



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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Jan Currie

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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 processional 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
1 Falcon Ridge Drive
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- Hochman Music Endowment Fund (musical entertainment for residents)
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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."*

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

The following individuals and businesses expressed their support of The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre in 2011:

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The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre is also grateful for the generous gifts we receive in perpetuity from endowment funds held at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. We will highlight those funds in the next issue of RE:Generations.

We are also grateful for the many gifts made anonymously.

We regret any errors or omissions.

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Reflections from the CEO

Feeling grateful



In late July, I was having a meeting in the beautiful atrium at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. Over

the course of this one-hour meeting, I saw a steady stream of family and friends entering the Centre to visit with their loved ones. There were visitors of all ages, and an absolute buzz of activity. This wasn't even an evening or a weekend when people generally have more free time, but a Monday afternoon.

In my many years of work at other health care facilities, I have never before seen this sense of community or this degree of engagement and

support. It's remarkable and we should all feel very grateful for the energy this Centre exudes.

I know I'm grateful. Grateful for the warm welcome I have received, grateful for the enthusiasm of our staff and board, and grateful for the many open discussions I have had with residents and their families so far. What I see here – and what we need to continue to foster – is a culture of respect, a culture of excellence, and a culture of caring.

I've only been in my position for about two months as I write these words, but it has been a rich and rewarding experience so far. I have been meeting with residents, families, and staff; observing operations at the Centre at all hours; and meeting with community leaders to learn more about Jewish life in Winnipeg. For everyone, the objectives are clear:

continue to enhance the quality of care at the Centre; seek ways to further celebrate the Centre's Jewish identity; and continue to foster excellence in programming, care, and governance. To achieve the objectives requires patience, innovation, respect, and dialogue.

Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner. It's a beautiful opportunity for renewal and introspection; a time to re-energize ourselves as individuals and organizations; a time to commit to change where change is needed; and a time to celebrate as a community.

I wish you and your families Shanah Tovah – a gut-yor!

Kathleen Klaasen, RN, MN, GNC(c)

Kathleen.Klaasen@sharonhome.mb.ca

Acting Chair's Message

Connecting with community



In this issue of *RE:Generations*, you will see an article about the recent winner of the Sharon Home Family

Education Award – Jill McGavin, daughter of Brenda McGavin, one of our wonderful nurses at The Saul &

Claribel Simkin Centre.

We're very proud of this award program, which is administered by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. We're proud because it was launched by private individuals – Sheila and David Brodovsky, their brother Harvey Brodovsky, and friend Maurice Tauber – as a way to show their gratitude to our staff. We're proud because the award truly makes a difference in the lives of its recipients. And we're proud because the award is yet another

opportunity to interact with the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

At the end of 2011, The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre Endowment Fund at the Foundation had a balance of nearly \$990,000. It's a number that grows every year. In addition, donors to the Foundation directed over \$40,000 in fund proceeds to the Centre in 2011. We're grateful to the Foundation and its donors for their support and encouragement. *continued on page 2*

continued from page 1

Connecting to our fellow organizations in the Jewish community is an essential priority – perhaps now more than ever as we renew ourselves in terms of quality and governance, and as we consider the future needs of the community as it relates to the care of our seniors.

One way in which we have sought to connect is by changing our board nominations process for 2012. At our Annual General Meeting in October, we expect to introduce a number of exceptional volunteers who will join our board as a result of the efforts of our new Nominations Committee, consisting of Israel Ludwig (President, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg); Steven Kroft (President, Jewish Foundation of Manitoba); Heather Leonoff (Past President,

Jewish Child and Family Service); Selma Gilfix (Co-Chair of the Simkin Centre’s Quality Assurance Implementation Review Committee); and board members Marilyn Regiec, Terry Braunstein, and me.

It is absolutely critical for our community’s institutions to engage with each other and learn from each other. We thank the Foundation, the Federation, and Jewish Child and Family Service for their willingness to help.

Another way we are reaching out is through our new, dynamic CEO, Kathleen Klaasen. Kathleen has been out and about in the community through her first few weeks on the job and will be spending more and more time engaging with other institutions in the coming weeks. The goal is to build bridges and

exchange ideas. A strong community needs its institutions to work together so that its people are served as well as possible.

With our new board members this fall, a new Chair will be put in place as my term as Acting Chair winds down. Working with our board and staff has been exhilarating, and meeting with residents and families has given me an important new perspective on the work we do.

I’m grateful for having had this opportunity to serve The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. Many thanks to my fellow board members, to our staff, families, and residents.

Shanah Tovah!

Bill Brownstone

c/o info@sharonhome.mb.ca

“Sharon Home Family Education Award” Recognizes the Devotion of Staff

This fall, Jill McGavin returns to the University of Manitoba’s Asper School of Business for her third year of study, majoring in accounting. With university tuitions on the rise, a post-secondary education these days can have a major impact on a family’s finances. Fortunately for McGavin, the Sharon Home Family Education Award will relieve some of the pressure for 2012–2013.

McGavin is this year’s recipient of the \$1,000 education award. The annual award, administered by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, goes to the child of a long-serving employee of The Saul & Claribel Simkin



AWARD RECIPIENT JILL MCGAVIN (RIGHT) WITH HER MOTHER, BRENDA MCGAVIN, LPN, AND DR. DAVID BRODOVSKY. PHOTO BY MARK GERSHCOVICH, JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA.

Centre who best meets the award’s criteria of academic achievement, community involvement, and financial need. Jill is the daughter of Brenda McGavin who has worked at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre for the last 11 years as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

The award was launched in 2008 when Sheila and David Brodovsky, their brother Harvey Brodovsky, and friend Maurice Tauber seeded the fund with initial contributions. Their parents – Nellie Brodovsky Z”L, Ethel Pierce Z”L, Dr. Maurice (Moe) Pierce Z”L, *continued on page 3*

continued from page 2 and Samuel Tauber Z”L – were all residents of the Centre for varying periods between 1997 and 2009.

“We wanted to do something special for the people who work at the Centre,” says David Brodovsky.

Brodovsky approached the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba which was happy to hold the fund and manage the award. To get the ball rolling, Brodovsky sent out a few letters to potential donors. Today the fund holds nearly \$30,000.

“I’m very honoured to receive the award,” said McGavin. “It makes a huge difference and really takes some of the pressure off. I’m grateful to all of the donors and to the Jewish community. My mom has had a really positive experience working at the Centre and feels very connected to the residents and the families.”

Previous winners of the Sharon Home Family Education Award are:



*Avichai Stoller,
son of Orna Stoller,
Dietary Worker*



*Natalia Burachynsky,
daughter of Valerie
Burachynsky,
Manager of Food
Services*



*Karen Arceo,
Daughter of
Ferdinand Arceo,
Dietary Aide*

See page 4 for more on the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.



SPORTING SIMKIN STROLL T-SHIRTS, WALKERS MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE CENTRE AFTER A NEIGHBOURHOOD STROLL. PHOTO BY DEB CAMPBELL.



GUESTS LINE UP FOR A POST-STROLL BARBECUE. PHOTO BY DEB CAMPBELL.

Taking Steps Together
Crowd gathers to show support

About 150 residents, family members, staff, and friends of The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre gathered on June 10 for the “Simkin Stroll.” The neighbourhood walk raised several thousand dollars earmarked for enhanced evening and weekend programming, and brought together people from in the building and across the city.

Thanks to Simkin Centre board member Marilyn Regiec, a busload of members from the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre joined in the fun.

“Some of them had never been to the Simkin Centre before,” said Regiec, who works as the Executive Director of the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre. “They were impressed and happy to be invited. One of our members described the home as

‘bright and cheery’ and another said ‘the Jewish people should be very proud of this home.’”

Aside from the walk on a warm and beautiful spring day, guests were treated to a barbecue and live music.

“It was a great celebration,” said Acting Board Chair, Bill Brownstone. “When you meet our residents, families, staff, donors, and volunteers, and when you see our facility, you quickly learn that wonderful things happen here.”

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre thanks the sponsors of the Simkin Stroll: West End Upholsterers & Drapery Ltd.; The Joshua Foundation Inc.; Academy Optical; Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram; Gunn’s Bakery; Hub Horizon Insurance; TD Bank; ReMax – Claire Hoffer; Shefa Meats; Pratt’s Wholesale; Marantz and Sons; and Midway Caps.

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre acknowledges the generous support of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and its donors.

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre Endowment Fund (as of December 31, 2011)

Zita & Mark Bernstein	1,406	Doris & Sam Gilman	3,297	Morris Schom	1,000
Bev & Bernie Binder	563	Esther & Harry Ginpil	5,500*	The Sharon Home Inc.	18,894
NEW – Marjorie & Morley Blankstein	50,000*	Evelyn Golden in memory of her parents, Hinda & Samuel Goldin	1,000	Dorothy & Ben Shuckett Family	5,010
In Memory of Mrs. Nellie Brodovsky	10,517	Gerald M. Hechter & Agnes Hechter in honour of their parents Max & Ethel Hechter & Elizabeth Fleischman	32,666*	NEW – Jacqueline Simkin	12,500*
In Memory of Mary Brookler	5,134	Jewish Foundation of Manitoba	100,000	Helen Steinkopf to honour Sol Kanee	2,000
William (Billie) Solomon Brownstone	2,050	Art Mauro to honour Sol Kanee	5,082	NEW – Daniel Tallman Family	5,000*
Clara & Leon Cham	298	NEW – Hillaine & Richard Kroft Family	6,000*	Erven & Beatrice Tallman	5,849
Peril & Gerry Daien	237	Manitoba Alpha Omega Fund	5,000	In Memory of Samuel B. Tauber	5,201
Mark & Dorothy Danzker Perpetual Trust	672,322	Dr. & Mrs. Maurice M. Pierce	713	In Memory of Many Tenenbaum	226*
Dr. Harold Fleishman	1,104	Blumie & Iser Portnoy Endowment	28,656*	Miscellaneous Donations	1,447*
<i>*Additional contributions made in 2011</i>				Total	\$988,672

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAUL & CLARIBEL SIMKIN CENTRE ENDOWMENT FUND, PLEASE CONTACT THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AT (204) 477-7520.

In 2011, the following donors to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba directed proceeds of their funds to The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. We are grateful for their support.

Karen & Peter Leipsic Fund	Mona & Alvin Slotin Cancer Research Fund
Frank & Sophie Marantz Fund	Faige Soudack Fund
Rochelle Nozick Jewish Education Trust Fund	Dena Stitz Bat Mitzvah Fund
Sharon Home Endowment Fund	Liat Stitz Bat Mitzvah Fund
Ernest I. Silverberg, Morris Silverberg, David Silverberg, Maier Silverberg, and Antzi Silverberg Fund	Joe & Evelyn Wiesenthal Fund
	Winnipeg Aid Association Fund



STAFF AND RESIDENTS AT THE SAUL & CLARIBEL SIMKIN CENTRE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE MANITOBA DAY IN MAY. EACH COSTUME REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT TOWN IN MANITOBA.

Volunteer Profile: Barbara Hyman

A couple of years ago, Barbara Hyman was sitting on a balcony in Neve Ilan, Israel, overlooking the Judean Hills around dinner time. Not to diminish the breathtaking splendour of the Israeli landscape, but Barbara looked at her watch and realized that her day program at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre had just begun.

“There I was on vacation in Israel wondering what I was missing at the Centre!” says Barbara, now in her ninth year of volunteering. *“Volunteering with the day program is just such a huge part of my life!”*

Nine years ago, Barbara took a leave from her job and was looking for something to do to fill her time productively. A Simkin descendent, Barbara decided to give the Centre a call. Her grandmother, Fanny Simkin, and her aunt and uncle, Clara and Joe Erlichman, were former residents at the Kanee Centre on Magnus, and Barbara thought this would be a great way to give back to the Jewish community.

Well, what was supposed to be a temporary pastime, has turned into a long-term labour of love. Every Thursday, Barbara enters the building, gives a little nod and smile to the portraits of Uncle Saul and Auntie Claribel Simkin, and then gets to work at the day program.

The day program is designed for seniors in the community who do not live at the Centre. The staff and volunteers focus on delivering activities that are mentally, physically, and emotionally stimulating. Barbara does everything



BARBARA HYMAN (LEFT) HELPS PREPARE GIFT BAGS WITH RESIDENT JOAN GORDON.

from preparing lunch to playing horseshoes to leading trivia games.

“I know I’m helping, but I get so much out of this as well,” she says. *“I love the people. The recreation staff are exceptional and the participants are so grateful and so much fun to be with. And there is so much to learn from our seniors.”*

As much as Barbara enjoys focusing her volunteer time in the day program, she quickly earned a reputation as a “go to” person when the Centre needs extra hands.

“We call on Barbara for special events and she also helps with administrative tasks,” says Cindy Greenlay, Manager of Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services. *“She makes an exceptional contribution at the Centre.”*

Barbara encourages others to consider volunteering as well. *“There’s a tremendous need for more volunteers. I know it’s difficult to carve out the hours in our busy lives, but the feeling of reward is indescribable. It simply feels good to make a difference.”*

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 Barbara Hyman, working hands-on at the Centre 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

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Tallman Multi-Purpose Room
The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre
1 Falcon Ridge Dr.

Join us in a conversation about board governance at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre.

For background reading, please download the “Community Consultation Paper on Governance” from the home page at www.simkincentre.ca.

For more information or to indicate your attendance, please call 204-589-9014.

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

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 Terry Braunstein (Vice-Chair)
 Howard Collerman (Executive Member at Large)
 Mel Fages (Executive Member at Large)
 Murray Hyman (Treasurer)
 Evelyn Katz (Executive Member at Large)
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Kathleen Klaasen

EDITOR

Stu Slayen

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Manoverboard, Inc.

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The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre
 1 Falcon Ridge Drive
 Winnipeg MB R3Y 1V9
 Tel: (204) 586-9781
 Fax: (204) 589-7560
 Email: info@sharonhome.mb.ca
 www.simkincentre.ca



RESIDENTS ENJOYED A TOUR OF THE NEW MANITOBA HYDRO BUILDING DOWNTOWN THIS PAST SPRING.

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
1 Falcon Ridge Drive
Winnipeg MB R3Y 1V9

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number () _____

Donation amount _____

Payment method

Enclosed cheque payable to The Sharon Home Fund Inc. Visa Mastercard

Name of cardholder as it appears on the card _____

Credit card number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____

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

- Chai Fund (general)
- Hochman Music Endowment Fund (musical entertainment for residents)
- L'Dor Va'Dor Campaign (please contact me)

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





The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre Welcomes Five New Board Members

Moving forward with committed, enthusiastic leadership

At the Centre’s Annual General Meeting in October 2012, five new people joined the Board of Directors: David Cohen, Neil Duboff, Selma Gilfix, Cole Leinburd, and Carla Shapiro.

“We’re pleased to welcome such exceptional new members,” said Board Chair, Ted Lyons. “When I look around the table at our entire Board, I see enormous talent, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to the well-being of our residents and the community at large.”



DAVID COHEN

- Former Executive Director, Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.
- Former Stock and Commodity Broker, Dreman & Co. Ltd.
- Current Board member, Winnipeg Foundation.
- Former Board member, Winnipeg Folk Festival; Vice-President, Winnipeg Jewish Community Council; Chair, Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg; Founding President, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre; Chairman and Mayor, Israel Pavilion (Folklorama); Chairman, Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education; and Founding Chair, New Years’ Eve Concert for Hope and Peace.



NEIL DUBOFF

- Managing Partner of the Winnipeg law firm of Duboff Edwards Haight & Schachter Law Corporation.
- Serves as a trustee of the City of Winnipeg Pension Plan, is chairperson of the Regulated Health Care Advisory Commission, and is a member of the Society Trust and Estate Planners.
- Currently an active volunteer with the St Boniface Hospital Foundation, the Winnipeg Humane Society, and the Children’s Hospital Research Foundation.
- Former President, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg; and President, Jewish Child and Family Service.
- Currently sits on the Winnipeg Convention Centre Board.



SELMA GILFIX

- Retired R.N., now working on a casual basis at Children’s Hospital – where she has worked since 1975 – on the post op surgical/trauma floor.
- Former nursing instructor at Red River College.
- Previous Chair of The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre Quality Assurance Implementation Review Committee; Chair of the Spiritual Care/Jewish Values Committee; Chair of the Simkin Stroll Committee.
- Member of the Centre’s Yom Tov choir, which has been together for 13 years.
- Father has been a resident at the Centre since July 2011; Mother was a former resident who passed away in 2013.



COLE LEINBURD

- Account Executive at Crown Cap with past marketing positions held at Pollard Banknote Limited and Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet.
- Holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree in marketing from the Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba.
- Former Program Director, Camp Massad; graduate of Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate.
- Sits on the Board of Directors for Freeze Frame Media Arts Centre and ArtsScene.
- Grandmother is a current resident at the Centre.



CARLA SHAPIRO

- Current Senior Instructor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba.
- Earned Masters in Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba in 1991.
- Previously served as Nurse Co-ordinator at Health Sciences Centre, and as a Staff Nurse at St. Boniface Hospital and Children’s Hospital.
- Frequent lecturer and author, and has served on a number of health-related Boards locally and nationally.

From the Chair

Leadership is partnership



In 1944, my grandfather Mandel Lyons was elected Chairman of the Board of the Sharon Home and

in 1949 was succeeded by my maternal grandfather, J. Hyman Hecht. It is hard to know what their specific challenges were back then, but we do know that they had less technology and their residents were fewer and younger. Years ago, the average age of a resident was under 60; today it is almost 90. It was not unknown then to admit both spouses if one was in need of care and the other did not want to be separated. Different times, indeed.

Now, almost 70 years later, it is my privilege to lead. The complex medical conditions of residents and their advanced needs make care more challenging, but the

Centre is up to the task. I am but one member of the team here at the Simkin Centre. I come to the position, proudly and humbly, on the shoulders of former chairpersons and benefit from their wisdom and example.

Our Board shares in the leadership of the Centre with our passionate CEO, Kathleen Klaasen. Although she has only been at the helm for less than a year, Kathleen has rapidly earned the respect of all staff, residents, families, and the Board. The others who share in the leadership of the Centre and with whom we have a strong relationship are Manitoba Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. We are grateful for their partnership.

One of the Centre's objectives has long been to be a place of mutual respect and quality care for our community's elders – mutual respect among our 200 residents, their families, all of our staff, and our volunteers.

Caring for the needs of our residents also includes meeting the needs of families dealing with loved ones nearing the end of their days. It is a stressful time that requires care and understanding, especially in understanding what resources are available to all personal care homes in Manitoba funded by Manitoba Health. The Simkin Centre works diligently to enhance the level of care that can be provided. We have focused our efforts to bring together a Board of Directors with the skills and energy needed to move forward.

Still, there will always be challenges along the way and we must overcome them by working together respectfully.

My goal for the next two years is to continue to make the Simkin Centre a place of quality care for our community's seniors.

I wish you all a happy Pesach!

Dr. E. A. (Ted) Lyons O.C.
c/o BoardofDirectors@
sharonhome.mb.ca

The Simkin Stroll *Let's take steps together on June 9*

For the third year in a row, residents, families, staff, volunteers, and members of the community will join for a June afternoon to celebrate, take a stroll around the neighbourhood, and raise funds for The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre.

Last year's "Simkin Stroll" attracted about 150 participants and raised money to help enhance evening and weekend programming at the Centre. Funds raised this year will also be used toward enhanced programming.

"It's a priority for us to provide more programming for residents in the evenings and on the weekends," said CEO Kathleen Klaasen. "With a successful Simkin Stroll we will be able to provide more to our residents."



MOLLY SWIRSKY AND GUESTS ENJOY THEIR AFTERNOON AT LAST YEAR'S SIMKIN STROLL.

Reflections from the CEO

Meeting the quality challenge



At the risk of sounding cliché, quality is not a destination – it’s a journey.

All health care organizations

care about the quality of the work they do, and therefore need to study themselves, study others, and effect changes that are *measured* and *measurable*. Putting new processes and practices into place can’t simply be a cycle of anecdote and response. We are looking for holistic and – more important – sustainable change when change is required.

I am proud of our Centre’s quality journey. It’s a journey that began

in May 2011 with the release of the Quality Improvement Plan. The plan is available at <http://www.simkincentre.ca/QualityImprovementPlan.htm> and as it is updated, new versions are posted. The latest iteration is from November 2012.

Below you will read about two quality initiatives that are underway at the Centre: one on meal service; and one related to a revision of our nursing staff structure. Both are important initiatives for improving the resident experience.

For quality to be achieved and sustained, it is essential that we rely on data so we can recognize success and address shortcomings. In January, the Canadian Institute for Health Information released “When a Nursing Home is Home: How Do Canadian Nursing Homes

Measure Up on Quality.” The report looked at eight indicators of quality across Canada related to: mobility; incontinence; mood; behaviour symptoms; pain; falls; antipsychotic medications; and pressure ulcers.

In comparing our own data against the report’s findings, our performance on six of the eight indicators was better than the national and provincial rates; on the other two, our performance was similar to the national rate in one area, and similar to the provincial and national rates on the other. As part of our journey, we will study these new data and seek ways to perform better than national and provincial rates for all indicators.

My best wishes for a happy Pesach.

Kathleen Klaasen, RN, MN, GNC(c)
Kathleen.Klaasen@sharonhome.mb.ca

Quality Initiatives

Progress made in meal service delivery and new nursing staff model

Work continues on two important quality initiatives that were described in The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre’s last Annual Report.

First, the Centre’s meal service processes are being reviewed so that improvements can be made to the resident experience. With the help of process experts from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Centre has been observing meal service in the Simkin Building, gathering feedback from residents and their families, and conducting a literature review relating to meal service in nursing homes. The process is also looking at communication issues

around resident dietary needs; how best to ensure the right care at the right time to those residents requiring assistance to eat; what types of environmental factors (lighting, music, table arrangements) positively impact resident meal time experiences; and a review of the menus, meal presentation, and food quality. The review will be finished this month (March) and will be followed by recommendations and implementation.

A second initiative is an ongoing trial of a new nurse staffing structure in the Simkin Building. Since October, a Unit Coordinator has been hired to provide clinical leadership and to oversee clinical care on each of the two Simkin units. At the same time, an additional Licensed Practical Nurse has been added to the day

shift on these two units. It was hoped that with a new staffing model, changes from one shift of nurses to another would be more seamless. It was also hoped that calls to families would be returned more quickly and that residents would receive faster attention when needed.

“The early results look very good,” said Alanna Kull, Director of Care. “The purpose is to provide more front-line service to our residents. The feedback so far is positive and consistent with the results we wanted to achieve.”

The trial is scheduled to run until the fall at which time the model will be assessed, amended if necessary, and then implemented on all units throughout the Centre.

Celebrating Purim at the Centre

Purim is an annual highlight on the Jewish holiday calendar at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre with Steven Hyman reading the Megillah, and residents blotting out the memory of Haman with groggers. For several days leading up to Purim, dozens of hamentashen are baked throughout the facility, on every floor and even in the day program. (Apricot and poppyseed seem to be the most popular fillings.) We also had our annual Purim carnival which included many games, costumes, and even some karaoke! Residents could be seen Bowling for Haman, at the Fish Pond, the Shell Game, or “Adding Them Up” at the popular wheel spin game.



RESIDENT SALLY BAKER GETS INTO THE PURIM SPIRIT.



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WORKERS/PIRATES ALISSA MINAKER AND OLGA MYSCHYSHYN WITH LAURA STEELE AND MAX RIFKIN.



DESPITE THE HAT, MANNY MORRY SHOWS THAT PURIM IS ANYTHING BUT “FOWL”.



REHAB ASSISTANT CINDY BABIUK AND RESIDENT SONIA BERLINER TEST THEIR SKILLS AT THE FISH POND.

Embracing Winter

Residents at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre enjoyed a favourite Winnipeg winter pastime in February without having to leave the comfort of the facility on Falcon Ridge Drive.

In what’s become an annual tradition at the Centre, staff let three large blocks of snow harden outside overnight on a pallet. The next day, the blocks were wheeled in and residents were invited to carve and decorate a snowman and a snowwoman.

“Not only is this a fun activity,” explained Cindy Greenlay, Manager of Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services, “it also evokes important, happy memories of being a child and being a parent of youngsters. The residents who participate really love this program.”



RESIDENT MARILYN ABOSH POSES WITH THE FINISHED PRODUCT.



CINDY GREENLAY, MANAGER OF THERAPEUTIC RECREATION AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES, AND RESIDENT ADRIENNE NERBAS GET TO WORK.



RESIDENT SYLVIA POSNER HELPS TO TIDY UP AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM.

A Week in the Life

Max Rifkin keeping busy at the Centre

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre offers a wide array of social and cultural programming every week. From parties, to fitness, to cultural and religious events, the Simkin Centre aims to fill residents' days with fun and meaningful recreational programs.

Max Rifkin has been a resident at the Centre since 2011, and is one of our most active residents. He rarely misses a program. We like to say that Mr. Rifkin keeps busy to the Max!



ATTENDING THE MONTHLY BIRTHDAY PARTY ON WEINBERG 2 WITH SHOSHONAH SALAMON.



GETTING READY TO CUT THE HOMEMADE CHALLAH FOR SHABBAT.



ABOUT TO USE HIS THERABAND AT MORNING EXERCISES WITH HARRY RAYBURN.



SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS AS A FUNDRAISER FOR RESIDENT COUNCIL, OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER.

Volunteering at the Centre

Life at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre is enhanced by the work of enthusiastic volunteers of all ages. Working hands-on at the Centre is a rich and rewarding experience for approximately 50 volunteers who spend nearly 3,000 hours a year with our residents.

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

SOME STATS AND FACTS

- Our total annual budget is approximately \$13.5 million.
- It costs about \$190 per resident per day to have someone live at the Centre (not including medicines, lab tests, and certain other services).
- Manitoba Health pays 70% of the costs; the residents and their families pay 29% (\$32.50–\$76.00 per day).
- Manitoba Health sets the nursing staffing standard and funds personal care homes accordingly. It works out to an average of 3.6 hours per resident, per day.
- 15% of our nursing staff is made up of Registered Nurses or Registered Psychiatric Nurses; 15% are Licensed Practical Nurses; 70% are Health Care Aides.
- We have about 50 volunteers who, in the year ending March 31, 2012, contributed nearly 3,000 hours of work. We need more volunteers, and are reviewing our current systems to ensure best practice.
- While predominantly Jewish, The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre is open to people of all faiths. At the time of writing, approximately 20% of our residents are not Jewish. Our Spiritual Care Department welcomes clergy from outside of the home to work with our non-Jewish residents.

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

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

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Fax: (204) 589-7560

Email: info@sharonhome.mb.ca

www.simkincentre.ca

HAPPY PASSOVER

חג שמח

The Board and Staff of The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre extend their gratitude to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba for its support in the production of this newsletter.



**JEWISH FOUNDATION
OF MANITOBA**

Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

Keeping in Touch Electronically

Sign up for the new e-newsletter from The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre. The newsletter is an occasional, short e-mail from the Centre with news and information.

Visit www.simkincentre.ca and click on this icon:



Please support The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre by calling the office at (204) 589-9047 or by filling in this form and sending it in with your donation to:

The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre

1 Falcon Ridge Drive

Winnipeg MB R3Y 1V9

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number () _____

Donation amount _____

Payment method

Enclosed cheque payable to The Sharon Home Fund Inc. Visa Mastercard

Name of cardholder as it appears on the card _____

Credit card number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____

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

- Chai Fund (general)
- Hochman Music Endowment Fund (musical entertainment for residents)
- L'Dor Va'Dor Campaign (please contact me)

**For more information about your donation options,
please contact our office at (204) 589-9047.**





Sara Hochman: Bringing the Gift of Music

*Volunteer receives Federation's
Shem Tov Award*



When Sara Hochman sits down at the piano, her fingers fly over the keys and her

face shows how she is carried away by the music. Mrs. Hochman has been a volunteer pianist for most of her long life, and since 1958, the residents of the Sharon Home, now operating as the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre, have been the beneficiaries of her talent and generosity. No wonder she was this year's Simkin Centre recipient of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's Shem Tov Award, presented on May 21.

Mrs. Hochman plays concerts in the Tallman Multi-Purpose Room and in other areas of the Centre. She loves to play for what she calls a "special group" of people, as they sing, dance, and cry. She says, "I don't feel bad when they cry; they tell me that I am not making them sad, but bringing back memories."

One woman danced with her walker for her 100th birthday, and then again for each birthday for the next four years. For her 105th birthday, she was too weak to attend, but she sent for Mrs. Hochman to visit her after the concert. They hugged and kissed, and Mrs. Hochman describes herself as "ecstatic" about the privilege to play for her.

Another favourite story is about a well-dressed, well-groomed gentleman, with his young companion, who always sat in the same place in the auditorium and

always asked Mrs. Hochman to play "Besamo Mucho" for him. She always honoured his request, until one day he was missing from his usual place. Wiping away tears, she recalls how the young companion told her that the gentleman asked him, the day before he passed away, to thank her for always playing his favourite music for him.

It would be a very dreary world without music.

When asked why she comes so faithfully (she has missed only two scheduled visits in 56 years: once to have her hip replaced; and once when her husband, Sam, passed away), she says, simply, "I receive so much more than I give. It would be a very dreary world if there were no music. Music touches the heartstrings, and the Alzheimer people come alive. It's a two-way street – I love them and they love me."

Volunteering at The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre

Sara Hochman is one of more than 75 volunteers who enhance the quality of life for residents of the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre.

To become a volunteer, contact Kayla Cardinal, Volunteer and Companion Coordinator, at (204) 589-9008 or VolunteerServices@sharonhome.mb.ca



CELIA CORRIN AND HER COMPANION ARE SEEN HERE PLAYING BOWLING FOR HAMAN WITH VOLUNTEER MARLENE BATKE AT THE 2014 PURIM CARNIVAL. THE CARNIVAL ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS AND STAFF TO DRESS UP AND PLAY CARNIVAL GAMES SUCH AS WHEEL OF FORTUNE, FISH POND, THE SHELL GAME, AND, AS ALWAYS, WE HAVE LOTS OF HAMENTASHEN TO SNACK ON WHILE ENJOYING KARAOKE!

New Companion Program Now in Place

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre is pleased to introduce a new Companion Care Program.

Like many personal care homes and nursing homes across North America, some Simkin Centre residents and their families employ their own private companions. The Centre has developed a program

to ensure that companions have well-defined position descriptions, orientation, and education. At the same time, the program provides families with advice about how to recruit and supervise the companions they employ.

The Centre's program was developed after considerable consultation with families and after considerable research into similar programs in place in other centres.

"We recognize that many residents and their families choose to hire private companions to supplement the care we provide," said Irwin Corobow, Chief Executive Officer. "The purpose of the program is to help families select qualified companions, and to make sure that those companions understand the Centre's policies and procedures. Our ultimate objective is to ensure patient safety and comfort."

Simkin Stroll Successful Again

Taking Steps Together: On June 8, the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre held its fourth annual Simkin Stroll. More than 150 people joined in for a walk

around the neighbourhood, a barbecue, and live entertainment. As with last year's event, monies raised will be used to expand evening and weekend programming for our residents.



RESIDENT MOLLY SWIRSKY SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AT THE SIMKIN STROLL.



ADMINISTRATION STAFF, JANET CONRAD (LEFT) AND LINDA LALONDE, TAKING DONATIONS AT THE STROLL.



RESIDENT BETTY PASH WITH SIMKIN STROLL GUEST, KEIRA (DAUGHTER OF ALANNA KULL, DIRECTOR OF CARE).

Annual Community Information Meeting

Please join us to learn about life at the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre, and to meet members of the staff and Board of Directors.

Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre
The Tallman Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday, October 29, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Message from the CEO

Irwin Corobow, Chief Executive Officer



It is a pleasure to pen my first article for *RE:Generations*, the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre's

newsletter. I have been with the Centre since January, and it has been a great pleasure getting to know our residents, families, and staff and learn about the many positive things taking place here. Coming to work every day is a pleasure.

There is a remarkable energy and culture in this outstanding facility. It struck me almost immediately. Our residents are kind and involved; our families are engaged and passionate; our staff work tirelessly; and our volunteers are dynamic. This place is alive; as a Jewish community we should be proud of what we have created and sustained.

The Simkin Centre is the personal care home of choice for the Winnipeg Jewish community. As I write this, over 80% of our residents

are Jewish and we continue to work with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority to ensure that everyone in the Jewish Community who wants to live in the Centre can do so.

We will always be guided by the core Jewish values of: *kedushah* (sanctity); *derech eretz* (respect for all people); and *kavod* (the honour due each person). As we move forward and plan for the future, these values will serve as the foundation of the decisions we make and the services we provide to our residents and their families.

As a key institution in the Jewish community, I am pleased to report that the Centre has now received beneficiary status with the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, and we are looking forward to continued engagement with the Federation and other organizations in meeting the needs of seniors in our community.

As a new beneficiary, we were invited to name our first ever Shem Tov Award recipient at the May 2014 Kavod Evening. We were honoured to present the award to Sara Hochman, a woman who exemplifies all that is good about our community. She is

joyful and talented, and has brought smiles to the faces of residents with her music for over 50 years. She is featured on the first page of this newsletter.

At the same Kavod Evening, our Chair, Ted Lyons, was named the winner of the Sol Kanee Distinguished Community Service Medal. Ted earned the award for his many years of skilled leadership and participation in community life. We are proud to have him as our Chair and we congratulate him.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and staff, I want to take this brief opportunity to acknowledge the passing of Judge Robert Kopstein, who served the Centre for many years as a Director and Chair of the Board of Directors. Judge Kopstein was instrumental in the opening of the Simkin Centre and was a major force for other organizations in the Jewish community. The Centre holds a debt of gratitude to him. Our condolences go out to his family.

Irwin Corobow, CEO

Irwin.Corobow@sharonhome.mb.ca



JEAN PICKARD AND IDA GLIMCHER ARE SEEN HERE EXPLAINING WHAT THEIR FAVOURITE TOYS WERE AS PART OF A BOOK THEY CREATED TOGETHER WITH THIS FAMILY FROM THE PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM.



ALISSA MINAKER (RECREATION FACILITATOR) IS DRESSED AS AN OLD FASHIONED FARM WIFE WITH ANNE REHALUK IN HER CROWN, FOR PURIM.

Centre Excels in 2014 Standards Review

The Simkin Centre received a grade of 92% in its most recent Manitoba Health/WRHA Standards Review.

A team of reviewers visited the Centre for two days in February and assessed the Centre on 12 standards: Safety and Security; Bill of Rights; Use of Restraints; Eligibility for Admission; Freedom from Abuse; Nursing; Pharmacy Services; Therapeutic Recreation; Disaster Management; Staff Education; and Integrated Care Plan Documentation.

Centre staff were commended by the reviewers for the efforts they made in preparing for the review. Only one area – Integrated Care Plan Documentation – was identified for further work and the reviewers noted that a process has already been put in place to achieve the desired result.

The Standards Review is a bi-annual exercise. The next review will take place in 2016.

Indicators of Quality and Progress

All 39 personal care homes in the Winnipeg Health Region are routinely examined for their performance for the purpose of improving results across the Region.

We are pleased to report that in a recent quarterly report issued by the WRHA, the Centre achieved above average results in a number of areas:

- (1) the percentage of residents who fell in a 30-day period (13.6% for the Centre vs 17.3% for the Region);
- (2) the percentage of residents with a newly occurring pressure ulcer (0.8% for the Centre vs 2.8% for the Region);
- (3) the percentage of residents whose pressure ulcer worsened (0.8% for the Centre vs 9.0% for the Region); and
- (4) the percentage of residents who experienced an increase in pain (4.2% for the Centre vs 7.2% for the Region).

“We share these results for two important reasons,” said CEO Irwin Corobow. “First, the indicators serve as an important tool for seeking continuous improvement in how we provide care. Second, it is important that we act transparently and demonstrate accountability. These numbers are good, however we continuously strive to do better.”

The numbers also serve as a reminder to the community that personal care home residents have complex needs. “As the average age of residents rises and their medical needs increase, all personal care homes need to become more sophisticated in how they address ulcers, falls, and other issues,” added Corobow.

For more information about quality indicators, contact Alanna Kull, Director of Care, (204) 589-9017, Alanna.Kull@sharonhome.mb.ca



SIMKIN CENTRE RESIDENT SAM KNACKER TALKS ABOUT HIS FAVOURITE SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL WITH THIS FAMILY FROM THE PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM.



RESIDENT IDA GLIMCHER LOVES HER JESTER HAT THAT SHE WORE FOR THE PURIM CARNIVAL.



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION FACILITATOR SHANNON BURCHUK BROUGHT IN HER COCA-COLA COLLECTIBLES SEEN HERE BEHIND RESIDENT, CLAIRE HURTIG. EVERYONE WANTED TO HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN WITH THE ONE-OF-A-KIND COLLECTION!

New Spiritual Care Approach

Following a comprehensive review of spiritual care practices at other personal care homes and nursing homes, the Simkin Centre has launched a new approach to providing spiritual care.

The Centre now employs two Spiritual Care Health Practitioners who are available for our residents and their families. Carla Kehler, who has been on staff at the Centre since 2006, has been joined by Barb Findley, who has recently completed a three-month placement at the Centre.

Carla and Barb offer spiritual care counselling to our residents, and

they also conduct group programs of interest to residents. They also act as a resource to our health care team on spiritual care and religious issues, and they liaise with Rabbis, Cantors, and other Winnipeg clergy on behalf of individual residents.

“We’re excited about our new approach to spiritual care,” said CEO Irwin Corobow. “While Carla and Barb are exceptional practitioners, a real cornerstone for our program will be the continued support and participation of our community’s Cantors and Rabbis. At the Simkin Centre, we recognize that well-being is not just about the physical body. The achievement of overall well-being requires spiritual outlets and support.”



BARB FINDLEY (TOP) AND CARLA KEHLER SERVE THE SIMKIN CENTRE AS SPIRITUAL CARE HEALTH PRACTITIONERS. “WE’RE EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEW APPROACH TO SPIRITUAL CARE,” SAID IRWIN COROBOW, CEO.



TURNING CLOCKS HELP STAFF NOTE WHEN TO MOVE PATIENTS WHO ARE AT RISK OF SKIN BREAKDOWN.



AYNSLEY NIXON HEADS UP THE NEW NURSING-SPECIFIC INFECTION CONTROL TEAM AT THE UNIT LEVEL.

News from the Nursing Department

We are pleased to announce the launch of a nursing-specific infection control team at the unit level. The team is lead by Aynsley Nixon, Direct Care Nursing Resource, and includes a Licensed Practical Nurse from each of the five units as core team members. The focus of the team is on targeted surveillance of infections and will expand into routine practice/hand hygiene education and awareness.

In January 2014 we successfully introduced the use of Turning Clocks for those residents who are at risk of skin breakdown. After a trial period, 40 of these clocks are now successfully in use. The clocks provide visual reminders to staff about what positions residents should assume in bed, and when to turn residents to their next position. The clocks are a valuable addition to the Centre’s pressure ulcer prevention tools. The Simkin Centre works hard to minimize the incidence of pressure ulcers among our residents. In a recent report produced by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the incidence of new pressure ulcers among the Centre’s residents was 0.8% compared to a regional average of 2.8% .

The new unit coordinator model has been rolled out on all five units. The model places a coordinator on each unit and includes the hiring of a new .8 equivalent Licensed Practical Nurse on each unit. The new staffing model is expected to increase the availability of front-line care, thereby improving patient safety and well-being.

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

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Hadass Eviatar

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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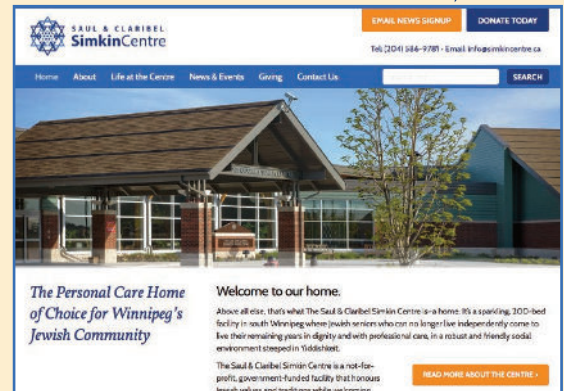
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**Keeping
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Sign up for the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre's e-newsletter. Our occasional newsletter is a short email with news and information about life at the Centre.

**SUBSCRIBE AT
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Please support the Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre by calling the office at (204) 589-9047 or by filling in this form and sending it in with your donation to:

The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre
1 Falcon Ridge Drive
Winnipeg MB R3Y 1V9

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