

2014 Benefit for the
Sabes Jewish Community Center

GENERATIONS AHEAD

Touching lives yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Thursday, May 1, 2014

*Honoring two generations of community leadership-
Merle & Mort Kane and Gail & Howie Milstein*



sabes jcc

A Message From Our Honorees

Merle & Mort Kane

At the top of our list of values and priorities are those of the JCC and also of Torah: building a strong Jewish community, bringing people together, creating relationships with the community and to each other. That is the goal of the Sabes JCC, the Jewish community's home. It is in a unique position to do this and it does it very well. With our collective support, the JCC will help ensure the vitality of our very special Jewish community.



Our other interests include education, especially Jewish learning. We have a scholarship program for continuing education for teachers of Judaism, support Herzl Camp, Talmud Torah, and the Jewish day school and, for me personally, Jewish learning has been especially important. Other priorities include feeding the hungry, especially through Mazon: The Jewish Response to Hunger and Second Harvest Heartland, one of the nation's premier and most efficient food banks; human rights, including Jewish Community Action in our community; protecting the environment, including the Environmental Defense Fund; and international aid, including the American Jewish World Service.

The JCC promotes many of these same values, including education in the broadest sense, programs that bring us all together, including the Jewish Film and Humor Festivals, lectures, plays, and art exhibits. It provides meals for seniors. The JCC includes people of all denominations and orientations; provides for people with challenges; is environmentally aware; and, last but certainly not least for us, promotes health and fitness.

There are two questions to consider: "Why give and how much to give?"

Among the reasons and near the top of the "Why to Give?" list is, perhaps selfishly, that it feels very good to give, to support causes and organizations that you care about, that are meaningful to you, and that give added purpose to your life. It is a gift to them, but, as much, giving is a gift to you.

"How much to give?" is very personal—how much each of us has, but, and possibly most importantly, how much is enough for us, and how much to share?

Consider not only how hard we have worked, etc. to obtain what we have and where we are, but also how fortunate we are to be living where and when we are; that we are able to live as we do. Consider giving back, sharing. It is and will be a pleasure.

We are glad to support our/your JCC and to know that our family will continue to share; supporting the JCC and other causes important to them. We also thank the Bader family for chairing this celebration of the Sabes JCC and for sharing our values of community and family philanthropy.

Thanks for the privilege of promoting the Sabes JCC and for the opportunity to share some thoughts.

Regards,
Merle and Mort

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A Message From Our Honorees

Gail & Howie Milstein

Our ties to the Sabes JCC go back to our childhoods. We spent so much time in the building, that it was like a second home. Whether it was playing sports or socializing with friends at BBYO events, we knew that there was always a welcoming place to be with community, even if we didn't realize how important that was until much later. When we were young parents, the JCC took on a new significance in our lives as our children began creating their own memories and having their own impressionable experiences there - in the basketball league, as campers and then as counselors at Camp Olami. Our connection to the JCC is further deepened because our parents had or still have such a strong presence there. We see the multi-generational opportunities not only play out in our own family, but in so many other families as well.



Any and all ways in which we can come together is what creates and sustains our vibrant community. The Sabes JCC dissolves the barriers that can keep us apart. The Machers Golf and Games Event each August is a personal favorite JCC gathering. The cultural programming such as the Jewish Film and Humor Festivals, the art gallery exhibitions, and the Spark! Annual Celebration of Innovation all bring disparate groups together for a shared Jewish and community experience. The JCC's programs, services and celebrations of our culture simply do not and cannot happen elsewhere. There is something unique, enriching, and interesting at the JCC for everyone. But, sometimes it feels like this 65 year old organization that dead-ends on Cedar Lake Road is the best kept secret in town.

We really want to stress that it's not just our parents' generation who are responsible for sustaining the community. Their philanthropy should inspire ours, not absolve us of taking our own place in leading and supporting our JCC. We hope that anyone who attends the "Generations Ahead" Benefit will walk away with their own JCC memories reignited and truly embrace that we are all in this together."

Now, let's party.

Gail and Howie Milstein

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