

# Ruach Reflections

February 2008

Gray Academy of Jewish Education

Shevat /Adar I 5768

## Upcoming Events

February 3	Model UN trip to New York
February 4	No school - in-service
February 5	Open House (JK-1) - MPR @ 7pm
February 7	Open House (7-12) - MPR @ 7pm
February 8	Report Cards go Home
February 8	Grade 6 Shabbaton
February 10	Grade 9-12 Ski Trip Departs
February 12	Board Meeting @ 7pm
February 18	No school - Provincial Holiday
February 19	PAC Meeting @ 7:30 pm
February 19	Alumni Meeting @ 7pm

## Raoul Wallenberg Day

Students at the Gray Academy (Grades 9-12) as well as 15 debating team students from St. Johns-Ravenscourt had the honour of participating in the annual Raoul Wallenberg Day, on Thursday, January 17, 2008. No words can express how well the day went. Raoul Wallenberg Day celebrates the legacy of the Swedish diplomat who saved over 100,000 Jews during World War II.

The day began with an orientation, where Dr. Ruth Ashrafi, Director of Judaic Studies at Gray Academy introduced the students to Raoul Wallenberg, to the ethic of *"tikkun olam"*, and encouraged us to follow in Wallenberg's footsteps to make a difference in the world. Shelley Faintuch, Community



Relations Director of the Jewish Federation talked about the Afghan community, linked the theme of the day "Afghan-emerging rights" with Raoul Wallenberg Day and introduced MP Anita Neville. Students were privileged to

hear Captain Dave Muralt, the keynote speaker for the day, who spoke about Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan, and shared his personal experiences while serving in Kandahar for 9 months through a remarkable slideshow.

Following the morning's orientation, the students broke out into different prearranged sessions, where they had the opportunity to listen to various guests who had come to talk about their personal experiences and connection to Afghanistan. The honoured guests of the day were: Captain Dave Muralt, Ariana Yaftali, Dr. Richard Gordon, Daniel Ashrafi, Dr. Wassay Niazi, Alex Dobrota and Meena Niazi, who all spoke wonderfully, and truly touched the students here at Gray Academy. In the afternoon, students attended two more sessions, where they were able to hear other presentations.



Following the break out sessions in the afternoon, students, staff, facilitators, and honoured guest all reconvened in the

Berney Theatre for closing remarks on the inspiring day. During the session, a Book of Thanks was presented to Member of Parliament, Ms. Joy Smith, on behalf of the students to show support to our government for its involvement in Afghanistan. Ms. Smith in return announced that she would sit down with Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, and make him aware of what the students here at Gray Academy have done. At the end of the day, students were shown a video, produced by Jorel Minuk, remembering Canadian soldiers who lost their life while serving in Afghanistan. The presentation was followed by a moment of silence.

Students immediately responded to today's event: They want to fundraise and reach out, and do what they can, to try and make a difference in Afghanistan - true *Tikkun Olam* - an ethic well known at school.

The day was a huge success, and it is necessary to thank those who truly made the day possible. Shelley Faintuch, Madeline Kowall, Dr. Ruth Ashrafi, the Student Steering Committee consisting of: Tali Aziza, Zev Faintuch, David Rubinfeld, and Michael Schwartz, as well as all of the volunteers, and honoured guests.

- David Rubinfeld, Grade 12 student





## Elementary Students Participate in Music Workshop with Famous Duo

On Friday, January 18th, the Brillaner Duo performed for the JK, K, and Grade 1 students in the MPR, and engaged them in role playing as they listened carefully to the sounds played, and then asked students to use their imagination to interpret the actions behind those notes.

The Brillaner Duo, featuring Shirley Brill on clarinet and Jonathan Aner on piano are a couple both onstage and off, and met during a ping-pong match.

Gray Academy was the only school that the Brillaner Duo worked with on their tour, and we were thrilled to be selected, thanks to Producer Karla Berbrayer.



## Grade 4 Parent Party

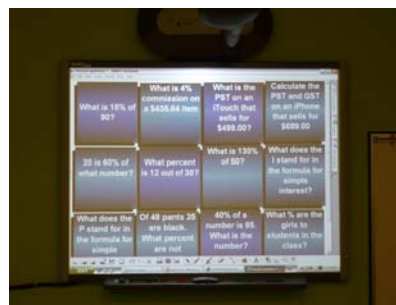


On December 15, PAC sponsored a Grade 4 parent party at the home of Janice and Chuck Rubin along with fellow hosts Marni and Hartley Miller. It was the first grade party to occur and they are hoping for other grades to follow in the New Year. The party was a great success with Vice Principal Joyce Kerr in attendance to represent the school, along with representation from the Board and PAC.

## An Interview with Judy Doctoroff - Information, Communication & Technology Department Head

PDA's, iPods, iTunes, Nanos, Facebook, Blogs, Wikis and Podcasts. Who better to ask about the latest trend in technology than people who have their pulse on it?

With the recent acquisition of an interactive Smart Board for Gray Academy, Judy Doctoroff, Department Head of Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT), can tell you this latest trend is here to stay. A Smart Board is an interactive white board whereby the user can think of themselves as the mouse on the computer.



"The value of the Smart Board is that it keeps students engaged because of its technology. The program and software that's available is so comprehensive that a teacher can create exciting lesson plans. It breathes new life into the lessons that are taught in a classroom," Ms. Doctoroff said.

Further, Ms. Doctoroff's teaching schedule includes collaborative time with teachers and students in Grades 4-6. The reason for the collaboration is to improve students' literacy with ICT across the curriculum.

And when not providing teacher training and instruction to students on the latest IT purchase, Judy Doctoroff also organizes the annual Model U.N. trip to New York for high school students. This is an incredible opportunity for our students to engage with other Jewish students across North America, and to simulate debate resolutions akin to those seen at the United Nations.

Ms. Doctoroff also teaches Math to students in Grades 7 & 8; a popular multi-media course on the latest MAC computers to students in Grades 9 & 10; and a computer graphics course to Grade 8 students.

Watch for a display of how the Smart Board works in an upcoming video to be seen on the website soon.



## Chesed Corner

### Clothing Drive

In December, Student Council organized a very important drive for **Koats for Kids**. Students were asked to bring in any new or gently used winter jackets, coats, mitts, scarves, hats, boots or snow/ski pants. Bins were set up in the second floor rotunda and the response was great!



### Tzedakah Project

Today Rabah to the families who have been contributing to our ongoing Yom Ha'azmaut Tzedakah project. We have completed Project #1 - Stand Together - and we are proud to say that we collected \$72.00 for treats for soldiers. This is in addition to money that many of you donated directly to the organization on line.

The second project that monies are being raised for in Rosh Chodesh Shvat, January 7- February 5, 2008 is called "Table to Table". Table to Table was founded in January 2003 to ensure that excess food is distributed to people in need.

Table to Table collects excess, unsold food from catered events, corporate cafeterias, army bases, food manufacturers, grocery farms, and packing houses and delivers the food to food banks, homeless shelters, afternoon clubs for youth, seniors' residences, battered women's shelter, meals on wheels programs and more.

Kol HaKavod to all for their contributions to worthy causes that will help feed the hungry and clothe those in need.

## Avi Chai Foundation

The AVI CHAI Foundation, is a New York-based private foundation, dedicated to supporting and encouraging the growing Jewish day school movement.

The objectives of AVI CHAI are to encourage those of the Jewish faith towards a greater commitment to Jewish observance and lifestyle by increasing their understanding, appreciation and practice of Jewish traditions, customs and laws; and to encourage mutual understanding and sensitivity among Jews of different religious backgrounds and commitments to observance.

AVI CHAI also provides our school with funding for Experiential Jewish Education that includes the annual Jewish Awareness Retreat and the Spirit Weekend.

Aligned with one of our commitments to maintain the importance of Israel, AVI CHAI Foundation proclaims, "The creation of the State of Israel is one of the seminal events in Jewish history. Recognizing the significance of the State and its national institutions, we seek to instill in our students an attachment to the State of Israel and its people as well as a sense of responsibility for their welfare."

## Tu B'Shvat Celebration



On January 22, Kindergarten students along with Morah Nancy and Morah Barb celebrated Tu B'Shvat in the MPR with sweet treats like dates, figs, raisins and orange slices. Thank you PAC for supplying oranges and raisins for each grade.

## The Alumni Corner



**EYE ON:**

**AL BENARROCH ('82)**  
**CHAIR, ALUMNI COMMITTEE**

Al Benarroch ('82) is a Talmud Torah and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate 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."



**FAITH (LINDER) KAPLAN ('79)**  
**"KEEP THE CHAIN STRONG"**

Faith Kaplan ('79) believes in community. It all started with her years at JWC, and has continued through her community volunteerism with the Jewish Historical Society, Hadassah WIZO, Combined Jewish Appeal, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, JNF, Rady JCC, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the presidency of the BJE. "Being involved gives a sense of family and community. Active volunteers leave the community a better place for having been there."



Graduating from JWC in 1979, Faith continued her education at Hebrew University, the University of Winnipeg, and University of Manitoba, graduating with a BA in Sociology and a Bcommerce (Honours) in Marketing. She was employed at MTS for 19 years in a variety of Marketing, Customer Care and Operations. She is currently the Executive Director at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

When asked about the role of the Alumni, Faith believes that continuing the connection to the school "helps to keep the chain strong". "The connection between the past and present ensures the future." Having a strong school and an active Alumni body allows the school to give resources to its students that will help them navigate their lives as Jews.

That is what community is all about.

## Reflections from a Senior Student

**Chetz Ve Keshet (CVK)** which means bow and arrow in English was the name of the Israeli style program that I participated in last summer.



CVK is a program that incorporates Israelis and North Americans in a jam-packed four week session. The whole program is army themed. For example, all the councillors are commanders in

the army and it includes a week focused on army training called *Gadna*. This week allowed me to wear a real *Tzahal* uniform, shoot an M16, navigate in groups without the help of a commander and discuss the life of an Israeli soldier.

The program is also focused on creating life long bridges between Israelis and North Americans. This is done by allowing the participants to stay for one weekend with one of the Israelis on the trip. The rest of the program is full of beautiful hikes all over the country, tours of ancient and modern Israel and discussions on Judaism. This trip strengthened my love for Israel and my desire to return.



My next dream summer in Israel would be to go on **Nesiya Kehilla**. This program is designed to encourage its participants to become Jewish leaders through its intense itinerary. It includes community service throughout Israel, Jewish study, arts workshops and outdoor adventures. This program is also mixed with Israeli participants and looks like a powerful program that will teach me new things about Israel.

To sum up, after *CVK* and hopefully after *Nesiya Kehilla* I will broaden my Zionism and keep Israel a part of my life forever.

*Aviva Cramer - Grade 10 student*

## Go Raiders Go!

### Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball wins the St. Anne Tournament

The Raiders started the tournament by playing Lac du Bonnet. The team was led by Yael Kaplan - M.V.P. of the game! She had a total of 27 points. The final score was 57-30 and the game was full of team work and they were pumped for their second game that day!

Friday night the J.V. Girls started their second successful game against Teulon. They came in strong with Meka Kraut leading the way with 15 points. Their hard defense throughout the game led them to the final score of 44-11. They finished the game with a lot of excitement, knowing that they were in the finals the next day!

The final game of the tournament was against John Taylor - the #1 J.V. team in Winnipeg. The team defeated John Taylor 47-31. The game was full of total team effort. Sheara Raber was the M.V.P. of the game for her solid defense!

The girls finished off a great weekend by placing first in the tournament!! The overall tournament M.V.P. was Yael Kaplan, averaging 32 points a game! Congrats J.V. Girls!

- Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team

### CHAT Basketball Tournament in Toronto



In December, Judaic Studies teacher Rochelle Gamliel and the senior boys attended in the 12th Annual Becker Basketball Tournament in Toronto. It was an event that combined athleticism along with Judaism as participants from Boston, Philadelphia and New York also took part in a Shabbaton weekend.

The tournament is named in memory of Israel Becker who had a passion for sports and a devotion to his community. This special event contained all things that Israel loved: religion, sports, friendship and fun.

## Go Raiders Go!

### Basketball

The basketball season got off to an early start this season as Gray Academy hosted two pre-season exhibition tournaments. The Grade 8 boys' and Junior Varsity boys' teams combined to host several schools during the first week of December while the Grade 9 boys invited 3 schools to play a round robin in the week prior to winter vacation.

Gray Academy basketball teams have started the season with strong performances from all our teams, as we boast a winning record at this point in the schedule.



The Grade 8 boys have been dominant in league play. They also recently travelled to Portage la Prairie and defeated their hosts convincingly. The Grade 9 boys have a 2-1 record and look forward to a strong second half of the season.

The JV boys have been unstoppable as they have run off four straight wins in league play. They have also posted impressive results in the Wesmen Classic and Churchill High School Tournament.

The Varsity boys' team is also sporting a winning record at 2-1. The boys had a superb finish at the Shaftesbury High School Tournament early in January where they placed 3rd. The team is preparing for the St. Boniface Diocesan Tournament on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in February.

### Curling

The Gray Academy curling team is looking forward to taking its show on the road when they defend their Zone 12 title on February 8 in a one day bonspiel. The team, made up of Jonathan Ripstein, Joey Frohlinger, Steven Baker and skip, Justin Lasker, is hoping to make a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight appearance at the MHSAA Provincial Championships. This event is being hosted in Morris, Manitoba.

- Kevin Abrahams, Physical Education Teacher



## Safeway Partnership Helps Raise Funds for Special Needs Students

Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO and Lori Binder, Vice Principal of Gray Academy of Jewish Education are proud to announce a new partnership with Safeway Canada. Through Safeway's **We Care Campaign**, over \$20 million has been raised since 1998 to benefit local communities across the country, and this year, Gray Academy was chosen as Tuxedo Safeway's charity of choice.

According to their website, the 2008 focus of the Safeway We Care program "is to raise money and awareness for children and families living with disabilities - helping those facing challenges live their life to its full potential."

The goal of this partnership is to raise \$10,000 for Gray Academy's Learning Centre, Life Skills program and Disability Awareness Programs, all of which impacts all students at the school.



"I'm thrilled that Safeway selected us," said Lori Binder, Vice Principal. "Many families at Gray Academy shop at Tuxedo Safeway and we encourage all supporters of the school to help us reach our goal!"

Safeway has a theme for each day of the "**Safeway We Care Program**" that the school will participate in, whereby Gray Academy will receive 100% of the proceeds from three Sunday dates.

Gray Academy will be well represented by school administration, staff, parents, Alumni and students at Tuxedo Safeway (located at 2025 Corydon Avenue) on the following three days, and will talk to interested customers about the goal of their project:

### Safeway Miles Bring Smiles (January 27)

Customers will earn Safeway Air Miles Reward Miles by donating to the "Safeway We Care Program". For every \$2 donation the customer will receive 5 Air Miles. The more that is donated, the more Air Miles earned during this week with all of the money raised going to the school.



### Eating Right Charity Checkout (February 10)

Customers will be invited by volunteers to top up their bill in support of the school's project. Customers who donate will receive coupons for *Eating Right* products.

### Safeway We Care Day (March 2)

Cashiers and volunteers will invite customers to purchase a "Safeway We Care" coupon book for \$3. Each booked is packed with over \$100 in savings at Safeway, including a valuable "spend \$30 receive \$3 off" coupon.

On January 27, we raised an outstanding \$1,276.00, and combined with the efforts of Safeway staff we now have \$1,976.00 raised towards our goal.

This is a fantastic start to our efforts and store manager Harry Oppeneer is impressed by our team spirit and hard work at the January 27 Safeway Miles Bring Smiles event.



## Safeway Partners with Gray Academy to Raise Funds for Students (cont'd)



**The Life Skills Program** allows a variety of students with individualized learning needs to learn and practice skills that are needed to live independent productive lives. This includes skills of daily living such as money management, food preparation, and community awareness.

Additionally, Gray Academy's "**Disability Awareness Days**" educates all students about persons with varying abilities. The school's "**Learning Centre**" is the home of this program. Monies raised goes towards the following:

### Technology Enhancements for Individualized Learning Needs

A **SMART Board™** is an interactive whiteboard connected to a computer. Students with special needs can touch the screen to utilize a computer more easily and effectively for life skills learning.

**Software Programs** such as "On Screen" keyboards that help students unable to use a regular keyboard, and speech-to-text programs that type what a student says into a microphone, are two examples of software that would help individual students achieve success.

### Kitchen Equipment for Food Preparation Skills

The following supplies would allow students to learn and practice daily food planning and preparation - toaster, electric can opener, microwave, kettle and a variety of kitchen utensils that are accessible by all. This equipment would be used in specific Life Skills' classes at three kitchen stations (1 per station).

### Money Management Resources

**Canadian Money Computer Programs and Resource Materials** would enable students to have hands-on practice leading to real-life experiences in the community.



### Disability Awareness Kits

Gray Academy holds Disability Awareness Days every year. Speakers are brought into the school for all students (JK-Grade12) to learn about individuals with a variety of abilities and disabilities. **Disability Awareness Kits** would allow teachers to utilize these educational resources in their classrooms throughout the school year.

**Please support us and shop at Tuxedo Safeway:**



**Tuxedo Safeway**  
**2025 Corydon Avenue**  
**Sunday, February 10**  
**Sunday, March 2**  
**12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**



## Extracurricular Activities

### Debating and Public Speaking

Congratulations to the Junior Debaters who competed at S.J.R. on Sunday, January 20. There were 7 schools and 28 teams competing. Mazel Tov to the Top Team of Blake Lerner and Zev Ripstein, 4th place team: Sarah Levy and Asher Billinkoff. For the individuals, we congratulate Zev Ripstein (2nd place), Blake Lerner (3rd place), Sarah Levy (5th place), Asher Billinkoff (7th place) and Max Erenberg (8th place).

### CanSpell Spelling Bee



Congratulations to J.J. Gerstein (Grade 8) for placing 1st, Stanislav Gomon (Grade 8) who placed 2nd, and Emily Kroft (Grade 5) who came in 3rd in our 4th CanSPELL competition. J.J. will represent our school at the provincial CanSPELL competition which will

take place at the University of Winnipeg in early March.

### Canadian Chess Challenge

The competition in Manitoba will begin with provincial qualification tournaments in Winnipeg. Our students will compete at the **Asper Jewish Community Centre on Sunday, March 2, 2008**, from 9:30 am: to about 4:00 pm.

The qualifiers from the provincial tournaments will play in the Manitoba Provincial Chess Championships on March 16, 2008 at the University of Winnipeg. The winners in each grade at the Provincial tournament will advance to the National Chess Championship in Edmonton during the May long weekend. There are prizes for the top finishers at both the Regional and Provincial tournaments.

Please return your registration form to Mrs. Roy along with a cheque for \$20.00 payable to **Manitoba Scholastic Chess Association no later than February 11.**

Manitoba has always had a strong showing at the National Chess Championships, so we hope to have as many entries as possible. Good luck!

## Did You Know?

**Open House 2008** - Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Open House on **Tuesday, February 5 @ 7pm** in the MPR for Grades JK-1, and on **Thursday, February 7 @ 7 pm** in the MPR for high school. We look forward to seeing you!

**Mr. G and the Green Bay Packers!** - On January 18, Judaic Studies teacher Mr. Goldstine was surprised by fellow teacher Sheppy Coodin and students with a semi-final Super Bowl rally for his favourite team.



"I have been a Green Bay Packer fan since I was 10 years old. I went to their training camp once and it was a religious experience - second only to going to the Kotel!", said a beaming Lawrence Goldstine. Unfortunately they lost the game but we enjoyed cheering them on!

**Forum for Young Canadians** - Congratulations to Grade 12 student Alberto Cohen who has been chosen to represent our school at the Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa from March 2-9. Alberto will study Canada's political and judicial systems.

**Fiddler on the Roof** - Two Thumbs Up! Congratulations to Music Teacher Miriam Bronstein who played Grandma Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Manitoba Theatre Centre. The run of the play was sold out, and after seeing the show it's easy to see why!! *Tradition!!!*

**Stock Market Challenge** - The return of the Winnipeg Free Press Stock Market Competition in the school category is back. Please see Mrs. Ross for a registration form by the middle of February. There are cash prizes for the top 5 winners in this category. Good luck!



## Community Announcements

### SHABBAT DINNER WITH AN ISRAELI FLAVOUR

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m.

An opportunity for Israelis and friends of Israel to enjoy Shabbat with an Israeli ta'am (flavour) – everyone is welcome to attend. Presented in conjunction with Canada Sheli. For tickets, please call 477-7510.

### CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF WINNIPEG

Join Tzivos Hashem Kid Zone to discover the joy of Judaism through fun, games and crafts. For kids ages 6-12. When: Sundays 1:00-2:30 pm for February 10 & 24, March 9 & 23. Where: South-End Lubavitch Centre—1825 Grant Avenue. Cost: Whole session \$15, Single program \$4. To register visit their website or contact Rabbi Boruch Heidingsfeld.

## Yom Ha'atzmaut

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Gray Academy Yom Ha'atzmaut Song Festival Competition will take place on Thursday, May 8 2008. In Celebration of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the competition is **open to all students in the community**.

Students have the opportunity to write an original song (lyrics and melody) individually, as a duo or in a group based on a Jewish/Israeli theme.

Students must submit an application to the Gray Academy office by February 22 in order to receive an audition time for March 9. One application is needed for each song entry. All students with a successful audition will have their song arranged by a professional band and have rehearsals prior to the competition on May 8.

Songs will be judged in two separate categories (Junior: Grades 5-8 and Senior: Grades 9 -12) based on Jewish content, musical appeal and performance.

Any language welcome and Hebrew is encouraged. Students may wish to write a creation and have another individual or a group perform it.

Application forms and information are available from the Gray Academy website at [www.grayacademy.ca](http://www.grayacademy.ca) or from the Gray Academy Office (A100-123 Doncaster Street).

## School Gala Fundraiser

Watch for your invitation in the mail for the school's upcoming gala...for more information go to [www.100yearsgala.com](http://www.100yearsgala.com)

**The Fairmont Winnipeg**  
Two Lombard Place

100

Sunday, March 30, 2008  
Cocktails 6:00 PM  
Dinner 6:45 PM

Years Young *Gala*

Celebrating a Century of Jewish Education

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Cocktails, Dinner, Entertainment by Alumni, Live Auction, Dancing, Gift Bags, Balloon Auction, Special Presentations

**Master of Ceremonies**  
Kinzey Posen

Single tickets	Patron tickets	Corporate tables
\$118 per person	\$180 per person	Tables of ten
\$236 per couple	\$360 per couple	for \$1,800

A tax receipt will be issued for the charitable portion

For more information, please call (204) 478-8589 or email [gala2008@aspercampus.mb.ca](mailto:gala2008@aspercampus.mb.ca)  
[www.100yearsgala.com](http://www.100yearsgala.com)

**Early Bird Deadline**  
Win a chance for a FREE NIGHT at The Fairmont RSVP by March 1, 2008

Gray Academy  
OF JEWISH EDUCATION

**Co-Chairs**  
Sharon Delbridge  
Nona Leibl

**Steering Committee**  
Laura Diamond  
Beth Grubert  
Rande Pollock  
Rory Paul (Head of School/C.E.O.)  
Lisa Abram (chair)

Gala event organized by  
the Winnipeg Board of Jewish  
Education, Parent Advisory  
Committee and Alumni Committee

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