



We are **Associated**  
Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

# Technology

BY DIANA NAIBERG

# Opens New Portals

**Gone are the days of blackboard and chalk.**

Today's Associated classrooms have SMARTboards, computers and NEOs (keyboards with memory for students with fine-motor skill difficulties), as well as audio equipment and digital cameras. From Bet Haya'eled to elementary to the middle school classrooms, staff rooms and school offices, technology has become an integral part of the curriculum. On a daily basis it makes communication more thorough and accessible, improving education and keeping students and teachers more motivated than ever.

In the past six years, technology and the resources available to both students and teachers have transformed the learning

process and environment at all three branches. Teachers are now able to provide and utilize such visual aids as pictures, movies and even sound. New software enables them to save or print out entire lessons, which in the past would be erased off the blackboard at the end of a class.

"We now live in an era where the communication landscape has been completely turned upside down," says Mike Kujawski, a marketing and social media strategist for the Centre of Excellence for Public Sector Marketing. "The technological barriers that have restricted the 'one-to-many' model of communication are no longer present," he adds, noting that we are seeing this

more in schools where technology is "embedded in students' lives."

Certainly these barriers are falling at Associated, where technology in the classroom begins in Bet Haya'eled, helping children in JK and SK develop fine-motor skills and dexterity. By middle school, students are utilizing technology expertly to present, share and discuss information.

Ruth Parker, computer consultant for all three branches, says it's important for Associated to keep up with the changing times. She explains that technology is more than a means of communication for students; it's their way of life, what they can relate to and how they are comfortable expressing themselves. As such, she goes on, "It's a natural progression for the School to continue to prepare students for future jobs and day-to-day living."

Toward this goal, in addition to computers in every classroom of each branch, there are computer labs where students learn

anything from typing to researching and are using software on a weekly basis. Kamin has implemented a new wireless computer lab that includes 27 laptops and a printer. The accessibility of these technologies has allowed teachers a greater breadth in engaging their students. When the math strand of Data Management was taught, Grade 4 and 5 students took surveys and created spreadsheets, then graphed their results and wrote conclusions. The Grade 5 Enrichment students at both branches are designing their own stadium, conservation area or theme park using the Word Art program of MS Office; they are calculating seating capacities and costs of food in the course of studying math. In Grade 6, students were taught to type in French with proper accents and have done a variety of PowerPoint presentations. Their latest project was to create a travel brochure in French, writing about the sights of Paris from a child's perspective.

*Continued on page 2*



## We Are Associated

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**We Are Associated** is a joint communication vehicle of Associated Hebrew Schools and the Parent Teacher Council. It is our aim to provide meaningful and useful information to parents, students, alumni, staff and members of the community who all contribute to the excellence of our school.

The goal of Associated Hebrew Schools is education. Our constituency comprises members from many cultural, social and religious segments of the Jewish community. Since 1907, we have provided the finest educational services and facilities. A dynamic institution, Associated has adapted its programs throughout the decades to ensure that an outstanding educational experience remains accessible.

For those who seek wisdom, understanding and the opportunity to perpetuate the Jewish people and our Jewish community, we invite you to associate yourself with our quest for success.

Readers are invited to submit comments or questions in writing to **We Are Associated** at the address below:

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UJA Federation provides funding for Jewish Education at Associated Hebrew Schools.

## Technology Opens New Portals CONTINUED

The most popular device with students at all three branches is the SMARTboard, which allows them to enhance their oral presentations by using the SMARTboard in front of their peers. These and other applications of technology will help students "become literate citizens of the digital age," as Parker says, while offering teachers a way to individualize and measure student progress.

Individual student needs are also being determined and met in new ways. There is a high demand for NEOs and Word Q, a program used to help students who have difficulty expressing themselves in their writing on a regular basis. Parker is also co-ordinating a pilot project with Naomi Tebeka, a Grade 6 Hebrew teacher. Tebeka records herself telling a Hebrew story on the computer; students then listen to it and verbally answer the questions that follow. The students use a microphone and save their answers as MP3 files that the teacher collects on a memory stick and marks at home.

"It's a different form of learning, so students don't have to write or type," Parker says, adding this taps into every learning style whether a student is an audio, visual or tactile learner.

The creative application of technology to enrich traditional subjects has been going on at the School for some time. In honour of Associated's 100th year, an interactive

online museum was set up. For Posluns' "Living Museum," each student brought an artifact relating to his or her heritage, which was then displayed at the school and online. For the Grade 6 heritage project, students studied North American First Nations and related what they'd learned to their own family histories and reasons for coming to Canada. The students interviewed their relatives and gathered photographs, documents, medals and recipes, then presented their findings using PowerPoint. And perhaps most amazing to those of us from the blackboard-and-chalk days, is the live connection set up between Associated elementary students and members of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation (WWHF) at the Kotel in Jerusalem, during which they were led by a WWHF guide in a chidon (Bible contest).

Some things are still done the old-fashioned way. For example, students still take their own notes and do Bristol-board presentations in science class. But Associated has come a long way since the days of the Apple Mac 2E back in 1989.

"We try to teach students something different... stay on top of things," Parker says. "Parents and teachers can rest assured that Associated will continue to remain at the leading edge of technology and provide students with the necessary tools for growth and success in the 21st century."

JK students at the Kamin Education Centre learn computer skills using a SMARTboard.



BY DR. MARK SMILEY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## Listening to the Commanding Voice of Tradition



Dr. Mark Smiley ('72)

The main theme of the recent holiday of Shavuot in Rabbinic Judaism is a recognition that mankind heard and recognized the commanding voice of G-d at Sinai. Torah and Rabbinic literature are believed to embody the commanding voice of *Hashem*, with

direct quotes in the *Tanach* and citation by rabbis in the *Midrash*. Traditional Judaism views the rabbis and the legal tradition as guides to the details of the expectations or ways to be followed. These are called the *Halachot* (ways) or *Mitzvot* of the tradition.

*Pesach* has the *Seder* and *matzot*; *Succot* has the *succah* and *lulav*. A distinguishing element of the festival of Shavuot is the absence of any concrete symbol to represent the concept of *Matan*

*Torah* (revelation), i.e., the giving of the Torah. While the holiday of Shavuot in Temple times had the *Bikurim* (fruit harvest), as did all the festivals, nothing remains as a *halachic* symbol.

This absence may have led to the development of many of today's customs, such as eating dairy and *Tikun Leil Shavuot* (studying Torah all night). Still, these folk-customs do not create a symbol for the majesty of G-d entering history and connecting with mankind with obligations to be holy, do good and be exemplars of moral behaviour.

At Associated, we understand that we try to hear the voice of G-d and the moral-commanding voice through the study of Torah. Such emphasis

is put in our elementary Torah curriculum to connect our students with the belief that the Torah is our source of wisdom and direction, as it is interpreted throughout the generations. Our emphasis on Hebrew allows real engagement with our primary sources and the ability to interpret them with both traditional and modern eyes.

We celebrate a tradition that believes there is a commanding voice. That voice may come from within the tradition or be the voice of reason that we hear in the back of our heads when we make a moral choice. It is exciting that at AHS we can still connect to an ancient tradition because we have accepted Torah as a relevant source of inspiration throughout Jewish history. •



## Thank You Robin

to make the publication interesting and relevant to a wide audience of Associated families and the community-at-large. As this is her final issue as editor, we express our sincere gratitude and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

After three years on the editorial committee and two years as co-editor for **We Are Associated**, Robin Sofer is stepping down. Robin's enthusiasm, great ideas and amazing editing skills have greatly benefitted **We Are Associated**. Her dedication has continued

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**As parents**, we measure time in milestones and phases. Your child won't, but chances are you'll always remember when he or she began to read; or the school project during which you realized that your child had more to teach you, than the other way around.

As described in our cover article, Associated's new technologies and their innovative applications represent another milestone we are more likely to recall than our children. They'll grow up to take their technological proficiency as much for granted as reading and writing.

It has been an interesting year as the focus on the Centennial and Associated's history shifted to the future and the road ahead. Putting together this issue, we realized that road is wider than ever. Stephanie Klein, our profiled alumna, shows us

how far determination and talent, in a seemingly non-traditional interest, can take a student, with support. This support, and the resources to offer it, is at the heart of all our efforts as parents, families and School.

This issue marks another end besides that of the school year: co-editor, Robin Sofer, is retiring from the board.

**Naomi:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robin for her friendship and support. Her ideas and hard work are reflected in the content and quality of each *We Are Associated* issue she worked on. On behalf of the entire editorial board, we wish Robin the best of luck. Her presence no less than her contributions will be missed.

## LETTER FROM THE Editors

Naomi Moscoe

Robin Sofer



**Robin:** I would like to thank my co-editor Naomi Moscoe and AHS Marketing and Communications Associate Marcie Fisher for their friendship and tireless efforts in creating this fabulous newsletter time after time. I would also like to thank the committee members and contributors who have shared their time and expertise with me in the past few years. I really value the experience I have had putting this newsletter together, and look forward to seeing it develop in the future.

# Teacher Profile



## Sharon Swartz

Above: Sharon with her teaching assistant Rachel Wrock and her JK class dressed in white for the Shavuot celebration.

**Q. How long have you been teaching?**

**A.** I have been teaching for 17 years, the past nine at Associated.

**Q. What made you want to become a teacher?**

**A.** My heritage and children have always been important to me and teaching Jewish children combined my two loves. It was predetermined by my peers in Grade 9 when they wrote in my yearbook that I would become a teacher someday.

**Q. How do you apply your past work experience in the classroom?**

**A.** I'm a product of the Jewish school system and grew up in a traditional home. I hold the values and lessons learned over the years very close to my heart. They influence the way I approach teaching.

**Q. What is your educational background?**

**A.** I am a graduate of Bialik and CHAT. I earned my B.A. in Judaic studies from York University and a diploma in Early Childhood Education from George Brown College.

**Q. Describe a classroom experience that makes teaching worthwhile.**

**A.** There are so many: children who have creative and thoughtful questions that impress me; watching a child struggle with a new skill and then mastering it; and, after completing a *Pesach seder* or a *Purim shpiel* at Baycrest, receiving feedback from parents or grandparents that reflect their *naches* in their children, is so rewarding.

**Q. What is it that you love most about teaching?**

**A.** Knowing that I'm part of something bigger than myself and imparting knowledge that will influence and shape my students. Teaching in a Jewish school means that I get to perform the mitzvah of teaching Jewish values to Jewish children.

**Q. What is the best part of working with children?**

**A.** The optimism and innocence that children exude is contagious. Working with them is like wearing special glasses each day and viewing the world through their eyes. Even on the worst day, working with children lifts my spirits and keeps me young at heart.

**Q. What are your individual educational philosophies and how do you apply them in school?**

**A.** As a mother and educator, respect is my number-one priority. My philosophy is to create an inviting, caring and respectful environment for the class and to provide each child with those three values. Jewish values influence my philosophy as well.

**Q. What makes you unique as a teacher?**

**A.** I think that my genuine love for the job and the children make me special. Even after 17 years, I smile, I am optimistic and I remain young at heart. Perhaps that makes me unique.

**Q. Your son has recently graduated from Associated. How has he benefitted from his education at Associated and how have things changed since he was in JK?**

**A.** AHS has given him a solid Jewish foundation and has enabled him to thrive at CHAT. At Associated today, the Hebrew language program is far superior. Also, the addition of Hebrew immersion classes provides a great new way to impart the language to preschool-age children. •

BY MARCIE FISHER

## Centre for Diverse Learning Unifies the Classroom

**“If a child cannot learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”**

Last year, after receiving significant funding from the Weinbaum family and other generous donors, Associated Hebrew Schools launched its Centre for Diverse Learning (CDL), an initiative to assist students with various learning challenges, provide programming for those that require enrichment and facilitate an inclusive learning environment for all students. Joyce Lambert, CDL Co-ordinator for the Kamin Education Centre, says, “Our approaches to differentiated instruction help enrich the learning styles of all students.”

Rather than immediately resorting to break-out sessions to help students with specific learning issues, the CDL first investigates ways teachers can employ differentiated instruction methods within the classroom to reach children with different learning styles.

The creation of the CDL has added to the

School's internal resources by hiring specially trained co-ordinators for each of the School's three branches. In addition, the CDL initiative has formalized and streamlined the process through which students and teachers receive support. Prior to the formation of the CDL, many special learning services already existed at Associated, including resource and enrichment educators and professional development for educators. However, the founding of the CDL “has led to an increase in the amount, co-ordination and quality of support provided to teachers and students,”

says Belinda Keshen, Vice Principal and CDL Co-ordinator for the Posluns Education Centre.

The CDL Co-ordinators provide a range of services that include leading professional development for teachers; assisting educators with teaching methods; providing study materials to assist students; one-on-one counselling with teachers and students; liaising with community organizations and parents; and writing Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students who require assistance. “We look at the whole child in order to help him or her succeed both academically and

socially,” says Bev Gitter, CDL Co-ordinator for the Danilack Middle School.

The CDL is even present in the Bet Haya'eled, where each child is considered as an individual with his or her unique talents. Through the involvement of in-class consultants, community agencies, focused professional development and a curriculum implemented using a wide range of resources that support the needs of a variety of learning styles, the Bet Haya'eled is identifying individual needs and using strategies to help every child reach their full potential.

The CDL may not be able to accommodate the needs of all students or all learning styles. However, its implementation will make Associated's curriculum accessible to more students, and will enable many of them to thrive within the system and go on to succeed in high school. •



## Centennial Thank-You

There is nothing more crucial to an organization than the dedication of its volunteers.

The success of Associated's Centennial Celebrations could not have happened without the unyielding and exemplary support of the leadership of the School and all those involved in implementing and carrying out plans laid out by the Centennial team.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Beth Singer and Bonnie Goodman Bloom, Co-chairs of the Centennial Celebrations, for

their tireless and enthusiastic support and skills, as well as countless hours of their time. Bonnie and Beth surrounded themselves with excellent committee chairs and volunteers who contributed so much to the success of all the projects and events.

We would also like to thank all of our donors and sponsors for their support and the following committees and their chairs for their outstanding achievement and dedication:

**Centennial Gala Co-chairs:**

Esther Zepplier and Sally Zigler

**The Centennial Endowment Fund Co-chairs:**

Claire Glowinsky and Sheldon Carr

**Centennial Birthday Bash Co-chairs:**

Raquel Sananes Grad and Rochelle Kerzner

# Stephanie Klein, '04

# Alumni Story

BY DEENA GAUZE



**How can you maintain a 4.0 grade point average, compete on an NCAA golf team, be a member of a volunteer ambulance service, shadow an orthopaedic surgeon and be in the Presidential Honors Society?** For Stephanie Klein (class of 2004) it's a combination of talent, hard work and time-management skills learned in school.

A scholarship student in her first year of the Pre-Med program at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Albany, Stephanie credits her teachers at Associated, especially Mrs. Pirotsky z"l and Mrs. Goldstein, with instilling in her a love of learning of all sorts. "They encouraged and motivated me to try new things and work hard to reach my goals," she said. Associated also made Stephanie proud of her heritage and, thanks to the advantage of a day school education, she's able to explain Jewish traditions and customs to her fellow university students.

Stephanie started playing golf with her father when she was 12 years old. Her natural talent showed up right away and she began playing competitively almost immediately. Within three years, she ranked among the best young golfers in Canada. She played for TanenbaumCHAT Richmond Hill and the Canadian Maccabiah team before being recruited by SUNY-Albany. Stephanie was the only Jewish girl in the country [United States] to be recruited to a Division I NCAA varsity women's golf team on an athletic scholarship. She had a great rookie season and quickly emerged as one of the team's stars.

Stephanie is a gifted and hard-working athlete, but she never neglects her studies. Instead of a double program featuring General and Judaic Studies, hers features athletics and academics. Stephanie is at the top of her Pre-Med class and plans to study medicine after earning her B.Sc. She's involved in several extra-curricular activities including being a member of an on-campus volunteer ambulance service and shadowing an orthopaedic surgeon. Her high academic achievement also earned her a spot in the Presidential Honors Society and on the Dean's list.

How has Stephanie managed to achieve success in so many areas? Hard work and perseverance, values and skills that she learned at Associated, allow her to make the most of her talents. Stephanie put it best when asked why she would recommend AHS to prospective parents:

**"Associated provides an excellent learning environment because the teachers connect on a personal level with each student. It's a great place to learn about Judaism and the School prepares its students well before they enter the next stage of their academic careers."** •

**Jewish education is about the future;** as a school and a community, our eyes must be fixed clearly on the road ahead. The current financial challenges that confront Associated and its families cannot be allowed to prevent our children from realizing their fullest potential. It is for them that we need your help.

"Tuition fees at Associated are equal to the per capita cost of educating a student," says Executive Director Arthur Landa. "Many of the costs related to educational advancement cannot be met by tuition fees alone. Ensuring that Associated remains financially accessible is extremely taxing even with the significant financial support of UJA Federation. The reality is that with over 300 Associated families receiving financial assistance, the Jewish education of hundreds of children lies in the balance.

Our Annual Campaign, Kadima, provides additional revenue that

aids our School in meeting the financial challenges that cannot be met by tuition fees alone. We appeal to all of our supporters—alumni, parents of alumni, community members and our current parents—to contribute to our Annual Campaign to whatever extent they are able.

A gift to Kadima is an expression of your belief in the power of Jewish education and its importance to our community. It is a powerful statement of solidarity with Associated's unique mission: to ensure today that the promise of tomorrow can be realized.

**Please support our Annual Campaign, or to discuss other giving opportunities please contact Pauline Pankowski at 416-494-7666 x 260.**



## Yes, I want to support Jewish Education at Associated – The 2009 Campaign!

Please complete and mail to Associated Hebrew Schools, 252 Finch Ave. W., Toronto, ON M2R 1M9 OR fax to 416-494-2925.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution:     \$5,400     \$3,600     \$2,500     \$1,800     \$1,000     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
                                \$720         \$540         \$360         \$250         \$180

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to Associated Hebrew Schools  
 Please charge my Visa/Mastercard in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**The Centennial Sefer Torah Committee Co-chairs:**

Dr. Mark Greenberg and Barry Sacks

**Centennial Forest Committee Co-chairs:**

Susan Batist and Tanya Jacobs

**Centennial Book and Video Committee Co-chairs:**

Clara Gordon, Liza Gutfrajnd and Mery Volcovich

**Tribute Book Chair:**

Michele Michaelov

**The Centennial year was a truly unforgettable experience for all. We look forward to the next 100 years of delivering superb education to our students and building our Jewish community together.**





BY MARCIE FISHER

## Dr. Seuss Month at Kamin Bet Hayaed

February was Dr. Seuss month in the Kamin Bet Hayaed. Students had fun reading Dr. Seuss books and picking out rhymes and patterns, talking about the stories, creating Seuss-like rhymes and stories and, of course, using the SMARTboard for Dr. Seuss-themed games and activities. The Dr. Seuss month culminated on his birthday, March 2, with a dress-up day and celebration, along with Dippin' Dots treats for each child provided by the Revivo family. Every child also received a special loot bag and a "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Gefilte Fish" T-shirt that put an Associated spin on Dr. Seuss day.



## Bible Champs

Students from Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack Middle School took top honours in the Grade 7/8 Division at the National Bible Contest (Chidon) that was held in Montreal on May 10, 2009. Pictured above from left to right are Zachary Zarnett-Klein who won first place, Jordana Maged and David Ripsman who tied for second place and Simon Gladstone who ranked in the top 10 along with their coach, Rabbi Saar Rozen.

## Posluns Celebrates the Many Faces of Jerusalem

On Yom Yerushalayim, students in Grades 1-5 at the Posluns Education Centre presented an Erev Tarbut (Evening of Culture) celebrating the cultural diversity in modern day Jerusalem. The evening included a beautiful exhibit of student artwork and a concert of songs representing the Sephardic, Russian, French, Ethiopian and Argentinian communities living today in Jerusalem. The evening culminated a year-long focus on the teaching of diversity and the Jewish value to honour all of G-d's creations.



## Toy Sale for Beit Halochem

Students from Mrs. Goldberg's Grade 5 class at the Kamin Education Centre recently arranged a toy sale to benefit Beit Halochem, an organization that provides aid to the disabled veterans of Israel. The students donated new toys for the sale, including many of their own unused birthday gifts. The sale, which was staffed by the students was a tremendous success raising over \$2,700 for this great cause.

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Mordechai Cohen has been appointed Judaic Studies Principal in the Danilack Middle School.**

In this role, he will coordinate the Judaic Studies curriculum, lead the religious life programs and co-direct the Middle School with Sheldon Diamond, Principal of General Studies.

Mordechai previously directed the Judaic studies program at the New Community Jewish Day High School in Los Angeles and served as a lead teacher in San Diego. Mordechai, who was born in Canada, grew up in the USA and has lived in Israel for seven years. His education includes Judaic Studies at Hebrew University, the Pardes Institute and various *yeshivot*. In addition to being a Pardes educator, he is also an alumnus of the Melton M.A. program, a graduate of The Day School Leadership Training Institute (DSLTI) and he holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California.



Mordechai Cohen

### **Dafna Ross has been appointed as a Vice Principal for Special Needs and Professional Development at Associated.**

In this role, she will oversee the Middle School transition classes (formerly She'arim). She will also co-direct the Centre for Diverse Learning program at the Middle School and provide consultation to our other branches. In addition to her CDL and Professional Development responsibilities, she will consult on the Hebrew language curriculum in the Danilack Middle School.

Dafna has previously been a Director of Special Needs at USDS, a lead educator in York University's teacher training program and a professional development consultant at Mercaz, where she worked closely with many of Associated's teachers. Dafna is also currently completing a doctorate in education at York University.



Dafna Ross

### **Elana Shapiro-Davidson has been appointed as a Vice-Principal in our Preschool program.**

Elana is an AHS graduate and has distinguished herself as an outstanding teacher in our Preschool over the past two years. She holds a B.Ed and M.Ed from OISE/University of Toronto and has certification in both educational administration and special needs.

Elana has been a teacher both in Jewish preschools and Jewish elementary schools since 1999. She has worked as a mentor teacher and has been involved in many exciting early years initiatives integrating experiential learning with a focus on student learning and achievement.

Elana's appointment follows the decision of **Brenda Dzaldov** to step down as a Vice Principal in the Bet Hayaed to pursue her doctorate in Education. We wish Brenda much success in this and all of her future endeavours.



Elana Shapiro-Davidson

# Our Associated



## Press

**For the past fourteen years,** I have been proud to identify myself as a parent at Associated Hebrew Schools. My school involvement has culminated in my two-year term as president of the Parent Teacher Council. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the many amazing opportunities I have been given.

I have truly enjoyed being a part of the leadership of AHS' PTC. It has been an honour to work with exceptional professional and administrative staff as well as extraordinary lay leaders who work collectively to provide an academically challenging curriculum and spiritually stimulating environment for our children. It has also been my privilege to work with an outstanding group of dedicated volunteers who have given so much of their time for the success of our school. Thanks to all for your support and collaboration.

I would not have been able to fulfill my role at AHS without the support of my wonderful family and friends. Their assistance and understanding is most gratefully appreciated.

Over the last few years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Tracy Zepp and extend to her my best wishes as incoming president. I am certain that she and the PTC Executive will continue to build on their strong roots and will achieve great success in all of their endeavours.

Greatest thanks for giving me this rewarding and memorable experience.

All the best,  
**Jodi Gottesman**

[ptcpresident@ahschools.com](mailto:ptcpresident@ahschools.com)



OUTGOING  
**President**  
Jodi Gottesman

**My journey began at Associated Hebrew Schools eight years ago** when my son entered his warm and friendly nursery class at Kamin's Bet Hayaed. He was so excited and enthusiastic to be part of such a big and amazing place, as was I. Now my son is heading to Middle School and my daughter will be entering Grade 4, and both have a love of learning and a connection to Jewish life. It is a wonderful journey.

I have always been in awe of the impact that the volunteers make at Associated. Being an involved parent allows me to contribute to the School and to make a difference in enhancing our children's educational experience.

The PTC has been successful under the leadership of outgoing President Jodi Gottesman. Her dedication and commitment to the PTC and to our school is unsurpassed. *Kol Hakavod* on her outstanding hard work and devotion to our school.

It is with much pride and great anticipation that I embark on this next journey as President of the Parent Teacher Council. Like all of us, Associated and PTC are facing a challenging year. As we look to the close of this school year and the preparation for the next, I am filled with optimism and excitement not because I am blind to the difficulties facing the economy, our families, our community and our school, but because I know that together "we"—the parents, the teachers, the administrators and all of our committed volunteers—will be able to accomplish amazing things for our children's education and school life at Associated.

We are privileged to be a part of Associated in its 101st year of sharing journeys. Associated is all about the journey: our journey, our children's journey and our community's journey. I welcome you to become involved and join me in strengthening that journey.

Wishing you a wonderful summer holiday,  
**Tracy Zepp**



INCOMING  
**President**  
Tracy Zepp

## DID YOU KNOW...

**The Parent Teacher Council is operated** by hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly to support the wonderful programs in our School. Through many fundraising initiatives, we are able to raise significant funds that are allocated to various programs and initiatives in the School. **This year, the PTC budget was \$168,950. Some of these allocations included: \$6,000 for author visits at all of the branches, \$21,500 to the General Studies and Hebrew libraries, \$50,000 for the Preschool Enhancement project, \$10,000 to Hurwich Grade 7 Shabbaton, \$10,000 to the Centennial Endowment Fund and \$5,000 for Welcome Wagon.** In addition, the PTC is happy to fund special Holiday treats for our students, provide lice checks at the three branches and offer programming events for parents. We also honour important milestones for our AHS students by presenting Grade 1 students with beautiful siddurim and keepsake graduation gifts for our Grade 8 graduates.

### Hold the Date

Please join us for our three PTC General Meetings next year:

**Tuesday, October 27, 2009** | 8:00 p.m. | Kamin Branch

**Tuesday, February 2, 2010** | 8:00 p.m. | Hurwich Branch

**Tuesday, May 25, 2010** | 8:00 p.m. | Posluns Branch

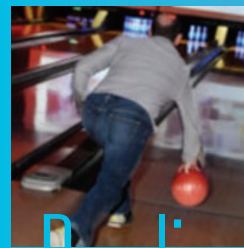
### Volunteers Needed...

**The PTC is looking for volunteers to help during the 2009-2010 school year. There are so many ways to get involved!**

Whether you have a few hours a week or a few hours a year, we welcome your involvement! Please contact your branch liaisons for more information.

### Mentor Families Needed For September 2009!!

Help welcome new families to Associated next year by participating as a mentor family in the **Welcome Wagon** program. Contact your branch liaisons for details.



## Bowling Bonanza

**"I NEVER DID ANYTHING ALONE.**

**WHATEVER WAS ACCOMPLISHED WAS ACCOMPLISHED COLLECTIVELY."**—Golda Meir

The PTC hosted this year's exciting fundraising event, Bowling Bonanza, on May 19, 2009. With an amazing turnout and the support of our numerous donors and advertisers, PTC was able to raise over \$20,000 for our children and their continued educational growth. Our volunteers gave unconditionally of their time and worked tirelessly at creating a bonanza of entertainment, great food and wonderful memories for all of us to share and cherish!

Golda Meir knew to acknowledge that she, alone, did not accomplish anything. The same rings true for the continued effort in ensuring that our children are provided with the current, up to date, and necessary educational tools. We wish to extend our deepest and most heart felt thanks to each of you for making this year's event so successful and so memorable!

**Fern Nisker and Leora Shemesh**  
Co-Chairs Bowling Bonanza 2009

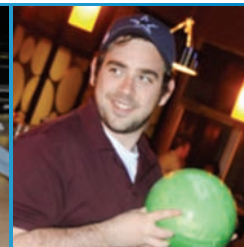
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**We would also like to thank our advertisers, donors and participants for their generous support.**



## AN EVENING WITH Joe Rich

BY BRENLEY SHAPIRO

The Parent Teacher Council of Associated Hebrew Schools was pleased to have Joe Rich M.S.W., R.S.W., psychotherapist, TV personality and author speak to our parent body on January 14, 2009. We are fortunate to have had an opportunity to learn and share in his wisdom and guidance with respect to one of the toughest jobs out there: raising children.

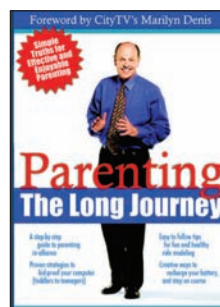
The evening had it all. It was not only greatly informative and educational, it was enlightening, inspiring and highly entertaining. Joe had the parents smiling and laughing throughout his presentation thanks to his witty sense of humour and fantastic use of creative props.

His message to parents was loud and clear: parenting is a "long journey" for which you are going to need to

pack a road map as you try to find your way through. Joe emphasized that being a good parent does not mean being a perfect parent; it means learning through each stage and working to make improvements when the road gets a little rough along

the way. Pulling out a set of jumper cables, he stressed the importance of taking care of yourself and recharging your own battery. We got the message loud and clear: without the occasional jump-start you've got no "juice" left to give back to your children.

What a great way to learn and have fun doing it! Following Joe's presentation, the evening wrapped up with a great dessert nosh and some shmoozing with friends. All that combined made for one great night out at Associated! •



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