

BATSHAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Volume 7, Issue 1

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Manny Batshaw

April 17, 1915 - July 18, 2016



Excerpt from Charles Bronfman's Eulogy

MANNY BATSHAW WAS THE GUARDIAN OF OUR COMMUNITY. HE SERVED AS CEO OF WHAT IS TODAY FEDERATION/CJA FROM 1968 - 1980, AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY THAT WOULD TEST ANY COMMUNITY LEADER.

DURING THESE TWELVE YEARS, HIS QUIET, YET STRONG VOICE PULLED THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER. INNOVATIONS WERE ACCOMPLISHED, AND DESPITE WARNINGS TO THE CONTRARY, THE COMMUNITY MOVED FORWARD.

1969 SAW THE COMMUNAUTE SEPERADE DE QUEBEC BECOME A CONSTITUENT MEMBER OF FEDERATION.

A YEAR LATER, THE JEWISH NURSING HOME CAME INTO BEING. THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY THE BARON DE HIRSH INSTITUTE EVOLVING INTO JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES IN 1972. AND A YEAR AFTER THAT CUMMINGS HOUSE BECAME THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTRE OF THE COMMUNITY, A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD, AND DID, BRING THEIR IDEAS, THEIR CHALLENGES, THEIR GENEROSITY AND THEIR VOLUNTEERISM.

MANNY PARTNERED WITH OUR EXCEPTIONAL LAY LEADERS, EACH OF WHOM ADDED A UNIQUE AND WELCOME CONTRIBUTION TO OUR MODERNIZATION.

THE BATSHAW COMMITTEE REPORT OF 1975 LED TO THE MERGING OF FOUR BODIES WHICH CARED FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH INTO THE BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES WHICH SERVES THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

HE WAS HONOURED BY NUMEROUS BODIES. HE RECEIVED THE SAMUEL BRONFMAN MEDAL WAS NAMED HONORARY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION/CJA, WAS NAMED A HATAN TORAH BY THE SHAAR HASHOMAYIM SYNAGOGUE, AND WAS AWARDED AN HONORARY DEGREE BY MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

MANNY WAS NAMED TO THE ORDER OF QUEBEC AND THE ORDER OF CANADA.

Excerpt from Judy Martin's Eulogy

Manny didn't just inspire me; he always inspired Batshaw's staff, and created an award to celebrate their ability to work in teams as well as recognizing personal excellence. He drew their attention to the importance of research and evaluation and put his money where his mouth was and with others, worked on funding and a partnership with McGill University to ensure that we'd know that what we do is the best that can be done and that we could measure..... does it work?

We've all read and heard over the past days what a force Manny was in Montreal and the Jewish community. History will probably record that his greatest contribution was in reforming the delivery of youth protection services in the 1970's.....the Ten Commandments that were written in the Coles notes version of The Batshaw Report could be defined as "common sense" but were also the foundation of best practice still relevant to this day.

At Batshaw, we'd argue that the reason Manny and the committee got it right, we'd argue that Manny's greatest contribution was that he had strong moral values and UNDERSTOOD and LIKED children, a combination which guided the work at hand. Many of us were privileged to watch Manny interact with children on many occasions.

In the past year, his activities limited by age, we'd bring kids to visit him at his home; they'd be giddy with excitement that they were about to meet 'MR' Batshaw, they couldn't imagine that he really existed and that he was 100 years old. He never disappointed them, coming into the room with HIS blue eyes sparkling, his smile a mile wide with the same excitement that the kids had come to visit him! He listened intently, didn't judge, showed an interest in their lives and usually challenged them to grow and reach for the stars. His manner was so gentle that they'd sit in awe, because this "old man" got them! They felt his love! It WAS magic watching them together.

Mannyyou knew we all loved you, but it never hurts to say it again. Thank you for being our teacher, our mentor and friend, pushing us to ask the difficult questions, encouraging us to listen, to always do better. Thank you for the generosity of your time. You were always very clear that 'our work is never done, we will not finish it but nor are we at liberty to desist from it'may you rest in the peace you deserve, comforted by the thought that we will continue to strive for excellence and the rights of children, hopeful that you will always be 'our proud parent'.

« Grand activiste pour le bien-être de nos enfants, ce travailleur social de formation a posé les premiers jalons de l'enjeu de l'enfance au Québec. Au cours des années, la société a bénéficié de sa vision et de sa passion pour améliorer concrètement le sort des jeunes et moins jeunes » - M. Denis Coderre

China - May, 2016

By Robin Bondaroff

In May of this year, my husband and I set off on a 19 day tour of China, which turned out to be a trip of a lifetime. We started out in Beijing, where we visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Emperor's Palace, the Temple of Heaven, all on our first day. The vastness of all the places we visit-



ed, and the enormous population of this city, with its hundreds of high rise apartment buildings, was overwhelming. We learned that Beijing has about 24-25 million people, but is not the largest city in China. In fact Shanghai has about 28 million people, and any place with less than 10 million people is not considered a city.

Our second day there we went to see and climb the Great Wall of China. This was most definitely one of the high lights of the trip and of my life. For some reason, I found it to be a very spiritual and emotional experience. The Wall is over 2000 km long and took many years to build. When you are there, it is obvious that this was quite a feat to accomplish. We were able to climb a small part of it, and the climb itself was not easy. Parts were very steep and scary. However, I climbed with a huge grin on my face as I was so excited to be there. I kept pinching myself in disbelief. Also while on the wall I had the first of many funny experiences. I was stopped by a man who spoke some English to ask if I would mind having my picture taken with his small son. Apparently the Chinese find blond hair women an attraction, and I am in many family photos in China.

We spent 3-4 days in Beijing and then travelled to Xi'an, another large city of many millions of people. It is famous for being the site of the terra cotta warriors. We spent a full half day visiting this incredibly interesting site. The terra cotta warriors are found in 3 large "pits" which are huge buildings built to protect them from the elements. There are rows upon rows of the warriors, each one is unique, as well as horses, chariots, weapons, etc. The third "pit" was the most fascinating, as there you could see archeologists digging and putting together newly found pieces of the most incredible puzzles I have ever seen.



(China continued)

After Xi'an we travelled to Shanghai where we spent 2-3 days visiting another densely populated and fascinating city. Shanghai has what they call a "Sky Walk". It is a beautiful modern walk way built way above ground, between some of the amazing high rise buildings in part of down town Shanghai. You take an escalator up to the Sky Walk, and then you can walk around and enjoy the views, which are truly magnificent. We ended our walk with our only visit to MacDonald's in China for Green Tea ice cream.

We next travelled to Wuhan where we embarked on a 4 day cruise on the Yangtze River. This was an opportunity to see and visit smaller villages and get a sense of life on the river, in contrast to life in the big cities. Very eye opening. Following the cruise, we disembarked in Chongqing, where we visited the famous pandas who were in the middle of their breakfast. We had an opportunity to visit a tea farm, where we got to pick tea leaves and learn about the different kinds of teas. We also participated in a tea ceremony, which was very interesting.

We visited other cities and towns travelling south towards Macau, where we spent a few hours at a magnificent MGM Casino with gorgeous Chahuli sculptures in the lobby. Our trip ended in Hong Kong where we toured and shopped before our return to Montreal.

This trip was eye opening, educational, cultural, and wonderful. I would definitely return one day, if given the opportunity, as there is so much more to see and do.

The Batshaw Alumni Association sponsors a CARE Jeunesse Fundraiser

By Julia Paré

C.A.R.E. Jeunesse (Centre d'Amitié, Ressources et Entraide pour la Jeunesse) is a provincial non-profit organization founded by alumni of care that provides support to youth in care and alumni from care in Quebec.

The organization connects youth to resources, examines policies related to youth in care and offers training and consultation to professionals on the issues relevant to youth in care.

C.A.R.E. Jeunesse was created to improve the quality of life in care by providing a safe environment for members to connect and form supportive relationships, as well as providing advocacy, education and empowerment opportunities.



The Batshaw Alumni Association and Concordia University partnered with CARE Jeunesse to hold a fundraising event in their name to raise funds to support their mission. On Sunday November 13, 2016 a Self Care Fair was held at the Chapel on Loyola Cam-

pus of Concordia University. There were an assortment of health and beauty products and services related to the theme of self care at the event, a very well supplied silent auction, gift bags for alumni of care and youth in care as well as a space and opportunity for youth in care to meet and exchange with members of CARE Jeunesse. Members of the Batshaw Alumni joined with others to support the event throughout the day and staff and youth from Batshaw were in attendance. Media coverage before and after the event prompted a good turnout and raised the profile of CARE Jeunesse, including a front page story in the Monday Gazette. After expenses, the organization had raised over \$2000 and had made valuable connections in the community and with youth in care. We were all delighted with the results!

From Where I Sit

By Judy Martin



It's been over a year since I was named to the CIUSSS-ODIM Board of Directors, a year filled with some excitement, but mostly (for me) a lot of concern on where the delivery of services for our youth will go. We have a great team on our Board, split almost 50/50 between health and social services. We have a great leadership team, who have been willing to listen, but who have 'orders' from the top, and can't always do what they want or think is right. They absolutely all care about our kids, and are slowly learning some of the challenges they/we face. While they don't care as much as I do, few could, to see the campus project completed and built, luckily they are committed to its importance and it has been named as one of the 20 priority projects for our CIUSSS. The challenge continues to be finding the money to complete Dorval and Beaconsfield, but there are a few kids living in what is now being named the Crossroads Annexe in Dorval. Slow and steady will win this race, and you can count on me to keep up the pressure. Luckily, I am not alone, as the Beaconsfield Citizen's Association keeps the pressure on, they'd like the Elm Street buildings to be up and running.

Have I seen improvement in the services our kids so richly deserve? Hmm, let me think. From where I sit, the corridors of service for mental health and DI services are faster than before. That's a good thing, but the bureaucracy involved in the 'bigness' of the CIUSSS-ODIM has staff moral at an all time low, and it's difficult for me to directly see that it's being addressed. They are being asked to do more with a lot less. Because the budgets were once again significantly cut for the 2016-2017 year, staff tell me they had no choice but to cut services for kids, so we'll see in time what impact that will have. Kids are the priority, but as we always said, if we don't look after our staff, they can't be at their best for our kids.

As you all know, i/we always showed our staff that we valued them with small recognition ceremonies, we always showed our foster families that they mattered by inviting them to a dinner every year at The Atwater Club. Sadly, those were all cut, I was told it was more difficult to do now that we are a larger organization, which you can imagine infuriated me. My answer was that it can be done, you just have to pay more attention to it. I wasn't alone, and we've recently been told that something will happen.....in May 2017.

I'm sure you can all feel my frustration, but I'm not giving up. I still am inspired by our staff who I've always felt go above and beyond, I'm still fighting and supporting the management team where I can to make sure that they 'do the right thing' for not only our kids but all clients in our CIUSSS, I am still inspired to go the extra mile for the kids, who every day, show me how resilient they are. I am thrilled that the BAA still cares, and count on you for your counsel when I need to figure my way around 'the system'. Finally, Manny Batshaw is always in my head and my heart, so I will continue to honour his legacy, with your help. Happy holidays to everyone!

Book Review of *The Trespasser* by Tana French

Review by Barbara Kemp

A few Alumni newsletters ago, I recommended a book titled *Broken Harbour* by Tana French. She has just written another mystery/thriller which I think is one of the best I've read in a long time. It's called *The Trespasser*. The story is set in Dublin and revolves around the murder of a beautiful woman found beaten and dead in her own home. The unraveling of the mystery of who committed the murder becomes the responsibility of two partners of the Dublin police Murder Squad. One of the partners – a woman trying to prove herself in what is seen as a man's world – is the narrator of the events that surround the solving of this crime.

What makes this book special is the terrific ability of Tana French to set a mood and a scene or describe a character sometimes with just a few well-chosen words. The difficult, complicated character of the book's narrator, Antoinette Conway, is an important part of how the story plays out and the interplay between her and her partner Steve Moran, and between her and the other police in her unit makes for great reading. The author has a wonderful ear for dialogue and her depiction of interrogations of various witnesses and suspects is detailed, realistic, and compelling.

The plot is full of twists and turns and will keep you guessing. But in some ways, it is the subtle interaction of the officers involved in solving this murder that is most fascinating.

Enjoy!

Who's Doing What?

In September of 2016 Lynn Hanley, Dulcie Fernandes, Julia Paré and Pat Rogers took a road trip together to Cape Breton and the Cabot Trail. The sights, scenes, music, seafood and people lived up to the Atlantic/Acadian lore!



Tells us... what are you doing? Pictures welcome!
Submit stories to: batshaw_alumni@ssss@gouv.qc.ca

Social Committee Report by Zalman Bitensky

Since my last report in Oct 2015 the committee has worked on plans for Batshaw Alumni to meet informally.

There were two Social Lunches during this period and attendance continues to increase - one on May 3, 2016 and another on October 6, 2016. A Social Lunch will be planned for the spring of 2017. Keep checking your email for details.

The May 3, 2016 a Social Lunch was held at The Shanghai Grill on St Catherine Street west. The participants seemed pleased with the restaurant but some did ask if we could go back to the Fuchsia Restaurant and so we held the one on October 6, 2016 at the Fuchsia Restaurant and the participants seemed pleased.

We are always looking for suggestions on other types of social events which would interest the members. You can send your ideas to us by email (Batshaw_Alumni@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

I wish to thank Barbara and Marilyn for their commitment and hard work on the committee which has made these events possible.

Hope to see you at our next luncheon.

Submitted by Zalman Bitensky, Marilyn Green Crestohl and Barbara Kemp.



TIPSY LAIRD

recipe by Sandhyak Karnick

- 1 10 oz can of fruit cocktail or mandarin oranges (drained) or 1 cup peeled sliced oranges (250 ml)
- 1 pound cake about 9x4 inches
- 1 cup bitter Seville orange marmalade
- 3 oz. Scotch whiskey
- 2 oz. Triple Sec liqueur or other orange liqueur
- 1-½ cups custard
- ¾ cup flavoured whipped cream
- Candied orange peel and maraschino cherries for garnish



Place fruit in bottom of a decorative glass bowl. Slice pound cake in half inch slices and arrange half of the slices to cover the fruit.

Mix marmalade, whiskey, one ounce of the liqueur until well blended. Pour half of this mixture over the cake. Pour half of the custard over all. Use recipe below or make from instant custard powder.

Repeat with another layer of cake, marmalade mixture and custard making sure cake is completely covered with the custard to seal in flavours. Chill for 8 to 24 hours. When chilled, cover with flavoured whipped cream and decorate with candied peel and cherries.

Custard:

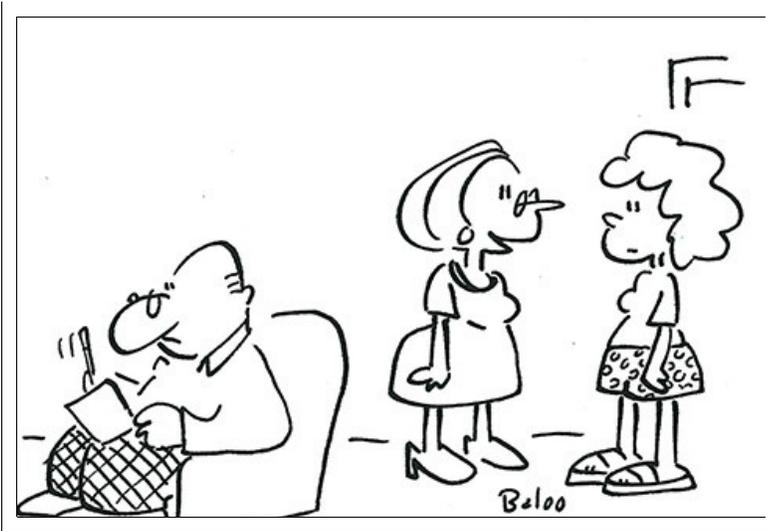
- ½ cup white sugar
- 2 tsps cornstarch
- 2 large eggs
- 1-¼ cups boiling milk
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract

Using top of double boiler set over simmering water, mix together the sugar and cornstarch. Add the eggs and beat until creamy. Pour boiling milk into the egg mixture and continue beating until mixture thickens. Remove from heat and add vanilla and cool, stirring frequently to prevent a skin forming. When cool, use as directed above.

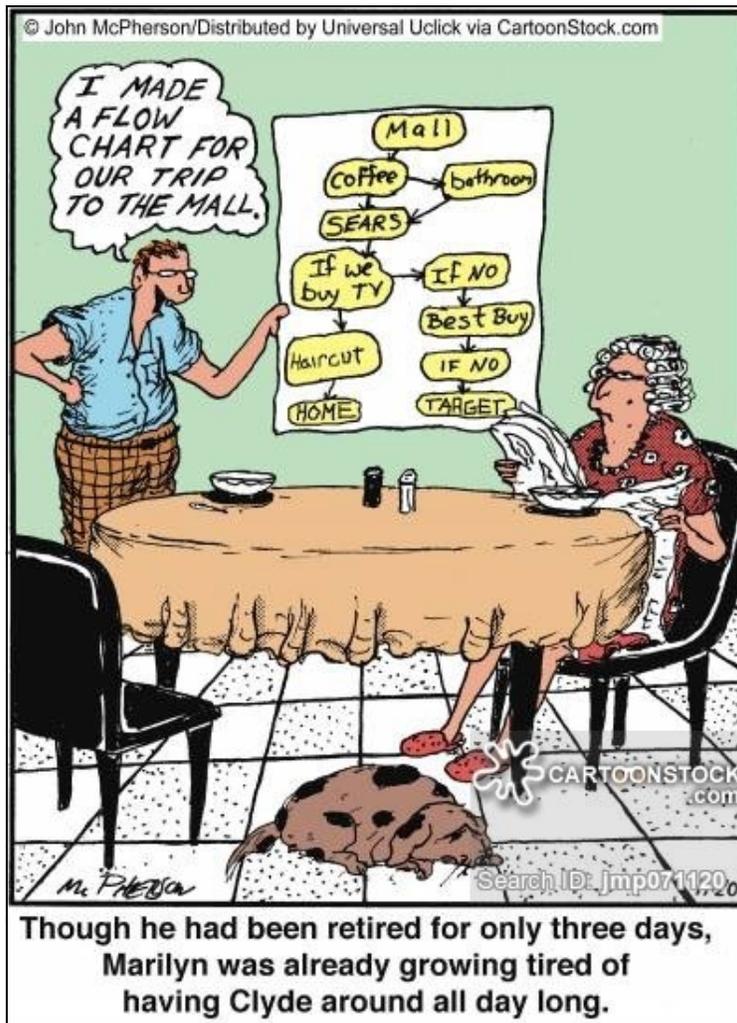
Flavoured whipped cream:

- ¾ cup whipping cream
- 1 tblsp white sugar
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 oz. Triple Sec or other orange liqueur.

Whip cream gradually adding sugar and vanilla. When stiff peaks form, add liqueur and blend in. Use as directed above.



"He's mostly adjusted to retirement OK, except that he keeps sending me memos."



Though he had been retired for only three days, Marilyn was already growing tired of having Clyde around all day long.



Report from the President

By Zalman Bitensky President BAA

Since my last report in the December 2015 issue of this newsletter the following has transpired; On September 28, 2016 the ninth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Batshaw Alumni Association (BAA) was held. There were 23 members in attendance which is up from our last AGM. The speaker was Ron Zinn, Webmaster for the 'The Batshaw History Conservation Project website. This meeting was used to launch the website <http://batshawcentreshistory.ca> all present seem interested in this venture. If you have pictures or other items for the website, please send them to 'ronaldzinn@hotmail.com'.

The executive met five times over the year during which we planned programs and discussed issues. Our membership increased by 11 and we are now 259 strong. The 6th newsletter was sent out in December of 2015. The ninth Annual General Meeting was organized and members were kept informed of BAA and Batshaw news through email.

After the membership voted to allow an increase in the number of executive members, 2 members were added. The new members are Rose Rheault and Tony Maciocia. Louise Jessop resigned as Vice President citing life pressures but she agreed to stay on as a member at large. I wish to thank her for her many years of dedicated service as VP and know her contribution to the BAA will be as valuable. Tony Maciocia is the new VP. I wish him luck in his new position.

The Social Committee planned two Social Lunches which were well attended. One was held on May 3, 2016 and our thirteenth Social Lunch was held on October 6, 2016. This luncheon was at the Fuchsia Restaurant. Our fourteenth Social Lunch will be in the spring of 2017. Hope to see you there.

Financially we had a quiet year. Our current bank balance is \$ 1,223.78

As always this was a busy year for your executive. One of the things was forming a liaison with Care Jeunesse, a group for young adults leaving care. Julia Paré and Robin Bondaroff acted as our liaison with this group. They meet with this group and worked with them on a fundraiser which was held on Sunday November 13, 2016, from 11 to 3 at Concordia's, Loyola campus. Read more in this Newsletter about this event. We monitored the progress of the Batshaw History Project committee through Louise Jessop a member of project. As stated above the launch of the website occurred at this year's AGM. Another project was designing a questionnaire to better understand what our members would like to see planned by the executive. We also planned and implemented a fundraiser held in conjunction with the union BBQ on September 15, 2016. We made \$684 at this fundraiser. \$325 dollars went to the Batshaw foundation of which they pledged \$200 to the Literacy program, run by Health Services. The money was for buying books for infants. \$125 of the foundation money was given to Care Jeunesse to purchase tickets for agency clients.

On a sad note Manuel Gilman Batshaw who the agency was named after died July 18th, 2016 at the age 101. Further information about him appears in this Newsletter.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the executive; Tony Maciocia VP, Barbara Kemp secretary, Sandhya Karnack treasurer, and members at large; Louise Jessop, Julia Paré, Carol Kimmis, Robin Bondaroff and Rose Rheault, for their hard work and commitment to the BAA. As always, thanks to the members of the BAA who made what we do necessary and successful. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank the agency for its continued support in providing us with an office, a place to meet and the means to communicate with the members of the Association.

I wish you all a healthy and filling year.