

# Jewish Family Services Newsletter

## In Touch With the Community

Issue 28

Av 5762/August 2002

### The Jewish Balancing Act

by Lisa Bogdonov

While I debated whether or not to attend the rally on Parliament Hill last April, it was my 6-year-old who insisted on going. His desire to participate made me question my decision to protect him from what could have been his first exposure to anti-Semitism. Would I allow the history of my parents to determine the future of my child?

Recent events in the Middle East and their worldwide ramifications have propelled a constant bombardment of articles, editorials, surveys and opinions at us. It is our responsibility to filter it all for our children. Just to figure out what is true can be a challenge. Then we have to make sense of it so we can pass it on to our kids, given the reality that our presentation will form the groundwork for how they define themselves as Jews.

We want our children to feel part of k'lal Yisrael, the Jewish people. We teach them that being Jewish is unique, and want them to feel and show a pride in it. We want them to pursue justice, kindness and respect for humanity and to love being Jewish enough to share it with their children.

"On the other hand", to quote Tevia, they need to know that others see Jews in a negative light. They must learn to brave the realities of anti-Semitism so they can survive in a multicultural community. We teach them about Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Yom HaShoah and other holidays that commemorate the atrocities that have befallen our people. Yet we try to avoid making them feel paranoid or overwhelmed with fear and anxiety.

My own balancing act began with a legacy of mixed messages. My mother, a childhood survivor, learned at an early age that being

Jewish was a heavy burden to carry through life. Growing up with displaced people from Hitler's Europe, she was surrounded by Jews fighting the nightmares of their past and the poverty of their present. Numbed by the inability to afford the extra cost of a Jewish lifestyle, holidays meant harder work than everyday routines. She and many of her generation learned to mistrust others around them. Jews can never know who will turn on them when times get rough. Raised to understand Judaism as something so heavy and difficult, many of my family members chose not to identify Jewishly.

I am determined that my children learn how beautiful and how much fun Judaism can be, as well as all that it can offer. As we celebrate Shabbos and holidays with vim and vigor, my mother marvels at how our celebrations are  
(cont'd on page 2)

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## The Jewish Balancing Act (cont'd)

completely different from those she remembers. Yet, when Israel is in trouble, I am forced to see Judaism through her perception.

The constant dilemma for parents and educators of Jewish children is how to balance what we instill. We have quite a job, you and I. We walk a tightrope to keep our children from falling away from Judaism. We absolutely must implant in our next generation both the burden of belonging to a persecuted people, and the beauty of a life enriched by the blessings of Judaism. We must celebrate with enthusiasm the fun and festivities of our holidays. We must show them how to stand up against bigotry and hatred, and how to mourn the tragedies of our communal past. We must encourage them to teach it to their children. We can do all that only by example.

So, in the end, it will be my son who decides whether this balancing act can be achieved. When he tells his children about the rally he went to on Parliament Hill last April, I will know how well I did.

### JFS Newsletter Editorial Board:

Lisa Bogdonov  
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The articles in this *Newsletter* express the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the agency itself.

If any of the opinions expressed in this *Newsletter* are controversial, it is of benefit to the community that a vibrant debate of the issues ensues. If individuals are inspired or offended by any of the comments written herein, the appropriate forum is to support or challenge those opinions by letter to the Editorial Board of the *JFS Newsletter*.

Please direct any correspondence to:

JFS Newsletter - Editorial Board  
Suite 230, 1774 Kerr Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K2A 1R9

## REAP Employment Project

by Elayne Schacter

The Real Employment Action Program (REAP), a Trillium Foundation funded initiative, has been in existence for more than two years. This project has allowed JFS to help many clients secure employment in today's tight job market.

Each client receives one-to-one consultation time in which we do a full needs assessment. Following this initial interview, we develop a plan of action suited to the individual. The majority of our clients are requesting assistance with improving resumé writing, interview skills, cover letters and networking.

For job-ready clients who are referred from other JFS departments and sister-agencies, REAP is a springboard into the workplace. Our evaluation process includes follow-up interviews with our clients on a regular basis in order to support them in their jobs. Success is measured in the number of clients who secure meaningful employment.

We are currently concentrating on finding larger organizations who will employ our clients. Larger organizations offer opportunities for skill development and for advancement within the organization.

The major obstacle facing many of our clients is the lack of work experience. To secure employment, there is often a requisite of experience. How do they obtain experience without being given that opportunity? REAP staff encourage employers to offer that first employment opportunity.

REAP is a joint-venture between Jewish Family Services, Catholic Family Service, and the Family Service Centre, with funding from the Trillium Foundation and the Vaad Ha'ir. These start-up grants end in January 2003. The challenge facing JFS today, is that we have been unable to find sustaining funding. If other funding is not secured, this valuable program will sadly come to an end. The 50 people annually who would have found employment through REAP will be left without the assistance they need to compete for jobs.

Please see the back cover of this issue for a list of clients currently seeking employment, or call the REAP office at 722-2225, ext. 318.

## **JFS Security Improvements**

by Lisa Bogdonov

On May 24, 2002, the Ottawa Police issued a press release warning of potential anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish community buildings in our city. While the community was put on alert, the police department stepped up surveillance of the 15 communal buildings in question, and established a "priority 1" status for all Jewish and Israeli agencies throughout the city. This means that a call from a Jewish organization takes priority over other calls for police assistance, and that a response time of less than 2 minutes could be expected.

The Jewish community's response to these warnings included a global increase in security. Many schools and synagogues have hired additional security guards, and everyone seems to be keeping an eye out for anything suspicious. At JFS, the alert propelled an in-depth evaluation of current security systems in and around our offices, as well as the implementation of new procedures.

In addition to the protective measures already in place, staff received some training on how to identify and diffuse suspicious situations or encounters. Monitoring cameras have been installed at both entrances to the building to compliment the existing intercom access. Also worth noting are the initiatives put into place by the Vaad. Trained security personnel now patrol the buildings, parking areas and grounds throughout the Jewish community campus.

In order to ensure the highest possible level of security, visitors to JFS offices are now required to state their name and the name of the person they wish to see before gaining access to the building. Visitors are also reminded not to let anyone in when they enter or leave the building. Diligence in these matters will assist in maintaining the safest environment possible for our clients, volunteers and staff.

## **L'Shana Tovah**

The staff and Board of Jewish Family Services would like to wish a happy, healthy and sweet year to all our supporters. May you be inscribed in the Book of Life.

## **Anonymous Donor Sponsors Shvuos Party**

by Michael Markov, *Settlement*

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Russian Jewish community celebrated Shvuos with a cheesecake party. On May 12, 2002, over one hundred Russian-speaking immigrants gathered at Congregation Beth Shalom West to participate in festivities. In celebration of the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, Hebrew-Russian chumashim were given as gifts.

Rabbi Finkelstein welcomed everyone, following which all guests were invited to enjoy traditional blintzes, bagels and cheesecake. After the meal, Dr. Vladimir Vais gave a very inspiring and insightful speech. He spoke at length on the meaning of the holiday, as well as why and how it should be celebrated. The question and answer period saw a lively discourse between teenagers and Dr. Vias. While adults were listening to the speaker, young kids were entertained in a separate room doing arts and crafts on the topic of Shvuos with Tom Birkhan.

It was a wonderful program enjoyed by all. On behalf of all our participants, we would like to express our appreciation to those who made the party such a success.

This program marked the beginning of what has become a study group on Judaism in the Russian language, which continued on July 16, 2002 with a lecture on Tisha B'Av.

### **Rosh Hashanah**

sundown, September 6, 2002  
(candle lighting time is 7:12 pm)  
until sundown, September 8, 2002

### **Yom Kippur**

sundown, September 15, 2002  
(candle lighting time is 6:59 pm)  
until sundown, September 16, 2002

### **Succot**

sundown, September 20, 2002  
(candle lighting time is 6:45 pm)  
until sundown, September 22, 2002

### **Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**

sundown, September 27, 2002  
(candle lighting time is 6:31 pm)  
until sundown, September 29, 2002

## **New Beginnings**

by **Mark Zarecki**, *Executive Director*

The recent budget allocation from the UJA campaign has ushered in a change in Jewish communal funding priorities. Until this new funding year, a sizeable portion of JFS poverty relief came from private donations such as the Bina fund.

The increased UJA allocation brings us to a level that is starting to meet the needs of low income Jewish clients, and is helping us reduce homelessness in our community. This is a new initiative for JFS, and we are pleased that the Vaad/UJA is now an active partner in this activity. Historically, the only recourse JFS had was to refer Jews to the overcrowded public shelter system.

Over the past year, through Bina funding, more than 20 families were able to keep their dwelling or find a new one without going to homeless shelters. This has shown in a very tangible way that the most basic need for shelter can be met in a time when government policy is forcing people onto the street.

Today, we can proudly say that the Ottawa Jewish community is showing the will and capacity to take on the challenge of reducing homelessness.

## **Tele-Health Ontario**

by **Lisa Bogdonov**

The Ontario Ministry of Health now offers a service called Tele-Health Ontario. A toll-free call connects you to a registered nurse, 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week, who will field calls regarding any medical problem, answer questions, provide information, and direct you for any necessary follow-up.

When you call for the first time, an individualized profile will be created and entered into a computer database, which can be quickly accessed during future calls simply by providing your home phone number. Each member of your family will have a personalized profile, including any allergies, medications or long-term conditions.

Despite my skepticism, I recently accessed TeleHealth Ontario. I expected to be treated like a number and to receive very little in terms of useful assistance. To my very pleasant surprise, the nurse I spoke to was

## **TeleHealth (cont'd)**

knowledgeable, helpful and resourceful - she even understood the naturopathic and homeopathic remedies I was using! Before she hung up, she encourage me to call her back if I was nervous or worried.

I strongly recommend making use of TeleHealth Ontario before running to the doctor or hospital emergency room. It may be all you need, and can be accessed by calling 1-866-797-0000.

## **May Day Celebrations**

by **Irina Schogoleva**

The 9<sup>th</sup> of May is a special holiday in Russia and in all of the former Soviet Union. It is Victory Day of the Second World War over Germany. In May 1945, fascism was defeated.

You can meet participants of that unforgettable war everywhere. There are a lot of former Soviet veterans living in Israel now, and they always celebrate this day and put on their medals. There are some of them in Ottawa, as well.

Jewish Family Services celebrated Victory Day with Russian-speaking veterans and pensioners at Agudath Israel Synagogue. About 80 Russian-speaking guests came to meet their friends, to share their reminiscences with others, and to listen to old songs.

JFS volunteers brought audio cassettes of rare songs which had inspired soldiers during the Second World War. These songs are well known by all people over 65 years of age from the former Soviet Union. Participants of the war (there were more than 20 of them in attendance) spoke about their youth and about those heroic years. Some of them were really heroes, but almost nobody knew it before! They were presented with books about the Second World War written in the Russian language.

After the ceremony, there was an informal party with tasty kosher food and wine, long conversations and, of course, more singing. All our guests sang together, and Isaac Muzikansky provided live music. It was truly a red-letter day for everyone who attended. Many, many thanks to Jewish Family Services.

## Donations Made Between June 1 and July 15, 2002

Abbey, Rhoda	Blumenthal, David	Dubinsky, Anita
Abelson, Lois	Bonder, Arieh	Dubinsky, Beatrice
Abrahamson Family Fund	Bookman, Abe	Dubinsky, Mary
Abrams, Tanya	Borts, Mark	Dubitsky, Will
Acel, George	Botner, Michael	Dubrofsky, Mr. & Mrs. D
Ackerman, Leah	Boulakia, Danielle	Edelstein, Doris
Addelman, Richard	Braiter, Helen	Ellison, Howard
Adler, Mr. & Mrs. Ian	Bregman, Cecily	Elnitsky, Leo
Ages, Esther	Brodie, Joel	Evenchick, Heather
Ages, Franceen	Brodkin, Harvey	Fainaru, Frinel
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Appotive, Sharon	Caplan, George	Fine, Barbara
Aptowitz, Rev & Mrs. David	Caplan, Mr. & Mrs. D.	Fine, Reuben
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Barchechat, Michele	Clark, Tova	Friedman, Beverly
Baylin, Debbie	Cogan, Arthur	Friedman, Robert
Belfer, Harvey	Cogan, Elizabeth	Friedman, Sylvia
Bellman, Seymour	Cohen, Minerva	Friendly, Louis
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Benovoy, Barry	Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. Mark	Gamarnik, Kasan
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Bercovitch, Mr. & Mrs. M.	Cohen, Suzanne Kert	Gardner, Simmy
Berman, Shirley	Cohn, Harry	Garfinkel, Elaine
Beutel, Karen	Comm, Leonard	Gaty, George
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Birenbaum, Rhonda	Cowan, Mr. & Mrs. Herb	Gertsman, Allen
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Black, Mr. & Mrs. Warren	Diener, Mr. & Mrs. S.	Gilman, Helen
Blakey, Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan	Dolansky, Dr. & Mrs. B	Ginsberg, Jack
Blattel, Ronald	Dover, Mark	Ginsberg, Joseph
Bloom, Helen	Drache, Arthur	Gladstone, David
Blue, Dar	Dreskin, Ruth	Gluss, Jerry

## Donations Made Between June 1 and July 15, 2002 (cont'd)

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Goldberg, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald	Kirsh, Judy	Morgan, Steven
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Goldberg, Reva	Klein, Jack	Moses, Ady
Goldmaker, Sam	Klein, Louise	Moss, Katherine
Goldman, Dora	Koffman, Joe	Naemark, Jean
Goldman, Rhoni Fern	Koffman, Joel	Nathanson, Toby
Goldstein, Aubrey	Koranyi, Dr. E	Neuman, David
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Gosewich, Herbert	Krantzberg, Julius	Niznick, Dr. Joel
Gosewich, Pamela	Kraychik, David	Nozick, David
Gould, Jeffrey	Krichew, Lloyd	Paghis, Irvine
Greenbaum, Toby	Kruger, Akiva	Palef, Zelma
Greenberg, Arnold	Kronick, Sydney	Paul, Morrie
Greenberg, Gary	Kulik, Irving	Pearl, Sandy
Greenberg, Gladys	Lawrence, Gail	Permut, Marsha
Greenberg, Susan	Lazarus, Rhonda	Pioatrkowski, Carroll
Greenspoon, Sylvia	Lazear, Mr. & Mrs. P.	Plant, Charlene
Gurevitch, Jean	Leder, Ellen	Polowin, Ann
Guttman, Jacob	Lesh, George	Polowin, Gerald
Hadad, Wendy	Levine, Joy	Pomerlan, Ben
Harris, Shelley	Levine, Rhonda	Rabow, Dena
Hart, William	Levitan, Elliott	Rappaport, Anita
Hartman, Irwin	Levitan, Frieda	Rappoport, Jeffrey
Hayes, Chana	Levitan, Ronald	Reichstein, Irwin
Heifets, Yuri	Lewinshtein, Samuel	Rivers, Evelyn
Heisel, Susan	Lieff, David	Rivier, Jean
Hillel, Grace	Litwack, Sam	Roodman, Paula Bar-Noy
Holzman, John	Lieff, Evelyn	Rosenberg, Betty
Honigman, Hennie	Loeb, David	Rosenbloom, Alan
Hotz, Dr. & Mrs. M	Lunn, John	Rosenfeld, G.B
Huberman, Ronald	Marcovitch, Dr. J	Rosove, Lori
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Hytman, Lorne	Matt, Merle haltrecht	Rumstein, Mr. & Mrs. G
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Kadar, George	Mayost, Sam	Saipe, Marcia
Kanigsberg, Nordeau	Mendel, L.	Saxonov, Gennady
Kardash, Dr. & Mrs. S	Mendell, Lawrence	Schacter, Elayne
Kardish, Moe	Meyer, Leslie	Schecter, Lena
Kardish, Mr. & Mrs. V.	Miller, Avis	Schwartz, Joan
Kark, Anatol	Mintz, K.J.	Senman, Stephen
Kassirer, A.L.	Mintz, Sharon	Shabsove, Charles
Katz, Elizabeth	Miron, Reissa	Shabsove, Hugh
Katz, Jeff	Molnar, Gerald	Shaolian, Meir
Katz, Libby & Stan	Molot, Maureen	Shapiro, Tillie
Katz, Susan	Monson, Howard	Sher, Erica & Graham
Katznelson, Lillian	Moon, Robert	Shinder, Israel

## Donations Made Between June 1 and July 15, 2002 (cont'd)

Shoihet, Lillian	Takefman, Pearl
Shore Davis	Taller, Martin
Shore, David	Taylor, Jeffrey
Silver, Marion	Temple Israel
Singer, Irving	Tennenhouse, Selma
Singerman, Sydney	Thomas, Sandra
Skoll, David	Vassilets, Vladimir
Slipacoff, David	Ward, Debra
Smith, Joel	Wargon, Sylvia
Stein, Harris	Waserman, Marilyn
Steinberg, Anne	Weinsberg, Rosalin
Steinberg, Shirley	Kohn
Stern, Joseph	Weinzweig, Laurie
Stern, Natalie	Winer, Stanley
Stern, Richard	Wolfish, Karen
Stern, Sharon	Wright, Beatrice

### A Little Help Means A Lot....

*If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact our volunteer department at 722-2225, ext. 304.*

- Due to a sudden increase in the number of isolated seniors in need of services, TeleShalom is in urgent need of more "5 minute morning volunteers". Calls can be made from work or home.
- An isolated widow living in the Alta Vista area loves to chat about music and literature. She would appreciate a good discussion with another woman who has similar interests on a weekly basis. Use of a car would be helpful for outings.
- A west-end gentleman who is interested in Jewish affairs, history, music and business would appreciate a male visitor on a weekly basis. A female equivalent who could visit the lady of this house would also be most appreciated.
- A lovely French (and English) speaking couple originally from Egypt would love to link up with a single or couple for weekly visits.
- A cultured lady living in Nepean is looking for similar who would enhance her life with a weekly visit.

## JFS Volunteers: Armchair Travellers

by Bev Grostern, Coordinator Volunteer Services

Two main themes ran through our volunteer appreciation event on May 23, 2002: dreams and giving. Our guest speaker, Diane Steumer from Ottawa, her husband and three sons traveled the waters of the world in a small boat, fulfilling a dream that she had for a long time. Ottawa was fortunate to be part of this dream. Each week, we awaited the Saturday Citizen, in which Diane shared her travels.

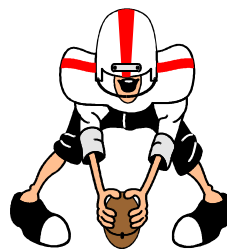
Volunteers were invited to hear this first hand account of her travels at our annual celebration of JFS volunteers. It was more than an armchair experience. We were transported to situations and places that we will probably never experience ourselves. What a treat! And treat is what JFS wanted to offer its volunteers on that afternoon.

For endless hours during the year, our volunteers happily give their time to enhance the lives of others in our community. The lonely receive a visit or a phone call, the older clients get hot meals, the immigrant is given an opportunity to feel more comfortable speaking English, and transportation is provided to those who need it.

Thanks again to Diane for showing us that dreams can be realized. Thanks also to our volunteers who, by their gift of giving, enable our clients to move a little closer to fulfilling their dreams.

### New Volunteers

JFS is pleased to introduce you to the most recent volunteer members of **Team JFS**:



Roz Kanigsberg  
 Brian Levitan  
 Susan Livergant  
 Yanda Max  
 Aviva Orme Scott  
 Shirley Steinberg  
 Lawrence Zinman  
 Dick Zuker

There must be a reason why so many are joining **Team JFS**. To find out, please call Bev at 722-2225 ext. 304.

