

Remembering Allan Fainbarg Foundation Co-Founder and Community Leader

Last month we sadly marked the passing of Allan Fainbarg, co-founder of the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County, long-time board member and generous supporter of our community.



Allan and his family were among the early Jewish families settling in Orange County, arriving in Santa Ana in 1920 when Allan was an infant. Allan's parents struggled to make ends meet, and Allan worked from a young age to help support his family. His hard-working, entrepreneurial character was evident early. Allan worked in the orange groves as a young child wrapping

trees with burlap to keep them warm. By the age of 14, he owned a gas station selling gasoline for 10 cents per gallon.

After witnessing native Alaskans riding kayaks through ice floes during his travels, Allan decided to build and rent kayaks by the ferry in Newport Beach in 1938. He served in the Navy during World War II, and graduated from USC in 1947. Allan then opened the Santa Ana Army-Navy Store selling military surplus. The business expanded to 24 storefronts before he sold the Wild West Stores chain to General Mills in 1981.

Allan felt strongly about sustaining Jewish life in America and Israel, and he was a life-long supporter of many Jewish and secular institutions. Allan and Sandy, along with Arnold and Ruth Feuerstein, founded the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County in 1981. They believed our local community could affect positive change and greater impact by pooling our philanthropic resources together.

Over the years, Allan and Sandy supported a great number of local charitable organizations through their funds at the Foundation, including Jewish Federation &

Family Services, the Meraage JCC, Bureau of Jewish Education, Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School, Santa Ana College and the Orange County Jewish Historical Society.

In recent years, Allan and Sandy were strong supporters of our community's Endowment Book of Life and Create a Jewish Legacy programs, creating a dramatic and lasting impact on the future of Jewish Orange County. As stated by Allan and Sandy in their statement for the Endowment Book of Life:

"When we leave an endowment, our contributions combined with others will help important programs continue into perpetuity long after we're all gone. It's a win-win for everyone."

Allan was a tremendous role model, consistently acting to build and sustain Jewish life while supporting the greater community. He will truly be missed by those at the Foundation and all those he touched with his bright smile, ready sense of humor and generous spirit.

May Allan's family be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may his memory be a blessing.

A high-angle photograph of three children sitting on a paved surface, drawing with chalk. One child is wearing a red shirt, another a white shirt, and a third a blue shirt. They are focused on their drawings, which include hopscotch grids and other patterns. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

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Accessed through the Foundation's existing website, DonorCentral is secure, comprehensive and user-friendly. Feedback from those already using the new site has been overwhelmingly positive. As noted by long-time fund-holder Mark Berman, "The new DonorCentral site implemented by the Jewish Community Foundation is highly impressive. In today's do-it-yourself online world, it is great to be able to view my charitable giving history at a glance, and to initiate new grant requests just as easily. DonorCentral does it all."

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request your personal user name and password. We are excited to provide this added benefit to your partnership with the Foundation, and our entire team looks forward to working with you to make your charitable dreams a reality. Whatever you can envision, we can create together.

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