

Why I Made a Legacy Gift to Shaar Shalom Congregation

By: Linda Law



I was introduced to Judaism by my husband, Lloyd Newman, whose commitment to his religion and the community I admired wholeheartedly. After we married, I converted and then completed a *b'nai mitzvah* in 2004 with nine other Shaar women.

But while my husband kindled my interest, my commitment to Judaism and the Shaar is personal. My husband has pledged his own legacy gift. This is mine alone.

Many people talk of *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation, when they make legacy gifts. But I don't have children or grandchildren, so my gift springs from my desire to perpetuate an idea--of Conservative Judaism, equality, tikkun olam, loving and supportive community.

Initially I thought I would allocate my legacy gift to support something that matters to me now. But then I reconsidered. I don't want to second guess what the next generation of the Shaar is going to need. I accept that thirty years from now the Shaar I know today could look quite different, and I'm okay with that. In fact, I embrace it. The Shaar of 2051 *should* look different because it will reflect and be responsive to the needs of members in circumstances I can't begin to predict today.

In pledging to support the next generation of Shaar Shalom Congregation, I trust they will do whatever they need to do for themselves and the generation that, in turn, will succeed them.