Create a Jewish Legacy

The Jewish Community Foundation San Diego honors and celebrates our new Book of Life contributors. Individuals and families who have planned to leave a legacy gift, or who have contributed to an endowment for a Jewish organization, are encouraged to provide a personal statement to be included in the San Diego Community’s Book of Life.

These thirty-four excerpts from the full statements shared at our recent event detail the personal thoughts, life experiences, and philanthropic vision that inspired their gift.

**Judith Abeles and Beverly Miller**

Our legacy is intended as a gift to the Jewish community in furtherance of the causes and institutions we believe will change the world for the better.

**Renee Barnow**

As a child of Holocaust survivors, I learned early on the importance of supporting Jewish organizations to ensure Judaism survives. What a blessing to be able to honor my commitment to Judaism’s survival through JCF.

**Marlene Bellamy and Don Maescher**

Although we come from very different backgrounds, we are united in our commitment to philanthropy that ensures the continuity of Jewish and Israeli organizations for future generations.

**Steve and Deanna Bernsen**

We believe it’s vital to ensure a vibrant Temple Adat Shalom is available to all that seek a Jewish home well into the future.

**Glen Brodowsky**

In the spirit of L’dor vador, one of the things I love most is seeing the grandparents and great grandparents handing down the Torah to the parents who, in-turn, hand down the Torah to the B’nai Mitzvot. I can do my part to ensure that we continue to thrive as a Jewish people, and as a vibrant Jewish community in San Diego County.

**Barbara Bry**

Because of my mom, I’ve devoted a large part of my life to empowering other women and paying tribute to my Jewish roots. This is why my estate includes a gift to the Jewish Community Foundation and other Jewish organizations.

**Hannah Cohen and Elliott Edelstein**

We strive to be good role models for our family, and by becoming Legacy donors, we hope our children will in turn follow in our path and discover a new facet of their Jewish experience and identity. Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah used to say, “If there is no sustenance, there is no Torah, but if there is not Torah, there can be no sustenance”.

**COMMUNITY-WIDE Book of Life**

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Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key responsibilities is to make the world a better place for generations to come.

Donna and Larry Dawson
We made our decision to donate all of our estate upon our deaths. We made this decision certainly with L’Dor v’Dor uppermost in our minds and in memory of our beloved daughter Rachel Gabriele z”l.

Rabbi Aaron* and Jeanne Gold
All of our synagogue and Jewish community involvement has led me to continue the legacy of Rabbi Gold z”l, our legacy, with a financial commitment to Tifereth Israel Synagogue and other Jewish organizations in San Diego. After Aaron died in 2001, I realized that putting this commitment into my trust was the best way to support Jewish tradition and the San Diego Jewish community. Now that is a legacy!

Judy Gumbiner
Participation in the Book of Life is a way to acknowledge the importance of community involvement. I deeply appreciate the numerous blessings we all gain from our strong community.

Wayne and Naomi Harris
Soon after starting a family, it became clear that our participation in the San Diego Jewish community could make a real and lasting impact not just on us, our children and our community, but on our people as a whole. We consider it an honor to have the opportunity to leave a legacy that will impact the Jewish people for generations to come.

Sue and Jerry Hermes
The best and most certain way to see that Tifereth Israel is financially sustained in the future, is through the Endowment Fund. It most certainly is the gift that keeps on giving and giving and giving.

William and Diane Hillman
We will never forget what our people sacrificed and went through to be Jewish – and how vital it is for us to stay united as a Jewish people.

Howard Jacoby
My lifelong passion is to increase the vitality of the Jewish people because of their beneficial influence on the world. This influence is remarkable comparing its extent to the small number of Jews.

Marilyn and Leopoldo Kahn
We want our children and grandchildren to know the importance of their Jewish identity and their connection to the synagogue life and worship. We decided to express this by leaving a legacy to the synagogues that meant so much in our lives.

Franklin Felber
The Hand Up Food Pantry of Jewish Family Service offers food and other essentials. I’m grateful to JFS for the privilege to help those in need through this vital service.

*of Blessed Memory
Marcia Kern and James “Marty” Stern
Volunteerism and Jewish life were part of the fabric of our families as we grew up. As a result, we feel very strongly about giving back to the Jewish community that helped us and our families along the way. Our parents were models of participation and giving; we want to continue that example to honor them.

Mavis Kaplan
I made this Legacy to honor my parents and thank them for the good Jewish life they instilled in me. I hope that Temple Adat Shalom will continue to grow, and that the young people will learn the importance of their shul.

Roxanne and Norm Katz
We are honored to make a legacy gift to ensure that the San Diego Jewish community continues to thrive. We are signing this Book of Life to seal our commitment to our community and to continue the traditions our parents have instilled in us.

Jeanie and Hillel Katzeff
We want to encourage Jews living in the diaspora to strengthen their connection with Israel. Hillel’s parents, Ada Katzeff z”l and Oscar Katzeff z”l, embodied this connection.

Create a Jewish Legacy
A program of the Jewish Community Foundation San Diego
A legacy gift of any size will ensure that your family’s values live on in perpetuity.

What will your Legacy be?

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David Koplar and Karine Seigel
For us, one of the real pleasures in life is being Jewish and giving back.

Lois Richmond
It is my dream that the next generation of San Diegans will continue to keep alive our Jewish heritage and tradition of Tikkun Olam. Hopefully, my legacy gift will in a small way support their efforts to give back to this wonderful community.

Wiltach Levy and Jennifer Tabak-Levy
The San Diego Jewish Community is the backbone of all our relationships and connections. We are proud and honored to commit to supporting it throughout our lives and beyond.

Ron and Cathi Marx
Our family has a rich history of Jewish survival, tenacity and love of life. It is our hope that the legacy we leave behind will create a beacon of homecoming, so that regardless of where they go, our children will always have a path that will lead them home to their own familiar Jewish traditions.

Eli and Susie Meltzer
We both were raised in traditional Jewish families where we were educated to love our heritage from our beloved grandparents, parents, and extended family. As Hillel wrote: If am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when? As San Diego Jewish Community Foundation donors, we are pleased to support the Jewish connections that have so enriched our lives.

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Irwin and Gloria Scarf
We are from New York and raised our family in Phoenix, where we have been very involved in the Jewish community for many years. Our dream for the Jewish community is that it becomes more Jewish!

Karen Joy Shaw and Gerry Weitz
Giving to organizations and causes close to your heart is one of the ways a person can leave this world with a peaceful heart. For my wife and I, that means creating a legacy to “pay it forward” to organizations that profoundly impacted our lives.

Marni and David Sider
When our kids were little we explored a few temples in the area as we knew we wanted to have our kids grow up with a Jewish identity. It is our honor being able to leave a legacy to Temple Adat Shalom.

Barbara and Bill Sperling
With a grateful heart we sign the Book of Life and thank our wonderful parents and families who nurtured and taught us through their actions, the value of kindness and goodness which were, and continue to be, the foundation of our lives. We give from the heart, our time, our energy, and now, our living legacy.

Judy Spaner Stern
I find myself reflecting on my life experiences and values that make me the person I am today, the person I will be tomorrow, and the person who will be remembered. And I am grateful that I have the means to give back and to help sustain and grow the future of Judaism in San Diego.

Larry and Lainy Vinikow
Given a choice of where or to whom to leave money during our life or after our death, Jewish Family Service of San Diego was the winning contender. We believe that tzedakah is a basic tenet in the Jewish way of life. So, leaving funds to a Jewish charity was an obvious choice to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Sylvia Wechter
The Jewish community has always been an integral part of the life I shared with my late husband, Aaron z”l. This is why I feel blessed to have the opportunity to honor his memory with a legacy gift to the Jewish Community Foundation. Throughout Aaron’s z”l personal and professional life, he was driven by the Jewish values of hard work, tzedakah and community.

Don and Marcia Wolochow
We feel blessed to be part of, and contributors to, a growing and thriving Jewish community.

Ways To Leave A Legacy
• Appreciated Assets
• Bequest in Will or Trust
• Charitable Gift Annuity
• Charitable Remainder Trust
• IRA or Pension Plan
• Life Insurance Policy
• Real Estate
Contact JCF for a custom legacy plan.

Interested in signing the Book of Life?
To be included, or with any other questions, please contact the Jewish Community Foundation today!

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