

The Asper Helping Hand  
INITIATIVE

TAHHI offers interest free loans to Jewish individuals and families who are experiencing a temporary hardship. These loans are available for a variety of different purposes such as educational, medical needs, immigration, vocational, life cycle events, first time home buyers, family emergencies and debt consolidation. For further information on how to apply, please contact the Administrator of the TAHHI program, Shelley Garfield at 478-8592 or email [sgarfield@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:sgarfield@jcfswinnipeg.org).

## JCFS Welcomes New Board Members

### Misha Hanin

Misha and his wife Feana, and their eight-year-old son Sean arrived in Winnipeg four years ago from Israel. Misha is employed by Compugen Inc. as a Senior Solutions Architect. Feana works as a professional make-up artist and hair stylist. Misha and his family feel very positive about their move to Winnipeg and are enjoying getting to know the community and the many activities it has to offer for particularly young families.



### Mira Narvey

Mira is a stay at home mom with her two young sons Simon and Paul. Before becoming a mom, Mira was employed in the retail industry. Mira has been involved in a variety of Jewish community boards including Shaarey Zedek, The Jewish Foundation -Women's Endowment Fund, and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg where she served as co-chair of the Ben Gurion Society. Mira enjoys time spent with her family, particularly summers at Winnipeg Beach.



### Martin Wayngarten

Martin Wayngarten was trained in Finance and Accounting in Argentina. When he arrived in Winnipeg in March 2002, he completed his Chartered Financial Analyst Accreditation. Martin currently works with Quadrant Asset Management where he is an Associate Portfolio Manager. He has been active in a number of organizations within the Winnipeg Jewish community as well as in Argentina — including J-PEG, JCFS (as a volunteer) and AIP (Argentina).



Martin believes in the power of human connections and trusts that ideals can overcome apathy. He enjoys running, playing soccer, reading and most of all seeing his two daughters grow and play. He and his wife Agustina are expecting a new baby this month.

### University Student Placements

**Shannon Davison** (on left in photo) is in her final year of studies in the Educational Administration, Foundations, and Psychology program at the University of Manitoba. She is completing her Masters of Education degree specializing in the area of Guidance and Counselling. Her JCFS field placement is in Counselling Services which will be supervised by Shelley Levit.



**Rhiannon Milowski** (on right in photo) is in her second year of Social Work studies at the University of Manitoba. Her JCFS field placement is with Older Adult Services where she is being supervised by Cheryl Hirsh Katz.

### Asper Jewish Community Campus January Lottery



This new lottery features over \$100,000 in cash and prizes plus every ticket gives you 36 chances to WIN! With only 3500 tickets available the odds are fabulous! Ticket price is only \$100.

A unique feature of the January Jackpot Lottery is that \$10 from every ticket sold will be donated to participating campus agencies including JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE. When you order your ticket you will be asked to select an agency to receive the \$10 donation. We are hoping that when you purchase tickets you will designate JCFS. **Call our office at 477-7430 to purchase a lottery ticket.**

## Family Day — Celebrating a Century of Caring with JCFS

We are planning a party so please circle the date: **Sunday, January 22nd, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm** at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. Join us for a fun filled afternoon of party games, musical entertainment and carnival treats. Family Day with JCFS is going to be great; please join in the fun and help us celebrate!

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

### Claims Conference Home Care Services Program

JCFS Provides Assistance with Claims Conference Home Care Service Applications The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) provides increased home care and cleaning services for eligible Holocaust Survivors. For more information, please contact Jewish Child and Family Service at 477-7430.

**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.

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# SHERUT

NOVEMBER 2011



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

# A Century Of Caring: 100 Years of Jewish Social Services in Winnipeg

The upcoming year marks two very important anniversaries in the history of the Winnipeg Jewish community.

It was in 1912 that the Jewish community of Winnipeg first met to discuss how to look after its most needy and vulnerable. Alan Levine tells us in his book *Coming of Age* that, prior to 1912, Jewish children were placed in non-Jewish settings if they were homeless or if their families were unable to care for them. This community meeting led to the establishment of a Jewish orphanage and the beginning of community-wide Jewish social services.

In the hundred years that have followed that first meeting, the Winnipeg Jewish community has always ensured that it has in place the agencies, facilities and people it needs to care for its own – orphanages, free loan societies, immigration and resettlement services – to name but a few. “These organizations were there for the thousands of families that came to this city to escape the pogroms of Europe and the devastation of the Holocaust. What a relief it must have been to be met at the train station by a fellow Jew and to know you could count on your own community to provide you with the assistance that you needed”, said JCFS president, Heather Leonoff, reflecting on the significance of the hundredth anniversary.

Forty years later, in 1952, the community decided to bring these disparate organizations together under one umbrella – and Jewish Child and Family Service was born. The Agency was created by a statute of the provincial government. The statute begins with the words that the community leaders prayed for the creation of the Agency and their prayers were answered. JCFS board president, Heather Leonoff, explains that the Agency is unique in Manitoba. “The Jewish community was in 1952, and continues to this day, to be the only religious-based group given a mandate by the province to care for its own. Our community leaders were very forward-thinking in praying for this opportunity and the up-coming 60th anniversary of the Agency is something worth celebrating.”

These two very special anniversaries will be celebrated by JCFS throughout 2012. The Agency will kick-off its “Century of Caring” celebrations on Sunday, January 22nd with a family carnival at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. “There is no better way to warm up a cold winter day than to hear the laughter of children enjoying themselves with other families. That is what our carnival is all about. Lots of fun and exciting activities are being planned to begin the celebration of our special year,” said Merrill Shwaid, the Agency’s Public Relations Coordinator, who is coordinating the plans for the family event.



Esther Robinson Jewish Orphanage 1914 (courtesy of Jewish Heritage Centre Archives)

Throughout the year, the Agency will also be carrying out a fundraising effort, named the L'Dor V'Dor (from generation to generation) campaign. The campaign is designed to raise funds towards an endowment to ensure the continuation of the Agency. Heather Leonoff explains that “when the Agency was created sixty years ago, thirty community leaders stepped forward

to establish it. The last of those thirty people passed away a few months ago and now it is time for the next generation to step forward. The Agency was there for our grandparents and parents. We must ensure it is there for our children and grandchildren.”

The celebrations will culminate with a gala celebrating a “Century of Caring” on May 24th at the Fort Garry Hotel, featuring Juno winner Sophie Milman. “As an immigrant from Russia and Israel to Canada (and wife of Winnipegger Casey Chisick), Sophie is the perfect person to make this celebration meaningful”, explained Sherry Lercher-Davis, who together with Tracy Leipsic is chairing this event.

With two anniversaries in one year, one hundred years of Jewish social services and the 60th birthday of JCFS, this is a memorable year for Winnipeg. The events that are planned will celebrate all that the Jewish community has accomplished over the past one hundred years and will ensure that that Agency can continue this work for another century to come.

# JCFS Happenings

## SUPPORT TO OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

**Chevrah – a Circle of Friends** is a group that meets on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre. Activities include stimulating discussion on a variety of topics, chair exercises and activities to promote intellectual and social stimulation.

## Reaching Out Lunch Program

A specialized social group for survivors of the Holocaust takes place at the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre every second Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Entertainment and lunch is provided at a minimal charge.

For further information on these groups please contact Cheryl Hirsh Katz, Supervisor of Older Adult Services at 477-7430 or [chirshkatz@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:chirshkatz@jcfswinnipeg.org).

A six week **Bereavement Support Group** began on October 27th and will continue until December 15th. The group is specially designed for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. Its aim is to provide support, education and healing through the difficult adjustment. The group is being led by JCFS staff Shelley Levit, MSW, who has over thirty years of experience in therapeutic counselling and group facilitating. The group takes place at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. JCFS is coordinating the Bereavement Group with Congregations Shaarey Zedek and Etz Chayim, as well as Hospice and Palliative Care Manitoba.

A workshop for caregivers in the Jewish community took place on Sunday October 23rd. **Opening Doors to Our Generation** was devoted to exploring the services and programs for older adults in Jewish Winnipeg. Valuable information on topics such as Homecare, Wills, Health Directives, Stress Management and Exercise were highlighted. JCFS partnered with the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, Rose and Max Rady JCC, Gwen Secter Living Centre, as well as The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre.

## SUPPORT TO NEWCOMERS TO OUR COMMUNITY

A specialized workshop for newcomers dealing with the legal aspects of the immigration process was offered. Lawyer, Ken Zaifman, who specializes in Immigration Law, outlined the various options of Family Class immigration. His interesting session covered the humanitarian and compassionate reasons that are considered in applying for immigration.

Newcomers also found the workshop on Understanding Mortgages presented by the Royal Bank (Corydon branch) valuable. This popular workshop has been well attended in the past and is very suitable for those in the process of buying a new home in Winnipeg.

Please contact Einat Paz-Keynan if you wish to be contacted on upcoming workshops for newcomers - [ekkeynan@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:ekkeynan@jcfswinnipeg.org).

**YONA - Winnipeg's Children Song Theatre** held auditions in October. The initiative is now being jointly organized by JCFS, Congregation Etz Chayim, as well as the Chai Folk Ensemble. YONA includes singing and dancing instruction. The group is fortunate to have the expert direction of Lina Streltsov (singing) and Milana Lanshtein (dancing). YONA is open to all children ages 7 to 17. It is a wonderful opportunity for every youngster in the Jewish community to express their musical talents.

## SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ARE CHALLENGED WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIFFERENCES

The Chaverim Mental Health Wellness group meets on a weekly basis. This holistic mental health group offers social, cultural, spiritual and physical support to clients who are challenged by ongoing mental health differences. The group continues to access the Rady JCC facilities with the assistance of a staff fitness instructor.

## SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ARE DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS

JCFS continues to provide support to JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others). JACS meets at the Asper Campus on Thursdays at 8:00 PM in the Kroft boardroom. The meetings offer the 12-step approach to recovery with Jewish content. Individuals may call the JACS information line at 478-8591.

## SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ARE CONFINED TO HOSPITALS OR NURSING HOMES

During the High Holiday period this year, the Community Chaplain, Rabbi Yitzchok Charytan, visited many Jewish people who are not able to participate actively in the holidays. He conducted services for residents and patients of non-Jewish nursing homes, assisted living centres, hospitals as well as homes for physically and mentally challenged.

The Rabbi blew the shofar and conducted the kaporis service which was greatly appreciated. During the Succoth Holiday, Rabbi Charytan, distributed honey cakes (Lekach) while offering the Lulav and Etrog to those who wished to take part.

If you or someone you know has been confined to hospital and would appreciate a visit from Rabbi Charytan, please notify the JCFS office at 477-7430 or leave a message on his private voice mail 480-7552 or inform the hospital staff on your ward of your wishes.

## Taschlich



JCFS staff participated in the ritual of Taschlich during the High Holidays. Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker conducted a service on the banks of the Assiniboine River. He explained that the ritual assists us in renewing our commitment to live better lives and make meaningful choices in the future.

## A Message From Our Board President



The upcoming year will be a very special one in the history of JCFS as we celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Jewish social services in Winnipeg and the sixtieth anniversary of the Agency. Our community leaders met in 1912 to discuss building an orphanage to care for children who were homeless or whose families were unable to provide for them. In the years following that first meeting, the Jewish community of Winnipeg put in place many organizations to provide needed assistance and in 1952 those organizations were brought together to form JCFS.

JCFS was created by a statute of the provincial legislature. Our community leaders had the foresight to seek a mandate from the province to allow the Jewish community to look after its own. JCFS was in 1952, and remains today, the only religious-based organization in the province with this designation. This has allowed us for the past sixty years to provide services to families that are based on the cultural practices and values of Judaism.

In order to ensure the financial viability of the Agency, JCFS is undertaking a major fundraising effort throughout 2012. L'Dor V'Dor – from generation to generation – is JCFS's first ever campaign to raise funds for our endowment. While we have come to you, our donors, each year to help us meet our yearly operating costs – and you have responded most generously – we have never sought to endow the future of the organization. The double anniversary of 2012 seemed an appropriate time to seek to ensure our future.

Please consider being part of this once in a generation opportunity. It was your parents and grandparents that originally sought the services of the Agency. Help us to ensure that the Agency will be able to provide the same caring and support to your children and grandchildren. Remember the Yiddish proverb "man plans and God laughs". While we all pray for happiness, health and prosperity for our friends and family, we do not know what the future brings. With your help, however, JCFS will be there to lend whatever support may be necessary.

I would be pleased to meet with anyone who requires information about this campaign. Please contact the Agency at 477-7430 and I will get back to you to arrange a convenient time.

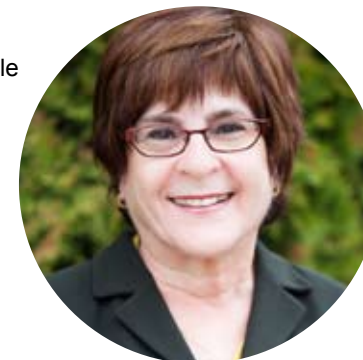
(View our statute containing the list of our original founders at: <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/private/c08090e.php>.)

*Heather Leonoff*

## Emily's Corner

(a word from our Executive Director, Emily Shane)

As we moved through the Jewish High Holiday cycle this fall, many of us will have taken the time to do engage in soul searching and reflection about the goals we hope to achieve in the coming year. For many of us these goals will include increasing our acts of charity and good deeds.



So it is with Jewish Child and Family Service! As the agency proudly looks back on the work that it has done on behalf of the Winnipeg Jewish community this past year, it will set new goals for the coming months.

As the social service arm of the Jewish community, JCFS strives to respond to a multitude of needs. The agency routinely protects children, ensures the well being of the elderly, helps families cope with the stresses of daily life, resettles new immigrants, and guides and supports those challenged by mental illness, addictions and poverty.

Recognizing that it attempts to be all things to all people and meet all community needs, the agency's staff and board of directors recently began questioning the long term feasibility of that role. What are the social needs of the community now, and what will they be in the future? What resources are available in the community at large? Can the agency realistically sustain its current level of interventions and are there needs that it is not meeting?

To answer these and other questions, JCFS is currently engaged in a community-wide survey. If you are called upon to answer a few questions, please do so. Your opinions are very much needed and valued. The future of Jewish Child and Family Service will be guided by your responses.

Of course, even as JCFS plans for the long term future, it remains committed to responding to the present needs of the community to the best of its limited financial resources. As always, the agency is grateful to all of its donors, those who are longstanding 'Friends' of JCFS and those who are new supporters. May you all enjoy a healthy and happy New Year.

*Emily Shane*

## North End + South End Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are required in both the north end and the south end to help seniors maintain their independence. Grocery shoppers and drivers to medical appointments are needed. Honorariums are provided. Contact Volunteer Services Manager - Einat Paz-Keynan at 477-7452 or [ekkeynan@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:ekkeynan@jcfswinnipeg.org)