

As a 35-year-member of Temple Israel, Patsy Royer sees the Life & Legacy program as a great way to support Temple down the road.

“The Legacy program makes it easy to leave a bequest or an insurance policy for Temple Israel and Ottawa’s Jewish Community,” says the past-president of Temple. “The earlier one starts, especially with an insurance policy, the easier it is to give small monthly amounts that grow into something very substantial. As for a straight bequest - as long as it doesn’t leave the family without - it is a straightforward way to continue to build our Temple, even years into the future.”

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Life & Legacy assists communities across North America, through partnerships with Jewish Federations and Foundations, to promote after-lifetime giving to build endowments that will provide financial stability to Jewish day schools, synagogues, social service organizations, and other Jewish entities. Through training, support and monetary incentives, this four-year partnership program motivates Jewish organizations to secure legacy gifts, steward donors, and integrate legacy giving into the philanthropic culture of the Jewish community.

Patsy joined Temple when her children were in elementary school. “After years of not practicing anything, I wanted to give them the knowledge that they could share with the rest of our family,” she says. “I chose Temple because I liked the relaxed, somewhat egalitarian - at that time - approach.”

She also appreciated services “where everything was not repeated several times over.”

“The Rabbi of that time, Irwin Tannenbaum, was very welcoming of the kids and their questions and enjoyed sparring with son Daniel about issues and questions,” she said. “I have always been impressed by how welcoming the Temple tries to be to people who want to get involved. As in any organization, some members will express an interest in a particular activity or study and their request might be passed over, but most are noted and people can get caught up in Temple life, be it school, fundraising, study groups, social times.....it has been a very welcoming place.”

She joined the Temple Board after being invited, “and I was curious to see how things run.” “The style has changed over the 20 or more years I have served, but I am always impressed at the sincere care for Temple that those on the Board demonstrate. I moved up to the Executive ever so innocently when I was asked to be Secretary. The rest is history.”

Before retirement, she was a public school teacher. “In my spare time, and now it is all spare time, I sew, I read, I sing in choirs, I go to the pool and I enjoy time with my friends.” Patsy and her husband Georges’ two children, their spouses, three grandchildren and a granddog, are all in her home town of Vancouver.

Patsy says that supporting the Legacy program “seems so logical to me.” “I will suffer no loss of income during my lifetime,” she explains, “and I plan to provide for my family and other charities and still have a substantial sum put into the coffers of the Foundation to benefit Temple Israel which has given us so much inspiration, friendship and comfort over the years.”