

Endowment Book of Life

2018 Signers' Brunch

FAREN & KEEVIN BERNSTEIN



"The Bernsteins' connection to the local Jewish community inspires them to seek out and explore other Jewish communities in their travels. Wherever they go, they act as ambassadors for not only Winnipeg's Jewish Community, but for the city and province in general. People frequently comment incredulously, 'You lived in San Diego and moved back to Winnipeg?' Keevin's response is always the same, 'There's more to life than the weather'."

HYMAN (HY) & ESTHER DASHEVSKY



"Herschel and Shifra (Steinberg) Dashevsky's love for their sons, ages 16 and 18, gave them the courage to release them to head for America. They were smuggled to Poland, and from there boarded a ship to Halifax. Surely the love of their parents gave these boys strength as they left all that was familiar behind, and began a new life in this foreign land. The younger of the two, Hy's father Jacob, always recalled that the first English words he was taught when he landed in Canada were, 'Mister, give me a job'."

DANIELA JACOBSON



"While my life in Johannesburg was full, South Africa itself started to crack at the seams. The Soweto uprising of 1976 was a turning point for my parents. They decided to join the expanding wave of emigration and pursue the family's future elsewhere. In 1978, we arrived in Swan River, Manitoba, where we lived for three months before making our way to Winnipeg. My Dad was introduced to fellow Jewish dentists and joined a practice. We were settled in no time. I was 15-years-old and started attending Grant Park High School."

ERIC JACOBSON



"After a few months in Grand Bank, I was looking for something a little less isolated. My cousin, David Folk, also a physician from South Africa, urged me to join him in Manitoba. I accepted a position in Virden and served as a general practitioner there. Two weeks after settling in Virden, I was invited to Shabbat dinner in Winnipeg at the home of Wally and Susana Bloch. Wally was my cousin David's dentist, and the Blochs were the parents of a young woman named Daniela. Daniela and I started dating and were married four years later in 1990."

On Sunday, October 27, 2019, more than 120 people gathered for an intimate brunch full of warmth, celebration, and entertainment at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg for the annual Endowment Book of Life Signers' Brunch. Thirteen signers made their marks for now and all time, promising publicly to leave a financial legacy to their community.

We invite you to meet our 2019 signers and read excerpts from their stories.

To read their full stories, please visit
www.jewishfoundation.org.

LAWRENCE BERMAN²¹

"After stints at a number of other hotels, Lawrence spent 18 years as a bellman at the Delta Chelsea Inn in Toronto. He enjoyed serving people, meeting guests from all over, and rubbing shoulders with important people such as the Head of the Supreme Court of Ontario and the Queen!"

Lawrence Berman committed to the program earlier this year and passed away just a few weeks prior to the EBOL Signers' Brunch. We pay our respects to his memory.

JOE ELFENBAUM



"My farming life in Manitoba was cut short when I stumbled into business quite accidentally. My in-laws owned a couple of apartment buildings and asked me to look after the properties and their tenants while they wintered down south. My farm didn't demand much from me in the winter so I agreed. Before I knew it, I was managing apartment buildings for other owners and later purchased a couple of buildings of my own. At one point, I was managing 600 units."

PAULA PARKS



"My Dad worked at Athlete's Wear for most of his career and my Mom worked intermittently as a bookkeeper. Mostly, though, my Mom was a devoted community volunteer, working with Hadassah, the Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood, and on the PTA at Ramah Hebrew School where my brothers and I attended from grades one to six. Both of my parents were very active with Technion and the Combined Jewish Appeal. Jewish education for the kids was a very important priority for my parents. My Mom used to say: 'We'll get a new dining room set when all the kids finish at Ramah.' (And we did!)"

GARY, CURTIS²¹, LIONEL, AND RODNEY STEIMAN IN MEMORY OF HERSCH LEIB (LOUIS) STEIMAN



"Winnipeg's modern industrial capitalism was fuelling the settlement of the western prairies. Hard work and long hours enabled Hersch Leib to enlarge his operation, which became the Dominion Garment Company. The company expanded from premises on Selkirk Avenue to a building on Donald Street, where it occupied three floors, and had a freight elevator. They made leather and sheepskin jackets, and winter coats for the harsh prairie winters. The labels on their parkas read 'King O' the North', illustrated with the figure of a polar bear. Dominion Garment also made the iconic buffalo coats for the Winnipeg Police force. The growth of the company was further fuelled by the demands of World War II, with government contracts to make convoy and corvette coats for the navy in the north Atlantic."