



Towards a Better Future — integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community

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Pathways to the Community – Mesilot L' Kehila

by Abigail Owusu and Nakema Walker, Support Workers

Positive changes are always good. It's been a great pleasure participating in a new program. Day Program teamed up with the Pathways To The Community program which is quite exciting. **Antonio Woo** (Job Developer) came to the Battle Centre to meet all of the clients who will be taking part in the program, interviewed them and advised us how to best prepare the clients for the work field.



Tamara Benjamin at Winners.

Clients involved in the program are **Tamara Benjamin, Renee Bloom, Karlene Buchanan, Dennis Diamante, Jamie Heslin, Brandon Horner, Neil Mohan, Daniel Proper, Kimosha Renaud, Lewis Rosenberg, and Allen Thay.**

We started researching within the community; made several phone calls; surfed the internet and handed out hundreds of letters. We were finally able to get a volunteer placement at Homebase Community Centre, a drop-in centre for homeless youth. We are responsible for the food and clothing bank. We go in every Tuesday, reorganize all the food and also sort out the clothing that has

been donated. Even though going to Homebase is very fulfilling, we felt that the clients needed more challenges. We continue to look for volunteer placements. I met **Rick Mateu** (Manager of Winners' Stores) and explained to him what the program is all about and he was very interested. Even though Winners do not take in any volunteers, Rick saw how important this opportunity will be for the clients and decided to give us a chance. We

are responsible for labelling, sizing, and hanging clothes within the store. We are at Winners every Wednesday and Thursday. We have been at Winners for over a month now and things are improving. Our next place for an opportunity was The Salvation Army Thrift Store. We volunteer every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We sort out donated clothes, put labels on different items such as toys, shoes, clothes, books, etc., reorganize the sizes of clothes within the store and help tidy up. Doing all of this keeps us very busy within the community. There are

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Report of Reena President & CEO

by Sandy Keshen



Over the past while, Reena has been working with provincial and local agencies to ensure that the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Transformation process is heard by our elected officials. Successive governments of Ontario have had a vision of supported independence and integration within communities for people with disabilities. We believe that the needs of people with disabilities and their families have changed over the years. Children with disabilities are integrated in their own communities. Reena, along with parent groups and partner agencies, support the Transformation of the Developmental Service Sector which the current government committed to in its 2004 Budget. Transformation of our sector is vital to reflect the new realities of people with disabilities. A transformed system must take into

account the need for financial accountability to the taxpayers of Ontario. This has been very difficult due to not having the tools to complete assessments that can be tied to funding. In a transformed system this will change, as will such things as eligibility for funding.

Making funding available to families will allow agencies to create partnerships with them to support people in ways that are compatible with their needs. In particular, when families are empowered through funding, this will reduce the stress on community agencies for added services and will also enable agencies to concentrate on transformation reforms. Transformation will create a culture of change, which is essential with the Developmental Service Sector as we seek to continue to provide high quality services and keep them cost effective and sustainable.

While non-traditional options may not suit everyone, clearly our current approaches need to be transformed and must reflect the new reality of the integration of people with developmental disabilities in our communities.

Multi-Year Financial Plan

The increase in funding in 2006-2007 was most welcome but increased funding will be required over the next decade to:

- Respond to individuals who are currently without supports;

- Increase the inventory of residential, day supports, and specialized services;
- Ensure recruitment and retention of qualified and trained staff;
- Enhance agency administrative and management capacity; and
- Build inter-ministry service system linkages.

A Bold New Direction – The Transformation Agenda

To address both current and future challenges in the sector a transformational approach is needed that allocates funding that is portable, directly to individuals and their families while ensuring a strong, responsive and stable non-profit service system.

The Developmental Services sector is at a crucial juncture. Service providers, families and staff of the Ministry of Community and Social Services have joined together to plan for a transformation of how services are provided and are ready to move forward. The status quo is not an option, the system must be stabilized and new initiatives launched. Ontario must invest now to transform supports for its most vulnerable citizens.

We echo Premier Dalton McGuinty's stated desire "to make sure that everyone gets a fair shot at success."

Pathways to the Community continued from front page

some clients for whom we still haven't found placements, so we continue to search.

We would like to thank **Theron Cumberbatch** the team leader of Homebase Community Centre, **Rick Maheu**, Manager at Winners Clothing

Store, and **Brenda Solanki**, Manager, at the Salvation Thrift Store, for their support. We also would like to say 'thank you' to **Karen Marks**, Administrative Assistant at Reena's Battle Centre, for her constant support, assisting us with our

research and encouraging us to keep on going. This is a new program that has started very strongly. We are aware of the challenges and obstacles but we are very excited about the program and it is our goal to be successful.

Report of the Chair of the Reena Board

by Helen Vale



As a result of integration in the classroom, young people today are comfortable interacting with physically or cognitively impaired students. As our young Reena clients mature, many will be independent enough to dream of a home of their own. Ideally they will continue to integrate into a welcoming community. To make this dream possible, Reena is planning to purchase a 90-unit integrated apartment building that will house people with developmental

disabilities living in their own apartments on the same floor as accepting members of the wider community.

What does this model provide for our clients? It ensures access to affordable, stable housing in the heart of our community. It provides opportunities for clients to form friendships with other people who are developmentally disabled and with those who are not. It enables the agency to support groups of individuals in a most cost effective way. By having a number of clients living in the same building, staffing and group programs will be more viable. Even more importantly, with a change in government direction to provide funding directly to parents to purchase services, this model will ensure that families are able to use these limited funds to provide the support their family member needs, and to access affordable housing where an agency already has a strong presence. Families would be assured that their loved one would always have an understanding and compassionate landlord.

This model, where other tenants pay market value for their rent, would also provide revenue to allow Reena to fund the programming that will take place in the building.

The need – to offer a friendly and understanding environment where Reena clients, developmentally operating at a relatively high level but still needing some support, can live, fully integrated and with dignity – is urgent.

This project is a new, innovative model of integration. Other building tenants can become engaged in volunteering their time in support of their neighbours with developmental disabilities. It's a model where people live together in a community, gain a deeper understanding of one another, where friendships and supportive relationships can thrive.

The Reena Foundation Gala Dinner in June and the Magna Dinner in November were dedicated to raising funds for this project. We've got a long way to go still, but we are on the road to making our dream a reality.

A Shabbat to Remember

by Arlene Margolese, Manager, Faith & Cultural Services

Shabbatons from our experience usually come under the category of "unforgettable life experiences". Visiting another city, being hosted by a new friend, singing, dancing, eating, praying, sharing *D'var Torahs*, *Parshot* and other stories, eating again, playing games, laughing, crying, and, of course, eating again...

The last weekend of October, the sharing, caring, and spiritual essence of such a "happening" took place here at Reena, as **Jonathan Bingham**, **Tamara Benjamin**, **Mika Raubfogel**, **Tanya Kogon**, **Rebecca Hersh**, **Daniel Duchinsky** and **Jennifer Goodman** hosted **Jason Kershman**, **Debbie Applebaum**, **Shirley Harris**, **Julie**

Mintz, and **Meredith Caplan** from Tamir of Ottawa.

Friday evening started with "snack and schmooze", then a very special *Kabbalat Shabbat* service together with the Beit Rayim congregation which is temporarily housed in Reena's Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre. This was followed by a scrumptious Shabbat meal at Reena. Shabbat morning we all attended services at Beit Rayim, where each and every one of the participants from Reena and Tamir received an *Aliyah*, and were given the opportunity to read their *D'var Torahs*. A beautiful Kiddush lunch was then shared by all present. The Rabbi, and all the congregants of Beit Rayim could not

possibly have been friendlier or more accommodating. How special it was!

The incredible ambience and Shabbat mood remained throughout the day, as we relaxed with games, took a brisk walk, sang songs, and enjoyed each others' company, culminating in a warm, sentimental *Havdalah* service followed by a movie and pizza. There were hugs and tears at breakfast on Sunday morning, with promises to keep in touch.

Thank you everyone from Reena and Tamir, and a special thank you to Tamir's **Leah Smith**, **Judaic Program Supervisor** and **Cantor Daniel Benlolo** for all their hard work. We are looking forward to visiting you next in Ottawa.

Developmental Disabilities Counsellor Program Graduation at George Brown College – St. James Campus!!!

by The Learning & Development Team

On November 21, 2006, DDC Students from the May 2006 program attended their graduation ceremony at George Brown College – St. James Campus. This was a very exciting time for the students, Reena, and our partners. The hard work and collaborative efforts of everyone involved came to fruition on that night.

Thank you to **Sandy Keshen**, President and CEO of Reena, **Ken Beck** (Chair - Learning and Development Committee and Reena board member), and the members of our Learning and Development Committee for their ongoing support and guidance. As a result of their leadership and determination to provide solutions to staff recruitment and quality supports for our clients, Reena is widely recognized as *the* leader in learning and development in the developmental services sector.

A special thank you to **Georgia Quartaro** (Dean of General Education and Access at George Brown College)

for making it possible to hold our graduation ceremony at the college site. We're very excited about our evolving partnership with the college. Georgia was also the M.C. for the



From left to right: **Deborah Hall**, MCSS Acting Director of Developmental Services Branch; **Ken Beck**, Chair of Learning and Development Committee and Reena Board member; **Georgia Quartaro**, Dean of General Education and Access at George Brown College; **Jonelle Santana**, DDC graduate.

graduation event.

As you may know, this was the first time Reena had run the DDC Program with six partnering agencies and it truly has been a successful

venture. We had the opportunity at the graduation to recognize the efforts and involvement of all of the partners (*The Safehaven Project for Community Living, Kerry's Place Autism Services, Montage Support Services, New Leaf: Living & Learning Together Inc., New Visions Toronto, & The Salvation Army Broadview Village*) and look forward to continued success with our partnering agencies.

Our sincere thank you to the Reena Instructor Teams for their ongoing support and commitment towards learning excellence. Without their efforts, we couldn't pull this off.

Finally, thank you to our staff for spreading the word about this program and the great career opportunity it represents. Our staff's "word-of-mouth" marketing efforts, have led to many applications for the program.

We are presently accepting applications and interviewing prospective students for our next DDC program which begins January 15th, 2007. So keep on spreading the word!!!

See student address on page 5

A Dream Fulfilled

by Neil Gamester- Senior Support Worker

Earlier this year, **David Midgen** (who lives in Reena's Supported Independent Living program) fulfilled a life long dream of travelling to Israel. For ten days, he and his mother were on a tour organized by Mrs. Midgen's synagogue.

Highlights of the trip included the city of Jerusalem, specifically the Wailing Wall, and visiting a couple of friends, Aaron and Goldie (from David's synagogue here in Toronto) who now live in Israel.

While on the tour, it became apparent just how popular and well-known David is within Toronto's Jewish community when 15 people in Israel stopped to talk to David. These were all people David knows from here in Toronto, including a member of Reena's C.Q.I. Board. At one point, while the group was on the bus, the driver received a call on his phone. "David, it's for you" he said.

David was back in Toronto just a few days when he was already

thinking about another trip to Israel, this time on his own.



David at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem

Address by Graduating Student Jonelle Santana

Good Evening Everyone. My name is Jonelle Santana, and I am honored and flattered to have been asked to speak at this wonderful occasion.

I am proud to represent the May 2006 class of the Developmental Disabilities Counsellor Program.

Before you, today, sits an incredible group of people. I say you're incredible because I'm sure that we have all been told, at one point, or another, that the social work field is too much work, with too little pay. Having said that; we are proud to be graduating in our chosen field. We all come from various professional backgrounds, including a former mechanic, but we all share one thing in common, a desire to work with people with developmental disabilities.

I remember how I felt when I first walked into our classroom. My first thought was, "Wow, it's cold in here." I'm sure my classmates will agree with me on that one, because along with a pen and paper, we had to bring gloves, scarves, hats, and sweaters, just to get through the day... and it was the middle of summer! My second thought was, did I make the right decision? Today, I can honestly say YES, I did.

Initially, there was lecture after lecture and handout after handout. At times the material we had to cover overwhelmed us. For most of us, we had not seen the inside of a classroom in years.

Classmates, do you remember Medication and Pharmacology? Thankfully that's over. I think we can all agree that it was one of the most difficult courses.

It was at this point that I had to reflect back on what it was about this program that brought us all here in the first place – the desire to do good, to help others, and, in the words of Reena's mandate, "to enable people with developmental disabilities to realize their full potential."

We have learned a lot about working with people with developmental disabilities, about ourselves and about each other. Our schedules changed, sleep became less frequent and we often saw our friends and families on our way out the door.

I would like to thank my family and the families of all those who graduated today. There have been times when some of us have had to work on an assignment while cooking dinner, helping our children with their homework, and soothing a crying baby. I know that my family has given me more than I could have ever asked for in support and encouragement. I can't express what you have meant to me. And I am sure that goes for all my fellow classmates.

On behalf of my classmates I would like to thank every individual that made this day possible. I would like to thank all of our teachers for helping us

realize our potential. William Arthur Ward said, "The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." Thank you, **Joe Persaud, Devika Persaud, Laurie Bertin-Keller, Stacey Donaghy, Debra Waring**, all the Reena instructors, and external instructors.

Thank you Reena and George Brown College for creating the Developmental Disabilities Counsellor Program. Thank you also to the six partnering agencies that have provided us with hands-on experience.

And personally, I would like to extend thanks to all my classmates. Our journey together has finished and we are about to embark on a new one. I have loved sharing the last four months with you. We are now caring for people's loved ones: their children, their partners, their parents. Take what you have learned and use it to enrich the lives of others. But always remember your time here. Remember your sacrifice and hard work. Remember how amazing it feels to learn, to discover and to grow. Remember what you feel right now. Be proud of what you have accomplished.

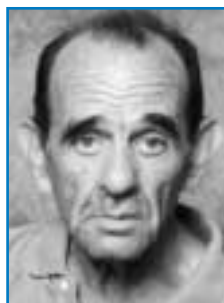
Congratulations, Developmental Disabilities Counsellors, and again I am honoured to have shared this day with you.

Best wishes to each one of you in wherever life takes you! Thank you.

Mourning Allan Feldman

by Larisa Szirulnik, Support Worker

It is with great sadness that I am writing this letter. When I heard the news that Allan had been killed in a traffic accident, I was in shock. After that I thought, "why Allan?" Allan was a good-hearted person. He was always concerned about others. If you were sick, he would say "I hope you will feel better." Allan was very generous. He always offered his help to me and other staff. The last time I saw him we went



together to a doctors' appointment because Allan had a cold and he told me how very much he appreciated me taking him to the doctor. We, his friends and staff at 473 Wilson Avenue, will miss him very much.

"People throughout Reena are feeling the loss of a friend," said Reena President **Sandy Keshen**. "Allan was a fiercely independent man and he had a keen sense of humour."

Reena Extends a Warm Welcome to New Clients

In the last seven months, Reena has warmly welcomed thirteen new clients into its residential program. Four of the group were previously living in institutions and

we are very happy to report that they are settling very well into their new homes and making friends with their housemates. The rest of the group have come either from their family

home, foster homes or private group homes. They, too, are happy in their new environments and fitting well into the community. (See below for a letter of appreciation from a sibling.)

The following letter was written by the brother of a new client who spent over thirty years in an institution before moving to Reena this year. The letter was sent to Terri Ripley, a Resource Supervisor at one of Reena's homes in the community, and her team.

Dear Terri:

Yesterday when I spoke to Lionel to wish him a Happy and Healthy 49th birthday, tears welled up after I hung up the phone. He sounded more cogent and lucid than he has since the age of sixteen (about thirty-three years ago.) His functional capacity (physical and psychological) is extraordinarily greater than it was when he was accepted by Reena. I was overwhelmed with emotion.

You may be accustomed to receiving compliments in your field but this is not overstated adulation. It seemed that Lionel had "awakened" from a three decade "somnia." The motion picture "Schindler's list" came to mind. I seem to recall his epitaph, "If you have saved one person, you have saved the world." Terri, you have. You should always know that even at your most frustrating moment at work, I know that both you and your organization have helped Lionel more than any other in my lifetime. You, and your team do exemplary work every day.

When my will is rewritten I will not forget the efforts of Reena. On a more immediate time frame, I will encourage my father to do the same.

Please be so kind as to determine if Lionel could travel to Florida to stay with us for approximately four days in the spring of 2007. I would like to travel with him to Disney World.

With much gratitude,
PAUL

Quality Respite Options Offered by Reena's Outreach Program

by Ann Szabo, Resource Manager, Outreach and Respite Services

Each year we take a look back at what we have achieved, nod our heads and smile. Then we start planning for the future and shake our heads at how far we have come in just a few years. It sounds like a lot of self-promotion, but we have a lot to be proud of in the last nine years.

Reena can boast about the well-attended **Sunday Friends Club North** (at the Battle Centre) and **South** (with our partner the **Miles Nadal JCC**.) The **After School Club**, along with the South Sunday program, has extended the age limit to include participants up to 21 years old. We hope to continue to support our adults through the years at all our program options. Other popular activities include **Social Skills Autism** support group, **Creative Arts**, the ever-growing **Café Lundi** for adults over 21 and **Mod Squad** for youth 15-21 years of age. Our **Ontario Special Olympics Basketball** team has expanded so much we are looking for a community gymnasium to accommodate the number of athletes. Bowling has taken over the Bathurst Bowlerama with over 70 participants weekly. As always the school break

options will continue to cultivate fun, relationships and community integration, with March Break, Winter Retreat and the Summer Recreation program.

The 2006 **Camp Northland** experience was so enjoyable that we will be partnering with B'nai Brith again next summer for three full weeks of fun and inclusion in the sun.

New this coming year is the Music Makers, a musical smorgasbord for adults who love to entertain and be entertained. This is an offshoot of the Reena Shirim choir; you may have heard them sing at some more prominent functions this past year.

Pathways to the Community – Mesilot L' Kehila

Always looking for new challenges, Outreach has moved into the realm of day options for transitioning adults from school, home and other agencies. **Mesilot L' Kehila** (Pathways to the Community) is an expansion of the many day options that Reena offers our clientele. We are responding to the needs and desires of our community by offering this community based day experience. It gives adults the opportunity to learn

life skills, social skills, literacy, recreational activities, job readiness and volunteering in the community just for starters. This quickly growing program has two locations; for people living in Toronto the Hillel Jewish Campus at U of T is sharing their lovely building with us, and our new location north of Toronto is at a storefront on Centre St. in Thornhill. Both locations have endless opportunities for the clientele who attend and the well-trained staff who support them.

Residential Respite Program

Another exciting event in Outreach is the expansion of our Residential Respite program. Reena is opening a new home for three transitional aged youth with three respite bedrooms for children within a fully wheelchair-accessible unit. The home will be available for respite by early next year. We also have respite beds for adults in a number of our existing locations.

Reena continues to look to the future and we hope to see you there. For more information about any of the programs we offer visit our website www.reena.org or call Tom Petersen at (905) 889-2690 ext. 2112.

Synagogues Embrace Reena Clients

As in past years, Reena clients were given the opportunity to attend High Holiday Services in their neighbourhood synagogues at no charge.

Participation in religious practices is very important to our clients. Reena wishes to thank the boards and members of the following Synagogues who responded to our request and warmly welcomed our clients into their communities.



Adath Israel, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah, Beth Radom Beth Shalom, Beth Tikvah, Beth Torah, B'nai Shalom North
Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning
Pride of Israel, Shaar Shalom, Shaarei Tefilah, Temple Emanu-el and Temple Sinai



Sol Celebrates a Milestone

by Shirley Alladin, Support Worker

On Thurs. Sep. 14. 2006, North York Employment Training Services (ETS) held a celebration honouring **Sol Flom** for 50 years of service. They chose that day because it was Sol's 71st birthday and it was a great opportunity to celebrate such a unique achievement. Guests included most of Sol's family, staff and co-workers at ETS, as well as his friend **Esther Zeifman** who was accompanied by staff from Reena's ElderHome.

ETS staff paid tribute to Sol in verse and also spoke of his dedication, thoughtfulness, kindness and concern for others. Sol's peers performed songs, dances and an



John McNicholas, Program Supervisor of the North York ETS, presented Sol with a commemorative piece which included the invitation and poems composed by **Georgia Kurlinas**. Sol, an avid Blue Jays fan, received a special birthday present from the Blue Jays organization. His brother-in-law Norman presented the gift – an autographed picture of Jay's pitcher Josh Towers – to Sol which made him very happy. As a grand finale everyone sang Happy Birthday to Sol, and he thanked everyone for coming and sharing the day with him. A reception followed.

instrumental piece in his honour. Family tributes were given by **Barbara** and **Norman Gilbert**, Sol's sister and brother-in-law. **Tami Shreck** spoke on behalf of our supervisor **Jane Scott**, the staff and Sol's housemates at the ElderHome.

Later that evening Sol celebrated his birthday with his other 'family' at the ElderHome.

Congratulations to Sol on such a great achievement, 50 years of service. Sol presently attends ETS two days per week and enjoys semi-retirement at home.

Best wishes and continued good health Sol.

A Sad Farewell

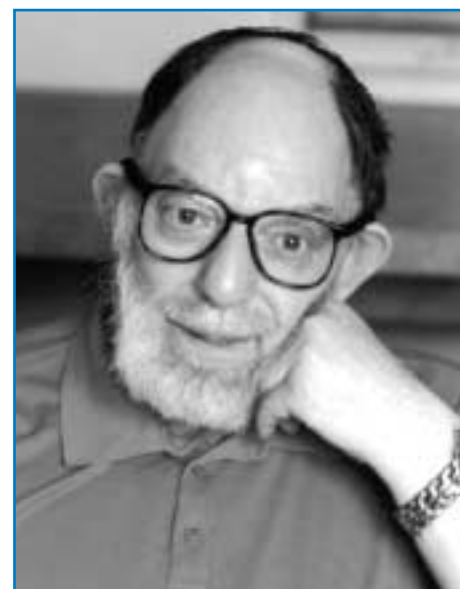
It is with deep sadness and sense of loss that we announce the passing of Reena client **Henry Edson** who succumbed to a heart attack on Oct. 11, 2006.

After living for 27 years at the Huronia Regional Centre, Henry became a member of the Reena Family in September of 1976 and never stopped thanking Reena for providing a loving home for him and others in the community. Henry took part in Reena's first trip to Israel, led by **Rabbi Joseph Kelman** in 1977. This trip and his involvement in the Jewish community through Reena

awoke within him a strong desire to complete studies leading to his Bar Mitzvah which he celebrated at Camp Reena in 1987.

Henry delighted in taking part in all Reena activities and was a very vocal advocate for Reena's work in the community. He never tired of thanking government officials who visited Reena, volunteers and staff, for their support saying "You're doing a good job."

Reena held a memorial service where family, friends and staff spoke lovingly about Henry who will be deeply missed and long remembered.



SIL's Sunsational Summer

by Rebecca Freedlander, Support Worker

It's been a busy few months for the Reena Supported Independent Living (SIL) Group. We've been having a lot of fun, as well as helping out in the community. Here is a sampling of our summer activities.

We are continuing our work with the North York Harvest Food Bank and some of us were on hand to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this wonderful organization. **Hirsch Silverstein** even made a poster to commemorate this event and was happy to be recognized as one of the valued volunteers helping to keep things running smoothly over the years.

In addition to our work at the Food Bank, we are now proud to be assisting **Fran Chodak** and her staff at the Family Resource Centre. It is a pure pleasure to work on behalf of the children and their families. **Cheryl Kelman** is especially happy to be able to see the children with the arts and crafts that our group has helped to

prepare. We clean and sanitize the toys so that the children can play in a healthy environment, as well as helping out with community information mail outs. The Resource Centre is quickly becoming one of our favourite ways to show what productive citizens we are.

Some recent outings have included a tour of York Region Fire Station that incorporated lots of useful safety information for home and away. We also participated in an animal education day at P.J.s Pets in the Promenade Mall. Many thanks to **Francesca Augello** and her assistant **Karen** for arranging an informative and fun day learning about dogs, cats, gerbils, snakes and even chameleons!

Lest we forget our Jewish heritage, on Shavuot we enjoyed a delightful dairy dinner and prepared mitzvah baskets for family and friends. **Mike Rubin**, the Ritual Director of Beth David, Bnai Israel, Beth Am Synagogue

gave us a guided tour of the building and played the Jewish Festival Game with us. We are pleased to report that we know our holidays and Mike failed to stump the group.

Everyone appreciated our Bake Sale Days at the Al Green Resource Centre (Atlaz) and at the Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre. Many thanks to Amazing Donuts and Richman's Bakery for providing us with such delicious kosher pastries. With the proceeds of the sale we were able to enjoy a day at Harbourfront, including a one-hour boat tour of the harbour. **Harold Sadoway** said that he especially liked the boat ride and ice cream treats. We look forward to more fun fundraisers throughout the year.

Stay tuned and we will keep you updated about our adventures. Leaving you with happy thoughts of the good times to come. So long for now... **THE SIL GANG!**

Two New Members of Reena's Board of Directors

Mona Sherkin first became involved with Reena ten years ago through the Reena Foundation's fundraising efforts and continues to devote much of her time and considerable energy to Reena's expansion. In 2005, she and her family were awarded the Foundation's Family Philanthropy Award for their contribution to Reena programs.



Mona Sherkin

Mona served as President of the Parents' Association for a school for special needs children, and was also a member of the Women's Executive of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

Married with three children, one of her sons attends Reena's Sunday Friends Club, the Camp program and the March Break program.

SIL Client Elected to Reena Board of Directors

Robert is a very fine gentleman who has many interests and loves to volunteer in the community. He is very independent and receives minimal support from Reena's SIL program.

Robert currently volunteers at Safe Haven and at Fine Touch Catering at the Battle Centre. His interests include yoga, meditation and healthy cooking. Robert is very pleased to be a new member of Reena's Board of Directors.



Robert Lesser

by Murray Klein



&
President
by Gary Sim



Report of the Chair of the Reena Foundation Board

These past few months have been an extremely challenging time in fund raising. The community has been extraordinarily generous in its response to Israel in its time of need. In fact, there has probably never been a time in the history of Toronto when families responded so generously to the need in Israel, and at the same time Toronto based charities have seen some of the biggest donations ever made.

Much of the record donations can be attributed to the recent removal of the capital gains tax applicable to donated securities, but the bottom line is that the Toronto community is generous and responds to need. The same is true for Reena supporters. Even in these trying times, Reena is receiving generous support from our community and some of our recent events have

received record support.

As we approach the end of the year, a traditional time for making donations, we encourage you to support Reena to the very best of your ability so that 2007 will see Reena being able to support more children with developmental disabilities than ever before. Families are depending on us to come through with additional services. We are depending on you to help with your financial support – more than ever before.

And remember, there are creative ways of giving, such as donating securities that have appreciated over time (see article in this newsletter). Please call our offices today and tell us you want to see a better life for the children of Toronto who are living with developmental disabilities.

4th Annual Cooper/Stronach Dinner a Sell-Out

On Sat. Oct.21, over 90 friends of Reena gathered at the exclusive Magna Golf Club to pay tribute to our hosts, **Sydney Cooper** and **Frank Stronach**, at the 4th Annual Dinner in their honour. The event was an elegant affair, featuring mouth-watering cuisine, good friends and the soothing voice of **Michelle Mele**, our featured entertainment of the evening. **Stacie Clark**, former

colour commentator at Woodbine Race Track was MC for the event, reinforcing the ties to racing that these two legends share as a pastime.

The evening was so popular that it was sold out before the invitations were even printed. Many more people than could attend sent in donations and tributes to Mr. Cooper and Mr. Stronach. The evening raised over \$100,000 in support of Reena's

Integrated Apartment Project. As always, the full \$100,000 from tickets and donations went directly to the cause as Mr. Cooper and Mr. Stronach covered all the costs of the event.

We thank **Tobie Bekhor** and **Lorne Weiss** for chairing the event again, as well as their entire committee who put so much work into ensuring not a single detail was overlooked.



Paul Bronfman, Edith Weiss, Judy Bronfman and Elfriede Stronach



The Cooper Family

Guys Night Out 2006

Over 180 guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening of fantastic food and gambling during the fourth annual Guy's Night Out at Woodbine Racetrack. But the excitement wasn't only found on the track, there was also a silent auction where the guys could bid on a variety of prizes such as Leafs' and Raptors' tickets, autographed memorabilia, and PGA Golf trips and much, much more!

Once again this event was a huge success due in large part to our fantastic committee and co-chairs **Steven Weisz** and **Jonah Laist**. The goal of the event was to raise \$20,000, which we surpassed by raising over \$25,000 to help support Reena's Respite and Enrichment Programs!

The committee also felt that, due to the ongoing crisis in

Israel, a portion of the money raised should go to support the UJA Federation. We are proud that 10% of the evening's proceeds has been donated to the UJA. **Ed Segalowitz**, Vice President Budget and Allocations, of the UJA was present at the event to accept this donation.

A very special and heartfelt thank-you goes out to our lead sponsors **Eagle Professional Resources Inc.** and **Paradise Homes**, and we would also like to thank the **Hooters** girls for coming out and selling all those raffle tickets.

As you can see from the photograph everyone had a really good time and we're already looking forward to next year! Mark September 19th, 2007 in your calendars now and don't miss the fun.



The 'guys' (l to r) **Jonah Laist**, **Steven Weisz** and **Larry Berdugo** ham it up for the photographer.

Special Occasions Shared

Reena would like to thank the following supporters who have chosen to share special occasions with Reena by directing family and friends to donate in honour or in memory of a loved one. **The Abramczyk Family** in honour of Myer's 80th birthday. **Sam and Lori Merson** on the occasion of their 10th wedding anniversary. **The Rajzman Family** in celebration of Ellen and Henry's 40th wedding anniversary. **David and Elaine Ross** in memory of Norman Ross.

The New Leadership Division Securing the Future!

On Sept. 27, the Reena Board Room was abuzz with potential. Over 25 young professionals between the ages of 25-45 met as a group for the first time. This network of young leaders is helping to secure the philanthropic future of Reena Foundation. **Steven Weisz** will serve as Chair of the group and the following are members of the executive: **Stephen Adler**, **Adam Henechowitz**, **Dayna Henechowitz**, **Melissa Kelman**, and **Mira Schwartz**.

The New Leadership Division has set several goals including raising funds through annual events that also help to inform the community about the work of Reena. Young leaders have been planning our annual *Not Just Another Saturday Night* for the past two years. The New Leadership Division will continue this sell-out event, watch for it next March. This group will also be spearheading the Guys Night Out event in September 2007 and has plans for an additional event in November 2007.

For more information and to get involved contact **Fiona Ott** at 905-763-8254 x 3030 or visit our website at www.reenafoundation.org.



The Board of Directors, clients and staff of

**Reena, Reena Foundation
and Batay Reena**

deeply mourn the passing of

Alex Grossman א"ל

A loyal friend and staunch supporter of persons with a developmental disability in the Toronto community.

We join in expressing our deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to his family. May the memory of his many good deeds be a source of comfort to all those who knew and respected him.

The Benefits of Donating Stocks

The 2006 Federal Budget contained several tax saving measures, the most important to the philanthropic was the elimination of the tax on capital gains for donations of publicly listed securities and ecologically sensitive lands to charities. The Budget provisions reduce the inclusion rate on capital gains from 25% to 0 on publicly listed securities and ecologically sensitive lands that are donated to a charitable organization.

As demonstrated below, this measure makes a donation of publicly traded shares more attractive than ever before for an individual or their corporation:

Method of Donation		
	Donation of Publicly Listed Securities – Current Rules (25% inclusion rate on capital gains)	Donation of Publicly Listed Securities – New Rules (0% inclusion rate on capital gains)
Donation Amount	\$1,000	\$1,000
Capital Gains Tax *	\$ 116	\$ 0
Donation Tax Credit	<u>(\$ 464)</u>	<u>(\$ 464)</u>
Net Cost of Donation for Donor	<u>\$ 652</u>	<u>\$ 536</u>

* assumes a nil cost base for the publicly listed marketable securities

Not only do individuals benefit from these changes, anytime Reena receives actual shares or securities they “win” too. A donation of actual securities results in a “win-win” situation - Reena receives more funds that the organization can use to carry out our activities and the taxpayer receives a larger donation tax credit that can be used to reduce their personal income tax, which is illustrated below.

Method of Donation		
	Liquidating Securities and Cash Donation	Donation of Publicly Listed Securities – Proposed Rules (0% inclusion rate on capital gains)
Value of Securities	\$1,000	\$1,000
Capital Gains Tax *	<u>(\$ 232)</u>	<u>(\$ 0)</u>
Funds Available for Donation to Charity	<u>\$ 768</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
Donation Tax Credit Available to Taxpayer	<u>\$ 356</u>	<u>\$ 464</u>

* assumes a nil cost base for the publicly listed marketable securities

A very interesting offshoot of charitable planning is the purchase of something like an Oil & Gas Flow Through Tax Shelter with a future donation of the shares. For example you purchase an Oil & Gas Flow Through for \$10,000. The tax savings are approximately \$4,600 on the Oil & Gas deductions and the after-tax cost is \$5,400. Approximately two years later, when your tax shelter becomes a mutual fund, the value is still \$10,000. You then donate the mutual fund shares to a charity and pay no tax. However, you save approximately \$4,600 in taxes due to the donation credit. The combined tax savings are approximately \$9,200, meaning that your out of pocket cost was only \$800 for a \$10,000 donation.

Those affiliated with Reena and especially those with intimate financial information, such as accountants, lawyers and financial advisors will want to take advantage of this new opportunity.

Endowment Funds – Securing Reena’s Future

Establishing a family endowment fund is a wonderful way of creating your own legacy at Reena and a wonderful way of encouraging future generations to follow in your philanthropic footsteps. The whole family can donate to your fund and watch it grow over the years and generations. To find out how you can create your own fund, call Gary Sim at the Foundation, (905) 763-8254, extension 3029.

There are a number of areas you can support. Funds can begin as Developing Funds, and once they accumulate \$5,000 they become Granting Funds (indicated by upper case).

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Thank You to Our Donors

The Donor recognition List below reflects cumulative gifts of \$36 or more received between Aug. 1, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006. We thank all donors for their generous contributions including those requesting anonymity. Our Honorial and Memorial card program at Reena Foundation continues. What better way to say *mazal tov* or convey condolences than with a contribution to Reena Foundation? Cards are available from \$10 each. If you wish to make a donation, please call Reena Foundation at (905) 763-8254, ext. 3034. We apologize for any errors or omissions. To help us correct our records, please call the Foundation office, at the number above.

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FEBRUARY 24, 2007

Rock For Reena

The Great Hall - 1089 Queen Street West

MARCH 24, 2007

Not Just Another Saturday Night

Acqua Restaurant, BCE Place

MAY 28, 2007

Gala Dinner

The Sheraton Centre Toronto

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Guys Night Out

Woodbine Racetrack

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