

# Media Release

## Jewish Foundation of Memphis



AN ENDOWMENT  
IS FOREVER

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### For Immediate Release

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### **JEWISH FOUNDATION HONORS LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS AT 13TH ANNUAL MEETING**

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— The Jewish Foundation of Memphis, celebrating 13 years of service to Memphis are Jewish agencies, honored members of its legacy Society and recognized the fifth anniversary of its Endowment Book of Life at its annual meeting on Sunday morning, April 26, at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC).

The meeting featured an informative speech on legacy gifts by Carol Karsch, executive director of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona; as well as a tribute to outgoing board members and election of new board members.

Titled “BEST Principles for Developing Jewish Endowments”, Ms. Karsch was introduced by Ronna Newburger, president of the Jewish Foundation.

During her introduction Ms. Newburger also recognized two individuals in the audience who accompanied Ms. Karsch – her husband, Dr. Dan Karsch, and Dr. Jerry Neuman, lay leader and past president of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

As the keynote speaker, Ms. Karsch began her presentation by recognizing the Memphis Jewish community as very unique with a great reputation throughout North America for its infrastructure and community involvement.

She continued by outlining her principles for developing endowments as defined by the acronym BEST: Belonging-Sechel-Trust. Individuals must feel they belong to the community, that the leadership has sechel (or smarts) and that there is a trust between the individual and the organization or community their gift will help to endow.

Karsch suggested that when considering a legacy gift in an estate plan, individuals should think of the Jewish community as one more child in the family.

To a crowd of over 100 in the Belz Social Hall Jewish Foundation of Memphis board president, Ronna Newburger called on everyone in attendance at the meeting to stand and be recognized as a “role player” in the long-term success and sustainability of the Memphis Jewish community.

“Every donor, regardless of their financial situation, has the ability to leave a charitable legacy and make a difference in the lives of future generation,” she stated. “It’s the responsibility of each role player in this room to ensure there are sufficient endowment funds to sustain our Jewish communal agencies for future generations.”

Another speaker was Laura Linder, Jewish Foundation executive director, who gave her report to bring the community up to date on the Foundation’s current activities and future direction given the current economic climate.

“Firstly, I will tell you that in my 20 years in this line of work, I have never experienced times like these, what a difference a year can make”, Linder began.

“The budget and finance committee, headed by Nick Ringel, has made difficult decisions which ensure the Foundation continues to spend its limited resources responsibly”.

Linder touched on many successes in the past year including the currently available Donor Advised Fund incentive grant, which is funded by an anonymous donor. The first 10 funds set up by June 30 will receive \$1000 from the Foundation toward the \$5,000 minimum required to establish a fund. The \$1000 incentive grant must be used to support one of our partner agencies by the end of the year. Ms. Linder reported that seven new funds have been established within the last six weeks.

She went on to outline the many ways the Foundation has cut costs which includes electronically mailing fund statements each quarter rather than spending on postage; development of an e-newsletter and a website upgrade, both handled in-house, which further reduce spending on printing and postage. Salary reductions were imposed and programming expenses are being kept to a minimum through sponsorship support and partnering with other organizations.

“Many representatives from our partner agencies are here and I want to thank them for their continued support and for recognizing the important role we play in helping to secure their financial future. Commitment to our partner agencies has not and will not waiver”, commented Ms. Linder.

“Given the economic climate and the challenges of our partner agencies we will not change our strategy. We must continue to forge ahead, promote the importance of long-term financial stability and continue to reach out to you and others in the community to discuss your Jewish legacy”, concluded Ms. Linder.

Individuals newly appointed to the Foundation’s board and the partner agency each represents include: Kara Bierman, Memphis Jewish Home; Pat Chafetz, Jewish Family Service; Frank Frisch, Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation; Gary Kaplan, Beth Sholom Synagogue; Lyda Parker, Baron Hirsch Congregation; Dr. Larry Wruble, Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South; and Paula Jacobson and Kenneth Wurzburg for Temple Israel.

Individuals re-appointed to the Jewish Foundation board and the partner agency each represents include: Jerrold Graber, Memphis Jewish Home; Bernard Lipsey, Baron

Hirsch Congregation; Richard Kessler, Jewish Family Service; Hallie Cohen, Bornblum Solomon Schechter School; Diane Mendelson, Memphis Jewish Federation; and Andy Groveman, Memphis Jewish High School.

Five individuals were nominated for At-Large board positions and included: Jeff Goldstein, Jerry Sklar, Kay Usdan Saslawsky, Ronna Newburger and Rudy Scheidt.

Two individuals were nominated to fill open officer positions: Sandy Blockman for the position of treasurer and Dianne Mendelson for the position of secretary.

Nat Landau, Jewish Foundation immediate past president, presented the nominating committee report. Members of the nominating committee were: Sandy Blockman, Hallie Cohen, Alan Harkavy, Bernard Lipsey, Jerome Makowsky and Ronna Newburger.

Ronna Newburger and her husband Hal have four children and four grandchildren. In addition to her board presidency at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, Newburger has served as president of the Jewish Community Center and on the board of Memphis Jewish Home and Plough Towers.

The Jewish Foundation was created thirteen years ago, in 1995, to assist its participating agencies build and strengthen their endowment funds to help meet their financial obligations and support particular programs. The Foundation also works closely with individual donors and their professional advisors to help accomplish their charitable objectives.

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