

Gray Academy

OF JEWISH EDUCATION



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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL FUNDRAISING TEA FOR SHALOM RESIDENCES

October 25, 2006 – Lori Binder, Vice-Principal, Gray Academy of Jewish Education, is proud to announce that a group of dedicated senior students will be participating in the Shalom Residences Annual Fundraising Tea and Fabulous Raffle.

Shalom Residences is a non-profit organization that provides care in community-based homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. Their philosophy is that people with intellectual disabilities have the right to be full members of their community, and that it is the duty of the community to ensure that opportunities for their participation exist in social, religious and cultural arenas.

Lawrence Goldstine's "*Gemilut Chasidim*" grade 10 course teaches students that the world is sustained by three things: Torah (Teachings of the Scripture), Avodah (Worship of God) and Gemilut Chasidim (Acts of Kindness). This course combines an intellectual understanding of the moral values as taught in our traditions, with an emotional part of caring for oneself, our community and society and a practical aspect of charitable actions.

Students taking Mr. Goldstine's course are required to volunteer 30 hours during the course of the school year in a non-profit organization for the Chesed component of the program. Students who volunteer for the Shalom Residences Annual Tea have an opportunity to participate and learn from community outreach; they are:

Steven Baker
Adeena Cooperband
Noa Farage
Lindsay Kerr

Skye Kneller
Dalit Leitman
Aliza Lerner
Valeriya Petrov

Jessica Lezen
Sara Stras
Dalia Tchernov

“Once a year I speak to grade 10 classes about the role Shalom Residences plays in the Jewish community. In my presentation I stress the importance of the inclusion of intellectually challenged in our community. By volunteering their time for Shalom Residences they make such a difference not only to the residences of the home but also to the many seniors who have supported this organization for many years,” says Harriet Cipilinski, Special Needs Educational Assistant at Gray Academy of Jewish Education.

“When our faithful supporters see the beautiful Gray Academy students serving them tea, their eyes light up. Some are truly moved to tears to see the next generation continuing their legacy of support for this worthwhile cause.”

Harriet recounts a personal family story about her sister Tammy, born with Down’s syndrome, who was the second oldest of five siblings. “When Tammy became a resident of Shalom at the age of 37...a new world opened up for her...the world of independence. It was Tammy’s home away from home. My family gave Tammy her soul...Shalom gave her a life.”

Nancy Hughes, Executive Director of Shalom Residences, is very grateful to again have students from Gray Academy volunteer at the annual event. “Students have been formally recruited to assist at the Tea for the past seven years. We hope that the students enjoy themselves, and benefit from the opportunity to assist in a worthwhile cause and meet and learn more about people who live within Shalom Residences.”

They currently serve twenty-eight men and women in six houses and four apartments, and are the only organization in Western Canada offering this support in a Jewish milieu.

This year’s event takes place on Sunday October 29 at Congregation Etz Chayim at 123 Matheson Avenue from 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

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For further information, please contact:

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