



Meet Jan Currie, Acting CEO



"The Centre has an outstanding management team."

In her early days as the Acting CEO of The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre, Jan Currie set out to meet staff, residents, and families and was immediately struck by the presence of residents' families.

"The level of family engagement here is remarkable, especially attendance at events," said Currie. "I think residents can benefit even further from the energy of families."

Currie, who was appointed Acting CEO at the end of December and will serve on a half-time basis until the end of March, is also impressed by the Centre's staff. *"The personnel, many of them long-term staff, are extremely proud of their work and are excited about the Centre's future,"* said Currie. *"When you combine that pride with an exceptional facility, strong recreational programming, and passionate volunteers, I think residents get very good care."*

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Currie comes to the Centre with an extensive nursing background and significant administrative experience. Career highlights include 10 years at Deer Lodge Centre, including two as Executive Director; nursing management positions at Concordia and Seven Oaks Hospitals; and 11 years of service as Vice President

& Chief Nursing Officer with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

She has a Master of Science in Administration (Health Care) degree from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba, where she has lectured over the years.

Currie's first job in long-term care, after several years in hospital settings, was at a continuing care facility in Mississauga in the late 1980s. *"I became fascinated by long-term care,"* said Currie, a 2010 recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. *"The idea of treating people as residents and not patients inspired new thinking at the time, including innovations in residents' 'bills of rights'. It was an exciting time to launch a career and I enjoyed working hands-on as a nurse with residents."*

Currie retired from the WRHA and enjoys life as an occasional consultant and community volunteer. Although her time at The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre will be short, she hopes that she can help lighten the load of current personnel and help chart the course for the future.

"The Centre has an outstanding management team," said Currie. *"Alanna (Kull, Director of Care) and Harvey (Kinsman, Chief Financial Officer) have been serving incredibly well as Acting CEOs, but the needs have increased their workloads significantly. I hope that I can help the Centre achieve some of its objectives during this important time in its history."*

"We're very pleased that Jan is able to spend some time with us," said Acting Board Chair, Bill Brownstone. *"She is a respected health care leader in the province and we expect to learn much*

from her as we move forward. She was able to hit the ground running in December and very quickly offered great ideas and earned the respect of the people around her."

Jan Currie can be reached at **jan.currie@sharonhome.mb.ca** or by phone at **(204) 589-9014**

Message from Acting Chair, Bill Brownstone *Proud to Serve*



"I have no doubt that we will make an excellent Centre even better."

Shortly after becoming Acting Chair of the Board in late November, a friend at the gym challenged the wisdom of my decision. *"Are you kidding?,"* I replied. *"This is an outstanding time to serve!"*

I've been involved with the Centre for five years and I have never been more optimistic about the future or more proud to volunteer my time.

As you might know, we've been improving processes and practices for the last few months through our Quality Improvement Plan. The changes we are making are captured and shared online at <http://www.simkincentre.ca/QualityImprovementPlan.htm> (the last update was posted in December).

You probably also know that in the summer we underwent a comprehensive review of all 26 standards applicable to Personal Care Homes *continued on pg. 2*

continued from pg. 1 in Manitoba. We were the first PCH in the province to be reviewed on all standards at the same time (the normal practice is a review of 12 standards every two years). In October we learned that we met 25 of the 26 standards and we are working hard to address the shortcomings of the one we did not meet and improve our performance further on the ones that we did meet. We have posted the full review on our website at http://www.simkincentre.ca/documents/Nov-04-2011-26StandardsReviewReport-Publicdocument_000.pdf.

Also in October, we welcomed five dynamic new members to our Board. In very short order, Saul Greenberg, Linda Hughes, Jonathan Kroft, Dr. Ted Lyons, and Marilyn Regiec have had a positive impact. Each brings enthusiasm and skills that will enhance the Centre.

In November, the Board unanimously accepted in principle the findings of Peter Kafka's external leadership

review. Ted Lyons is leading a Task Force that will examine and address the report's recommendations (see the article in this newsletter for more details). The effort will include a sharp focus on governance, under the co-chairmanship of Howard Collerman and Jonathan Kroft. We have posted Mr. Kafka's report at <http://www.simkincentre.ca/documents/LeadershipCommunicationReview-2011.pdf>.

Most important, day-to-day life at the Centre is thriving. Our programming calendar for our residents is rich; our staff continue to perform their challenging work with compassion, energy, and skill; our volunteers are driven and committed; and our donors continue to show their support.

Yes, we have some challenges and responding effectively to these challenges will take time, resources, and hard work. We are up to the task and eager to achieve even greater levels of

excellence. With our remarkable staff, rejuvenated board, and the advice of experts, I have no doubt that we will make an excellent Centre even better for our current and future residents and their families.

Thank you for taking the time to read this first issue of RE:Generations. We're grateful for your interest in information about the community's Personal Care Home. As part of our commitment to greater transparency, we hope this newsletter and other things we are doing will help keep you informed about life at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

*Bill Brownstone
Acting Chair*

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre

A Family's Perspective

In September 2011, our community lost a dear man in Abraham (Boomie) Granove Z"L. Boomie Granove had been a resident first at the Kanee Centre on Magnus and later at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. Boomie's wife, Sybil, continues to live at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre.

When Mr. Granove was diagnosed with cancer, staff at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre worked with his family to ensure his comfort. On August 26, the family gathered to celebrate his 90th birthday. Not long after that date, Boomie Granove passed away.

Shortly after his passing, Mr. Granove's children reflected on the experience in a letter to The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. The following is an excerpt:

All the Simkin staff members who worked with Dad were, without exception, incredible. They always

approached him with friendship, compassion, and respect. The caregivers told him in advance everything they were about to do, always treating him with dignity. They did their utmost to keep his pain and discomfort in check, maintaining communication with Dr. Koven, or the doctor on call, while responding to our every hysterical request for help to ease his suffering.

In spite of our behaviour, which was not always the best, the staff was a tremendous support to us. They constantly asked if we needed anything, offering us coffee and drinks. They explained what was happening and what signals to look for. Most importantly, they helped prepare us for the inevitable.

We are so grateful to Rabbi Rose, who maintained a relationship with both our parents over the last nine years. He came as soon as we called him and spiritually supported Dad and all of us as he embarked on his journey from this life.

Although the Simkin Centre does not really have the facilities to provide palliative care, we are truly thankful that such care was made available. Not only did the arrangements provide the comfort of familiar surroundings for Dad, it enabled him to see Mom, which would not have been physically possible otherwise. It also allowed for the residents with whom he lived, who understood what was happening, to visit him and prepare for the loss of their friend.

Once again, thank you for all that was done for our father and for the peace of mind knowing that our mother is also receiving excellent care.

Truly yours,

*The children of Abraham Granove,
of Blessed Memory*

*Adrienne Pearsons
Bruce Granove
Kim Feuer*

Volunteer Profile: Sid Halpern

At the age of 96, resident Jack Goodman has trouble reading the news because of macular degeneration. To stay in touch with local and world affairs, he attends a weekly current events group led by The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre's very own news anchor, Sid Halpern.

"I get fresh news from Sid," said Goodman, a member of the Residents' Council. "Sid talks about current affairs, the Jets, Israel. We ask him questions, too. He's up to date on everything."



PARTICIPANT JACK GOODMAN

The current events group was launched six years ago and was the brainchild of former residents Mavis Galpern Z"L, Doreen Haber Z"L, and Brownie Freedman Z"L. Halpern recalls that former resident Harold Kives Z"L was also a key motivator. *"Harold found that the program really stimulated his intellect,"* recalls Halpern. *"He had Parkinson's disease and needed a synthesizer to speak most of the time. He used to get so involved in the current events discussion that he didn't need the synthesizer!"*

Halpern has been volunteering with the Centre for about 20 years and served as Chair of the Board in the mid-1990s. He was instrumental in developing the strategic plan for the move from Magnus Avenue to Falcon Ridge Drive. Today, he prefers to spend his volunteer hours working directly with residents.

Halpern leads the current events discussion group every second Wednesday for about an hour. About



SID HALPERN LEADS A CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION WITH RESIDENTS: "MY MAIN GOAL IS TO TRY AND DO THINGS THAT PLEASE THE RESIDENTS."

20 residents usually attend. He comes with a copy of the Winnipeg Free Press, print-outs from the Ha'aretz and Jerusalem Post websites, and a full agenda of discussion topics.

When Sid is unavailable, fellow volunteer Merrill Shulman, who has been involved with the program since its early days, or Cindy Greenlay, Manager of Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services, fills in.

Aside from serving as the Centre's Peter Mansbridge for the past six years, Halpern also plays a very active role in the Jewish spiritual life of the Centre. He leads a Pesach seder every year as well as Kol Nidre and Ne'ilah on Yom Kippur, and the occasional Shabbat service.

"My main goal is to try and do things that please the residents and contribute to their intellectual and spiritual well-being," he said.

Halpern credits his enthusiasm for The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre to Bill



ABOUT TWENTY RESIDENTS USUALLY ATTEND THE DISCUSSION GROUP.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Life at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre is enhanced by the work of enthusiastic volunteers of all ages. And as we learn from Sid Halpern, working hands-on with residents is a rich and rewarding experience.

To become a volunteer, contact Cindy Greenlay, Manager of Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services, at (204) 589-9041 or cindy.greenlay@sharonhome.mb.ca.

The following volunteer positions are currently available:

- Spiritual Program Assistant
- Adult Day Program Assistant
- Beauty Club Facilitator
- Tuck Shop Hostess / Host
- Bingo Facilitator
- Exercise Assistant
- Games Night Facilitator
- Recreation Assistant
- Shopping Assistant

Goldberg Z"L and Sol Kanee Z"L who recruited him, took him under their wing, and taught him the importance of hands-on community service. *"These were great men whose contribution to life here was immeasurable."*

Halpern sees the residents as community treasures, people who built what we all enjoy today. His session with the residents is one of the highlights of his week.

RE:Generations is produced by The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre.

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The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre is the personal care home of choice for Manitoba's Jewish community. The Centre celebrates Jewish traditions, holidays, and values, allowing residents to enjoy and maintain a Jewish way of life. The Centre was founded on, and continues to embrace, the core Jewish values of: kedushah, the sanctity of each person; derech erez, respect for all people; and kavod, honour due each person.

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Residents and families gathered to remember Canada's fallen on Remembrance Day. The touching service included a procession of veterans who live at the Centre, poems, and the singing of Hatikvah and G-d Save the Queen. Here, resident and veteran Archie Orlikow shares a tender moment with his great-nephew Aryeh Rifkind. Aryeh is named after Mr. Orlikow's brother, Lionel.

PHOTO CREDIT:
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Please support The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre by calling the office at (204) 589-9014 or by filling in this form and sending it in with your donation to:

The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre

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How would you like to designate your gift? (check one)

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**For more information about your donation options,
please contact our office at (204) 589-9014.**





A DECEMBER PARTY CELEBRATED CENTENARIANS WHO LIVE AT THE CENTRE: PICTURED HERE (LEFT) ACTING CEO JAN CURRIE AND THERAPEUTIC RECREATION FACILITATOR ALISSA MINAKER HONOUR 105-YEAR-OLD HARRY ZITZERMAN WITH A CORSAGE; (MIDDLE) 100-YEAR-OLD GOLDIE LOFFMAN WITH HER CHILDREN JEROME PHOMIN AND EVITA SMORDIN; AND (RIGHT) ESTERA HALPERT, 100, IS GREETED BY AARON HUTTON, THE ENTERTAINER AT THE PARTY.

Centre Task Force Moves Forward

The Task Force established by the Board of Directors to address the recommendations of Peter Kafka's Leadership and Communication Review has met a second time to establish a preliminary schedule and a way forward.

"It's a short timeline and an ambitious agenda," said Task Force Chair Dr. Ted Lyons O.C., former president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, *"but I believe wholeheartedly that we are on the right path to making a remarkable personal care home even stronger."*

Lyons, Professor of Radiology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Anatomy, at the University of Manitoba and Health Sciences Centre, is joined on the Task Force by Bill Brownstone, Terry Braunstein, Linda Hughes, Jonathan Kroft, Howard Collerman, Jackie Simkin, and Acting CEO Jan Currie. The Task Force is advised by consultant Elaine Todres, a former Deputy Minister in Ontario; a former member of the senior management team of the Baycrest Centre in Toronto; and former President of the Baycrest Centre Foundation. She holds a PhD in Political Science and is a



DR. TED LYONS: "...WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH TO MAKING A REMARKABLE PERSONAL CARE HOME EVEN STRONGER."

recognized governance expert. (Readers can learn more about Elaine Todres at www.todresleadership.com).

The Task Force will gather for a retreat at the Centre, starting with havdallah on March 17. The members will spend the evening and the next day setting priorities and more specific timelines for the work the Centre must do. The Task Force will also map out a community engagement strategy for April and May to solicit informed, forward-looking input into the priority areas. After the community engagement phase of the exercise, committees will address governance among other issues. New policies or by-law amendments that might be required as a result of the Task Force's work are targeted to be ready in the fall.

"We're very happy with the launch we've had," said Acting Board Chair, Bill Brownstone. *"This will be a thoughtful process that will help focus us on achieving and maintaining the gold standard in personal care home management. We have a strong Task Force and a rejuvenated Board; we are getting excellent professional guidance from Elaine Todres, our consultant, and Jan Currie, our Acting CEO; and we enjoy tremendous support and encouragement from our partners at Manitoba Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority."*

Between now and the March retreat of the Board, research will be conducted into Board and governance practices at other top personal care homes and hospitals. And since Mr. Kafka's report was released in November, management and staff have been implementing some operational changes recommended by the report; and the Centre continues to execute and update its Quality Improvement Plan.

"Mr. Kafka's report has proven to be a strong blueprint for progress and a real motivator for Board and staff," said Lyons. *"We are eager to take our performance to the next level through the Task Force process."*

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