



Dear John,

Tu B'Shevat, known as the "New Year for the Trees," begins tonight at sundown and continues through tomorrow. It is a time to celebrate our responsibility to care for the environment. This holiday symbolizes renewal, growth and the deep-rooted connection between humans and nature.

Our Greater Miami Jewish Federation's legacy donors embody these values by planting seeds for the future. Just as trees provide shade, fruit and beauty for generations, legacy donors ensure the sustainability and vitality of the Jewish community. Contributions through planned giving create endowments that support our Annual Campaign and community programs for many years to come.



By leaving a legacy gift, donors like you make a powerful statement of faith in the future. You trust that your contributions will nurture and sustain the Jewish community, much like the act of planting a tree on *Tu B'Shevat*, which symbolizes hope for future growth and prosperity. These lasting gifts help us respond to evolving needs and challenges, ensuring that our community remains vibrant and resilient.

To thank and honor those legacy donors who have planted seeds for our future, The Foundation invites our legacy society members to a special complimentary event on **Wednesday, February 19 at 7 p.m.** at the Aventura Arts and Culture Center.

L'Chaim: A Toast to the Jewish Legacy of Broadway is a musical journey that pays tribute to the Jewish legacy of musical theatre by exploring and celebrating the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists. Rooted in history, heritage and tradition, four Jewish performers, along with a live band, bring to life the most iconic songs

from the stage of past and present and the historical stories that go with them. History, Heritage, Tradition...*L'Chaim*!

This is a special **thank you appreciation event for Federation legacy donors. To reserve your complimentary tickets to the February 19 performance of *L'Chaim - A Toast to the Jewish Legacy of Broadway***, contact **Tonya Penson** at tpenson@gmjf.org or 786.866.8625. There are only a few seats remaining on a first-come, first-served basis.



With deepest appreciation and gratitude,

Sidney Pertnoy
The Foundation Chair



Scott Kaplan
The Foundation Director



DONOR SPOTLIGHT - JOAN KASNER

Joan Kasner - A Life of Compassion and Service



From a young age, the values of compassion and community were deeply ingrained in Joan Kasner. Growing up in a family that had faced the horrors of pogroms in Ukraine, she learned the importance of kindness and resilience. Her mother, saved by Christian neighbors, and her father, a physician, modeled these values every day.

As she grew older, Joan's passion for helping others led her to pursue a career in education. With a master's degree in Speech and Language and as an Education Specialist in Reading, she dedicated her life to helping children with reading difficulties. Her work at the McGlannan School in Miami, where she served as Director of the Clinic, was a testament to her commitment. She has been at the school since its inception 60 years ago, teaching the students and mentoring teachers. She wrote stories for children, created instructional materials for teachers and educated volunteers, all with

the goal of making a difference in the lives of struggling readers. At the age of 89, she still leaves the house daily at 7:15 a.m. to teach.

Her dedication has extended beyond her professional life. She has been deeply involved in several organizations, including the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and Melton, where she served on boards and contributed her time and expertise. Her synagogue affiliations with Bet Shira Congregation and Temple Beth Am have also been central to her life, where she has participated in *Mitzvah* Days and community missions to Israel.

One of the highlights of her life were her trips to Israel, especially the time she spent working on a military base for three weeks. This experience, as well as her many years of delivering food to the homebound and working at Greater Miami Jewish Federation Super Sundays, showcased her unwavering commitment to repairing the world. Joan says, "I guess I have *Tikkun Olam* in my DNA from my parents and other family members, who were compassionate, liberal and community-minded."

Her parents' influence was evident in her actions. Her father's dedication to his patients, often accepting whatever they could afford during the Depression, and her mother's involvement in community organizations inspired her to follow in their footsteps. She carried these lessons with her, whether she was mentoring volunteer callers at Super Sunday, participating in Federation events or hauling sod squares for Habitat for Humanity.

Joan is grateful to have been able to be a generous donor to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation for well over 40 years. In 2002, she and her husband, David, had the foresight to endow her Annual Campaign gift to Federation and became a Forever Lion and Forever Pacesetter. This gift created a fund in her name that has grown exponentially over time and will make a gift in her name to support the Jewish community forever. Her story is one of dedication and a lifelong commitment to making the world a better place. Through her work with children, her involvement in community organizations and her personal acts of kindness, she has left an indelible mark on the lives of many.

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Washington News

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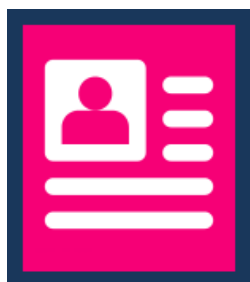
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For questions about making grants from your donor-advised fund, please contact Dyanna Loeb, Donor Services Associate, at dloeb@gmjf.org or call 786.866.8172.

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, Foundation Director, 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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