

PRESS RELEASE

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Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City Elects Officers and New Board Members

KANSAS CITY, MO: At its Annual Meeting, the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City elected officers and three first-time members to its board of directors.

Officers, re-elected to serve a second one-year term are: Jeanette Wishna, president; Daniel L. Scharf, M.D., executive vice-president; Steven A. Gershon, vice president–investments; Sheryl T. Davidow, vice president–grants; Ann B. Stern, secretary; and James M. Klein, treasurer.

Nine current board members were re-elected to an additional two-year term. They are: Marilyn Berenbom, Bunni Copaken, Sheryl T. Davidow, SuEllen Fried, Steven A. Gershon, Joseph L. Hiersteiner, Jay Robinow, M.D., Daniel L. Scharf, M.D., and Jeanette Wishna. In addition, Donald H. Tranin and Bernard P. Erdman will remain on the Board under Senior Status as former Foundation presidents. They join Barbara Atlas, Stanley J. Bushman, Gus Eisemann, M.D., Susie Goldsmith, Sharon Greenwood, Tom Isenberg, Howard T Jacobson, James J. Klein, Rodney T. Minkin, Linda Sims, Ann B. Stern, and Stanford A. Zeldin, whose terms have not expired.

The three first-time board members, elected to two-year terms, are Gina Kaiser, Michael Milens, and Jane Sosland, Ph.D.

GINA KAISER

Gina Kaiser completed her undergraduate studies at Boston College and earned a law degree at the University of Kansas. Now retired from active practice, she has remained very involved in the metropolitan community through her work with non-profit agencies.

Gina is currently the board chair of Kansas City Hospice, where she has served as a board member since 1999. She is a past board chair of the Kansas City Free Health Clinic, and currently serves on their Advisory Board.

In the Kansas City Jewish community, Gina was recently elected chair of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, where she has been a board member for six years. She previously served as a board member of Menorah Medical Center and The Temple Congregation B'nai Jehudah.

MICHAEL MILENS

Michael Milens, a native of Kansas City and a retired executive from King Louie International, received his bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Missouri.

His extensive resume of volunteer work in the Greater Kansas City area includes service as president of Johnson County/Wyandotte County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc, and co-recipient of the NCJW Founder's Award for his work with CASA. He is a panel review teams vice-chair for the United

Way Community Care Review Process and a member of the United Way Regional Certification Committee. He is also a “Kids on the Block” program volunteer for the Community Disability Network.

Previously Mike served on the board of the American Cancer Society; as an archives department volunteer for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; and a member of the Reader Service for the Blind program of KCUR-FM Radio.

His volunteer work in the Kansas City Jewish community includes the Jewish Community Center, where he is a member of the board of governors and previously served on the board of directors and as vice-president, treasurer and assistant treasurer. He received the JCC’s Otmah Award and New Leadership Award.

At the Jewish Federation, he served on the board of directors and as treasurer, and he was a member of the Associate Board at the Jewish Geriatric Center.

JANE M. SOSLAND

Jane M. Sosland, PhD, received her undergraduate degree in humanistic studies from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec; her masters degree in human development from the University of Kansas and her doctorate in developmental and child psychology, also from the University of Kansas.

She recently began work as a pediatric psychology intern at the University of Kansas Medical Center. and is co-facilitator for parent support groups at Kansas City-based, Turning Point. Previous professional experience includes behavioral consultant for Benson House Community Living Opportunities, behavioral pediatrics intern at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and research assistant at the Kennedy Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Jane is a founding board member and has served as chair of the development committee at Turning Point. She was co-chair of the early childhood education committee at Congregation Beth Shalom; and was event co-chair for four years for Family Farm Fest, an annual fundraiser for special needs children. She served as a member of the board for six years of Children’s Benefits Service for Families and was a four-year board member for Cradles & Crayons.

The staff of the Jewish Heritage Foundation includes Ellen Kort, Executive Director; Beth Gottstein, Senior Program Officer; and Marianne Mantel, Administrative Director.

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