

Not Your Mother's Manischewitz



Special thanks to Robin and Alan Wallack for graciously hosting our annual Foundation reception for fund holders and legacy donors. At the early April gathering, entitled *Not Your Mother's Manischewitz*, we sampled Kosher wines from Israel and other select countries. Much gratitude to Princeton Corkscrew for choosing a variety of wines and for explaining how to feature each one at our Passover seders. Thank you to those who joined us and to all for your support of our Jewish Community Foundation.



LIFE & LEGACY HIGHLIGHTS

The Foundation hosted its first LIFE & LEGACY Workshop of the year in late February at Congregation Beth Chaim. Led by nonprofit management consultant Xan Blake, we strategized about ways to feel more comfortable when talking with members of our community about the importance of legacy giving.

In March, our LIFE & LEGACY Partners competed for a prize. Who could secure the most Promises (aka legacy commitments) in this one month? Kudos go to the tenacious team from Or Chadash in Flemington, NJ for receiving four Promises in March and winning the MARCH MADNESS prize. Congratulations!

A second LIFE & LEGACY Workshop is planned for the end of April at Adath Israel Congregation featuring fundraising and board development professional Lisa Adler. The workshop title - *Help! Our Stewardship Plan is Growing Stale!* - emphasizes the importance of maintaining fresh, personal and ongoing connections among our LIFE & LEGACY Partner organizations and their loyal supporters.

THANK YOU!

We are incredibly grateful to the dedicated individuals who have made 582 LIFE & LEGACY Promises to date, to one or more of our Partner organizations. Thank you to the following donors who made a legacy commitment since the launch of Phase 2 of LIFE & LEGACY.

Anonymous (5)
 The Kantor Family
 Sonia Kobrin
 Rabbi Jay & Leslie Kornsgold
 Evelyn C. Kurtzberg
 Art Meisel
 Jennifer & Jonathan Schaffel
 Betsy Seligman

Why have a Donor Advised Fund? Inspiration from Keith Sachs

Despite the fact that my birth certificate gives May 30, 1943 as my date of birth, the day my life began was June 23, 1968. On that Sunday afternoon, I was given a gift. I met Renée and was given the gift of “loving Renée.” I was walking through Central Park and saw the most beautiful woman I had or ever would see. She was, like a nymph, gliding across the grass, her shoes slung over her shoulder. I saw her and said to myself, I have to meet her. Maybe it was chance, maybe Kismet!

I introduced myself. Our initial conversation took place on a New York City park bench. It evolved into dinner and then daily phone calls, coffee and more dinner dates. Seven days after we first met, I knew that I would never love another woman for the rest of my life. But as our love grew, I understood that the gift of loving her came with an important responsibility. My commitment to protect her against the fears of a childhood that Holocaust survivors understood, but few others did. I must love her, protect her and comfort her when the memories reappeared. But where does a Donor Advised Fund fit into this story?

If I wanted her story to be taught to future generations, I needed a tool to do just that. And it was that understanding that helped me recognize the value of a Donor Advised Fund. *The Renée Lise Sachs Charitable Fund for the Benefit of Humanity* was created to honor my wife and perpetuate her unselfish work to teach the world that there are better ways to resolve our differences than war. Simply said, she wanted a better world for all mankind. It was her *raison d'être*.

As a survivor, Renée had struggled with questions that many survivors asked. *Why did I survive while so many other children died? If there is a purpose to my survival, what is it?* “It is difficult to explain to others what you experienced as a child caught in a war. They can listen to your words, but can they ever really feel what you felt?” She tried to explain as though they were feelings in today’s world.

Renée was born on March 13, 1940. Sixty days later Germany declared war and after only one month, France surrendered. Renée was three months old. That is how her life began. Her family avoided arrest and deportation until 1943, when her mother was arrested. “The world was spinning around me and I had only my parents to keep me safe.” And they did until the age of four, when she was sent into hiding. The war ended when Renée was six, but she lived most of the next ten years in a Jewish children’s home. In 1955, her father sent her alone to the US.

“I had a terrible childhood, and it was not much better for many years after the war. And I survived. I survived despite the abandonments, fears and disappointments. And so can every one of you. Yes, you have problems, and your problems are real, but you can survive.” She told her story of constant fear, but left her audiences with hope and, as a teacher, with an assignment.

“I pray that you all will live good moral lives. That you will speak for others who do not have the freedom to speak for themselves. You must learn from tragedy. You can find strength and courage even when you are afraid for your life. Yes, bad things do happen to good people.” Renée impressed upon her students that they, as future leaders, could change the way we resolve disputes and protect millions of innocent people from further suffering.

Renée was asked to speak on many occasions to students and adults. One year, she was a participant in the NJ Adopt a Survivor Program. Three AP history students spent the year talking with her and recording the sessions. The result was her video memoir, *Portrait of a Hidden Child and a Lost Childhood*. It is now part of the permanent collection at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

In opening a Donor Advised Fund, I committed myself to perpetuating the vital lessons learned from Renée. Through the Fund, I provide ongoing financial support to existing and new organizations while building a cadre of non-museum speakers. I’m grateful to the Jewish Community Foundation for helping me honor Renée now and into the future, long past my own last presentation.