

Ellen Kort to Lead JHF

The board of directors has named Ellen L. Kort the new executive director of the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City. Kort becomes just the second executive director in the JHF's 10-year history, as she succeeds Steve Israelite, who is retiring May 15.

Kort is well known to Kansas City's non-profit community, having served as executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City from 1992 until she stepped down last summer. She was Hillel director at the University of Kansas before beginning her career at the JCC in 1984. Kort holds a master of science degree in post-secondary counseling from KU, a master of music in piano performance from the University of North Carolina and a bachelor of arts in music from the State University of New York.

JHF President Jeanette Wishna said: "Our board members are extremely impressed by Ellen's credentials and accomplishments. She is skilled in developing and maintaining strong positive relationships with other agencies. Her calm and patient demeanor belies the intensity of her commitment to creating win-win situations. Steve Israelite has established a tradition of excellence and we are confident Ellen will enable the Jewish Heritage Foundation to continue that tradition of working with agencies to provide programs and services that meet the needs of our community."



James Maidhof Photography
ELLEN KORT

Following an extensive search process, Ellen Kort's name was recommended to the JHF board by a search committee chaired by Bernard P. Erdman, a past president of the foundation. "We were fortunate to have many outstanding candidates express interest in the position," said Erdman. "We believe that Ellen best meets and exceeds the criteria we established for our next executive director. We are very pleased that the foundation and the community will have the benefit of her professional and personal skills."

The JHF was formed with proceeds from the sale of Menorah Medical Center to Health Midwest in 1993. Its mission is to enhance health and human services within the Greater Kansas City community, with a priority to serve the Kansas City Jewish community. During the 10 years of its grant-making, it has distributed approximately \$20 million, with the majority of the funds going to Jewish agencies and programs.