

A Legacy Supporting Jewish Education Lives On

In 1990, Ruth and Rudolph Sovetts created an endowment fund at the Jewish Community Foundation to benefit Jewish education in Orange County. Since that time, a check has been sent every year in the Sovetts' name through our Foundation's Grants Committee to local Jewish charitable institutions. These include the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Federation & Family Services' PJ Library program, and OC Hillel.



While the Sovetts have sadly passed away, their family legacy enhancing Jewish education in our community lives on to support important programs such as the Hebrew immersion program at the Olam Jewish Montessori Preschool.

Grant Recipient - Olam Jewish Montessori Preschool

In September of 2011 Olam Jewish Montessori Preschool opened its doors on the campus of Congregation Beth Jacob in Irvine. Olam is affiliated with Beth Jacob preschool and welcomes Jewish children from the greater community regardless of membership affiliation or level of observance. Olam is the first and only preschool in Orange County to combine the teaching methods of a Montessori school along with a curriculum immersed with Judaic studies and tradition. In addition, the school fosters a love for Israel and the Hebrew language.

Knowing that preschool children are at an optimal age for learning a second language, Olam set out to create the Hebrew

Language Enrichment Program. The goal was to offer an environment to all of Orange County's Jewish children where the Hebrew language is the central focus. Classes are led weekly by a native Hebrew-speaking teacher, and children celebrate holidays, enjoy Jewish traditions and are encouraged to interact in a positive learning environment while speaking Hebrew.

Due to the generosity and foresight of the Sovetts' in creating their legacy gift, the Foundation's Grants Committee recently funded a grant for the preschool in the Sovetts' name to provide Jewish education to children in the community.

What will your legacy be?

Create a Jewish Legacy in Action: Our First Annual Community Endowment Book of Life Signing Event



On November 6, 2013, the Foundation sponsored our first annual community Endowment Book of Life Signing Event honoring those who have committed to leaving a legacy gift through our Create a Jewish Legacy Program (CJL)*. The Endowment book of Life is an ever-growing collection of signatures and histories of individuals and families in our local Jewish community. Signers of the Book promise to dedicate part of their estate to the Jewish Community.

**75 families have
now signed the
Endowment Book
of Life in Orange
County – and we've
just begun.**



Well over 100 community members attended this special event and those of us in attendance on this inspiring evening can

attest to the remarkable support, engagement and enthusiasm we experienced throughout the night.

Guest speaker Marjory Kaplan, the senior professional of the JCF in San Diego, joined us to share her personal journey towards creating her legacy gift and the success San Diego's Jewish community has achieved with their legacy program. Our President, Gideon Bernstein, spoke beautifully about our Foundation's journey towards the creation of a successful, unified legacy program in Orange County. Foundation board members, Michael Stoll and Linda Schulein recited their personal legacy statements and a representative from each CJL partner organization shared their inspirational stories.

The night was topped off with an incredible dinner, the Book signing, engaging conversation and the knowledge that clergy, professional and lay leaders from our CJL Partner organizations gathered together for the unified purpose of supporting the future of Jewish Orange County. Our next Endowment Book of Life Community Signing Event

will take place in November and honor those who have committed to leaving a gift. To become a part of this united, community-wide effort, please fill out the enclosed Letter of Intent and return it to the Foundation.



**For more information
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*The Foundation's CJL program, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is a community-wide campaign aimed at helping individuals and families build endowments to support the local Jewish institutions they care about most.