

"People become the stories they hear and the stories they tell." Elie Wiesel

Several weeks ago, 12 members of the Central Massachusetts LIFE & LEGACY team traveled to Springfield MA for the annual LIFE & LEGACY Conference hosted by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. We all attended many sessions to hear about best practices and heard many wonderful keynote speakers.

But ask each of us about our greatest takeaway, and you'll hear the same thing. The best part of the three day conference was getting to meet other people from around the country who are also involved in the LIFE & LEGACY program. It was the opportunity to hear stories, ask questions and share with people doing the same things we are doing, but at different stages.

Attending a conference is not unlike making a legacy gift. Remembering your favorite Jewish organization in your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy is about sharing with people doing the same things you do, but at different stages. When we talk to people who have made legacy gifts, we hear wonderful stories about our Jewish community. We get to ask questions and share knowledge and craft the Jewish community of the future together.

We were all revitalized after having attended the conference, and are very grateful to all its organizers, especially Harold Grinspoon, who took time to meet with the Central Mass contingent personally. He sat with us and asked us to tell him our story. He wanted to hear about Central Massachusetts and why its Jewish community is important to us. We were so happy to share our stories and look forward to the opportunities ahead to hear your stories.

Each legacy gift is a personal story worth hearing. Our community is rich in stories, and I hope you will tell me yours. Email me your story (legacy@jfcmm.org) and tell me why leaving a Jewish legacy is important to you. I look forward to the conversation.