

- ① **What is a legacy gift?**
It is a gift of an asset, an after-lifetime gift.
- ② **Who should join?**
Everyone. This is not just for the wealthy or seniors. There is no minimum gift required and no expectation of payment while you are living.
- ③ **Why wouldn't I leave all of my estate to my children?**
Legacy gifts are usually only a percentage of your estate and demonstrate to your heirs your commitment to Jewish values.
- ④ **I give an annual gift to Torah Fund. Why should I give a legacy gift too?**
We are very grateful for your current and past giving to Torah Fund. A legacy gift is needed to ensure that Torah Fund will continue its support for many, many decades. Recent studies show that in 20 years organizations will need to generate 20%-25% of their operating budget from legacy gifts in order to meet their obligations.
- ⑤ **Does the gift have to be money or can other things be given?**
Legacy gifts can take many forms: stocks, bonds, retirement assets, cash, life insurance proceeds, etc.
- ⑥ **How much should I bequeath?**
There is no correct amount – it varies from person to person – and must be what is right for you. Any amount is appreciated. Some people will choose to give a set dollar amount, some will specify a percentage of their estate, or all or part of a particular asset. No gift is too small.
- ⑦ **Can I change my gift later?**
Yes - if your circumstances change you can adjust the amount of your gift.
- ⑧ **What are the ways I can leave a legacy gift?**
There are many ways to leave a legacy gift: by making a bequest in a will or trust; by naming the organization of your choice as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA, or pension fund; by giving a gift of cash or assets. Please consult your professional advisor to determine which method of giving is best for you.
- ⑨ **I already have a will. If I want to leave a legacy gift through my will, must my will be changed?**
If you want to leave a legacy gift through your will it may need to be changed. Suggested language is available from the Torah Fund office on a form entitled 'Making a Bequest in Your Will'. The

Torah Fund office does not offer legal, financial, or tax advice. Please consult your professional advisor.

Alternatively, you may wish to make your legacy gift without changing your will, by designating Torah Fund as the beneficiary of a different financial instrument, such as those listed in Question 8, above.

⑩ Why is it important to leave a legacy gift?

The long-term future of Jewish education requires adequate financial resources. By leaving a legacy gift, you help ensure that the values and services of Jewish educational institutions that Torah Fund supports will be part of our community's resources long into the future.

⑪ I don't have any family, so why do I need to think about gift and estate planning?

State laws will determine the disposition of your estate if you don't have a plan in writing. Even if you don't have a family, you should still create an estate plan that reflects the things you care about.

⑫ I live paycheck to paycheck and I don't have any money to give now. Can I still participate?

The advantage of legacy giving is that no money is paid now. The gift is paid after your passing, from what is left in your estate.

⑬ How can I give without spending money on a will or trust?

One option is to name Torah Fund as a beneficiary of an account you already have. You might also consider a life insurance policy, with Torah Fund as a beneficiary.

⑭ Where does the money go?

The money will be divided among the institutions that Torah Fund supports at the time your gift is received. Currently the funds are used to help sustain these remarkable degree-granting institutions of higher Jewish learning of the Conservative/Masorti movement worldwide:

- The Jewish Theological Seminary (New York, USA)
- Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles, USA)
- Schechter Institutes for Jewish Studies (Jerusalem, Israel)
- Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam, Germany).

⑮ How do I sign up?

The first step is to fill out the Declaration of Intent. For questions, contact us by email at likaufman@jtsa.edu or call the Torah Fund office at 212-678-8876.

