

PRESS RELEASE

UNIQUE MULTI-GENERATIONAL PROGRAM FORMS LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

February 17, 2009 – For the past several years, a Jewish Child and Family Service (JCFS) program for Holocaust survivors has been offered every other week at the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre. Typically, the program is an enjoyable afternoon of lunch, socializing and entertainment. On **Thursday, February 19**, Grade 10 Gray Academy of Jewish Education students will be involved in a unique multi-generational program for the second year in a row that reunites them with this “Reaching Out” Drop-In Lunch Program for Survivors of the Holocaust.

Last year, these same students met with some of the participants of the survivors group in preparation for a trip to Washington DC that in Grade 9 was part of the ***Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies*** program. Upon the students’ return from Washington in 2008, they met with the JCFS Survivors’ group for a second time. During this visit, students had the opportunity to share some of their experiences at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Krista Zipper, case-aide for the program, felt the students gained many insights and gathered information about what life was like before and after the war. Many of the seniors were youngsters themselves when the war broke out. Not all were imprisoned in concentration camps. Some were sent to work camps, while others were in hiding. By speaking with the survivors, the students learned that everyone had their own unique story to tell.

Gail Thau, Older Adult Service worker who coordinates the program, emphasized the many positive outcomes of the interchange between the students and the seniors. Many of the participants thanked her personally for arranging the program.

Lori Binder, Vice Principal at Gray Academy, felt the program made a tremendous impact on the students’ understanding of the Holocaust and made their visit to Washington last year much more meaningful. Many of them had heard speakers talk about the Holocaust, but this program fostered a relationship the school is hoping will continue. “The trip was meant to be more than a memory. It was meant to be a human rights experience that will deepen their understanding and shape their lives and influence the kind of people they will become,” said Ms. Binder.

This week, both groups will have an opportunity to spend time again at a lunch specially prepared for them by the Grade 9 cooking class, and then will participate in activities suitable for both age groups such as using the *Wii*, watching a film or visiting the Heritage Centre.

Gray Academy of Jewish Education is a JK-Grade 12 university preparatory school that places equal value on Jewish and General academic programs, and provides

opportunities to nurture the emotional well-being and spiritual development of all students.

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Please join us on Thursday, February 19 for this interactive workshop:

Gray Academy of Jewish Education
Multi-Purpose Room
123 Doncaster Street
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

The students will be leading the following workshops:

- A visit to the new Heritage Centre Museum Display
- Watching the National Film Board's "The Jews of Winnipeg"
- Playing sports games on the *Wii* – a great activity for all ages

For further information and/or to interview participants, please contact:

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