



## Rita and Jack Sinder:

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# Legacy MAGAZINE

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## A Tribute to Baruch Littman, Vice President of Development

The Foundation's longtime Vice President of Development, Baruch Littman, will be retiring at the end of June 2019. In his two decades of service, Baruch played a pivotal role in attracting new donors to The Foundation and helping countless donor families plan their philanthropy more strategically. He also developed deep relationships with a broad spectrum of professional advisors throughout Los Angeles to help them better serve their charitably minded clients. Baruch is much admired for his deep knowledge of philanthropy. The entire Foundation family wishes Baruch well in his retirement! ✘



**On the Cover:**

*Rita and Jack Sinder*



# Letter from the President & CEO

Welcome to our refreshed and redesigned *Legacy*! We hope that you'll enjoy the new magazine format, explore inspiring stories of our featured donors, learn more about designed philanthropy, and become motivated to fulfill your vision for *tikkun olam*.

At major Jewish holidays, like most recently on Passover, I like to take time to reflect on where we've been and on the road ahead. Last year, our country experienced several devastating natural disasters, significant changes in the tax law, and a sharp stock market decline in the fourth quarter. Likely concerned by the decreasing value of their portfolios, many people reduced their charitable giving.

“Our donors continued to recommend grants through their charitable funds and we experienced a record \$115 million of grantmaking last year.”

— Marvin I. Schotland

Not so at The Foundation. Our donors continued to enthusiastically recommend grants through their charitable funds at The Foundation to a wide spectrum of causes locally, nationally, and in Israel, so much so that we experienced a record \$115 million of grantmaking last year. This considerable accomplishment reflects our donors' unwavering commitment to building a strong community today and into the future. Our community is also stronger thanks to the significant contributions of **Baruch Littman**, The Foundation's longtime Vice President of Development, who is retiring in June after 20 years of service. We are grateful for his many accomplishments during his tenure.

In this issue, we feature **Rita and Jack Sinder**, donors who exemplify this generous giving spirit. Rita's life was saved by the Kindertransport in World War II, which took her from Austria to England. After the war, she was reunited with her family in the United States where she met her husband, Jack. Born in Poland, Jack and his family had immigrated to the United States and he served in the U.S. Army in World War II. Together, the Sinders chose to prioritize philanthropy and use their life experiences



to inform their giving. In 1985, they created the **Sinder Family Foundation** at the Jewish Community Foundation, and through it they support Israel, Jewish organizations, and Holocaust-related causes.

With the recent observance of Israel Independence Day and Holocaust Memorial Day, it is important to recognize donors like the Sinders. They have dedicated their lives to strengthening the Jewish people and providing meaningful opportunities for future generations. They are pillars in the Jewish community and mighty philanthropists in their own right.

On this note, I want to acknowledge the recent passing of three longtime supporters of The Foundation and prominent community leaders: **Lionel Bell**, **Jake Farber**, and **Larry Weinberg**, of blessed memory. Their lives were a blessing to our community and a testament to the impact one human being can have *l'dor v'dor*. Their passing is deeply felt by many.

With best wishes for a healthy and happy spring. ✨

**Marvin I. Schotland**

President & CEO  
Jewish Community Foundation  
of Los Angeles



# Rita and Jack Sinder: Sustainers of Israel and the Jewish People

Longtime Foundation donors **Rita and Jack Sinder** share a deep passion for philanthropy. They also share a fascinating story of triumph over difficult challenges, along with success and prosperity, much akin to the story of Israel, a unifying bond in their lives.

As a result of their formidable experiences early in life, they decided to focus their charitable efforts primarily on supporting Israel, Jewish organizations, and Holocaust-related causes. We are extremely proud of the enormous impact their charitable giving has had throughout the world. With Israel Independence Day and Holocaust Remembrance Day observed in early May, we thought it fitting to share their moving story and how they came to use The Foundation's services to fulfill their philanthropic passions.

## Rita's Journey: From Vienna to Los Angeles

"I was born in Vienna, Austria. Today I am a very different person from who I was then. I am first a Jew and then a wife, a mother, a businesswoman, and an advocate for Jewish causes, particularly Israel," explains Rita Sinder from her home in Encino that she shares with her husband, Jack. "There are reasons I am a Jew first, and one of them is because Hitler did not want me to survive as a Jew. That makes every day of my life a victory. I am a Jew and a proud one."

Two days after Kristallnacht, on November 12, 1938, three Nazi SS storm troopers in black uniforms wearing high black boots and wielding clubs were about to break down Rita's family's front door. They first tore off the



*Rita and Jack Sinder, longtime Foundation donors and community leaders.*

*mezuzah*. Rita's mother, **Eva Meisler**, opened the door, and the storm troopers grabbed Rita's father, **Nathan**, and dragged him down three flights of stairs. He had been napping on Shabbat afternoon and was wearing only pajamas and in bare feet. His life was saved by the quick thinking of the building manager, a righteous Christian, who quickly found a warm overcoat, hat, and shoes and begged the SS men to allow her to give them to Rita's father. It was November, and heavy snow was on the ground.

Hitler was planning to invade Poland and picked up all the Jewish men born in Poland—including Rita's father—and forcibly took them to the Polish border. They served as the barrier between German soldiers and Poles as Hitler began his attack.

“Philanthropy was always a way of life for us; we try to lead by example. The organizations we are most active with are important to us because we want to be sure future generations remember both what happened during the Holocaust and why Israel is so crucial to the Jewish people.” —Rita and Jack Sinder

Miraculously, Nathan survived. Rita's mother, Eva, wanted to save their children, so she bravely sent Rita on the Kindertransport to London where she temporarily lived with a loving family. Eva sent her other daughter, **Anne**, to a cousin living in Los Angeles, **Martin Gang**, who was a prominent attorney and an early leader of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

At one point, Rita was in London, her sister in Los Angeles, her mother in Vienna, and her father in Poland. An aunt and uncle were in Shanghai, China, and another in Palestine. They all survived the war and one by one came to Los Angeles. Rita was only 11 when she made the risky journey to Los Angeles from England; U-boats patrolled the seas because England was already at war with Germany. Their immediate family was finally reunited, but by the war's end, 56 family members in Poland had been killed. Rita's favorite grandmother in Vienna also did not survive.



Rita and Jack with Dr. Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State.

Rita attended Belmont High School and graduated from USC with a degree in business administration. In 2010, Rita's niece, **Linda Mills**, vice chancellor and a professor of law at New York University, produced an award-winning documentary film, *Auf Wiedersehen ('Til We Meet Again)*. The determination, tremendous resilience, and adaptability that helped Rita and her sister, Anne Mills, survive are featured in the film and still guide them today ([www.tilwemeetagainfilm.com](http://www.tilwemeetagainfilm.com)). Through Linda's research on the film, Rita learned that her beloved grandmother who had lived in Vienna had been murdered by the Nazis at Treblinka. Ironically, years earlier in 1992, the Sinders had traveled with friends throughout Poland visiting all the concentration camps and reciting the *Kaddish* memorial prayer at each location, including Treblinka.

## Jack's Journey: From Poland to Los Angeles

Jack was born in Poland, and his parents moved to Montreal, Canada, when he was four years old. His father, **Rabbi Aaron Sinder**, was an Orthodox rabbi and had a pulpit there. The family later immigrated to America and moved to Lansing, Michigan, where Rabbi Sinder led another congregation.

Jack joined the US Army in World War II while studying mechanical engineering at Michigan State University. He ultimately earned his bachelor's degree in this field after his military service.



# Rita and Jack Sinder

While working at a tool company in Detroit, Jack became acquainted with **Al Schwimmer** and began sending parts to Al at a company in Burbank for “some old planes.” Jack moved to Los Angeles—he was stationed in California during his military service and liked the weather—and together with his uncle, **Leo Kaplan**, started a company called **Turbo Products** in Pacoima that made parts for airplane engines. Jack continued supplying Al with more airplane parts from his company as well as from others across the U.S. Those parts were being sent clandestinely via Mexico to then Palestine to repair a handful of surplus World War II fighter planes that helped defend Israel in its War of Independence. Al ultimately became the founder and first CEO of **Israel Aircraft Industries**. Jack and Al remained good friends until Al’s passing in 2011.



*Jack festively attired for 4th of July in front of the family’s boat in Newport Beach.*

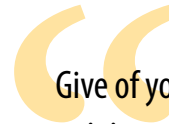
## Falling in Love

It was *bashert*—meant to be—that Rita and Jack would ultimately meet on a blind date, find much in common through their deep passion for Israel and the Jewish people, fall in love, and marry. Jack eventually began working in real estate, established the **Jasin Company** in Encino, and, over the decades, constructed 48 buildings throughout greater Los Angeles. Today, Jasin Company is a real estate management firm, where both Jack and Rita continue to work. They are proud parents of **Sheri** and **Alan** and in-laws to **Jim** and **Hiromi**, and have three grandchildren, **Cara**, **Jeanna**, and **Satomi**. Rita and Jack’s greatest joys are being with family and friends, boating,

and traveling the world along with hosting dozens of extended family members and friends for Passover seders.

## Giving Back

As their business grew, Jack and Rita were inspired to follow in the footsteps of their parents and give back to the community. “When my father was settled in Los Angeles and started to make a living, one of the first things he did was take our family to Jewish Federation fundraising dinners. I remember his always telling my sister and me, ‘When you have it good, you give back,’” said Rita.



**Give of yourself first and only then ask others to join you.”** —Rita and Jack Sinder

In 1985, Jack and Rita wanted to become more strategic with their philanthropy and turned to The Foundation for guidance. They decided to create a Family Support Organization, an ideal alternative to a private family foundation. “If we set up our own foundation, we would need to spend a lot more time managing details rather than getting involved with charitable organizations we care about,” said Jack. “The Foundation does a superb job managing and tracking all the details for us, including tax returns and administration, plus our grantmaking is so easy through it,” he adds. “The Foundation has helped us tremendously over the past 34 years.”



*Rita steering away. Boating is a longtime Sinder family passion.*

## Building a Philanthropic Legacy

Generously contributing their time and financial resources, the Sinders have been an integral force in the Jewish community, living up to their personal motto, "Give of yourself first and only then ask others to join you." They are longtime advocates and active members of many organizations that strengthen Jewish life, teach lessons of the Holocaust, and build Israel.

They support **The Los Angeles Jewish Federation**, **American Jewish University**, the **Simon Wiesenthal Center** and its **Museum of Tolerance** in Jerusalem, and **Valley Beth Shalom (VBS)**, where Jack was construction chair of



*Rita and Jack enjoying a casual moment together.*



*Jack's grandchildren and a grandniece negotiating for the afikomen at a Sinder family seder.*

the second phase of its expansion. They are sponsoring additional construction at VBS, the **Jack and Rita Sinder Entrance Pavilion**. The Sinders also support health care organizations in Israel along with **Israel Bonds** and **AIPAC**, where Rita is active on its National Board of Directors. She also serves on the VBS Board of Directors. The influence of their philanthropy and volunteerism on Jewish life is widely felt throughout the San Fernando Valley, Southern California, nationally, and in Israel.

"Philanthropy was always a way of life for us," said the Sinders. "We try to lead by example. The organizations we are most active with are important to us because we want to be sure future generations remember both what happened during the Holocaust and why Israel is so crucial to the Jewish people."

**Marvin Schotland**, president and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation, has worked closely with the Sinders for many years. As he explains, "Rita and Jack devoted considerable thought to assessing their legacies and determining how their life experiences would so significantly guide their philanthropy. We are truly honored that they trusted us to help them strengthen the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Thinking about how they transformed their life experiences into so much good in our world, I am deeply inspired." ✨

### The Foundation's Support of Israel

The Foundation and many of our donors share the Sinders' deep passion for Israel. Over the past five years, \$73 million in total grants have flowed through The Foundation to a wide range of non-profits in Israel that strengthen the country. The top three areas of support include:

- **Human Services**  
(\$26 million, or 36%)
- **Arts, Culture, and Civic Life**  
(\$20 million, or 27%)
- **Education**  
(\$16 million, or 22%).



# Welcome New Trustees

## We Proudly Welcome 4 New Trustees

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of leaders from throughout Los Angeles, representing a spectrum of industry expertise and dedication to our community. **Lynn Bider** has served in leadership roles at The Foundation for many years, and we're delighted to welcome her back to the Board. We're also pleased to embrace three new trustees—**Jeffrey Loeb, Ari Moss, and Debra Smalley**—who are each seasoned community activists and distinguished professionals in their respective fields.

**“I have been particularly impressed with The Foundation’s staff, grantmaking, and programs. I have served a prior term as a trustee and am excited to serve again. I hope to continue in its tradition of excellence.”** — Lynn Bider

**Lynn Bider** formerly served as the Sylvia Weisz Women’s Campaign Chair at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. She is the past president of Stephen Wise Temple and has served as on its Board of Trustees and Executive Committee as well as gala officer-in-charge since 1998.



Mrs. Bider also serves on the Beit T’Shuvah Board of Directors and previously served as an officer. She received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles and her degree in education from the University of Southern California. Married for over 40 years, Mrs. Bider and her husband, Les, reside in Beverly Hills and have two children and two grandchildren.

**Jeffrey Loeb** is a partner at Loeb & Loeb LLP. Representing many high net worth individuals and families, he practices in the areas of estate planning and trust and estate administration. Mr. Loeb focuses on helping clients develop a plan for the orderly transfer of assets during life or upon death, emphasizing the preservation of family wealth through the minimization of federal gift and estate taxes. He has resolved disputed matters before the IRS and the U.S. Tax Court. Mr. Loeb has served as a probate mediator for the Probate Department of the Los Angeles



**“I’ve worked with hundreds of families on their estate plans, and seen first-hand the value of having a trusted partner in your philanthropy. The Foundation partners with advisors and their clients to simplify the planned giving process and find creative solutions to complex problems. I’m proud to be on the Board of this valuable organization.”** — Jeffrey Loeb



Superior Court and as an appellate court mediator for the Second District of the California Court of Appeal, handling only trust and estate controversies. Mr. Loeb received his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his law degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

**For 65 years, The Foundation has played a critical role in building the LA Jewish community. Its commitment to helping our community evolves through its Cutting Edge Grants program, its ability to help donors realize their charitable goals, and its fiscal discipline, making it a premier partner for anyone committed to philanthropy. I am honored to serve on the Board of this incredible organization."**

— Ari Moss

**Ari Moss** is a partner at Moss Bollinger LLP. Born and raised in California, Mr. Moss grew up in a family committed to justice. While in college, he worked for Congressman Tom Lantos of California on human rights legislation



and alongside colleagues to help bring about significant change. As an attorney, Mr. Moss has represented thousands of Californians in lawsuits, class actions, private mediations, and examinations under oath, all with the goal of helping people get justice. He is a past Board Chair of the Shalom Institute, has served on the boards of IKAR and Limmud LA, and is a member of Valley Beth Shalom. Mr. Moss received his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, his law degree from Loyola Law School, and is a Wexner Heritage alum.

**Debra Smalley** is a real estate broker in Los Angeles. She joined Core Real Estate Group in 2019, where she represents domestic and international buyers and sellers in Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Holmby Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood Hills, and other areas in greater Los Angeles.



Ms. Smalley owned and operated her own commercial real estate company for 10 years before launching her career in residential real estate. As a third-generation Los Angeles resident, Ms. Smalley has a consummate understanding of the marketplace. She has worked with award-winning teams at Coldwell Banker, Compass, John Arroe, and Pacific Union. Ms. Smalley graduated and taught at the Center for Early Education before attending UCLA. She is certified to teach children with learning disabilities and behavioral problems through the Julia Ann Singer Clinic. Ms. Smalley is a board member of University Women at American Jewish University. ✦

**I am honored to be involved with The Foundation, the leader in charitable giving services for the LA Jewish community. As a member of the Cutting Edge Grants Committee, which helps launch new and innovative organizations and programs in Jewish Los Angeles, it is incredibly rewarding to empower these organizations and positively impact the world."** — Debra Smalley

## The Denenberg Fine Arts Gallery Private Tour & Reception

One of the goals of The Foundation's Center for Designed Philanthropy is to curate exclusive events for donors to network together, learn about new approaches to effective philanthropy, and explore ways to give more strategically. On Sunday, April 7, gracious hosts and longtime donors **Stuart and Beverly Denenberg** invited us into their private gallery for just this purpose and for an afternoon reception featuring distinctive works of art and fascinating stories.

The **Denenberg Fine Arts Gallery**—a must-see for art enthusiasts—featured *The Curious Art of Valerie Von Sobel*, an exhibition of her imaginative sculptures. According to Stuart Denenberg, Von Sobel arrived in the United States in 1956 as a Hungarian Jewish refugee, worked as an actress, and eventually became an artist specializing in fanciful artwork created in the assemblage style. She is also a philanthropist and created the **Compassion Can't Wait** nonprofit in memory of her late son who passed away from an illness as a teenager. When a single parent is caring for a seriously ill child,



*Foundation donor Diane Sweet shared her story of philanthropy with attendees.*

Compassion Can't Wait helps with urgent expenses to allow parents to stay at their children's bedsides during the illness.

Other speakers included Foundation Board Chair **Bill Feiler**, and Vice President of the Center for Designed Philanthropy, **Elana Wien**. Additionally, Foundation donors **Daniella Kahen**, **Jeremy Rosenthal**, and **Diane Sweet** shared meaningful stories of their philanthropic accomplishments made possible with the Center's help. Each spoke passionately about their charitable ambitions and how the Center for Designed Philanthropy helped them achieve their goals.

### THE CENTER FOR DESIGNED PHILANTHROPY

**provides the resources, expertise, and connections to design thoughtful giving strategies tailored to your needs.**

The Center works closely with donors to answer their questions, explore their interests, and identify their passions, ultimately connecting them with outstanding programs and organizations. Center services are available to all Foundation donors.

**Learn more at [www.jewishfoundationla.org/center](http://www.jewishfoundationla.org/center).**



Our gracious hosts Beverly & Stuart Denenberg outside their gallery.



Guests enjoyed a reception and toured the gallery.



Exhibit at the Denenberg Fine Arts Gallery.



Bernard, Susan, and Piper Kamins.

## Donor Impressions

The Denenberg Fine Arts Gallery and adjacent patios were filled with enthusiastic donors discussing art, culture, and their stories of giving.

New donor **Bridget Trumpet**, President and CEO of Trumpet Financial Group, said, "I'm getting to know The Foundation and other donors better through this special event. The mix of the lively art and learning about The Foundation is so interesting."

**David Nimmer**, a copyright law attorney at Irell & Minella, said he attended because it was a unique opportunity to see inside a private gallery. "It was wonderful to see the fascinating art exhibit and hear the uplifting donor presentations. I enjoyed it immensely!" David particularly

appreciated learning about the Center for Designed Philanthropy, saying, "I've had a Donor Advised Fund at The Foundation for 10 years, and I now realize how beneficial the Center for Designed Philanthropy can be. I just planted a seed with Elana to explore how the Center might help me with my charitable giving, and I look forward to seeing what the future brings."

"It was very special to spend a gorgeous Sunday afternoon event with a community of art and philanthropy enthusiasts," said donor **Zach Dresben**, an estate planning attorney and principal of Kramer + Dresben. "The Foundation and the Denenbergs created an intimate gathering where everyone shared an appreciation of art and charitable goals."



## Event Speakers and Attendees



*(L-R) Speakers and Foundation donors Diane Sweet, Daniella Kahen, and Jeremy Rosenthal.*

“Tzedakah shouldn’t happen only in synagogues, and it doesn’t have to do just with how religious you are, how poor or rich, or how old or young. We give tzedakah for the sake of the general good.”

— Diane Sweet is a longtime philanthropist who supports organizations that help people experiencing homelessness.

“The Foundation was there for me along the way, to connect me with people who could support me, give me advice—they were really like my cheerleaders. Working with The Foundation has been such a powerful and meaningful experience.”

— Daniella Kahen sought guidance from The Foundation when she founded the Yad Alliance Giving Circle.

“About three years ago, I was looking at a nonprofit world that, to me, felt quite complicated. I wanted to join a board but didn’t know how to go about researching which one would be the best match for my interests and skills. I turned to the Center for Designed Philanthropy—a resource I hadn’t previously been exposed to—to help me find a charity I could volunteer for that spoke to the needs I was interested in—youth, homelessness, and hunger. With the Center’s help, I ultimately selected to join the board of Youth Emerging Stronger.”

— Jeremy Rosenthal is an attorney who specializes in distressed business reorganization for Force 10 Partners. He consulted the Center for Designed Philanthropy before joining a nonprofit’s board.

# Recently Seen... At the Denenberg Fine Arts Gallery Donor Event



- 1 Susan & Joseph Miller
- 2 Beverly Denenberg, Norma Bubar, and Stuart Denenberg
- 3 Gail & Dennis Galanter
- 4 Larry Hochberg & Sue Neuman Hochberg
- 5 Judith & Larry Garshofsky
- 6 Jonathan & Natalie Gerber
- 7 Taylor Lovio, Zachary Dresben, and Marvin Schotland
- 8 Irwin Weiss and Elana Wien
- 9 Irving & Sandy Klasky
- 10 Dan & Daniella Kahen
- 11 Bill & Cece Feiler
- 12 Zuzana & Shawn Landres
- 13 Mark & Ellie Lainer
- 14 Mark & Marijane Mitock

*Photos: Vivien Best*



## Why Us: 10 Reasons Working with The Foundation Is Different...and Better.

### 1 Trust Our Expertise in Los Angeles and Israel

We are experts in the charitable terrain of Los Angeles and Israel. Many large corporate investment firms offering charitable funds often lack the localized expertise you need, as they are typically far removed from the nonprofits you want to learn about and support. Our deep resources ensure that you have access to the best possible guidance.

### 2 Access Designed Philanthropy

Our Center for Designed Philanthropy provides expert guidance on your giving, vets causes, and works with different generations of a family to solve grantmaking challenges. Take advantage of the many complimentary services to help you and your family design your giving more strategically.

### 3 Depend on Our Longevity

We are proud that our staff members value their roles and invest their careers with us. Our average staff tenure is 10 years, meaning donors receive a great deal of valued stability and reliability.

### 4 Connect with a Real Person

Our dedicated development team members connect with you personally. If you call, they'll either pick up or respond promptly to a voice mail—no 1-800 call center treatment. We pride ourselves on the personal and collaborative relationships you develop with a committed, caring, and knowledgeable professional who will partner with you for years to come.

### 5 Enjoy an Ownership Share in Our Grantmaking

Because the fee on donor funds supports The Foundation's various grant programs, you have an ownership share of our robust grantmaking throughout Los Angeles and in Israel. Unlike for-profit investment firms offering charitable funds, our fee doesn't disappear—it continues to do good and give back. With us, your giving is larger than just your own charitable fund.

You have many choices when selecting where to open a charitable fund, but we believe we stand out in our field by collaborating with donors on solutions that meet their needs and improve our community, when this type of support is requested. We strive to provide a customized, rewarding, and personal experience.

Here are 10 reasons we feel our collaborative approach distinguishes us from all the rest.

### 6 Attend Educational Events

We continually develop opportunities for donors to learn and network. We understand that the more philanthropic knowledge you have, the better your experience, so we host educational events throughout the year in donors' homes, museums, art galleries, and more.

### 7 Make Complex Gifts

Whether you're selling a business or a share in a real estate project, we can efficiently convert that asset into charitable dollars through our team of experts. We collaborate with your professional advisor(s) and welcome complex transactions. Giving shouldn't be complicated!

### 8 Receive an Impact Report\*

Each year we produce a dynamic report for our donors with the top 10 causes they supported, information on current and past giving histories, and graphic illustrations highlighting their philanthropic impact. Donors anticipate this report so they can assess their giving and make adjustments to suit their annual goals.

### 9 Create a Tribute Fund

To celebrate special occasions—a bar/bat mitzvah, wedding, birth, or retirement—or to honor a loved one's memory, you can create a Tribute Fund. It enables family and friends to easily make contributions and can be created immediately at your request.

### 10 Build a Permanent Family Legacy

There is no better place in Los Angeles for you to build a charitable legacy for your family. Our multigenerational donor base is proof that lasting legacies are built here. Please join us!

\* \$50,000 minimum fund balance to receive this benefit.

# Conversations with Our Donors

## by Steve Gamer, Vice President of Advancement



One of my great pleasures is daily conversation with our donors who are passionate about philanthropy. Sometimes it's technical in nature, but often it entails more in-depth discussion about the latest causes our donors are enthusiastic about supporting. Helping our donors explore and support issues they feel connected to—and being trusted to help build a family's legacy—makes me feel very proud.

We recently sat down with longtime donors **Stephanie** and **Michael Weisberg** to discuss why they chose The Foundation 20 years ago as their vehicle for charitable giving.

### Building a Family Legacy

Michael and Stephanie, residents of Calabasas—and their three children—aren't strangers to giving back. Michael's family has a long history of Jewish communal involvement, and Stephanie is devoted and hands-on in several philanthropic endeavors—supporting with time, leadership, and donations.

Their giving is primarily focused on strengthening the Jewish community and ensuring its future and includes organizations such as **Heschel Day School**, **de Toledo High School**, **Temple Aliyah**, **Camp Ramah**, the **Los Angeles Jewish Home**, **USC Shoah Foundation**, and

more. They also contribute to areas like health care and the **LA Dodgers Foundation**, which improves inner-city communities by building baseball fields. They contribute to causes that directly affect their lives and whereby they can help less fortunate individuals.

### Why Choose The Foundation?

Why did the Weisbergs choose The Foundation for their philanthropy so many years ago? Michael said that donating to a centralized entity was appealing because it was easy to set up, he received an immediate tax deduction, and he could make charitable distributions to various causes over time through his family's fund. "It's reassuring to know our charitable dollars are there in our fund and that we can distribute the money whenever we want," he added.

Michael and Stephanie enjoy the logistical advantage of having their charitable interests under one roof. "The Foundation can do anything we need it to do. We also like the fact that it's run by Jewish community leaders who are making careful and well-reasoned investment decisions for us. We know our charitable dollars are in good hands there."

The Weisbergs spoke about the value they receive. "The Foundation is big enough that it has, for example, the expertise to accept donations of complex assets, yet it's intimate enough to offer personalized attention when we need it," they explained. Stephanie and Michael also value our proactive attentiveness and accessibility.

Today, the Weisbergs transmit their giving traditions to their children—**Jonah** (18), **Zoe** (16), and **Lexie** (12)—by engaging in *tikkun olam*. Stephanie said the children see their family's contributions firsthand and have even fund-raised themselves by participating in the Jewish Federation's Tour de Summer Camps bike-a-thon. "We're proud knowing that our children will step into our shoes and take over our fund one day," said Stephanie. "It's a great tool to grow *tzedakah* over time and never expires, so it's ideal for building our family's charitable legacy." ✖



Longtime Foundation donors Stephanie and Michael Weisberg with their children (L-R) Jonah, Lexie and Zoe.

## Legacy MAGAZINE

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES



(L-R) Foundation Trustee Adlai Wertman and Director of Charitable Gift Planning Natella Royzman along with (far right) Foundation Chair Bill Feiler pay tribute to seven professional advisors including (3rd from l) Scott Shagrin of Merrill Lynch; Paul Hoffman of Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker; Robert Harrison of Tanner Mainstain Glynn & Johnson; Jonathan Gerber of Gerber & Company; Erez Kabaker of Bank of New York Mellon; Janet Krost of Houlihan Lokey; and Alan Lowy of Barton, Klugman and Oetting. Photo: Kyle Espeleta.

## Professional Advisors Celebrated

In early May, The Foundation hosted nearly 100 professional advisors at the **Wende Museum of the Cold War** in Culver City to pay tribute for their contributions to The Foundation's success. The Foundation works closely with many professional advisors—estate planners, financial advisors, investment managers, and CPAs—across Greater LA to help them fulfil their clients' charitable objectives. Attendees were treated to inspiring remarks by Foundation Chair Bill Feiler and Trustee Adlai Wertman. Seven professional advisors received special recognition and The Foundation's "Trusted Advisor" award for their significant contributions. ✧

*Chair*  
**William R. Feiler**

*President & CEO*  
**Marvin I. Schotland**

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**Harold J. Masor**  
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**Eugene Stein**  
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**Steve Gamer**

*Vice President, Marketing &  
Communications*  
**Lew Groner**

*Vice President, Development*  
**Baruch S. Littman**

*Vice President, Center for  
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**Elana Wien**

*General Counsel*  
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Please send your comments and suggestions to the editors.

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SPRING 2019 / Vol. 29 • No. 13

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