



JFM *focus*

# THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

ADAR 5778 | WINTER 2018

2018 JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA LUNCHEON

in support of the Women's Endowment Fund

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Friday, April 13, 2018 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg  
York Ballroom | South Building  
375 York Avenue | Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Admission \$200  
Charitable receipt issued for \$150

Book signing to immediately follow

For tickets, please call the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba at 204.477.7520 or visit [www.jewishfoundation.org](http://www.jewishfoundation.org)



## Sally Armstrong to Speak at JFM Luncheon on April 13

ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST SHINES A LIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

She has interviewed ISIS militants face-to-face. She was the first journalist to tell the story of the oppression of women in Afghanistan. She uncovered the systemic sexual assault of thousands of women in war-torn former Yugoslavia. She has witnessed the devastation of the Yazidi community in northern Iraq.

Sally Armstrong has had a front row seat to some of the most heinous human rights abuses of the last 40 years. Still, the acclaimed Toronto-based journalist sees reason for hope and optimism.

"The earth is shifting under the status of women; we're not at the finish line—not by a long shot," says Armstrong, "but a new age is dawning even in some of the countries where women's rights are terribly oppressed."

This is the message of Sally Armstrong. And this is the kindling that keeps her journalistic fires burning.

"I just returned from an assignment in Afghanistan, and despite the truly worrisome security issues—suicide bombers and attacks on public places—life for Afghans is actually improving," says Armstrong, author of *Ascent of Women*. "Life expectancy has jumped from 47 to 62 years and 9.2 million kids are back in school, including girls

who were previously excluded. Polio is almost eradicated and maternal mortality has dropped by 75 per cent."

As a journalist, she covers zones of conflict; her beat is to find out what happens to women and girls. She recently wrote a feature article called "Resisting Genocide" that chronicled the catastrophe faced by the Yazidi people in Iraq.

And she is well aware of the important work of Winnipeg's Operation Ezra and a similar initiative in Toronto to help Yazidi refugees resettle in Canada. She notes, though, that there are still 450,000 displaced Yazidis in

Iraq, and most simply want to go home to Shingal Mountain from where they were expelled by ISIS.

"I think Canada has a role to play," says Armstrong. "There are specific interventions we could make to improve the lives of Yazidis."

She will share these ideas at the Jewish Foundation Luncheon in support of the Women's Endowment Fund on April 13, along with some surprising stories about the status of women worldwide and the #MeToo campaign.

"I think we are living in transformative times," she says. "We are seeing important changes everywhere."

"I think we are living in transformative times."

### SALLY ARMSTRONG

Sally Armstrong has received the Amnesty International Canada Media Award four times – in 2000, 2002, 2011, and 2017. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada and the recipient of 10 honorary degrees.



# Justin Time

## JFM SCHOLARSHIP HELPS LAUNCH CAREER

From childhood, Justin Hoffer could survive in the wilderness with nothing but his wits. He has endured hypothermia in the woods (on purpose, to test himself) and has built a shelter with nothing but twigs. If you're ever stranded, Hoffer is the guy you want by your side.

That's outdoors. Indoors – especially in the classroom – he hasn't always been able to tap into that same strength and resilience. Until recently.

"Ever since I was a Scout, being outside is what kept me grounded," says Hoffer, 30, "but my mental health issues made school difficult."

Hoffer, a West Broadway resident, lives with depression, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Tourette syndrome, and sleep issues. For years, medical professionals struggled for solutions.

"I was probably misdiagnosed about a dozen times," says Hoffer.

In the last two years, Hoffer started to get the right answers, and now takes just one medication, gets some therapy, and feels great. He also got married, became a father, and found his way back into the classroom. He is studying automotives at the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology, and thriving. He's ambitious, too, working toward Red Seal Certification – a recognized

standard of excellence that will open up more career doors.

A \$4,000 JFM scholarship in June 2017 helped him put all the pieces together.

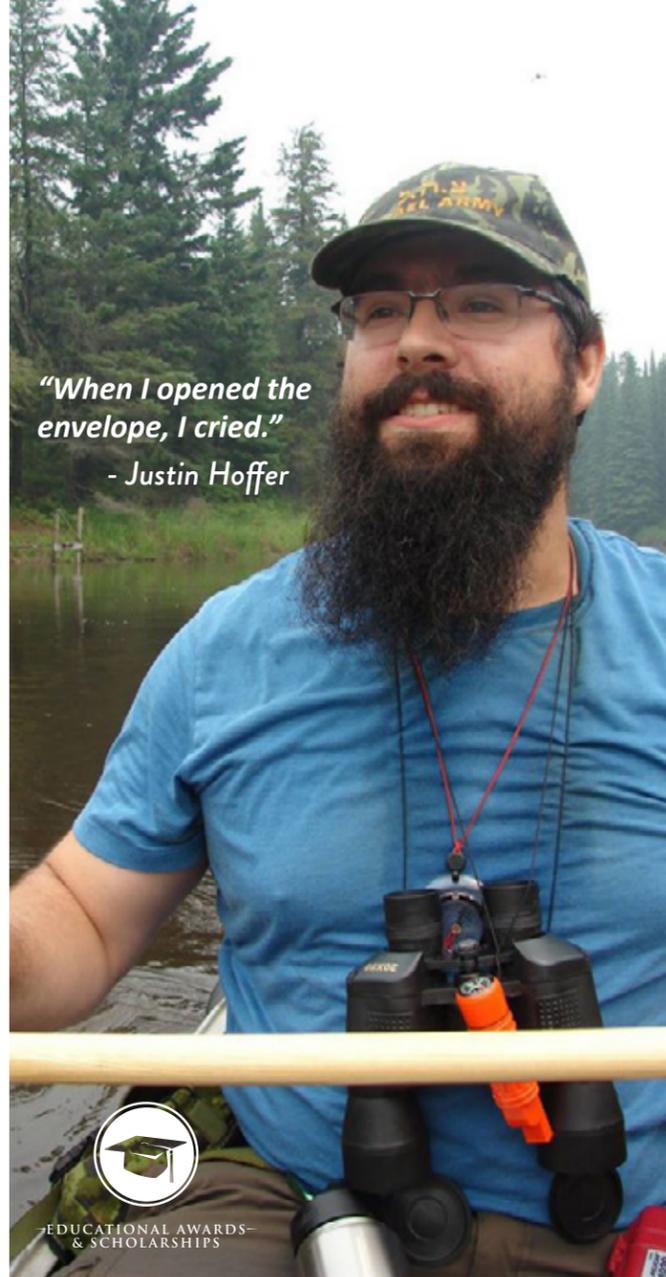
"When I opened the envelope, I cried," says Hoffer of the scholarship. "That's way more than I was expecting. It covered most of my tuition and meant I could spend more time focusing on school and family. It came at the right time and made a huge difference."

For Hoffer, the scholarship was also an important reminder that he is part of a caring community. Hoffer was born in Saskatchewan and moved to Winnipeg as a child. His father was Jewish, but the family was not particularly observant or active in the community.

"Judaism has always fascinated me. I officially converted to Judaism at Etz Chayim in my early 20s, and then I went on Birthright Israel – it was powerful," he says. "I try not to work on Shabbat and I spend a lot of time studying Jewish history."

Hoffer is grateful for the JFM scholarship, happy about the changes in his life, and excited to keep moving his studies forward.

"I won't forget what my community has done for me," he says. "One day I will give back so that others with mental health issues can find their way, too."



*"When I opened the envelope, I cried."*

*- Justin Hoffer*



*Interested in establishing a scholarship fund? Contact Rob Berkowitz, Director of Development & Gift Planning, by email at [rob@jewishfoundation.org](mailto:rob@jewishfoundation.org) or by telephone at 204.477.7522 or toll-free from the US/Canada at 1.855.284.1918.*

# "Best Part of the Week"

## JFM GRANTS HAVE A LASTING IMPACT AT JCFS

No matter the weather, 81-year-old Gregori Mostkov rarely misses his Thursday morning program with Jewish Child and Family Service. He even has an attendance certificate recognizing his loyalty.

"It is the best part of the week," says Mostkov. "Through the program, I learn about life in Canada."

JCFS launched the Integration Program for Immigrant Seniors in 2011 in response to an unexpected influx of about 80 Jewish seniors following their adult children to Winnipeg. Initially, the program's exclusive focus was on English language training, but the curriculum expanded to meet a broader set of needs. Two \$15,000 grants from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba in 2012 and 2013 allowed JCFS to enhance the program.

"The Foundation grants helped us enrich the lives of the participants," says Cheryl Hirsh Katz, Manager of Adult Services at JCFS. "The program prevents isolation. They go on outings,

they have created a social environment for themselves, we celebrate Jewish holidays together, and they learn about life in Canada. For some of them, this is the only time they get out in a week. We are still benefitting from those early grants."

Some of the participants – like Mostkov – have been with the program since its first days.

His story resembles that of many of the participants. He was born in Ukraine where he worked as a mechanical engineer, and moved to Israel with his family when he was 54. He settled in Arad, and worked in Israel until he retired to look after his grandson. His son Vladimir started researching new opportunities in Canada, and chose Winnipeg because of the support and enthusiasm of the

Jewish community. Vladimir, wife Victoria, and son Igal moved here about a decade ago. Gregori Mostkov followed about nine years ago, not long after his wife passed away in Arad.

Mostkov's life in Winnipeg has been fulfilling. He lives with his son, swims regularly at the Rady JCC, and looks forward to every Thursday.

"I like Winnipeg – even in the winter. It's a very good city with good people," says Mostkov. "The program is very important to me. It is good for my mood and good for my health."



*JCFS settlement worker Anna Shoichet with Gregori Mostkov*

# Shalom Residences Foundation Establishes Organizational Endowment Fund

BERVIN INCENTIVE BOOSTS OPENING BALANCE TO \$840,000

As 2017 wound down, the Shalom Residences Foundation made a major decision about the future funding of its vital service, and moved \$732,000 to a new JFM organizational endowment fund. The deposit triggered the \$108,000 BERVIN Incentive, a donor-funded initiative to entice organizations to grow their endowment funds.

Since 1978, Shalom Residences has been meeting the residential and programming needs of Jewish adults with intellectual disabilities. Today, the organization serves 35 people – mostly Jewish – with group homes and supported independent living.

“It is important that people in our community can have Jewish culture and content in their lives. That is why we formed the organization in the first place,” says Charles Tax, President of Shalom Residences Foundation, the organization’s fundraising arm. “We want people who are coming to us from a Jewish milieu to always have a Jewish milieu.”

The Province of Manitoba covers about 90% of the Shalom Residences core budget. The remaining 10% comes from fundraising, a Jewish Federation allocation, and occasional project grants. The organization covers the costs of Jewish community programs, special recreational opportunities, kosher food, and down payments on new properties.

“Moving most of our savings to the Jewish Foundation is a good long-term business decision for us,” says Tax. “We are impressed by the diversification of the Foundation’s investments and by the quality of the investment management. The BERVIN Incentive helped us to make the decision, too.”



Pictured l-r: Ian Barnes, JFM CFO; Marsha Cowan, Past JFM CEO; Eric Winograd, JFM Chair; Jonathan Feldman, Shalom Residences Foundation Board member; Zivey Chudnow, Shalom Residences Foundation Secretary; Charles Tax, Shalom Residences Foundation President; Nancy Hughes, Shalom Residences Executive Director

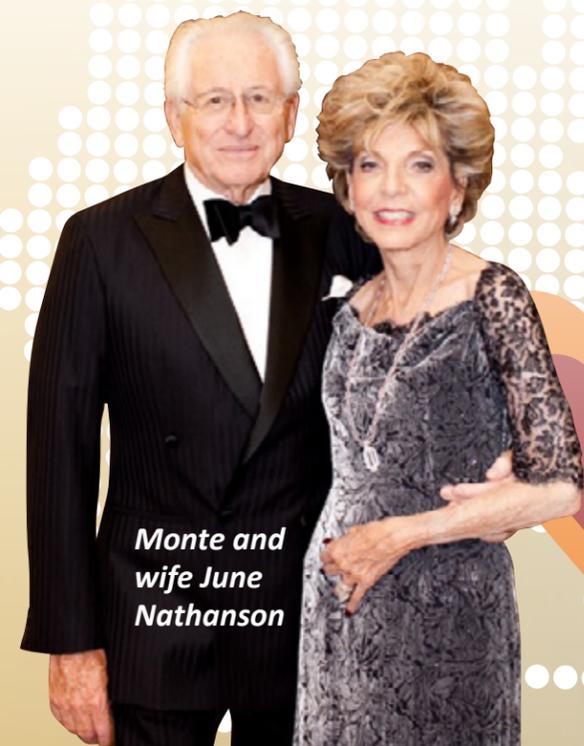
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**JEWISH FOUNDATION**  
OF MANITOBA

A TASTE OF  
*home*

THERE'S NO SUCH THING  
AS A FORMER WINNIPEGGER

## Monte Nathanson Boca Raton, Florida



Monte and  
wife June  
Nathanson

He moved to Boca Raton 25 years ago, but for Monte Nathanson, Winnipeg will always be home.

“Winnipeg is my heritage,” says Nathanson, Founder of MPN Holdings. “I follow what happens in the community and I am very proud of what I see.”

Nathanson was raised on O’Meara Street in the North End and attended I.L. Peretz School, St. John’s High School, and the University of Manitoba. He was inspired from a young age to live a life of community service, following the example set by his father, Max.

At only 19, Monte Nathanson became active with the Jewish Welfare Fund, serving as Chair of the Budget and Allocations Committee. He served as President of the Welfare Fund in 1972, and then served for two years as President when the Welfare Fund was reconstituted as the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council. He was also a leading volunteer with the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, Manitoba Theatre Centre, the Manitoba Medical Research Foundation, the United Way, and Manitoba Centennial Corporation.

One of the key accomplishments in his esteemed community service career is having been one of the 119 Founders of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba in 1964. He was also the first supporter to name the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

“I was active in fundraising for the community and for Israel, and we didn’t know if our children and grandchildren were going to be active in the same way. Our thinking was that the best way to perpetuate our values and keep the community strong was to establish a foundation,” says Nathanson of the JFM’s origins. “We started with a piece of land and a few thousand dollars. When I hear that the Foundation now holds assets of nearly \$120 million, it makes me proud beyond words.”

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