



MA-NISHTANA @JFLT?

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Hello, my name is Sheldon Parker and on January 1, 2018 I became the President of JFLT. I am humbled and honored by this appointment and I hope to continue growing and improving the organization in the years to come. I am very grateful to the past administration for doing such an exemplary job. Policies and procedures have been updated, the Constitution amended and loan amounts increased. Volunteers are bringing vital energy to our Loan Committee meetings and the new, smaller, more powerful Board is keen on getting business done.

As a retired lawyer who served as President of Adath Israel Synagogue and a board member of Associated Hebrew Schools and Camp Ramah, I am very familiar with Jewish Toronto. I know that we have one of the most prosperous and generous Jewish communities in the world. I know that we have a community that rallies together in support of important causes. So, I ask myself, how is it that, year after year, JFLT witnesses an endless flow of people asking for loans to simply make ends meet? And by this, I do not mean people wanting to refurbish a home or buy a secondhand car. By this I mean individuals who cannot afford to pay for food, winter clothing, rent, dental work and medicines - things most of us take for granted. Should they not be our community's number one priority? Is it not our obligation to care about them and take action on their behalf? This Passover, as you sit around your Seder table, please think about how you can help us extend a hand up to the needy in our Community. We need your support.

Chag Sameach,

**Sheldon Parker,**  
President



## MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

Nicole Elfassy, Director of Operations – Nicole has recently joined JFLT as our Director of Operations. Nicole is here to review and ensure our everyday systems are streamlined and effective to better serve our clients. Additionally, she is here to provide strategic guidance to help build brand awareness within the Jewish Community. Welcome Nicole.

## WHY IS JFLT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

All Jewish charitable organizations are good. All have excellent missions. All support needy causes. Jewish Free Loan Toronto, however, is different. Here are some of the reasons why:

- 1. WE ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF JEWISH VALUES**  
Jewish Free Loan Toronto's mandate of giving interest-free loans to Jews in need comes directly from the Bible, for in Deuteronomy 20:19 it is written "You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother." The giving of interest-free loans is also reflective of Maimonides's belief that the "greatest level of charity, above which there is no greater, is to support a fellow Jew by endowing him with a loan."
- 2. WE HELP PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES**  
Unlike other charities which offer handouts, JFLT offers loans that enable people to help themselves. Clients emerge with their dignity and self-respect intact, neither beholden to nor dependent upon the source of help. As Maimonides has written: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime."
- 3. WE HAVE DIRECT IMPACT ON PEOPLES' LIVES**  
At other agencies, the impact of your donation dollars may take years to see or assess. At JFLT the impact of a loan on someone's life is immediate and direct. An interest-free loan enables an abused mother of two to rent an apartment far away from her former spouse. An interest-free loan enables a senior to avoid pending eviction from his home. Interest-free loans even create babies. Each loan we grant changes someone's life on the spot and forever.
- 4. OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE AMONG THE MOST DEDICATED IN THE WORLD**  
Where can you find another organization with volunteers who come out every second Tuesday, rain or shine, to interview clients? JFLT has volunteers who have been doing just that for over 30 years. They, and the new recruits who have recently joined the Loan Committee, receive no honours, no pictures in the paper and no public recognition. Their altruism is in a league of its own.
- 5. A DONATION TO JFLT IS A GIFT THAT NEVER STOPS GIVING.**  
No other organization can transform an \$18,000 donation into \$40,500 in five years and \$108,000 in twenty. This multiplying effect occurs because contributions to JFLT are recycled in perpetuity. Money that comes in, is loaned out, repaid and loaned out again. So, if your parents or grandparents gave JFLT a donation in 1954, that money is still out there, circulating in our Community, helping people help themselves.

## WHAT KIND OF HELP DO WE OFFER?

JFLT now has 758 active loans and \$2.872 million outstanding. In 2017, we gave out 260 loans equalling \$1,263 million. Our goal is to have a loan book worth \$4 million by the year 2022. You may ask why our goal is so ambitious. This is because Jewish poverty is growing. If we are not there for the 24,315 Jews in the GTA who live beneath the poverty line, who will be? Numbers are numbers. Now let's take a look at some of the faces behind the numbers. These are people we see at the interviews every second Tuesday.



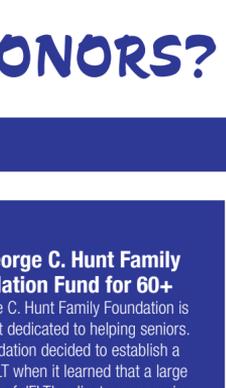
Take Arnold an 89-year-old spry senior who has no living relatives. From the age of 75, Arnold worked as a telemarketer to make ends meet. When the telemarketing firm let him go, Arnold was left without enough money to pay for his rent or buy food. As he told us "I have \$3.00 in the bank. What am I supposed to do until my pension arrives?" JFLT gave Arnold a \$1,000 loan so he could pay his rent and buy some time. Arnold recently wrote to us saying: "Thanks for your life-saving loan. I have paid my rent, hired a lawyer to get severance from my work, and moved in with a roommate. Without your help, I would have been on the street with nowhere to go." *Arnold R.*

As a young man, Daniel got a \$5,000 JFLT personal loan to rebuild his credit reputation. Three years later, a wiser Daniel decided to study Business Administration at York. "I wasn't able to get enough funding through OSAP, and my parents weren't in any position to help me, so I returned to JFLT, looking for help. My second JFLT loan, granted as a \$7,500 student loan, gave me the peace of mind I needed to concentrate on my studies. If it wasn't for Jewish Free Loan, I may have resorted to using high-interest borrowing, and I know that kind of loan can really dig you into a hole. I hope that I don't have to apply for another free loan, but if I do, I know that I am in great hands. With this program being available to any Jewish person in Ontario, I truly believe that it can help people get back on track. At the end of the day, we need to help one another in this world." *Daniel P.*



"I am on ODSP for a mental health disability and I applied for a JFLT loan at the advice of my JF&CS social worker. I provided a guarantor and completed all the paperwork. I was interviewed by a pair of volunteers and then got the loan. I was expecting the interview to be scary but it was actually a fun experience. Thank you so much. This loan is helping me survive (rent, food, and clothes) as well as assisting me with starting up my own consulting business as a peer support worker, which is my dream career. I am so happy there is a Jewish organization that can help out other Jewish people in need like me." *Erin W.*

"I am a mother to a wonderful boy who is now 13 years of age. In 2015, we had to leave our home and everything in it except for 2 bags. It has taken great deal of effort to build a new home from scratch. And with gratitude to our Creator, we have. Yet, two important things were beyond our reach. First, we needed a washing machine. It was simply too time-consuming and expensive to drag our laundry in garbage bags to the laundromat every few days. Secondly and most importantly we needed funds to pay for Bar Mitzvah lessons and a small celebration. With much trepidation, I reached out to JFLT expecting that my experience asking for a loan would be very humiliating and demoralizing. Nothing could be further from truth. I was treated with real dignity and I learned firsthand what true Chesed looks like. Thank you for the loan. You have been exemplary in how Mitzvahs should be done." *Sarah A*



## CONTESTS

### PASSOVER CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Passover contest. Your submissions on where to advertise JFLT have been outstanding and overwhelming. We will use them in our future marketing campaigns.

STAY TUNED FOR OUR UPCOMING J-SAP EDUCATIONAL LOAN CONTEST. YOU COULD WIN A NEW IPAD MINI.

Visit [www.jewishfreeloan.ca](http://www.jewishfreeloan.ca) for more information

Follow us on for upcoming contests and campaigns!



## WHO ARE OUR DONORS?

### NEW FUNDS

**The HaCohen Family Fund for Educational and Fertility Loans**  
Erez HaCohen came to Free Loan first as a donor. He next became a volunteer and now serves as a Board Member. Erez was attracted to JFLT because his father always emphasized that the best way to help people was to "teach them how to fish". Together with his brother Eyal, Erez created a fund for Fertility and Educational loans. Let's hope that more Jewish lives are brought into the world because of this fund.

**The George C. Hunt Family Foundation for 60+**  
The George C. Hunt Family Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to helping seniors. The Foundation decided to establish a fund at JFLT when it learned that a large percentage of JFLT's clients were senior citizens who needed help paying for clothing, medications, dental work, bills and rent arrears. We extend our thanks to The Hunt Foundation. Thanks to its generosity, many seniors will be able to navigate trying times and make ends meet.

**The Lake Baikal Fund**  
When Rochelle Reichert and her husband Henry Wolfond were in Siberia last year, they visited Lake Baikal. Lake Baikal contains more water than all the North American Great Lakes combined and is the oldest, deepest and clearest lake in the world. Aware that JFLT's mandate comes from the Bible (the oldest) and that our loans provide a bridge for people navigating deep problems, (the deepest) Rochelle and Henry decided to call their fund after this remarkable body of water. It is their hope that the individuals who receive loans from this fund will clear their debts and go on to carve out a brighter financial future for themselves (clarity).

When Dr. Ben Barankin learned that JFLT would be losing its annual \$75,000 operating grant from United Way, he pulled out his wallet and wrote us a replacement cheque. "Tzadikim (good people) say little and do much."

## REPLENISHED FUNDS

JFLT extends an extra-special thank you to the following donors who in 2017 replenished their funds with a donation equal to more than their original gift:

The Glina-Tessler Fund for Study in Israel  
The Joe Dwek Fund  
The Kora Fund  
The Lewy Family Educational Fund  
The Minatan Fund

Ed Glina and Debbie Tessler  
Joe Dwek  
Helen Zukerman  
Jules Lewy  
Moti Jungreis

Thank you also goes out to these very generous donors who established Named Funds:

### GENERAL:

The Abraham (Algy) and Doris Bloom Memorial Fund  
The Aminadav Fund  
The Azrieli Foundation Fund  
The Emmet Foundation's Fund for Health & Critical Needs  
The First Narayever Fund for Personal Emergencies  
The Florence Minz Fund  
The Howard Gitter Memorial Fund  
The Irwin Beutel Memorial Fund  
The Jewish Teen Board Fund  
The Koschitzky Family Fund  
The Loftus Family Fund  
The Sydney and Florence Cooper and Family Fund  
The Tikva Fund

Paul Bloom  
Anonymous  
The Azrieli Foundation  
Andrew and Michael Tylman  
Social Action Committee:  
First Narayever Congregation  
Florence Minz  
Faye Gitter  
Eric Beutel  
Jewish Teen Board of Greater Toronto  
David Koschitzky  
Vicki Loftus  
Sydney Cooper  
Anonymous

### EDUCATIONAL:

The Borer Family Educational Fund  
The Education Opportunity Fund  
The Goldberg Fund  
The Wagner-Green Fund

Leonard Borer, Terry Borer and family  
Jo-Ann Minden  
Karen Goldenberg  
Daphne Wagner & David Green

### SPECIALIZED FUNDS:

The Barankin Fund in Memory of Froim Barankin (for people born in the former USSR)  
The Friedman and Smith Fund for 60+

Drs. Ben and Tatyana Barankin and family  
Steven Friedman and Cathie Smith-Friedman

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

#### ESTABLISH A NAMED FUND

A donation of \$18,000 will give you a fund that will bear your family's name or the name of a loved one in perpetuity. For more information contact Marra Messinger 416-635-1217 ext 5269 [mmessinger@jewishfreeloan.ca](mailto:mmessinger@jewishfreeloan.ca)

#### DONATE TO JFLT BY

Phone 416-635-1217  
Online at [www.canadahelps.org/dn/8698](http://www.canadahelps.org/dn/8698)  
Cheque: Make cheques payable to Jewish Free Loan Toronto and mail to JFLT, Krauss Family Suite, Sherman Campus, 340-4600 Bathurst St. Toronto, ON M2R 3V3  
Tax receipts will be issued for all donations

#### HOST A PARLOUR MEETING

JFLT needs to raise its profile and increase its reach in the community. If you could invite some people over to your house one evening, we will present a fascinating program with clients telling stories about how interest-free loans improved their lives. For more information contact: Marra at 416-635-1217 ext 5269

Charity Registration Number: 108 12 2417 RR000

