

# Jewish Family Services

## Minutes of 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

26 March 2015 at the Jewish Family Services, Edmonton

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**Present:** Jeni Adler, Sylvia Alpern, Michael Alpern, Doug Cameron, Judi Card, Larry Derkach, Rhonda Eidelman, Rabbi Daniel Friedman, Barry Goldberg, Linda Goody, Barry Greenspan, Stephanie Hendin, Doug Hughes, Ricki Justice, Tina Kafka, Pavel (Paul) Kardash, Terry Karpman, Tatiana Kastner, Vera Leanovich, Victor Linetsky, Beryl Nahornick, Phyllis Nurgitz, Dennis Pallard, Netta Phillet, Karen Preston, Tulane Rollinger, Abe Silverman, Arthur Totman, Lewis Wasel, Mel Wyne.

**Regrets:** Jeff Bryson, Jill Osler, Jacquelyn Skeffington, Robert Wood, Jodi Zabłudowski.

**Call to Order:** President Michael Alpern called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm, welcomed everyone to this anniversary meeting and to our new location, and declared that a quorum was present. He introduced the board members present, including honorary members, Barry Goldberg and Netta Phillet.

He acknowledged Stephanie Hendin, past President of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton; Rabbi Friedman, also a Past President of JFS; Beryl Nahornick and Sylvia Alpern from Na'amat; Judi Card representing National Council of Jewish Women and Jewish Senior Citizens' Centre; Phyllis Nurgitz representing ORT; Abe Silverman representing B'Nai Brith Canada.

**Agenda:** →**[Motion 1]:** N.Phillet/L./Wasel that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

**D'Var Torah:** Rabbi Friedman spoke of miracles. The practice of Daf Yomi is reading one page of the Talmud each day – taking 7 years to complete. “Tikkun Olam” appears rarely, but it is in today’s Daf Yomi. In discussing how to discourage ransom demands by withholding payment, the idea that sometimes Tikkun olam means withholding help, uprooting “weeds”. It is important to strike the balance between giving and withholding.

**Minutes:** →**[Motion 2]:** L.Goody/K.Preston that the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated, with spelling of “Heilik” corrected. CARRIED

**President’s Report:** 60th anniversary is a reason for pride in serving many people in both Jewish and communities. He thanked donors and funders for their generosity. He thanked Larry Derkach for his leadership.

It is an honour and privilege to be a board member and president. Board is always cognizant of its purpose to promote the mission.

We are saying farewell to 4 board members, Netta Phillet [who has accomplished much with community relations], Robert Wood, Ken Wasserman and Bernard Offengenden.

Michael called upon Tulane who spoke of the anniversary celebration being planned on May 31 at Beth Israel synagogue.

### **Special Presentations:**

Beryl Nahornick spoke of Na’amat’s concerns for families, and presented a \$2,000 cheque for the SMART program.

National Council of Jewish Women has been giving significant support to JFS for many years. Judi Card presented a \$18,000 cheque.

Larry spoke about how critical this support is for Jewish-focused programs, and also acknowledged the Federation.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Judi noted that our Legends of Broadway fund raiser was not successful, but we have still been able to continue all of our programs and services.

**Auditor’s Report:** Auditor Dennis Pallard presented his report, noting it was a “clean audit” with the usual disclaimers concerning the non-verifiability of donations and fees for service, and that all finances were in order.

→**[Motion 3]:** J.Card/A.Totman that the 2014 Auditor’s report be adopted. CARRIED

→**[Motion 4]:** J.Card/B.Greenspan that we appoint DeGraves Pallard & Associates LLP as Financial Auditors for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2015. CARRIED

**Bylaw amendments:** Michael explained that a key purpose of amendments is to facilitate getting people onto the board and to share responsibilities, and to enhance leadership. This is to happen through nominations from the floor, election of officers prior to the AGM, possibly having co-presidents and president-elect, and potential extension of terms for officers. Also, quorum is to be reduced. One person was not in favour of nominations from the floor in that it may set up an unpleasant competition at the AGM.

→**[Motion 5]:** M.Wyne/T.Rollinger that the existing bylaws are repealed, and replaced by the bylaws as presented. CARRIED (Abe Silverman asked to be recorded as opposed).

Michael noted that, pending approval by Alberta Registries, Michael and Tulane will serve as Co-Presidents.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Lewis. At this time, Netta Phillet and Robert Wood are completing maximum terms, and Lewis thanked them for their service. Bernard Offengenden and Ken Wasserman are not standing for re-election.

→**[Motion 6]:** L.Wasel/T.Rollinger that the slate be elected as presented, namely:

- Tulane Rollinger and Mel Wyne be re-elected to a 3<sup>rd</sup> term;
- Naomi Amato, Linda Goody and Barry Greenspan be re-elected to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term;
- Judi Card be re-elected to a first special term following 4 regular terms (pending acceptance of the amended bylaws by Alberta Registries)
- David Grossman be elected to a first regular term after having served under appointment
- Victor Linetsky, Abe Silverman and Jacquelyn Skeffington be elected to a 1<sup>st</sup> term. CARRIED.

**Executive Director's report:**

It has been a year of exceptional change. He introduced Ricki Justice, in a new position as Program and Operations Manager, which has enabled growth.

The Legends of Broadway was well organized and produced; it has been well-evaluated: some learnings are that •our cause is hard to make compelling in the public eye •the work we do in the Jewish community is compelling, so we should focus our fund raising there •we should strengthen our broadly-focused programs through program-based fund development.

The offer to consider moving came out of our difficulties, and it has proven to be an excellent location.

Our big growth this year is the new contract with Claims Conference and the tripling of the grant for Holocaust Survivors – 99 clients at the moment. He introduced Tatiana who relocated from Montreal for this job.

He spoke of the Elder Abuse Awareness project, Financial Literacy classes, and other grants awaiting approval.

He noted that 13.2% of the Jewish community in Edmonton is living below poverty. They are mostly invisible, and we serve them, referred from within and without the Jewish community.

Larry thanked the hard working staff and introduced those who were present. He thanked President Michael and the board for providing challenge, encouragement and support.

**Courtesies:**

Michael thanked everyone for coming, and.

**Adjournment:**

→**[Motion 7]:** M.Wyne/T.Kafka at 8:45 pm.

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Larry Derkach  
Recording Secretary

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Michael Alpern  
President

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Director