





## Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

"For not only one (enemy) has risen up against us to destroy us, but in every generation, they rise up to destroy us. But the Holy One delivers us from their hands" (Ve-hi She'amda, Passover Haggadah)

The original theme for this fall's message was about the significance of the High Holidays and Sukkot as a time of renewal, positive affirmation, and commitment to community and *Tikun Olam* (repairing the world).

On Shemini Azeret, the final day of the Festival of Sukkot, the entire world awoke to the greatest loss of Jewish life on any single day since the Holocaust. The savage and inhumane terror attack by Hamas on Israel will be indelibly etched in Jewish history and on the psyche of the Jewish people. It is one of those "where were you on that day?" moments. The grief, pain, and trauma experienced in Israel is being felt by Jews everywhere, including Winnipeg, and cannot be quantified. It is in these trying times when we feel the most vulnerable and lost. In these times our anger screams for justice, our broken souls pine for healing, and our hearts yearn for wholeness. It will take generations for true healing to be recognized.

The Jewish experience of pain and tragedy is not new. Like those many times before, the Jewish people will survive and will thrive. We are a people of *Tikva* (hope), *Kehila* (community), and *Achdut* (unity). When we are faced with adversity, we rise together and persevere. We build, where others seek to destroy. We seek healing rather than languishing in

victimhood. We pursue innovation and to make a difference – to make the world a better place.

The events of October 7, 2023 (21 Tishri, 5784) have mobilized the Jewish world to stand with Israel, to speak out against terror, antisemitism, and evil, and to send support overseas. The assistance sent overseas is much needed, but we also cannot forget those impacted at home.

In addition to all the ongoing support needed by our community's most frail and vulnerable, our community turned to JCFS for leadership, guidance, and emotional support in the face of our communal trauma, anxiety, fear, and grief. Our mandate at JCFS is to insure the emotional and mental wellbeing of our community, individuals, families, and partner agencies alike.

It is in these times that JCFS needs your support more than ever so that we can continue to meet those ongoing needs, but now to also respond to the trauma, pain and grief felt by so many.

Through our deep connection to Israel and as fellow Jews, kol *Yisrael areivim zeh la-zeh* (all of Israel are responsible for one another) has never resonated more deeply than right now.

Please give generously to the JCFS Annual Supporters Campaign, so that we can also make a difference at home.

*Am Yisrael Chai!!!!*

Al Benarroch  
Executive Director

## President's Message



On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to wish all of our clients, donors, funders, volunteers, staff and the overall Jewish community Shana Tovah, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Beginning on a very serious note, this is a difficult time for our JCFS family and for our community. Whether

it is in Israel, Winnipeg or anywhere else in the diaspora, many people are impacted by the terror and hate being inflicted on Jews everywhere. Whether it is the terrorist attacks in Israel, or the increasing prevalence of antisemitism in all corners of our world, it takes a terrible, and very real toll, on all of us. We understand that many people in our community are feeling stressed and anxious for a variety of reasons.

At JCFS, we have taken steps to provide additional resources so we can assist our community. We have invested in more professional staff to work in our mental health and addictions departments.

Secondly, I wanted to welcome our two newest Board members. Reannah Hocken and Abby Morris were elected to our Board of Directors at our June AGM. I am excited to hear their input on the issues that are brought to our Board table. They will bring their extensive experience in both the Jewish and general communities to benefit JCFS and help move us forward. Welcome aboard!

And lastly, the need for more office space has become a major concern for our staff and our Board of Directors.

Like in most businesses, our staff have returned to working out of the office (most of the time), but with growing concerns about close contact, and a growing staff, we need more space. We are investigating a variety of options to alleviate this concern. But it will not be possible without your support, during this Annual Supporters Campaign.

We hope we can count on your support. Together we are here for each other.

Be well, be safe and be kind.  
*Am Israel Chai,*

Al Shpeller, Board Chair

Regardless of whether you are a JCFS client, if someone you know needs to reach out for assistance, please call us. It's why we're here.

## THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



## THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING



There is always something exciting at JCFS that will help and to connect you with our vibrant community.



Scan to Register



Scan to Register



Scan to Register



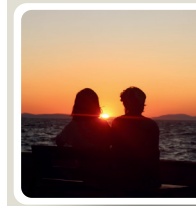
### Serenity Shabbat

In partnership with Synagogues in Winnipeg, participate in a unique Service that provides a safe and compassionate space for those who have been touched by addiction.

NOV

24-25

2023



### Navigating Interfaith Relationships

Interfaith relationships within a Jewish context can be complex and meaningful. Join us for an online panel discussion filled with wisdom and guidance.

NOV

30

2023

You were of course instrumental in carrying me through the critical times and have been a lifeline to myself and my family." – JCFS CLIENT

## JCFS STANDS WITH ISRAEL

We, like so many others, were shocked and horrified by the events that began on Saturday, October 7th.

On that day, more Jews were killed and injured than any other day since the Holocaust. It was a day that saw families torn apart, the innocent kidnapped, and destruction beyond belief. It was a day that kicked off a brutal war between Israel and Hamas.

Our lives have been forever changed.

The JCFS community pivoted to meet the needs of the community during this dark time.

Our staff-led initiatives included:

- Staff and Board orchestrated an internal fundraiser for Magen David Adom, raising nearly \$700.00
- Staff members made and printed off signs to be shared at the Israel Solidarity Gathering
- Staff members volunteered for the Rady JCC Challah Bake

Our agency response included:

- Creating safe debrief spaces for staff to be supported through the emotional impact
- Offering weekly free drop-in counselling sessions for community members impacted
- Offering twice-weekly supportive group spaces for community members to come together for strategies, compassion, and connection
- Providing consultation to other Jewish agencies that were looking for ways to support their clients and staff
- Ongoing outreach to clients struggling with these events

As Josephus, an early Jewish philosopher said, "We are born for community".

Our response is **Community for Community**, and Israel is always part of our community.

