



Jewish Reporter

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YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS AT WORK

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An accomplished dancer, former engineer, and musician, David Volgust has lived a full life. When Volgust retired, he turned to JDC for food, medicine, and other lifesaving help.

Here, Volgust recounts his boyhood in Jewish Georgia, as well as how JDC continues to provide him with Jewish community, homecare, and the vital necessities for a dignified life.

Even during Soviet times — when I was a young boy — I was connected to Jewish life. My father went to synagogue and attended community events. My

neighbors were also Jews. Religious holidays weren't really observed, but despite Soviet repression, my family still celebrated Passover; my aunt would purchase matzah at the synagogue, and my mom would make *forshmak* (a herring salad).

Though my community was strong, I still faced occasional prejudice. When I was little, my non-Jewish neighbor often checked me for what they called "Jewish signs"; they asked if I could pronounce the letter "r", but I couldn't. They thought that if a person couldn't pronounce the letter "r", they were obviously Jewish. Years later, I remember this with humor, but it was challenging when I was young.

When I grew up, I entered the army. And it was there that my love for guitar — and for music more fully — blossomed. A friend in my division played guitar so beautifully, I'd always ask him to play for me. I asked him so much that one day he got angry and said, "Learn to play the guitar yourself!" I was so taken aback that I picked up the guitar and learned.

I enjoyed music, but it wasn't my main profession. After the military, I studied engineering and worked on my city's power supply project. After work, though, I taught kids to play guitar, and so music remained in my life. (Continued on Back Page)



Gary Flinn at JCS Senior Lunch Program talking about his book "Lost Flint"

LINDHOLM'S TRIP TO POLAND AND THE BORDER WITH UKRAINE



Upon Diane Lindholm's return from a whirlwind JFNA trip to Warsaw and the border with Ukraine on April 5-7, she shared her experiences and observation of the status of refugees and our relief efforts through a community zoom presentation.

She shared her journey through emails to the Federation and her final words on the last day before leaving Poland was as follows, "Lots of tears and hugs, broken dreams and broken lives. Promises of not forgetting Ukraine and not forgetting them. That would be impossible after these past three days. For all of them, the future does not look bright. They are going to need our support for a very long time as no magic wand will fix this ungodly disaster quickly. Please, please

share these recollections with your friends and neighbors. And help monetarily if you are able. All donations sent to the Flint Jewish Federation are sent directly to the Jewish Agency and JDC (Joint Distribution Committee). If you would like to see the recording of her zoom presentation, please email Ashley Musser at ashleymusser@flintfed.org. and we would be happy to share it with you.



With the Russian invasion still underway and multiple locations still under fire, support for the Jewish community is needed urgently.



Immediate and short-term needs already total \$20 million and include:

- Helping people make Aliyah to Israel
- Securing the local community and its institutions
- Maintaining critical welfare services
- Assisting internally displaced people in multiple locations.
- Launching an emergency hotline
- Securing temporary housing for people in transit
- Purchasing satellite phones to maintain communications across the region
- Securing five Jewish schools and training staff to manage crisis needs

All Jews are responsible for one another—we in Flint and Genesee County, no less so. In our own community we have members from Ukraine, some with family caught up in the conflict. **Our community has been challenged to raise just over \$15,000 of the \$20 million needed now.**

Send your contribution to the Flint Jewish Federation, 5080 W. Bristol Road, Suite 3, Flint, Michigan 48507 or call Jamie or Ashley at the Federation office (810.767.5922) to make a credit card donation.

100% of the funds raised go to benefit those in need of relief. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!!!!



A special thank you to our Producers, Directors, Screenwriters and Patrons who have generously supported this year's Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival of Flint.

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YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

INSIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

JCS Senior Lunch Program

(Subject to Change)

Monday, May 2	Rosemary Chicken	
Tuesday, May 3	Field Trip to Indian Grocery/Neehee's	
Thursday, May 5	Veg Souffle	Balance Class (11:30)/Bdays
Monday, May 9	Turkey Rice Casserole	
Tuesday, May 10	Grill of India at TBE/CBI	BINGO
Thursday, May 12	Shepherd's Pie	Balance Class (11:30)
Monday, May 16	Dogs & Beans	
Tuesday, May 17	Grill of India at TBE/CBI	
Thursday, May 19	Salmon	Balance Class (11:30)
Monday, May 23	Kicken Chicken	
Tuesday, May 24	Grill of India at TBE/CBI	Art Therapy Class (12:30)
Thursday, May 26	Deli Sandwiches	Balance Class (11:30)
Monday, May 30	Closed for Memorial Day	
Tuesday, May 31	Grill of India at TBE/CBI	Art Therapy Class (12:30)

RSVP to Jamie at jcs@flintfed.org/810-767-5922 for lunch (24 hour notice)

Check with Federation Office if lunch program closed due to COVID/inclement weather)

Temple Beth El, 5150 Calkins Rd. (enter through main door of Temple)



Pictured left are our April Birthdays being celebrated at the JCS Senior Luncheon!

Pictured below is Carolyn Smith (JCS Kitchen Assistant) sharing her heritage and culture regarding tying and wearing scarves to our RSVP Volunteers on Monday afternoon.

A good time was had by all!



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Return form to: Flint Jewish Federation, Attn: Reporter Supporter,
5080 W. Bristol Rd., Flint, MI 48507

OUR PEOPLE

Our deepest condolences to the families of Beverly Bernard, Johanna (Hanny) Leitson and Rita Vater-Darnton who recently passed away!

May their memories be for a blessing!

Please email any information to be published in the next *Jewish Reporter* to Ashley Musser at ashleymusser@flintfed.org or call the Flint Jewish Federation office at 810-767-5922.

Next Reporter deadline is May 18th

Make a tribute gift to
Thank, Honor, Memorialize
Friends and loved ones.

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$10 or more to the Flint Jewish Federation in honor or in memory of members of our community. Call the Federation office at 810.767.5922 today to make a tribute gift!

SAVE THE DATES!

**31ST ANNUAL DONALD RIEGLE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD EVENT
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 OR 15**

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE JEWISH REPORTER

2022 HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION HELD AT FIA



ART THERAPY

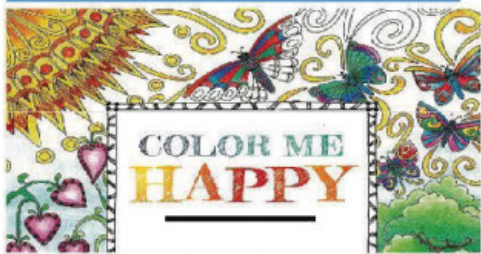


With

**Valley Area Agency on Aging
& Flint Senior Lives Matter**

Adult coloring books, color pencils and snacks will be provided for each group member. SIGN UP with Jamie at 810-767-5922

Every Tuesday 12:30 – 1:30 at TBE/CBI 5150 Calkins Road
BEGINS MAY 24 FOR 6 WEEKS



JCS clients wearing hats that they made years ago in the program to kick off the spring season.

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CELEBRATES
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MAZEL TOV!





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(Continued from front page)

Once, on vacation, I saw a beautiful couple dance the tango. I was so enchanted that I started ballroom dancing at the first opportunity. All my life, my body had told me to do something — play sports, exercise —but nothing worked out: Dancing turned out to be my only passion after music. At the age of 64, I returned to dancing for two years and performed in the senior championship. To be honest, I don't think I deserved to win, but my partner was a wonderful lady who deserved it — and thanks to her, we won the championship.

I am a strong introvert, and because of this, everything in my life has been very difficult for me. I was even embarrassed to dance with the ladies, but my teacher helped me overcome this awkwardness.

Being an introvert has its advantages, though. The pandemic hasn't affected me very much, and I enjoy the alone time. Through it all, what's been clear to me is that JDC has saved me. This is the only organization that takes care of me and helps me survive. Without them, I would be lost.

JDC's winter relief helps me a lot — it gets cold here in Georgia, but with the stove JDC gave me, I stay warm all winter long. And because of my wonderful JDC homecare worker, I no longer feel alone in the world; I know that someone cares about me.

I lived all my life in my parents' house in the center of Tbilisi. But the house fell into disrepair and, after several earthquakes, it was destroyed. Thanks to JDC, I wasn't left without a home: I was moved to an apartment, and I'm able to live in peace. JDC doesn't just deliver food, medicine, and homecare — they also deliver Jewish life. As a child, my father talked about going to synagogue, but I honestly had no interest, I thought that was a place for the elderly. And when I grew up, I attended, but didn't like it. When I began looking for another community, I discovered a JDC-supported Jewish library, where they taught me about the history of Jewish books like the Torah. I was so inspired that I returned to the synagogue with joy.

When I turned 34, I became very sick; I estimated that I'd live only until 50. I wasn't planning on more years — it was quite a serious illness. Then, when I turned 50, I decided I didn't feel so bad after all — why not try for 60? And then, when I turned 60, I decided I needed two more years to see the new millenium. Now, at 82, I don't know how many years I have left.

I do know, though, that JDC has helped make these years worth living.

A champion dancer, musician, and former engineer, David Volgust, 82, receives food, medicine, and homecare from JDC.