

Wurzw eilerUpdate

SPRING 2004

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends



WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK | YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



Ramat-Gan,
Israel

1965

Crossing Borders, Changing Lives

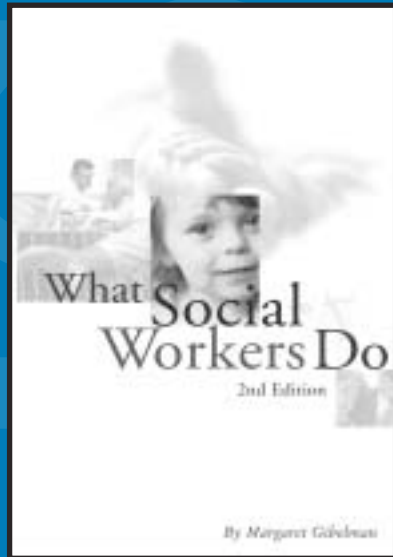


Lusaka,
Northern
Rhodesia

1962

Tools for the social work profession

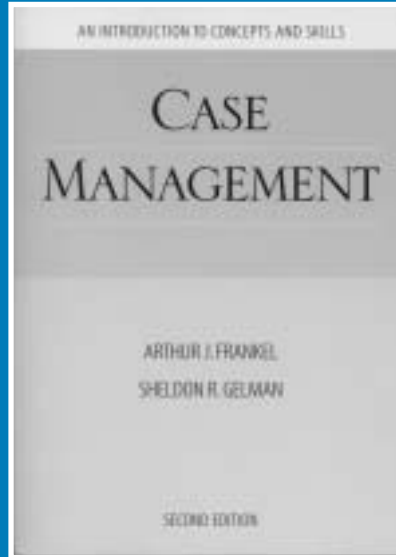
*Important new publications by
Wurzweiler School of Social Work faculty*



Margaret Gibelman

What Social Workers Do (2nd Edition).
Washington, DC: NASW Press, 2004

A much-awaited sequel to Margaret Gibelman's best-selling book, this second edition provides a panoramic look at social work and offers practical information about the current status of various service areas. It makes extensive use of case studies and demonstrates the connections between what appear to be diverse specializations by highlighting the intersection between practice functions, practice settings, and practice areas. Margaret Gibelman is professor and director of the doctoral program, Wurzweiler School of Social Work.



Arthur J. Frankel & Sheldon R. Gelman

Case Management (2nd Edition).
Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books, Inc., 2004

The authors present the basics of case management in a practical manner that will appeal to students and practitioners. The second edition of this straightforward conversational book includes updated references to help the reader pursue specific aspects of case management. It also includes new exercises that support actual case management practices, a section on practicing case management with homeless persons and persons with HIV/AIDS, and an analysis of future directions of case management practice. Arthur J. Frankel is professor in the school of social work, University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Sheldon R. Gelman is professor and dean, Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

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FEATURES



A Perfect Match

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WurzweilerUpdate

EDITOR

Kelly Berman

DESIGNER

Emily Scherer Steinberg

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Norman Goldberg

Peter Robertson

Jayne Windsor

CONTRIBUTORS

Norman Eisenberg

June Glazer

David Hillstrom

Cara Aidone Huzinec



Alison Link

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS, WSSW

Leslie Waltzer Pollak

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, WSSW

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

This has been an exciting year at Wurzweiler, beginning with the arrival of Yeshiva University's new president, Richard M. Joel. President Joel has a long-standing connection with the school and has articulated some ambitious goals



for the university and Wurzweiler in particular.

We are most proud of the achievements of our students and alumni. Sarabeth Kossove '04W received the first student award from the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA) for her work with multi-ethnic coalitions at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (see page 17); Manoj Pardasani '96W,'03W received the 2004 Research Award from the National Council on Aging for his doctoral dissertation research on decision-making in senior centers; Jennifer Gottesman,'03W received the Student Humanitarian Award for her innovative initiative at The Hospital

for Sick Children in Toronto (see page 27); and Adrian Bolling '03W was recognized by the New York State Social Work Education Association (NYSSWEA) for the best poster presentation at their annual conference in November.

Ruth Bigman, MSW, former assistant director of field instruction, was appointed director of admissions, with Donna Harris, MSW, assuming her previous role. Joanna Mellor, DSW, was appointed assistant professor. Her research interests include social welfare policy, education, administration, and gerontology. She taught at Hunter College School of Social Work, CUNY, and is co-editor of the *Journal of Gerontological of Social Work*. We also welcome our new director of alumni affairs, Alison Link (see page 20), and Elaine Schott to our board of governors (see page 15).

Susan Mason, PhD, and Daniel Pollack, MSW, JD, previously associate professors, have been promoted to full professors. Benay Lindenauer, MSW, director of career development and scholarship assistance, left Wurzweiler in February to return to clinical social work. She has been replaced by Joel Karpp, a longtime adjunct faculty member at the school and former executive director, Rosenthal JCC.

Jacqueline Azzarto, NYSSWEA president and former director of the BSW program at Skidmore College, has joined us an adjunct faculty member. Wurzweiler is now the home of the NYSSWEA, as well as *Affilia: The Journal of Women in Social Work*, edited by Mariam Dinerman, DSW, adjunct professor in our doctoral program.

Faculty have made major contributions to the professional literature with the publication of 50 articles and chapters and five books over the past year. Two books by associate professors, Nancy L. Beckerman '91W, DSW, and Joan Beder '93W, DSW, will be published this summer. We are also pleased to announce that Margaret Gibelman, DSW, professor, received one of only five grants awarded this year by the Office of Research Integrity of the National Institutes of Health (see page 10).

Wurzweiler faculty were well represented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Anaheim, California.

I have been most fortunate to visit with Wurzweiler alumni this year in South Dakota, St. Louis, Los Angeles, New York, and Israel. We are proud of your achievements and appreciate your support of the school, particularly your many recent contributions to the Everett Wilson Scholarship Fund (see page 18).

Best wishes and keep in touch.

Sheldon R. Gelman

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

A Perfect Match

BY JUNE GLAZER

Among some of the Orthodox Jews with whom she works, Trish Attia '83W is a godsend. A 1983 Wurzweiler alumna specializing in addiction, she has worked miracles largely because of who she is—an outsider in a world that holds its secrets dear.

"I have been very welcome in the Orthodox world, both in terms of my expertise and in people opening up to me," said Ms. Attia, who deals with observant Jews, including *hareidim* (the ultra Orthodox), under her responsibilities as vice president of Liberty Management, which oversees five hospitals that treat chemical dependency. She also supervises 14 outpatient clinics for Arms Acres, a provider of inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol treatment.

"A client once told me I was successful in his community because I'm 'pareve' [neither meat nor dairy, as per kosher laws], that though I'm Jewish, I don't make assumptions about the ultra Orthodox, and they don't make assumptions about me," said Ms. Attia, who maintains a private practice in Manhattan. Her patients are mostly *hareidim* from enclaves in Brooklyn, Lakewood, NJ, and Monsey, NY.

Ms. Attia's involvement with this

insular group dates back some five years to a phone call made by Alan Sirote Y'84W to Dean Sheldon Gelman. Mr. Sirote was involved in founding Our Place, a drop-in center in Brooklyn for disaffected Orthodox teens that needed someone to train its volunteer staff to work with youths-at-risk. Dean Gelman sent Norman Linzer, PhD, Y'60W,R, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor of Jewish Family Social Work, and Ms. Attia, who teaches substance abuse and psychopathology courses as an adjunct professor at Wurzweiler.

"Trish dazzled them with her knowledge, experience, sensitivity, and humor. She respected their lifestyles and learned from them, too. She was a perfect match for this group," said Dr. Linzer.

Ms. Attia continued the monthly training sessions at Our Place for two years. During that time, she steered kids in need of treatment to Arms Acres and other facilities, and volunteers in pursuit of master's degrees to Wurzweiler.

According to Dean Gelman, "This project opened a direct line between Wurzweiler and the Orthodox community in Brooklyn that has created new career and educational opportunities for individuals committed to helping at-risk youth."

Ms. Attia also consulted on a complex of facilities the drop-in center helped spawn—Judah's Place, for Orthodox teens who have graduated from treatment programs; the Arms Acres outpatient clinic, which serves adults and adolescents; and a halfway house called Home Sweet Home, where she is on the clinical

advisory board. She also serves as consultant to the board of the Yatzchan Center, a residential program for Jewish teens with substance abuse problems.

Ms. Attia has focused her doctoral dissertation at NYU on runaways, exploring the issues that contribute to the phenomenon among Orthodox Jews.

"Do they leave for the same reasons that other kids do?" she asked. "Are large families a contributing factor? What about being part of a minority culture, and pressure to get into the 'right' yeshivas and make the 'best' marriage?"

"These seem like huge burdens to me," she said, noting the absence of formal courses to help Orthodox families deal with these complex issues.

"I think it's a difficult time for this community," said Ms. Attia. "Modern values are encroaching on families and they are not prepared for how to work with their kids as they confront this conflict in culture." ♦



Trish Attia has built a practice treating Orthodox families and youth-at-risk

Pioneer of Social Work Education



A little-known chapter in the history of Wurzweiler School of Social Work proves the school's global impact on the profession.

BY KELLY BERMAN

The opening of Wurzweiler School of Social Work in 1957 fulfilled a dream for Yeshiva University: a school dedicated to serving the Jewish community and improving social well-being. Wurzweiler answered a need for trained social workers in both Jewish communal service and the wider world of human services.



Dr. Mort Teicher (far left) with faculty of the Oppenheimer College of Social Service at the newly opened school

Shortly after the school's founding, Wurzweiler surpassed that early dream, not only achieving academic acclaim for itself, but also establishing schools of social work in Zambia and Israel. By enabling the social work profession to take root in new contexts, the influence of this small but flourishing school extended far beyond its size.

The central figure in establishing these schools was founding dean Morton I. Teicher, who served from 1957–1972. During the 1956–57 academic year, he developed Wurzweiler’s curriculum, established procedures and regulations, hired faculty, and organized student admission. Just two years later, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) granted Wurzweiler’s MSW program accreditation in time for its first class’s graduation.

The school set an example of what could be achieved in social work education. In 1962, CSWE asked Dr. Teicher to help set up a social work school in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, two years before it gained independence from British rule.

He spent two years as administrative consultant, curriculum planner, faculty mentor, and teacher in the capital, Lusaka, under contract from the United States Agency for International Development. “It was partly in recognition of our success in creating Wurzweiler that I was chosen by CSWE,” said Dr. Teicher, now 84 and a member of the doctoral faculty at Walden University, a distance-learning university.

Dr. Teicher parlayed that success into the creation of the Oppenheimer College of Social Service in Northern Rhodesia, the country’s first institution of higher education, and later the base for the University of Zambia. It was also the first school to integrate students across the race barrier—which made Dr. Teicher particularly proud, he said.

Attending to Social Ills

According to Dr. Teicher, it was no coincidence that Northern Rhodesia’s first secondary school taught social work. Development from a rural, tribal



A student (right) at Oppenheimer College on a field assignment at a local village in Zambia



Dr. Teicher with students in his office in Zambia

society to an industrialized, urban one brought many social problems, such as unemployment, marriage instability, and inadequate housing and health care. In

particular, the migrant labor system that served the copper mines separated husbands and wives, broke up families, and sent a flood of people from the bush to the cities in search of work.

“There is an increasing need for welfare workers, who are in very short supply and often lack the professional training,” Dr. Teicher was quoted in a *New York Times* article on September 29, 1963.



Dr. Teicher (right) in his Wurzweiler office with Sidney Matshiqi, a member of the Oppenheimer faculty, who did graduate studies at WSSW

Dr. Teicher proposed adapting the basic curriculum model used in the US to Zambia's culture. He recommended that standard courses on human behavior, social welfare, and practice—a framework he used at Wurzweiler—be refashioned into a format appropriate to the culture of this African country, with an emphasis on community work.

Two years later, the late Everett Wilson, WSSW professor from 1957–1976, went to the Oppenheimer School under a CSWE contract to teach, develop the curriculum, and train faculty.

“Like Wurzweiler in its first two years, our drive was towards recruiting students. But we were also able to carry over the emphasis on

the high-quality performance that we demanded of our students,” Dr. Teicher said.

Several students who studied with Drs. Teicher and Wilson later came to Wurzweiler to continue their studies at a graduate level.

Chance Meeting on the Atlantic

A fortuitous meeting on Dr. Teicher's transatlantic trip back home led to Wurzweiler helping to set up a social work school in Israel. “One of my fellow voyagers was Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, then-chancellor of Bar-Ilan University. As we walked the decks of the ship, after hearing about my work in Africa, he said, ‘You're a Jew—go set up a school of social work at Bar-Ilan.’”

Israel then was reckoning with its own independence from British rule in 1948. “The country was absorbing new immigrants,” Dr. Teicher said. “There was poverty and an

enormous need for community development, especially in the smaller towns.”

“Social work was still in its infancy in Israel in the mid-60s,” said Ruben Schindler '73W, a former dean of Bar-Ilan School of Social Work and now head of its satellite school in Ashkelon. “The issue of whether to transform ‘hesed’ (acts of kindness) into professional practice was debated in many quarters. Losing the spontaneity and humanness of the helping process was of great concern.”

But with the creation of local and national social welfare and health services, the need for trained professionals became pronounced, according to Dr. Schindler.

Wurzweiler stepped into the breach. Dr. Teicher undertook a feasibility study into the establishment of a social work school at Bar-Ilan in 1965. He recommended that a school be created with a focus on community and group work to complement, rather than rival, Israel's only other school of social work, Paul Baerwald School of Social Work at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (which concentrated on individual case work). Dr. Teicher also urged the creation of a “block” field work component, exposing students to Israel's full range of resources, including those far from the university's Ramat-Gan campus.

Kindred Spirits

In Wurzweiler, Bar-Ilan found a kindred spirit—it, too, wanted to integrate social work and Jewish principles, according to Dr. Schindler. “The mission of Bar-Ilan School of Social Work was to provide social services to both Orthodox Jewish and secular communities,” he said. Like Wurzweiler, Bar-Ilan emphasized the teaching of ethics and values in both its undergraduate and graduate curricula.

Bar-Ilan University's main campus in Ramat-Gan



WSSW faculty lent their expertise and guidance from the outset. During the 1966–7 academic year, Solomon Green, a member of Wurzweiler’s founding faculty, acted as director at Bar-Ilan, finding offices, hiring administrators and faculty, recruiting students, developing the library collection, and finding agencies for field placements. Beyond the nuts and bolts of

who the person was, rather than just looking at their psychometric standing.”

Wurzweiler’s Human Touch

Wurzweiler brought a more humane perspective to the profession that built on the contributions of Israel’s ministry of welfare, which had run its own training programs and was involved in setting up

over to help set curricula policies. Then came Lloyd Setleis, founder and director of Wurzweiler’s doctoral program and a later dean; Norman Linzer, Y60WR, now Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor in Jewish Family Social Work; and Naomi Abramowitz, former WSSW professor who moved to Israel and helped develop Bar-Ilan’s clinical MA program with Tovah Lichtenstein, a former

in social work. After his sudden death, Wurzweiler helped with the hiring of Ben Lappin, a social work professor at the University of Toronto, as dean. “We operated on the basis that in the foreign aid business, your job was to put yourself out of business,” said Dr. Teicher. “We felt they could fly on their own once they had a dean.”

Nevertheless, the schools



Dr. Sol Green



Dr. Lloyd Setleis



Dr. Norman Linzer



Dr. Ruben Schindler

The Pioneers of Social Work

getting the school started, Wurzweiler faculty applied a professional and more humane ethos to Bar-Ilan’s program.

“We wanted to raise the standard of education for social workers in Israel,” said Dr. Green, who later co-founded Wurzweiler’s Block Program. He recommended following Wurzweiler’s policy of interviewing every candidate before admission “to get a sense of

Bar-Ilan School of Social Work, said Dr. Green. “We tried to set a tone where the student was respected,” he said. “We encouraged them to discover their potential and see the clients as people.”

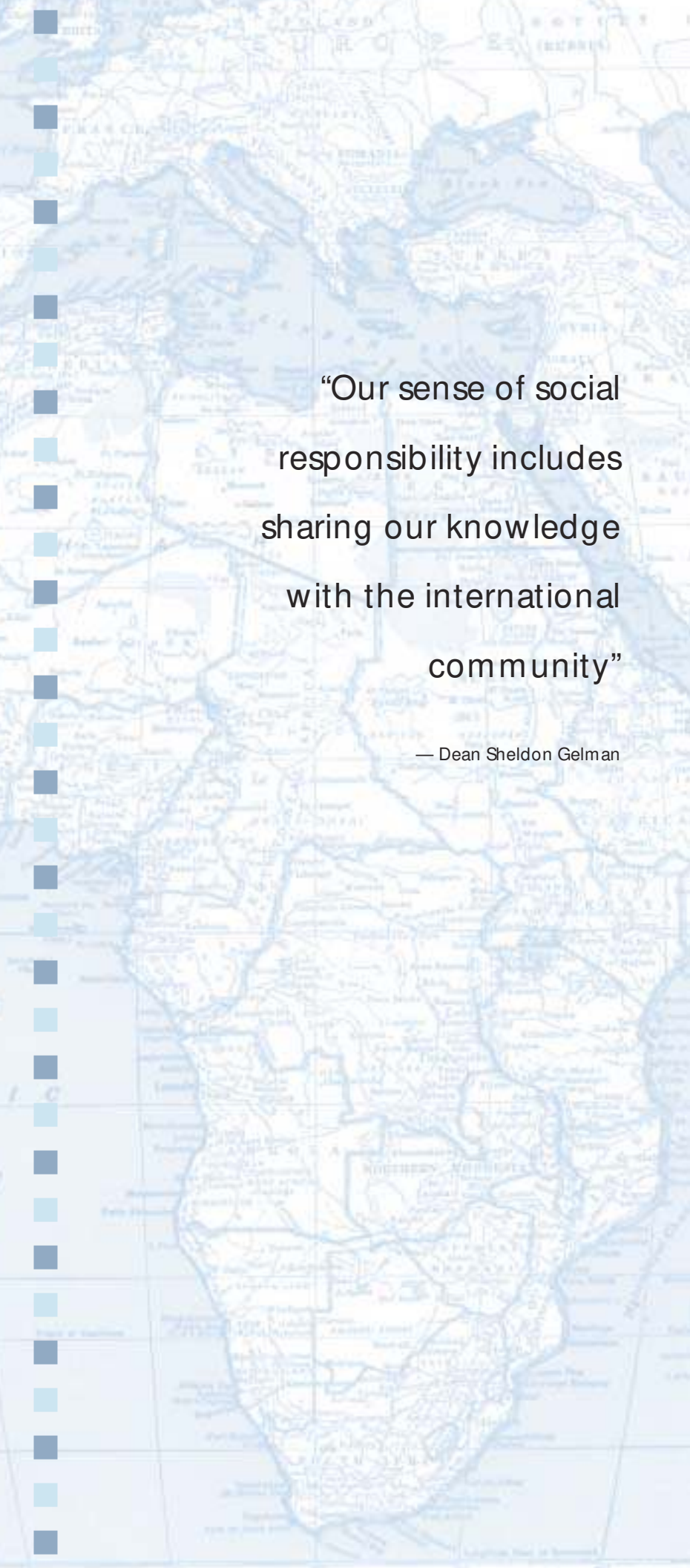
A steady stream of Wurzweiler faculty continued to enrich Bar-Ilan’s offerings. In 1968–69, Bill Rosenthal, WSSW professor and dean after Dr. Teicher from 1972–74, went

director of student services at YU’s Stern College for Women (and daughter of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, spiritual head of YU’s affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and the world’s leading Talmudist of the last half of the 20th century).

In 1970, Bar-Ilan appointed a dean—Yeheskal Hartman, an Orthodox rabbi from St. Louis, MO, with a doctorate

maintained a warm relationship, with many Wurzweiler faculty members going to Bar-Ilan to teach and some of Bar-Ilan’s faculty coming to Wurzweiler to study. Dr. Linzer said of his first trip in 1979 that he “hoped to teach Bar-Ilan students new ways of thinking—models of analysis like group work and practitioner research.”

Wurzweiler’s first doctoral



“Our sense of social responsibility includes sharing our knowledge with the international community”

— Dean Sheldon Gelman

graduate was a Bar-Ilan professor, Dr. Schindler. He returned to Bar-Ilan to teach until he became dean in 1984. “My doctorate was an essential step in my career,” Dr. Schindler said. “Without the degree, it would have been difficult to obtain my appointment as dean and contribute to the growth of social work education in Israel.”

Many Wurzweiler graduates who emigrated to Israel also ended up teaching at Bar-Ilan: Hayim Granot (Greenberg), Y’58W,R, who served as dean of Bar-Ilan School of Social Work; Joyce Rosman Brenner, ’64W;83W, director of WSSW’s Block Education Plan in Israel, who taught at Bar-Ilan from 1980–83; Reuven Miller, Y’69W, who directed field instruction for more than 20 years; David Ribner, Y,R,BR,’74W, who still teaches at Bar-Ilan; and Jonathan Rabinowitz, ’88W, who also served as dean.

“The Bar-Ilan faculty were very welcoming,” recalled Dr. Linzer. “They were eager to learn from me, and it was mutual,” he said. “It was a school where I could feel comfortable because it shared a similar philosophy and ideology to Wurzweiler.”

A hallmark of Wurzweiler’s perspective—set at the very outset by Dr. Teicher and the founding faculty—is its emphasis on ethical service to people in need. “Our sense of social responsibility includes sharing our knowledge with the international community,” said Sheldon Gelman, Wurzweiler’s Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean. “It means we’re doing our best to strengthen the profession’s role in bringing stability and well-being to diverse populations.”

Perhaps it is no surprise then, that Wurzweiler helped establish the Oppenheimer College and Bar-Ilan School of Social Work so soon after its own opening: educating a new generation of social workers around the world was the ultimate expression of its commitment to the profession. ❖

Searching for Answers to Random Student Violence

BY NORMAN EISENBERG

Jonathan D. Fast, the novelist, is fascinated with what drives young adults to horrific acts of murder. But Jonathan D. Fast, the seasoned social worker, combines that fascination with both a passion for research and a desire to recognize student anger so as to prevent such tragedies.

The 54-year-old assistant professor at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, who holds a DSW from the school (1999), melds both skills as he conducts an in-depth study of school shootings in the wake of Columbine.

It was April 20, 1999, when seniors Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris attacked their suburban Denver high school with guns and bombs. They killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded more than 20 others before taking their own lives. Dr. Fast, who specializes in adolescents and school safety, said he was puzzled by news accounts of the Columbine rampage.

“Murdering classmates and teachers against whom they had no grudge simply made no sense to me,” said Dr. Fast. What intrigued him about the Columbine murderers and similar rampagers were common characteristics they shared. He described them as “socially



isolated,” but “intelligent,” and with “no history of disciplinary problems.” Most, he found, were either just entering or graduating from high school and tended to kill randomly.

Dr. Fast’s two-phase study involves collecting data on 15 school attacks from media accounts, trial transcripts, and police and court video tapes. His goal is to create narratives of the attacks, “incorporating details from many different sources.” Phase two, he said, will provide a content analysis, using special software to identify common traits among the shooters.

While the New York City-born professor does not discount the corrosive effects of a violence-laden culture, he holds back the urge to blame video games, movies, television, and other forms of entertainment for creating an environment fertile for murder. The son of Howard Fast, the famous novel-

ist victimized by McCarthyism in the 1950s, Dr. Fast treads carefully on attempts to curtail free expression as a means of keeping society safe. And, as he is quick to point out, “many forms we venerate today, such as the novel, were originally derided as sources of moral decay.”

More effective remedies, he claims, should come from early intervention, when feelings of isolation and alienation emerge among students. School-rampage killers such as Kip Kinkel and Michael Carneal were cases in point, said Dr. Fast. “They were excluded from every social group because they were ‘nerds,’ because they were in some way ‘damaged goods,’ because they looked odd or behaved awkwardly, or because classmates thought they were gay.”

Klebold and Harris, Dr. Fast added, reportedly imitated crazed killers in the film *Natural Born Killers* and the video game *Doom*, donning their costumes, duplicating their weaponry, and even supplying their own background music.

Perpetrators of Columbine and other similar attacks saw their shootings “as the final act of their lives and wished to make a ritual of it,” said Dr. Fast.

Among the classes he teaches at Wurzweiler is a course on school violence and safety that exposes students to all aspects of the issue. He wrote the course’s curriculum soon after joining the school in 1997 as an adjunct professor.

Dr. Fast said the synergy between his research and teaching enriches both areas. “You never understand something as well as when you try to explain it to others,” he said. ❖

Margaret Gibelman Wins NIH Grant for Research Ethics Study

The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a research grant to Margaret Gibelman, DSW, professor and doctoral program



director, Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Dr. Gibelman is leading an investigation of whether, and to what extent, universities educate students in the mental health disciplines to conduct responsible research.

The research team includes Terry DiLorenzo, PhD, assistant professor of psychology at YU's

Stern College for Women; Nigel Bark, MD, associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the university's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Alison Link, a PhD student at Wurzweiler who is assisting in the research.

"There are consistent press reports about plagiarism, falsification, or fabrication in biomedical research," Dr.

Gibelman said. "But we know little about research conduct in the field of mental health."

The two-year project initially involves a survey of educational programs in social work, psychology, counseling, psychiatry, and psychiatric nursing to determine whether their curricula include content related to responsible research conduct.

The second part will consist of interviews with deans and educational program directors to determine how research ethics are taught, the obstacles to including research training in the curriculum, and whether any models exist for teaching appropriate research conduct at universities.

"Are we teaching faculty and students how to avoid research misconduct?" Dr. Gibelman asked. "Unless mental health professions are educated in ethical research behavior, there is a very real possibility that breaches will occur."

Dr. Gibelman supervises doctoral student research at Wurzweiler, and is a member of the Committee on Clinical Investigations (CCI), which reviews research protocols at Yeshiva University. She also served on a federal review panel for grants at the NIH's Office of Research Integrity.

She cited pressure on junior faculty to publish as a factor leading to research misconduct. ❖

Dean Gelman Headlines Child Welfare Conference in Israel

heldon Gelman, PhD, Wurzweiler's Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean, visited Israel last December to headline a conference at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and meet with educators, Israel government officials, and alumni.

Dean Gelman gave a keynote presentation on "Impacting the Lives of Children: Collaborative and Innovative Strategies" at the 15th anniversary conference of Hebrew University's Osherow Child Welfare Training Program, directed by Chana Greenberg '77W. He discussed how collaboration between educational institutions and governmental agencies can enhance service to vulnerable children. Other presenters included Zevulun Orlev, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs; Hillel Schmid, dean of the Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work; and Rami Benbenishty, a Baerwald School professor.

Dean Gelman also met with Avraham



(L-R) Frada Feigelson, director of the Schusterman Center for Children and Families, with Chana Greenberg and Dean Gelman

Lavine, director of the Department of International Relations at the Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ben-Zion Kerem, who oversees the registration of professional social workers in Israel, to discuss learning and service opportunities for Wurzweiler students in Israel, as well as the country's educational requirements for practicing social work.

The dean also visited innovative programs for children, including Neve Landy, a new residential village and treatment center for severely dysfunctional Orthodox Jewish child-

ren near the northern Negev town of Kiryat Gat, and two agencies where Wurzweiler students are placed: the West Jerusalem Parent-Children Center, which provides therapy to dysfunctional families in a home-like setting; and the Schusterman Center for Children and Families, an emergency shelter for abused and neglected children.

No Israel trip is complete without reaching out to the scores of Wurzweiler alumni shaping the profession there. Dean Gelman spoke about

recent developments at the school at an alumni event at the home of Phyllis Jesselson '97W, coordinated by Joyce Brenner, '65W, '83W and Susan Freedman, '74W. The more than 50 attendees included Stanley Schneider Y,R; '72W, former WSSW professor and retired Bar-Ilan professor Naomi Abramowitz, Zvi Reich '79W, Shalom Atlas '02W, Baruch Sugarmann '83W, Adeena Haber '95W, MSW student Emalia Jesselson, PhD student Carolyn Gutman '99W, and Debe Friedson '00W, who recently emigrated to Israel. ❖

ACS Student Provides After-Care for Abused Children

BY CARA AIDONE HUZINEC



As a case worker at the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Veronique Streeter conducted hundreds of interviews with both children and parents. But as a first-year MSW student at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Ms. Streeter said one particular interview she conducted during her field work at the Child Protection Center of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center, the university hospital of Yeshiva's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, taught her that social work is not necessarily a science.

While interviewing a mother and child, Ms. Streeter

said she became so emotional that her supervisor had to finish for her.

"I went into the interview thinking it was going to be a piece of cake as I had done it a thousand times as a case worker," Ms. Streeter said. "But the more I learned about what happened, I felt what that mother must have been feeling. As a social worker, you're dealing with people, not robots. You have to be empathetic to clients' needs."

It was years in the making but last fall, Wurzweiler—along with four other schools of social work in New York (Fordham University, New York University, Columbia

University, and Hunter College)—established a new field work placement program at the Child Protection Center at Montefiore's child advocacy unit in the Bronx that counsels children who have experienced physical or sexual abuse.

Since 1998, under a special scholarship program, Wurzweiler has provided graduate training to dozens of ACS employees. In 2000, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services gave \$1.2 million to the New York State Association of Social Work Deans to devise programs to retain employees working in public child welfare. In January 2002, Dean Sheldon Gelman came up with the idea of having students from ACS do their field work at the CPC.

Under the program, five ACS employees—one student from each of the five schools—fulfill one year of field work at the CPC. In turn, ACS

releases students from their present jobs during that time. After receiving their degrees, the students are obligated to work at ACS for three years.

"I've become more in touch with myself because of what I've learned at the CPC"

"The idea was to provide advanced training for ACS students in a highly specialized unit," Dean Gelman said. "The CPC provides follow-up care and completes the circle of intervention. After-care is really prevention, and that was the piece that (traditionally) was missing."

For Ms. Streeter, the CPC has given her a fresh perspective on social work.

"I've become more in touch with myself because of what I've learned at the CPC," she said. "It's going to be interesting to see how I incorporate my new self into my old agency." ❖



Student Veronique Streeter with CPC director Karel Amaranth

Streets of Washington Heights Teach a Lesson in Community



Dr. Graciela Castex takes WSSW faculty on a tour of the Heights

Hundreds of students travel to Yeshiva University on the Wilf Campus in Washington Heights every day, but few realize the rich history of this Manhattan enclave.

Graciela Castex, MSW, EdD, adjunct associate professor at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, hopes to change that. During the 22 years she has lived in Washington Heights, Dr. Castex has been a passionate advocate for the area.

“It is a very dynamic place with little conflict,” Dr. Castex says. “You can have an Orthodox Jewish woman living next to a Jamaican family and they rely upon each other as neighbors.”

Every year, she takes students in her ‘Cultural Diversity’ class on walking tours of the Heights. The tours have become such a popular feature of the MSW program that WSSW faculty recently requested a tour of its own for the first time.

Dr. Castex uses the neighborhood to

teach students the importance of seeing people in the context of their communities. “It’s a way to look at a community and assess its needs,” she explains.

Trash disposal, for example, says much about the people who live there, says Dr. Castex. She begins her tour by pointing to public garbage bins overflowing or missing, and attributes the scene in the eastern section of the Heights to overcrowding and residents’ lack of political power.

Of the estimated 200,000 people who live in Washington Heights, 50,000-80,000 are believed to be undocumented immigrants, mostly Hispanic. They live in five-story walk-ups, with entire families often crammed into one-bedroom apartments. The tour includes a stop at a brightly painted mural on the corner of 182nd Street and Audubon Avenue. It was created by a group of community parties with some financial support from YU to heal the neighborhood after a Dominican boy was hit and killed by a police car.

Dr. Castex continues the tour towards Broadway, the area’s economic and geographic dividing line. To the west, she says, residents enjoy elevator-serviced buildings and sweeping views of the Hudson River. The highest point in

Manhattan is located here, in Bennett Park—the site of General George Washington’s fort, built in 1776.

Heading north, Dr. Castex leads the tour to Mother Cabrini High School on Fort Washington and 190th Street, where a chapel houses the remains of Mother Francesca Xavier Cabrini, the first US citizen to be made a saint.

Although Hispanic immigrants make up the area’s largest group, says the professor, they’re part of a rich immigrant tradition. The Heights became home to Greek and Irish immigrants, and a large contingent of German Jewish refugees who began fleeing Hitler’s Germany in the late thirties and established synagogues, such as the Breuer Synagogue. “If people knew this was one of the most historic places in New York City,” Dr. Castex beams, “they would have such pride.” ♦



Dr. Castex in front of the 182nd Street mural

Social Action Teach-In Focuses on Voter Education

Social workers have a great stake in the outcome of the upcoming presidential elections. That was the message from New York City Councilman Robert Jackson, the principal speaker at Wurzweiler’s annual social action teach-in at Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall, March 9.

The event—an opportunity to motivate and inform students about ways to advocate for social change—was dedicated this year to educating students about the importance of registering

to vote. As Councilman Jackson pointed out, voting is a way for social workers and their clients to affect social reform by choosing leaders who best represent their economic and social needs.

“This is one of the most significant educational experiences for our students,” said Sheldon R. Gelman, PhD, Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean. “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.”

The contested presidential elections in 2000 illustrated that a handful of votes can change the course of the country and

Faculty News

* **DAVID STRUG**, PhD, **GERTRUDE RUTKOVE SANDERS**, DSW, and **JOAN BEDER**, DSW, '93W, associate professors, and **HEIDI HEFT LAPORTE**, DSW, '87W, assistant professor, presented "The Process Log: A Teaching Tool to Enhance Student Self-Awareness," at the III Taller Internacional de Trabajo Social, Havana, Cuba. **DR. STRUG** and **SUSAN E. MASON**, PhD, professor, and **FRANCES EICHHOLZ-HELLER** MSW, '03W, presented "An Exploratory Investigation of the Impact of the Year of 9/11 among Older Hispanic Immigrants in New York City."

* **SHELDON GELMAN**, PhD, Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean, attended two recent meetings of the St. Louis Group, a gathering of 40 social work deans from the American Association of Universities (AAU) and Carnegie Research Extensive Universities, at Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work and Tulane University. They examined ways to increase the capacity of deans to implement a significant research agenda on campuses.

* **DR. MASON** presented "Belief Systems and Treatment Behaviors for Patients with Schizophrenia" at the 14th International Symposium for the Treatment of Schizophrenia in Melbourne, Australia, and "Disseminating Schizophrenia Research Findings to Patients" at the International Congress on Schizophrenia Research in Colorado Springs.

* **DANIEL POLLACK**, MSW, JD, professor, was appointed to the editorial boards of the *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics* and *Family Court Review*. He presented "Legal Update on Kinship Care" at the Child Welfare League of America's Kinship Care Conference, and "Record Management

in the Digital Age" at the 7th National Child Welfare Data Conference.

* Wurzweiler was well represented at the annual symposium of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups (AASWG) in Boston. **DR. MARTIN BIRNBAUM**, Beate and Henry Voreberg Professor in Social Group Work, presented "Revitalization of Group Work Practice within a Large City Child Welfare Agency" and "Working with the Group Life Cycle in Each Group Encounter;" **SHANTIH CLEMANS**, DSW, assistant professor, "From Victim to Survivor: A Twelve Week Group for Women Survivors of Rape"; **RONNIE GLASSMAN**, DSW, director of field instruction, and **DR. MASON** "Group Work in Mental Health Treatment"; **DR. LAPORTE** and **JAY SWEIFACH**, PhD, '88W, '02W, assistant professor, "Why Did They Choose Group Work: Exploring Motivations" and "Perceptions of Current MSW Students of Group Work"; **DR. MASON** "Exploring the Process in Creating Diagnosis: Schizophrenia."

* **SUSAN BENDOR**, DSW, associate professor, presented, "Preparing Gerontology Students to Use International Experience in Aging" at the Annual Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) in Richmond, VA. She also presented "Finding Common Ground and Bridging the Gap Between Community Programs for Seniors and Academe" at a conference sponsored by the Partnerships for Aging at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa.

* **DR. BENDOR** and **CHARLES TRENT**, PhD, associate professor, presented "Motivating and Teaching Students Social Action" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study

of Social Problems in Atlanta, GA. **DR. TRENT** also presented "Tracking the Tears of Disaster and Formatting Hope Behind Ground Zero on 9/11."

* **RICHARD CAPUTO**, PhD, professor, presented "Redistributive Schemes That Skirt Poverty: Reconsidering Economic Justice in Light of Priejs and Zucker" at The Third Congress of the US Basic Income Guarantee Network in Washington, DC; "Head Start and School to Work Program Participation" at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta; and "The Impact of Aging on Families in the US" at the Gerontological Society of America in San Diego, CA.

* **JONATHAN FAST**, DSW, '99W, assistant professor, was invited to join the committee for the Melchoir Book Award, for a book dealing with progressive religious issues. He was also nominated to sit on the board of the Center for Hope, an agency in Darien, CT.

* **DR. BEDER** presented "Research in Nephrology Social Work" at the 6th Annual Medical Conference of the Renal Care Group in Tucson, AZ.

* **CHARLES AUERBACH**, PhD, professor, **DR. MASON** and **DR. LAPORTE**, presented "Using Educational Incentives to Professionalize and Maintain a Child Welfare Workforce" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Work Research in New Orleans.

* **DR. STRUG** presented "Provider Views of the Support Service Needs of Fathers" and **ADELE WIENER**, PhD, associate dean, presented "Using HIV Preventive Case Management within a Social Work Framework" and "Social Factors in Developing Services" at the HIV/AIDS Social Work Conference in Albuquerque, NM. **DR. WEINER** also attended the Annual Meeting of the

Social Work Baccalaureate Program Directors in Reno, NV.

* **NORMAN LINZER**, PhD, Y,'60W,R, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor in Jewish Family Social Work, presented "An Ethical Dilemma in Elder Abuse" at the Gerontological Society of America conference, San Diego, CA.

* **DR. SWEIFACH**, conducted a survey into services offered by the Jewish community to the special-needs Jewish population in Morris, Essex, and Sussex counties, NJ, for the Professional Advisory Committee for the Developmentally Disabled. He presented "HIV Education and the School Social Worker" with **DR. LAPORTE** at the School Social Work Association meeting in San Francisco, CA. He also presented "The Art of Group Facilitation at the Annual Meeting of NJ Chapter of NASW" and participated in the Spitzer B'nai Brith Hillel Forum on Public Policy in Boston.

* **JOYCE ROSMAN BRENNER**, DSW, '64W, '83W, director, Block Education Plan in Israel, gave a talk, "When the Home is on the Front Line: The Impact of the Security Situation on Women in Israel," at an evening sponsored by the Counseling Center for Women of Israel.

* **DR. BIRNBAUM** serves as board member, AASWG. **DR. TRENT** serves as board member, Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA), and as chair, Conflict, Social Action and Change Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. **DEAN GELMAN** serves on the board of CSWE, chairs its Investment Committee, and is a member of the Commission on Information Management and Research.

the world, he told the audience of Wurzweiler faculty and students, as well as BSW students from other schools in the tri-state area.

The teach-in featured roundtable discussions on strategies to increase voter turnout. Students received handouts with contact details for US senators and representatives, city legislators, and various lobbying groups, as well as NY State voter registration forms.

Susan Bendor, DSW, associate professor and chair of Wurzweiler's Social Action Committee,

said social workers could also keep their clients well informed. "Many people don't know that if you didn't vote in the last presidential election and the last two local elections, you are de-enrolled in NY State," she said.

Student government leader Lauren Blacker proposed that everyone present take a non-voter with them to the polls. "We are fortunate enough to have the power to bring about change," she said. "Now all we need to do is find the courage and motivation to wield it." ❖



Councilman Robert Jackson

Group Worker with a Creative Streak

BY KELLY BERMAN

When Susan Ciardiello was asked to create a program of activities for teenagers living in group homes in the Bronx, the first thing she did was ask them what their interests were.

“Basketball and hip-hop music,” was the reply,” said Ms. Ciardiello, then a recreational group therapist for the Catholic Guardian Society.

The teenagers needed therapeutic support to help them cope with the emotional burdens of separating from their families. A dedicated group worker, Ms. Ciardiello had seen how successful activities could be if they engaged the children’s interests.

“We cleared out a closet, installed turntables and a sound machine, and called it ‘The Lab,’” said the PhD student at Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

The hip-hop music became a vehicle for the children to discuss their emotional difficulties during group therapy.

“The kids loved it,” said Ms. Ciardiello. “They stayed in the homes more and co-operated with residence staff. The activities mitigated the stigma of being in therapy.”

She wrote about the experience in an article published in *Social Work with Groups: Social Justice Through Personal, Community, and Societal Change* (Haworth Press), and it became the basis for a book of her own.

In the late 90’s, after presenting her group work activity ideas at a symposium of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups (of which she is a board member) in Miami and at the Eighth European Group Work Symposium in London, England, she recognized the lack of activities available for group workers to use with children. So she began to compile the activities she had created into a recently published

handbook, *ACTivities for Group Work with School-Age Children* (Marco Products), for clinical social workers, psychologists, special education teachers, and guidance counselors.

Illustrated with lively drawings, the book is filled with games, arts and crafts, and role-play activities to help children cope with change, express their feelings, and improve their self-esteem, social skills, and teamwork.

One activity, “Jar of Bad Dreams,” has the children drawing pictures of their bad dreams, discussing them with the group, and storing them away in a glass jar. “It’s a symbolic way for children to cope with nightmares,” Ms. Ciardiello said. “I tell them it gives them a place to put away their bad dreams so they have more room for happier ones.”

“Susan’s book is impressive not only for the creative and user-friendly way in which she conceived and outlined the activities, but also for its theoretical underpinnings,” said Ronnie Glassman, DSW, Wurzweiler’s field instruction director, whom Ms. Ciardiello cites as a mentor.

The activities draw from cognitive-behavioral, psycho-education, group, and child development theories. The book includes charts to help group leaders choose activities according to the stages of group development.

While faculty guidance and her course work at Wurzweiler enriched her theoretical knowledge, Ms. Ciardiello’s biggest inspiration for creating activities came from the children. One of her most memorable experiences involved a 7-year-old girl referred to her for counseling after she witnessed her father setting her mother on fire. Activities such as the Jar of Bad Dreams helped the girl open up and talk about the incident.

“One day she came in with an activity to help the other children talk about their feelings,” said Ms. Ciardiello. The girl’s idea—a ‘check-in sheet’ for group members to record their feelings at the start of every group session—is included in the book. “It enabled the children to share negative feelings from events that happened before the session, so they were less likely to act out,” explained Ms. Ciardiello.

As staff psychotherapist at Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Counseling Center in Westchester, NY, she runs groups in schools and does individual therapy at the clinic. Her heart lies mostly with the former role, though. “Children are more likely to change if their peers are calling them on it,” she said. “If it’s just me and the child alone in a room, the issues are less likely to emerge right in front of me.” ❖



A Seasoned Advocate

BY JUNE GLAZER

Iaine Schott, Wurzweiler School of Social Work's

Enewest board member, has a passion for advocacy. It is the common thread running through her various careers and an interest she hopes to ignite among the school's students.

"I think it is my strongest suit," said Ms. Schott, who first discovered an affinity for people in need as a novice third-grade teacher in the South Bronx, some 35 years ago. "I felt I could do a lot for them—developing programs with the children and their families. It was difficult, and I was gentle and soft-spoken then, but I learned to love it," she said.

These days she exudes a confidence and expertise derived from years in the helping professions. After teaching elementary school, she moved on to adult education for welfare recipients and then to recruiting and training volunteers in Harlem to assist at 12 neighborhood schools. There, she also helped establish a parent education program, a child-parent library, a toybrary, and a women's support group.

"Many of the women in the group were heads of households or lived with abusive partners. I felt I needed to better equip myself to deal with these issues," she said of her decision to

enroll at NYU for a master's degree in psychology.

After sharpening her therapeutic skills at the Philadelphia School for Psychoanalysis, she opened a private practice for low-income adults in Manhattan. Juggling her practice and a family—she and husband Rudy have three now-grown children—she completed an MSW at Hunter College, an achievement that concretized her perspective as an advocate.

"My first job placement [after graduating from Hunter] was at Hillside Hospital, a psychiatric facility in Queens where I worked with schizophrenics, bipolars, and the extremely depressed," said Ms. Schott. "I also helped patients find housing or follow-up services and families negotiate lower insurance rates. I began a walking group for residents of the locked wards, and taught them about health and exercise."

A natural athlete, she exercises daily and has competed in four New York City marathons. "I found that exercise really helped this group. The conversations



they had while walking were much more normal than the ones they had while locked in their units," she said.

When she left Hillside last June after 17 years, her colleagues said they had never seen a better advocate.

Ms. Schott now trains students and works in the clinic at Young Adult Institute (YAI), a nonprofit agency that offers services to developmentally disabled and delayed adults. She became involved after her two-year-old grandson, at first thought to be mildly autistic, dramatically improved after participating in its children's program.

Until last June, her involvement with Wurzweiler was to train student interns at Hillside Hospital, where she met Heidi Heft LaPorte, DSW, assistant professor. When Ms. Schott left Hillside, Dr. LaPorte suggested she join WSSW's board, an idea that appealed to her only if she could "make a difference."

"One thing I'd like to do is impart to students the importance of advocacy," said Ms. Schott. "In this era of managed care, that role is getting lost. I'd like to help students rediscover the advocate's place." ♦

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There are many ways you can stay in touch with Wurzweiler. We offer you networking events, continuing education seminars, career resources, and professional development.

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AT COMMENCEMENT 2003, 153 MSW AND 8 PHD STUDENTS RECEIVED DIPLOMAS, MARKING THE END OF ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE ACADEMIC YEAR FOR THE SCHOOL AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE IN THEIR CAREERS. RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:



1



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- 1 Frances Eichholz-Heller received the Esther and Walter Lentschner Award for Excellence in Writing
- 2 Michael McFarland, Yael Laviel, and Gloria Brown shared the Advocacy Award at the Block Graduation in July
- 3 The Spring Advocacy Award went to Janet Zorrilla
- 4 Dennis McDougal received the Student Government Award from Drs. Jay Sweifach and Heidi Heft LaPorte
- 5 Gerri Matusewitch, board member of the NASW NYC Chapter, presented the NASW Award to Rosa Arroyo
- 6 Dean's Award winner Angela DiManno
- 7 Dr. Heidi Heft LaPorte presented Adrian Bolling with the Research Award

Remembering Everett Wilson



Dr. Wilson (right), in whose memory WSSW has set up a scholarship fund.

Everett Wilson, WSSW professor emeritus who passed away last year, was a highly esteemed member of Wurzweiler's faculty for almost 20 years (1957–1976), during which time he helped shape the school into what it is today.

Dr. Wilson was there from the start: founding dean Morton I. Teicher recruited him from the University of North Carolina as Wurzweiler's first faculty member when the school opened.

The two professors had been long-time friends, getting together at conferences to imagine shaping a school of their own one day. "The notion that our school would emphasize high quality was always at the forefront of our discussions," said Dr. Teicher. Their vision became reality at Wurzweiler. "Everett brought that devotion to quality to Yeshiva and contributed significantly to fashioning a first-rate educational program."

Prof. Wilson's commitment to high standards was reflected in his interactions with faculty members and students. He was a revered teacher and caring mentor who was committed to the school and its purposes. Shortly after his death, a number of his faculty colleagues established the Everett Wilson Memorial Scholarship Fund for deserving students at the school. They share their memories below.

"At one of our meetings, I shared my concern about the balance between content and process in teaching. Everett responded: 'If I were to lecture to a class, I would say all I knew in the first 15 minutes and then what?' Lecturing wasn't his style. Instead he asked students questions to make them think. I still follow his example today."

– NORMAN LINZER, PhD, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Professor in Jewish Family Social Work

"Everett Wilson was my mentor. During our meetings, there were many silent periods during which I realized that Everett was not going to dispense information or knowledge or understanding to me; these I had to discover for myself. His respect for the potential of each student endeared him to us all. I loved him for the gifts of learning that I took away from our years of working together."

– SOLOMON H. GREEN, DSW, professor emeritus

"His educational philosophy emphasized responsibility for one's own learning. That was how he approached his mentoring of me. He gave me total freedom to develop my own approach but at the same time I learned enormously from him. He was my sounding board and trusted advisor."

– ELSBETH H. COUCH, MS, MA, associate professor emerita

Student Wins ACOSA Award

Sara Kossove '04W, an MSW student concentrating on community social work, won the Student Recognition Award from the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA) at the Council of Social Work Education's annual conference in Anaheim, CA, Feb. 29. She won the national competition on the strength of her essay about the importance of community social work for the future of the profession.

Ms. Kossove, who graduates in May, said she based the essay on her field work experience at Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, NY Center for Community and Coalition Building, where she staffs two multi-ethnic coalitions.

She said it was a huge honor to accept the award in front of so many esteemed social work educators, including many from Wurzweiler.

"It is important to advocate for myself as a student and to join the professionals and faculty attending the conference," Ms. Kossove said. "Students are under-represented at conferences because they are unaware that they have a place there."

"During a Social Welfare Organization class, rather than asking the students to simply memorize welfare laws, he asked us to determine what needs should be considered when legislating a welfare budget. We had an intense class discussion about whether a welfare mother should have enough money to buy an occasional ice-cream for her child. We came away understanding in our gut what it must be like to live on a welfare budget. We would learn the rules and regulations later, when we needed to use them."

– HARRIET FEINER '64W, former associate professor and student

"Everett once told me this story. He was on a bus sitting behind two of his students. Let me call them Ann and Ellen. They were complaining about the number of required written assignments. Ann turns to Ellen and says, 'It is just too much.' Ellen agrees, adding, 'I will tell you something if you promise to keep it a secret.' Ann promises and Ellen says softly, 'My husband does my assignments.' Everett reaches forward and taps Ellen on the shoulder and says, 'Don't be upset. My wife reads them.'"

– AARON BECKERMAN, DSW, professor emeritus

If you were taught by Prof. Wilson or simply want to make a pledge in his name, please send us your contribution, made payable to Yeshiva University, WSSW (Wilson Scholarship Fund), in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you to our alumni donors!!

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Meet Our Alumni Affairs Director



Alison Link, Wurzweiler's new director of alumni affairs, has found a home at the school in more ways than one. She is a student in the PhD program and assistant to Dr. Margaret Gibelman, professor and doctoral program director, on a research project funded by the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

When she is not at Wurzweiler, Alison is the leisure education consultant at Tully House and Talbot Hall, correctional facilities in New Jersey, where she implements programs with facility residents and trains staff. She also volunteers as a tutor in the Partners in Literacy program run by the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Manhattan, as well as for other social justice-oriented organizations.

From 2002–2003, she was the assistant director of adult programs at the JCC in Manhattan. Prior to that, she received an MA in recreation and leisure studies and resources management from NYU, and a BA in bio-medical ethics from Brown University. Her professional experience includes working with youth in informal Jewish education, most recently as the assistant director of the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) Kutz Camp National Leadership Center. Alison was also a fellow of the Institute of Informal Jewish Education at Brandeis University.

She lived in Israel for two years and worked as a volunteer. She taught English in an Arab-Israeli school, ran programs for young Jewish immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union, and helped newly arrived families adjust to Israeli life.

Alison is collaborating with Wurzweiler's administration and alumni to bring the school's community closer together to address alumni needs. She encourages alumni to be in touch at 212-960-5341 or link@yu.edu. ❖

WURZWEILER GETS A GOLDEN GIFT

Wurzweiler School of Social Work has a new scholarship fund thanks to Lilian Kitt Golden, a longtime social worker, volunteer, and supporter of Jewish causes, who bequeathed the school a large sum from her estate. To date, the fund is valued at \$440,000.

According to the executor of her will, Stanley Light, Ms. Kitt Golden received her BA from NYU in 1936 and pursued graduate studies at Columbia School of Social Work. She took some continuing education classes, including a Jewish orientation and training seminar at Yeshiva University. She worked in the Jewish communal field— at the National Council of Jewish Women in New York from 1947– 1955, the Jewish Community Services of Long Island from 1965– 1969, and as a senior case manager and manager of social services for the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA) in her own housing residence in Far Rockaway, Queens.

After she retired, she volunteered her time in Jewish communal organizations and liked to travel. Ms. Kitt Golden died just shy of her 85th birthday in 2001.

NEW RESOURCE!

Visit Wurzweiler's

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Don't miss out.

Register today at www.yu.edu/alumni

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
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In less than 10 minutes, you can update your alumni record, contribute to *Wurzweiler Update*, and provide current information about your career.

Please return using the enclosed envelope or fax to 212-960-5336.

Last Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____ First Name _____

Title (e.g. Dr., Mr., Rabbi, Ms.) _____ Suffix (e.g. Jr., III, MSW, PhD) _____

Maiden Name _____ Nickname _____ Date of Birth _____

Degree Received: _____ Your Program (e.g. Block, PEP, Communal Service Cert.): _____ Year Graduated: _____

Home Information:

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Home Fax _____ Home e-mail _____

Professional Information:

Professional Title/Position _____

Employer Name _____

Business Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Business Phone _____ Business Fax _____ Business e-mail _____

Preferred mailing address: business home

A brief description of what you do, including areas of specialization:

What else have you been doing since you graduated from Wurzweiler? (Types of work you have done, grants, conferences, continuing education, post-doctoral training, publications, presentations, and special populations, etc.)

Check if you would like this information included in Class Notes in *Wurzweiler Update* magazine

Additional information you would like included in Class Notes

Please check activities that you would be interested in participating in:

- Mentoring current students
- Recruitment / interviews of applicants and other admissions-related activities
- Social activities
- Speaking on a panel regarding issues such as selecting a field placement, searching for a first job, starting a private practice
- Fund-raising
- Communications (articles for *Wurzweiler Update*, Web site, online community, listserv)
- Continuing education

Other _____

Please tell us any additional activities or issues that you would like to see addressed:

Spouse/Partner Information

Marital Status (please circle): Single / Married / Divorced / Widowed / Companion

Spouse/Partner:

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Occupation/Position _____ Business Name _____

Business Address _____

Is he/she a Wurzweiler graduate? Yes No Is he/she a Yeshiva University graduate? Yes No

If yes, class year? _____ School (s) _____

Child Information

1. Child First Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____ Last Name _____

Child DOB _____ Gender M / F WSSW graduate? Yes / No Class Year? _____ YU graduate? Yes / No Class Year? _____

2. Child First Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____ Last Name _____

Child DOB _____ Gender M / F WSSW graduate? Yes / No Class Year? _____ YU graduate? Yes / No Class Year? _____

3. Child First Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____ Last Name _____

Child DOB _____ Gender M / F WSSW graduate? Yes / No Class Year? _____ YU graduate? Yes / No Class Year? _____

Relatives Who Have Attended Wurzweiler School of Social Work/Yeshiva University

Name _____ School _____ Year _____ Relation _____

Name _____ School _____ Year _____ Relation _____

Name _____ School _____ Year _____ Relation _____

Please provide the names of two alumni with whom you keep in regular contact:

1 _____

2 _____

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.
If you have any inquiries, contact Alison Link, director of alumni affairs, at 212-960-5341 or link@yu.edu.

1960s

Helen Gross-Kovitz '69W is retired and lives in Monroe Township, NJ.

George Krevsky '68W is the owner of George Krevsky Gallery in San Francisco and a regional board member, New Israel Fund.

Dr. Elaine (Sneierson) Leeder '69W is the dean of social sciences and professor of sociology at Sonoma State University, CA.

Steven Rod '68W is vice president, Jewish Community Center Association, in New York. Previously, he was director of professional development there. He celebrated the birth of his first grandchild, Rachel Mara Schwartz, born to daughter Elana and husband Seth.

Ira J. Steinmetz Y;60W is retired and living in Boca Raton, FL. His grandchildren Amy, Allie, and David Steinmetz published a book, *Our Dad Died*, offering suggestions to other children who have experienced a similar loss.

1970s

Jeff Antonoff '77W is executive director, Alpert Jewish Community Center, Long Beach, CA. He was previously associate executive director, JCCs of Greater Buffalo, and has worked for more than 16 years in Jewish community centers.

Shira Barnett '77W is a Jungian analyst in Sausalito, CA.

Sora (Goldfeder) Brazil S;75W is director, Senior Life Management, a geriatric mental-health program offering psychotherapy services and behavior management training to staff and residents of long-term care facilities in the greater NY area. She lectured at various geriatric conferences and does in-service training in nursing homes. She lives in Oceanside, NY.

Carl B. Derenfeld '78W is vice president, patient recruitment, AmericasDoctor Inc. of Gurnee, IL. Previously, he was vice pres-

ident, marketing, sales and customer relations, United States Pharmacopeia, Rockville, MD.

Judith G. Elman '79W runs a private practice from her home in Hackensack, NJ.

Cheryl Finkelstein '77W is a school social worker, Herricks UFSD, in New Hyde Park, NY. Previously, she worked at Bellevue Child and Family Mental Health Clinic, in Seattle, WA, and in the pediatric intensive care unit, National Children's Hospital, Washington, DC.

Dr. Martin Garfinkle Y;76W is professor and department chair, New York City College of Technology, CUNY. He runs a private practice, specializing in anxiety and depression. He lives in Staten Island, NY.

Esther S. Goldman YH;76W is senior social worker, outpatient psychiatric service, Beth Israel Medical Center. She received the center's Outstanding Social Worker Award in 2003. She has a private practice in Millburn, NJ, and Manhattan for individuals, couples, and families.

Regina (Rosenzweig) Gradess '76W is a social worker at Jewish Home and Hospital Life Care System, Bronx, NY. She and husband Roger have a daughter, Olivia, and a son, Daniel.

Dr. Rosa Perla (Plesnick) Helfgot '76W was the moderator and editor of the proceedings of the following panels at the UN: "A Dialogue between Generations: An Interactive, Cross-Cultural and International Experience with Older and Younger Persons" (NGO Committee on Aging), June 2003; "Immigrants and Refugees in Today's World" (56th UN/ DPI Non-Governmental Organization Annual Conference), September 2003; and "International Migration and Migrants: Critical Issues in Social Development and Human Well-Being" (42nd Session, Commission for Social Develop-

Keith Liederman Gets Top Post at Kingsley House

Keith H. Liederman '86W was promoted to executive director of Kingsley House in New Orleans in July 2003. He previously worked as associate director of administration. As executive director, he is the chief fund-raiser and works closely with the organization's board of directors.

Established in 1896, Kingsley House is the oldest settlement house in the South and one of only five agencies in Louisiana accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. It serves more than 7,000 individuals each year and is one of the largest social service agencies in New Orleans.

Dr. Liederman, who holds a PhD in social work from Tulane University, says his top priorities as executive director are research-based practice and strengthening the organization's ties to local universities.

"Research-based practice would establish the fidelity of our models and efficacy of our approaches," he said. "It would not only improve the quality of our programs, but also contribute to the field as a whole." ♦

ment, NGO Committee on Human Rights), February 2004.

Natalie Jacobson '74W is a psychological counselor at Bennington College, Bennington, VT. She lives in Williamstown, MA, and would love to hear from other class of '74 graduates. She is contactable at natandmart@hotmail.com.

Max Kleinman '76W is president, World Council of Jewish Communal Service, and executive vice president, United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey. He was executive director of the Jewish federation in Minneapolis and held senior positions in federations in Atlanta and Milwaukee. He is also past president, Jewish Communal Service Association of North America and the Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel. He lives in Livingston, NJ.

Emma Leaf '71W received the Nathan K. Gross Community Service Award from Congregation

Ohab Zedek, New York City, for establishing senior programs. She is retired.

Sophia M. Pappas '72W is a clinical social worker and psychotherapist, Mental Health Division, Onslow County Behavioral Healthcare Services, Jacksonville, NC. She works mostly with individuals and runs some groups. She lives on Topsail Island, NC.

Stephanie (Kruger) Sabar '70W is a case management administrator, East Valley Multipurpose Senior Center, Los Angeles, CA. She is also a field instructor for University of Southern California School of Social Work students. She is trained in Gestalt Therapy and specializes in health, aging, death and dying, bereavement, and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Estelle (Scheinberg-Alter) Schutzman '76W is adjunct assistant professor of sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College and John Jay College for Criminal Justice,

CUNY. She is also a docent at Museum of Jewish Heritage. She and husband Arthur Schutzman recently celebrated their 20th anniversary.

Joel Schwartz '79W is a grant writer for non-profit organizations and human service agencies. He lives on Staten Island, NY, with his wife, Judy.

Esther (Cherner) Simon S;'79W works from home as a professional organizer, running workshops on time management, filing systems, and space planning. Previously, she was a medical social worker at Century City Hospital for five years. She lives in Santa Monica, CA, with husband Milton Simon and children.

Carol Smaldino '72W published *In the Midst of Parenting: A Look at the Real Dramas and Dilemmas* (Brooklyn Girl Books), a book of advice for parents that uses development theory and real-life anecdotes. She also publishes personal essays on her Web site, www.growingreal.com.

She is married to **Angelo Smaldino** '75W and recently received Italian citizenship.

Abraham Wasserberger '79W is executive director of resource development, American Jewish Joint Distribution

Committee in New York.

Arnold Weintraub '76W is a social worker at Self Help Benjamin Rosenthal Senior Center in Flushing, NY. He has a Certificate in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and a Certificate in Gerontology from The Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College.

Dr. Meir Wikler Y;'72W;'83W published two books, *Zorei'a Tzedakos: Contemporary Stories of Divine Providence* (Feldheim) and *Ten Minutes a Day to a Better Marriage* (Artsroll). He is a psychotherapist in private practice in Brooklyn, NY, specializing in treatment of Orthodox and hasidic clients. He was a featured speaker in the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation Program, "The Art of Being Positive," a video presentation shown in over 200 locations around the world on February 28, 2004.

1980s

Rose Beck '80W was elected to the Homer, AL, City Council. She became involved in public office after taking courses in mediation skills from Pepperdine School of Law. She has

been in private practice as a psychotherapist for 23 years.

Susie (Forer) Dehrey '80W is associate executive director, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. She lives with her husband, Yehuda Dehrey, and three children in Sherman Oaks, CA.

Estella Norwood Evans '80W published an article on her visit to Senegal and a "soul-centered model of therapy" in the February 2004 issue of *Social Work Today*. She is professor of social work, Nazareth College, in Rochester, NY, and past director, Greater Rochester Social Work Education Collaborative.

Kim (Langweiler) Fischer '80W is associate editor, *Heritage Florida Jewish News*, where she was promoted from assistant editor.

Rochelle Friedman '82W is director, All About Kids, an early intervention program for children with developmental disabilities. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Tina (Levy) Friedman '86W is director, community relations, United Jewish Federation of San Diego County. She and her husband, Dr. Noah Friedman, a pediatric allergist at Kaiser Permanente, celebrated the bat mitzvah of daughter

Aliza. She has another daughter, Mirit, 11.

Irene Sara Hertzberg '86W and husband **Isaiah Hertzberg** '50Y,R celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Dalya Hertzberg** YH;'85S, to Rabbi David Levy.

Rabbi Judah Isaacs '86W received the 2003 Mandell and Madeleine Berman Award for Outstanding Professional Service from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. He is director, Alliance for Jewish Education at the Federation, and president, Young Israel of Oak Park, MI, where he lives.

Ronald James '87W is director of social work, Putnam Ridge Nursing Home, Brewster, NY. He lives with his wife and two children in Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

Judy (Schiff) Kahan '81W was named "Woman of the Year" by the Kinneret Council on Aging, Orlando, FL, for her 12 years as its executive director.

Alan Klugman '80W is executive vice president, Jewish Federation of Palm Springs, CA. After working in Israel, 1980-84, he returned to the US and has been with the Federation ever since. He was previously executive director, Jewish Federation of Louisville, KY.

PUTTING THE "TEE" IN THERAPY



Marilyn (Hamlin) Palasky '96W, a psychotherapist with a

private practice in Las Vegas, has found an unusual application for her counseling skills: coaching golfers to harness their mental energy and improve their game.

'Doc Hamlin,' as her students refer to her on the golf course, opened her new business, Coach for The Mental Game of Golf, in July last year. Her husband got her interested in golf, said the Wurzweiler School of Social Work alumna who also holds a PhD in psychoanalysis from the University of Integrative Learning, a university without walls, in 2000. "I started

going with him onto the golf course to observe," says Dr. Palasky. "I wanted to see what it was all about. I talked to him about his game, and he improved his score."

She offers individual and couples coaching at her office or at clients' golf clubs. Doc Hamlin explains her work as "optimizing her clients' knowledge of how to manage their brains on the golf course to improve their scores."

A former model and actress, Dr. Palasky teaches two educational outreach courses, "Power of Living Now" and "Say What You Mean," at the University of Nevada Las Vegas this spring. ♦

Yona (Rosen) Kollin S,'80W runs a private psychotherapy practice, specializing in couples therapy, trauma, and depression, in Pasadena, CA. She was previously director, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Southern Region, 1983–1990.

Naomi Eibshutz Lazarus '80W former WSSW director of admissions, is retired and lives in New York City. She volunteers at Jacob Perlow Hospice at Beth Israel Medical Center, and serves on several UJA-Federation committees, including Jewish Women's Foundation.

Dina (Shtull) Leber '81W is principal, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. She has directed Judaic programming at Tamarack Camps in Ortonville, MI, for 11 years and was previously co-director of Project STaR, now the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership, at the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

Susan (Silverman) Mintz '81W is director of patient services, Kidney Foundation of Canada, Central Ontario branch. She participated in a two-year leadership program for middle managers and executive directors. She maintains a private counseling practice.

Dr. Efrem Nulman YH,Y,'81W senior university dean of students at YU, and wife Rochelle celebrated the bar mitzvah of son Joshua David.

Dr. Robert A. Raab '81W is matriculating toward certification as a psychoanalyst, Washington Square Institute. He is a retired rabbi and an adjunct professor of sociology, Nassau Community College, on Long Island, NY.

Rabbi David Ribakoff '83W is a family consultant, Positive Option Family Service, in Sacramento, CA. Previously, he was a coordinator of Judaic



Toronto Photographer Captures Beauty of Aging

Irene Borins Ash '87W published *Treasured Legacies: Older and Still Great* (Second Story Press), a collection of photographs of the elderly, in November 2003.

The book, which was featured in *The Canadian Jewish News* in January, is based on Ms. Borins Ash's encounters with seniors during her career as a case worker at several geriatric facilities in Toronto. It features photographic portraits of seniors around the world accompanied by biographical sketches and their philosophies

about aging. Among those featured is Frances Sosnoff, associate professor emerita, who taught at Wurzweiler from 1977–2002.

After presenting a paper on aging at a 1999 meeting of the Ontario Gerontology Association, Ms. Borins Ash was asked to present another one at the Fourth Global Conference of the International Federation on Aging in Montreal. This time she used seven photos to back up the text.

"I started to take photographs to capture the beauty of the aging face," she said. "And because I was a tapestry artist for 25 years, becoming a photographer was natural for me."

Since then, Ms. Borins Ash's photography has been exhibited at the Loggia Gallery at the Koffler Centre of the Arts and the Holy Blossom Temple, both in Toronto, and in the Rotunda at Toronto City Hall.

"People always think that young is beautiful," she said. "And nobody thinks seniors are beautiful. So with the book, I wanted to fight against ageism and break that stereotype." ♦

studies and school principal of Shalom School, a Jewish community day school. He is married to Carolyn McCarter and has six children.

Dina (Rohrer) S,'95W and husband **Jay Sweifach** '88W, '02W, DSW, WSSW assistant professor, celebrated the birth of daughter Laini Avriel.

Arleen R. Stern YH,'80W is a private geriatric care manager and consultant in bereavement and aging, in Manhattan.

Joseph M. Winiarz Y,'87W writes reports and grant proposals for the non-profit sector in Israel and is an Israel Ministry of Tourism licensed tour guide. Previously, he was the grants and allocations program officer, Jewish Agency for Israel, for eight years after making

aliyah in 1990. He lives in Efrat with his wife, Haya. They celebrated the marriage of daughter Ester to Benjamin Golbert, a student at Yeshiva College.

Dr. Stefan R. Zicht '84W,F is in private practice as a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst in New York. He teaches at William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Psychology; Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis; and the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. He is editor, *The Review of Interpersonal Psychoanalysis*, and associate editor, *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*. He is also assistant clinical professor of medical psychology in psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia Uni-

versity; and adjunct clinical supervisor, doctoral programs, Pace University and YU's Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology.

KEY TO SCHOOL ABBREVIATIONS

A	Albert Einstein College of Medicine
AG	Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration
BG	Belfer Graduate School of Sciences
BSJM	Beitz School of Jewish Music
B	Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies
CTI	Cantorial Training Institute
C	Cardozo School of Law
F	Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology
R	Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary
S	Stern College for Women
SG	Sue Golding Graduate Division of Medical Sciences
SB	Sy Syms School of Business
T	Teachers Institute
T	Teachers Institute for Women
W	Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Y	Yeshiva College
YH	Yeshiva University High Schools

1990s

Josee (Suares) Bauman '90W is a clinical social worker specializing in depression and anxiety disorders, FECS Health and Human Services System. She also runs a private practice. Previously, she worked for 10 years with refugees at New York Association for New Americans (NYANA). She lives in NYC.

Allison (Staiman) Bellin '92W and husband Jonathan, Y'93W celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Kayla Frieda. Jonathan is director of social services, Franklin Nursing Home, Flushing, NY.

David Borenstein '93W received the Leeder Family Foundation Award for Outstanding Social Work. He is a social worker at UJA Federation/ Riverdale YM-YWHA.

Dr. Jane Bowling '98W director of social work, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, received a Shining Spirit Award for excellence in cancer care from the Paul Robert Carey Foundation.

Fr. Symeon Paul Burholt '96W led a series of spirituality and mental health workshops at the Hastings Parish House of the Walpole Unitarian Church in Walpole, NH. He also co-presented a discussion on "Be Angry and Sin Not, a Christian View of the Emotions" at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Springfield, VT. He is a priest and licensed psychotherapist with a private practice in Claremont, NH.

Michele Cohen '95W facilitates a teleconference support group for parents of children with eating disorders. She previously coordinated teleconference groups for parents of children with cancer. Ms. Cohen is a staff therapist at the Advanced Center for Psychotherapy, Jamaica Estates, NY, and runs a private prac-

tice in Riverdale, NY.

Rev. Edward W. Edwards '97W runs a private psychotherapy practice in Bridgewater, NJ.

Karen Einbinder '96W is youth and family department director, Jewish Community Center of San Francisco.

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg '97W was elected secretary, board of directors, United Neighborhood Centers of Lackawanna County Inc. Retired, he is a life member and past president, board of directors, United Cerebral Palsy of North Eastern Pennsylvania.

Harriet (Zimmer) Goldberg '93W is director of social work, Norman Towers, a senior citizen high-rise apartment building in East Orange, NY.

Jodeme Goldhar '98W, director of corporate projects, Baycrest Center for Geriatric Care, Toronto, participated in the annual Sherman Seminar for Emerging Professionals at Brandeis University.

Caryn Green '97W was featured in an article in *Haaretz*, the Israeli newspaper. She is founder and director, Crossroads, a Jerusalem-based outreach organization for English-speaking troubled teens. She emigrated to Israel from Texas in 1997.

Dr. Rosalie Grossman '90W is director of HIV services, Greenwich House, in NYC.

Adam Jacobson '95W is a psychotherapist with specialties in gay and lesbian issues, adolescents, and work-related issues, in New York. He also works with forensic patients at the New York Center for Neuropsychology and Forensic Behavioral Science.

Iris Kaspi '96W is a bilingual school social worker, NYC Department of Education. Previously, she worked in foster care and as a pediatric social worker.

Anne (Gelper) Katz '95W is a

social worker, Hebrew Academy of Special Children, in Monsey, NY. She lives in Spring Valley, NY.

Kathleen LaConte '96W is school counselor of the middle school program, Glen Ridge High School, Glen Ridge, NJ.

Dr. Susan Letteney '97W was featured in the January 2004 edition of *Pandora's Box*, the official student newspaper of York College-CUNY, for her work on fighting AIDS in the community. She is a professor in York's department of social sciences.

Ruth (Levy) Levi '90W is a psychotherapist in private practice, specializing in sexual, emotional, and physical abuse. Previously, she worked for 12 years with victims and offenders in the sex and trauma unit, Westchester Jewish Community Services. She is a member of the Association for Treatment of Sex Abusers (ATSA).

Lynn Levy '98W is the director of premarital education, department of Jewish family concerns, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New York, NY. She oversees the "Aleph Bet of Marriage," a psychoeducational program that she helped create. She also facilitates groups for interfaith couples and families at the JCC of Manhattan for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. Mazel tov to her on the marriage of her son Joshua to Staci Rosenblatt.

Mariann E. Mamberg '91W is a social worker, Hospice by the Sea, Delray Beach, FL.

Wayne Marcus '94W has a private psychotherapy practice. He also designs interiors for corporate, retail, showroom, and residential clients.

Rabbi Helga Newmark '91W was one of the subjects of an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about older adults starting second careers in the clergy.

She is a rabbi at Barnert Temple, Franklin Lakes, NJ.

Ruth Ann (Levinson) Ornstein '90W is executive director, Camp Laurelwood, Woodbridge, CT.

Dr. Marilyn (Hamlin) Palasky '96W celebrated her marriage to husband Sgt. Tom Palasky in Las Vegas. (see p.24)

Dr. Manoj Pardasani '96W, '03W received the 2004 Research Award from the National Council on Aging for his doctoral dissertation research, which focused on program decision-making in senior centers.

Jinsheng Qiu '99W is a gerontological social worker, Self Help Community Services, in Flushing, NY.

David S. Rosner '97W is director of annual giving, Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Foundation, in Commack, NY. Mazal tov to him on the birth of daughter Devyn.

Sari (Friedman) Rosner '94W is studying for a PhD in clinical social work, Simmons School of Social Work, Boston, MA.

Robyn (Hikind) Sadowsky S'98W is a social worker, focusing on early intervention with children and families, in Brooklyn, NY. She started Marbim B'Simcha, an organization that provides free diapers and clothing to needy families with multiple children.

Rachel (Klein) Schmidt '92W has a private practice with her daughter. She started the first social work service for ultra-Orthodox residents in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, at ODA Primary Medical Center. She published a book, *Love Is Not Enough*, about cases she has worked on. She lectures internationally in Yiddish and English on child-rearing and improving communications.

Jonathan Siegel '91W is director, Jewish Community Center, Youngstown, OH.

Maureen (Moran) Silo '97W is field supervisor, Office of Domestic Violence and Emergency Intervention Services (ODVEIS-NOVA), NYC Human Resources Administration.

Linda (Kaplan) Steinman '97W is director, rehabilitation and recovery services, Project Hospitality in Manhattan. She lives on Staten Island, NY.

Paul E. Stevens '90W was promoted to supervisor, outpatient behavioral health clinic, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Westchester, NY.

Roberta Zuckerman '94W is director, special projects, UJA-Federation of New York.

2000s

Jacqueline Agresta '02W was honored by the Long Beach Board of Education, NY, after she received her PhD in Social Welfare from WSSW.

Dalia (Abott) Becker '00W is co-director and social worker, Project Ezra, where she has worked since graduation. She does casework and group work with frail Jewish homebound elderly. She is also a registered dietitian, and has been working with the Eating Disorders Association under both licenses.

Olga Dyakova '03W is a therapist specializing in Russian- and English-speaking patients, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, in Brooklyn, NY.

Jennifer Fink '02W is director of leadership development, Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona, Tucson, AZ. She heads the Jewish Community Leadership Institute and the Federation's Young Women's Cabinet.

Simon Greenfeld '01W heads the drug rehab clinics in the northern Israeli towns of Maalot and Shlomi. He also

supervises a program for homeless Russian alcoholics in Raanana.

Adam Korobkin '00W is a clinical social worker, Fresenius Medical Care, in West Covina, CA. Previously, he was program director, Sephardic Community Center, Brooklyn, NY, and assistant executive director, Jewish Community Center, Long Beach, CA.

Shea Lerner '00W is director of development, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He serves on the board of trustees, Plainview Jewish Center.

Eana (Dychter) Rezmovitch '00W celebrated the birth of two boys, Yehudah Leib and Dovid Yisroel Yitzchok.

Stephanie Ringel '03W is director of children's and youth services, Shaw JCC, in Akron, OH, where she relocated from Massepequa Park, Long Island, NY.

Condolences to

Janet Adler '96W, WSSW board member, her husband, Bruce, and their entire family on the loss of their son Kenny.

Mindy (Wall) Evnin '69W on the loss of her son, USMC Cpl. Mark Asher Evnin, killed in action in Iraq, April 3, 2003.

Dr. Ozie Hammond '95W on the loss of his mother.

Rabbi Mory Korenblit YH,Y;76W on the loss of his father, Aron Korenblit, in December 2003.

Ira Yavarkovsky, YU Guardian and WSSW board honorary governor, on the loss of his niece, Jodi Fisher, in January 2004.

We Mourn

Tanir Eshkoly, '05W, Block student, who died in Israel. Condolences to her family.

Teckla Hall '92W, who died July '03. She was chief of staff for Rep. Joseph Crowley's Co-op City office; president, Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club; and vice president, Bronx County Democratic Party Committee. Condolences to her family.

Esther Leah Ritz, of Milwaukee, WI, former vice chair, WSSW board, who died in December 2003. She was a prominent Jewish philanthropist and activist, and served on many boards, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Condolences to her family.

A Graduate Makes Her Mark

Growing up, says Toronto native **Jennifer Gottesman** '03W, some of her childhood friends had eating disorders that they kept to themselves. It was only once she became a young adult that she learned of their struggles.



Ms. Gottesman receiving the Faculty Award at the 2003 Block graduation.

“When it came time for a career, I wanted to help other children not to have to hide from their trouble,” said Ms. Gottesman, a Block Program graduate and now a counselor for outreach services at the Yellow Brick House, a facility for abused women and children in her home town.

Ms. Gottesman realized her goal during her second-year field work placement at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, working in the eating disorders inpatient program and the substance abuse day treatment program.

Two months on the job, Ms. Gottesman created a therapeutic group for patients with eating disorders who were 12 years and younger. The group created a safe environment for patients to make decisions about everyday issues, minus the social and peer pressures that Ms. Gottesman believes drives such disorders.

“Jennifer's helped meet a significant gap in programming,” said Sheila Bjarnason, her field work supervisor at the hospital. Ms. Gottesman received the hospital's Student Humanitarian Award for her initiative in developing and sustaining relationships with children and their families.

Her success continued after graduation. Last fall, she was chosen to present a paper she wrote about the pre-teen group to the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups (AASWG), the foremost venue for social group work practitioners and theoreticians in the world.

Ms. Gottesman said her field work was the best preparation for her career. “The school's Block Program showed me what ‘real life’ was like because it allowed me to work nine to five, Monday through Thursday,” she said. “I learned to go for what I want and not just sit back and let things happen to me.” ♦

Land of Life

BY MADELYN HOFFMAN '73W

When Madelyn Hoffman volunteered to do menial chores on an Israeli army base, she thought she would be the one doing the helping. Nothing prepared her for what she found.

Itching to visit Israel, I signed up impulsively in May 2003 for Sar-El, or Volunteers for Israel, which fills positions left unattended by soldiers or reservists called to active duty.

I traded in my sedentary, private life of the mind in New York City—where I

warehouses and shrink-wrapped huge crates of army blankets. We broke open tall wooden crates and hauled them into piles. We unrolled, inspected, counted, and packed rubber mats used by soldiers on guard duty. We hand-picked trash in prepara-



Madelyn Hoffman (second from right) and her Sar-El bunk mates.

work as a psychotherapist—to join 25 strangers from around the world for a communal, menial lifestyle on an Israeli army base.

The work was physically demanding. We swept out

tion for base inspection.

Each day we walked so far back and forth under blazing skies that our faces tanned from sun reflecting off asphalt.

Given the intensity of this schedule, the hot climate, the

extended walks, the physical changes, and the complete reorientation from private to group life, I developed the short-term memory of a grape.

But memory loss became a blessing: we gradually found ourselves living in the moment, existing from challenge to challenge, absorbing each new sight, sensation, and experience. I felt myself literally thawing out from the cold, gray winter in New York. The war in Iraq and even,

Though the Israelis were sad at times, they seemed neither despondent nor numb.

unbelievably, the recent suicide bomb in nearby Tel Aviv seemed to be happening somewhere else.

The country seemed so relaxed. It wasn't like everyone was sitting around waiting for the next bus to explode. We forgot about the danger. Despite a week bracketed by national holidays of remembrance for those lost in the Holocaust and soldiers killed in national wars, Israel did not resemble a country in mourning.

Though I know that loss touches every Israeli, the Israelis I met did not appear disassociated, depressed, or

hyper-alert. Maybe I was just projecting my own happy mood, but my prevailing impression was one of hope and new life. It was miraculous, given what the population had been through. Though the Israelis were sad at times, they seemed neither despondent nor numb.

I came to help, bracing myself to feel tense or claustrophobic, an intruder in a society preoccupied with daily threats. My experience was the opposite.

Israel, in fact, did a lot more for me than I could ever do for her. Israel made New York City seem like the epicenter of world tension. Working as a Sar-El volunteer and traveling around the country forced me to slow down again, live in the moment, and pay attention once more to the sights, sounds, and people around me. ❖

Madelyn Hoffman led a group of psychotherapists and physicians on a visit to Israel in April to observe treatment of terror attack victims and explore opportunities to volunteer their services. The group was hosted by OTZMA, Israel's emergency civilian medical reserve corps, and is planning a return trip in June.

Do you have an opinion or experience you would like to share? Send your submissions to The Editor, Wurzweiler Update, Yeshiva University, 500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033 or email kberman@yu.edu.

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