

each puppet, the residents look at them with fascination, touch them and beam with happiness.

"This type of interaction brings out the loving and nurturing qualities that these women have," explains the performer, "especially the ones who were used to taking care of their families. The puppet therapy is enlightening entertainment that is designed to reach a special type of population - the dancing puppets are visually stimulating and the nostalgic songs that I sing jog their memories." Friedman, who utilizes her background in theater and education to perform at a host of communal institutions, claims to do about seven hundred shows a year. "An increasing number of extended care facilities are welcoming my form of musical puppetry," she discloses, "and I really appreciate the opportunity to help the residents at The Philip and Dora Brenner Pavilion."

"We believe our mission obligates us to provide Alzheimer's residents with comprehensive care," states Eli S. Feldman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Jewish Health System, "and recreational activities that offer lively interchange are certainly part of such a program." According to Maxine Hochhauser, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Delivery System, Metropolitan Jewish Health System, "The residents noticeably benefit from artistic presentations in which they become personally involved. Puppet therapy is an excellent tool for relieving depression and fostering socialization within a homelike setting."