ARIE KATZ RECEIVES FOUNDATION’S FIRST ANNUAL FOUNDERS LEGACY AWARD

Orange County Community Scholar Program’s Arie Katz received the Foundation’s 1st Annual Founders Legacy Award. Arie was selected as the 2016 inaugural winner by the Foundation’s Board of Directors for his demonstrated outstanding and exceptional efforts to create a culture of legacy in Jewish Orange County. This annual award honors Foundation founders the Feuerstein, Fainbarg and Stern families.

FOUNDATION GRANT BRINGS TOGETHER OC CLERGY AND EDUCATORS FOR ADDICTION WORKSHOP

Each year, the Foundation invites Jewish organizations from throughout Orange County to apply for grants to fund programs that enhance and enrich the lives of Jews in Orange County. In 2016, the Grants Committee & Task Force received an overwhelming number of applications, ultimately awarding 17 grants to a wide range of programs. These programs serve a broad population with participants ranging in age from 6 months (PJ Library) to our seniors (Ethel’s Chicken Soup).

$57,750 AWARDED TO 17 DESERVING PROGRAMS

Fully funded by a Foundation grant, the Jewish Federation & Family Services Orange County (JFFS) was able to host an educational, half-day training this past November, focused on addiction in the Jewish community. This workshop titled “It Happens Here: Addiction in the Jewish Community” brought together rabbis, cantors and educators from across Orange County. Guest presenter Rabbi Paul Steinberg shared a personal story about recovery and ways in which Judaism can be blended with a 12 step program. Attendees left with lessons on how to be more inclusive and sensitive to those in recovery.

Funding for the Foundation’s annual Grant Award Program comes from the generous support of Steven Fainbarg and the Fainbarg Family, as well as donors, like Marion Miller Neuburger (pictured below), who established endowed legacy gifts to provide financial support to programs they value most.

In June of 2006, Marion created a legacy plan requesting that the remainder of her Charitable Gift Annuity be used to establish a Special Endowment Fund to support social services. Each year the Foundation’s Grants Committee & Task Force select the beneficiary of her fund’s annual distribution ensuring that Marion’s charitable wishes are carried out. JFFS, like many Jewish agencies, relies on grants to fund their vital programs. It is the foresight of donors, such as Marion, that make funding possible.
FORGING A SHARED HISTORY

Celebrating the success of the Foundation’s eleven Create a Jewish Legacy Partners, we gathered at our annual Endowment Book of Life event to honor those committed to leaving legacy gifts for our Jewish community. Clergy, professionals, lay leaders and engaged donors from across the county joined together to share their passion for ensuring a vibrant and thriving Jewish Orange County now and into the future. Representatives from throughout the community shared their personal and heartfelt legacy stories. Rabbi Artson spoke about the changing Jewish world and explored the new reality that for the first time in history, we have the opportunity to choose our individual Jewish traditions and observances. More than 40 guests signed the Endowment Book of Life joining the 214 members of our community creating this shared historical document chronicling the values that shape our collective promise to sustain our Jewish future.

Join us! If you are not yet part of Create a Jewish Legacy, we welcome you to join those who have already created over 430 legacy commitments for our community – and let us honor you at our next annual Endowment Book of Life Celebration on October 29, 2017. Contact Executive Director, Wendy Arenson to learn more.