



# Women's Philanthropy

*"What we do for ourselves dies with us.  
What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Pike*

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## President's Message From Tammy Woldenberg

(as shared at the recent WP Annual Meeting and Installation)

I want to start my thank-you speech with a thought that was shared with the students at the University of Texas at this week's graduation by philanthropist Hayes Barnard: It's been said that in school, you receive the lesson and then you take the test. But in life, you get the test, and then receive the lesson.

That sums up my time as President of Women's Philanthropy pretty accurately. I'm a nerd so before I took the position, I asked my North Star, Elise Scheck Bonwitt, for a lesson – advice if you will. She answered me, cryptically, "You will get more than you give." Well, while true, that wasn't really the lesson in leadership I was looking for. Turns out, there isn't one. The "tests" were hard and impossible to study for but the lessons were impactful. I learned about adaptability, compassion and resourcefulness. I am proud of what we were able to accomplish in the past few years. We navigated COVID with virtual events, then we navigated how to transition out of COVID. We welcomed some incredible new women to our community with programming tailored to them, but also with inclusivity into our existing events. We changed the Board structure (still working on that) and most importantly, we took care of the people who depend on us.

The lessons I learned... too many to enumerate but the most salient one.... you need a good team!!! Thank you to Ofi, who is the best professional out there.... and a dear friend to me after years of working together. Thanks, Batya, for always having my back! Thanks to Elise Scheck Bonwitt for inspiring me and for supporting me throughout. Thanks to Ilene Kossman for the wonderful example of leadership. Thanks to Elise Udelson for being the best partner in crime for the past two years. We make a great team; even when we don't see things the same way, we can collaborate, change the recipe and make things happen. I wish you and Amanda tons of success as you begin the next term. To the ladies of WP, thank you for becoming my friends, for showing up and for making a difference. Please know that being part of this organization is an investment that cannot be quantified. On the Mission it became even more evident that Federation's support of more than 160 agencies improves the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jews. Locally, there is not one area of Jewish life that isn't impacted by our work. And as overwhelming as that concept is, I know that we EACH make a difference. It starts with ONE! I feel so blessed to have been given this opportunity and please know you can count on me for anything at any time.

## Installation Remarks from...

### Incoming WP President Elise Udelson

(as shared at the recent WP Installation)

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style" – Maya Angelou



35 years ago while sitting next to a girlfriend getting a manicure, both of us young moms with toddlers at home, she turned to me and said: "I'm starting a Northeast Dade group of Greater Miami Jewish Federation." I said, "What's that?" and so began my journey. One meeting turned into planning another, women inspiring women to make a difference in the lives of people in need, turned into my awe-inspiring first Women's Day, my first motivating and super fun, Super Sunday, my first beautiful *mitzvah* project with my children as they sang to the elderly at Douglas Gardens Jewish Home...left me in tears, at the joy that something so simple could mean so much to another human being.

And the list goes on: the women in our community who led the way with grace and dignity...educating us on giving, and asking others to give, and WHY. And that we are not asking for ourselves, BUT for those who need our help. Those women, who like Cher, don't need last names, who mentored me directly: Maxine, Dorothy, Terry, Mikki, Raquel, all legendary in Miami. Their passion was contagious. They illuminated something within me. They emboldened me, and to this day continue to do so. I attended LETS 101 with them (Leadership Effectiveness Training). Some of you may remember that course! It guided me: gave me leadership skills, organizational skills, communication skills, etc. Throughout the years I have been involved in synagogue life, PTA, other meaningful causes and organizations, but my dedication to Federation activities has been unwavering. The pride I feel to be part of a wonderful, caring, committed group of people, that does so much for so many, here at home, in Israel, as we just saw on the Mega Mission, and around the world is tremendous. In the words of Elie Wiesel: "To be Jewish means to be present whenever our presence is needed by other Jews."

I look forward with excitement and a sense of enormous responsibility, to assuming the role of Women's Philanthropy President and working with my dynamic incoming Campaign Chair, Amanda Adler, and continuing to work side by side with my "work wife" and always dedicated, caring and committed, exemplary professional, Ofi Osin-Cohen; the always positive Batya Lisker; the entire, beautiful WP Board, and hopefully many, if not all of you as we enter a new era of women's giving. Let's create opportunities to thrive together as we inspire others to join us in this worthwhile endeavor. And Tammy, don't venture too far away. In a very short time, you have become another one of my BFFs. You bring so much to my life and the work we do. I have loved working with you and Ofi the last two years. You knew when and how to pivot. You brought levity and optimism to every situation, and both of you have been true examples of leadership in our community.

And finally, thank you to my always-supportive and always my biggest fan my husband, Ronny. When asked recently while we were on the Mega Mission, "Are you as involved as Elise?" His answer without skipping a beat was, "I am chair of her finance committee." And that, he is. I love you and I appreciate all of your encouragement, enthusiasm and pride.

Welcome and *mazel tov* to the new 2023 WP Board. May this be the beginning of our work, our meaningful journey, our fun, and of course some frivolity together.



## Campaign Update

We are happy to report the following:

- The **2023** General Campaign has raised \$17.4 million from more than 4,200 donors with a card-for-card increase of 21.05 percent.
- The Women's Campaign has raised \$6.3 million from more than 2,400 donors with a card-for-card increase of 40.22 percent.

Now is the time to reach out to donors before the summer. The needs don't take a vacation!!! Please refer to your worker reports for your open assignments. Contact the WP office if you need a copy or have any questions.



## Israel at 75 Miami Mega Mission

The words of Theodor Herzl, "If you will it, it is no dream," came to life during the much-awaited Greater Miami Jewish Federation Israel 75 Miami Mega Mission. For its 800-plus participants, the week-long journey through the Jewish homeland felt nothing short of a fantastic dream, one they will remember forever. Touted as the Celebration of a Lifetime, the Mission brought all 20 buses together a number of times throughout the week for Mega Events. Highlights included a Desert Extravaganza with a spectacular drone show that lit up the sky and a poignant reenactment of the creation of the State of Israel during the transition ceremony between Israel's Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror (*Yom HaZikaron*) and Israel's Independence Day (*Yom Ha'Atzmaut*). Daily Mission visits introduced participants to organizations that benefit from Federation support and inspired their generosity. Mission participants contributed more than \$3 million to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, in addition to nearly \$2 million in estimated future gifts made through The Foundation. WE are so excited to report that the mission generated over 120 new Lions of Judah. We welcome them to this unique sisterhood. WP was fortunate to have 12 Past Presidents join the Mission (pictured below). [Click here](#) for a full recap with stories, photos, videos and news articles.



## 85th GMJF Annual Meeting

We are excited for the opportunity to honor all the outstanding leaders at our upcoming Greater Miami Jewish Federation 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on May 24. We are especially proud of our own WP leaders, **Leslie Benitah** and **Lisa Goldstein**. We hope you will join us to celebrate their achievements, reflect on the accomplishments of the year and elect the slate of Federation Officers, Board of Directors and other leaders for the coming year. To register, click below. Looking forward to seeing you there!

  
 You are cordially invited to attend the  
**85<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION**  
 85 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY  
**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**  
 11:30 AM  
 Luncheon  
**Jungle Island Ballroom**  
 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami  
 Silvia and Miguel Assor, *Event Chairs*  
 Election of Officers, Board of Directors,  
 Trustees, Leadership Council  
 and Council of Jewish Organizations  
 and  
 Presentation of Leadership Awards  
 H O N O R I N G  
 Stanley C. Myers Presidents' Leadership Award  
   
 LESLIE G. BENITAH JASON HAIM  
 Sandra C. Goldstein Young Leadership Award  
   
 MICHELLE KAHAN ISAAC MIZRAHI  
 Robert Russell Fellowship Award  
  
 LISA GOLDSTEIN  
 Couvert\* \$110 per person  
 and \$75 per person for those ages 40 and under  
\*Must pre-arrange for a charitable contribution.

## Women of Valor Film



**The Sizzling Summer Israel Cinema Series** featuring contemporary Israeli films kicks-off with

**Women of Valor** (in Hebrew with English subtitles)

**Sunday | May 21 | 7PM | Alan & Diane Lieberman Theater**

An Israeli Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary about Esty Shushan, co-founder of Nivcharot, an organization advocating to allow ultra- Orthodox women to enter Israeli politics.

This complimentary Series is offered by the Michael-Ann Russell JCC in partnership with the Miami Jewish Film Festival and the Israeli House of the Consulate General of Israel.



RSVP to [DavidS@marjcc.org](mailto:DavidS@marjcc.org) or call David Surowitz, 305.932.4200, X127

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## The Women of Our Community



Judy Gilbert-Gould, a lifelong resident of Miami, recently passed away at the age of 88. She was the daughter of Greater Miami Jewish Federation Founding President Stanley C. Myers and Martha M. Myers. Judy was part of a family whose DNA instilled a commitment to serve the community and improve the lives of others. This calling paved the way for an extraordinarily fulfilling life journey. She was a Lion of Judah-level donor for more than 20 years. "I was born into a family where it was understood that each member had an obligation to make the world a better place in which to live," recorded Judy in her life story in The Foundation's Book of Life, citing that she learned this not through words, but through her parents' deeds. As a young woman, Judy became involved in the National Council of Jewish Women, eventually serving as President of its Miami chapter. In recognition of her service,

Judy was awarded NCJW's highest honor, the Hannah G. Solomon Award for her commitment to the advancement of human welfare. Judy later served in several professional capacities such as working under then-Dade County State Attorney Janet Reno. She was the Director of Victim-Witness Services in the State Attorney's Office to help prepare rape victims to testify in court. She also served as Director of the Southeast Region of American Jewish Congress. In 1983, Judy joined the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where she served for many years as Director of Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council. In 2007, Judy received the Myron J. Brodie Award for Professional Excellence, in recognition of her professionalism and profound commitment to furthering the mission of Federation and exemplifying the highest standards of Jewish communal service. Judy retired from Federation in 2008, after 25 years of dedicated service. One of the dividends of Judy's service to Federation were the many people with whom she built long-lasting friendships, many of whom looked upon Judy as a role model and mentor. Judy loved her children and grandchildren and was immensely proud of their accomplishments. She had an enduring impact on their lives and was all those she touched. She lived a life that mattered, a life of contribution. "My family is my legacy," wrote Judy, "and I hope and trust they will continue to strengthen the link of Jewish continuity begun so many years ago." Judy is survived by her children, Bobby (Nancy) Gilbert, Carolyn Gilbert Epstein, and Mark (Belinda) Gilbert, as well as eight grandchildren, Geoff, Stuart, Evan, Lee, Anabel, Brett, Grace and Madeline.



# Presentation by WP Past President Helene Berger



**27th Annual  
Ministering to the Elderly Conference**

**Mindfully Navigating the  
Caregiving Journey:**  
Caring for Others as  
We Care for Ourselves

**Thursday, June 8  
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

On the campus of Miami Jewish Health  
5200 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami

**\$36 per person**  
Includes Continuing Education credits and lunch  
Not tax-deductible as a charitable contribution

The Ministering to the Elderly Conference is a practical forum for caring professionals and community and spiritual leaders, in addition to those concerned with enriching the lives of seniors.

Caregiving can be a bridge to a meaningful relationship with another person and may also prove to be an emotional and psychological challenge. How do we care for others while at the same time care for ourselves? In addition, we will frame caregiving as a sacred act and a pathway to creating a more compassionate and interdependent society.

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Nancy Kriseman, LCSW**



**Presentation by**  
**Helene Berger**



## Sharing and Caring

**Speedy Recovery to:**

Rabbi Robyn Fisher  
Sonia Gruenwurz , mother of Tammy Woldenberg  
Shifra Kossman, mother-in-law of Ilene Kossman

**Condolences to:**

Family of Judy Gilbert-Gould  
Family of Sandi-Jo Gordon

Celebrating an Event? Milestone? Or had a loss? We want to know. Please be sure to send us the information. If we don't know, we can't care and share ([wp@jewishmiami.org](mailto:wp@jewishmiami.org))