

Charles Bronfman's Eulogy for Manny Batshaw
July 20, 2016

MANNY BATSHAW WAS THE GUARDIAN OF OUR COMMUNITY. HE SERVED AS CEO OF WHAT IS TODAY FEDERATION/CJA FROM 1968 – 1980, AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY THAT WOULD TEST ANY COMMUNITY LEADER.

DURING THESE TWELVE YEARS, HIS QUIET, YET STRONG VOICE PULLED THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER. INNOVATIONS WERE ACCOMPLISHED, AND DESPITE WARNINGS TO THE CONTRARY, THE COMMUNITY MOVED FORWARD.

1969 SAW THE COMMUNAUTE SEPHERADE DE QUEBEC BECOME A CONSTITUENT MEMBER OF FEDERATION.

A YEAR LATER, THE JEWISH NURSING HOME CAME INTO BEING. THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY THE BARON DE HIRSH INSTITUTE EVOLVING INTO JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES IN 1972. AND A YEAR AFTER THAT CUMMINGS HOUSE BECAME THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTRE OF THE COMMUNITY, A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD, AND DID, BRING THEIR IDEAS, THEIR CHALLENGES, THEIR GENEROSITY AND THEIR VOLUNTEERISM.

MANNY PARTNERED WITH OUR EXCEPTIONAL LAY LEADERS, EACH OF WHOM ADDED A UNIQUE AND WELCOME CONTRIBUTION TO OUR MODERNIZATION.

THE BATSHAW COMMITTEE REPORT OF 1975 LED TO THE MERGING OF FOUR BODIES WHICH CARED FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH INTO THE BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES WHICH SERVES THE COMMUNITY WRIT LARGE.

HE WAS HONOURED BY NUMEROUS BODIES. HE RECEIVED THE SAMUEL BRONFMAN MEDAL WAS NAMED HONORARY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION/CJA, WAS NAMED A HATAN TORAH BY THE SHAAR HASHOMAYIM SYNAGOGUE, AND WAS AWARDED AN HONORARY DEGREE BY MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

MANNY WAS NAMED TO THE ORFER OF QUEBEC AND THE ORDER OF CANADA.

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ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH MANNY FOR SOME THIRTY YEARS. FIRST AT FEDERATION AND LATER AS A PHILANTHROPIC ADVISER

I CAME TO ADMIRE HIM FOR HIS FLEXIBILITY IN HANDLING LEADERS – AN EXAMPLE WAS THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN STYLE BETWEEN YOURS TRULY AND MY SUCCESSOR, OUR DEAR LATE FRIEND, JOE AIN. I WAS OF THE YOUNG, EFFICIENT GENERATION, AND JOE, A LOVING OLD TIME JEWISH MACHER, MANNY MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH HIS AGENDA WITH EACH OF US!!! NOT AN EASY TASK FOR SURE!!!

ONE DAY JOE AND MANNY VISITED ME IN MY OFFICE, A VERY UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE. AT THAT TIME, AT 65 RETIREMENT WAS MANDATORY. JOE SAID THAT MANNY WAS DUE TO RETIRE VERY SOON. I ASKED WHAT HE HAD IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE. JOE SAID "MANNY'S GOING TO WORK FOR YOU!"

AND SO A NEW AND IMPORTANT CHAPTER BEGAN FOR BOTH OF US. MANNY BECAME MY GUARDIAN, WHETHER I WANTED HIM TO BE OR NOT! HE DECIDED WHO MET THE BATSHAW CRITERIA TO SEE ME. THAT'S RIGHT. NOT MY CRITERIA – HIS!! SOMETIMES TO MY REGRET, MAY I ADD.

HE NUDGED ME TO DO THOSE THINGS I LOATHED, SUCH AS 'SCHNORRING' ON THE PHONE. THERE HE WAS, SITTING BESIDE ME PHONE IN HIS HAND DIALING A NUMBER. HE'D HAND ME THE PHONE AND WHAT COULD I DO? I 'SCHNORRED'!

THE MOST TREASURED MEMORY I WILL CARRY WITH ME OF THIS FINE HUMAN BEING WHO CARED SO MUCH FOR OTHERS WAS MANNY AT FUND RAISERS. IF SOMEONE MADE A CONTRIBUTION THAT HE HAD NOT EXPECTED, HE WOULD CLAP HIS HANDS AND SAY "BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL"

MANNY TO ALL WHO KNEW YOU, YOU WERE, ARE, AND ALWAYS WILL BE BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL