



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE WINNIPEG BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION
ANNOUNCES DYNAMIC ALUMNI COMMITTEE**

October 17, 2006 – Al Benarroch, Chair of the Alumni Committee for The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (WBJE) is pleased to announce the membership of the committee for the 2006-2007 school year: Robyn Lieberman, Avrom Charach, David Gurvey, Cindy Yusim, Jonathan Waldman, Steven Hyman, and Jackie Winestock.

Al Benarroch (Class of '82) is a Talmud Torah and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (JWC) graduate who received a BA (Hons.) in Psychology from the University of Winnipeg, and Masters in Clinical Psychology from Lakehead University. Al has been Clinical Director of Jewish Child and Family Service since 1999 where he continues to serve the Winnipeg Jewish community. "I have a strong commitment to Jewish values, tradition and education, through my active synagogue participation, continued Jewish learning and lay leadership as a High Holidays services leader. I hope to bring my professional and personal expertise to the Board of Jewish Education to assist Gray Academy in maintaining its pursuit of both General and Judaic academic excellence." Al is married to Brenlee Sucharov (Class of '83) and they have 2 children, Amber and Simone, both attending the school. On behalf of the Alumni Committee, Al wishes to thank the WBJE for its support of alumni efforts. Al feels that as graduates, we can all feel proud of the deep rooted foundations to Jewish life and values that the school has provided us. The committee's goal is to organize and coordinate efforts on behalf of our proud and successful alumni body in assisting the school's continued commitment to educating and graduating informed and educated Jewish men and women.

Robyn Lieberman (nee Buchwald - Class of '84) is a graduate of Ramah Hebrew School and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate with an extensive family history steeped in Jewish education. Robyn's mother was a graduate of Peretz School, and her father was president of the BJE board in the early 1980's followed by a position as President of the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools. Robyn also has an Honours degree in Political Studies. She currently sits on The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education as a representative of the PAC, and is a co-chair of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Committee at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. Robyn joined the Alumni committee because as an alumnus and a parent with three children, Noah, Josh and Amy at Gray Academy, Jewish

day school education has always been very important to her and her husband Jeff. “My high school experience at JWC was so wonderful, and I want to do my part to keep former students connected to the school and make sure that Jewish day school education continues to flourish in our community for many years to come. My vision for the Alumni Committee is to reconnect former graduates with the school and to promote continuous communication with these alumni. Keeping in touch and making connections with the alumni will enable the school to broaden its financial base of support. Alumni have that ‘special connection’ with the school and will hopefully want to support Gray Academy financially because they experienced the benefits of a Jewish Day school education and will want to see the school continue to survive into the future.”

Avrom Charach (Class of ‘84) is presently the Director of Finance and Administration at Kay Four Properties and previous to this position he worked as a Campaign Associate at Combined Jewish Appeal. Avrom and his sisters are all graduates of Talmud Torah and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate. “We all gained a commitment to Jewish life and community from this and our family life. My daughter is in her second year at Gray Academy and I am pleased and amazed to see how much she is learning, both academically and about Jewish life.” Avrom believes we should give back to our community which has given so much to us. Through his role on the Alumni committee, Avrom wants “the community to see how a Jewish education leads to successful, well rounded leaders in all aspects of the community, both secular and Jewish.” *Avrom is the recent recipient of the Max Nathanson Young Leadership Award from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.*

David Gurvey (Class of ‘84) is a Certified Management Accountant advising multi-family owners on value maximization and rental legislation. He has two children at Gray Academy. David joined the committee to ensure the school has continuity and a sound financial footing. His vision for the committee is to create an entity that can grow to where it is an influential partner in the direction of the school.

Cindy Yusim (nee Rosenberg - Class of ‘81) is a social worker for the Seven Oaks School Division. Her academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts (1984), a Bachelor of Social Work (1987) and a Masters of Social Work (1997). Cindy’s two older sisters graduated from Talmud Torah and her younger sister graduated from Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (1982). Cindy’s husband, Rob, is a Ramah graduate and they have three children presently attending Gray Academy. “I attended the Alumni Shabbat last spring and thought it was both beautiful and meaningful. I felt a real connection during the service and very proud to have been a JWC graduate.” Her community volunteer experience over the past years includes Big Brothers Association, Folklorama- Israeli pavilion, Gray Academy PAC, and Aleph-Bet daycare Board of Directors. Cindy’s vision for the committee includes increased PR in promoting the Alumni. “I would love to see a strong JWC/Gray Academy of Jewish Education Alumni. I feel it is important to increase awareness and celebrate who we are. Programming and fundraising are also important pieces to the puzzle. Bringing us all together with a common interest is wonderful - we all have great stories, common goals and values.”

Jonathan (Jon) Waldman (Class of '97) is currently working as an editor with Matrix Group Inc., a local trade publication group, and also is a freelance writer for numerous publications. Jon is presently serving on the Y Sports Dinner planning committee for the second year, and was a co-teacher in the Creative Writing course at Gray Academy. He has led prayer services at the Sharon Home, and participates in other fundraising events such as the Federation's Superweek campaign and the JDRF Walk for a Cure. Jon's fiancée, Elana Boxer-Meyrowitz, is a graduate from the class of 2000 and his sister graduated in 2001. Jon's vision for the committee is "to help create and update our database of alumni with up to date information, as well as work towards having another alumni Shabbat soon."

Steven Hyman (Class of '97) and two of his siblings are Ramah and JWC graduates. He is trained as a lawyer and currently is the Coordinator of Spiritual Care for the Sharon Home. Steven's community work includes CJA Superweek Co-Chair, YAD Social Action committee, YAD Jewish Engagement Committee and Board Member of the Rady Jewish Community Centre. "I have always felt that JWC is not given enough credit for its accomplishments, and that the school is one of the best high schools in Manitoba. Many of us don't realize the gifts the school has given us, until several years later. This is my chance to make people aware of what JWC has done for the community." Steven's vision for the upcoming year for the Alumni Committee is to create a greater profile, generate more publicity for events, and communicate a greater understanding of what they do.

Jackie Winestock (nee Greenstone - Class of '75) is a graduate from Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate in 1975, who also attended Talmud Torah and JWC along with her brother Sid Greenstone who graduated in 1972. Jackie is a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at the Victoria Hospital, and completed a B.Sc. in 1984 and is currently a research nurse for a clinical drug trail. Jackie's community work is extensive: she was the last President of the Talmud Torah - JWC PTA and the first president of the PAC for Shore Elementary when the schools merged. She has been on the BJE, National Council of Jewish Women Board and held almost every position in the Sarah Bell Branch of NCJW. Currently finishing an appointment on the Jewish Federation, Jackie is also the Co-President of the Camp Massad Board of Directors which she has been on for over 10 years. She has recently been asked to join the BBYO Adult Board and also is involved with the Jewish Federation subcommittee: Community Priorities. Her two sons, Josh and Benji, attend Gray Academy and came from Talmud Torah when the schools merged. Jackie has been involved with the JWC Alumni Committee for five years now and created the alumni database with Sharon Chisvin (Class of '77). "My vision is to keep planning events. We need to collect the stories and document them somehow because whenever we get together we relive the stories. There are also lots of grads that we have no idea where they are and we need to find them. They will be a good source of information about the history of the school, and when you see where these grads are, it is an amazing place. There are so many accomplished people who have their roots in our school. Maybe this will encourage students to stay and parents to enroll." *Jackie has been recognized for her volunteer commitment and was the recipient of the Harry Silverberg Award from the Jewish Federation in 2000 for young leadership.*

Other Alumni committee members are involved on an ad hoc basis.

Michael Benarroch (Class of '77), President of The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, congratulates Alumni Committee members on their respective appointments, and welcomes them to Gray Academy of Jewish Education.

Recently accredited by the Canadian Educational Standards Institute (CESI), Gray Academy is one of three schools in Winnipeg to receive this distinctive honour.

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For further information on the Alumni Committee, to get involved, or to update us on your personal story, please contact:

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