



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



**Kim Bailey** is a social worker who has worked most of her career in the area of community health. She is currently the Manager, Health Sexuality and Harm Reduction with the WRHA. In the past she was the Director of Community Development at Mount Carmel Clinic and the Special Projects Coordinator at the Sexuality Education Resource Centre. She is a board member of Herzlia Synagogue and has worked with JCFS on various abuse prevention initiatives in the Jewish community. She is observant, the mother of two teenaged boys and loves to work out, read and travel.



**Rietta Floom** is a returning member to the JCFS Board. She works as a Privacy Analyst with Manitoba eHealth of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Rietta has been active in a number of organizations in the Jewish community and currently sits as the Vice-President of the Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble Board of Directors. She enjoys running, reading and her most recent initiative, yoga.



**Ian Rabb** describes himself as an active participant in change. Although he was trained as an Optometrist, Ian currently works in his family's property management business - Winpark Dorchester Properties, where he is General Manager. In addition to property management, Ian has devoted countless hours to help change the lives of individuals facing addiction and housing issues. Ian is involved with the Addictions arena as a Past Board Member for Tamarack Rehabilitation Centre, the current Board of Governors with Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Niakwa Books and was on the Manitoba Meth Task Force.

## Faculty of Social Work Students



(L-R) Katelyn Berg, Crystal Dudgeon and Meghan Borges

**Katelyn Berg** is in her second year of studies in the Bachelor of Social Work program at the University of Manitoba. For the past year Katelyn has been a JCFS volunteer friendly visitor for an older adult client. Katelyn will be supervised by Jeff Kryger, Child Welfare Worker, during her placement at JCFS.

**Crystal Dudgeon** is in her final year of Social Work at the University of Manitoba, and will be specializing in the area of aging. Her field placement in Older Adult Services will be supervised by Cheryl Hirsh Katz.

**Meghan Borges** is currently in her second year of Social Work at the University of Manitoba, and is specializing in the area of aging. For the past year, Meghan has been a JCFS "friendly visitor" volunteer for an elderly client. Her field placement in Older Adult Services will be supervised by Cheryl Hirsh Katz.

## JCFS Greeting Cards: \$10

JCFS continue to sell its beautifully designed greeting cards in packages containing six unique cards. The images on the cards were created by students from Gray Academy of Jewish Education. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will be used to support programs for children. Card sets are \$10. Call the JCFS office to order cards at 477-7430.



## GIVE A SENIOR A LIFT!

**Drivers to accompany seniors to medical appointments in the north end and the south end are urgently needed. Honorariums are provided.**

Contact Jewish Child and Family Service  
Einat Keynan 477-7452 or [Ekeynan@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:Ekeynan@jcfswinnipeg.org)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS WHO DID WORK IN A GHETTO

The German Federal Social Court has recently liberalized the requirements for Ghetto pensions. You may be eligible to apply if you did work on a voluntary basis in a German-occupied ghetto during WWII. For more information and/or to find out if you are eligible, please contact Adeena Lungen, Older Adult Service Worker, at 477-7454.

## Dare to Dream: An art auction in support of JCFS

Saturday April 16, 2011 • Tickets available 477-7430

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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 2010



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

## Making The Small Things We Do Count

Some of you may have heard a young man by the name of Shimon Segal speak at synagogue in the fall.\* You could hear a pin drop as Shimon recounted the turmoil and chaos of his formative years and then growing up in foster care. His speech quickly turned to one of appreciation and hope as he thanked those families who reached out to him and offered him acceptance and friendship. "They chose to accommodate something different and uncertain and in doing so they saved a life."

Cheryl and Lorne Sharfe and their children were one of the five families that Shimon referred to in his speech, as they had extended

a helping hand by opening their home during his challenging early years. When I spoke to Cheryl about her family's relationship with Shimon, she recalled how her son Adam met Shimon in elementary school and they have continued their friendship until today. "We did not treat Shimon differently than any of the other friends our children brought home." All were welcomed for meals, sleepovers and chats around the kitchen table. The impact of these seemingly small acts of warmth and acceptance had a tremendous impact on Shimon's life as these were important elements that were missing in his past. Sometimes we tend to take the little things for granted and we are blinded by our own benevolence.

Randee Pollock, our JCFS Foster Care Coordinator, reports that our community has an urgent need for foster homes. "Past recruitment efforts have led to numerous inquiries about foster care, but JCFS continues to have a shortage of homes. Two-parent families, couples with or without children, empty nesters, single adults, one-parent families and extended families are welcome to apply. Commitments range from short term or emergency placements to long term care. There are currently 26 children in the care of JCFS and seven licensed homes".

In his speech, Shimon went on to say that we all have something to offer. We may not have the ability to accommodate a foster child but there are other ways that we can help. Shimon also made special mention of Glenda and David Segal, Susan and Gerald Rosenby, Elaine and Norman Glass and Florence and Sheldon Zamick, all of whom played a very important role in his life. Without really knowing the impact of their kindness and generosity, these families helped Shimon grow and mature into the confident young man he is today. The Segal family's relationship with Shimon began with small acts of kindness that eventually led to a full time foster placement. As an adult, Shimon is still an integral part of the Segal family.

What can I do to help? This was the question we were asked from many of the individuals who heard Shimon's message or read Randee's article about our current need for foster homes.

The option of opening your doors as a temporary safe home on a short term basis is something to consider. Providing funding to enable every Jewish child in foster care to attend a Jewish

camp, or have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah are all concrete ways that you can help ensure that every child has a secure Jewish identity and the future life he/she deserves. A donation to support music or dance lessons, or for the purchase of sports equipment for a child in care who expresses an interest in pursuing a particular area, is another way you can help JCFS.

As an agency, we welcome and need the participation and involvement of the community. Without compromising the confidentiality of the children we support, we welcome your participation as a foster family, a volunteer or a donor. Everyone's contribution is appreciated. Sometimes, seemingly smaller acts of generosity make all the difference.

\* Visit the JCFS website [www.jcfswinnipeg.org](http://www.jcfswinnipeg.org) under Child Welfare Services if you would like to hear an audio recording of Shimon's speech.



(L to R) Steven Zamick, Stephen Rosenby, Devin Segal, Shimon Segal, Adam Sharfe and Jason Glass

# JCFS Happenings

## SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS

Specialized groups provide a way for seniors to remain connected to activities in the community.

**Social Connections**, a group for people with early stage memory loss, continues to meet each week. The group is conducted on Monday afternoons at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre. The focus of this group is to provide intellectual and social stimulation in a supportive environment. Word exercises, reminiscence activities and cultural activities are regular components of this group.

## Reaching Out Lunch Program

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

**Generations Together: Enhancing Mind, Body and Spirit**, is a series of programs conducted in partnership with Congregation Etz Chayim. These intergenerational programs are educational, social and cultural and are designed to reach out to isolated seniors in our community. We are grateful for the support from New Horizons for Seniors which provides a grant for this initiative.

For further information on any of these groups please contact Cheryl Hirsh Katz, Supervisor of Older Adult Services 477-7436 – [Chirshkatz@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:Chirshkatz@jcfswinnipeg.org).

## SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

JCFS continues to offer support groups for individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one. A group for those who have survived the suicide of a family member was conducted by Shelley Levit who has thirty years experience in individual and family counselling and brings many skills and sensitivity to those who are dealing with difficult transitions in their lives... Shelley will be conducting an eight-week bereavement group in January. Please contact JCFS at 477-7430 if you would be interested in participating in a general bereavement group.

\* \* \* \* \*



Jack Cipilinski with Rabbi Charytan when he visited the Jewish Federation office during Succoth

During the High Holiday period this year, the Community Chaplain, Rabbi Yitzchok Charytan, conducted services for residents and patients of non-Jewish nursing homes, assisted living centres, penitentiaries, 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 cake (Lekach) while offering the Lulav and Etrog to those who are confined and unable to participate in activities in the community.

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 inform the hospital staff of your wishes.

## NEWCOMERS RESETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION

JCFS, in cooperation with Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, are starting a conversational English group this month. CHAT provides an opportunity for newcomers, with a high level of English skills to practice speaking in a relaxed social setting. This group has been well received by past participants. The weekly meetings begin on November 18th and will continue for five consecutive weeks.

Newcomers are also participating in an Agency sponsored English class for seniors which is offered once a week. In addition, a group to develop English language proficiency and help familiarize newly arrived immigrants with life in Winnipeg is taking place.

## WELCOMING NEWCOMERS WITH A SONG

Over a year ago, Jewish Child and Family Service in Winnipeg began a new initiative by creating a musical component to the many diverse services it offers. This came about when a group of newcomers approached the Integration staff with a special request of providing an outlet for seniors to sing. After some discussion on the merits of providing a venue for socializing along with positives of musical expression it was decided that JCFS would help establish a Newcomers' seniors' choir. The formation of the JCFS seniors' choir has been a very successful project. Fourteen immigrant seniors participate in the choir.

The choir meets and practices every Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They have performed five times this past year at a variety of Jewish community events. The conductor - Lina Streltzov and her family arrived from Israel three years ago. She has an extensive background in directing musical theater, and conducting choirs of all age groups. The piano accompanist - Tatiana Smolyaninov is an experienced elementary teacher. She has a broad background in teaching music as well as being an accomplished pianist.

The feedback they have received from the community has been excellent. Loud applause and standing ovations have shown how much the audiences appreciate their talent, exuberance and musical gifts. The Winnipeg Jewish community has been strengthened by their presence. It has been a wonderful way to welcome the seniors to our community. We have benefitted by the contribution the choir is making in celebrating our Jewish traditions through our rich musical heritage.

## Youth Choirs Take Flight with Yona

YONA is the new name of the Jewish Children's Choir and Youth Vocal Ensemble Singing Group. (Yona is the Hebrew word for dove which is well known as the symbol of peace.) Over 20 youngsters presently participate in YONA. The three classes meet on Mondays at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. All young people are welcome.

If youngsters would like to participate in the youth choirs please contact the Choir Conductor, Lina Streltzov - 291-9957 or JCFS Integration staff, Anna Schoichet 480-7555 or [aschoichet@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:aschoichet@jcfswinnipeg.org). YONA is a joint initiative of JCFS and Congregation Etz Chayim.

## Welcoming newcomers to our community

Einat Paz-Keynan, JCFS Integration Worker, is working with Samantha Loxton, Coordinator of J-PEG, on the development of new initiatives that will welcome and involve new immigrants. J-PEG is a Jewish Federation program for adults 25 to 45 years old.

## A Message From Our Board President



*It has always been our proud boast that we Jews attend to those of our own people who are in want or in need.*

Those words were written in 1917 by Mr. E. R. Levinson, the president of the first Board of the Jewish Orphanage and Children's Aid Society, the precursor organization of the current JCFS. Mr. Levinson's president's report sets out the early issues facing the Board – the needs for funds (quelle surprise!), the hiring of staff and the development of policies for the Board.

Almost one hundred years have passed since the Winnipeg Jewish Community organized to look after its most vulnerable. Thousands of our community members have stepped forward throughout the intervening decades to help guide and support the original Aid Society as it morphed into the current JCFS. As we come to the end of our first Century of Caring, the current Board is busy making sure JCFS is well positioned to continue into its second century.

Over the past few years the Board has concentrated on revamping the governance structure for the Agency. We have passed new bylaws, implemented a new committee structure and revised our vision and mission statements. In addition we have paid off the Agency's accumulated debt (Mr. Levinson faced a \$10,000 debt). This year we will be revamping the policies and procedures of the Agency, including new financial guidelines and new human resource policies.

This year the Agency will also undertake a community needs assessment. From its early days, which focused exclusively on children, the Agency now seeks to meet the social service needs of the entire Jewish community. Our mission is to strengthen lives in keeping with Jewish values and we can only accomplish this if we are aware of the assistance that our community members require. We want to identify any gaps in service and put in place the necessary programs and resources to ensure that the needs of our community are fully met.

It is certainly going to be a busy year for the Board members but we are all excited to assist with the worthy work being done on a daily basis by the Agency staff. Our community is so lucky to have them.

Mr. Levinson ended his first president's report with these words: ***We also wish to extend our earnest gratitude to all members, donors, contributors and friends of the Institution for their support and co-operation in carrying out this worthy work, and ask for a continuation of such support and co-operation.***

I can do no better than to simply echo those words.

*Heather Leonoff*

## Emily's Corner

*(a word from our Executive Director, Emily Shane)*

It's November, the thermometer is plunging, the snow is about to fly and the days are getting shorter and shorter. What do our thoughts turn to? Summer of course, and memories of enjoying fresh air, swimming, concerts in the park and outings away from the city.



Although summer is a down time for many organizations, for us at Jewish Child and Family Service it is anything but. In fact, what happens at Jewish Child and Family Service over the summer months is in many ways reflective of why we exist. Our goal, to act as family and support for those in our community who need our assistance, becomes very visible as we venture outdoors.

This past summer we undertook a series of escorted guided tours of Winnipeg specifically for our recent senior newcomers who, far too often, are isolated and lack the language and opportunities to explore the city. These seniors attended diverse activities, such as music concerts and Ballet in the Park, and toured the Legislative Buildings and the Museum of Man and Nature. Our foster children (an unprecedented number in fact) were able to attend Jewish overnight and day summer camps, and our Chaverim wellness group went on outings and also gave back to the community by planting the wonderful flowers you see around the Asper Campus. For many of us these are ordinary summer activities, but for some of our clients these are normalizing experiences that prove to them that they are valued members of our community.

All of the outreach that we extend has positive reverberations. For example, The Asper Helping Hand Initiative has assisted many families in making their first home purchase a reality. Not only have we never had a default in payment, but many of the initiative's recipients have turned around and offered their services as agency and community volunteers. Many community members, especially those who have settled in Winnipeg over the past 10 years, also let us know when there are employment vacancies at their place of work.

Overall, the financial support we receive from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and from individual donors allows us to continue to extend ourselves and offer world-broadening opportunities for those who otherwise would have done without. With Chanukah coming up shortly, I can say with confidence that the agency's ability to act as the Shamash candle will be fueled by your interest and support. On your behalf we light the other candles and by doing so we enlighten and brighten the world for all of us.

*Executive Director,  
Emily Shane*