



Winnipeg Free Press

PASSAGES



RALPH GORDON

Born: May 21, 1939

Date of Passing: Feb 26, 2020

RALPH GORDON

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ralph Gordon on February 26, 2020, in Rancho Mirage, CA, at the age of 88.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Ethel, daughter of Abraham and Sally Malian, and sisters-in-law, Evelyn Hecht (Larry) and Seema Ariel (Brian). He will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his children, Marshall (Amy), Sherwin (Nancy) and Kayla (Art Maister), and six grandchildren, Avril (Angela), Aaron (Brittany), Adam (Vivian), Carly (Greg), Jacob and Cara. He was blessed to recently spend time with four great-grandchildren, Keira, Blake, Kenny and Hallee. He will be affectionately remembered by his nieces and nephews and many dear friends.

Ralph was born May 21, 1931, the son of Samuel Gordon and Nettie (Schweid). Sam came to Winnipeg from Vilna in 1915, then moved to Minnesota, joining the U.S. Army for the First World War. After the war, Sam returned to Winnipeg to visit relatives where he met Nettie, also an immigrant, who had come from Austria to be with family. Sam and Nettie had three children: Helen, Lou and Ralph.

Ralph grew up in the North End of Winnipeg on Alfred Avenue. He went to Machray School and St. John's Tech. He was fun loving and an avid sportsman, and sang in the school operettas. He graduated from United College and the University of Manitoba. As a student, he worked for The Manitoban newspaper and was a member of the Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity. On June 19, 1955, he married the love of his life, Ethel. He was a dedicated, devoted husband and dancing partner to her for 63 years. In the first years of their marriage, Ralph had several jobs. He was a manager at The Bay and then he sold and designed furniture at Ideal Brass. He was delivering furniture one day to St. John's College and one of the nuns said, "You should go into education". He took her advice and enrolled in the Faculty of Education at U of M taking classes over three summers. He later returned to complete his Master's degree. He taught math and business in the St. James School Division at Ness, Samson Junior High and John Taylor Collegiate for 25 years. Memory-filled summers were spent at Falcon Lake and then West Hawk Lake. He coached hockey and was a certified tennis teacher. Ralph was always generous with his time and patiently taught so many how to snow and water ski. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Tuxedo Tennis Club and taught tennis there for 10 years. In his spare

time, he supervised the construction of their unique homes in Tuxedo and Linden Woods and he built two summer cottages. He was the "second Jewish carpenter". For Ralph, it was always about adventure and making memories, for himself, for Ethel, and for their family and friends. His memory and legacy will be cherished and he will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in Winnipeg on March 4. Pallbearers were Adam Gordon, Aaron Maister, Greg Karon, Benjamin Hecht, Paul Hecht, Hardev Bains. Honorary pallbearers were Evelyn Hecht and Jacob Gordon.

Donations in Ralph's memory can be made to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and Parkinson Canada.

Publish Date: Mar 14, 2020

RALPH GORDON

Ethel Gordon and family announce with sadness the passing of Ralph Gordon on February 26, 2020 in Rancho Mirage, CA.

Funeral services will be held March 4, 2020 at noon at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, 561 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg.

Full obituary to follow.

Publish Date: Feb 29, 2020

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I had Mr Gordon as my grade 11 math teacher. He had an intensity that was sometimes scary- he was able to instill math skills into his students by force of will... We used to call him Mr Green Jeans as his favorite suit (he always wore a suit with jacket) and although he was immaculate at the start of the class, but the end of class he was invariably covered in chalk dust. It is only with acquired age and wisdom that we understand the people who deserve our respect during the teen years, and as such I want to thank you Mr Gordon- it took a while but your teachings did eventually sink in.

- Posted by: Glenn Seifert (former student, John Taylor Collegiate) on: Jun 28, 2020

Ken and I always had admired the lifestyle you and Ralph always surrounded by family. Both of you had a great sense of adventure and did everything as a unit. Ralph was a wonderful man and will surely be missed.

- Posted by: Alta sigesmund (Friend) on: Mar 14, 2020

My sincerest condolences to Ethel & families on their loss of a husband, father, grandfather. We were neighbors & friends.

- Posted by: Lillian Goodman (friend) on: Feb 29, 2020
