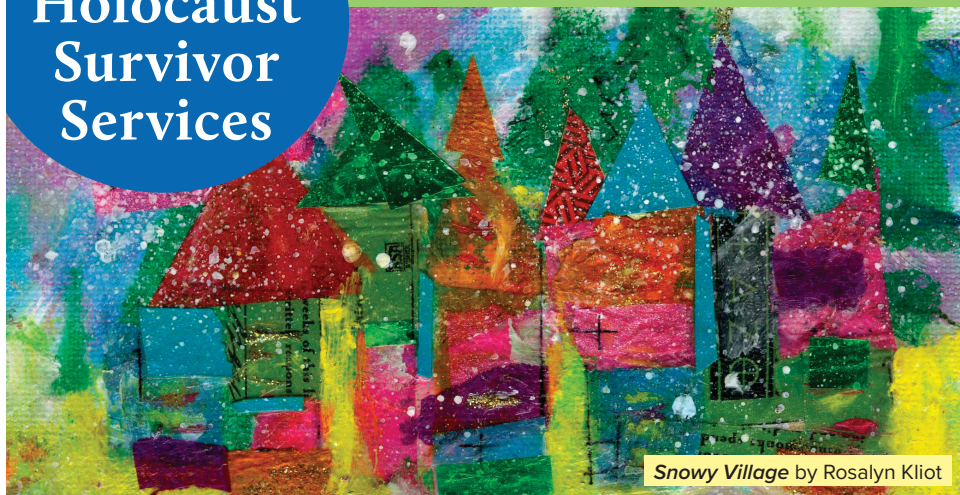


Holocaust Survivor Services



Snowy Village by Rosalyn Kliot

Beauty Helps to Overcome the Trauma of Destruction

A defining event, the Holocaust does not define four Holocaust Survivor Services clients who first and foremost are artists.

Boris Uan-Zo-li has a painting genre named after him. Sidonie Caron created a piece that hangs in the Empire State Building in New York City. Georgette Hancock believes her colorful images are inspired by G-d. And Rosalyn Kliot says, "I don't remember a time when I was not passionate about art."

ROSALYN KLIOT



Rosalyn Kliot

A child survivor of the Holocaust who was born in occupied Poland before the end of WWII, Rosalyn, 77, says her mother noticed her scratching out images on the ground as young as 2 years of age. Her mother gave her crayons and paper. "It's been

an integral part of my being all my life," says Rosalyn, a retired vocational rehabilitation counselor and expert witness who holds a bachelor's in art and a master's.

JFCS'
mission is to
improve the
quality of life
and self-
sufficiency
of the
Jewish and
broader
communities
throughout
the Portland
metro
area in
accordance
with Jewish
values.



JFCS
Jewish Family & Child Service

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Letter from our President

Dear Friends,

I invite you to enjoy this newsletter focused on JFCS' Holocaust Survivor Services (HSS) program. As you know, this year's agency theme is providing stability and hope. We are excited to share some stories about our Holocaust Survivor clients filled with hope.



In these pages, you will learn about

- the founding of today's HSS program
- our passionate, dedicated HSS team
- Survivor clients whose art and stories will wow you
- Virtual Café Europa

We are privileged to serve, get to know, and provide stability and hope *and dignity* to our Survivors who are a crucial and special part of our JFCS and greater Portland communities. As Rita Shmulevsky, program founder and lead case manager says, "I am passionate about helping our Survivors because they are entitled to receive every penny, and much more, from the German government after what was done to them during the Holocaust."

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or comments about this newsletter or our Holocaust Survivor Services program.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Larry'.

Larry Holzman
Board President



Springwater by Sidonie Caron

"Beauty Helps..." cont'd from p. 1

Rosalyn was just an infant when the war ended and has no memory of the horrors of war. "By the time I was 2, I'd lived in three countries, on two continents, and spoke fragments of three languages," she says of being taken from Lodz, Poland, to Germany before landing in Boston Harbor on her second birthday in April 1947.

Even when working full-time, Rosalyn turned to her canvases and bright paints. "There's nothing dark about my art; my pieces come out light and bright," she says, noting maybe her self-described "joyful" pieces are a subconscious reaction against the Holocaust.

That attitude works for her now, too, during the ongoing pandemic, which has been a time of great productivity and creativity. "I'm tapping into my optimistic attitude of how lovely the world is, pandemic or not."

SIDONIE CARON



Sidonie Caron

Fine artist Sidonie Caron, 89, holds an opposite view of the pandemic. "Covid has been a real bummer," she says. "The venues to show art have been drastically curtailed and when one is in my



Where can we go? by Sidonie Caron

age group and hampered by the lack of up-to-date computer skills, finding venues becomes even more difficult."

An artist her entire life, Sidonie currently is working on a commission in addition to the bold landscapes, cityscapes, portraits, Judaica and more that she creates in her studio nearly every day.

"It's been a career that I've enjoyed without the pressure of being very well known; I'm pretty modest about my accomplishments and where I stand in the art world," she says, making no reference to her seven-page C.V. that includes titles of very colorful paintings

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that have hung all over Oregon and the Northwest, as well as New York, Boston, St. Louis, in her native Germany, and even in an episode of the TV series “Grimm.”

At the very start of WWII, Sidonie’s “very Prussian,” fervently Zionist father spirited his young family out of Berlin, Germany, to Holland and, eventually, to Britain, where Sidonie lived until age 15.

“I was terribly rebellious,” perhaps the mark of an artist, a free spirit, she says, and so her parents deftly handed her off to an aunt and uncle based in New York City, where her education emphasized formal art training. There, her recognition as an artist began followed by her return to London, where she attended St. Martins School of Art and the Central School of Arts and Crafts.

“I used to say, my emphasis was experimentation,” in techniques, medium and subject matter. Missing from her trove of works are themes or images reminiscent of WWII. “One did not talk about the war or the camps, and there was no guidance to do so,” Sidonie says of her formative years in an Orthodox home and community in England.



Painting by Georgette Hancock

Americans since 1969, Sidonie and her English husband, Gordon, have three children who live in Portland and in Israel. Their three great-grandsons live in Israel. High-energy her entire life – she used to run 10 miles a day – Sidonie is frustrated she hasn’t the stamina she used to. Always hungry during the war – she ate wild carrots to and from school – today “her butterfly mind” remains hungry still, for her art, for the creative process. “If I no longer want to do art anymore, that means I’m old.”

GEORGETTE HANCOCK



Georgette Hancock

Also energized by art is Georgette Hancock, originally from Hungary and who made Oregon home 25 years ago after having lived in New Hampshire, New York, and Florida.

“I am 85 going on 30,” she says, crediting her art as both physical and spiritual sustenance. “Art inspires me to see the bright side of life. We were not born to be

miserable,” she says, obliquely referencing the Holocaust and its Nazi perpetrators. “I’m not a victim. If I’m sad because of them, then they win. People are basically good.”

Georgette survived WWII as a child in hiding and then as a resident of the Budapest Ghetto only to escape her city with a baby in tow during Hungary’s 1956 revolution. A mother of three, Georgette came to art later in life.

A colleague at a women’s shelter in Ft. Meyer, Fla., brought her paints. “I never painted in my life, but I liked their smell. ... Suddenly I just created something so profound, so from then on, I started to paint.”

Her profound images originated in the Biblical story of Noah, his Ark and his family; she employed a rainbow of acrylic paint, plaster, beads, and stones.

“The Holocaust was so tortuous for me,” she says. Art and G-d are her antidotes to crushing sadness. Georgette says her love of and talent for painting represented “the first time G-d gave me a chance.”

For a long time, Georgette made original greeting cards. She got great joy from making them and knew their recipients received happiness in equal

measure. “I put positivity into the universe with my cards,” she says. She still paints today, putting bright colors that bleed into one another on canvases that have been in art shows.

BORIS UAN-ZO-LI



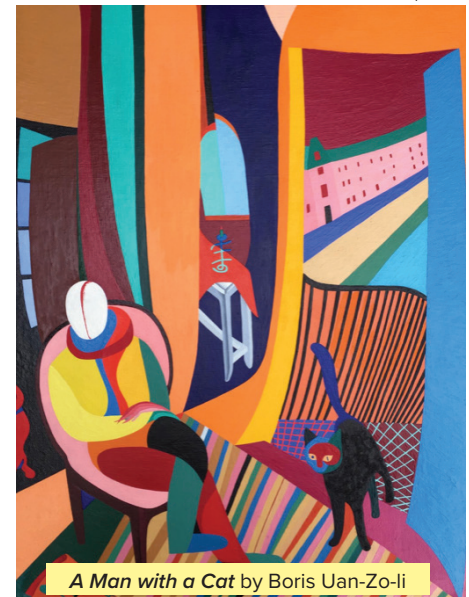
Boris Uan-Zo-li

Boris Uan-Zo-li produced patents publicly and art after sundown.

Moscow born – by way of a

grandfather originally from Shandong, China – Boris, 83, studied engineering at a university in the Former Soviet Union and ultimately authored 165 patents in electronics for the aerospace industry, explains his son, Alex Uan-Zo-li, who often speaks on behalf of his monolingual Russian father.

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A Man with a Cat by Boris Uan-Zo-li

"Beauty Emerges..." cont'd from p. 5

Boris pursued a master's in book illustration, eventually morphing his style into Uan-Zo-lism whose bold images and use of primary colors draw from past masters and whose exactitude comes from his engineering background.

While his art was appreciated in Russia – Boris mounted a number of exhibits in the USSR – Judaism most certainly wasn't. His father had been arrested and sent to a Soviet forced-labor camp, relatives had burial monuments desecrated, and they – Boris, too – lived in fear. "If you were a Jew you had to be blind not to know antisemitism," Alex says.

In 1996, Alex had the opportunity to study for his Ph.D. at Virginia Tech, also in power engineering, and in 2010 he brought his parents here as Jewish refugees.

Boris' eye-catching paintings hang in private collections in Germany, Switzerland, France, this country and also in his own house that doubles as a gallery with more than 300 pieces. Each of his pieces includes a distinctive hatch mark. That, Alex explains, is Chinese for the original name of Boris' grandfather. It should have been "Wang" in English but was misspelled during the man's early 1900s journey from China and Japan, eventually to Moscow.

A spelling error rendered Boris' name as unique as his heritage and vast body of work.

Holocaust Survivor Services (HSS): A Time of Transition

78
HSS CLIENTS

It is an understatement to say the pandemic is responsible for a lot of change. JFCS' HSS program rose and responded to and implemented important changes in the face of our

76-99
YEARS OLD

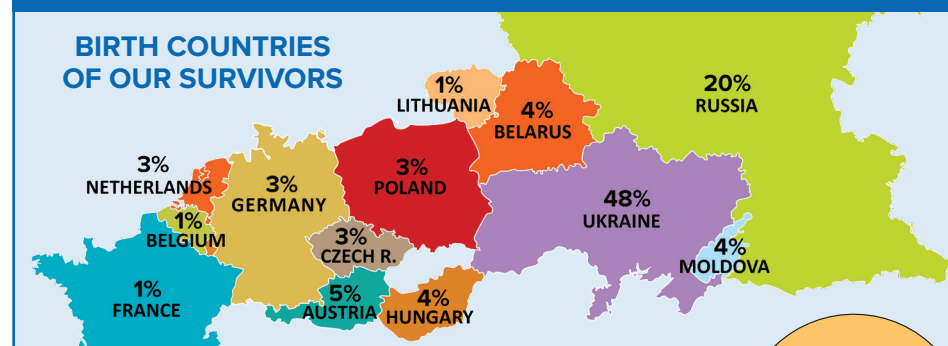
61%
AT OR BELOW
POVERTY LINE

communal new reality.

Ahead of the state's vaccine mandate, JFCS last fall required all of

its staff members, Homemaker Assistants (HAs) included, and volunteers to get vaccinated. No longer could we allow HAs to go into Survivors' homes. Many of them, like our clients, are Russian-speaking. In order to follow national best practices to prioritize Survivors' health and safety, HSS transitioned many services out of clients' homes; doing so caused some frustrating delays in service continuity.

Who are our Holocaust Survivors?



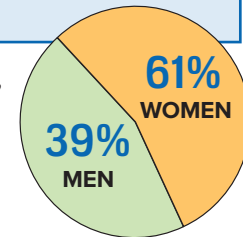
And yet we soon implemented:

- Silver Years, a catering service providing delicious, hearty and culturally appropriate meals
- Contactless job responsibilities for unvaccinated HAs
- Hiring and training additional, vaccinated HAs
- Home cleaning by Express Employment
- Visiting Angels' personal care services
- Virtual Café Europa pilot program

Café Europa, a real café in Stockholm, Sweden, where Survivors went to look for loved ones in the aftermath of WWII, became a Claims Conference program providing educational, fun, social programming to those like HSS around the country. Prior to the pandemic, our Natasha Pellechi helped plan monthly activities like a Portland Spirit cruise, a day trip to Cannon Beach, lectures, dinners, and more. Then the pandemic hit and social opportunities moved

primarily online, the realm of the tech-savvy; many of our Survivors immediately were thrust into isolation. To combat that, HSS has launched a Virtual Café Europa pilot.

Virtual Senior Center (VSC) of New York provides a device-based platform for seniors. Clients can pick and choose from, say, online classes, discussion groups, exercise courses and more, including Russian-language offerings. One HSS client taking part in the pilot says she's happy for the stimulating activities in which she can participate, all while at home and interacting with others online. JFCS' volunteer coordinator is providing community members with tech know-how to help our clients navigate their new, digital world. Is VSC perfect? Not yet, but virtual socialization is important to pursue at this time in history, pandemic or no.



JFCS Holocaust Survivor Services (HSS)

Surrounding our community with care

JFCS' Holocaust Survivor Services (HSS) is not about real estate. But one very tenacious real estate agent is the reason our program, on which 78 people in greater Portland rely, exists today.

Rita Shmulevsky – whose parents were Holocaust refugees from the Former Soviet Union – once sold homes, primarily to local clients in the Russian, Ukrainian and other Slavic communities.

She realized just how many Survivors, like her own mother and her mother's friends from the FSU, had made Portland home and likely were eligible for reparations from the German government.

"I knew these people," she said of the overall Survivor community. "If I didn't know them, they knew each other, like a chain."

Rita joined JFCS in fall 2008 and made it her mission to learn the complex and ever-changing parameters of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (known as the Claims Conference) and who in our community qualified to be on the receiving end of restitution rather than wrath.

Fast forward to fall 2010: Rita had confirmed that roughly 30 Survivors qualified for reparations in the form of receiving

services like homecare, cleaning, meals, medical devices and A/C units. One year later, JFCS' HSS received its first Claims Conference grant. Now, it could expand to provide social opportunities and social services to greater Portland's Holocaust Survivors.

This is particularly important given the very low incomes of many of our Survivor clients.

"Our Holocaust Survivors are the most vulnerable group of people, elderly, sick, fragile, traumatized, and also most of them are low-income, on Social Security and Medicaid," Rita said.

Their status seems anathema to what they suffered to get here, to provide a better life for their children and grandchildren in a new country. And while the Claims Conference assists in many ways, its grant leaves a 35% hole in the costs required to properly care for our Survivors, a hole JFCS must constantly look to other sources to fill.

Said Susan: "This team puts our clients first so that our Survivors get everything that they need."



Social services for Nazi victims have been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Meet our HSS team!

Susan Greenberg

Deputy Director and Interim Director of Holocaust Survivor Services



In her HSS role, Susan oversees program staff, vets and secures vendors, fields community inquiries and supports Natasha and Sima's work to support Virtual Café Europa and JFCS' volunteer coordinator who engages community members to assist clients with tech support.

Rita Shmulevsky

Lead Case Manager



Rita founded and shaped JFCS' HSS program. Tirelessly advocating for greater Portland's Survivors, she ensures they receive reparations due them from the German government and services they require to live fulfilling lives defined by dignity. She is in regular contact with them.

Alla Piatski

Bilingual Case Manager



Alla runs HSS' emergency aid program, sponsored by the Claims Conference and other sources. She also checks in with every client at least once a week; provides clients' needs assessments; translates documents to and from Russian and English; and connects Survivor clients to services outside JFCS' scope.

Natasha Pellechi

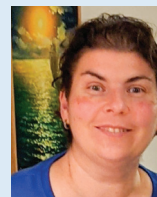
Bilingual Case Manager and Café Europa Coordinator



Like Alla, she, too, very regularly checks in with clients, though many sometimes beat her to the call. Natasha also is helping launch Virtual Café Europa, to help quell Survivors' pandemic-related anxiety and maintain their connections to others.

Marina Milman

Bilingual Scheduling Coordinator



Marina is a paperwork maven, scheduling for HSS' HAs and vendors that provide homecare, personal care and weekly meal delivery (including special foods for Jewish holidays). She also takes care of payroll and data entry, as well as arranges for Homemaker Assistants' training sessions.

Sima Borsuk

Claims Conference Coordinator



Like Rita, Sima is mired in the detailed rules and regulations of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), ensuring HSS receives grants to carry out services and that its regular audits always are conducted and completed. Sima works alongside Natasha to grow Virtual Café Europa.

SAVE THE DATE



Jewish Family & Child Service

SIPS & SWEETS

Thursday, May 19, 2022

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

HYBRID:

Mittleman Jewish Community Center + Online

JFCS: providing stability & hope

This year's spring fundraiser, Sips & Sweets, will honor Holocaust Survivors Eva & Leslie (z"l) Aigner.

For details, visit www.jfcs-portland.org/sips-and-sweets-2022

Volunteer for JFCS

Volunteering is an integral part of supporting JFCS. Our volunteers reach every corner of the community, and, thus, the hearts of our clients. We are so grateful to those who give JFCS their time and energy, especially during the ongoing pandemic. This is all part of JFCS' commitment to the values of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and *tzedakah*, selfless giving. To learn more about how you can help, visit our Volunteer page on www.jfcs-portland.org.



JFCS' ONGOING EVENTS

Weekly Community Zoom

Join us for our weekly community group open to the entire community and moderated by our clinical director. This group meets on Zoom **every Friday at 10am** and allows participants to share their struggles and anxieties around living through a pandemic and its impact on our daily lives. Not a psychotherapy group, this is a space to chat, to laugh, to listen, to vent and to learn from those around you in a Zoom setting. Visit www.jfcs-portland.org for the Zoom link.

Mental Health Spotlight

JFCS' Mental Health Spotlight shines a light on areas where all people – children through older adults, including self-identified disabled members of our community – struggle and can seek help. It provides the opportunity to simply be in community, dabble to see if this format works for you and access JFCS' robust resources list, all in a safe online space. Visit www.jfcs-portland.org to learn more.

TIKVAH Social Group

Tikvah is our social group for adults with disabilities, ages 18 and older. We welcome anyone with any kind of disability including, but not limited to, mental health disabilities, physical disabilities, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Contact Sarit Cahana at scahana@jfcs-portland.org for information on upcoming events.

Coming Together Parent Group

Join us for a bi-monthly virtual get together for parents of children and adults with disabilities to share their thoughts and feelings. Email Shayna Sigman at ssigman@jfcs-portland.org for more information or to register.

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