



Mr. Soloman (Sol) Kanee (1909-2007), in whose honour the lecture series is named, was born in Melville, Saskatchewan on June 1, 1909. A barrister by profession, Mr. Kanee co-founded one of Winnipeg's largest law firms – Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP (originally called Shinbane Dorfman Kanee). When his father passed away, Mr. Kanee took over the family business, becoming the President of the Soo Line Flour Mills Ltd. and later became the Director of Kanee Grain Co. Ltd, and Chairman of the Canadian National Mills Association.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Kanee had an unparalleled record of service to Winnipeg and to Canada's Jewish Community. He was a President of the Canadian Jewish Congress from 1971 to 1974, and a Chairman of the Board of Governors, World Jewish Congress. He was also a Director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, and a Director of the Bank of Canada for 17 years (the longest sitting member in the bank's history). Mr. Kanee was a Past Chair, Board of Governors, University of Manitoba, and Past Chair, Board of Directors of The Royal Ballet of Winnipeg (which he helped to gain international acclaim). Further contributing to the City of Winnipeg, Mr. Kanee was the Chairman of the Community Welfare Planning Council, the Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the United Way (formerly known as the Winnipeg Community Chest), and the Sharon Home (now called the Kanee Centre of the Sharon Home).

On the national and international scenes, Mr. Kanee was a confidant of prime ministers and presidents, and a passionate advocate for the state of Israel.

Mr. Kanee received countless awards and honours for his local, national and international service that helped to bridge gaps between peoples and generations. He was a recipient of the Samuel Bronfman Medal from the Canadian Jewish Congress (1978), the International B'nai Brith Humanitarian Award (1979), and the Nahum Goldman Award from the World Jewish Congress (1995). Mr. Kanee received the Centennial of Canada Medal and in 1977 was inducted into the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba awarded a Doctorate of Laws on Mr. Kanee (1974), and was inducted posthumously into the Winnipeg Citizens Hall of Fame in 2009. Dubbed "Citizen Kanee" by the Winnipeg Free Press, Sol Kanee was a man who gave freely of himself and will be remembered, as President Ernest Sirluck described him upon conferring an Honorary Doctorate, as "an exemplary citizen".

#### **SOURCES**

The Manitoba Historical Society,  
[www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/kanee\\_s.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/kanee_s.shtml)

The Winnipeg Free Press, [www.passagesmb.com](http://www.passagesmb.com)

The Winnipeg Hall of Fame,  
[www.winnipegfame.ca/NewsReleaseCitizensHallofFameAnnouncement2009.pdf](http://www.winnipegfame.ca/NewsReleaseCitizensHallofFameAnnouncement2009.pdf)