



Free Loan

MATTERS

Spring 2013 – Passover / Nissan 5773

A Publication of Jewish Free Loan Toronto

Coming Soon

JFLT Adoption and Fertility Loans

★ ★ ★ Check Website **SOON** For More Info ★ www.jewishfreeloan.ca ★ ★ ★

Jewish Free Loan Toronto

Making Roman's Dreams Come True



I am a husband and a father with a pioneering spirit and a goal of self-employment. My research into career options in the field of Health and Wellness convinced me of the positive benefits of cryosauna therapy, and so I decided to open my own business - Cryotherapy Health and Wellness Inc.

I quickly realized that banks didn't share my entrepreneurial enthusiasm. They would not consider financing a new business for a young parent with big dreams but empty pockets.

After exhausting my personal funds, I turned to Jewish Free Loan Toronto for help. I submitted the necessary documentation, explained my circumstances to two JFLT volunteers and was fortunate to obtain business start-up financing.

What other organization would have the confidence to lend community money to a regular guy like me?

Thanks to your help, JFLT, I will be able to take care of my family and contribute to making our community healthier.

By approving my loan, you showed that you believe in me, in my goals, and in my ambition. I am motivated to become a great success story, not only for myself but also so that I can 'pay it forward.' I look forward to a time in the not-so-distant future when I can join JFLT as a donor, investing in other Jews who have dreams of entrepreneurship.

Roman Gersh,
Cryotherapy Health and Wellness Inc., 4550 Hwy 7, Unit 130,
Woodbridge, ON L4L 4Y7 (416) 509-4555



Working Together

Thanks to referrals from Jewish Free Loan Toronto, our borrowers in need of Passover food will celebrate their *seders* with dignity. These clients received Pesach supplies from our community's National Council of Jewish Women – Toronto Section (NCJW-TS) 2013 Passover Food Drive, with support from the Global Seder To Fight Hunger, an initiative of UJA Federation.

Financial Recycling Does Work

Donations **from donors like you** provided the capital for JFLT's parent organizations to begin their interest-free lending programs in the early 20th century.

Since then, Jewish Free Loan Toronto continues to recycle its donor dollars into interest-free loans.

How does JFLT's recycling work?

- Each dollar that is donated to JFLT builds our lending capital fund.
- Within a **lending framework of dignity, confidentiality, respect and understanding**, JFLT Loan Committee Volunteers regularly approve loan applications from community members in need.
- Every borrower is given a cheque in the amount of their interest-free loan, and begins making monthly loan payments.
- As the loans are repaid, the dollars are returned to the fund, and then loaned out, again and again.

Financial recycling.

It's simple and it's powerful.

Upcoming 2013 Business Seminar

Many of you are aware that Jewish Free Loan Toronto has been helping entrepreneurs of all ages realize their dreams of starting their own businesses since 1924.

What we have heard from many of you after receiving your loan, is that you are grateful for the opportunity, and the hope for financial success, but quite often are not well prepared for the various obstacles that a business owner faces in running a business day to day.

So, with that in mind, Jewish Free Loan Toronto is pleased to announce the 1st inaugural Business Planning Seminar to be held in mid 2013.

Items to be covered are, but not limited to:

- Business basics
- Accounting basics
- Basic Budgeting
- Marketing
- Social Marketing
- Legal Pitfalls

I encourage you as a borrower, and anyone else who might be interested in this event, to please let me know by email at mfreedman@jewishfreeloan.ca or by phone at 416-635-1217 extension 5269.

Michael Freedman,
Executive Director JFLT

Back To School With JFLT

University of Guelph student, Mike G., pleased to be picking up his JFLT Education Loan cheque.



Dan and Ron B., students at York University, recent recipients of JFLT interest-free loans.

Our clients dream and Jewish Free Loan Toronto delivers

... to be **RESPONSIBLE** for my college tuition

... to **HONOUR** my late parents with a dignified *matzeva* (tombstone)

... to provide the best possible **CARE** for my children while I am at work



... to **CELEBRATE** a Jewish lifecycle event

... to live in a **HEALTHY** environment

... to **REINFORCE** our Jewish lifestyle

... to **BOOST** my credentials so that I can **PROVIDE** for my loved ones

JFLT has a 90-year track record of helping loan applicants reach their goals through micro-lending. Our interest-free loans **BUILD OUR COMMUNITY** by making positive changes in the lives of our clients.

Are you interested in volunteering with JFLT?

Do you need a loan in order to achieve your personal, educational or business start-up goals?

Call us at (416) 635-1217 or email info@jewishfreeloan.ca for more information.

President's Message – by Miriam Joseph

Passover is “*Z’man Heyruteinu*,” the season of our freedom as a people. One of the key messages of the story of Passover is that the road to freedom is not always direct: there are hazards and difficulties along the way – but the Pesach story is always a clear reminder that through strong acts of faith and a strong community commitment, hazards and setbacks can be met and ultimately overcome.

Our issues as a community today are certainly different from those experienced during biblical times. However, the lessons from our past and, in particular, the importance of community commitment towards the achievement of individual freedom, especially during difficult times, are at the core of our organization. Our organization’s founders recognized our community’s ability to offer assistance towards personal freedom from stress due to financial hardship, personal freedom to pursue educational goals and the personal freedom to follow one’s dreams into business ownership.

As we approach Passover 2013, Jewish Free Loan Toronto is proud to be renewing its commitment to assisting our clients towards personal financial freedom by expanding our reach through the introduction of new loan categories – the first new loan types since our organization’s beginnings. The first new loan type is the recently announced Mitzvah Loan for urgent needs requiring smaller loan amounts. Our second new loan type is our new Fertility and Adoption Loan, designed to help create Jewish families. I am excited that these new offerings represent innovative avenues for our organization to assist our community and its renewal while keeping to our roots and the original spirit of *G’milath Chasodim*.

On behalf of the Board and staff I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Passover and thank you all for your daily acts of loving kindness as we continue in the tradition of offering hope and opportunity and perhaps even personal freedom to those across our community. *Chag Sameach.*



Help us save on paper, printing and postage for our newsletter.

Send your email address to info@jewishfreeloan.ca

Mitzvah Loans

JFLT hopes to make a powerful impact in the lives of our clients with our newest loan category, **Mitzvah Loans**.

Mitzvah Loans, available to a maximum of \$720, are intended to help individuals with immediate emergency expenses, and are offered without guarantor involvement.

"JFLT was established to provide a helping hand to GTA Jews who needed personal, educational or business start-up loans," says Miriam Joseph, President. "By developing this new loan category, we are expanding our legacy of lending to better serve our diverse community."

Mitzvah loans are JFLT's way of making inroads into Jewish Toronto's working class community:

- Facing eviction?
- Unforeseen medical/dental expenses?
- An unexpected family emergency?

JFLT's Mitzvah loans may be able to resolve these financial challenges.

"I am proud to announce that, during February 2013, JFLT approved two Mitzvah loans to applicants who met our criteria of emergency need," says Joseph. "Our Mitzvah Loan initiative widens our reach, and helps us meet the needs of vulnerable Jewish residents of Toronto through innovation and confidence."

Canucks at the October 2012 International Association of Jewish Free Loans Convention

Nicky Madoff, Executive Director, Hebrew Free Loan Association of Montreal
Mannie Druker, Past President, Hebrew Free Loan Association of Vancouver
Tracy Berman and Michael Freedman, Executive Director, Jewish Free Loan Toronto



We remember

Dr. Bryan Dobbs z'l was a Free Loan client who honoured our work by naming JFLT as one of the beneficiaries of his estate. After his passing on March 18, 2010, Bryan recognized our *Tikkun Olam* efforts with a bequest of \$7,400.00.

Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key duties is to make the world a better place for future generations. By thoughtfully and generously including Jewish Free Loan Toronto in his financial planning, Bryan's legacy will help other needy members of our community for years to come.

For more information about estate planning, contact JFLT.

JEWISH FREE LOAN TORONTO

Schedule of Upcoming JFLT Loan Committee Meetings

Tuesday April 9, 2013

Tuesday April 23, 2013

Tuesday May 7, 2013

Tuesday May 28, 2013

Tuesday June 11, 2013

Tuesday June 25, 2013

Please contact our offices to confirm meeting dates and times.
416-635-1217 ext. 5277 or info@jewishfreeloan.ca



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