

Remarks honoring Marty Gelman, given by *Chai Hopes* Co-Chair, Darcy Amiel

When interviewed about today's event, Marty said, "Why me? There's really not much I've done." Well, we beg to differ.... Here are just a few examples of what Marty has done for our community over almost 60 years.

In 1971, Marty joined the radiology department at the U of U, and he and Sheila quickly became established in the Jewish community, raising three wonderful children. They now have seven adored grandchildren about whose accomplishments Marty and Sheila are justifiably proud.

Marty's propensity to give back was exemplified through teaching and mentoring residents for much of his career. He served as President of the Utah State Radiological Society, and as a veteran himself, volunteered at the VA Hospital. Most proudly, he served a medical mission with his daughter, Stephanie, at a medical school in Kenya.

Marty was also involved in the formation of Congregation Kol Ami in the 1970s. He was put in charge of landscaping the new property, and eventually, he served on the Temple's Board. I suppose landscaping is the perfect metaphor for Marty... planting seeds, nurturing growth, evening out the ground to level the playing field, and watching what he helped to blossom.

Marty's service continued as President of the United Jewish Federation of Utah, and, not surprisingly, his influence was significant. In 2010, he was instrumental in bringing the renowned Anne Frank Exhibition to the city library, exposing thousands to the history of the Holocaust. Marty was proud that Utah school children were bused in from all over the state to see the exhibit and learn vital lessons about tolerance and humanity.

Marty's belief in those values also led him to join the Holladay Utah Interfaith Council as the Jewish representative. The Council aimed to foster collaboration among different religious traditions. Marty's commitment to the Interfaith Council resulted in his appointment as Chairman, a role he proudly held for many years.

You would think that would be enough for one man... but Marty then joined the Jewish Family Service Board in 2015 and served for two terms. His compassion and commitment to caring for others aligned perfectly with our mission. In Marty's words, "I came from humble roots, and when the opportunity to serve others arises, I have a deep feeling I should be involved." He reflected further that, "Judaism teaches us to take care of anyone in need, and it makes me so proud that JFS fills that role."

Marty and Sheila are particularly supportive of the JFS food pantry. Recently, while attending a food delivery event at a local school, Marty watched as two children, upon receiving their food

package, immediately sat on the curb, quickly opened their yogurt containers, and fashioned the plastic tops into scoops, so they could quell their terrible hunger by devouring the yogurt on the spot. Watching this, Marty's interest in food insecurity deepened from a concern into a commitment.

And for this extraordinary body of work, he has never sought adoration or praise. Well, Marty, this evening you are deservedly receiving both for all you have done to make the world a better place... a world where playing fields are leveled, bellies are full, community is built, and minds are opened. It is with enormous gratitude and admiration that tonight, Jewish Family Service honors you, Marty Gelman.