

## Community news

### Major renovations planned for Asper Campus

(Cont. from page 1.)  
be paid by the end of this year.

The campaign has raised \$3 million for renovating the interior of the Asper Campus without "expanding" the buildings.

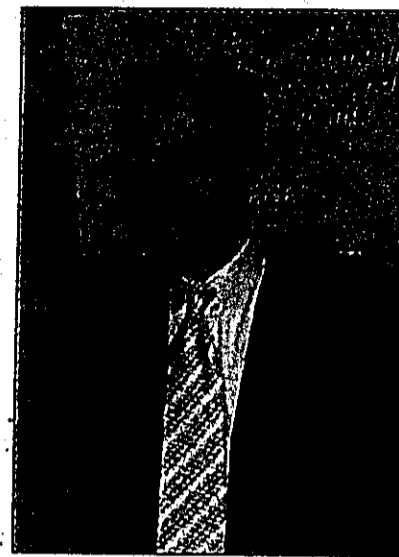
It has also doubled the campus endowment fund that helps pay "operating costs" of campus agencies.

Hurtig said the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's Holocaust Education Centre will remain; some of its office space will be "reconfigured", although there aren't any "final drawings" of that yet.

Arthur Blankstein, the interior designer of the Jewish museum's new display space, said it will be a series of transparent vertical display cases along the campus's Main Street.

Hurtig wasn't sure, however, where larger visiting temporary exhibits of the heritage centre will be displayed.

Joan Blight, a consultant with the campaign, said that for visiting exhibits, the display cases might also extend along the Goldberg Walkway, toward the Administration Building, and possibly, else-



**BARRY SHENKAROW, Asper Campus president:** The renovations will greatly expand space for the Aleph-Bet Child Life Enrichment Program, which "has a waiting list of 130".



A drawing showing display cases planned for Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada exhibits, facing the Asper Campus "restaurant".

where, as well. "Those details are still to be worked out."

The federal and provincial governments have each contributed \$750,000 to the Building on Success Campaign from a federal-provincial municipal/rural infrastructure program.

Hurtig also paid tribute to Anita Neville, Liberal MP for Winnipeg South Centre, for the role she played in ensuring government funding.

Carol Skelton, federal minister of national revenue and Western economic development, told the crowd at the reception that she took a tour of Asper Campus and Rady JCC facilities for the first time March 20.

She said she's "impressed by everything you do for your community and Winnipeg."

"You work for the betterment of humanity, and a better world... We are proud to invest in this project."

Kerri Irvin-Ross, MLA for Ft. Garry, spoke on behalf of Scott Smith, provincial intergovernmental affairs and trade minister.

She said the provincial government is "pleased" to contribute to the renovations.

They're happening because of a "growing demand" for Rady JCC programs and services.

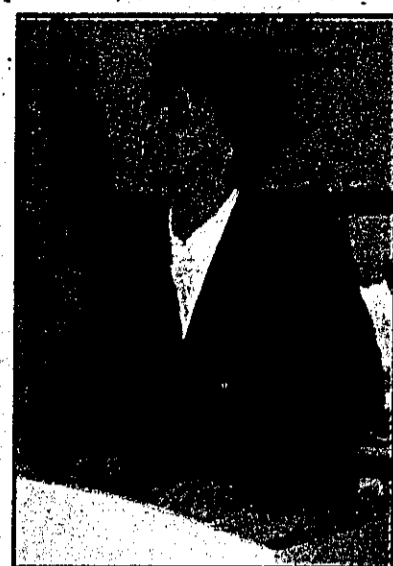
"The current membership of 5300," double what was originally projected, "speaks volumes about the popularity of fitness."

The Asper Foundation and the late Israel Asper's three children contributed a total of \$1 million to the Building on Success Campaign.

Gail Asper, chair of the Asper Foundation, said displays at the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv document how Diaspora Jewish community buildings have expanded when they felt secure, and "disappear" when they feel threatened.

The planned expansion of Asper Campus facilities shows "the confidence the Jewish community feels as part of the Canadian community," Asper said.

Barry Shenkarow,



**CAROL SKELTON, federal minister:** "We are proud to invest in this project."

Asper Campus president, said that among other changes, the renovations will increase space for health and fitness and expand space for Aleph-Bet, which has "a waiting list of 130". It will also create more meeting space on campus.

He thanked "the governments of Manitoba and Canada" and "all campaign volunteers" for their contributions to the Building on Success Campaign.

"Let's drink a toast," he said at the end of the ceremony. "Le Chaim - to life."



**KERRI IRVIN-ROSS, MLA for Ft. Garry:** Renovations are happening because of a "growing demand" for Rady JCC programs and services.



**Purim parade**

Hundreds of Gray Academy of Jewish Education younger students took part in the school's annual Purim Parade down the Asper Jewish Community Campus Main Street March 21. Above, from left: Grade 4 students Julia Grubert van Iderstine, Isaac Margolis, Alexa Hecht, and Shana Wilhelmer.



From left: Purim Parade participants Jonathan Paterson as the Statue of Liberty, Asher Billinkoff as an Ipod and Jonah Brown as a mime artist. Photo by Janet Gould.

## Community news

### Gray Academy Grade 11's host aboriginal high schoolers

Jewish, aboriginal students share in hamentash, kippah-making, shofarblowing

By ARNOLD ROSS

On the afternoon of the first day of spring, March 20th, Grade 11 students of Gray Academy served as hosts to Grade 11 students from South East Collegiate.

For several months, exchanges had gone on between staff members, students and administrators of the two schools. Shaul Wachsstock, director of Gray Academy's Judaic Studies, set a very humble goal for the visitations: "Just to have a meaningful human encounter."

Of course, he would like to see them have fun together and learn from one another. But the agenda was not the one you might think it would be, all about racism, stereotypes and prejudice.

"If as a result of these encounters there is a longterm mutual respect developed for one another, that would be a good thing," Wachsstock added.

Josh Winestock, one of the Gray Academy participants, walked in "pretty openminded". He recognized and felt comfortable with some of the boys he had met on the basketball court. The Gray Academy Raiders play in a league with South East Collegiate.

"We hope to have opportunities to work together, learn from one another and unload whatever prejudices may exist," he said.

And in the multi-purpose room of the Asper Campus, learn they did, primarily through teaching. Groups were formed and the Gray Academy students taught their guests how to blow a shofar and spin a dreidel, how to make hamentashen and how the Hebrew alphabet looked and worked. They also explained the purpose of the kippah, and each guest got to design his or her own.

Asked about cultural similarities and differences, it was conclusive that at least among these teenagers, there were more similarities than differences. Kevin Fisher of Blood Vein River, who resides in the "lodge" at South East Collegiate, thought there was a big difference in diet, with the First Nations people eating a lot more meat! Fisher pointed out the many kinds of aborigi-

#### Note to readers

When pictures with photo captions, stories and other announcements appear in boxes, that indicates the material inside the box is paid for. Stories with headlines in a typestyle other than the one used for standard news stories (samples of standard news headlines appear with all stories on page 1) are also partly or fully paid for.

#### Notice to organizations, publicists

The Jewish Post & News now is charging for publicity about upcoming events running in this newspaper.

- Anyone running a display ad at least "business card size" (2 columns wide by 2 inches deep) publicizing a Jewish organizational upcoming event will be entitled to up to the equivalent amount of editorial space free every time the ad runs.

- Announcements of synagogue service times run for free, but are subject to editing for length.

- All publicity about upcoming events submitted for publication must include the names and addresses of the individuals authorizing publication, for billing purposes.

- All news releases and announcements published in The Jewish Post & News are subject to editing, and all references to ticket prices, admission charges and phone numbers will be deleted, unless the items are authorized to run at the full display advertising rate.

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- We can't be responsible for the delivery time of the paper. You may wish to run your publicity or ad at least two weeks in advance of the event.



**Hamentash making.** Photo by Arnold Ross.



**An aboriginal student hold a candle during the candlelighting ceremony.** Photo by Arnold Ross.

nal groups that exist including the Inuit, non-registered, First Nations, status and Metis. Among Jews, it was pointed out, there are also variations of traditional beliefs, rites, ceremonies and forms of worship, varying from almost non-existent to Reform to Conservative and more Orthodox.

These First Nations teens have the same goals and aspirations as the Gray Academy students. Fisher is perhaps an exception; his goal is becoming a professional hockey player (we were told he is really good!) or as a back-up, joining the RCMP. Most of the others hope to get a higher education leading toward a career in medicine, law, architecture, plant science, et al.

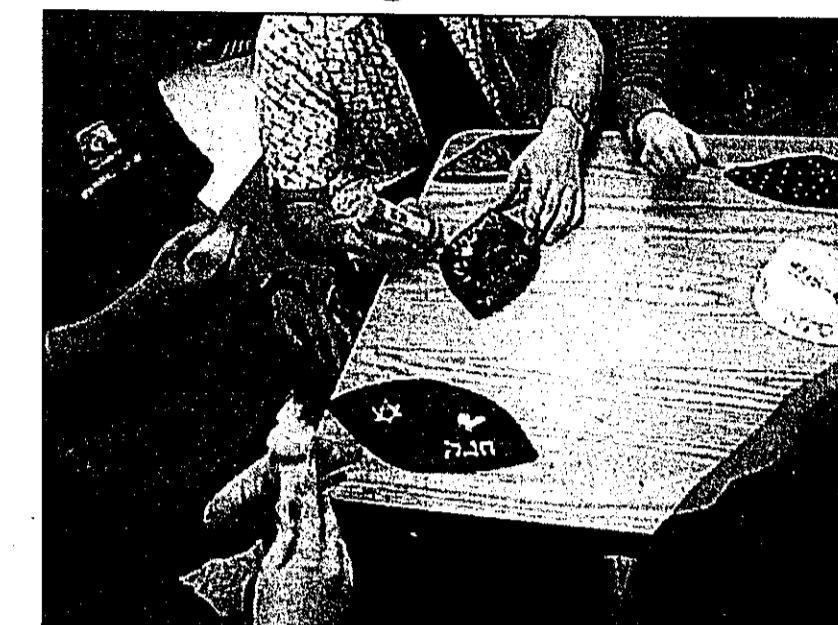
As they all sat in a circle, Linda Conner, a Canadian history teacher at Gray Academy, passed around some lit braided candles. "Fire is important to both cultures," she said, as the wine was blessed and later, the Sabbath.

Lexi Leibl chanted a soulful Jewish prayer, accompanied by Josh Winestock on guitar.

The visiting school brought sweet grass and sage as a gift for the hosts. The sage is used to purify, explained teacher Angela Busch, an organizer of the March 20 event from South East Collegiate, along with Shelley Faintuch, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg community relations director.

"South East Collegiate is an independent school funded by South East Resources Development Council," Busch explained.

The relationship with Gray Academy started about a year ago, in response to anti-Semitic remarks a Manitoba and a former national aboriginal leader made.



**Students make personal kippahs.** Photo by Arnold Ross.



**Southeast College student Kevin Fisher, 17: There are variations of traditional beliefs, rites, ceremonies and forms of worship among aboriginal groups.** Photo by Arnold Ross.

This writer watched 60 students blending and participating in the many activities. Smiles were abundant. This was learning in action and with the exchange of email addresses, the teaching learning and understanding of each other's culture will surely go on for a long time.

The writer is a retired Winnipeg public school teacher.

#### Next week in The Jewish Post & News:

- Bernie Bellan's humorous take on driving in Jerusalem
- Sharon Melnicer recalls family seders of her childhood
- Frank White writes about "seder one upmanship"

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#### New weekly medical column

Starting this week, The Jewish Post & News will feature a weekly question and answer column by Winnipeg's Gilles Pinette, an experienced medical doctor

and writer. Check out his first column on page 10.

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