



JFCS Bone Marrow Drive

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 13224 SAN FRANCISCO, CA

CONTINUED FROM COVER

visited San Francisco's annual Israel in the Gardens event in 2004, he had no idea just what was in store for him. He and some friends stopped by the JFCS booth to join the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation Donor Registry. After losing his grandmother to leukemia, Striegold felt it was an honor to join the registry and hoped he would be able to help.

That honor came sooner than he thought. In just a few months Striegold was informed that he was a match. After more testing he was sent to Stanford Hospital for the collection of his blood stem cells. "There are so many misconceptions about what this process is about," Striegold remarks. "People kept saying to me, 'Wow, that sounds really painful. I couldn't do that.' But the painful images drilled into their minds are just not true."

After being collected in October 2004, Michael Striegold's blood stem cells made the very long trip to Sydney, Australia, destined to inhabit the body of another Michael. When the stem cells arrived, Michael Faust recalls, "I felt very anxious, but also very relieved. I knew this was the start of a new life for me."

A year and a half later, both Michaels had tears in their eyes when they finally had the opportunity to meet. Bone marrow recipient Michael reflects, "I thought it was absolutely remarkable that someone would go through all that for a complete stranger." Donor Michael exclaims, "I saw him standing there, healthy and strong, and it made me feel so incredible! One person really does make a difference."

JFCS' Bone Marrow Donor Identification Drive in cooperation with the Gift of Life Foundation takes place annually in loving memory of Alan B. Snyder, JFCS Board member and humanitarian. For more information, contact JFCS at 415/449-1200.

"One person really does make a difference."

Jewish Family and Children's Services
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Bulletin Board



IT'S IN THE BAG

SWEETEN THE HOLIDAYS for emigres, seniors, people with disabilities and families struggling to make ends meet. Assemble and/or deliver Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah care packages. For dates and times call:

San Francisco 415/449-1288
Peninsula 650/688-3090
Marin 415/419-3635
Sonoma 707/571-8131

BRIGHTEN A SENIOR'S LIFE

BECOME A JFCS SENIOR COMPANION – Everybody needs a friend – especially older adults who may be alone. Your friendship can light up a senior's life! Becoming a JFCS Senior Companion volunteer is simple and fun. And it's GREAT for your heart! To learn more or get started please call:

San Francisco 415/449-3832
Peninsula 650/688-3090
Marin 415/419-3635
Sonoma 707/571-8131

TUTORS AVAILABLE

ON THE MARK MENTORING PROGRAM – The On the Mark Mentoring Program is accepting referrals for mentoring and homework help for young people ages 8-18. It also provides a meaningful volunteer opportunity for adults and teens who want to help children and youth. For more information contact:

San Francisco: Taylor Epstein, 415/359-2463 or TaylorE@jfcs.org
Peninsula: Robin Liffmann, 650/688-3056 or RobinL@jfcs.org

CLEANERIFIC

A JFCS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE – Would you like a spotless home or office and a good feeling of helping out? You can have both when you hire Cleanerific, JFCS' residential and commercial cleaning service. Join with hundreds of other satisfied customers and leave the cleaning to us.

Call (415) 820-7230 today for a free estimate!

Serving San Francisco only at this time.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

RECEIVE A TAX BENEFIT. HELP SHAPE A CHILD'S LIFE. With one simple phone call turn your car into care and help provide essential services to at-risk children and families in our community. We pick up the car and handle all of the paperwork. All YOU have to do is call: **1-877-800-HUGS.**

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Give us a call or visit our Web site: www.jfcs.org

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Parents Place: 415/359-2454

Utility Workshop: 415/820-7200

PENINSULA

Main Number: 650/688-3030

Seniors At Home: 650/688-3000

Parents Place: 650/688-3040

MARIN COUNTY

Main Number: 415/491-7960

Seniors At Home: 415/507-0564

Parents Place: 415/491-7959

SONOMA COUNTY

Main Number: 707/571-8131

Seniors At Home: 707/571-8533

Parents Place: 707/571-2048

Outlook

Fall 2006

Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties



JFCS Saves Lives: Michael Striegold and Michael Faust became a bone marrow match through JFCS' annual drive.

TWO MICHAELS, ONE MATCH JFCS Bone Marrow Drive Finds a Match!

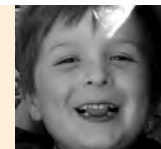
Michael Faust, age 25 and suffering from leukemia, desperately needed to find a donor for a bone marrow transplant. He was heartbroken to learn that his sister, Chloe, was not a close enough tissue type match.

"My family was devastated," says Faust. "I didn't believe it would be possible to find someone who would be willing to donate."

When another Michael, 30-year-old Michael Striegold,

CONTINUED ON FLAP

INSIDE



JFCS' Adoption Connection Broadens Options For Gay Families

Where Are China's Daughters?

SAVE THESE DATES:

JANUARY 27, 2007 Emigre Gala

MARCH 24, 2007 FAMMY Awards Gala



JFCS' Adoption Connection Broadens Options For Gay Families

Although she had given birth to their first child, Alma Pris and her partner, Blaze Woodlief, desperately yearned to adopt their second child. They knew very little about the process, were concerned it would take an eternity and assumed, like many folks, their search would lead to a distant land over vast oceans. They also felt certain that their lesbian status would make the journey all the more challenging.

At present nearly half of the American public, many jurisdictions and certain religious leaders oppose gay adoptions. In fact, last year the Supreme Court refused to hear a case against Florida's ban on gay adoptions that was enacted in 1977. This year at least 16 states are considering new barriers for gay adoptions and may even outlaw the practice.

For just such reasons Alma and Blaze felt great relief when they found JFCS' Adoption Connection, which welcomes couples and individuals of all ages, religions, ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations. "We offer education, counseling and support to empower birthmothers and adoptive parents before and after birth and create a positive outcome for everyone involved," says co-director Lynne Fingerman.

After contacting Adoption Connection Alma and Blaze



JFCS clients – Alma and Blaze with their two children, baby Leyna and son Teo.

took a class to learn about the adoption process and how to raise an adopted child. The next month they posted a letter on Adoption Connection's Web site so they could introduce themselves to prospective birthmothers. They soon received an inquiry letter from a young small-town girl living alone in a big city who was trying to make a loving plan for her unborn child. To their relief their sexual and Buddhist orientations actually helped this birthmom feel comfortable.

Alma visited the Pennsylvania native in July, and Blaze soon followed. "I felt nervous that

someone would find out we were a lesbian couple trying to adopt," commented Alma, "and a right-wing group would be notified and it would become a media event." That didn't happen and baby Leyna joined her new brother and parents in August without any trouble. As Blaze notes, "Our friends were amazed that we began and finished the adoption journey in about the same time as a full-term pregnancy, thanks to Adoption Connection."

For more information please call 415/359-2494 or visit www.adoptionconnection.org.

Where Are China's Daughters?

While children from all over the world need loving homes a crisis has developed in China, where families are abandoning their daughters en masse. Because each couple is allowed only one child and boys are preferred, tens of thousands of girls are abandoned every year. Since 2000 China has been the number one foreign country from which parents are choosing to adopt.

In China sons are favored because they carry on the family name and are responsible for taking care of their parents in their old age. Cindy Levin, International Program Coordinator for JFCS' Adoption Connection, notes, "A daughter won't be able to provide the financial support that the son brings to the family. It's a very old culture, with very old traditions."

JFCS' Adoption Connection offers comprehensive support for those looking to adopt a child from China or any other country, partnering closely with international placement agencies. In addition to meticulously preparing the home study for the adopting family, Adoption Connection provides parent education and counseling through all steps of the adoption process. As adoptive parent Rebecca Malkin-Chocron writes in a letter to Adoption Connection, "I will continue to recommend you as an adoption organization as long as I can speak or write. I am so proud to be a part of your extended family and network."

To learn more about international adoptions contact Cindy Levin at 415/359-2493 or visit www.adoptionconnection.org

The Gift of Family

When Karen Pell and Heather Lupa decided to adopt their first child nearly four years ago they had no idea what they were in for. Heather recalls, "Boy, is it a wild ride!" while Karen remarks, "Any adoption is crazy-making! The only sane people we talked to were at Adoption Connection."

In the world of adoption JFCS' Adoption Connection is one of the few not-for-profit professional services. "Most people make adoption a cut-throat business. It's just awful. Baby selling, fraud, you name it," says Heather. "And we went through all of it. Adoption Connection is just the opposite - they provide the support to really make the adoption happen."

After successfully adopting two beautiful and healthy girls Karen and Heather felt it was important to give something back. "Obviously we got the two greatest gifts we could ever get," marvels Karen. "We felt at the end of this whole process that the people who really helped us were Adoption Connection."

With generous donations from the Pell-Lupa family and others Adoption Connection is able to provide comprehensive services, from home studies, post-placement assistance and counseling to birthmother outreach and relinquishments workshops for both birth and adoptive families.

A heartfelt thank you to Karen and Heather for their generous gift, which will help build more happy families through adoption.



Pell-Lupa Family

There Are Many Ways to Build Your Legacy

Consider an investment

in JFCS! Your money will yield positive social returns because it enables JFCS to continue its 156-year tradition of caring for the ill, forgotten, troubled, isolated and aged. Plus JFCS investments are eligible for immediate and lasting tax benefits.



Bequests through a will, trust or codicil reduce your taxable estate.

Named Continuity Funds, often established in honor or memory of a loved one (minimum \$2,500), are invested to keep giving in perpetuity and may be earmarked for special purposes.

Donor Advised Funds enable you to recommend distributions to JFCS and other charities. These Funds bypass capital gains taxes on long-term appreciated securities and offer the maximum tax deduction available. A contribution of \$5,000 of cash or stock creates your own private “mini foundation,” allowing you to take a tax deduction today and make recommendations – now or in the future – for the distribution of your Fund’s earnings or principal, either to JFCS programs or to other charities.

Income for Life Funds provide payments for life, as well as income, capital gains and estate tax benefits in exchange for your charitable gift.

The JFCS Pooled Income Fund offers variable income with a significant current tax deduction (\$5,000 minimum gift).

Charitable Gift Annuities offer stable, generous income payments for life, plus income and capital gains tax savings.

Charitable Trusts offer an array of benefits and may be created by gifts of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate or life insurance. They avoid capital gains taxes, create an immediate tax deduction and provide income for life.

Life Insurance gifts, made by contributing an unneeded policy or naming JFCS as the beneficiary, provide tax benefits. Simply call your insurance company and ask for the form to change the ownership or beneficiary of your policy to JFCS.

Retirement Plan gifts significantly reduce your taxes when you name JFCS as remainder beneficiary of your IRA, Keogh or other plan.

To learn more contact Claire Axelrad, JFCS Permanent Endowment Fund Director, at 415/449-1222, or email ClaireA@jfcs.org.

JFCS in Sonoma County

FREE Post-Adoption Services!

Help for Families Formed Through Adoption

JFCS' Parents Place offers a full range of **FREE** services to adopted children and their adoptive families. These services, available to any family formed by adoption (LGBT, international, domestic and foster adoption), include support groups for teens and parents, fun family activities, individual and family counseling, and topic-specific consultation.

A variety of education and training sessions for both parents and professionals are offered. In a session held last March Dr. Deborah Madansky, a Harvard-trained behavioral pediatrician, presented the latest findings in brain development and attachment research through the life span to over 40 professionals in Sonoma County. Her discussion included important new data on the significance of early attachment, and what happens to children when early bonding is disrupted due to neglect and various types of abuse.

As Dr. Madansky points out,

"Attachments are formed by the time a child is only seven months old. The most important attachments are derived from social interactions, provided in a safe and protected relationship."

Upcoming educational sessions will focus on helping both parents and mental health professionals better understand the impact of adoption on families and children.

JFCS' post-adoption services are a collaboration with the California Department of Social Services. For more information please contact Debby Keith, Post-Adoption Coordinator, at (707) 571-2048, ext 209.



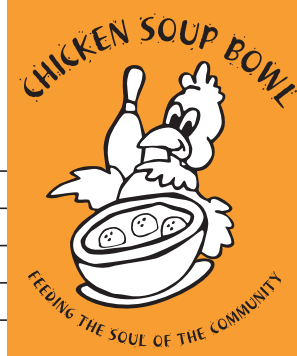
Bowl a Strike for JFCS Clients

JFCS' 3rd Annual Chicken Soup Bowl

Sunday, November 5, 2006, 10 am to 1 pm

New Location: Double Decker Lanes

300 Golf Course Drive, Rohnert Park



It's time to find those bowling shoes and dust off that ball because JFCS is hosting its annual Chicken Soup Bowl! We're inviting you – and everyone you know – to come join the fun! Don't know a split from a spare? No problem! You'll learn in the alley. Be a Team Captain, a bowler or a sponsor. Last year we raised over \$30,000 with your support. Help us to help those in need in Sonoma County. Call Cindy Goff at (707) 571-8131 for details.

JFCS in Marin County

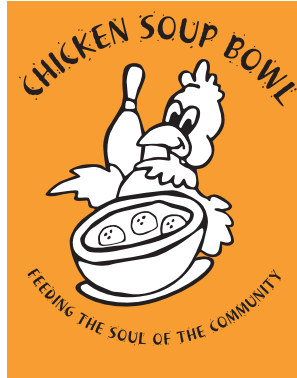
Rulers of the Roost

The 1st Annual Marin Chicken Soup Bowl-a-thon was a huge success!

On May 7 over 125 bowlers of all ages raised thousands of needed dollars for vital JFCS programs in Marin. In order to bowl teens and adults alike raised at least \$100 each, teams of five competed for the highest score, and everyone had a great time. "We were thrilled with the turnout – people really had a fun afternoon, got to see friends and at the same time support JFCS," said event co-chairs Robin Meisel and Ilene Genet.

Special thanks to our Bowl-a-thon sponsors:

John Geisse, MD
Leah & Aaron Lamstein
Marin Luxury Autos
Law Office of Meisel & Krentsa
Novato Toyota
Park Royale Auto Supercenter
Union Bank of California
Vineyard Bank



To the Rescue!

JFCS' Early Childhood Mental Health Project declared a "Public Health Hero"

As part of National Public Health Week 2006 JFCS' Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Project was selected by the County of Marin for its "Public Health Hero" award. Recognizing that meeting the emotional needs of children and families is vital to a community's health, JFCS' specialists train both teachers and childcare center directors to give at-risk children and their families the support they need.

For more information about the ECMH program contact Bonne Goltz Reiser at 415/419-3683 or BonneR@jfcs.org.

Marin Greets New Branch Director

It was Marin's lucky day when JFCS Assistant Executive Director Gayle Zahler decided to "branch" out and take on a new challenge. JFCS is thrilled to welcome Gayle, who has already assumed her new responsibilities as the Marin Regional Director. Gayle has been part of the JFCS leadership for over 25 years, as director of the JFCS Emigre Program, but also in the areas of clinical and youth services, adoptions, volunteer services and financial aid. Gayle, who speaks fluent Russian, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who received a Master's in Social Work from Yeshiva University in 1982. She has been recognized for her groundbreaking work locally and nationally and is a widely published author and speaker in the social service field.

Welcome, Gayle!



JFCS in San Francisco

Just Like Family

Café by the Bay Gives Comfort to Survivors

Every Thursday, at exactly 1:45 p.m., Miriam Ofer walks in the doors of JFCS. She makes her way down the hall and into the gallery where she is greeted by a boisterous group of her closest friends. "It's like a family reunion – once a week!" exclaims Miriam.

This "reunion" is Café by the Bay, a weekly social gathering for Holocaust survivors to discuss issues of common interest, enjoy each other's company and partake of educational and entertainment programs, including live music, films and lectures.

Only a small child when World War II broke out, Miriam's fond childhood memories are few and far between. She lost her parents when she was only nine years old, and was separated from her older brother and sister. Miraculously, she and both of her siblings survived. Learning in the weeks following the war that her brother and sister were in a nearby town, Miriam remembers walking alone through Hungary for two days to reunite with them.

Family has always meant a lot to Miriam, who began coming regularly to Café by the Bay four years ago, after the unexpected death of her husband of over 50 years. "For two years after my



husband's death, I couldn't talk – I only cried," says Miriam. "But I came to Café by the Bay immediately. I needed the support and comfort. My husband was my best friend. We did everything together. Now my closest friends are here at the Café."

Café by the Bay is a weekly social club which meets on Thursdays from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at JFCS' Miriam Schultz Grunfeld Professional Building, 2150 Post Street in San Francisco. To learn more contact Cherie Golant, LCSW, at 415/449-3851 or email CherieG@jfcs.org.

Support for Café by the Bay is provided by individual contributions, grants from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Sucherman-Horn Endowment Fund and program fees.

SAVE THE DATE

Find the Right Preschool for Your Child!

Wednesday, October 18th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the San Francisco County Fair Building at the 9th Avenue and Lincoln entrance to Golden Gate Park.

JFCS' 14th annual Preschool Preview Night is an event where Bay Area parents have the opportunity to meet directly with representatives from over 80 schools and 40 supporting companies. For information, or for exhibitor/sponsorship opportunities, contact Kenny Altman at 415/359-2455, ParentsPlaceSF@jfcs.org.

PARENTS PLACE EXPRESS

NEW! Workshops for Parents of School-Aged Children

Parents Place Express, JFCS' parent education program, is expanding to include more workshops for parents of school-aged children in addition to our over 50 topics on raising babies, toddlers and preschoolers. With Parents Place Express our experienced parent educators come to you - providing convenient on-site workshops at your school, business or community meeting.

New topics include:

- ◆ I'm Afraid My Child Isn't Reading: A Guide to Children with Reading Disorders
- ◆ Does My Child Have a Learning Difference?
- ◆ Understanding Children's Learning Styles: Multiple Intelligence
- ◆ Effective Limit Setting for Adolescence
- ◆ Preparing for the Adolescent Years
- ◆ Guiding Children to Make Wise Decisions
- ◆ The Media's Messages to Our Children
- ◆ The Romance of Risk: Talking to Kids About Risky Behavior
- ◆ Parenting a Child With ADHD/ADD

Coming this October Parents Place Express, in partnership with Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), will be hosting an educational fair for children with learning disabilities/differences. This event features guest speakers, a panel discussion of students, simulations of various learning difficulties and numerous product displays. For more information please visit www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

Parents Place is the Bay Area's major resource for parents and children. To schedule a Parents Place Express workshop or get help with any question about parenting, please contact Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet at 650/688-3037.



Café by the Bay Offers Comfort and Support for Holocaust Survivors

Welcome to "The Café," a bi-monthly social club for Holocaust survivors now available on the North Peninsula. Café by the Bay is a place for survivors to gather together to discuss issues of common interest, enjoy each other's company and partake of educational and entertainment programs, including live music, films and lectures. Refreshments are always provided.

To learn more please contact Shoshana Phoenix-Dawn at 650/688-3098 or email ShoshanaP@jfcs.org. Support for Café by the Bay is provided by individual contributions, grants from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and program fees.