



# Foundation Insider



Every quarter when I am asked to write my message from the Chair, I wait until the last minute to complete my task. You may think that this is a form of procrastination, but I view it as being able to provide the most up-to-date information.

In March the Foundation presented a Zoom program “An Important Conversation Between Friends Avraham Infeld and Randall Kaplan”, which was really a discussion of Infeld, a Jewish educator’s passion for our people. Many topics were eloquently discussed with the primary focus on philanthropy, our responsibility for making the world a better place, and Creating a Jewish Legacy. Mr. Infeld was very inspiring and provided great insight into today's Jewish culture and how to empower each of us.

Had I responded to the Foundation’s first request to submit my message from the Chair - *Dayenu*. It would have been enough to review this wonderful presentation focusing primarily on our Jewish heritage, values and aspirations while building our community with the Foundation’s stakeholders.

The Foundation also needs to help prepare the next several generations for philanthropy and legacy. With that in mind, in April, the Federation and the Foundation were approached by Sylvia and Norman Samet with an offer to provide very generous “seed money” to develop and advance an educational program teaching Jewish philanthropy to Greensboro’s high school and college students. A dialogue with North Carolina Hillel, one of our Foundation Affiliates, revealed that they had outlined a similar program but needed funding. The program details, including giving circles, have been reviewed with and enhanced by Sylvia and Norman. This program could be expanded with “fertilizer and water money”. Please call the Foundation to contribute to the efforts to see these “trees” flourish.

Had I responded to the Foundation’s second request to submit my message from the chair - *Dayenu*. It would have been enough to focus on high school and college students. Recently, Frank Brenner expressed his long-term desire to establish a Donor Enhancement program that would educate and encourage the under age 40 members of our community to be philanthropists. We now have “seed money” and again need “fertilizer and water money”. Let’s make this happen. Please do not procrastinate, the time is now!

As we Count the Omer and anticipate Shavuot marking the giving of the Torah we should honor and give renewed meaning to the words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z’l:

*Turning ideals into codes of action that shape habits of the heart is what Judaism and leadership are about. Never lose the inspiration of the Prophets, but never lose, either, the routines that turn ideals into acts and dreams into achieved reality.*

*Howard C Mezer*

Howard C Mezer  
Foundation Chair  
May 2, 2021

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