

Planning the Future from the Past

We are always thinking ahead; what are we having for dinner, where should we go on vacation, when will this baby come already? (there's really no planning ahead there!) From my busy-person perspective, if I don't plan ahead, it doesn't happen. Through learning, prayer and fun, Temple Sinai is planning ahead; planting seeds for our vibrant future.

Securing Temple Sinai's future is a more tangible effort. Sometime last October, I received a call from Susan Mulhern. Susan's family had been members of Temple Sinai during the 60s and 70s. The reason for her call was to let us know that her dad had passed, and while going through his paperwork, she found that her father had remembered Temple Sinai in his will and that we would soon be receiving a check from his estate.

After many sincere thank yous, I asked Susan to tell me about her father. Who was Melvin Mirrer? Mel graduated from Rutgers School of Pharmacy in 1955 and in 1956, entered the Army as a sergeant and served for two years. In 1967, he opened Mirrer Pharmacy in New Providence. He was known for treating his customers like family. If a customer needed him day or night, no matter the time, he was there for them. He was a quiet and reserved person but knew everyone who came into the Pharmacy. He was known as Mayor Mel. Most Temple Sinai families went to Mel's because 1: it was the place to be and 2: they knew he would take care of them. Mel was an avid flyer and in addition to having his private pilot's license, he was a certified flight instructor and a member of the Aero Club of New Jersey. He loved to play bridge and other card games. Mel was an early adopter of computers and printers and knew how to repair them.

Mel is survived by his children Barry and Angela Mirrer, Karen and Raulf Neelis, Susan and Michael Mulhern and his grandchildren Samantha and Victoria Mirrer and Max and Molly Mulhern. He was predeceased by his brother, Robert H. Mirrer, who gave his life as a major in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

As his daughter Susan told me that Judaism meant a lot to his family. By thinking ahead and making provisions for his generous gift, Mel was planting the seeds so that other families could enjoy the friendship, support and Jewish life that Temple Sinai provided for his family. Mel's legacy has secured Jewish Life, customs and ritual for our wonderful Temple Sinai community.

Mel's family will be joining us for a special Shabbat Service on Friday, May 17 at 7:30 pm when we honor him and 24 Temple Sinai families who, like Mel, have made legacy commitments, further securing the future of Temple Sinai. Please join us! Meet the family!

If you would like to learn about Legacy giving or creating your Jewish Legacy, please email Createajewishlegacy@templesinainj.org.