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Monday, Sep 29, 2003

# Local

Posted on Tue, Sep. 30, 2003

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## Victims' friends and family devastated by shooting

BY HANNAH ALLAM and ERIC HAGEN  
Pioneer Press

Outraged friends and relatives grieved Monday for the victims of a troubled woman suspected of opening fire outside a busy courtroom in the Hennepin County Government Center in downtown Minneapolis.

After the screaming, the police interviews, the surgeries, 56-year-old Shelley Joseph-Kordell was dead and her attorney, 53-year-old Richard Hendrickson, remained in serious condition at a downtown hospital.

Relatives and neighbors said they would not quickly forget Joseph-Kordell's thoughtful company and prayed for a full recovery for Hendrickson, an avid outdoorsman.

Neither victim was a stranger to the suspected shooter. Susan Berkovitz called Joseph-Kordell, her cousin, a "dirty liar" and referred to Hendrickson as a "scumbag of a lawyer," according to court papers that chronicle the convoluted property dispute that brought the three of them to the courthouse Monday.

Though immediate relatives were either unavailable or too upset to comment, other family members and friends shared their impressions of the victims.

### SHELLEY JOSEPH-KORDELL

Shelley Joseph-Kordell, 56, was an intelligent, caring woman whose family looked forward to her good cooking at the Passover gatherings she hosted every year in her Minnetonka home.

Her large, tightly knit family was devastated Monday when relatives learned Joseph-Kordell had been shot to death — allegedly by an estranged cousin — in the Hennepin County Government Center. Joseph-Kordell was an estate conservator and was involved in a legal dispute with Berkovitz, family members said.

Scott Shaller, a cousin, remembered Joseph-Kordell as "a bright person" who got into estate planning in 1982 as a way to help the elderly after she walked her grandmother through the process. She ran her company, "Estate in Transition, Rent a Daughter," from her home.

Joseph-Kordell had a degree in social welfare from the University of Minnesota and worked as a real estate agent and a tax preparer before opening her own business, according to her Web site.

A neighbor and close friend, Lorraine Frame, was so upset about the death she could barely stand Monday afternoon. Frame said she and Joseph-Kordell first met as single women who "took care of each other" before each went on to marry.

"I'm just sick," Frame said, recounting details she heard about the shooting. "It's just terrible. Terrible!"

### RICHARD HENDRICKSON

Richard Lee Hendrickson, 53, is a gentle, outdoorsy man who won the respect of his

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neighbors last year with the strength he showed after his longtime girlfriend died of breast cancer.

Now, neighbors are praying that Hendrickson can find the same strength to recover from Monday's shooting. Hendrickson's relatives could not be reached for comment.

"He's just a real genuine, nice guy," said Rick Rader, 42, who has lived across from Hendrickson for 12 years. "He's somebody you'd want for a neighbor."

Hendrickson, an attorney from Crystal who got his law degree from St. Paul's William Mitchell College of Law, was in serious condition at Hennepin County Medical Center after surgery early Monday. His client — Joseph-Kordell — also was shot and died of her wounds.

Rader said he was shocked to hear Hendrickson was shot in court — a place where "this shouldn't have happened." Rader is hoping to see his friend well enough to return to camping and elk hunting.

"There's a lot of lawyers out there who are real pompous," Rader said. "Rick isn't like that. He's a down-to-earth guy."

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