

Ethan Davidson



Ethan serves as Chair of the Grants Committee and is a Director of the William Davidson Foundation.

Ethan is a musician and philanthropist known for creating folk music, producing 10 studio albums since the late 1990s.

Ethan graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in English. He also studied at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. After school, he traveled as a bass player in various East Coast bands and later moved to Alaska.

In addition to his work at the Foundation, Ethan chairs the board of the Detroit Opera, and is a board member of the Motown Museum and Detroit Institute of Arts.

Ethan and his wife Gretchen reside in Metropolitan Detroit with their three boys.

William Davidson ^{ז"ל}



A son of Detroit and a man of vision, action, and responsibility, William “Bill” Davidson (1922-2009), earned international acclaim for his business acumen and skilled corporate leadership. He served as President and CEO of Guardian Industries Corp., which he transformed from a small, struggling family company into one of the world’s largest manufacturers of architectural and automotive glass and exterior plastics for vehicles. At the time of his death, Guardian was doing business in over 150 countries and employed more than 19,000 workers.

Mr. Davidson was also the owner of several American professional sports teams: the Detroit Pistons of the National Basketball Association (NBA), the Detroit Shock of the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), and the Tampa Bay Lightning of the National Hockey League (NHL). The Detroit Pistons won the NBA World Championship three times during his ownership. In 2004 he became the only owner in U.S. professional sports history to have his teams win an NBA Championship, a Stanley Cup Hockey Championship, and the WNBA Championship in the same season.

Mr. Davidson was one of Michigan’s, Israel’s, and the Jewish community’s most notable philanthropists, responsible for more than \$200 million in donations to local and international charities and universities in his lifetime. He made transformative philanthropic investments with trusted leaders and organizations, including those which led to the establishment of the Davidson Institute of Science Education at the Weizmann Institute of Science, the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan, the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and the Davidson Center and Archaeological Park in Jerusalem.

Mr. Davidson passed away at the age of 89 in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and his children Ethan and Marla, as well as five grandchildren. Along with the William Davidson Foundation, his family continues his commitment to philanthropy in Southeast Michigan, Israel, and the Jewish community.

Linda Pedder



Linda Pedder has been with Farber Hebrew Day School - Yeshivat Akiva since the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. She brought with her 12 years of administrative assistant experience with a Japanese trading company and 15 years of elementary school experience (starting as a volunteer, followed by lunch mom, parapro, and Title I tutor).

Linda started her career at Farber/Akiva as the receptionist and soon began gathering other duties and titles. Linda is currently the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Head of School and the HR Manager, but she has worn a variety of different hats during her Farber/Akiva career.

She has designed flyers, written and sent out Constant Contact email communications, assisted in the development of our current Admissions and Registration system, served

as the Sub Coordinator, managed the school's tuition management system, written grant proposals, worked with the Board of Directors, and assisted with many Farber/Akiva events (including this one!).

No wonder she's ready to retire! She and her husband Chris are the proud parents of Evan and Nate. This summer Linda and Chris plan to retire to Virginia where they will still enjoy four seasons (but a much shorter winter season) and will, of course, continue cheering for the Detroit Lions, Tigers, Red Wings, and Pistons.