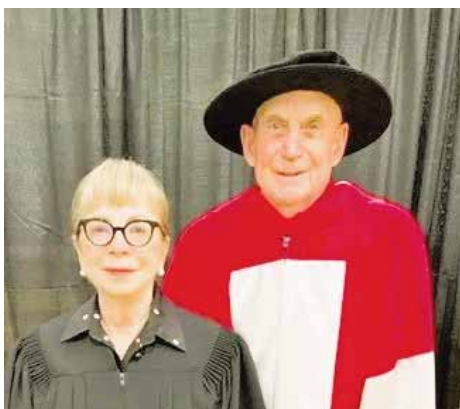


## Inside this issue:



Sandra and Harvey Seter, also David Asper (seen in the above picture with the late David Migaard), were honoured by the University of Manitoba at its most recent convocation. Read the story, beginning on page 3.



John Diamond, CEO of the Jewish Foundation. The Foundation gave a record amount in grants in 2021. Read the story on page 5.



Jake Tapper gave this year's Kanee lecture. Read the story, beginning on page 6.



Keith Levit photo

Mayor of Jerusalem Moshe Lion visits Winnipeg. In the above photo, Mayor Lion (with his wife, Stavit), is seen being greeted by Larry Vickar while, at right, Jerusalem Foundation Executive Director Shai Doron looks on. Read more about the mayor's visit (and the confusion surrounding whether Bernie Bellan would be able to talk to him) on page 8.



The Vancouver Jewish community has unveiled plans to build a massive new community centre that will also include between 500-600 housing units. Read the story on page 9.



Keith Levit photo

The Chai Folk Ensemble returned to the stage with its first concert since 2019. More pictures on page 12.



Dr. Cara Katz has received a grant to study autism from siblings' point of view. Read the story on page 12.



Avra Love and Marcus Spiegel have honed their skills as writers after following similar education paths, and both have found success as short story writers. Read the story on page 13.



Bob Wiseman had a successful musical career as a member of Blue Rodeo, but he's pursued other interests since. Read the story on page 20.



Ari Posner has also had a successful career in music and has become a much sought-after composer for the television and advertising industries. Read the story on page 24.

# Community news

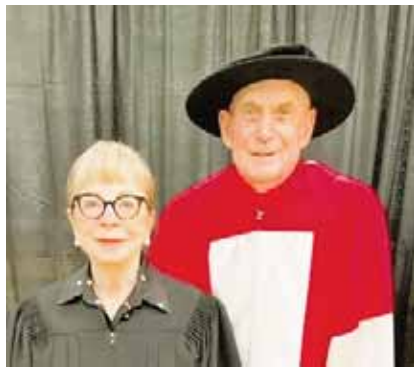
## Community leaders David Asper, Harvey and Sandra Secter among the honourees at recent University of Manitoba convocation



MYRON LOVE

Community leaders David Asper and Harvey Secter were among ten individuals who were recipients of honorary degrees at the

University of Manitoba's most recent convocation.



Sandra and Harvey Secter



The late David Milgaard (left) with David Asper, who took up his case of wrongful conviction, and waged a tireless battle on his behalf for six years. Milgaard was also scheduled to receive an honorary degree at convocation, but sadly passed away in May.

Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1969 - to pursue a career in law. He followed that up with a Master's degree in Law from Harvard in 1995.

That same year, after returning to Winnipeg, he became a lecturer in Law at his alma mater, teaching in the fields of mediation and arbitration. In 1999, he was appointed Dean of the Law faculty. And, after retiring from that position in 2008, he was asked to serve as Chancellor of the university, a role he filled until 2019.

It was her contributions to the university as the wife of the Chancellor that earned Sandra Secter the Peter Curry Award. Harvey notes that it is unusual in that Sandra has never held an official position at the university.

The Chancellor serves, in a sense, as the university's leading ambassador, Harvey Secter points out, and Sandra was the consummate "ambassador's wife" by regularly engaging all the stakeholders, be they students, faculty, alumni or donors.

In her own right, Sandra Secter has contributed substantially to our community with leadership roles with the National Council of Jewish Women, the Combined Jewish Appeal - where she and close friend Marsha Cowan served as co-chairs of the 1997/8 campaign and again in 2001- as well as many arts organizations over the years.

"It was been really gratifying that others have found our joint efforts as volunteers over the years on behalf of the university and the community at large to be meaningful and worthy of recognition at this stage of our lives," Secter concludes.

For David Asper - who was also recognized with a Doctorate of Laws, it was more of a bitter- (Continued on page 6. See "Convocation.")

### Here it is!

Your chance to participate in a JNF tree planting experience, this time in our own community! The local JNF board is thrilled to support Winnipeg and our community in it's ambitious goal.

Come out and join us as we join the City of Winnipeg's

## One Million Tree Challenge

and plant trees on the Harte Trail!

Sunday September 18

Rain Date: Sunday, October 2



Help make our city a greener place to live!



# Community news/Letters

## Jake Tapper reflects on his role as a CNN anchor and his search in vain for a connection to any Winnipeg Tappers

By BERNIE BELLAN

Jake Tapper is a very well-known CNN anchor (and chief Washington correspondent) whose manner is totally opposite from the firebrands who populate Fox News. Whereas individuals such as Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson thrive on inflaming their audiences, Tapper's soothing tone and low-key style serves to calm his audience. However, while Tapper may appeal to the type of liberal audience that attended the most recent Kanee lecture on June 2nd, according to a recent report in *Forbes* magazine, Fox is trouncing CNN in the ratings. After listening to Tapper deliver what was, in essence, a review of the way in which Donald Trump was responsible for the assault on the US Capitol for on January 6, 2021, which was undoubtedly totally familiar to members of the audience who might have expected him to offer a more illuminating or stimulating talk than he did - it's not hard to understand why viewers have been tuning CNN out.

To be fair though, when it comes to delivering a lecture, an individual like Tapper, who no doubt is quite mindful of not straying too far afield from a moderate position, is not the kind of person who is likely going to offer great insight into the issues of the day.

Such was the case on Wednesday evening, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, when approximately 350 individuals attended this year's Sol & Florence Kanee lecture at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. (It was the first live in-person Kanee lecture in three years, with everyone in attendance required to produce proof of vaccination and remain fully masked for the entire evening.)

Prior to Tapper's talk, Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada President Mark Kantor gave a brief rundown of the current state of the JHCWC. Kantor noted that the JHCWC has now achieved its goal of having raised \$1 million for what is known as the Norman and Florence Vickar



**Jake Tapper**  
desperately strove to find out whether he was related to any Winnipeg Tappers.

Archival Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

Jake Tapper is first and foremost a reporter, and what he proceeded to do during his 45-minute talk was give a summary of the events that had led up to the current situation the very moment he was speaking - when, he said, the fact that the Congressional hearings into the January 6 insurrection were going to be televised live the next night meant that he was unable to be in Winnipeg in person.

Before moving on to a discussion of the events of January 6 and the fallout thereafter, Tapper amused the audience with stories of his ancestry, including having had a great-grandfather who, for a very short time (four days) served as mayor of Winnipeg. It was in his quest to find out more about his roots that, Tapper explained, he actually got in touch with the Jewish Heritage Centre.

One thing led to another and JHCWC Executive Director Belle Jarniewski ended up inviting Tapper to deliver this year's Kanee lecture.

Tapper noted that he became interested in exploring his ancestry during the first year of the Covid pandemic, when he had more time on his hands than usual, and he became involved in doing a story about ancestry.com. He went on to explain that he had been told that he might be related to some Tappers in Winnipeg, but after researching the subject - partly with the assistance of the JHCWC, he realized that what he had been told was wrong.

Thus, he declared to the audience: "I'm talking to you tonight entirely because of a mistake."

Further, Tapper explained that while his father is Jewish, his mother had converted to Judaism. It turns out that members of his mother's family had actually fought in the American Revolution, Tapper

(Continued on page 7. See "Tapper.")

### LETTERS

Hi Bernie,

I just read the June 8, 2022 edition of the Jewish Post & News. Your last page Community news article on Rabbi Alan Finkel coming to the rescue of his fellow cyclists brought a real smile to my face.

The picture reminded me of an old joke that I modified as follows:

Question: How many Jews does it take to fix a flat bicycle tire?

Answer: Nine. One Rabbi and one Jew to fix the flat, six Jews to stand around and pray all goes well and one Jew to take a picture of the proceedings to prove Jews can indeed fix a flat bicycle tire.

Good thing it wasn't a flat car tire - you would have needed a minyan, at least.

To you and your staff: keep up the great work. We love the Jewish Post & News.

Sincerely,  
**Jeffrey Minuk**  
Montreal, Quebec  
(former Winnipegger)

Hi Bernie

It sounds to me like Myron Love is trying to recreate the phoney antiSemitic trope that was used in the UK to discredit Labour. The NDP is not an antiSemitic party. In fact the story that Love repeats about supporting an anti Semitic candidate is a lie. That candidate was dropped from the ballot in late January as soon as the party found out about it.

David Weller

### Convocation

(Continued from page 3.)

sweet moment because David Milgaard wasn't able to share the podium with him. Milgaard, the man that Asper spent many years moving heaven and earth to

free from prison after he was falsely convicted for murder, was also scheduled to receive an honorary degree but, sadly, passed away in mid-May.

"I accepted his degree on behalf of David," Asper says, "but it wasn't the same without him. I missed having my guy beside me. That was to be his moment of full redemption."

For readers who are unaware - or may have forgotten the details, Milgaard was a young man from Winnipeg - a drifter at the time - who happened to be crashing in Saskatoon for a period. In 1969, on a cold winter morning, a young nurse by the name of Gail Miller was brutally raped and murdered at a bus stop in Saskatoon. Footsteps in the snow led to the nearby house where the then-16-year-old Milgaard was temporarily staying.

Saskatoon police soon decided that Milgaard was their man. As the great Canadian criminal lawyer Eddie Greenspan pointed out in his autobiography, once the police and the Crown zero in on a suspect, they do their best to prove his guilt and ignore evidence that points to his innocence.

Thus, even though Milgaard steadfastly insisted that he was innocent, he was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison. Through a quirk in our prison system, once convicted you can only get parole if you acknowledge your guilt - something which Milgaard refused to do.

David's mother, the late Joyce Milgaard, believed in her son's innocence and worked tirelessly to find anyone who would give him a fair hearing. In 1986, after 16 years in prison, the late Hersh Wolch took on the case and brought David Asper - a lawyer for Wolch's firm - in to help.

Asper was soon spearheading the defense.

"I worked on David's case for six years before he was released in 1992," Asper recalls. "He was finally fully exonerated in 1997 by science and the evidence provided by DNA analysis. We became very close. A certain level of intimacy and intensity developed in our relationship"

(Another man - a serial killer as it turned out - who happened to be staying at the same house where Milgaard was staying at that time - was subsequently arrested and convicted of the murder.)

Asper observes that life outside went on in the years that Milgaard was incarcerated. "I met Ruth, the woman who would become my wife in 1986," he says. "We had two children before David was released and our third before he was exonerated. While my wife was working at starting a business and I was travelling across the country pursuing justice for David, his mother stepped up and helped us with our own family."

In recent days, with kids grown, David Asper reports that he has cut back on his activities. "I am taking it easier," he says. "I am still involved though in public service as a director of the North Portage Partnership Board and Chair of the Manitoba Police Commission, which I have found to be an interesting role."

Happy Canada Day!

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