

JAT News



JEWISH ACTION AND TRAINING FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

Spring 2010



From the Chair Ruth Hilton

Greetings,

Since the departure of our Hon Treasurer from the Board in December 2008 Paul Collin an independent financial advisor, helped us manage JAT's finances. We would like to thank Paul Collin for his help in guiding us financially over the last year.

The Trustees have created a Strategy Document that identifies current priorities for JAT. This should enable our Staff to develop focussed work plans that can also support funding bids.

From April this year, Trustee Louise Morganstein has agreed to serve as our Hon Treasurer and thanks to contacts from two of our Trustees we are delighted to welcome a financial advisor Anton Winston, and an accountant Laurie Cowan who are both providing services pro-bono to JAT. In order to streamline the work of the Board we have created several sub-committees and elected Lesley De Meza as our Vice Chair. Nigel Sears has taken a sabbatical for 6 months and Stacey Hart will act as Honorary Secretary in the interim. We recently welcomed David Cline, a former Education Worker at JAT, onto the Board of Trustees.

Jennifer Weiner and Giselle Kendal, have been appointed on fixed-term, part time contracts, to support Susanne Fraser, our Education & Training Manager, over the very busy summer period.

The failure of clauses related to PSHEE in the Children, Schools and Families Bill to get through 'wash up' prior to the dissolution of the last Government has been a bitter blow. Although elements of SRE are still required within Science, had PSHEE become statutory it would have provided a clear lever and direction to develop our work with schools. We are unsure as to how it may affect some of the funding we currently receive.

In this time of financial crisis and with a new Government publicly stating that they intend to implement major cuts in public services, funding remains our major challenge. Thanks to strenuous fundraising efforts plus the implementation of a charging tariff, we are currently still able to hold our heads above financial waters. The increasing demand for our work is a clear sign that we are needed in the community and I hope that our finances enable us to fulfil those demands long into the future.

I hope you are able to enjoy a long, warm summer

Friends of JAT - fundraising update



Janine Clements belting out jazz standards proved to be a success thanks to all who came to show support and be entertained at Moss Hall Primary School in March. JAT would like to extend a special thank you to Caronne Graham, Mikey Franklin, Anthony Ordman and Musical Director, Stephen Hose for joining Ms Clements and showcasing their musical talent; their efforts brought in £450.

Edinburgh Marathon

Many thanks to those who sponsored our intrepid Edinburgh marathon runner, Nathaniel Samson (19) who pounded the historic streets in aid of JAT on 23rd May. Nathaniel said, "It was scorching heat but I managed a time of 3hrs 22mins which beat my personal best by almost 30mins so I am delighted." It's not too late to support his endeavour by visiting the JAT website and labeling your donation 'Marathon'.

Forthcoming Fundraiser

A Charity Book Swap

Following the very successful Book Swap hosted by a Friend of JAT last September, JAT and Friends will be hosting another Swap on Wednesday 2 June from 10am-12pm & 7.30-9.30pm. Please contact Jacklyn at intern2@jat-uk.org for further details.





FaithAction Panel: A Focus on Family Health

FaithAction's Family Health event, held on 9th February at the Royal Institute of British Architects, was attended by 50 representatives from a range of faith based, community, and health organisations. The forum aimed to provide attendees with an opportunity to connect with each other and engage in dialogue centered on family health. JAT Director, Janine Clements, lead panel discussions and emphasised JAT's role in preventing the isolation of all marginalised communities at local and policy levels. She was joined by Amanda Allford (Council for Disabled Children established by the National Children's Bureau), Stephen Sibald (Men's Health Forum), and Paul Lincoln (National Heart Forum) all of whom work towards improving policy and local legislation while challenging discrimination and stigma within their respective organisations.

Panel discussions focused on the responsibility of faith and community organisations in providing health and social care and education that address the needs of specific communities rather than a 'one-size fits all' approach.



JAT Interns

Since September 2009 JAT's work has been supported by the presence of two international student interns. Director, Janine Clements believes that their inclusion in the team has enabled projects to be completed in a timely and efficient manner and the humour, diversity and overview that each brought to JAT has inspired change. Jennifer Evans, our inaugural intern who facilitated the 21st Season of Celebrations and Jacklyn Castellanos who has been a vital part of current fundraising and communication developments, reflect below on their experiences whilst at JAT:



Jennifer Evans, Autumn 2009

I am so incredibly fortunate to have worked in an environment such as JAT – not only did I gain an invaluable wealth of knowledge and work experience, I also believe that my time spent at JAT has enabled me to become a better person overall. Through watching JAT's team members in action I developed a large amount of respect for the work that they do and have seen first-hand how hard work, dedication and passion can pay off. Thanks to everyone's perseverance JAT has managed to overcome adversity, economic hardship and a great deal of other struggles in order to create a positive impact and profound difference in the lives of many. In combination with the ongoing support from the Board, team members and supporters JAT will continue to be a powerful influence to those who have and will benefit from JAT's services. I would like to thank everyone at JAT for making my time in London into the best experience of my life; I wish more than anything that I could have prolonged my stay and that I could still be with JAT today. I truly could not have asked to work with better people, nor could I have dreamt of a better experience. Sending my best wishes to everyone from Texas!



Jacklyn Castellanos, Spring 2010

My internship at JAT has served to be an enriching addition to my 3-month stay in London. I have been lucky to gain insight of not just one culture, but two, through work with the English-Jewish community. Having no religious affiliation, I found it very interesting to learn about Judaism and witness how Jewish values are translated on professional, political, and social levels to support JAT's goals. Teaching sexual health is already a contentious subject within the education sector, so I could only imagine the implications it has for a religious educational charity. However, the commitment JAT demonstrates to the youth and adult populations helps reconcile many of the differences. They are a reminder that an open mind is essential when determining both how to best deliver comprehensive health education and what exactly 'best' comprises of along the spectrums of age and religion. My time here, with a tight-knit group of wonderful, dedicated individuals, has been well spent. From skydiving, to witnessing JAT at work in the classroom, to the office laughs, JAT will be missed but remembered fondly.



Director's Diary

Janine Clements

It has been a very busy and exciting time for JAT – some of my activities, outside the overall operational management of the charity, include;

- Delivering workshops at Limmud on 'Sex & Relationships – why is it different for Jews?' and 'How to answer your children's embarrassing questions'
- Attending the HR forum and CEO Forum and creating a Community Orientation Day for professionals working across the Jewish community
- Speaking at FaithAction Panel – A Focus on Family Health
- Invited to sit on a training panel for Miyad, the Jewish telephone help line and successfully widening knowledge of JAT in the community.
- Supported the Education Team delivering workshops in schools and synagogues
- Representing JAT at the Sex Education Advisory Group and providing input for the pending 2010 updated guidance for Sex and Relationships Education
- Delivering one-to-one SRE for an adult with learning disabilities
- Attending professional development training through CommUnity Barnet
- Partnership working with LEAT and NAZ London following the multi-faith forum to develop future workshops around developing guidance for teachers on delivering appropriate SRE to students of faith
- Recruitment and induction of our current intern Jacklyn Castellanos and also JAT's new education workers, Giselle Kendal and Jennifer Weiner
- Facilitating a session with the Board of Deputies at UJIA's Research in Jewish Education Conference

Embracing Faith

A Multi-Faith Approach to Relationships and Sex



The Multi-Faith Education Forum which took place 9th December 2009 began building a bridge towards understanding the needs and the role of the faith perspective when teaching Sex and Relationships Education (SRE). All 74 participants worked together resulting in an evening that promoted dialogue and highlighted the need for further developments. The youth panel was significantly seen as the most 'useful' and 'exceptional' part of the evening because of the candour of the participants and the panel member's clarity about the impact on their lives of the quality SRE they received. The variety of views and experiences they openly shared deeply impacted on delegates who were moved by the young people's interesting perspectives; particularly the LGBT issues so often side-lined in discussions on SRE and Faith, to the detriment of young people.

Future multi-faith forums hope to further explore many of the issues and topics raised within this forum approaching one faith at a time in detail. Each workshop will build upon past information, allowing attendees to apply practical approaches in the classroom with newfound insights.

Call to Action

There are many way opportunities to help us. The main areas where volunteers are needed include education, fundraising, marketing and administration. For further information contact the office or visit our website. www.jat-uk.org



Education Highlights

Susanne Fraser
Education & Training Manager

- From September 2009 until May 2010, through all JAT Education programmes, we had face-to-face contact with 3563 people. Our busiest time is usually June-August so we expect many more people to participate in a JAT programme over the coming months!
- Two new people, Giselle Kendal and Jeni Weiner, joined the JAT team as Education Workers for the spring-summer period and we have trained up several new volunteers and sessional workers to join the JAT Education Team
- JAT has revived a past relationship with Immanuel College and run sessions for those in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13
- JAT was invited to present a session entitled 'Screening – a religious perspective' at the Whittington Hospital for those involved in the ante-natal screening process, and was very well received
- Due to demand, JAT has extended the number of synagogues in which we are running sessions and these relationships are growing
- JAT has been consulting with communities in Birmingham and Liverpool on future sessions, as well as building on research to run training for those with physical and learning disabilities
- JAT has continued to help new schools Morasha and JCoSS in developing their SRE curriculum

News Flash

JAT Survey

JAT conducted a survey that was sent to our young people's Education Participation Forum in order to gain a better understanding of what students think about the recent political discourse surrounding SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) and PHSEE scrapped as part of the Children, Schools and Families' Bill.

Here is what some of them had to say in regard to the importance of sexual health education as part of their curriculum:

"It's always good to have knowledge which comes from multiple angles, especially where there are multiple views with topics such as SRE." **JAT Pollster**

- 57% believe SRE is a 'crucial' part of curriculum, 43% say it's 'somewhat important'
- 100% believe SRE should to be taught in schools
- 57% believe the relationship aspect of SRE is 'crucial', while 29% say it's 'somewhat important' and 14% believe it to 'not be that important'
- 43% believe emotional aspects covered are 'crucial', while 34% believe it's 'somewhat important', and 14% think it is 'not at all important'
- 43% believe detailed, accurate Sex and Relationships Education is 'crucial', and the other 57% think it is 'somewhat important'
- 72% would like to have an organisation or educator outside the regular teaching staff (like JAT) for SRE, while 28% stated other, such as a form or science teacher

What people are saying....

"Thank you so much for your wonderful expertise." **Miyad**

"Please advertise more in the Jewish press—more people need to know about you." **Visitation Committee Training Session**

"The way you dealt with questions on the panel will have really helped people to understand how vital the work of a Faith organisation, such as JAT, can be."

Daniel Singleton, Director - FaithAction

"We really enjoyed listening to and were enlightened by your input." **Miyad**

"I feel privileged that my daughter is going to get first class Sex Ed from you and your team."

Rosh Pinah Parents' Evening

"Wonderful speaker and the sessions were very positively evaluated. Thank you so much for your participation." **Whittington Hospital Midwives' Session on Ante-natal screening and the Jewish Perspective**

"Excellent and informative, I enjoyed the very engaging conversation." **Visitation Committee Training Session**



The J's Jumped for JAT!

Jeni, Jacklyn and Julia made their first ever skydive on the 13th May to support JAT's mission. The event took place at Hinton Skydiving Centre near Oxford and the weather couldn't have been better. The girls jumped from an impressive 13,000 feet and were still 'flying' well after landing thanks to all the adrenaline rushing through their veins. Jeni overcame a fear while Julia and Jacklyn may have found a new favourite hobby and all collected sponsorship money for their efforts. If their courage has inspired you to take the plunge in the name of JAT, please contact Janine at j.clements@jat-uk.org for further details.



How your generosity will help us do more:

- £21 – Two-hours training a new JAT sessional worker
- £210 – 1000 educational STI leaflets
- £2,100 – One year's financial aid for 3 people living with HIV who are in need
- £21,000 – Annual education programmes for 2 schools: Yrs 7-13
- Other - All donations help to sustain our education and support projects – no amount is too small to help JAT make a difference.

Send your donation to JAT or click Give Now on our website www.jat-uk.org

JAT - Jewish Action & Training for sexual health
 Berkeley House – First Floor
 18-24 High Street
 Edgware, Middx, HA8 7RP
 NAME:
 ADDRESS:

Signature:

- I would like to know more about how I could be involved in JAT's work e.g. volunteering, sessional work, fundraising &/or Friends of JAT
- I confirm that I am a UK tax-payer & able to Gift Aid my donation to JAT

Charity No. 327936