



### Judy and Bernard Kristal

The Jewish Community has been so important to both of us. We are thankful for what we have but also realize that we don't just live for ourselves. I became a volunteer for the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations which later became the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. I was attracted to this organization because it does work that is not being done by any other organization and is done in a quiet and effective way. It works with diverse community groups to address common concerns such as religious freedom, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding. - Judy

After I retired in 2002, the Jewish Community Pantry became a major interest. I devote volunteer time and donations to do a *mitzvah* and help people in need. There is a definite comradery among pantry

volunteers from picking up food every week to distributing food to the neighborhood people. The volunteers develop a strong bond and a true friendship. Our community organizations improve life for the Jewish people. People need to volunteer to make things better and we need to support these organizations with our time and money. - Bernard

### Lloyd and Sheri Levin



Honi ha Magel said, "As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." His story has been the basis of our actions in our local, national and world-wide Jewish community. Through our activities in both the United Jewish Appeal and the

Council of Jewish Federations, we were privileged to be exposed to some of the greatest thinkers of our time, and we were guided by one of the best Federation professionals in the country - Mel Zaret. They all helped us understand that we really wanted to be activists and make a difference in the history of our people. In addition, we realized that within the Jewish Community there is so much more beyond ourselves. We hope that the legacy we leave will plant deep Jewish roots and will ensure Jewish continuity *l'dor v'dor. Am Yisrael chai!*

### Robert and Micki Seinfeld



When my wife Sylvia passed away, I looked to the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center for an area where I could provide a meaningful endowment in her memory. At that time, the new technology of personal computers was in its early stages. I decided that

a computer lab to educate the young and old about the new technology would be an important program. After a number of years, the computer lab was no longer needed at the JCC. Then, I decided to refocus my legacy support to the annual JCC Jewish Film Festival. Films with a Jewish theme have always been a major source of education, entertainment and history for the Jewish community.



Jewish Community Foundation  
**MILWAUKEE**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

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JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
**BOOK of LIFE**

# BOOK of LIFE

Charitable individuals can leave a financial legacy long after their lifetimes. The Jewish Community Foundation's Book of Life helps ensure that your charitable values last just as long.

The Book of Life is a collection of essays that record the personal histories and the Jewish values that inspired an after lifetime investment in our community's future. The Jewish Community Foundation established the Book to honor and pay tribute to individuals and families who establish endowments or create other after lifetime gifts. A photo of the donor accompanies each donor's essay. The Book of Life is viewable by the public and is kept on permanent display at the Foundation's office.

Consider adding your story to the Book of Life. To learn more, contact Caren Goldberg, executive director of the Jewish Community Foundation, at 414-390-5737 or [CarenG@MilwaukeeJewish.org](mailto:CarenG@MilwaukeeJewish.org).

## Nancy and Jim Barnett



Growing up in Glencoe, we looked like every other suburban family, but mine was different. My father had a thick accent and an Irish surname (Kennedy) that he created after surviving the concentration

camps in WWII. I learned from my father's experience as a survivor that I must live life to its fullest. I became an oncology nurse and married Jim. I committed myself to Jewish life, taking on leadership roles in the community, engaging in advanced Jewish studies and becoming a *bat mitzvah* later in life.

Jewish values are at the center of our lives, and we work to pass them on to our children. At Chanukah we took the children to buy a toy to donate to a charity of their choice. When we bought a gift for ourselves, we'd also make a *tzedakah* donation at the same time. I am proud to have created endowments that support camping and lifelong learning, giving other families the same opportunities to become involved in Jewish life.

## Leon Joseph and Bonnie Bockl Joseph



Judaism, to me, is making a difference in your Jewish community. I recall that the scholar Hillel said, "Love thy neighbor – all the rest is rhetoric." I also care about Israel and the

safety and prosperity of its people as well as the safety and prosperity of all Palestinians. Where do I get this passion for people and the desire to make a difference? It is primarily from my father, a prominent Milwaukee real estate developer, George Bockl. As an illegal immigrant, he arrived in America through Nova Scotia, Canada. For my Dad, one of his proudest accomplishments as an American was paying his taxes. He felt lucky to pay his share in exchange for his freedom and the ability to be educated. I am grateful for the lessons he taught me including the importance of making a difference.



## Phyllis Lensky

Sophie and Lou Kaplan, my parents and first generation Americans, were my role models. They married during the Depression and struggled to get by, living with my grandmother to save money. In 1936, I was born, another addition to an already crowded household with two boarders living in the back bedroom.

I grew up in a Catholic neighborhood on Milwaukee's South Side where my father owned a drug store. My parents made sure I received a Jewish education. For a year, I traveled by bus to the Sherman Park neighborhood to attend a public school with more Jewish children, and eventually we moved there.

In 1958 I earned a degree in occupational therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. That summer, a co-worker at a Jewish camp fixed me up on a blind date with the man who would become my husband. Harry was a gentle, loving and responsible man, a voracious reader with a wonderful smile and laugh, and a sharp, analytical mind. His childhood was not easy. He lived at the Jewish Children's Home for several years because his mother, an immigrant woman who was divorced from his father, could not take care of him.

We raised two children, Mark and Roberta, who have given us nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Harry and I were devoted parents, but we found time to be active volunteers. Harry became president of several Jewish organizations including Jewish Family Services. Our children are dedicated volunteers as well. They grew in their Jewish observance over the years, and Harry and I grew with them.

My mother used to say, "I like to give with a warm hand." She enjoyed the pleasure of giving during her lifetime. I have enjoyed the same pleasure by creating an endowment with the Jewish Community Foundation to benefit my synagogue and Jewish Family Services, in my husband's memory. My hope is that JFS will continue to help children and families in the same way it gave hope, sustenance and love to Harry. He would have approved.