

# GIVING AS AN ACT OF FAITH

## TWO GENERATIONS - ONE SHARED COMMITMENT TO LEGACY GIVING

by Doug Nathan



*Nancy & Joel Shinder (left and right), with their daughters (middle L-R) Juliana Sellers, Sarah Bakkum, and Dannah Shinder*

### **Nancy & Joel Shinder**

As an interfaith couple who raised their three daughters to honor both their Jewish and Catholic heritages, Nancy & Joel Shinder believe that Temple Israel's legacy is its ability to change with the times.

"We are particularly interested in creative ways to engage young people and young families," Nancy said. "There must be a willingness to change and adapt."

This perspective was behind their motivation to help fund Temple's live streaming of services and to subsidize the young people's membership program. It was also a factor when it came to planning their legacy gift for Temple Israel.

With the help and encouragement of daughter Juliana Sellers, who manages the Twin Cities Jewish community's IT'S YOUR LEGACY Program, the Shinders' legacy gift "is the means by which Temple can adapt and grow to respond to the changing needs of the congregation in the future," Nancy said.

"A legacy gift is an act of faith," Joel said. "You are giving to the financial needs of Temple in a future you may not see."

*The Shinders are giving their legacy gift to Temple now by setting up a named endowment, which will support the congregation in perpetuity.*



*Juliana & Jacob Sellers with sons Ari (left) and Eli (right)*

### **Juliana & Jacob Sellers**

Raised to celebrate the respective faiths of parents Nancy & Joel Shinder, Juliana Sellers' evolution of faith took an important step forward when she chose Judaism as her religion of choice in her twenties, shortly after her mother's conversion to Judaism.

Today, she and husband Jacob Sellers, along with their sons Ari and Eli, are fully immersed in the Jewish community.

"Much of how we define community is our experience in Judaism," Juliana said. Jacob, who is the grandson of a Baptist minister, added, "Community is such a strong value in Judaism. Although I am not Jewish by birth, the Jewish community is central to my life, and to our lives as a family."

In addition to her parents instilling in her and her sisters the obligation of tzedakah, Juliana and Jacob cite their involvement in the Jewish community as cornerstones in their decision to designate a percentage of their IRAs as legacy gifts to Temple.

"Most of the people of my generation think they cannot afford an estate gift," Juliana said. "This cost us nothing—it starts with making a commitment to support Jewish life in the future."

*The Sellers are giving their legacy gift to Temple through their estate.*