



Jewish Federation
OF WINNIPEG

OUR FUTURE.
POWERED BY YOU.

President
Joel Lazer

Vice President
Josh Blatt

Immediate Past President
Laurel Malkin

Departmental Chairs
Marcelo Aprosoff
Jessica Cogan
Carol Duboff
Jason Gisser
Barry McArton
Stephen Rosenfield
Elana Schultz
Candice Tenenbein

Campaign Chair
Barry McArton

*Women's Philanthropy
Chairs*
Laura Diamond
Paula Parks

YAD Chairs
Bryan Hack
Samantha Morry

Honourary Counsellor
Adam Levene

*Council of Rabbis
Representative*
Rabbi Klief Rose

Board of Directors
Eduardo Borovich
Bryan Borzykowski
Rietta Floom
Phil Gussakovsky
Debbie Hoffman
Daniela Jacobsohn
Shane Kozlowich
Sherry Lercher Davis
Marcelo Mandelbaum
Carrie Shenkarow
Yael Silver
Eric Winograd
Marc Zynoberg

Board of Governors
Don Aronovitch
Marjorie Blankstein, C.M.
Ben Cohen
Neil Duboff
Mel Fages
Ian Goldstine
Sid Halpern
David Kroft
Guy Kroft
Jonathan Kroft
Adam Levene
Israel Ludwig
Ted Lyons, O.C.
Howard Morry
Monte Nathanson

Chief Executive Officer
Elaine Goldstine

April 20, 2020

Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Memorial Day is on the 27th day of the month of Nissan on the Hebrew calendar. This date has significance as it falls midway between the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, which took place on Passover, and Israeli Independence Day.

In Israel, at 10:00 this morning, sirens blasted throughout the country to mark Yom Ha-Shoah - Holocaust Memorial Day. Traffic stood still, people emerged from their cars mid-street, and the country observed 2 minutes of silence.

As reported in the Jerusalem Post: "The sirens that echo on Yom Hashoah through the streets of Israel echo through the collective Jewish heart across the world."

This year we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation, 75 years since World War II and the Holocaust ended, along with the Nazi's systematic attempt to annihilate the entire Jewish population of Europe, a plan Hitler called the "Final Solution".

I am sometimes asked: "*why go to such lengths to remember something that was over long before many of us were born?*"

The answer is simple: Although Jews were the primary victims— as six million were murdered; the Roma people, Jehovah's Witnesses, male homosexuals, African-Germans, so-called "a-socials," – people with disabilities, and political enemies and dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi Germany.

75 years later the world is not yet safe from the dangers of antisemitism and hatred. Those who perpetuate hatred and intolerance seek to spread fear and attempt to create divisiveness. We must not let them, and must push back against hatred in all its forms in our communities, in our schools, and in our homes.

As we remember the Holocaust, learn its lessons, and heed its warnings to humanity, we ensure that the horrors committed 75 years ago are not doomed to repeat themselves.

Sincerely,
Joel Lazer, President
Jewish Federation of Winnipeg