

# Eleanor Caplan

**M**y family had a very strong connection to Eretz Yisrael and the Jewish people. My father, Moses J. Neiditz, was born in Palestine, his father having emigrated there in 1880 as part of the first aliyah. My mother, Rachel Neiditz, was born in Russia, where her mother was active in Zionist clubs, and both of their families settled in Hartford between 1904 and 1907.

My parents went to Europe and Palestine for their honeymoon and remained ardent Zionists throughout their lives. They passed their love for Israel and Jewish communal service to me. My

father was on the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and was a Trustee of the Endowment Foundation, as it was then known. My mother served as President of the Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood and the Hartford section of the National Council of Jewish Women, and was a member the Women's Committee of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation. Both of my parents were honored for their service on the State of Israel Bonds.

I worked for the Connecticut State Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities as a legislative liaison. After I retired, I became more active in the Jewish community. I served on the Board of the Solomon Schechter Day School, and am currently a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and am on the honorary board of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford. At the Foundation I am a member of the Scholarship Committee and the Lillian Fund Steering Committee.

Jerry's mother, Ruth Ginsberg Caplan, was an active solicitor at the New Haven Jewish Federation and served as a model for Jewish philanthropy to her children. He began his distinguished 53-year career with the law firm of Rogin Nassau in 1952. Philanthropy for Jerry



was never just about writing a check. He was hands-on with his giving and derived great pleasure and satisfaction from his volunteer activities in the community. He was a past President of the Emanuel Synagogue of West Hartford, and of the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center, a Trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation, and a life member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

We decided a long time ago that leaving a legacy was the logical thing to do to secure the future of our Jewish community. Our legacy will support several Jewish and civic organizations in the community. - June 2007

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