



JFM *focus*

THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

KISLEV 5780 | FALL 2019

Enhancing Connection

NEW JFM BOARD CHAIR SHARES A VISION OF INCLUSION

"You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of a stranger having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt." It's the passage from the Haggadah that resonates deeply for Richard Yaffe every year when he leads the Seder. For him, it is a powerful direction that our communities must include and connect with everyone, particularly with those who may be, or consider themselves to be, marginalized. "In today's world there is no justification for anyone to be isolated."

For Yaffe, who was confirmed as Chair of the JFM in June, the passion for inclusion and community service runs deep. He was inspired by his parents, the late Pearl and Philip Yaffe. "We were an upper middle class family. Our parents made a conscious decision to stay in the North End, and for us to attend public schools enhanced by evening classes at the I.L. Peretz Folk School. We were immersed in education and culture, and we were surrounded by people far less fortunate than we were," says Yaffe. "My parents cautioned my brothers and me never to approach life with any sense of entitlement. Above all, they taught us the fundamental importance of education and compassion, and of extending a helping hand to anyone in need. And they led by example."

Yaffe believes that these lessons have guided him through his life, and were paramount in his decision to become involved with the JFM. He takes particular pride in the fact that the JFM supports organizations that help Manitobans of all backgrounds.

"I think we can do a better job of making our community aware of what the Jewish Foundation is and what it does," says Yaffe when asked about his goals as Board Chair. "I am a strong believer in reaching out to and embracing the most modest givers, our major donors, and everyone in between. The responsibility of investing in the future, as well as the joy and satisfaction that comes with it, can be shared by all. After all, we are one community and we are creating the foundation for our future generations."

Yaffe, who is a partner at the law firm Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, was recently honoured with a Queen's Counsel designation by the Province of Manitoba. Outside of his law practice and chairing the JFM, Yaffe is a past Chair of the WAG Board and currently serves as Chair of the Winnipeg Art Gallery Foundation and leads the Legacy Campaign as part of the WAG's overall capital campaign for the Inuit Art Centre. He is also a member of both the Boards of the Royal

Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum.

He is well known in the community as a singer, cantor, and choir director.

In the short term for the JFM, Yaffe hopes to see a new CEO in place very soon. At the time of writing, a comprehensive search process was entering its final stages.

"It's important that we recognize and respect the past while planning for the future," he says. "Change is inevitable, but continuity is essential. Together with vision and foresight, they are the keys to our stability and growth."



New Officers and Board Members Announced

Mr. Richard L. Yaffe, Q.C. was confirmed as the new Chair of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba at the Annual General Meeting in June. Yaffe is joined on the Executive Committee by Dr. Bonnie Cham (Vice-Chair); Dan Blankstein (Treasurer); and Jeff Lieberman (Member-at-Large).

Dr. Sharon Goszer-Tritt, Dr. Alex Serebnitski, and Yael Silver were elected to the Board of Directors while Josh Blatt (Ex-Officio) was appointed the Board representative of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.



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The Path to Inclusion

ANONYMOUS DONORS MAKES CAMP MASSAD MORE ACCESSIBLE

"I feel stronger."

When Camp Massad Executive Director Danial Sprintz heard those words this past summer from a camper who uses a wheelchair, he knew that the installation of rubberized paths around the camp was worth the effort. He also knew that, once again, the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba had changed a life.

"In previous years, this camper needed to be pushed in the wheelchair. The terrain made it impossible for anyone using a wheelchair to get around on their own," explains Sprintz. "Now with the paths, this camper can be more independent."

The paths, made from recycled tires, were installed just before Canada Day. The ambitious project was made possible by anonymous JFM donors who designated the income earned by their fund to the project. Fundholder distributions of \$40,000 covered most of the cost.

"The paths also made it possible for the camper to participate more completely in programs," says Sprintz. "When I saw the camper in the chair on one of the new paths competing in our Maccabia races alongside the other kids, my heart was bounding."



Sprintz expects that other families with children who use wheelchairs or walkers will now consider Camp Massad as a viable summer option.

Additionally, the paths make Camp Massad more attractive to prospective rental groups like the March of Dimes and SpeechWorks, which rented the camp for its brain aphasia program in September.

Camp Massad made a commitment to becoming as accessible as possible nine years ago when they started to build ramps on some cabins, the chadar ochel (dining hall), and other buildings. The new paths connect these ramps and also extend to the camp's pool, which is wheelchair accessible as well.



One of the many new paths that are found throughout the grounds at Camp Massad.

"The Jewish Foundation and their donors have taken us closer to our goal and have helped us make the camp more inclusive," says Sprintz. "Over the years, the Jewish Foundation has helped make the camp more comfortable and safer. Now they have made the camp more accessible and we are grateful."

Interested in establishing a donor-directed fund? Contact Laurel Hogan, Donor Development Associate, by telephone at 204.477.7462 or toll-free from the U.S./Canada at 1.855.284.1918 or by email at lhogan@jewishfoundation.org.



JEWISH FOUNDATION
OF MANITOBA

A TASTE OF

home

THERE'S NO SUCH THING
AS A FORMER WINNIPEGGER

William
Hechter
Toronto, ON



For Will Hechter, supporting the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba is "just a natural thing to do", even though he moved away from Winnipeg in the early 1970s.

"My Winnipeg connection is a source of pride for me as it is for many others in my generation," says Hechter, who was born in 1947. "There is something magical about the attachment so many people feel."

Hechter lives in Toronto with his wife, Linda. They have two children and six grandchildren, all in Toronto as well. Hechter enjoys his daily game of tennis, spending time with his grandchildren, and travelling, including an annual visit to his summer home in Clear Lake, Manitoba.

When he reflects on his Winnipeg Jewish roots, Hechter speaks with joy about his BBYO chapter (Kadima) and about the enduring friendships he formed.

He also speaks with pride about how the Jewish community was always on the front lines in the battle for social justice, pointing to such activists as Saul Cherniack, David Orlikow, and Sid Green. "We always had people who fought for the underdog," says Hechter. "That might be what inspired me to go into criminal law."

Indeed, Hechter worked as a criminal lawyer in Toronto for 20 years. Earlier, he served as a clerk for the late Justice Samuel Freedman and taught law in Minnesota. He later left law to open an investment fund with fellow Winnipegger, Marty Weinberg.

Hechter also has a deep interest in film. While at the University of Manitoba, he opened Cinema 3 with a couple of friends and, more recently, he made two documentaries: A.K.A. *Doc Pomus*, a film about a legendary songwriter; and *Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story*, narrated by Dustin Hoffman.

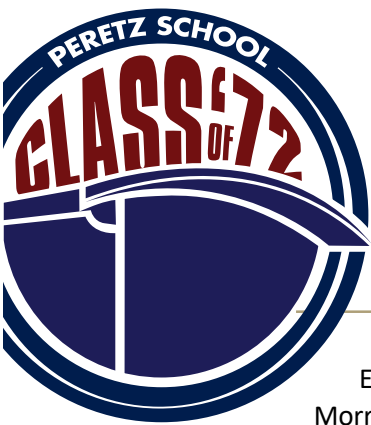
He credits his good fortune, in part, and his philanthropy to his Winnipeg upbringing: "We were taught that education was important and we were raised to understand that giving is joyful."



THE ENDOWMENT
BOOK OF LIFE



Will Hechter is a supporter of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. His Endowment Book of Life story is available at www.jewishfoundation.org.



“Of course, Hershele!”

CLASS OF '72 HOLDS REUNION WITH HELP FROM JFM

Early in August, Howard Morry approached his grade three teacher, Betty Warshawsky—now 102—and gently asked: “Do you remember me, Mrs. Warshawsky?”

“Of course, Hershele!” she replied lovingly, using Morry’s Yiddish name. It was a short conversation, but one that resonated deeply.

The encounter took place at Morry’s home where he and his wife, Hope, hosted a barbecue as part of a weekend of festivities for the I.L. Peretz School Class of 1972 reunion that Morry co-chaired with Eric Zipman and Keith Levit. The reunion attracted 18 of 24 students along with spouses and significant others. Guests came from Florida, Arizona, Toronto, and Victoria. Betty Warshawsky was joined by former fellow teacher, Arnice Pollock.

“The whole thing started off as a plan to go on an Arizona golf trip to celebrate our 60th birthdays,” says Morry. “We changed it to a golf event in Winnipeg, and then the guest list and the vision grew. It turned into a class reunion.”

Zipman, Levit, and Morry told the Gray Academy of Jewish Education of their plans and were advised that the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba had a template in place to help alumni of Winnipeg’s Jewish schools put reunions together and establish endowment funds.

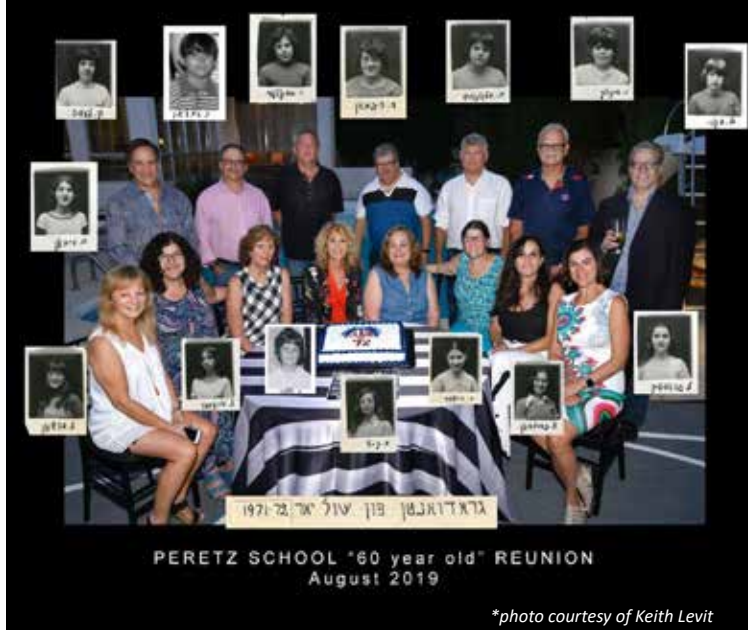
“We were so happy and grateful that our community’s institutions stepped up to help,” said Morry. “It made for a much better experience.”

The weekend included the barbecue, a special Kiddush on Shabbat at Gray Academy, and VIP treatment at the Shalom Square Israel Pavilion during Folklorama at the Rady Jewish Community Centre. The Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble even reached into its Yiddish repertoire in honour of their special guests.

“The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba helped make the magic happen,” says Morry. “Their support was seamless and made the whole experience much better.”

The Foundation organized invitations, registration, RSVPs, and other correspondence using the online Eventbrite platform. And the Foundation set up an endowment fund for the class of ’72 in honour of David Polsky^{z”l} and Marshall Shuster^{z”l}, classmates who passed away in 2019. Income earned by the fund will support Jewish education at Gray Academy in perpetuity.

For Morry and his classmates, the elementary school reunion was a heartwarming and powerful exercise: “Not only did we reconnect with old friends, we reconnected with our younger selves. We’re so grateful to the Jewish Foundation, Gray Academy, and the Rady JCC.”



Members of Peretz School’s class of ’72 (with pictures of themselves from 1972 captioned with their first initial and surname in Yiddish)

Back row (left-right): Keith Levit, Ken Pollock, Lorne Stoller, Eric Zipman, Chuck Blamaru, Jeff Minuk, Howard Morry

Front row (left-right): Leslie Assor, Anna Gail Goldfeld, Lori Ainemer, Pamela Weinroth, Tami Katz, Carla Rubinfeld, Harriet Kraut, Fay-Lynn Katz

To contribute online to the I.L. Peretz School Class of 1972 Endowment Fund in memory of David Polsky and Marshall Shuster, please visit www.jewishfoundation.org/classof72

If you attended a Winnipeg Jewish school and want help organizing a reunion and establishing an endowment fund, contact Zac Minuk, JFM’s Director of Marketing and Communications, at 204.477.7523 or toll-free from Canada and the U.S., 1.855.284.1918.

Driven to Make a Difference

RACE FOR ARIELLE RAISES FUNDS FOR BULIMIA CARE

It was a stunning July day at Gimli Motorsports Park when Marve Kraut got behind the wheel of his family’s Corvette and whipped around the track at speeds of 100 miles per hour. He drove for fun. He drove for the exhilaration. But above all, he drove in memory of his daughter, Arielle, who died of bulimia this past January at the age of 29.

“Arielle started showing signs of bulimia at the age of 16 and lived with the disease for 13 years,” says Kraut of the debilitating eating disorder. “There weren’t adequate supports for her in Winnipeg.”



After Arielle passed away, Marve and Harriet Kraut and their entire family decided that they wanted to do something special in her honour. Kraut’s younger brother, Myles, stepped forward with the idea of hosting the “Race for Arielle”.

“We’ve always been a car family and Myles usually books the track a few times a year,” explains Kraut. “He made one of his dates available and we got to work getting people to sign up and donate to the fund we set up at the Jewish Foundation.”

Jessica Kraut, Myles’s wife, organized the event, while the Kraut brothers rallied their friends. Marve Kraut, owner of an automotive business—Canadian Super Shop—reached out to his customers, too.

“In the end we had about 60 drivers and 100 guests,” says Kraut. “We’ve raised over \$25,000 so far. The income the fund earns will help provide services for people battling eating disorders.”

While Kraut is pleased with the effort to raise funds, it is similarly important for him

to raise awareness of eating disorders and to enrich the discussion about making more services available. At the time Arielle was diagnosed, appropriate services were scarce and she ended up in a program that wasn’t a good fit for her.

She moved back and forth between Toronto and Winnipeg, trying to get her life and health in order. She ultimately moved back to Winnipeg two weeks before she passed away.

“Arielle was kind, smart, and very artistic, but her eating disorder made her life very hard,” says Kraut. “It’s my hope that what we’re doing will make people more aware of the impact of eating disorders. Even if what we’re doing helps one young woman or man, the effort will have been worth it. It would be a fitting legacy for our daughter.”

To contribute to the Arielle Kraut Endowment Fund, please call the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba office at 204.477.7520 or toll-free from Canada and the U.S., 1.855.284.1918





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—JFM GRANTS—

Your Generosity at Work

Thanks to fundholders like you, the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba helps organizations deliver programs and services that make a difference in people's lives.

In September 2019, the Board of Directors of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba approved the following grants:

Adas Yeshurun Herzlia Congregation (\$11,140) | to replace the dishwasher in the synagogue's dairy kitchen.

Artists in Health Care Manitoba (\$4,000) | to paint the industrial tunnel that takes psychiatric patients from the St. Boniface Hospital Emergency to the McEwan Psych Health Centre.

ArtsJunktion (\$3,140) | to increase the organization's programming and organizational capacity.

B'nai Brith Jewish Community Camp (\$200,000) | to support the camp's 'Growth Can Happen Overnight' capital campaign.

CancerCare Manitoba Foundation (\$1,620) | to support their 'Mindfulness Practice Training' session and to purchase material to give to newly diagnosed children and their families.

CanU Canada (\$3,000) | to fund various CanU 'Explore Experiences' which introduce a variety of post-secondary opportunities to their participants.

Chabad-Lubavitch of Winnipeg (\$16,696) | to replace the existing carpet with carpet tile on the second floor of the Centre.

Chabad-Lubavitch of Winnipeg (\$10,000) | to support 'The Mega Challah Bake,' an annual community event.

Chai Folk Arts Council Inc. (\$5,000) | to support the production of a new album reflecting the sounds and movement of Chai.

Gray Academy of Jewish Education (\$40,000) | to support a new strategic planning initiative focused on development and advancement.

Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre (\$8,000) | to replace the windows on the north side of the Centre.

Jewish Federation of Winnipeg (\$10,000) | to fund the PJ Library program which provides Winnipeg Jewish children and their families with free Jewish books and music to promote Jewish literacy.

Jewish Federation of Winnipeg (\$12,000) | to support the Hillel Leadership Retreat which creates a unique environment for young Jews and allies to openly engage in all discussion about issues relevant in Judaism.

Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada (\$32,000) | to redevelop their website to better display their collections and connect with a broader audience.

Kaufman Silverberg Community Library (\$11,920) | to purchase computers that will support the professional success of newcomers and library patrons.

KidThink (\$2,500) | to fund the 'Friends' Resiliency Program' which teaches best practices for the prevention and treatment of anxiety and depression in children 12 and under.

Lions Foundation of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Inc. (\$4,500) | to purchase additional cameras for KidSight, a free vision screening program for young children.

Manitoba Riding for the Disabled Association Inc. (\$1,500) | to fund the CanTRA certification required for its volunteer instructors.

NorWest Co-op Community Health Centre (\$5,000) | to provide healthy meals twice a week for 71 low income seniors at BlueBird Lodge.

Rady Jewish Community Centre (\$8,000) | to purchase equipment for the Centre's various children and family programs.

Temple Shalom Manitoba Inc. (\$6,275) | to purchase digital equipment to be used to stream weekly prayer services and lifecycle events.

The Saul & Claribel Simkin Centre (\$35,153) | to purchase specialty chairs for residents living with dementia and to purchase blanket warmers.

Sarasvati Dramatic Theatre Productions and Repertory Inc. (\$2,000) | to support 'Seven Sacred Teachings – Reconciliation Through Theatre,' a project that will use theatre and the arts to counter racism, explore historical truth, and pursue reconciliation.

SSCOPE, Inc. (\$5,000) | to support their Hoarding Action Response Team (HART), a partnership between SSCOPE and JCFS that provides coordinated community responses to those impacted by hoarding.

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation Inc. (\$25,000) | to support their mental health campaign in order to renovate the inpatient unit and outpatient therapy rooms in the Mental Health Program at St. Boniface Hospital.

West Broadway Development Corporation (\$6,000) | to fund a snow removal project that will give ten young residents training, identification, bank accounts, and their first access to the labour market in a community where youth unemployment is high and first jobs are difficult to secure.

To learn more about JFM grants and the application process, visit www.jewishfoundation.org or contact Marla Aronovitch, Director of Operations & Grants, at maronovitch@jewishfoundation.org or 204.480.7557 or toll-free from the U.S./Canada at 1.855.284.1918.

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MAZAL TOV MARSHA COWAN

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Questions or comments about JFM Focus? Contact Zachary R. Minuk, Director of Marketing & Communications.
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