

IN MEMORIAM

BARNETT I. (BARNEY) YELLEN

Barney Yellen served as the Jewish Child and Family Service Executive Director from 1969 to 1996.

Emily Shane had these words to say about him at his funeral:

"Barney was first and foremost a consummate professional. The field he chose, social work, is not an easy one. One deals with people's problems and at times the terrors of the world appear to reside on your desk. To Barney this was a challenge to be attacked in creative innovative ways, never forgetting the human portion of the picture... He made certain that the agency and its services were professional in every possible way. His superior fiscal management, organizational and administrative skills ensured that the Agency was viewed positively by the entire community and this legacy continues to this day. As director, he took great pains to mentor both staff and board, and to bring out their strengths, be it through encouraging graduate education at Yeshiva University or through ensuring the individual assume increasing responsibilities at the agency and the agency board."

Barney became Executive Director of Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, Connecticut after leaving Winnipeg. Barney will be greatly missed by all of us. Barney is survived by his wife Penny, daughters Elana and Abby.



SEND US YOUR E-MAIL INFO: We are updating our records and would appreciate receiving your email address. Thank you.

DONATE ONLINE: Our web site www.jcfswinnipeg.org has a new section for making online donations.

SHERUT STAFF: Editor > [Merrill Shwaid](#) Assistance > [Carol McCall](#) Graphic Design > [Kevin Rosen](#)

Jewish Child and Family Service is committed to protecting the personal information by following responsible information handling practices in keeping with the privacy laws.

JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE
C200 123 Doncaster Street,
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3N 2B2
Phone 204-477-7430 Fax 204-477-7450
e-mail: jcfs@aspercampus.mb.ca
website: www.jcfswinnipeg.org



Shore Lines

From Our President, Sean Shore

I can hardly believe that I am sitting at the end of the board room table where I have watched so many others provide invaluable advice and guidance to Jewish Child and Family Service (the "Agency"). I have had the privilege of learning from Morley Hoffman, Sandy Hyman, Michael Paterson, Rita Margolis and of course, our current past president, Pam Wener.

Each of these individuals contributed in their own way to the improvement and betterment of the Agency and I very much plan on following in their footsteps (in my own way of course). Having worked with Pam Wener very closely on a range of governance initiatives, I plan on continuing this course in examining the current governance environment within which the Agency currently operates and determining what changes are necessary to properly equip the Agency with those tools it will need to thrive.

Another important objective that I will be pursuing is that of raising the profile of the Agency in the Jewish community. Unfortunately, while the services offered by the Agency cover a wide range of practice areas, I consistently am reminded of the fact that some community members do not know or understand exactly what the Agency does or is responsible for.

I am truly looking forward to the next two years working with the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the staff of the Agency in pursuing these objectives (and whatever else Emily would have me do!). I can only hope to have as much impact as my predecessors have had and I thank them for doing such a great job.

And, speaking of thanks, I would like to thank my family. My wife and my two daughters are part of this endeavor, too. Without their love and support I would not be where I am today.



NEW: Greeting Cards

Purchase greeting cards with unique images created by students of the Gray Academy of Jewish Education. Each package contains six cards and six envelopes. Use them to send good wishes to friends and family for birthdays, bar/bat mitzvahs, Jewish holidays or other special simchas. Support the work of JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE. **Price \$18.00 per set. Contact JCFS at 477-7430 to order your cards.**

SHERUT

NOVEMBER 2008



JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE
Strengthening lives in keeping with Jewish values

Students Meet Survivors: "For You I Will Remember"

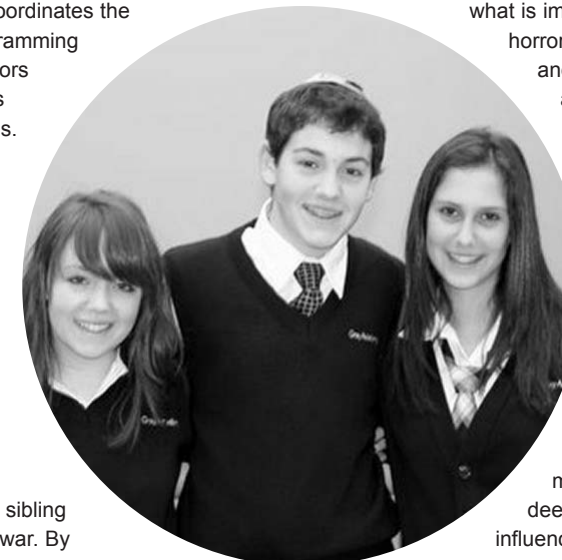
For the past several years a Jewish Child and Family Service program for Holocaust survivors has been offered every other week at the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre. Typically, the program is an enjoyable afternoon of lunch, socializing and entertainment. Gail Thau, the Older Adult Service worker who coordinates the program, commented that intergenerational programming is very successful with this group. When the seniors have a chance to be with young people, it always brightens their day and puts a smile on their faces.

Grade nine students from the Gray Academy of Jewish Education (GAJE) met with some of the participants of the survivors group in preparation for a trip to Washington DC. Krista Zipper, case-aide for the program, feels the students gained many insights and gathered information about what life was like before and after the war. Many of the seniors were youngsters themselves when the war broke out. Not all were imprisoned in concentration camps. Some were sent to work camps, while others were in hiding. Some lost their entire families while others had a sibling with whom they were able to reconnect after the war. By speaking with the survivors the students learned that everyone had their own unique story and indelible memories.

Gail Thau emphasized the many positive outcomes of the interchange between the students and the seniors. Many of the participants thanked her personally for arranging the program. For some, talking about the Holocaust and their life was difficult and brought back nightmares. Others felt rewarded as they developed special connections to the students who, they felt, came to the interview well prepared and eager to learn. Although some tears were shed, the opportunity to speak to the students brought smiles to their weary faces and a feeling of hope for tomorrow in their hearts.

Rose Kessler, a 91-year-old participant in the program enjoyed the students and remarked about how sensitive and thoughtful those she met were. She treasures the Passover card she received from the students.

For Rose, being able to be strong both physically and mentally is what is important. She feels that history and details of the horrors of the Holocaust can be learned through books and film. Her message to the students was one of hope and investing in the future so that history will not repeat itself: "If we do not teach our children who they are, they will not be equipped to respond to anti-Semitism."



Lori Binder, Vice Principal of GAJE, felt that the program made a tremendous impact on the students' understanding of the Holocaust and made their visit to Washington much more meaningful. Many of them had heard speakers talk about the Holocaust, but this program fostered a relationship the school is hoping will continue. "The trip is meant to be more than a memory. It is meant to be a human rights experience that will deepen their understanding and shape their lives and influence the kind of people they will become."

For Brittany Silverstein it was life changing: "It was one of the best experiences of my life." She understood clearly that the opportunity she had to learn firsthand about the Holocaust is something that generations coming after her will not have. Both Josh Donen and Lexi Yurman have grandparents who are survivors. They felt the experience of meeting with survivors prior to the trip was very valuable and helped to deepen their understanding of what was presented to them in DC. The students feel a deep appreciation for those who have survived the Holocaust and understand that they would not exist today if more people had perished during the war. The message they have "to remember" is a responsibility they will carry with them now and throughout their lives.

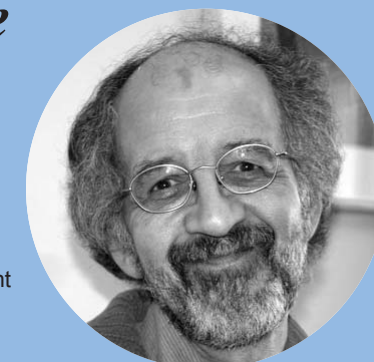
PHOTO: L to R: **Brittany Silverstein, Josh Donen, Lexi Yurman**

Support to Individuals Impacted by Suicide

JCFS, in partnership with the Rady JCC, is offering an eight-week therapeutic bereavement walking support group for individuals who have lost a family member through suicide. This group is co-sponsored by S.P.E.A.K. (Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Knowledge), an organization dedicated to providing education about depression and its link to suicide, supports to survivors and prevention.

Group leader, Bruce Sarbit, MA, CCC wants the group to be an opportunity for participants to work through their own experiences with the help and support of others who understand their pain. The walking component incorporates energizing activity into the grief resolution process.

A survivor's support group is not only a place to receive emotional support, but also a place to learn from other suicide survivors. One person's experience can help others develop insights into the particular problems and issues they face. Survivors offer each other things that books cannot - real-life experiences and real-life supports. The group began in late October but will be scheduled again if there is interest. **Please contact JCFS at 477-7430 if you or someone you care about could benefit from this support.**



Emily's Corner

(a word from our Executive Director, Emily Shane)

As I look out my window the leaves are falling from the trees, the seasons are changing with summer being but a distant memory, autumn's changing kaleidoscope of colour is fading and winter is around the corner.



The changing seasons are a constant for us as is the work done at Jewish Child and Family Service. How we do our work changes with the needs in our community and the available resources we have, but the reasons for our existence have not changed since we began. As a modern descendent of the Jewish community's obligations and responsibilities to care for all, both in our community and by extension the community at large, we are carrying out the teachings of thousands of years.

Today we in Winnipeg are blessed with a surfeit of richness in terms of the peacefulness of our society, the co-existence of people with a variety of backgrounds and for most of us sufficient emotional strength and funds to sustain ourselves and our families. The latter is not true for all and when the turbulence of life overwhelms us, which it can at any time, the existence of Jewish Child and Family Service as a stabilizing institution is an indication that we have not strayed from the root principles and teachings that define who we are.

Thank you for your ongoing support of JCFS.

*Executive Director,
Emily Shane*

Mazel Tov to our JIAS Scholarship Winners



L to R: Anna Schoichet (JCFS staff), Iael Besendorf (JCFS staff), Einat Paz Keynan (JCFS staff), Melanie Baruch, Damien Melamedoff, Emily Shane (JCFS Executive director), Ilya Shilshtut, Sofia Schoichet, Alexander Gotfrid, Debora Rubin, Fernanda Rubin.

Missing from the picture is Alexandra Puzhevich

JCFS Happenings

SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS: New immigrants to our community participated in a finance and money management seminar on September 2nd. The workshop dealt with important topics such as; income tax preparation, budgeting, banking, insurance retirement planning and pensions, saving for children's secondary education, credit card information and buying and leasing a car and house. This jam packed evening provided essential information for new families and was well attended.

An employment and job interviewing workshop took place this month. It was an important seminar and provided useful information for newcomers who are in the process of looking for work and provided assistance in preparing for job interviews.

A new workshop for parents to provide information in defining the cultural differences of growing up in Canada in contrast to their country of origin is being planned. The workshop will be designed to address problems in family communication. It will also deal with the topic of sexually transmitted diseases among school aged youngsters.

OLDER ADULT SERVICES: OAS worker, Gail Thau, participated in the first elder abuse conference in Manitoba entitled Partnering Towards the Prevention of Abuse of Older Adults. Gail participated in a panel discussion on ethno cultural perspectives on elder abuse. She highlighted the Jewish perspective. There were two other panelists including Shahina Siddiqui representing the Muslim community and the new immigrants' viewpoint. Melba Laforge spoke from the First Nations perspective.

The Social Connections group for people with dementia or memory loss continues to meet each week. The group is conducted on Monday afternoons at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre and on Wednesday afternoons in the JCFS offices at the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

Reaching Out Lunch Program

A specialized group for survivors of the Holocaust takes place at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre every second Thursday afternoon. The focus of this group is socializing. Entertainment and lunch is provided at a minimal charge.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: Wellness Group: Adults with mental health concerns participate in a wellness group every other Friday afternoon. The group has a varied program of activities and numerous outings to places of interest around the Winnipeg area. Transportation is provided and refreshments are served.

JEWISH ADDICTION SUPPORTS



JACS MEETINGS For Recovering Addicts/Alcoholics

EVERY THURSDAY 8:00 - 9:00 PM

JCFS Boardroom, ASPER JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS

123 Doncaster Street

Contact JACS at 478-8591 if you need help.

New Faces At JCFS



New JCFS Board Members from left to right with Executive Director Emily Shane (on the left) and Board President Sean Shore (in the middle) - Shep Shell, Dr. Errol Billinkoff, Tracy Leipsic, Dr. Adrian Fine and Sherry Lercher Davis



Smriti Dewan is the newest addition to our Older Adult Service area. She has completed 5 years in the social sector through volunteer and work experience

She has an undergraduate degree from Simon Fraser University, BC with a major in Psychology. She is presently working towards a Master of Social Work degree from University of Manitoba. She plans to specialize in Geriatrics with an interest in death and dying, grief as well as elder abuse. As part of the Social Work program Smriti completed an eight month practicum at St. Boniface General Hospital.

Carina Melamedoff is working in the Newcomer's services providing assistance to new immigrants seeking employment. As a psychologist, adult educator and English as an Additional Language instructor Carina is a very positive addition to our Resettlement staff.



Carina and her family emigrated from Argentina in 2003. She has a wealth of experience and training in helping others in the mental health field, as a language instructor and in the area of vocational counselling.

Welcome to our two University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work students!



Michelle Hominick (on the left) is in her final year of studies. She will be working with Judy Plotkin in the Mental Health support program and with Cheryl Hirsh Katz in the Older Adult Service area. **Marlene Duncan-Williams** (on the right) is in her second year of social work and will also be working in the Older Adult Service area as well as in the Child Welfare Service area under the supervision of Jeff Kryger.

Welcome aboard to our new slate of board members (pictured above).

Shepsel Shell

Shep has been retired for eight years as a programmer and community relations specialist with ISM. He has been involved on the board of a variety of organizations including CNIB, an organization he has been involved with for over 25 years. He has a multitude of skills and interests including reading building model trains cross county skiing, skating, travelling and spending time with his family.

Dr. Errol Billinkoff

Errol has practiced family medicine for the past 16 years. He has served as the Winnipeg Jewish community Mohel since 1992. Errol has been on a number of Jewish community organizational boards and is presently on the Building Committee of the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. As well, he has been very active with the Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada initiative. Errol enjoys playing squash, cycling and engaging in his hobbies of photography and videography. He loves to spend time with his family and attending his sons' sports activities.

Tracy Leipsic

Tracy Leipsic is proud to be employed in her family's insurance business. She has volunteered both in the Jewish community and in the wider community. She has chaired a Balmoral Hall fundraising auction, worked in municipal city councillor's campaign and was on the planning committee of the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Art and Soul event. Tracy loves to spend time with her family, enjoys cooking and baking as well as participating in a variety of outdoor activities including taking walks with her yellow lab dog.

Dr. Adrian Fine

Adrian is a retired physician with 25 years of volunteer experience with a variety of social service and health related organizations in the community. He is currently a consultant for a medical corporation. Adrian enjoys reading, music, world travel and teaching in developing countries like India and Africa.

Sherry Lercher Davis

Sherry is employed as a probation officer with the Manitoba Government. Sherry has been very involved both in Jewish communal activities as well as in the wider community. She is on the Guardian Angel Benefit for Women's Cancer Committee and the CJA Women's Division Management team. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, exercising and finds time to relax by watching movies and television.