

Legacy & Endowments



Temple Beth-El

Meet Deb Kushner: "The idea of 'legacy' resonates strongly within me"



This article is the first in a series of Q and A discussions with donors to the Legacy & Endowment (L&E) Program. Its purpose is to share insights about their connection to Temple Beth-El and why their

generous support of the L&E Program is important to them. In our first article meet Deb Kushner of Deerfield who shares her thoughts with our membership.

1. Can you give us some background on your connection to Temple Beth-El?

Growing up in a Detroit suburb where my family attended synagogue far from my home, I felt isolated from my peers due to the distance. Thus, it was important to me that my children go to religious school close to home. In addition, two close family friends were already members so joining TBE was the natural choice. Since then, that connection has not only grown, but become more than friends.

2. What are some of your most meaningful memories as a member of the TBE community?

Celebrating my sons becoming bar mitzvot with the entire TBE community. Our informal TBE Sunday school walking club. Being a part of the Run/Walk for the Health of It and Casino Nights. Mah Jong games with the ladies and so much more!

3. What were the reasons behind why you made a gift to the Legacy and Endowment program?

Jill Weininger (co-chair of the L&E Program) asked me when I shared that I was about to redo my will. While Jill and her family happen to be one of the original two close friends at TBE, the idea of a "legacy" resonates strongly within me. I am

always trying to show my sons that our job in life is to leave this world in better shape than when we entered it. It's important to make a difference no matter how small or insignificant we may think it is. That's the "legacy" I want to impart on my children.

4. What difference do you think your gift will make to the future of TBE?

Every gift makes a difference. My gift may not build an addition, but it will help pay for the electricity in that new addition! TBE is a place I warmly call home. It is my pleasure and responsibility to help sustain the future of TBE for my children and their children...from generation to generation!

5. What advice would you give to others who are considering making a gift to the Legacy and Endowment program?

Teach your children well...Make a difference.

6. Please share any other thoughts and insights about your relationship with the TBE community and the importance of your L&E gift to the congregation.

A favorite quote by Winston Churchill and my signature at the end of my emails is as follows: "We make a living by what we get, but make a life by what we give."