



Dear John,



As 2025 comes to a close and we celebrate the lights of *Chanukah*, there's still time to make a meaningful difference and **maximize your tax benefits before the new OBBBA legislation goes into effect** on January 1, 2026.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on how to optimize your giving in 2025. Your year-end gift

helps us keep the light burning bright by meeting critical needs, strengthening Jewish life and supporting our community in Miami and abroad, **forever**.

Beginning in 2026, we are excited to introduce **“Conversations With...”**, a new **virtual** series created to deepen engagement with our Legacy Society members and spotlight the impact of your generosity through authentic, inspiring discussions. We'll kick off the series with an **exclusive conversation with Federation President and CEO, Scott Kaufman, on Thursday January 22 at noon**. Scott will share his vision for Federation's future, discuss our priorities for the coming year and answer your questions **live**. **[Click here to register and receive the Zoom link](#)**.

As we gather with friends and family to celebrate *Chanukah* and reflect on its message of resilience and hope, we are deeply grateful for your support and commitment.

Chanukah Sameach!

Shelly M. Brodie

Shelly Brodie
The Foundation Chair



Scott Kaplan

Scott Kaplan
Chief Foundation Officer



DONOR STORY - LAURA LAVIE



community.

The Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation is proud to welcome **Laura Lavie** as one of our newest legacy donors and a member of the Heritage Society. Her journey as a daughter, community leader, attorney and dedicated philanthropist beautifully reflects the values of giving, belonging, and continuity that guide our Jewish

Rooted in Tradition

Born in Mexico City, Laura moved to the United States at just six years old. She grew up in Bergen County, New Jersey, in a traditional Jewish home where her parents ensured she was surrounded by other Jewish children, enrolling her in Hebrew school, youth groups, and later a Jewish high school.

Some of Laura's most formative experiences came from her summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. She reflects fondly on how meaningful it was to be in an environment where Jewish identity was celebrated: "Jewish sleepaway camp—and being in that environment where kids loved being Jewish—was a really powerful thing."

A Commitment to Community

When Laura moved to Florida in 2009, she found a natural home at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. Over the years, she has served on several committees and was an active member of the Young Leadership Division, building connections and contributing to the strength of the community.

During her career as an estate-planning attorney, Laura served as General Counsel and Vice President of Administration of a large private family foundation. "I saw how important charitable giving was, and it really influenced me," she explained. "Working there gave me an understanding of the unique value of giving back."

Now, in her private practice, Laura helps individuals and families navigate sensitive end-of-life decisions. Through this work, she has gained a deeper appreciation for the meaning of legacy. "When you reach a certain age, you need to be authentic and think about what you want your legacy to be. I want to lead by example and encourage others to perpetuate their Jewish philanthropy," she said.

Everyday Philanthropy

Laura believes strongly that philanthropy is not only for the wealthy or the few, but also something everyone can embrace. "I'm passionate about people understanding philanthropy in everyday life and how much it can change the world," she explained.

This belief inspired her decision to leave her own Jewish legacy at the Heritage Society level. "I want my legacy to do good for other people," she concluded.

Looking Ahead

Laura's story is a reminder that meaningful change begins with individuals who care deeply about the future, people who give not just from their resources, but from their heart. Her dedication to community, tradition, and generosity will continue to uplift and inspire generations to come.

To learn more about creating your own legacy gift, contact Miriam Masia, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, at mmasia@gmjf.org. To read more donors' stories, visit our Book of Life by clicking [HERE](#).

Washington News

Passage of the IRS Math and Taxpayer Help Act

On December 1, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Math and Taxpayer Help Act (H.R. 998) was signed into law. The new law aims to assist taxpayers by requiring the IRS to explain math and clerical errors found on tax returns and include a computation of the...

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Finances

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Treasury Yields Rise

Mortgage Rates Continue to Decline



Personal Planner

IRA and 401(k) Designated Beneficiary Options

Each year, IRAs and 401(k)s are subject to required minimum distributions (RMDs). Because the distributions start at just under 4% at age 73 and then slowly increase, many IRA and 401(k) plans earn more than those payouts and will continue to grow.

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Savvy Living

How to Locate an Age-Friendly Doctor

My spouse and I are relocating to be closer to family and will need to find a new primary care physician. We are both in our late 70s and interested in getting a geriatrician to oversee our health care. Any suggestions for finding someone?

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Gift in Your Will



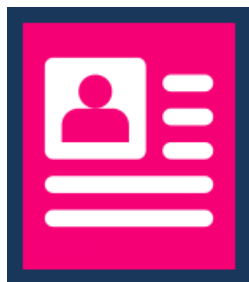
IRA Charitable Rollover



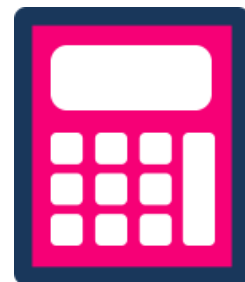
Gifts of Retirement Assets



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DISCLAIMER: The Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation does not provide tax advice. Please consult with your professional advisor before taking any action. As with any significant tax and charitable planning, it is advisable to carefully consider potential changes in the context of your complete financial profile.

For questions about making grants from your Donor-Advised Fund, please email Dyanna Loeb, Donor Services Associate, at dloeb@gmjf.org or call 786.323.7006.

You may also access your fund online through our donor portal at <https://gmjf.donorfirstx.com/>. To learn more about accessing your fund or creating

a new fund or legacy gift, contact Scott Kaplan, Chief Foundation Officer, at skaplan@gmjf.org or 786.866.8623 or Miriam Masia, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, at mmasia@gmjf.org or 786.866.8627.

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