

Legacy & Endowments



Temple Beth-El

Meet Jill and Bruce Weinger: *“If we all do our little part, together we can have a significant impact for future generations.”*



This article is the second installment 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 this article meet Jill and Bruce Weinger of Northbrook who share their thoughts with our membership.

(The Weinger family from left to right: Bruce, Gabe, Jill and Jordan)

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

We joined when Jordan, our oldest child, was entering kindergarten. We shopped around to find the right temple and found a comfortable atmosphere at TBE. Since then, we have found some of our closest friends at TBE. Bruce was on the board for close to a decade and I am now on the Board. Both of our boys were actively involved in YoBE, which created strong roots for them that we hope they will build upon in the future. We felt very strongly that we and the boys continue with active involvement after their bar mitzvahs. Hopefully our modeling of an ongoing commitment to TBE and Jewish activism can set a stage for their future involvement.

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

The family trip to Israel has to be #1 for us. The trip that the rabbi facilitated eight years ago introduced us to Israel and created lifelong memories (and friendships) for all of us. Another favorite is the Sunday morning walks with a group of friends throughout the years the boys were in religious school. Both the special and the mundane have created meaningful connections for our family at TBE. .

3. Why did you take a leadership role in the Legacy and Endowment program?

First and foremost because I was asked. As I was retiring from my career in education, I was ready to get more actively involved in TBE leadership. Rabbi Helbraun called and asked and how does one say no to that? This committee's mission is completely outside of my wheelhouse, but the support from the staff, my co-chair, Amy Noren, and the entire committee has been the key to our progress as we map the route to securing TBE's future.

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

Ideally, I hope it will motivate others to examine and reflect on how they can make a difference and put a thumbprint on the future. None of us alone can secure the future for TBE and the Jewish people, but if we all do our little part, together we can have a significant impact for future generations.

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

Just do it. Don't wait for the perfect time or the perfect financial situation, it won't come. The beauty of legacy gifts is that they cost us nothing and do not impact our lifestyle and choices in the here and now. Realistically, just 1%, 5% or 10% of an estate will have very little financial impact on our descendants. And, more importantly, it continues to send the message to them that Temple Beth-El has been an important part of our lives. I would also encourage people to consider the various ways to contribute currently and find the way that fits for their situation.