

“In Judaism, social action is being religious and religiousness is social action.”
-From Leo Baeck’s Book, *Essence of Judaism*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has two purposes: it is designed to serve as a summary of Federation’s Planning and Community Development activities in the past year and as a guide to community issues as we look ahead to the allocation of resources. Over the past few years, the transition to program funding has created the opportunity to respond to specific community needs and explore the potential for multi-year allocations. The Planning Council put much of its effort into supporting the efforts of the Social Services Council’s initiative to hold a Forum on Poverty. This reflected the Council’s concern that community-wide issues, such as poverty, were essential to tackle in order to promote greater collaboration between individuals, groups and organizations in Greater Vancouver. Inclusion, innovation, expanding networks to increase the quality of Jewish education and outreach characterized the activities of this year’s Council agenda. This year’s groundwork will help to set the agenda for the upcoming year which promises to be an even more challenging one.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

In the 1999 Planning Council Report, the following issues were identified. An up-date on activities in these areas over the past year is included in this section.

There are a series of community-wide issues which are reflected in various discussions at community meetings, the current programs of the Federation and other agencies, as well as future plans of committees and councils of the Federation. Among the top ten issues are: (presented in no particular order)

The interrelationship between community resources and needs

The perennial challenge of balancing resources – both human and financial with increasing needs continues to challenge individual organizations as well as the community at large.

Poverty within the Jewish community

The issue of poverty is not limited to a few agencies – it is a community-wide concern and the Federation’s Social Services Council has made this a priority for the next few years. A major community wide initiative involving over eighteen agencies was the Forum on Poverty In the Jewish Community which took place on January 28, 2001. Research and information gathering and program development for this Forum were major foci of activity in order to build community awareness of this vital issue. Support for this initiative has been most positive over the past year. We will continue to support activities aimed at promoting our community’s dealing with this challenge.

Planning for an aging community

As the Jewish community ages, the delivery of services, access to a variety of housing options and the need for increased programs are all taking on a new importance. This past year, the rezoning and

expansion of the Louis Brier Home and Hospital drew the community's attention to these issues. The Home is a vital part of our community's ability to provide services to the elders in our community.

Development of a more "regional perspective" on the delivery of services

A recent development over the past year is the continued growth of the Kehila Society in Richmond is a collaborative venture between Beth Tikvah and Eitz Chaim Congregations, Richmond Jewish Day School and Chabad in Richmond. This joint partnership has resulted in a strong coalition of agencies and individuals in Richmond. Agencies such as Jewish Family Service Agency and Shalom Vancouver are delivering services in Richmond in association with Kehila. Meetings have taken place between Federation's new Director of Community Planning and the Boards of the White Rock South Surrey Jewish Community, Congregation Har-El on the North Shore, and Burquest Jewish Community Association with the intention of receiving increased input and further coordinating community wide agendas.

Addressing the needs and interests of young adults and young families

Greater Vancouver's Jewish community is fortunate to have a large proportion of young adults and young families - according to the 1991 statistics 21.6% of the community was made up of persons under the age of 14 - this group represents our future and the continued development of programs with and for these audiences is vital.

Education: day schools, adult education, coordination and sharing of resources

The Jewish Education Council of Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver is coordinating educational programs throughout the community and the third year of the popular "Chicken Soup for the Mind" lectures is currently underway.

Cost, location, and appropriateness of affordable housing

Efforts to address the high cost of housing in Greater Vancouver continue. This remains an enormous challenge for all sectors of our community.

Housing and facilities for seniors as well as people with special needs

The Vancouver Yaffa Housing Society successfully renovated and opened its first group home for young Jewish adults with special needs. This effort serves as a shining example of perseverance on the part of concerned members of our community to make it more inclusive to people with special needs.

Awareness of the multi-faceted nature of the Jewish community

The Jewish Family Service Agency, the synagogues and community agencies that provide programs and service to our community are all working to address changing needs. Respect for differing viewpoints and the rapid growth of Greater Vancouver Jewish community influence how we address inclusion since all Israelites are responsible one for another (Talmud Shevouth 39a)

Community collaboration

In 2000 the Council of Presidents met twice thereby establishing a key link between the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and organizations throughout the Jewish community. In both June and October, approximately 25 organizations sent members of their boards to discuss issues of common concern in our community. The Community Calendar that is discussed each June provides an opportunity to coordinate events. At the request of the group, the topic of the October meeting was leadership development and the challenges which all of us face with recruitment and retention of community members. This "forum" for exchange is now linked via e-mail and this assists in Federation's encouragement of inter-agency communication. Meetings will be held in February, June and October each year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO FOR THE YEAR 2000

Within the Planning and Community Development Portfolio there are five councils and committees that focus on specific areas:

- Seniors Advisory Council: Chair: Serge Haber
- Non-Profit Housing Society: Chair: Jerry Kushner
- Social Services Council: Chair: Lani Levine
- Jewish Education Council: Co Chairs: Anne Andrew and Sarah Richman
- Advocates for People with Special Needs: Chair: Annette Galbraith

In addition, the Allocations Planning Committee Chaired by Fred Mikelberg is the vital link to the constituent agencies.

Selected highlights of our 2000-year activities include:

JEWISH EDUCATION COUNCIL – CO-CHAIRS: ANNE ANDREW AND SARAH RICHMAN

Activities in 2000

During the year 2000, the Jewish Education Council successfully undertook many projects.

Mini-CAJE 2000 Feb. 17th to 18th 2000

Over 300 Jewish educators from Alaska, Washington, Manitoba, Idaho, Oregon, and from all over BC, gathered in Vancouver to learn and network together. More than 40 sessions were offered over the one and a half-day conference, with scholars coming in from California, Chicago, Toronto, Seattle and Vancouver.

Chicken Soup for the Mind 2001

The learning continues as Year 3 of this city-wide, quality adult Jewish learning series began in October. Confirming our decision to continue this program, an audience of approximately 350 came out to hear journalist David Makovsky talk about Middle East peace. A new addition to Chicken Soup for the Mind is the first ever city-wide Shabbaton, with 5 synagogues participating in hosting this event. Professional Development for Educators

Two scholarships were provided to local educators Gaynor Levin and Debra Lokshen to attend the CAJE conference in New York. Subsidies from the Jewish Community Foundation were made available for all local educators to attend the mini-CAJE conference in Vancouver. An Educators Lunch and Learn with Reuven Kimmelman was provided free of charge.

Philosophers' Café

The JEC was instrumental in the development of this community wide adult education program, with co-sponsors Simon Fraser University, the JCC, B'nai B'rith, and the Community Kollel. Three cafes are scheduled for the spring/winter to be held at the JCC.

Plans for 2001

The Jewish Education Council will continue to promote cooperation and mutually beneficial activities amongst the Jewish Day Schools, and amongst the supplemental schools, by undertaking these projects:

1. ✓ Establish Principal's Council meetings and / or head of Judaic council meetings. – Jan 2001
establish calendar
2. ✓ Revitalize the Teacher's Registry. – Immediate, ongoing.
3. ✓ Develop a "Jewish education in Vancouver" directory of institutions – begin Dec. 6, complete by March 2001
4. ✓ Continue to promote professional development through CAJE and mini-CAJE – Fax local schools Jan 2001, April/May 2001.
5. ✓ Create professional development opportunities locally. – Feb 2001
6. ✓ Plan Mini-CAJE 2002 or 2003 to be held in Vancouver – Feb 2001
7. ✓ Chicken Soup for the mind (year 4) – May 2001
8. ✓ Encourage schools to hold teacher appreciation days – April 2001
9. ✓ Develop a directory of adult Jewish education opportunities in the Lower Mainland. Begin April or May 2001, update every 3 months.

Future Issues

1. ✓ Increasing enrollment in Jewish Education programs at all ages and levels.
2. ✓ Increasing High School enrollment specifically.
3. ✓ Attracting good Jewish Educators to Vancouver.
4. ✓ Encourage local High School and University graduates to choose careers in Jewish Education and facilitate their education.
5. ✓ Providing access to Jewish education for students with disabilities.
6. ✓ Liaising with Jewish Family Services Agency to promote and facilitate Jewish education amongst its clients.

Jewish Education Council Members

Eleanor Braude	Myra Michaelson
Louise Miller	Gay Cohen
Sue Katz	Esther Tauby
Rabbi Loiterman	Harriet Frost
Doreen Rozen	Bat-Ami Segal
Raphael Richman	Barbara Meyer
Henry Meyer	Anne Andrew
Sarah Richman	

Staff: Shelley Karrel

SENIORS ADVISORY COUNCIL – CHAIR: SERGE HABER

Today's seniors have a reservoir of expertise and a great capacity for coping with personal and social concerns. They comprise about 13% of our Jewish community. The Seniors Advisory Council (SAC) is the arm of Federation's Planning Council that addresses the specific needs of our elders.

As part of its mission to enhance the quality of life of Jewish elders in Greater Vancouver, SAC continues to:

1. Act as an advocacy body to ensure quality and scope of services to seniors
2. Educate the community about the current and emerging needs of elders
3. Encourage inter-agency cooperation and coordination
4. Develop volunteer and leadership resources

The Council has 25 active members on its Board and an executive committee of 8. If you attend one of our monthly meetings you will realize that the Seniors Advisory Council provides wonderful volunteer opportunities for Jewish seniors.

Over the past year SAC has:

1. Continued holding monthly meetings where members heard presentations on various topics pertinent to seniors (Louis Brier Home and Hospital rezoning, Consumer Fraud, Seniors Housing, Transportation and Healthcare concerns, Adult Guardianship legislation, Charitable giving, Living Wills, Elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union)
2. Continued publication of Senior Line, our newsletter sent out 4 times a year to over 1600 households in the Greater Vancouver area
3. Updated our seniors data base
4. Co-sponsored (with the JCC seniors) an educational forum entitled 2000 and Beyond: Challenges and Rewards for an Aging Society
5. Sent delegates to a Gerontology conference at Simon Fraser University entitled "Who Cares? Looking after the Elderly in an Aging Population"
6. Edited the Vancouver Jewish Seniors Directory
7. Began an informal English tutoring program for Russian Seniors
8. Helped in the formation of Most-Bridge Russian Seniors Society
9. Held an annual volunteer recognition dinner
10. Continued their involvement in the Seniors Services Coordinators Committee

The Seniors Advisory Council, begun in 1988, will continue to examine the needs of Jewish seniors in the Lower Mainland and advocate for needed services. SAC helps ensure that the voice of Jewish elders in Greater Vancouver will always be heard.

Seniors Advisory Council Members

Chair: Serge Haber

Miriam Bromberg
Steve Emerman
Cissie Eppel
Sam Geller
Derek Glazer
Ruth Godlovitch
Irving Grad
Luba Greenberg
Sylvia Gurstein
Lucien Lieberman
Frances Hoyd
Ruth Kaplan

Goldie Kassen
Mollie Klein
Anne Krauss
Jerry Kushner
Josephine Mallek
Moe Packer
Mona Packer
Charna Plottel
Florence Shaffer
Raizel Spector
Karl Taussig
Miriam Waddington

Staff: Judy Weinstein

Senior Line Editorial Board

Editor: Jennie Virtue
Florence Shaffer
Harvey Gerber
Herman Litsky

Luba Greenberg
Judy Weinstein

Plans for 2001

1. Continued monthly executive and general meetings (general meetings to include guest speaker)
2. 3-4 expanded general meetings which would be open to any interested seniors in our community
3. Continued publication of Senior Line
4. Educational forum to be held in the Spring of 2001
5. Attendance from our Council at Seniors workshops and conferences held in the general community
6. Gathering of seniors resource information to be published in Senior Line
7. Continuation of the editing of the Vancouver Jewish Seniors Directory
8. Continuation of the English tutoring program for Russian Seniors

Key issues to be considered by the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver in the next 3-5 years

1. Affordable housing for Jewish Seniors
2. Connecting all seniors to the Jewish community
3. Transportation for Jewish Seniors

NON-PROFIT HOUSING SOCIETY – CHAIR: JERRY KUSHNER

Activities for 2000

The Jewish Federation Non Profit Housing Society has had a relatively quiet year. A number of initiatives have been put forward and they are being pursued with a long-range view towards their implementation in the future.

As previously reported, an initiative to develop a Housing Registry, geared primarily to seniors and single parents, was developed, collated, printed and distributed. It is the intention of the Society to pursue funds to enable us to update and upgrade the directory. Another initiative relates to finding property owners who have rental suites to engage in a partnership with those who need subsidization for their rent.

A partnership would benefit both parties and help to alleviate any hardships.

The Society played an integral role in Forum on Poverty in the Jewish Community on January 28, 2001 and intends to take recommendations from the resolutions of the forum in order to pursue its agenda and mandate to oversee the housing needs of our community.

Non-Profit Housing Society Members:

Jerry Kushner, Chair
Mr. Michael Geller
Dr. Josephine Mallek
Mr. Basil Kallner
Mrs Marj Groberman

Mr. Stephen Schneiderman
Mr. Karl Taussig
Ms. Leslie Stern
Ms. Judy Oberlander
Mr. Robert Fisher

Staff: David Berson

SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL – CHAIR: LANI LEVINE

Activities for 2000

The Social Services Council has spent the last year studying the issue of Poverty in the Greater Vancouver Jewish community. As a significant number of people in our community live below the poverty income level, we determined that this issue required not only the Council's involvement, but that of the community at large. To that end we have worked not only on information gathering and analysis, but also on raising public awareness of the problem and involving the community in determining solutions to alleviate it. The Council was instrumental in holding a public forum on poverty in the Jewish community, on January 28, 2001. This conference received tremendous community support with over 200 participants engaging in learning, priority setting and action plans for the immediate future. In addition, Federation and the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region cosponsored a report on poverty in the Jewish Community of Greater Vancouver. The report was prepared by Michael Goldberg, Director of Research for the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (Sparc BC).

A key component in all our deliberations has been the involvement of many community agencies. We have representatives from over eighteen agencies attending Council meetings and working on subcommittees. In addition, several agencies provided funds or donations in kind towards the cost of the forum. We have enjoyed a close working relationship with senior staff of the Jewish Family Service Agency, who have been an integral part of our planning. We have received from National Council of Jewish Women – Pacific Chapter a grant to produce a video that premiered at the forum and will be

available as an educational resource available to all community agencies. A generous grant was also received from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver towards covering the costs of the Forum. The Jewish Community Centre has generously offered its facilities for the Forum. The Council created four active sub-committees in order to prepare the Forum: Communications and Agency-Liaison, Information and Research, Program, and a Video Selection & Editorial Committee. These sub-committees played an important role in the making the Forum possible.

Although our original concept for the Council was to focus on one important community issue per year, we soon realized that we had undertaken an enormous task and one that will require community resources for many years to come. The Council hopes and anticipates that we are laying the groundwork for a "poverty coalition" to be organized as a result of our current deliberations and those that come from community members attending the forum. As the coalition becomes effective, the Council will identify another significant social issue to address.

The first social issue the Social Services Council has agreed to take a look at is poverty in the Lower Mainland Jewish community. Data gathered in the 1991 national census indicated that 17.2% of the Jewish community lived below the poverty income level. Recent tabulations of the 1996 Census data by Professor Allan Moscovitch, School of Social Work at Carleton University, indicate that 16.97% of the Jewish community nation-wide lives below the poverty line and the percentage is 17.52% in Western Canada.

The following chart indicates the income levels at which a household is considered by Statistics Canada as being impoverished.

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
One person	\$17,211
Two people	\$21,513
Three people	\$26,757
Four people	\$32,388
Five people	\$36,204
Six people	\$40,021
Seven people	\$43,837

Social Services Council Members:

Alberta Levitan	Zoe Gropper
Judy Oberlander	Lani Levine
Shanie Levin	Lynn Kaplan

Communications and Agency Liaison

Shanie Levin, Chair	Annica Carlsson-Hyman
Julie Schneiderman	David Walters
Binki Segal	Shelagh Stoller
Derek Glazer	

Program Committee

Lani Levine,	Zoe Gropper
Steve Schacter	Joseph Kahn Tietz
Judy Oberlander	Drew Staffenberg

Research & Information Committee

Alberta Levitan, Chair
Sally Berry
Lynn Kaplan

Vita Kolodny
Lynne Fader Lines
Leslie Stern

Video Selection and Editorial Committee

Marion Poliakoff
Sally Berry
Julie Schneiderman
Lani Levine
Cory Bretz
Staff: David Berson

Vita Kolodny
Avrum Nadigel
Lorne Greenberg
Joseph Kahn-Tietz
Drew Staffenberg

ADVOCATES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS – CHAIR: ANNETTE GALBRAITH

Activities during 2000

Funding Activities

The APSN established a Special Needs Fund under the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver, with the assistance of Rosalind Karby and Drew Staffenberg. Funding was found to begin sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired in Beth Tikvah synagogue for the High Holidays.

Presentations

The Committee chairperson made a presentation to the Federation Board on behalf of the APSN in August.

Media Activities

Articles on activities of the APSN were placed in Yachad
Articles were written by members of the Committee for publication in the JWB and creating a special column on special needs in Yachad, in collaboration with the Marketing and Communications coordinator, Cory Bretz. Efforts were made to upgrade and update the APSN site of the JFGV website.

Speakers' Bureau

A subcommittee was created to work on the creation of a Speaker's Bureau to further education of the Jewish Community to promote inclusion of people with disabilities and to demystify perceived barriers to inclusion.

Definition of Disabilities

Work was begun on standardizing the definition of disabilities to be used by the APSN in its communications with the Federation Board and the organizations within the Jewish community

Community communications and collaborations

Communication was reopened with the BC Coalition of People With Disabilities (BCCPD) regarding the creation of a workshop/seminar to help increase the knowledge base of the APSN committee members, and
b) help the committee develop effective strategies for lobbying for inclusion within the Jewish Community.

Several meetings were held to increase collaboration between groups in the community with related agendas in disabilities and special needs and the APSN and Federation.

Bagel Club Activities

The Bagel Club continued to function independently and successfully under the direction of a new steering committee. This adult social club for Jewish persons with special needs averages 18 people at its bi-monthly events.

A grant was received from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver to assist in promoting increased activities and membership by creating more connections between the Bagel Club and the wider community. Debbie Havusha will represent the Bagel Club as its special needs coordinator who will work from the Jewish Family service Agency offices once a week. This role is aimed at enlightening members of the community about people with special needs.

Bagel Club Membership

Active attendance at committee meetings has averaged eleven people over the past year. Monthly meetings were held over the past year. A strategy to increase membership has been undertaken in the last few months. Four new members were added to the committee membership. Two members resigned.

APSN Committee members

Annette Galbraith
Grant Brown
Debbie Havusha
Ilana Mandel
Shane Goldstein
Carol Oreck
Shelley Rivkin
Lois Woolf
Sally Rogow.

Rochelle Brown
Rita Dilek
Penny Keene
Judy Oberlander
Tim Oberlander
Pauline Rankin
Evy Silver
Roz Sherker

Staff: David Berson

ALLOCATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – CHAIR: FRED MIKELBERG

Activities for 2000

The Allocations Planning Committee (APC) for the first time this year used a two-year allocation process for all programs and core grants with the exception of the Education envelope, which remains on a one-year cycle. Inherent in this change is the commitment to begin a process of off year assessment of the programs to permit improved decision making in the allocation process in the future. This change was made through consensus with full consultation of the constituent agencies. We are grateful to the professional and lay leadership of all the agencies for their cooperation and support in this arduous process.

This year's committee was made up of seven returning veterans and two new members, which provided a mix of historical perspective as well as new energy and ideas, which were invaluable contributions to the process. The agencies provided us with the required documentation and our deliberation occurred weekly from early May to mid June 2000.

The Board has decided that the amount of money available for local allocations for FY 01 and FY 02 be set at \$1,846,500. Of note, the local requests for FY 01 totaled \$2,346,681 and for FY 02 totaled \$2,476, 866.

Five envelopes are used as a framework in determining the local allocation. These envelopes are Social Services 24%, Youth 11%, Arts and Culture 4%, Infrastructure 26%, and Education 35%. Since the allocation process was based on the prudent expectation of no additional money available for local needs, the APC decided to keep the between envelope distribution at a similar level as last year. In future years, with the guidance of the Planning Council, consideration may be given to adjusting this division of resources for the local community.

Plans for 2001

The APC plans to embark on a process of creating a model for assessment which will include constituent agencies. We believe that our constituent agencies must take part in arriving at a comfortable and adequate model of assessment. Their opinion and input in this process will be critical to creating new standards for allocation planning. Stronger partnerships are the aim of planned "site visits" which will enable committee members to engage in dialogue with agencies about their needs in the context of the greater Jewish community. These visits will aid the committee in beginning to establish criterion and norms that will serve us in future initiatives.

Allocation Planning Committee Members

Fred Mikelberg, Chair	Eric Andrew
Lorne Greenberg	Esther Mogyoros
Cliff Ungar	Jerry Kushner
Gary Averbach	Sondi Ritter
Larry Vinegar	Michael Fugman

Staff: Drew Staffenberg
David Berson

A note of thanks

In 2000, many dedicated members of our community, both professionals and volunteers have contributed to the Federation's Planning and community Development Portfolio – Heartfelt thanks are extended to Drew Staffenberg, David Berson, Judy Weinstein, Shelley Karrel, Cory Bretz, Wendy Finlayson and Shelley Goldberg. The five council and committee chairs deserve a special mention for without their leadership projects would not have proceeded. It is their dedication and faith that have allowed us to move forward.

Jewish Education Council Co-chairs – Anne Andrew & Sarah Richman
Seniors Advisory Council Chair – Serge Haber
Social Services Council Chair – Lani Levine
Non-Profit Housing Society Chair – Jerry Kushner
Advocates for People with Special Needs – Annette Galbraith
Allocations Planning Committee – Fred Mikelberg

This report is submitted on behalf of the Planning Council: Anne Andrew, Sarah Richman, Jerry Kushner, Serge Haber, Lani Levine, Fred Mikelberg, Ivan Gasoi, Allan Posthuma and Judy Oberlander with David Berson as the staff liaison.

December 2000