

# Gray Academy of Jewish Education

## *Ruach Reflections*

# Bulletin

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### **STUDENT COUNCIL RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR DIVERSE HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS**

Gray Academy of Jewish Education students attended ***Raoul Wallenberg Day*** to learn about human rights abuses in sub-Saharan Africa, along with students in Grades 9-12 from Balmoral Hall and Southeast Collegiate, where they participated in workshops for the day.

On January 17, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and Gray Academy of Jewish Education developed a day-long conference that had a double objective: to bring awareness to students about human rights issues and to empower students to undertake initiatives and action plans.

Student Council at Gray Academy produced four student-led workshops to develop unique action plans and/or projects to respond to human rights issues in sub-Saharan Africa, including Darfur: Information Networking; Bring Them Home; Partnership with an African School or Institution; and Activism and Advocacy.

Over 200 students listened to guest speakers and learned from facilitators from Manitoba Somali Association; African Canadian Culture Heritage Centre (Sudan and Sierra Leone respectively); African Students Association, University of Winnipeg (Sudan); International

African Child Relief and Peace Foundation of Canada (Congo); and University of Manitoba Students' Union (Rwanda).

In addition, participating students raised funds for a number of important projects:

1. **“Bring Them Home” Campaign** – students purchased dog tags to bring awareness to the three Israeli soldiers who were kidnapped this summer.
2. **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** – students supported the museum to be built in Winnipeg by buying a “star”.
3. **The Stephen Lewis Foundation** – donations were given to the organization named for the former U.N. Special Envoy to AIDS in Africa whose focus is to help ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa at the grassroots level.
4. **“Little Travellers”** – spearheaded by the *World Issues* class at Gray Academy, students supported Ilan Schwartz (currently in second year medicine at University of Manitoba) with the purchase of miniature handmade dolls made by women in South Africa with all monies raised going to the Hillcrest AIDS Centre.
5. **AIDS Research** – donations went to the Wilt Foundation who funds University of Manitoba graduate students in medicine to conduct AIDS research in Africa.

“I was very impressed with this outpouring of support for human rights. The entire day was spent learning about human rights issues and how we can solve them. As a result, we are beginning several initiatives in the school and the fact we raised almost \$500 for human rights is really a great achievement. As we learned, we can truly make a difference!” student coordinator Eyal Kraut stated.

## **THE ART DEPARTMENT: FEATURING DOLLY CHISICK**

Glass, ceramic, paint, crayons, and even LCD projectors are the newest implementations in art instruction and art history curriculum at the school. Dolly Chisick, art teacher at the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education for over 20 years, has always been ahead of the pack when it comes to developing cutting edge artistry and showcasing it to the public.

The students delight not only in her style of instruction, but also in her enthusiastic approach to sharing her passion for the world of art.

Mrs. Chisick's professional background with the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education began over 20 year ago when she first asked the Principal of Ramah Hebrew School if she could volunteer as an art instructor in grade one. Three months later, she was working her magic for the entire school for the next three years! When she first arrived at the newly built campus, Dolly Chisick also taught math in Grades 7 and 8, in addition to art.

Before this, Mrs. Chisick was working as a resource teacher in the elementary grades and teaching art in junior high for River East and St. Vital School Divisions respectively.

So what can a student expect to be doing in the Art Department? Quite simply – everything! From Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, they experience drawing, sketching with pencil and charcoal, painting with acrylics and water colours (which come in tubes, blocks, pencils and crayons), murals, glass fusion, ceramics, print making (lino and foam), dioramas, collage, puppet making, papier-mâché, mobiles, photography, art appreciation, construction with recycled materials, PowerPoint projects and even art problem solving using popcorn!

In fact, in grade one last year, students built and explored a makeshift cave in the art room, discussed spelunking, viewed a video on the history of cave paintings and even created their own paintings.

And when students are not getting their hands dirty, they spend time studying art history and discussing the work of Monet, da Vinci, Chagall, Matisse, Picasso, Klee, Michelangelo, Oldenburg, Pollock and Warhol. Other disciplines are integrated into the art curriculum such as math, music and Judaism, the latter examining art through the Jewish holidays, the study of Israel and Torah.

Senior students also take a look at art history from the Stone Age; the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans; the Renaissance period; and Impressionists and Modern artists. DVDs, videos and literature on artists and art-related subjects are constantly updated in the department.

But the diversity of art history instruction is also featured on a local level. For instance, Mrs. Chisick recently discussed Winnipeg born artist Sarah Johnson, who lately sold her collection of photos on tree planting up North to the world famous Guggenheim in New York City.

“I want my students to appreciate art so that they will leave here seeing that art is a daily part of their lives. Art is everywhere – it’s in the cars we drive, the style of clothing we wear and the décor we have in our homes. I would like students to develop their own unique style and to not be influenced by the heavy emphasis they see every day with commercialization,” says Dolly Chisick. “The positive is emphasized in the student’s work. Each student is encouraged to stretch their boundaries,” she adds.

Works of art will be on display on May 16, 2007 for the Second Annual Art Fair; last year the school showcased over 1,500 pieces of art from grades JK-12.

When asked to summarize her more than two decades of teaching with the Winnipeg Jewish Board of Education, she proclaims, “I loooovvvvvee it here!” It’s easy to see why students notice her infectious enthusiasm for art!

For further information on the Art Program, please contact:

Dolly Chisick  
Art Teacher  
Gray Academy of Jewish Education

(204) 477-7501 x809

## **GENERAL STUDIES RESOURCE PROGRAM (JK-6)**

The three “R”s of the resource area, Readiness (emotionally, physically and cognitively), Risk-Free (as in environment) and Rapport (learning is fun), are truisms upon which the foundation of learning is built, according to Clara Roy, General Studies Resource Teacher.

The resource program is one of a variety of programs in the elementary school that is committed to meeting the programming needs of our students. With that end in mind, the prime responsibility of the program is to function as a resource to all those with a vested interest in students’ success i.e. students, teachers and parents and is delivered through indirect (consultation, collaboration) and direct service.

Meeting the needs of all students requires appropriate programming. This function is achieved through both indirect and direct resource service. **Indirect service** delivery includes collaboration and consultation with teachers and other professionals to plan for student success e.g. academic and behaviour plans. Communication, a vital function of consultation and collaboration, is ongoing with teachers, parents, administration, agencies such as Child Guidance Clinic, other social service agencies and health care professional services upon referral.

**Direct service** delivery includes assessment, evaluation and instruction. Assessment and evaluation are the ongoing processes of collecting, analyzing and synthesizing information for the purpose of planning and implementing programs for students. Comprehensive assessment strategies include a combination of systematic observation, structured interviews, and measurement of students’ skill levels. Providing direct instruction to students, as support or enrichment, is a significant function of direct service within the resource program. The content, from early reading intervention to strategic teaching, and the delivery of instruction may take on a variety of forms including individual students or small groups of students in the classroom or in the resource room.

Educational assistants, volunteers and high school mentors are a component in the resource program instructional process.

“The Resource Program is a dynamic program that is evolving and changing to reflect Gray Academy of Jewish Education’s mission statement, and the needs of the students and the school community it serves,” proclaims Clara Roy, Resource Teacher.

Prior to working at Gray Academy, Clara Roy taught grade 2 and 3 and resource at Ramah Hebrew School, and was a teacher for 9 years at the River East School Division for all elementary grades except K and 6.

Mrs. Roy is also actively involved in coordinating the Chess Club which meets every Tuesday and Wednesday at lunch; she organized the Canadian Poster Challenge for Canada Day along with Mrs. Connor for elementary students; she is involved with the Peer Tutoring Program with Mrs. Gamliel by matching up volunteer senior students with elementary students; and she facilitates the Parent Volunteer Program which currently has parents helping out in the classroom and with administrative work.

If there is one message that Clara Roy could leave her students, she says proudly, it's that "learning is so much fun!" This is the essence of the program, that by making learning fun it leads to success for the student. And the key to that success is *flexibility* in its delivery and *diversity* in that no two days are the same. Mrs. Roy is a wonderful resource for the Resource Program!

For further information on the Resource Program, please contact:

Clara Roy  
General Studies Resource Teacher  
Gray Academy of Jewish Education  
(204) 477-7501 x831

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Open House** – Please mark your calendar for our upcoming open house: on **Tuesday, February 13** there is an information evening for senior students who will be entering grades 9 and 10. The open house event commences at 7:00 p.m. and takes place in the Multi-Purpose Room. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have.

**HPV Clinic** – Dr. Robyn Gertenstein will be holding a HPV/Vaccination Information Evening on **Monday, February 12** at 7:00 p.m. in the MPR. The vaccine is currently indicated for females ages 9 through 26. Parents of girls in this age category and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

**Canadian Chess Challenge** - the national scholastic chess tournament for students in grades one through twelve will be held later this month. The competition in Manitoba will begin with provincial qualification tournaments in Winnipeg. Our students will compete at the Asper Jewish Community Centre on **Sunday, February 25** from 10:00 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m. with this tournament played strictly by grade.

The qualifiers from the provincial tournaments will play in the Manitoba Provincial tournament on March 18, 2007 at the University of Winnipeg. The winners in each grade at the Provincial tournament will advance to the National Chess Championship in Quebec City during the May

long weekend. There are prizes for the top finishers at both the provincial qualifiers and the Provincial tournament. Manitoba has always had a strong showing at the National Chess Championships. For further details please contact Mrs. Roy at 477-7501 x831.

**Urinetown: The Musical** - Under the direction of teachers Miriam Bronstein, Brenda Borzykowski and Judy Doctoroff, the musical will be held at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain from **Monday, March 5 – Thursday, March 8** at 7 p.m., with a 1 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, March 7. Ticket prices are \$10 for regular tickets, \$5 for the matinee and \$3 for students for the matinee only. Please call today at 477-7410 for your tickets! Congratulations to grade 9 student Hadera Short who won the contest to design the *Urinetown* logo for the school production.

**Alumni Committee** – To begin to instill in our students the longer term connection to the school, the Alumni committee felt that having a student representative to help bridge Alumni and the student body in a very direct way would be beneficial. We extend a hearty welcome to grade 11 student Michael Schwartz, Vice President of Student Council, as the appointed representative to the Alumni Committee. If you would like to be involved, please contact Al Benarroch, Chair, Alumni Committee: [abenarroch@aspercampus.mb.ca](mailto:abenarroch@aspercampus.mb.ca).

The Alumni Committee of the Winnipeg Board of Education will also be sending out their inaugural newsletter this month to all graduates of Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate and Gray Academy of Jewish Education. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send an email to [abenarroch@aspercampus.mb.ca](mailto:abenarroch@aspercampus.mb.ca).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**Congratulations!** – Students Chaya Cohen and Samantha Shalom recently had their poetry work chosen to be published in the Creative Communications international anthology entitled, ***A Celebration of Young Poets!*** The anthology will be published later this year with their respective poems: *Pain* by Chaya Cohen (grade 9) and *Only a Few* by Samantha Shalom (grade 11).

**New Canadians!** – Mazel Tov to the Lubocki Family on receiving their Canadian citizenship! Grade 12 student Dafna and her brother Ezequiel, who is in grade 9, along with their parents Iael and Marcelo, became Canadians last month. The grade 9 social studies class celebrated this momentous occasion with a citizenship party.

**Forum for Young Canadians** – Grade 12 student Eyal Kraut was chosen to represent our school in Ottawa this spring at Canada's longest running and most successful youth program about Canadian government and our governmental institutions. Established in 1975, Forum is operated by the not-for-profit educational Foundation for the Study of Processes of Government in Canada. The bilingual and non-partisan program brings approximately 600 students (aged

15-19 years) from across Canada to Ottawa in four separate sessions each spring where they spend a week on Parliament Hill to experience first-hand how Canadian government works and the values it promotes.

During their week at Forum, students are immersed in the exciting world of national politics and public affairs. Forum students meet the nation's leaders, interact with decision-makers, and debate contemporary issues. Forum students have the special privilege of sitting in both the House of Commons and Senate with the Speakers of both Chambers. They watch Question Period from the Visitor's Gallery, and then make this experience come alive in simulations of Forum Question Periods and a First Ministers' Conference.

The Forum experience is an intensive academic adventure that has a profound effect on its participants. They return to their schools and communities with a new appreciation for the diverse viewpoints of fellow Canadians and a broader understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. The Forum ignites a passion for political participation in Canadian youth unlike any other youth experience, leaving students feeling empowered!

Today, Forum students rank among Canada's leaders: senior public servants, ambassadors, national and foreign media correspondents, and innovators in arts and business.

Congratulations Eyal! We look forward to hearing about your experience when you return.

**Battle of the Bands –** Wanna Be a Rock Star? On **May 12**, from 1:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. on the Community Centre grounds at Grosvenor Avenue and Oak Street, there will be an opportunity to compete to be River Heights' Newest Rock Stars. Sixteen bands will play in front of hundreds on a professional stage with a 20,000-watt sound system and light show. *Battle of the Bands* is a local community event that will emphasize **Environmental Awareness** and foster a sense of community through live music performance. For more information, please call 488-7000 or email: [rhccbattleofthebands@shaw.ca](mailto:rhccbattleofthebands@shaw.ca)

**Third Annual CanSpell Competition –** On Friday, January 26, fifty Gray Academy students from grades 5-8 competed in the school's third CanSpell Spelling Bee: Josh Goldstein, Avichar Stoller, Adam Stoller, Jenna Adelman, Alexa Hecht, Jay Prasad, Julia Grubert Van Iderstine, Matthew Kaufmann, Josh Kerr, Jonathon Gertstein, Sebi Levi, Eiden Hassan, Jona Lazar, Anais Lichtensztin, Meital Kraut, Shael Minuk, Emily Marantz, Benji Cohen, Zach Nemy, Alina Panchenko, Jeremy Hecht, Gil Binnun, Yale Selchen, Asher Billinkoff, Drew McGillawee, Ben Waldman, Slava Panchenko, Jordan Gertenstein, Yavniel Field, Evgeny Gotfrid, Matthew Gunn, Jessica Meyers, Jayden Pollock, Ben Fleisher, Sara Levy, Max Erenberg, Stanislov Gomon, Daniel Kroft, Ariel Melamedoff, Sophia Katz, Elliot Lazar, Mitchell Rabkin and Oren Binnun.

We are proud to announce that **Sarah Levy** (grade 8) will represent our school at the Manitoba regional competition in early March. The winning word, for which Sara received first place, was "poltergeist." Congratulations also to Matthew Kaufmann (grade 7) who was in second place and Mitchell Rabkin in third place (grade 5).

Thank you to our moderator, Mr. Beddome, as well as our judges, Mrs. Spigelman and Mrs. Gould, for their time and expertise.

**Youth Employment Network** – Jewish Federation of Winnipeg is pleased to announce they will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Youth Employment Network. This Network is designed to help young people between the ages of 17 and 35 find summer/full time employment, mentoring relationships, and career options. If you are between these ages, or know someone who is, and would like help, register to attend as soon as possible. The event will take place **Thursday, February 15** from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster Street. For further details please call Cliff Huot at 480-7559 or via email at [chuot@aspercampus.mb.ca](mailto:chuot@aspercampus.mb.ca).

**Shabbat Dinner with an Israeli Flavour** - Join family and friends for a fun, spirited and warm Shabbat Dinner experience, with great food, singing and the flavour of Israel! The event will take place **Friday, February 16**, 6:00 p.m., Asper Jewish Community Campus. Tickets: Adults \$14; Children 3-12 \$7; Children 2 & under \$3. Advance payment is required, space is limited. For tickets, call 477-7510 or on-line at [www.radyjcc.com](http://www.radyjcc.com) – click on Ticket Central. This program is brought to you by the Rady JCC and Canada Sheli, and is generously supported by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

**New Theatre Company in Town** – Former Gray Academy student Joseph Tritt has recently conceived, co-founded, and is now directing a new theatre company in town. It is called Stage 16 Youth Players and they are putting on their first production (Sondheim's "Company") from February 9-11. For more information, please go to their website at [www.stage16.ca](http://www.stage16.ca).

**For further information on the bulletin, please contact:**

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