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Junior
Welfare
League

40th Anniversary



Montreal



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This edition of the Jewish Junior Welfare League Souvenir Book is dedicated with much pride to the Fortieth Anniversary of the League. A celebration ball, to be held in April, will culminate forty years of dedicated welfare service and financial aid to needy projects in the Montreal community. A special tribute is due all members who, throughout four decades, have devoted themselves to the League's projects. It is well-recognized, however, that the continued work of the League could not have been possible without the encouragement and generous support of friends in all areas of endeavour.

Over the years the Jewish Junior Welfare League has increased its membership and, also, its sphere of activity. Nevertheless, the League's objective remain unaltered:

1. To train and educate its members as able volunteers in the community...
2. To sustain by means of volunteer service and financial assistance a number of projects, which, after thorough investigation, the League has decided are community requirements and, therefore, worthy ventures...
3. To keep its members enlightened on all issues within the scope of the social, economic, and cultural welfare of the community.

Highlighted in this Souvenir Book are events of significance in the history of the Jewish Junior Welfare League, together with a description of current projects.

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Montreal Association for the Blind
Montreal Children's Hospital
NDG Library for Boys & Girls —
Snowdon Branch
Neighbourhood House
Queen Mary Veterans' Hospital
Recreation for the Handicapped
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Rehabilitation Institute of Montreal
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St. Laurent Neighbourhood
Association
Toy Workshop
UNICEF

Financial Support

Douglas Hospital
Mental Retardation Unit
Foster Parent Plan
McGill School of Social
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Montreal Council of Social Agencies
Foster Home Recruiting Centre
Montreal Girls' Association
Montreal Oral School for the Deaf
Negro Community Centre
Neighbourhood House (Special
Educational Program)
Recreation for the Handicapped
United Nations Seminar
[Sponsoring Student to attend
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Fortieth Anniversary Year

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Don Boyaner



In 1926 a group of twenty-six ladies banded together to organize a tea room. Thus the Jewish Junior Welfare League was born. From this inauspicious beginning we have grown into a vital and ever-progressing organization of almost four hundred women who have dedicated their services to our community.

In the course of our development we came to realize that a knowledgeable and well-oriented volunteer is a more effective one. Hence we inaugurated an orientation program, now of three months duration, which includes lectures and tours to various community institutions and agencies. To keep our members enlightened on significant community issues, we hold conferences and study groups, present plays on social problems and invite well-informed speakers to address our general luncheon meetings. Our executive and board members are given leadership-training courses; moreover, they gain valuable experience while serving on various committees and boards in outside organizations. It is interesting to observe that many of today's community leaders are graduates of the Jewish Junior Welfare League.

Over the past years we have worked to fulfill our objectives of initiating pilot projects and of contributing financial support to on-going needy programs. We helped to establish the Visiting Homemaker Services for the Baron de Hirsch Institute, the Occupational Therapy Department at the Jewish General Hospital, the Dental Clinic at the Herzl Health Centre, and a class for the educably retarded children at the Coronet School. Our grant to the Mental Retardation Unit of Douglas Hospital last year enabled the setting-up of a program of research into methods of teaching retarded youngsters. Financial aid was extended also towards the development of the Foster Home Recruitment Centre and the establishment of a nursery school at the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. Your contributions to our Souvenir Book have helped us to carry out our aims. We thank you for your support.

It is expected that in the future years even greater demands will be imposed on volunteers. The Jewish Junior Welfare League will continue to develop volunteers of the highest calibre to fulfill the needs of the community.

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A reunion of
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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JEWISH JUNIOR WELFARE LEAGUE

- 1926 The original twenty-six members started a tea room, the proceeds of which were used to establish a summer rest-home in the country for needy mothers and children.
- 1929-1930 A major donation was contributed to the Jewish General Hospital Building Fund.
- 1934 The "Play and Tutor" group was inaugurated. Here members tutored retarded children and supervised their play.
- 1939 The League started volunteer hospital work.
- 1940-1945 During the war years, the Jewish Junior Welfare League contributed the proceeds of a merchandise counter to the "Mrs. Winston Churchill Fund for British Servicewomen". Volunteer work was extended to the Canadian Red Cross, the Windsor Station Information Booth, the Canteen Service and the Overseas Packing Project.
The Girls' Club was founded, thus providing recreational facilities for adolescent girls.
- 1948 A Public Speaking Contest for high school students in Montreal was co-sponsored with the Junior League of Montreal.
- 1949 A Hot Lunch program was introduced in several schools.
- 1950 The League received an Award of Merit from the Women's Voluntary Services.



"Something hot for lunch" served
by a League volunteer



Presentation of the
Community Service Award
to the Jewish Junior
Welfare League

- 1951 The League helped to establish the first professional Occupational Therapy Department at the Jewish General Hospital.
- 1952-1954 The League supported the evening dental clinic at the Herzl Health Centre. An annual bursary to the McGill School of Social Work was established.
- 1955-1957 Financial assistance was extended to the NDG Library for Boys & Girls — Snowdon Branch.
The League received the Community Service Award.
- 1957-1958 A scholarship fund, for the special training in psychiatric nursing of one nurse at the Montreal Children's Hospital, was established.
The League maintained the NDG Library for Boys & Girls—Snowdon Branch financially and staffed it with volunteers.
- 1959-1960 Financial and volunteer aid was given to Recreation for the Handicapped.



NDG Library for Boys & Girls — Snowdon Branch
is helped by League volunteers

Recreation for the Handicapped
aided by League volunteers





In 1961, "Donelot" portrayed highlights of the League's thirty-five year life

- 1960-1961 Financial assistance was extended to the Learning Clinic and the Language Disorder Clinic for Aphasic Children at the Montreal Children's Hospital.
- 1961-1962 Financial assistance for two years was granted to the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal towards the inauguration of a two-year experimental cultural program in high schools.
- 1962-1963 Financial aid was given to the School for Emotionally Disturbed Children and to Neighbourhood House.
- 1963-1964 Major financial support was donated to Recreation for the Handicapped. Volunteers began to work at the Rehabilitation Institute of Montreal and to learn Braille in the Montreal Association for the Blind's special class.
- 1964-1965 Financial support was extended to the Mental Retardation Unit of Douglas Hospital, to The Foster Home Recruiting Centre and to the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf.
- The League became a Foster Parent.
- A Sugaring-Off Party was held for children from the MacKay Center for Deaf and Crippled Children.



It's snack time at the
Neighbourhood House Day Nursery

JEWISH JUNIOR WELFARE LEAGUE INC.

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— 1965-66 —

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HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Playgroup at the
Montreal Children's Hospital

Volunteer service is extremely rewarding. Both client and volunteer profit from the hours they share. The Jewish Junior Welfare League's volunteers, thoroughly instructed in the proper techniques via demonstration and lectures, work alongside and are supervised by trained personnel.

League volunteers perform a diversity of services in hospitals and other health centres, assisting in the clinics, offices and research laboratories, as well as on the wards. The education of retarded children being an area of prime concern to the League, a number of volunteers work with the children at the Mental Retardation Unit of Douglas Hospital. Furthermore, the Montreal Children's Hospital uses trained League volunteers in its program of "Home Care for Pre-school Retarded Children."

This past March the Jewish Junior Welfare League held a special event — a Sugaring-off Party in Mont St. Hilaire. League members and their families played host to a group of children from the Mackay Center for Deaf and Crippled Children. Superior professional entertainment and a delicious brunch followed. A wonderful time was had by all.



Sugaring-Off Party — all were
eagerly awaiting the sweet treat



Volunteers presenting
toys which were made
by them in the League's
Toy Workshop

Under the direction of the Montreal Association for the Blind, League members study and transcribe Braille. League volunteers assist also in the Association's elementary school, and chauffeur blind members to meetings of their Cheerio Club.

The League's "Toy Workshop" buzzes with activity. Volunteers meet weekly to produce specialized toys requested by various organizations, such as the Neighbourhood Day Nursery and the Peter Hall School for Retarded Children.

The League's program at the Girls' Cottage School attracts many volunteers. League members help the girls to plan entertainment, celebrate birthdays, and edit their monthly newsletter. The highlight of last season's activities at the School was the Valentine Fashion Show, modelled by resident girls and co-ordinated by League volunteers.

In addition to long-term projects, League volunteers answer the community's many short-term requests. Included in the latter category are surveys, blood drives, interviewing and clerical work.



Valentine Fashion Show at
the Girls' Cottage School

THE STORY OF MORDECAI



Mordecai Cifra — our
Foster Child

*"Somewhere — the place it matters not — somewhere
I saw a child, hungry and thin of face —
Eyes in whose pools life's joys no longer stirred
Lips that were dead to laughter's eager kiss,
Yet parted fiercely to a crust of bread . . ."*

This was Mordecai Cifra, a nine-year old Filipino boy, eighteen months ago. Surrounded by misery and abject poverty, he, his parents and his two older sisters lived in a decrepit two-room house in a town near Manila. Life presented a daily struggle for survival. For a few years Mordecai's father had been unemployed, due to failing eyesight; the most he could earn was about ten dollars every three months. Mordecai's mother supplemented this by working as a laundress, earning a mere forty cents a day. A close relative was helping to sustain the family, but she was in no position to support it entirely. Since it was recognized that the only hope for the future lay in a fine education, the three children were attending school. Mordecai, however, had failed Grade One; his family could not afford to purchase the necessary books.

One and a half years ago the Jewish Junior Welfare League became Mordecai Cifra's foster parent. Life for the child became worth living. In addition to a monthly cash grant of eight dollars, Mordecai receives food, clothing and medical care. His family is being aided and counseled by the Foster Parents' Plan's local social workers. Moreover, with one less financial dependent, the family is faring better. Mordecai has returned to school; he repeated Grade One and now is doing extremely well.

The Jewish Junior Welfare League truly is proud of Mordecai. Our sponsorship is assuring him of a brighter and more secure future. But, most important of all, it has made him happy.

A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE LEAGUE'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY BALL

Under the distinguished Patronage of His Excellency General The Right Hon. Georges P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., C.D., Governor General of Canada, The Hon. Mr. Jean Lesage D.C., Q.C., Prime Minister of Quebec, and His Worship, Mayor Jean Drapeau, a fortieth anniversary ball will be held at the Windsor Hotel on the thirtieth day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty-six. The many dedicated members of the Jewish Junior Welfare League and the community will gather to participate in the festivities marking the growth and progress of forty years — years dedicated to tireless volunteer service, fund-raising, inaugurating pilot projects and education.

The Committee of founding, past and active members under their chairman Mrs. Lester Chisling, has been engaged for many months formulating the final plans for the event which will include dinner, music by Noel Talarico and his orchestra, and a satirical revue, under the direction of Mr. Irwin Browns, and written by three of our members, Mrs. Seymour Rozovsky, Mrs. Harold Schneider and Mrs. Gerald Shiller. Decorations have been generously donated by Holt Renfrew and Company.

Proceeds of this gala event will be used to give financial assistance to established and to pilot projects in the community.



Pictured above are several of the committee members for the fortieth anniversary ball.

Front row from the left: Mrs. Lester Chisling, Chairman; Mrs. Peter Issenman, Chairman of Decorations; Mrs. Jack Wener, Chairman of Patrons; Mrs. Edward Van Zaig, Hospitality.

Back row from the left: Mrs. Mark Berkowitz, Co-ordinator of Patrons; Mrs. Gustave Gray, Patrons Committee; and Mrs. Herbert Vineberg, Patrons Committee.

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