2001). Using group therapy to enhance treatment compliance in first episode schizophrenia. *Social Work with Groups*, 24(1), 37-51.

Pollack, D., & Cavanaugh, K.R. (2001). When foster children get hurt, who is responsible? *Family Support*, 20(3), 57-61.

Pollack, D. (2002). The capacity of a mentally retarded parent to consent to adoption. *Child Law Practice*, 21(1), 10-12.

Marsh, J., & **Pollack, D.** (2002). Constitutional rights of foster parents to adopt foster children. *Adoption & Fostering*, 26(1), 71-73.

Schnall, D.J. (2001). Six days shall you toil: Classic Jewish work values in summary and comparative religious perspective. *The Torah U-Madda Journal*, 10, 69-94.

Thirty additional articles by full-time faculty and staff have been peer reviewed and will be published later this year.

WurzweilerUpdate

SUMMER 2002

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends

WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

FEATURES



Comfort in the Midst of Chaos

WSSW Assistant Professor Rozetta Wilmore-Schaeffer talks about her extraordinary experience as a Red Cross volunteer counselor after 9-11.

4



Wurzweiler on the Prairie

A steady stream of students from South Dakota have been coming east to enroll in Wurzweiler's MSW program since the mid-1980s. Editor Kelly Berman asked WSSW alumni from the Black Hills state what attracted them here—and how they coped with the culture shock of the Big Apple.

10



Messenger of Hope

"I don't need to wear a collar to do what I feel is important for people," says Rev. Evelyn Harrington '97, a Wurzweiler alumna and Protestant minister, who has been comforting AIDS patients since before much was known about the disease.

14

DEPARTMENTS

Dean's Message	2	Leadership Profile	16
Memorial to Israel Miller	3	Philanthropy	17
News & Views	6	Alumni Notes	18
Student Profile	13	Opinion	20
Alumni Office	15	Alumni Donors	<i>inside back cover</i>



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WURZWEILER UPDATE
IS PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR BY
WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
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NEW YORK, NY 10033-3299
(212) 960-5373

DESIGNED AND PRODUCED
THROUGH THE OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
500 WEST 185 STREET
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DEAN'S MESSAGE

This has been a most unusual academic year at Wurzweiler and much has changed since my last message to you.



In the days following the tragic events of September 11 and the subsequent crash of American Airlines flight #587 bound for the Dominican Republic on November 12, Wurzweiler School of Social Work faculty and staff lent their knowledge and skills to the families of the survivors and rescue workers. Yeshiva University is situated in a neighborhood that was directly affected by the crash in Belle Harbor, as 190 passengers had direct ties to the community in Washington Heights.

Dr. Adele Weiner, associate dean of WSSW, served as our representative on a special community task force, which City Councilman Guillermo Linares (Washington Heights) asked us to join.

Admissions Director Michele Sarracco and Dr. Martin Birnbaum, Beate and Henry Voremberg Professor of Social Group Work, and Adjunct Assistant Professor Renee Schlesinger consoled rescue workers, doctors, and families at Red Cross headquarters and other venues. Dr. Ronnie Glassman, director of field instruction, together with Assistant Directors of Field Instruction Ruth Bigman and Roberta Rohdin, and Adjunct Associate Professor David Phillips, offered their expertise at Cantor Fitzgerald's counseling and crisis intervention site at the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan. Dr. Beth Grube, assistant professor, continued her work in debriefing firefighters. Wurzweiler also offered short-term trauma counseling to the YU community.

Dr. Joan Beder, '93, associate professor, assisted the Long Island Red Cross and conducted a memorial service for the Long Island Ethical Humanist Society. Dr. Rozetta Wilmore-Schaeffer, assistant professor, volunteered as a counselor with the Red Cross in Bergen County (NJ) (see page 4).

Associate Professors Dr. Susan Mason and Dr. David Strug, who have been working in the Washington Heights community on a social service needs study, lent their expertise to the local school district and are now working with newly elected City Councilman Miguel Martinez's office and community agencies in developing a rapid response plan for the Washington Heights community.

In December, we sent Dr. Beder to a four-day training institute sponsored by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF), where she received advanced training in interventions with large and small groups following a critical incident. She is now registered with ICISF teams in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Since December, Dr. Birnbaum has been facilitating a support group, sponsored by the Children's Aid Society, for maintenance workers who were employed at the World Trade Center before September 11. Most are suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Slowly, we are beginning to regain some sense of normality, although checkpoints at bridges and tunnels, the presence of National Guard troops, and increased security at the University are a clear reminder that the world has changed. It will take years for the losses and sense of vulnerability to dissipate. The skills of the profession have been recognized. We are proud that Wurzweiler was able to play a small part in response to this tragedy.

Keep in touch.

Sheldon R. Gelman

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



Rabbi Israel Miller

WSSW Governor and World Jewish Leader Dies

Rabbi Israel Miller, one of the nation's outstanding Jewish communal leaders who championed Jewish causes and advocated Jewish human rights around the globe, died on March 21 in Jerusalem at age 83.

A high-ranking administrator at Yeshiva University for more than 25 years, Rabbi Miller joined the University administration in 1968, was senior vice president of the University since 1979 and senior vice president emeritus since 1994. He was a member of the Wurzweiler Board of Governors and of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) Board of Trustees.

"During Rabbi Miller's long and illustrious career, he served his people, his country, and his faith with distinction," said Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University. "However, for most of his life, he was always devoted to his university, which he served with wisdom and love."

Rabbi Miller's association with the University spanned more than 60 years. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1938 from Yeshiva College and in 1941 was ordained at RIETS, where

he later taught applied rabbinics and influenced countless students. He received a master's degree from Columbia University in 1949. Rabbi Miller was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Yeshiva University in 1967.

Rabbi Miller played a singular role in modern Jewish communal life. A gentle, soft-spoken man, he was received by the last six United States presidents and negotiated with foreign governments on behalf of world Jewry with his trademark gentility and grace. He was president of almost every major Jewish organization, most recently serving as president since 1982 of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. His tireless energies helped achieve a landmark compensation agreement for the criminal theft that was part of the barbarity of the Holocaust.

He was chairman of the prestigious Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the coordinating body of religious, secular, and Zionist groups in the United States, serving as its spokesman in matters relating to Israel and international affairs in the US and abroad.

Rabbi Miller's special interest in Soviet Jewry found expression in the three years of his national leadership

of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Earlier in his career, in 1965, he led a delegation of the Rabbinical Council of America to the Soviet Union, where he was accorded the privilege of speaking from the pulpit in Moscow.

A native of Baltimore, MD, for more than 25 years Rabbi Miller provided insightful and compassionate guidance as spiritual leader of Kingsbridge Jewish Center in the Bronx, NY.

Rabbi Miller is survived by his wife, Ruth (who graduated from WSSW in 1965), and four children, Rabbi David (and Miriam) Miller, associate director of RIETS' Caroline and Joseph Gruss Institute in Jerusalem and an alumnus of Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies ('72); Rabbi Michael (and Phyllis) Miller, executive vice-president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York, also a Revel graduate ('76); Deborah (and Norman) Kram of Brookline, MA, director of Maayan, a Jewish Women's Study Institute; Judith (and Jay) Kalish of Jerusalem, an administrator at Hebrew University and an alumnus of Stern College for Women ('80); 19 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and his brother David and sister Dorothy who reside in Netanya, Israel. ♦

Giving Comfort in the Midst of Chaos WSSW Assistant Professor Rozetta Wilmore-Schaeffer

talks about her extraordinary experience as a

Red Cross volunteer counselor after 9-11.



■ What motivated you to get involved in social work education?

I started out as an elementary and high school teacher, but I quickly learned that I wanted to be in social work because I became very involved with my students. Working with children and families has always been my special interest. I've been in the field for about 37 years.

■ Why are you drawn to working with children and families?

I think of families as the basis of society, and I'm from a very large family—nine children, in fact! When I was an undergrad I realized that there were many families that needed external intervention to function properly. It was a natural choice for me.

■ What aspect of your teaching do you enjoy most?

I enjoy being in the classroom and talking with the students, developing experiential exercises that translate theory into practice issues. I walk in the class prepared thematically to teach but the students

direct what happens in class.

One of my favorite courses is "Practice with Children" because we talk about developmental issues and the practical language of working with children. We learn about play therapy and sometimes learn to play, so that's fun!

■ How does the experience of teaching at Wurzweiler compare with other universities where you've taught?

Wurzweiler's Jewish setting is unique—and I'm always aware of that. There's an interesting mix of students. It's the only program where the practice teachers are also the field advisors, so the students experience an important continuity from class in the field. I decided to join Wurzweiler because I could do both and the classes are small—about 10 to 15 students.

■ Can you tell me about your experience as a Red Cross mental health volunteer after the September 11 tragedy?

It was absolutely chaotic right after it happened. But I saw some of the best

social work I have ever seen in the middle of that chaos. Someone would come in who was hysterical, and five minutes later they'd be working with a volunteer. You really tested your inner resources.

The Red Cross called the relatives of every single person on the list of victims, and as the mental health workers, we were the first line of contact. That was really hard because we didn't know anything about them and yet we had to engage them around their grief. We had to figure out in the moment what their needs were.

If they wanted grief counseling or other practical services, we went to their homes, we saw them at schools, we met them at hotels—we spoke to them wherever we could find them. It was one of those times when you didn't stand on ceremony. If the most comfortable place for someone to meet with you was at the diner, that's where we met. I've never experienced anything like it.

I've done a lot of trauma work but this was totally different because it was

pervasive and because it touched us as social workers. Usually, I am the expert, but this time I wasn't. There were times when I would say, "Would you see the next client because I really need to go for a walk?"

■ Was this one of the more difficult things you've had to do in your volunteer work? It's been overwhelming at times as a counselor, because I have no idea how people have managed to come through this and because I also feel the pain of the loss. We've all dealt with loss and death but this was different. This was something about which we could make no sense.

Sometimes there was nothing to say or do. I would just hold the person.

In some instances, the very public nature of this trauma has taken away the families' ability to grieve. Reporters are always calling them or writing about it, there's no way of getting away from it. I'm still counseling people and I think this is going to go on for a long time.

■ What did you do when it all became too much?

I called on the people in my life whom I always call on—friends, colleagues, family. Sometimes I just went home and had quiet time. And I prayed—that's always a major source of strength for me.

The second day, after the tragedy, on an index card I wrote a list of all the contact numbers of people I turn to for support. I carried that wherever I went. It was more important than my driver's license. It's still in my purse.

■ When you're not involved in your work, what do you do to relax and enjoy yourself? I love listening to music—mostly jazz and classical. I also love dance, the theater, movies and reading. I spend a lot of time at Lincoln Center. I love to read and knit—I often knit while listening to music to relax.



■ What do you think makes a good social worker?

Really caring for people, being empathically attuned to them and having a sound body of knowledge. People think of social workers as friendly visitors, but we are so far from that. You have to have knowledge, experience, and patience because it's a long process.

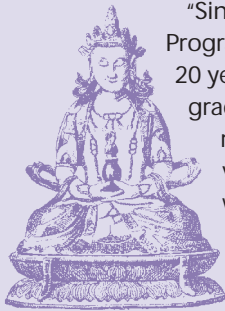
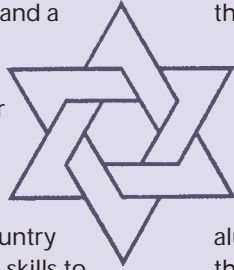
■ Can you tell me about an especially rewarding case you've worked on?

There is one case which stands out, from a long time ago, when I worked in child welfare. I was the social worker for a young kid who was truly a thorn in my side for six years, from the age of

7 to almost 14. He had a knack for getting into more trouble than I have ever seen. He had good reason to be angry, but someone who has that intensity of anger is also capable of the same intensity of loving. I grew to love him and admire his resilience. His family disappeared on him, and he simply didn't have anyone else. He was a black kid, and I was the only black woman in his life who was a constant. I refused to give up on him. We at the agency thought he was going to either do something great or end up in jail. We had no idea which it was going to be. I recently found out that this young man finished medical school. ❖

Reaching Out to Recruit Clergy

Where can you find a rabbi, a minister, a nun, a Buddhist or Christian monk, and a rebbitzin (a rabbi's wife) studying "Cultural Diversity"? At Wurzweiler School of Social Work. The WSSW Clergy Program is the only MSW program in the country that teaches social work skills to clergymen from all faiths.

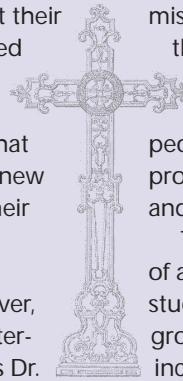


"Since the Clergy Program's inception over 20 years ago, we have graduated students representing a variety of religions who have continued to minister to their congregations, newly equipped

with special knowledge, values, and skills regarding human behavior," says Dr. Norman Linzer '60, coordinator of the Clergy Program and holder of the Samuel J. and Jean Sable Chair in Jewish Family Social Work at Wurzweiler.

"Some graduates have left their religious callings and entered social work full-time. Our alumni attest to the quality of the education at Wurzweiler that has inspired them to move in new directions while integrating their religious and social work orientations," says Dr. Linzer.

In more recent years, however, there has been a decline of interest in the Clergy Program, says Dr. Linzer, so last year he embarked on a promotional drive to recruit clergy through a series of seminars in their respective communities.



Among these was a meeting with a group of seminarians and members of the Interfaith Council on the Holocaust, who visited Yeshiva University's Wilf Campus in Manhattan in November.

The Council consists of Christian and Jewish clergy from Philadelphia whose mission is to educate Americans about the Holocaust. Sister Gloria Coleman, one of the ICH's founding members, said: "We hope that in teaching people about the Holocaust, we can promote dialogue between Christians and Jews."

This they certainly did, in the form of a lively discussion with faculty and students in the Clergy Program. The group was intrigued by the Program's inclusive approach, which brings together students of various religions and encourages them to resolve any conflicts between their theological beliefs and social work practice. ❖

WSSW in Canada

BY STUART RAZIN YC'63, FGS'68
National director of the Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University

Canadians interested in social work careers have long been making the trip south to New York to enroll in Wurzweiler's MSW program. There are currently 13 Canadian students at the School and about 100 alumni in the Greater Toronto area alone, many of whom hold important positions in a variety of Jewish communal organizations.



After a lull in activities among Canadian WSSW graduates over the past several years, a group of WSSW alumni are getting together to build a stronger network and help raise the School's profile. Presently, I am acting as chairperson. Members of our small working committee are: Judy Weinryb '75, Phyllis Fien '79, Irene Borins Ash '87, Judy Cohen '82, and Susan Mintz '81.

We got underway with an event on March 17, held at an alumna's home in Toronto. The guest speaker was Dr. David Schnall, Herbert H. Schiff Professor of Management and Administration at WSSW and Dean of Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Sheldon Gelman, Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean of WSSW, is expected to be the speaker at the group's second meeting later this year.

Professor Vicki Meyer, adjunct instructor at WSSW, also made her second visit to Toronto in March to supervise this year's Block students and their agency-based field instructors, and to meet with prospective students.

The alumni working committee hopes to introduce more Canadian students to Wurzweiler's innovative Block Program and its Jewish communal service component.

The group is generating new ideas with much enthusiasm. Among them are speeches and seminars, networking for professional and communal growth, helping Block Program students in their field placements at WSSW, and fundraising for the School.

With Canadian alumni participation and support, WSSW is set for an even brighter future. ❖

Dr. Eli Levy Retires After 28 Years at WSSW

The CLERGY PROGRAM has continued its outreach this year with a series of seminars led by a faculty member or an alumnus. These two-hour seminars have included:

■ ***“Dealing with the effects of trauma”*** for an interfaith group, led by Dr. Rozetta Willmore-Schaeffer, assistant professor at WSSW, co-sponsored with the Interfaith Brotherhood and Sisterhood Committee and the UJA-Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson, NJ.

■ ***“Reaching out: The role of the minister in the community”*** led by Rev. Evelyn Harrington '97, WSSW clergy alumna, social work case manager for HIV and prenatal OB GYN department, St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, co-sponsored with the Brooklyn Tabernacle.

■ ***“Dealing with the effects of trauma”*** for an interfaith group, led by Dr. David Phillips, WSSW adjunct faculty, co-sponsored with the Isabella Geriatric Center and the Alianza Dominicana of Washington Heights.

■ ***“Understanding domestic violence”*** for Reform rabbis, led by Dr. Cheryl Kramer '95, WSSW faculty, co-sponsored with the New Jersey- Hudson Valley Association of Reform Rabbis.

■ ***“Crises of the Clergy: Sources of Stress and Strategies of Survival”*** for an interfaith group, led by Dr. Frederick (Jerry) Streets '81, '97, WSSW clergy alumnus, co-sponsored with the Ossining Ministerial Association.

■ ***“Taking the shanda (shame) out of it: Counseling parents on their at-risk teenagers”*** for rabbis of all denominations, led by Trish Attia '83, WSSW adjunct faculty, co-sponsored with the Synagogue Leadership Initiative of the UJA-Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson.

■ ***“Positive pastoral approaches to trauma”*** for an interfaith group, led by Dr. David Phillips, WSSW adjunct faculty, co-sponsored with the Rockaway-Five Towns Interfaith Clergy Council, Inwood, NY.

If you or the clergy in your community would like to know more about these seminars or the Clergy Program, contact Dr. Norman Linzer '60 at 212-960-0841 Tuesdays to Thursdays.

Wurzweiler School of Social Work bids farewell to Dr. Eli Levy, associate professor, who retires at the end of this semester after 28 years at the School.



During this time, Dr. Levy has had a profound effect on the culture and curriculum at WSSW. As chair of the curriculum committee, he played a major role in developing the curriculum to meet the requirements of the Council on Social Work Education so that the school could be reaccredited.

“You’ll always know Dr. Levy was here,” said Dr. Charles Auerbach, WSSW professor. “He definitely left his mark at Wurzweiler. He was a role model for me on how to be respectful of students, and a man of great moral integrity.”

Although Dr. Levy has taught almost all the courses offered at WSSW over the years, he is most well known for his more recent classes in “Jewish Social Philosophy”, and Values and Ethics. He has learned so much from his students, he said, that he will miss this contact the most.

One of his former students, Rev. Evelyn Harrington (*see page 14*), now a social work case manager for the HIV and prenatal departments at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, recently recalled how Dr. Levy encouraged her to express her views as a Christian minister learning about Jewish Social Philosophy. “I gave Dr. Levy a hard time,” she confessed. “He was so patient and wise. He used to say I would help to make some changes around there.”

Dr. Levy said he will undoubtedly also miss his weekly contact with his colleagues, whom he appreciates for their warmth and non-competitive help with research, writing, and teaching.

Dr. Susan Bendor, WSSW associate professor, who has known Dr. Levy for 13 years, described him as “a dignified and extremely helpful colleague, who is always available to give advice.”

“He has a quick sense of humor, is totally devoid of self-pity, and looks at personal and professional situations realistically,” she added.

Dr. Charles Trent, associate professor, said Dr. Levy is a “man of principles, who fought to get students in the Community Practice course, to ensure its place in the curriculum.”

Dr. Levy plans to keep busy during his retirement. He wants to catch up on his religious studies and is looking into becoming a docent at the Jewish Museum in Manhattan. An ardent traveler and passionate supporter of Israel, he plans to continue making trips there with his wife.

Then there’s his much-neglected stamp collection, and the piles of *Biblical Archeology* magazine waiting to be read. But that will have to be in between visits to his grandchildren—all 21 of them. ❖



Faculty News

■ **DR. LOUIS LEVITT**, professor emeritus at WSSW, was recently elected to Columbia University School of Social Work Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. Dr. Levitt was honored for his work as a consultant and expert witness for the Children's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Legal Aid Society in several landmark cases. Also noted was his leadership and staff support for the IMPACT 97 conference that examined the consequences of cutbacks in funding for health and social services.

■ **DR. MARTIN BIRNBAUM**, Beate and Henry Voremborg Professor in Social Group Work at WSSW, presented The Beulah Rothman Memorial Lecture, sponsored by Barry University School of Social Work and the Florida Chapter of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups in Miami at the end of January. He spoke about "The Power of Purposeful Sessional Endings in Each Group Encounter" to Barry University faculty, students, and members of the community.

■ **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SUSAN BENDOR** was invited to be a guest speaker in the Holocaust course at Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA, in March. Dr. Bendor also gave a second address to the college

community and small town of Ferrum on "The Importance of Hope in Times of Adversity."

■ What makes a great professor? According to a recent article with that title in *The Penn Stater*, published by the Penn State Alumni Association, **DEAN SHELDON R. GELMAN** is well-remembered by former students at that university, where he taught from 1969 to 1990. Said one: "Sheldon Gelman was adept at taking an ordinary subject (for instance, what is "average?") and expounding on it while soliciting lots of input from the students...His courses are the ones I think about when someone asks what I learned in college."

■ **DEAN GELMAN** was also honored by the New York State Social Work Education Association as "Educator of the Year (2001)" at its 34th annual conference in Albany.

■ **PROFESSOR RICHARD CAPUTO's** article in the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* (volume 21, 2000), titled "Race and Marital History as Correlates of Women's Access to Family-Friendly Benefits," was nominated as one of the top articles published during the 2001 Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research competition.

■ **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOAN BEDER** was one of two academic professionals invited to

attend "Social Work Faculty Leadership Training in Working With HIV-Affected Families," a program at Paul Newman's Hole-in-the-Wall Camp, in September last year. Dr. Beder drew on that experience for her presentation at The 14th Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS, held at the end of May in New Orleans, LA, and sponsored by Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

■ The latest volume of *The Social Work Forum* (Winter/Spring 2001-2002), published by WSSW, is a cutting-edge issue about values and ethics in social work, say the journal's co-editors, **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DANIEL POLLACK** and **DR. ERIC LEVINE '94**, adjunct assistant professor. The journal carries seminal articles by leading writers on the topic of ethics, such as Professor Frederic Reamer of Rhode Island College School of Social Work, Professor Ralph Dolgoff of the University of Maryland, WSSW Professor Emeritus Charles Levy, **PROFESSOR MARGARET GIBELMAN**, director of the School's doctoral program, and Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor of Jewish Family Social Work **DR. NORMAN LINZER '60**. Five hundred extra copies were printed to send to every social work school in the country. ❖

MSW Program Reaffirms Its Accreditation Status

The master of social work program at Wurzweiler School of Social Work has received reaccreditation for the next eight years, until June 2009.

The Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education, the accrediting body for more than 600 MSW and BSW programs in the United States, voted to reaffirm the program with a progress report on two issues. The Commission on Accreditation commended Wurzweiler's faculty and administration for their efforts in meeting the accreditation standards and affirmed the many strengths of the program.

News of the reaccreditation, in late November last year, followed the submission of a three-volume self-study, a site visit by a team of social work educators and practitioners, in spring 2001, and the MSW program's response to the site visitors' report.

The site visitors identified more than 20 program strengths in their report. As a follow-up, Wurzweiler will submit a progress report to the Commission by August this year, clarifying certain processes, procedures, and course content of the master's program. ❖



Dr. Ronnie Glassman (left), WSSW director of field instruction, with Dr. Joyce Brenner '83, Dr. Barbara Draimin, and Fred Tully

Terrorism on Block Conference Agenda

Wurzweiler School of Social Work's Second Conference on Field Education in a Global Perspective gathered together field instructors and educational coordinators from America, Canada, and Israel to discuss "Crisis Intervention in a Cross-Cultural Context" on January 14.

The terrorist attacks on America on September 11 and the

Fifth HIV Conference Tracks Changes in the Disease



Ivy Gamble of The Family Center

Wurzweiler School of Social Work's fifth annual HIV and Diversity conference, held December 10, explored social work responses to changes in the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Three keynote addresses, on the topic of "The Multi-Generational Impact of HIV/AIDS," emphasized the continued importance of

overcoming negative social attitudes as the impact of the disease affects broadening segments of society.

Ivy S. Gamble, deputy director of The Family Center in New York, tracked changes in the demographics of and social responses to AIDS during the past two decades. Ms. Gamble said that even though the past 20 years have seen more services such as counseling and long-term planning being offered to patients, social workers still face enormous difficulties in working to overcome the challenges of the disease.

Tom Sentell and Lenny Rabb, the two other keynote speakers, drew attention to the hidden or under-represented sectors of society affected by AIDS. Mr. Sentell, vice chair of the New York Association

on HIV Over Fifty (NYAHOF), spoke of the prejudices that older patients face when seeking treatment. Not conventionally thought of as a sector at risk, over 50-year-olds are often not diagnosed when they arrive sick at the hospital.

Mr. Rabb, a campaigner for



AIDS campaigner Lenny Rabb

pediatric AIDS awareness and founder of Men's Education, Needs, and Services (MENS)—an advocacy organization for men raising HIV/AIDS infected and affected chil-

dren—spoke about the lack of programs available for male care-givers.

Both men, who are HIV positive, testified to the central role social workers play in helping to cope with the disease. "Social workers are the backbone of the fight against AIDS," said Mr. Rabb, a single father and a former drug user before he was diagnosed as HIV positive. "Doctors obviously play a primary role, but if it weren't for social workers, many patients wouldn't go to hospital to get their medicine."

Workshop topics this year included "Racism, Discrimination, Cultural Bias and Its Impact on HIV/AIDS Populations: A Global Issue," "Practicing Spiritually Sensitive Social Work with Persons with AIDS," and "Beyond Survival: Recognition of HIV/AIDS as a Long-Term Disability." ♦

escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict informed the discussion at this year's conference. Three social workers, from three different socio-cultural contexts, gave opening presentations. Barbara Draimin, DSW, executive director of The Family Center in New York City, gave advice about planing intervention with clients, workers, and students, and identified the risk factors for those most affected by the September attack. Joyce Brenner '83, DSW, coordinator of Wurzweiler's Block Program in Israel, spoke about the coping mechanisms of accepting, confronting, and denying the political tension in Israel. Fred Tully, MSW, clinical director of The Children's Home Society in Rapid City, SD, suggested that the events of 9-11 could effect a change in terminology when working with children who have been terrorized by violence and abuse.

The keynote address by the Honorable C. Virginia Fields, MSW, Manhattan borough president, highlighted the challenges facing social workers in New York after 9-11.

"We chose a cross-cultural perspective so we could see how social workers are dealing with the crises in their different locales," said Roberta F. Rohdin, MSW, assistant director of field instruction. ♦

FROM AFRICA, WITH LOVE

Attendees at this year's HIV and Diversity conference each received a beaded Zulu 'love letter' depicting the AIDS ribbon. For centuries, the beaded tokens have been made by Zulu women of South Africa as gifts to their lovers. But with one in nine South Africans HIV-positive, a high proportion of whom are Zulus, this traditional design now delivers a more urgent, modern-day message of awareness and solidarity. The love letters are also a sad comment on the long-gone days of carefree courting and a reminder of the ever-present risk of sexual intimacy. ♦



Wurzweiler

on the Prairie

A steady stream of students from South Dakota have been coming east to enroll in Wurzweiler's MSW

program since the mid-1980s.

Editor Kelly Berman

asked WSSW alumni from the

Black Hills state what

attracted them here—

and how they coped with

the culture shock of

the Big Apple.

South Dakota and New York are as different from each other as Mount Rushmore and the Empire State Building. Large and mid-western, South Dakota is predominantly rural and sparsely populated. It is home to the Sioux tribe, many of whom live on reservations that are among the poorest communities in the U.S. From the acres of flat grasslands east of the Missouri River to the arid ranchlands and hills in the west, the vast open expanses mean social workers often have to drive hours to see their clients.



Photo by South Dakota Tourism/Pine Ridge Reservation

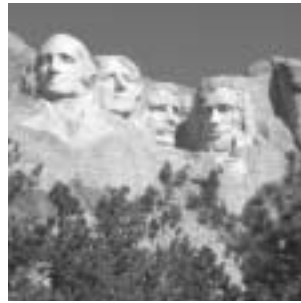


Photo by South Dakota Tourism/MT Rushmore



So what brings social work students all the way from South Dakota to New York City to study in the Summer Block Program at Wurzweiler School of Social Work? In an informal poll, many cite “convenience” as the program’s main attraction. Most students were already in jobs that they didn’t want to leave or had families they were reluctant to uproot. In the Summer Block Program, they could come to WSSW for three consecutive summers, going back home to do their required field work.

“Wurzweiler is set up in a way that is conducive to getting a master’s degree if you’re already in the working world,” says Patricia Mechling ’86, who joined Bonnie Rigenbach ’86 and Constance Watson ’86 in the first group of South Dakotans studying at the School.

“Much of my graduate work could be done on the job and I was able to keep my costs down.” Ms. Mechling works as the director of programming for mental health and substance abuse services at Behavior Management Systems, a community mental

health center in Rapid City.

Because the program is designed to appeal to working people and compresses its classes into 8 weeks instead of the usual 14, it attracts students who are focused and determined, according to Daniel Pollack, associate professor at WSSW. “The Block Program students are a strong group because they are self-selecting. They have to leave their families and come to this big city that they don’t know. That can be a frightening thing, but they dive into it with great initiative,” he says.

The tight network of social workers in South Dakota, particularly among returning graduates and field instructors, has helped build Wurzweiler’s solid reputation.

Eileen Leir, supervisor of clinical services at Casey Family Programs, a national network of permanency programs for children in Rapid City, is currently a field instructor for two Wurzweiler students based in South Dakota. “We have sent people out to Wurzweiler to work on master’s degrees because our

people benefit from the diverse cultural makeup of New York City, and because we believe there are some parallels between the Jewish experience and the Native American experience,” she explains.

Wurzweiler’s Orthodox Jewish setting also adds a unique dimension to the university experience of many South Dakotan students, as it introduces many of them to the values and culture of the religion. Some students have had surprising reactions. Ms. Mechling says, “I didn’t know much about Judaism before I studied at Wurzweiler. I was struck by the rich culture, strength, and diversity within the Jewish community.”

For Charles Edler ’97, a substance abuse and mental health treatment team leader at the Black Hills Health Care System, Veteran’s Affairs Hot Springs Hospital, learning about the interaction of Judaism and social work was one of the unexpected highlights of his degree. “Jewish Social Philosophy’, taught by Dr. Norman Linzer ’60, was the crown jewel of my master’s. I

really enjoyed the philosophy and exchange of ideas. The class was a mixture of different people—including a Catholic priest and a Native American—and Dr. Linzer allowed us all to present our opinions.”

“That’s the way a class should be. I’ve modeled a lot of the psycho-educational seminars I’ve given to our patients on Dr. Linzer’s approach,” says Mr. Edler.

The students also enjoyed Wurweiler’s emphasis on learning about social work practice through experience. Ms. Watson recalls, “One of our earliest projects was to write a paper on what we had to do to prepare for our arrival at WSSW. At first I thought it was a bit strange to be studying that, but then I realized that it made perfect sense to begin with ourselves as subjects.”

Most South Dakota alumni agree that after adjusting to the frenetic pace and crowded streets of Manhattan, the cultural diversity both in the classroom and the city broadened their perspective as social workers.

Carol Sasse ’92, is a psychotherapist in Rapid City working mainly with couples. “Before I came to Wurzweiler,” she says, “I had never ridden on a bus! Being exposed to people from all over the world—in the Block

Program and in the dorms at Columbia University—gave me a strong new insight into people. I grew up with Native Americans on a reservation, so I hadn’t lived with a diverse population before. It was intriguing just to be out on the streets, just going to and from the grocery store.”

With many ethnic neighborhoods packed so closely together, New York City offered South Dakotan students an urban experience in dramatic contrast to the rural sprawl of their less populous state.

According to Peter Compton ’92, a professional services counselor at Behavior Management Systems, the geographic area some agencies cover is enormous, extending, for example, from Rapid City—whose 50,000 residents make it the second-largest city in the state—to nearby ranches and small towns. By contrast, in New York, you can walk to a nearby neighborhood and see different social conditions for yourself.

Because of the vast distances they travel to see clients, says Ms. Sasse, South Dakotans have a high level of patience. It isn’t unusual for people to drive up to 400 miles for a doctor’s appointment or to get medication.

South Dakota’s pastoral setting

may create the perception of peace, but domestic violence and abuse are just as prevalent there as in metropolitan areas, observes Fred Tully, a consultant for the Children’s Home Society in Rapid City, who gave a presentation at WSSW’s Second Conference on Field Education in a Global Perspective in January (*see page 8*).

Ms. Sasse says that widespread poverty, particularly on the Native American reservations of Rosebud and Pine Ridge, has had a significant impact on social conditions. Homelessness, sexual assault, child abuse, and alcoholism on reservations are particular problems, and there is an ingrained dependence on the welfare system. As people migrate between urban areas and reservations, their lifestyles become more transient and their families more unstable, which only exacerbates their problems.

Virtually all of our South Dakota graduates agreed that New York and WSSW had offered them indispensable academic and cultural enrichment. Phil Loving ’98, an at-risk coordinator at a high school in Sioux Falls, says, “I loved studying at Wurzweiler. It was one of the best experiences of my life!” ❖



Photo by South Dakota Tourism



Photo by South Dakota Tourism/Rapid City



A Sympathetic Ear

Nigerian student **Osayame Osemwegie** is helping children in foster care deal with what they've been through—by getting them to talk.

Among the Wurzweiler graduates of 2002 is Osayame Osemwegie, who received the National Association of Social Workers Award at commencement this year. A PEP student from Nigeria, Ms. Osemwegie's enthusiasm for helping people saw her change careers from law to teaching to social work.

Trained as a lawyer at the University of Ibadan, Ms. Osemwegie practiced as an attorney in Lagos before she came to New York in 1991. Here she worked as an elementary school teacher in New York's public school system. "I saw children suffering in school because they had problems at home, and realized that these problems had to be addressed in order for them to function in school, so I went into social work," she says.

Her first role was in direct foster care services at New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), where she worked with 20 children. She has been working for ACS for the past eight years, most recently as a supervisor in pre-placement services at The Children's Center in Manhattan.

Talkative and brimming with enthusiasm for what she does, Ms. Osemwegie has found her calling as a social worker. "I love helping people—sometimes to my own detriment!" she says.

Strong interactional skills have helped her get through to the many

troubled youngsters she has worked with in her field placement with children in foster care at ACS's Division of Foster Care and Preventive Services in Brooklyn. As part of the mental health "screen team," a new initiative to assess children as they enter foster care, she often made home visits to talk with them and their families.



One day a depressed 19-year-old—who had moved around from relative to relative, had lived on the street, and was now in his grandmother's foster care—came in to the division wanting to commit suicide. Ms. Osemwegie's ability to engage him in direct, non-threatening conversation helped defuse the situation.

"I just really talked to him. After

he calmed down, we wrote a list of the pros and cons of continuing the behavior that was causing conflict at home," she says. "He had refused to contribute financially to the upkeep of the house, but once he looked at it rationally, he changed his mind."

Ms. Osemwegie's field placement gave her the tools to help her young clients express their anger and anxieties. "I know now what to ask the children when assessing their mental health. You know they've been through a lot and need to talk. A caring ear is so important for them," she says. Her field placement also trained her in infant development and early intervention.

Drawing from her immigrant experience, Ms. Osemwegie says her perspective as an outsider to American society helps her empathize with her clients. "I understand what people are going through when they are trying to fit in and are different in some way—be it looks, accent, skin color," she says. "I'm not preoccupied with my difference, but it's there."

Studying social work in an academic environment has equipped Ms. Osemwegie with a broader professional context in which to place her skills.

"I wanted to get my MSW so that I could serve my clients better. It also helps to put a name to what I have been doing," she says.

If the mark of a good school is the extent to which it stimulates students to learn more, then Ms. Osemwegie is a brilliant advertisement for Wurzweiler. Although she is relieved to have less on her plate now, she is leaving the School with a renewed appetite for learning. "There are many courses I would still love to study," she says, rattling off a list of subjects that she didn't have a chance to take. ❖

Messenger of Hope

"I don't need to wear a collar to do what I feel is important for people," says **Rev. Evelyn Harrington '97**, a Wurzweiler alumna and Protestant minister, who has been comforting AIDS patients since before much was known about the disease.

When the time came to find an MSW course, Evelyn Harrington '97 set her sights decisively on the Clergy Program at Wurzweiler.

After receiving her master's degree, she sent only one letter of application: to St. Vincent's Hospital in the West Village district of Manhattan.

In both cases, she got what she wanted. Rev. Harrington is motivated by such a steady sense of faith that you can't help but feel she is deeply in touch with some underlying order of things.

For certain, her spiritual belief and actions in the world are intimately bound together. Religion flows into her social work practice, and social work to her religion. "My roles as a member of the clergy and a social worker embrace and engulf each other. One is not anything without the other," she explains.

That is why she was drawn to St. Vincent's, which accepts patients who can't otherwise afford health care. She works at the hospital as a social work case manager for the HIV and prenatal OB/GYN departments. "I felt I could identify with its mission of service to people in need," she says. "St. Vincent's was founded by the Sisters of Charity, who were agents of help and hope, charity and benevolence, caring and compassion. Their prayers and faith were the foundation for which the institution continues to stand. Social work is ministry—you listen, encourage, and move. I believe caring and compassion are the ultimate gifts that move the most tattered and fearful person."

Rev. Harrington's own spiritual journey has been somewhat circular. Her father was a Baptist pastor, but she chose a very different path initially, as a stock

broker and financial analyst and administrator. "Back then, I saw ministry as a sacrifice for God. I wanted to be in the world making money," she explains. Four years later, she was still searching for her own personal peace. "Finding the road to peace was finding the road to God, in His service," she says.

Taking over outreach responsibilities at her local church, she began her long involvement in social service—first advocating for HIV victims in the late 1970s, after witnessing their ostracism from established health care providers, from religious communities, from their families and friends.

She graduated from New York Theological Seminary in 1985.

Her first-year field placement while a student at WSSW, at Flushing Meadow Scattered Site Community Housing in Queens, NY, grew out of her church work. While the housing agency administered residential units for AIDS patients, Rev. Harrington helped them find shelter for their struggling spirits.

In her current role at St. Vincent's, she sees terminally ill patients tortured by questions of guilt and fate as they approach death, and also prenatal patients with difficult pregnancies. Seeing them move from a state of turmoil and despair to tranquility and hope is one of the most rewarding parts of her work. For these people, small steps such as participating in a spirituality support group, a General Educational Development (GED) program, or an apple bake-off can make a big difference in regaining their self worth.

For someone with strong religious



convictions of her own, how does she handle patients from other spiritual backgrounds?

"People in pain can be Jewish, Catholic, black, white, poor. I work with their strengths, which include their culture and beliefs. Ninety percent of my patients and colleagues don't even know I'm a minister," she says.

Her non-judgmental approach towards her patients goes hand in hand with a refreshing desire for honesty. No subject is off-limits. "People here know I can listen to anything. I help them feel comfortable. I tell them they can laugh, stand on the table and scream, do anything, as long as they feel better when they leave the room.

"God must be a laugher. How could he keep a straight face with all the things we get ourselves into down here?" she asks with a mischievous gleam in her eye. ❖

From Your Association

The Alumni Association and its Executive Committee extend congratulations to the Class of 2002 and welcome all alumni, old and new, to join in our endeavors.

On April 28, the corridors of Belfer Hall on the Wilf Campus were graced with current students, professionals of varying academic standing, and alumni from the '60s through 2001. "The Many Faces of Social Work" daylong academic adventure was an absolute success. We thank: Dean Sheldon Gelman, David I. Schachne; chairman of WSSW's Board of Governors, and his wife, Dorothy; keynote speaker the Honorable **Vito J. Lopez '70**, New York State Assemblyman, 53rd Assembly District; faculty; presenters; alumni, and the professional

staff. You all helped make a rainy Sunday bright with friendship, learning, and professionalism.

Thank you to those who participated in and contributed to the phone-a-thons that benefit the WSSW Alumni Scholarship Fund. Please remember to make your gift by Jun 30 (See our acknowledgement of this year's donors on the inside back cover).

We urge you to become involved in planning events and join the Executive Committee. Why not speak at one of our events, host an event at home or at work, or organize satellite groups? Together we can make the future of our school and our profession even more successful.

Contact Association Co-Presidents Annette Prager '96 at (201) 385-1612 or *Hoshana3@Aol.com*, or Joel Katz '81 at (973) 428-9300 or *jkatz@jccmetrowest.org*.

Wurzweiler's New Alumni Director

Reconnecting and reviving are the two themes Adam M. Greenwald, the new director of alumni affairs at Wurzweiler



Adam M. Greenwald

School of Social Work, has in mind. A graduate of Brandeis University, Greenwald has worked extensively building alumni committees and organizing events for the past three years for his alma mater.

"I am excited by this new challenge and look forward to accomplishing many of the goals set forth by my predecessor and the Alumni Association's Executive Committee," he says.

Mr. Greenwald has been busy learning about the School, its faculty, alumni, and current students. "I believe the more I know about a student's experience," he said, "the more prepared I will be when programming opportunities arise." Based on surveys, the Office of Alumni Affairs recognizes the need for alumni events focused on a variety of

social work interests, with a social/networking aspect built-in.

Asked about the alumni body, Mr. Greenwald remarked that many WSSW alumni are prominent in their fields. "Alumni work in all aspects of social work, from agencies to private practices," he said. He added that many alumni hold prestigious positions with highly acclaimed

journals, institutions, and centers.

Mr. Greenwald organized the first-ever homecoming for WSSW alumni, held on April 28. "Learn From the Many Faces of Social Work" gave graduates the opportunity to catch up with fellow alumni and former professors during a day-long program of exciting "classes" on social work topics. *See page 16.* ❖

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE CENTER

The Wurzweiler School of Social Work Career Center assists alumni in developing, evaluating, and implementing their social work career goals.

We offer the following services:

- Workshops on:
 - Starting your job search
 - Resume writing
 - Interviewing skills
- Networking and negotiating
- Licensing and credentialing
- Job listings
- Information on social work licensure requirements in New York State and nationwide
- Career advisement, including resume review and interview critique
- Descriptions of local, national, and international social services agencies
- Access to online job postings
- Information on volunteer opportunities
- Books, magazines, periodicals, and other source materials
- Postings of workshops, training, and conferences
- Career networking with the WSSW Office of Alumni Affairs

CONTACT

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 Wurzweiler School of Social Work Career Center

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Caring for the Fabric of Family

Roselyn Weitzner '76, secretary of WSSW's Board of Governors, feels a strong responsibility to families—in the social welfare system and her own. A member of the Board since its founding, she helped build Wurzweiler into what it is today.

"To this day, my children hate stew," says Roselyn Weitzner '76, secretary of Wurzweiler School of Social Work's Board of Governors. It is a curious legacy from her years at the School, where, as a mother of three children, she studied for her master's degree.

"I was a full-time, 'old-school' mother at the time and the children had no idea I was in school," she explains. "Every day they would come home to find everything just the way it always was—except for Tuesday evenings, when I did my field work at a clinic. That was the night they would eat stew, which I would prepare for them in the morning."

Wurzweiler's flexible academic schedule meant Mrs. Weitzner could juggle her dual role as mother and social work student. It was part of the reason she chose to study at WSSW.

Protecting the fabric of the family is a constant thread weaving through her life, from her days as a graduate student, to her 20-year career as a psychotherapist, to her present involvement in Jewish community and social



welfare organizations.

In fact, the list of organizations to which Mrs. Weitzner volunteers speaks volumes about her interest in human welfare. Asked which organization appeals most to her social work sensibility, she chooses AMIT (Americans for Israel and Torah), which educates thousands of underprivileged youngsters in a network of religious, academic and technological schools throughout Israel.

The organization also houses children from dysfunctional homes in youth villages and child havens. Headquartered in New York City, AMIT cares for nearly 16,000 youth-at-risk in response to social problems and upheaval. After World War II, it educated and cared for children who had been imprisoned in concentration camps, and it now absorbs and trains Ethiopian, Russian, and other emigrant youngsters.

Another cause close to her heart is Yeshiva University Women's Organization's (YUWO) President's Society of

Torah Chesed. As a member, she helps collect money for YU students who have financial needs and emergencies besides tuition. "It helps the students get through school," she says. She feels a close affinity for the program because it recalls something her mother used to do. "I remember her collecting money quietly among her friends to help certain families so children could have a party, or go to summer camp," says Mrs. Weitzner.

Mrs. Weitzner's social work career has taken interesting turns. After graduating from the New York School for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, and while working for the psychiatric clinic at Staten Island Hospital, she set up her own practice as a psychotherapist. Although she did a lot of general therapy, her main clientele consisted of Orthodox Jewish young women seeking to get married but unable to form intimate, lasting relationships. She helped them to overcome their defenses and

fears. "I had a very high success rate—many of these women are now married," she proudly reports.

Sitting on Wurzweiler's Board of Governors has deepened her interest and involvement. "I loved my years at Wurzweiler. It was very intellectually stimulating and quite an eye-opener. Going to social work school really opens you up to looking at yourself as a person," she says.

As a founding member of the Board, she has seen many changes. "We went through difficult times, for example, when we needed to fill all the requirements for accreditation. The Board helped straighten things out. It did a wonderful job in getting new scholarships for students and enrolling more minority students."

Indeed, Wurzweiler's recently received reaccreditation from the Council on Social Work Education, says Dean Sheldon Gelman, is a tribute to the pioneering efforts of members like Ros Weitzner. ♦

The Many Faces of Social Work

WSSW's first homecoming event for alumni, "Learn From the Many Faces of Social Work," was held April 28 on the Wilf Campus in Washington Heights. Returning alumni attended "classes," given by WSSW faculty members and prominent alumni, on faith and spirituality, social work ethics in nursing homes, communal social work, and social work from an urban perspective. The day-long program included a buffet lunch, after which the **Honorable Vito J. Lopez '70** gave the keynote address.

Scholarships—A Good Way to Give Something Back

BY LESLIE WALTZER POLLAK
WSSW director of development

Did you know that nearly 70 percent of today's Wurzweiler School of Social Work students receive financial aid in the form of scholarships or loans?

Since the fall of 1998, Wurzweiler has embarked on an ambitious five-year Capital Campaign to raise \$5 million, the majority of which will be designated for scholarships.



Leslie Waltzer Pollak

(Campaign gifts are in addition to the annual funds raised each year to cover the gap between tuition income and expenses.) Almost \$2.8 million has been raised thus far.

Every student and graduate of Wurzweiler is dedicated to improving the social well being of others—of individuals, families, and communities throughout the world. Since social work remains a greatly needed, yet low-paying profession, Wurzweiler must

provide as much scholarship support as possible so that our students are not heavily burdened with debt upon graduation. Scholarship support enables us to compete with other graduate schools in attracting and retaining the best quality students.

Wurzweiler students have benefited from the generosity of many donors, including board members, graduates, and parents. "We're a high-level institution that deserves to educate high-level students to serve the much needed social work profession," says WSSW board member Fredda Leff '78.

Although the amount of money raised thus far is impressive, additional scholarship funds are necessary to help train qualified social workers who can respond effectively to changing needs, demographics, and challenges that face the profession in the 21st century, including the continued greying of America; health care cost containment; and the consequences of widespread substance abuse, child abuse, and HIV/AIDS.

Today, thousands of WSSW graduates are employed as practitioners throughout the United States and abroad, as faculty in schools of social work, and as social service and Jewish communal professionals/administrators in public and private agencies.

To continue this tradition of excellence, and to remain one of the country's leading graduate schools of social work, Wurzweiler is committed to providing strong scholarship support. All alumni contributions to the Wurzweiler Annual Fund automatically support student scholarships, unless specifically restricted. ❖

We thank those individuals and organizations that have established and supported the following scholarships and fellowships at WSSW.

SCHOLARSHIPS, LOANS, AND GENERAL AWARDS

The Janet Saporta Adler Scholarship Fund
Adler/Stein Scholarship, in conjunction with UJA-Federation of New York
Anolic Scholarship Fund
Alice and Herbert Barbanel Scholarship
Benerofe Family Endowed Scholarship Fund
Selim and Rachel Benim Scholarship, in conjunction with the Hebrew Free Loan Society
Rose Biller Loan/Scholarship, in conjunction with the Hebrew Free Loan Society
Central Bureau for the Jewish Aged Scholarship Fund
Leah Chinitz Memorial Emergency Fund
Annie Chutick Scholarship Fund for students working on behalf of Russian Jewry, established by daughters Dr. Lillian Chutick and Dr. Rebecca Chutick
Daniel N. Davis Scholarship Fund
Ruth Weiss Dressler Scholarship in Conjunction with UJA-Federation
David Dubin Scholarship Fund
Selma Frank Doctoral Scholarship Fund
Sadie and Nathan Garfinkel and Rose Closter Memorial Scholarship Fund
Simon Gold Scholarship Fund
Muriel and David Goldman Scholarship Fund
Mildred and Philip Goodkin Scholarship
Shirley and Milton Gralla Scholarship
Shirley and Milton Gralla Scholarship for Resettlement of Soviet Jewry
Israel Humanitarian Foundation Scholarship
Dr. Israel Jacobowitz Scholarship, established in memory of his father, Nathan Jacobowitz
Jewish Foundation for Women Scholarship
Joyce and Arthur Joseph Scholarship
David Michael Kagan Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Katz-Sadinoff Scholarship Fund
Ruth and Lawrence Kobrin Scholarship Fund, established in memory of their parents
Fred Koopman-Charlotte Springer Scholarship, in conjunction with UJA-Federation of New York
Eugene J. Korda Memorial Scholarship, established by Anna Berta Mann
Sarah Korein Loan Fund
Rachel and Felix Kraidman Memorial Scholarship, established by daughter Meri Kraidman
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey M. Krueger Scholarship
Krueger Scholars at the Peter Krueger Clinic for the Treatment of Immunological Disorders at the Beth Israel Medical Center
Dr. Norman Lamm Scholarship
Sarah Lederman and Dorothy Carroll Scholarship for Service to the Jewish Elderly
Fredda and Bruce Leff Scholarship in Communal Social Work
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1960s

Dr. Norman Linzer '60, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor of Jewish Family Social Work, WSSW, presented a paper on "An ethical dilemma in home care" at the 17th Congress of the International Association of Gerontology, Vancouver, Canada. Mazal tov to Dr. Linzer and wife Diane on the marriage of their son Menachem Linzer to Devora (Cohen); the birth of grandsons Avraham Abish to Dov and Deborah (Gross), and Yehuda Aryeh to Michal (Linzer) Rosenberg and husband Jay; and on the bat mitzvah of granddaughter Aderet Sarah, daughter of Moshe and Rebecca, in Israel.

1970s

Jerome A. Chanes '74 participated in the 33rd annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, held in Washington, D.C., last December.

Leslie (Hecht) Kallus '79 has been working as assistant director, YMHA of Clifton, NJ, for the past five years. Her youngest son, Richard, recently had his bar mitzvah.

Amy (Herskowitz) Katz '78 has been executive director of the newly established Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute, an educational and leadership institute in Brookline, MA, since March 2001.

Dr. Eric Levine '79, '94, WSSW adjunct associate professor, was appointed assistant vice president for Campaign/Financial Resource Development, United Jewish Communities. He is coeditor of *The Social Work Forum*, the journal published by Wurzweiler.

Catherine P. Papell '77 is professor emerita, Adelphi University School of Social Work. After retiring, she worked as a family consultant to NCMC Alcohol Out Patient Unit for 14 years. She retired again in September 2000, at the age of 83. Since then she has been building group work skills with the social work community in Long Island, and working to create a closer community in her diverse neighborhood of Flushing, Queens.

Nava Rephun '76 is a psychotherapist in private practice working with couples and individuals. She spoke on "Why Your Spouse Is Your Perfect Match" at Young Israel of Plainview and Congregation Beth Aaron, in Teaneck, NJ. She also presented workshops on "An Introduction to Imago Relationship Therapy" at the Annual Nefesh Conference in Baltimore, and at the Nefesh International Conference in Jerusalem. She is a certified Imago Relationship therapist.

1980s

Irene Borins Ash '87, a social worker working with the elderly and a photo-journalist, will be exhibiting her photographs of seniors at the Cecile and Harry Pearl Gallery, Holy Blossom Temple, in Toronto from August 23 to September 30. "Life Journeys: An Exploration Through Images and Thoughts" includes her subjects' words of wisdom about developing healthy attitudes to aging despite life's trials and tribulations. Among her subjects is famous jazz pianist Oscar Peterson.

Alice Berliner '81 has spent more than 17 years working in the public mental health field. Living in Australia, for over 10 years she has been a senior social worker, supervisor, case manager, and program and policy developer.

Marci Mayer Eisen '81 was promoted to director of the Helene Mirowitz Department of Jewish Community Life at St. Louis Jewish Community Center, where she has worked for more than 20 years. She has three children, ages 9, 12, and 14. **Laura B. (Kamil) Hall '80** presented a workshop, "Meditation as an Individual Tool and an Adjunct to Psychotherapy" at the North Carolina NASW Fall Conference in November.

Irene Sara Kahana Hertzberg '86 recently celebrated two family milestones: the bat mitzvah of granddaughter Yehudit Davida, daughter of Hadar and Dr. Harris Bram; and the bar mitzvah of grandson Aharon Yaakov, son of Adena and Dr. Abbe Mendlowitz.

Dr. Linda Leest '84, '95 was an honoree at the 10th Annual Social Workers Awards Reception and was recognized as Social Worker of the Year in Queens by Claire Shulman, borough president. Linda has been executive director of Services Now for Adult Persons for 15 years.

Stephanie Lucas '87 is director of social work for three hospitals in the Salt Lake Valley that are part of the Intermountain Health Care System.

Judy (Witty) Lustig '85 recently gave birth to a daughter, Menucha Adina. Mazal tov to her, her husband Rabbi Yaakov Lustig, and her parents Rabbi Irwin E. and Shulamith Witty.



Joan Sadinoff Katz '80, vice chair of WSSW Board of Governors, and **Philip P. Goodkin**, member of the Board, will be honored at **WSSW's Tribute Dinner** at the Plaza Hotel in New York June 5. They became founding members of the Wurzweiler Board of Governors in 1984

and have provided the School with invaluable leadership and generous support without interruption for the past 18 years. Phil has given us the keen insight of a highly successful veteran of the accounting profession and a concerned, caring, and active member of the community. Joan's background as a licensed family therapist and Wurzweiler graduate has greatly aided us in focusing on the human care needs of individuals and families and the skills required to best meet them. ❖

Felice (Schulman) '96 and **Randolph Owen Marcus '82** have three teenage sons and recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. She does custody evaluations for Nassau and Queens County, NY; he is director of the Adult Day Health Care Program for Frail Elderly, Jewish Home and Hospital, New York City.

Joan K. Parry '83 recently published a second edition of her book, *Social Work Theory and Practice with the Terminally Ill*.

Chani Israel Tabak '88 is assistant executive director of the Bayonne JCC, NJ. She gave birth to her seventh daughter, Martina Ariella, at the end of February last year, and celebrated the bat mitzvah of daughter Toby Esther the following month.

Connie Watson '86 is a social worker in the in-patient psychological unit at Fort Meade Veteran's Administration Medical Center in South Dakota.

1990s

Randy Allen '92 is the clinical director of Behavior Management Systems, a community mental health center, in Rapid City, SD.

Suzanne Engel '93 worked on a volunteer basis as part of the mental health team at Pier 94, assisting victims and survivors to deal with the World Trade Center tragedy.

Ivan Godfrey '98 is a forensic social worker at a state psychiatric facility in NY and begins a PhD in clinical psychology program at Walden University, Bonita Springs, FL.

Adam Korobkin '99 is assistant director of the California Jewish Community Center in Long Beach. He married Adina Metz in September 2000, and they had a daughter, Talia Lee, in July 2001.

Heidi (Wellen) Kuperman '94 is director of the Men's Division, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She and husband Eric are proud to announce the birth of son Eliyahu Aharon.

Alys Lafler-Ratigan '95 has given up her full-time work as coordinator of a health-focused case management program at Youth and Family Services in Rapid City, SD, to care for her two adopted children.

She now consults part-time as a program director for substance abuse prevention services at YFS. She is also a volunteer on the committees of the Weed and Seed Project, a crime-reduction program under the auspices of the Department of Justice, and the Gang Tattoo Removal Unified Support Team.

Tzippi (Lisa Chiger) Rosen '93 recently had a daughter, Rebecca Michelle. Mazal tov to her and husband Adam.

Rosalie J. (Rose) Russo '95 received a doctoral degree in social welfare (DSW) from the City University of New York (CUNY) at the Hunter College School of Social Work in February this year. The focus of her dissertation was on working with mentally retarded or developmentally disabled people. The results of her dissertation were presented at YAI's National Institute for People with Disabilities national conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in New York City in May. In addition to working in the Vocational Educational Service to Individuals With Disabilities (VESID) at the NY State Education Department, Dr. Russo is an adjunct teacher in the BA program in Human Services at NYC Technical College (CUNY).

Rabbi Jacob Sable '99 reports that his son David was elected president of the Riverdale Jewish Center, in the Bronx, NY, the synagogue that Rabbi Sable founded in the early 1950s. He believes it is the first time the son of a synagogue's founding rabbi was named president of that synagogue.

Debbie Solkoff '95 worked at Coney Island Hospital after graduation, and then spent four years at Elmhurst Hospital. She is now a medical social worker in the Long Term Home Health Care department of Visiting Nurse Service of NY, in Flushing, Queens. She is the mother of three children and lives in Bayside, NY.

2000s

Aleeza (Maslow) Lebowitz '00 recently gave birth to a daughter, Gavriella Rena, in Jerusalem, Israel. Mazal tov to her and her husband, Natanel.

As We Went to Press...

Wurzweiler alumnus **Arje Shaw '70** was the featured speaker at this year's commencement ceremony on May 23 at Lamport Auditorium on the Wilf Campus. Mr. Shaw is the executive director of the YM-YWHA of Raritan Valley in Highland Park, NJ. He is also a playwright and scriptwriter whose most recent production, *The Gathering*, was staged on Broadway in April 2001. His wife, Esther, is also a WSSW alumna (1967) and one of his two daughters, Michelle, graduated at this year's ceremony.



Condolences to

Joan K. Parry '83 on the loss of her husband, John, who passed away in August 2000.

Debra (Stitskin) Roth '80 on the loss of her mother, Dorothy.

We Mourn

Sharon P. Bell '92, an oncology social worker who passed away in June 2001. Condolences to her husband, Michael, and the entire family.

Joseph Klein '78, a clinical social worker in private practice in Union City, NJ, who died March 4 in Cranford, NJ. He was also head of geriatrics at Elizabeth General Hospital, now Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth. Condolences to his wife, Connie, and the whole family.

Esther Vale '01, a mediator in private practice, who died February 28. One of Esther's lifelong goals was to obtain her MSW, which she became even more determined to achieve after she was rediagnosed with breast cancer in November 1999. She did her field placement at Jewish Family and Child Services in Toronto part-time and continued until December, when she became quite ill. Condolences to her entire family.

Dateline Israel: 'How Is This Going To End?'

At WSSW's Second Conference on Field Education in a Global

Perspective in January, **Dr. Joyce**

Brenner '83, coordinator of the

WSSW Block Program in Israel,

spoke about how social workers

are helping Israelis live with the

stress of interethnic violence.

This is an edited version of her

presentation.

The most frequently expressed question in Israel is: "How is this going to end?" The Israeli response is that familiar shrug and rolling of the eyes, which says so much.

As coordinator of the WSSW Block Program in Israel, I come into frequent contact with many social workers, including our 21 students, their supervisors, and other colleagues from a wide variety of agencies. Our conversations invariably focus upon the political situation and the tense and tragic times within which we are all living.

I have come to believe that there are three tasks that need to be accomplished in order to live with this stressful situation, especially after September 11. These tasks come from the world of chronic illness; they are acceptance, confrontation, and denial.

Acceptance is exactly what I am doing here by discussing the awfulness of the situation. Although this is not easy, we need to realize that by accepting the reality that terrorism will continue to occur, we have begun to accept

the fact that we will continue to live in a chronic state of stress. Not a happy condition for sure, but it seems to me an honest facing of the uncertainty of our times.

Confrontation embraces people's active responses to this horrific situation, which give us some hope and the possibility of change. Social workers have found many ways of confronting what we are all going through here in Israel.

A national organization, called 'Natal' (a Hebrew acronym for responses to terrorism), has formed to provide professional support to families and individuals who are closest to a terrorist incident, both immediately afterwards and during their recovery phase.

Social workers are giving lectures on ways to deal with tension and holding post-traumatic stress support programs in schools, centers, and other gathering places. The whole of Israel is probably suffering from some aspect of this syndrome and only time will tell how it will shape us.

Ad hoc groups, facilitated by social workers, are springing up, depending on the needs of the moment. These groups are very responsive to specific populations. For example, parents of teenagers are in serious dilemmas as to how much freedom they can allow their children; parents of young children need assistance in discussing fears with their youngsters; the elderly need to be protected from being isolated; families that live in particularly dangerous areas need help with day-to-day living; and even long-time Israelis who repeatedly say, "This situation has been going on forever," need help in expressing their anxieties.



David Silverman © Gettyimages

Therapists are asking their clients how they are dealing with the situation. This is an important shift because therapists reported last year that their clients did not want to discuss news events.

Many social workers are finding ways to express their social action inclinations. Osim Shalom, a joint Arab/Israeli social work organization, has grown from 200 members to 600. I have become active on a sub-committee and helped organize a discussion about religious responses to escalating terrorism among an interfaith panel.

Finally, denial is the most useful defense mechanism, which enables us to fulfill our daily responsibilities and to laugh and have fun.

It means building a bubble that enables us to cope with this incessant stress. But I don't believe this bubble is impenetrable—we need to let the news in, in doses that we can manage. The sense of control we then gain gives us some sense of security. We also need to let ourselves cry. There are daily funerals in Israel for young people, older people, teenagers who went out one evening, families who went for pizza, others who just happened to be on a bus.

We need to live now, as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us—that in itself is a marvelous victory. ❖

WSSW Alumni Donors

Thank you to the following WSSW alumni who have generously contributed to the Wurzweiler School of Social Work Alumni Annual Fund. Please remember that all pledges and gifts are due by June 30. Please call the Office of Alumni Affairs to make your gift with a credit card or mail your contribution using the envelope inserted in this issue of the *Wurzweiler Update*.

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