

Jewish Foundation for Education of Women

NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been an exciting year for JFEW as we celebrate our 125th year of helping women help themselves through education. To mark this exceptional milestone, and in keeping with the tradition established at our 100th year landmark, our Board has created nine 125th Anniversary Fellowships, each of which has been awarded to a student in one of our seven program areas (*see story on page 4*).

Obviously, we couldn't let so important an occasion pass without a celebration, so on November 3, we hosted a cocktail party and dinner at which we saluted our nine 125th Anniversary Fellows, our institutional partners, our supporters and the work we have been doing for the past 125 years (see page 4). Joining us that evening were two graduates of the Hebrew Technical School, a number of local alumnae, and Foundation Board members, including two who have served on the Board for more than 50 years—Marcia Goldsmith and Charles Tanenbaum. Among those offering remarks were Mary Schmidt Campbell, dean of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and Muza Guzband, a JFEW alumna who is currently supervisor of the Russian Adolescent Project of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, which nominates students for JFEW scholarships.

In anticipation of the event, we created a short video program about our activities, telling the story of our work over the last 125 years. The video is a compression of hours of interviews with alumnae of several generations, as well as with other individuals who have been involved in the Foundation, material we now have for our archives. We expect to have the video available on our Web site in the near future.

All of us at the Foundation are delighted by the growing participation of our many talented and successful alumnae in our work. We are extremely grateful to those who have begun to participate in our Mentor Program (*see story page 6*) and to those who so generously contributed funds in honor of this birthday.

And there is even more good news. The Foundation has two new named scholarship funds. One has been established by The Samuel and Anna Jacobs Foundation in their memory. Sam and Anna Jacobs began their lives in the most modest of circumstances and regularly used their later material success to help people in need. They particularly enjoyed helping students who were determined to pursue their educations despite financial hardship. The other fund has been established by an anonymous alumna with a double connection to the Foundation. Not only did she, herself, receive a scholarship, her mother was a graduate of the Hebrew Technical School. In addition, Dr. Shirley Schmones Wallach, who received one of the Foundation's first grants when she attended medical school in 1940, has left us a very generous bequest.

I now look forward to our work in the year ahead as we continue to support women seeking higher education.



Marcy Russo

Beth Mann, JFEW Alum; Marcy Russo, JFEW President



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Jewish Foundation is proud of its efforts this year to assist more than 500 women in pursuing higher education. As we have seen in recent years, the women we assist hail from the four corners of the world and points in between. Among this year's recipients are students born as far away as Albania and Azerbaijan and as close by as midtown Manhattan and Manhattan Beach.

While large numbers of our recipients continue to gravitate toward the health sciences, we are also providing support to women pursuing fields as diverse as engineering and archeology. Our commitment to offering assistance to those training in relatively low-paying areas such as teaching, social work and the arts continues. Last year we initiated a program for women enrolled in public health and public administration programs. All the students receiving aid this year in that program already have very impressive experience. One managed after school literacy programs. Another was a program assistant at the New York University School of Medicine. Another worked at the Kennedy School of Government in Boston and then as the press secretary to a state senator.

As many of you know, seven years ago, the Foundation was fortunate to receive its largest gift ever to establish the Susan R. Knafel Scholarship Fund. This is an emergency fund that allows us to come to the aid of several women each year *in extremis*. This year the fund has assisted two remarkable women with two remarkable stories. Stella Umutomi, who came here from Rwanda a few years ago, wanted to become a social worker because she had been helped by a social worker, herself, when she first arrived in this country and was trying to reconstitute her life. She is currently a student at the New York University's Graduate School of Social Work. Sunshine Lawson had received a fellowship for her PhD studies in criminal justice at John Jay College, but she lacked the funds to relocate from California, where she graduated first in her class from Cal State Fullerton. The Fund helped her to make the move. Sunshine, who had been previously blinded by a gunshot wound to the head during a criminal attack in the Bronx, intends to work with others, like herself, who have been crime victims. We know these two women will go on to make this world a better place for all.

In closing, I would like to thank our very able summer intern, Jaclyn Canter, a student at Brandeis University, for her work on this newsletter.



Marge Goldwater



Marge Goldwater

FROM CAMPUS TO COURTROOM, ALUMS MAKE THEIR MARK

Once again, we are proud to report on the accomplishments of some of our alumnae. Most of the women profiled here received support in the early 1980s. As you will note, former recipients continue to distinguish themselves in diverse fields from the law to art history to medicine. May they continue to thrive in their chosen careers!

JFEW has supported many students who have gone on to distinguish themselves in the legal field. **Abby Cohen Smutny** is a partner in the Washington, DC, office of White and Case, LLP. Her expertise in international dispute resolution has led to her representing several countries—Hungary, Bulgaria, and Indonesia, to name a few—before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Award-winning attorney **Robin L. Baker** prosecutes criminal cases against violent drug gangs, organized crime, and terrorist groups for the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York Division.



Robin L. Baker

Robin Mitchell Joyce is an entertainment lawyer in Tennessee who specializes in intellectual property and technology. A partner with the firm Bass, Berry and Sims, PLC, Ms. Joyce founded the Entertainment Section of the Nashville Bar Association and is on the faculty at Vanderbilt Law School.



Robin Mitchell Joyce

Julienne W. Bramesco, a former in-house corporate lawyer, is the Director of Legal Resources at the Association of Corporate Counsel, located in Washington, DC. Russian émigré **Simona Pipko**, who came to the United States as an adult, authored the well-received *Baltic Winds: Testimony of a Soviet Attorney*.



Debra Levine

Many JFEW alumni have met with success in the business field as well. **Leora Halpern Lanz** serves as Director of HVS Marketing Communications for the New York office of HVS International, a global consulting corporation for the hospitality industry. In addition to serving as Chairman of the Public Relations Society of America's 1998 Travel and Tourism National, she has held numerous positions and memberships with various associations. Multi-talented **Debra Levine**, whose 1983 CUNY BA degree in Asian studies led to 15 years working in Hong Kong and China, has had a varied career. As a China expert, she advised multinational corporations like McDonald's, PPG Industries and Sealy Mattress on their early investments in China. She gradually became a business writer/editor and is now a Los Angeles-based marketing communications consultant specializing in the financial services sector.

Trained as a lawyer, [Ceil Schneider Randell](#) is the Vice President and Senior Fiduciary Officer of Brown Brothers Harriman Trust Company in Florida. [Isana Radchik](#), CFO, is Vice President of Finance at RD Management Corporation. As Senior Vice President at Moody's Investors Service in New York City, [Pamela Suttenberg Federbusch](#) rates not-for-profit healthcare entities.

A large number of the students who receive JFEW scholarships are interested in the health sciences. [Dr. Anna Wald](#), a Polish immigrant who came to this country at the age of 13, followed in the footsteps of both her parents when she attained her medical degree. She now conducts cancer research and teaches epidemiology at the University of Washington. [Dr. Robin Carter Johnson](#) is chief of Podiatry at the Veterans' Hospital in Syracuse. [Dr. Cindy E. Kallman](#) is chief of Computed Axial Tomography and Ultrasound at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Kallman has also taught at the University of California at San Diego and Los Angeles. Also in the field of radiology are [Dr. Sallye R. Granberry-Lamont](#), chief of Mammography and Ultrasound Imaging at Woodhull Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and [Dr. Ave Maria Bacher](#), attending physician in Radiology at West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh. JFEW alumnae in private practice in the health care field include dentist [Stephanie Shuman Markel](#) and podiatrist [Linda Barney St. Martin](#).

[Laura Katzman](#) is professor and chairman of the art department at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where she also serves as director of Museum Studies. A recent Senior Fulbright Scholar, she taught a course in public art at the University of Hamburg in Germany, inspiring her students to perceive the surrounding monuments and Holocaust memorials in new ways. [Gila Sher](#), a professor of philosophy, at the University of California, San Diego, has published numerous articles and has served as co-editor for an anthology of philosophical essays. [Rebecca Reed Rosenberg](#) currently serves as director of the Teaching and Learning Center for faculty at the University of Washington at Bothell. She has also served as director of the Writing Center for students there. [Ruth Glasser](#), an independent public historian, is also a lecturer at the University of Connecticut.

Other former JFEW recipients have chosen roads less traveled by their fellow alumnae. [Ellen Weinstein Flaherty](#), a graduate of Pratt, has found success with her unique brand of graphic design, which often concentrates on social issues. Her clients include Time, Forbes, The Washington Post, IBM, and many other prestigious publications and companies. [Rebecca M. Alvin](#) made a documentary called *Our Bodies, Our Minds* in 2000, which was purchased by several prestigious institutions and shown at numerous film festivals. Ms. Alvin has also written over 150 features and reviews for Cape Cod publications.

[Ellyn S. Kravitz](#), Esq., is head of the elder law and estate planning division of the NYC-based firm Abrams Fensterman.

She also serves as a trustee for the Long Island Alzheimer's Association and is chair of Health Care Issues, Elder Law Section, for the New York State Bar Association.

Another émigré, [Sylvia Ospina](#), moved to the United States from Latin America at age 26. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors at the International Institute of Space Law. She often represents her native Colombia and the US.

In our last newsletter, we wrote about recipients of the 100th Anniversary Scholarships. We have recently learned that [Roxana Marcoci](#), another of the centennial recipients, received her PhD from NYU's Institute of Fine Arts and is an associate curator in The Museum of Modern Art's photography department. Dr. Marcoci organized one of the exhibitions for the re-opening of MoMA last year and the exhibition of photographs by German artist Thomas Demand this year.



[Roxana Marcoci](#)

ALUMNAE SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The generosity of the alumnae has enabled the Foundation to help an additional four women this year, each of whom is quite special. Zohar Lavi is studying in the graduate film department at Columbia, an extremely competitive—and expensive—program. With a background in publishing, Lanie Shapiro was accepted into the prestigious Columbia School of Journalism. This program, too, is highly competitive and expensive, and Ms. Shapiro is still paying off undergraduate loans. Ruchie Glattstein is returning to school for professional studies after many years spent in the workforce and in caregiving. In her second year at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Ms. Glattstein also is already burdened with considerable educational debt. Finally, Stella Umutomi's Susan R. Knafel Scholarship (*see page 2*) expires this fall. She will receive an Alumnae Scholarship for the spring 2006 semester, enabling her to complete her social work program.

MEET OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY FELLOWS

This year marks JFEW's 125th anniversary. In keeping with the tradition of special anniversary fellowships begun with our centennial, the Foundation set aside \$125,000 for the creation of grants to nine students, each of whom comes from one of our seven program areas. Candidates for Fellowships were interviewed by board members in a highly competitive selection process. We are confident that these 125th Anniversary Fellows will go on to significant achievements, as so many of our centennial scholars have done.

The women the Foundation has assisted are active in so many fields that it should come as no surprise that some of this year's recipients were nominated by JFEW alumnae. CUNY law student and JFEW Fellow **Mansura Ghaffar** was nominated by Sara Reguer, a history professor and chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, who runs the JFEW Internship Program there. Ms. Ghaffar's goal is to become a legal advocate for the poor, to be involved in shaping public policy to benefit those without a voice. Similarly, violinist and Manhattan School of Music professor Patinka Kopec nominated violinist and JFEW Fellow **Cecce Pantikian**. More information on those two women can be found in our article on JFEW's violinists. In another coincidence, Fellow **Penny Prince** composed a musical based on JFEW alumna Vera B. Williams' *A Chair for my Mother*. Though the beloved children's book author even attended a performance, Ms. Prince only discovered the JFEW connection when she noticed the book proudly displayed in our office. Her Fellowship will allow her to complete her PhD in Music Education at NYU.

Vicki Hallas, a 125th Anniversary Fellow in the field of Social Work, has a broad scope of experiences that all boils down to one goal: helping women. This Fellowship grant will see her through the social work program at Hunter College, where she is pursuing her MSW and specializing in female body image disorders. Motivated by her own struggle with cancer, Ms. Hallas' ultimate goal is to work with female cancer patients, as well as (in her own words) "all would-be survivors."

Our 125th Anniversary Fellow in the field of Health Science is **Dina Ohevshalom**. Born in Iran, she endured discrimination and persecution because she was a Jew, but she refused to be deterred by the obstacles of her minority religious status and her family's financial difficulties. The Ohevshalom family



Mansura Ghaffar



Cecce Pantikian



Penny Prince



Vicki Hallas



Dina Ohevshalom

emigrated to the United States when she was a teenager, and she eventually graduated Stern College of Yeshiva University, where she was an honor student. She is now in her second year at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Rekha Desai and **Laura Jean Koffman** are two 125th Anniversary Fellows aiming for careers as mathematics teachers, and both are motivated to help students overcome the "fear of math" that plagues so many young people, especially girls. Ms. Desai, whose father was a professor of mathematics in India but who disapproved of such a career for women, had to overcome her own doubts about her mathematical abilities before she could forge ahead. The 125th Anniversary JFEW Fellowship will enable her to pursue a Master of Arts Program in Mathematics Education at New York University and, ultimately, to teach mathematics in the New York City public school system.

Ms. Koffman, a graduate of Bronx High School of Science, went on to Mount Holyoke and then to Queens College, where she earned her BA degree. She worked in investment banking for several years before deciding to become a math teacher "because I love teaching and tutoring students." Her 125th Anniversary Fellowship enables her to pursue a Master of Arts in mathematics education at Columbia University Teachers College and, finally, to teach.

Michelle Moses-Eisenstein is a student at Bard College who manages to find time to also teach as a Lipper intern at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, hold two jobs at the college and serve as president of the Jewish Student Organization. Ms. Eisenstein first discovered the rewards of helping people to overcome disadvantage as a mentor at Temple Sinai Religious School in Alameda, California, working with a boy who had a learning disability. Her 125th Anniversary Fellowship will allow her to take fewer jobs and loans as she continues at Bard, working towards a career in education or world service.

Lilya Novik has wanted to work with people ever since she can remember. Born in Belarus in the former Soviet Union, she emigrated to New York with her family when she was ten years old. She earned her BA in Psychology at Hofstra University with help from the Russian Adolescent Project of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. Her 125th Anniversary Fellowship will enable her to continue on the path of service to others by beginning work towards an MSW. Ultimately, she hopes to go on to a PhD in clinical psychology and to work with young immigrants adapting to a new country, just as she once had to do.



Rekha Desai



Laura Jean Koffman



Michelle Moses-Eisenstein



Lilya Novik

JFEW Celebrates 125 Years at November 3, 2005 Reception



Ellen Shteingart, JFEW Mentor Program; Marion Spanbock, JFEW Board; Onika Holder, JFEW mentee and scholarship recipient



Cecee Pantikian, 125th Anniversary Fellow; Patinka Kopec, violinist and JFEW alum; Robert Sirota, President, Manhattan School of Music; Marcy Russo, JFEW President



Muza Guzband, Supervisor, Russian Adolescent Project and JFEW alum; Stella Umutomi, JFEW scholarship recipient



Mary Schmidt Campbell, Dean, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, addressing guests



Suzanne Keusch, JFEW Board; Florence Wallach, retired JFEW Executive Director; Susan Schatz, JFEW Board



Dr. Sharon L. Weinberg, JFEW Board and alum; Irina Pikovskaya, JFEW alum; Phyllis Korff, JFEW Board and alum



Marcia Goldsmith, JFEW Board; Greg Cohen, Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day High School



Alan Kahn, JFEW Treasurer; Jean Bronstein, JFEW Chair; Alan D. Cohn, JFEW Board

OUR NEW MENTOR PROGRAM

JFEW has set up an alumnae Mentor Program to provide its scholarship recipients with advice regarding career choices, goals, and advancement in their chosen profession. The program has flourished under the guidance of director Ella Shteingart, new to the JFEW staff. By drawing on her years of experience as an executive recruiter, Ms. Shteingart (whose mother is a JFEW alumna) matches current scholarship recipients with the JFEW alumnae who have volunteered to serve as mentors. In addition, Ms. Shteingart hosts a resume workshop and hones the students' networking ability, follow-up skills and professionalism.

Mentors, drawn from the large talent pool of our alumnae who have expressed delight at being able to give back to the Foundation, meet with mentees a few times over the summer, when students are home from school. These alumnae have been extremely generous in providing time and guidance to the students, and the breadth and diversity of the mentors gives students an opportunity to meet with experienced professionals in medicine, finance, law, journalism, theater/entertainment, academia, business and other fields. The program helps current scholarship recipients to gain realistic perspectives on their fields of interest. This has proven enormously helpful to them, particularly since many of the students come from immigrant backgrounds or are the first to go to college in their families. "Mentors are a source of information and inspiration," Ms. Shteingart explains. "They serve as role models and introduce students to the professional world, which they wouldn't yet have access to otherwise."

JFEW's mentoring program is without rigid guidelines; the meetings can be as formal or informal as the mentor wishes. Alumna **Fran Geteles**, a longtime social activist on the CUNY campus and with human rights organizations, advised **Shereen Tewfik**, a Franklin and Marshall student, about the paths one can take to instigate social change. Ms. Tewfik described her mentor as "a tremendous resource." **Agata Filipkowska**, an accounting major at Borough of Manhattan Community College, used the mentor program to explore the possibilities of a different career, in nursing. Realtor **Sonia Ewers**, co-owner of Clocktower Properties, met with University of Buffalo student **Dianne Campbell** and even offered to sponsor Ms. Campbell for her real estate license.

The Foundation would like to extend its sincere thanks to those alumnae who have donated their time. Their efforts have opened doors and inspired confidence and excitement in the students who participated this year. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, especially if you live in the New York City area, please contact Ms. Shteingart at (212) 288-5271 or by email at FdnScholarElla@aol.com.

MAKING MUSIC: THE SOUND OF JFEW VIOLINISTS

Over the years, JFEW has assisted numerous violin students who have gone on to impressive careers in this extremely competitive field. Violinist **Patinka Kopec** earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from The Juilliard School with support from JFEW. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and other prestigious venues and works closely with two world-renowned violinists, Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman, and is currently co-director and co-teacher of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program at the Manhattan School of Music and co-founding artist of the Itzhak Perlman Music Program.

Cecee Pantikian, one of Ms. Kopec's students at the Manhattan School of Music, has distinguished herself as well, and this year, she was awarded one of JFEW's 125th Anniversary Fellowships. A native of Bulgaria, she came to this country in 1998 and enrolled in the pre-college division of the Manhattan School of Music, where she is currently a graduate student. An award-winning violinist, she has been the winner (often first place) of a number of competitions and made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2003.

Other JFEW women of note include award-winning violinist **Yulia Ziskel**. Born in St. Petersburg, she made her solo debut at age seven in Russia and, by age eleven, was soloing with the St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra. She came to the United States in 1994 and attended Indiana University, where she earned her Bachelor's (with an Honorary Certificate for Outstanding Performance in Violin), and The Juilliard School. She secured a chair with the New York Philharmonic in 2001, and in 2002 made her solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall.

Another former recipient, **Eve Szekely**, earned both her Bachelor's and Master's from The Juilliard School. She now teaches violin at the University of Missouri-Columbia where, in addition to being a professor, she is also the Catherine P. Middlebush Chair of the Fine Arts Department and an Artist-in-Residence. Ms. Szekely is also first violin of the Esterhazy Quartet, UM-C's ensemble-in-residence, which the St. Louis Post-Dispatch has called "chamber music exemplified."



Yulia Ziskwel