

Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STUDENTS AT GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION
PERFORM “*CHESED SHEL EMET*”**

October 12, 2006 – Lori Binder, Vice-Principal, Gray Academy of Jewish Education, is proud that a group of dedicated senior students regularly perform the mitzvah of volunteering to act as pallbearers for the Jewish community when required.

Students in grades 11 and 12 are picked up at Gray Academy, and taken to the Chesed Shel Emes to assist Executive Director Rena Boroditsky with the burial service. Most of them have performed this ultimate act of kindness on more than one occasion, with one student volunteering five times so far.

Students Damian Melamedoff, Jordyn Lerner, Eyal Kraut, Josh Winestock, Hernan Chernitsky, David Rubinfeld and David Coodin who have completed or in the process of taking *The Jewish Lifecycle* course, focus on two major life events: marriage and family life, and death and mourning, and spend half a year on the *Jewish Way of Death and Mourning* portion.

Lawrence Goldstine who teaches the grade 11 Lifecycle course believes this compulsory subject gives students a broader perspective on Jewish lifecycle events. “By giving them a real life Jewish perspective on death and mourning they are able to talk about illness, as there have been times during the course when a student loses a loved one.”

Rena Boroditsky says the Jewish approach to death is twofold: to comfort the mourners, and to show respect for the deceased. Chesed Shel Emes is thankful for the support of the school, and the participation of the students who receive experience that will train them to be the community leaders of tomorrow.

“I was just at a funeral of an elderly woman who had little connection with the organized Jewish community. She had a very small family and there was no one who could act as pallbearers. I just wanted to let you know that the Grade 11 and 12 students who came to do this difficult job were excellent. They were respectful, appropriate and appeared understanding of the situation. We could all be proud of them...,” says Emily Shane, Executive Director, Jewish Child and Family Service.

At the Gray Academy Awards Program held last week for Grade 7 to Senior 3, three students each received a prayer book for the **Chesed Shel Emes Recognition Award** for their commitment last year: Hernan Chernitsky, Jordyn Lerner and Josh Winestock.

Michael Benarroch, President of The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, praises Gray Academy students for their exceptional devotion to this important and meaningful lifecycle event in the Jewish community.

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