Couple’s Legacy Lives on in Fund for Indigent Elderly

Julius and Phyllis Siegel spent 63 rich and interesting years together, admired by those who knew them for their humility and commitment to serving their community. After Phyllis passed away in April of 2013 – Julius passed in 2011 – the couple left an estate plan built around supporting causes that motivated them in life.

In 2013, their son, Ronald Siegel, established The Julius and Phyllis Siegel Fund for Indigent Elderly at Jewish Family Service. The generous fund will help older adults age with dignity in their homes. It also celebrates the lives of two extraordinary individuals who cared deeply about the well-being of seniors in our community.

Phyllis Siegel grew up in Detroit, and spent much of her life working to help others. She performed professional braille transcription and volunteered at Beaumont Hospital. Phyllis was also a life member of Na’amat, an Israel-based organization devoted to helping women and girls.

Julius Siegel played professional baseball in the Texas League. During World War II, he joined the U.S. Army All-Star Team alongside legends Joe DiMaggio and Virgil Trucks. He later fought to liberate the Philippines.

After the war, Julius launched a successful business, Wolverine Motor Rebuilders. Throughout his retirement, Julius was a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Phyllis and Julius quietly supported many community causes during their later years. Ronald says his humble parents would likely be embarrassed by the attention, but he’s proud that their legacy will live on at Jewish Family Service.

To establish a Named Fund at Jewish Family Service, please contact Debra Marcus: 248-592-3237 or

The Siegel family’s generous gift will support services for older adults at JFS. This includes counseling, case management, home care, Kosher Meals on Wheels, and more. Visit jfsdetroit.org to learn more.

Annie’s Ghosts Event
Sponsors to Date, Include:

Guardian ($5,000)
Anonymous • DTE Energy Foundation • LSG Insurance Partners • Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit • Melissa and Larry Lax

Activist ($1,000)
Andrew Kukes Foundation for Social Anxiety • Easter Seals Michigan • Deena and David Fishman • Milford Singer and Company • Mark Milgrom

Eric and Patrice Phillips • Gail Danto and Art Roffey • Schostak Family Support Foundation • Doug and Margo Woll

Ally ($500)
Amherst Partners • Arrow Office Supply • Avis Ford • Birmingham Maple Clinic • Dennis and Anita Blender • Business Communications Systems • Common Ground • Curt’s Service • Detroit Jewish News • Grigg Graphics • Guardian Alarm • Jewish Historical Society of Michigan • Jewish Senior Life • Perry Ohren • Southfield Collision Center • Spartan Stores • Sheldon and Beth Stone • Telemus Capital

Annie’s Ghosts Shares a Journey into a Family Secret

Steve Luxenberg always knew his mother, Beth, as an only child. But as Beth aged and passed away, she left behind a startling secret: she had a sister, named Annie, who spent most of her life at Eloise state hospital for the mentally ill.

In the memoir, Annie’s Ghosts, Luxenberg pieces together his hidden family history, meanwhile shedding light on the forgotten lives of thousands who, like Annie, lived and died at Eloise.

Luxenberg will discuss his book during two upcoming JFS events: at an intimate dinner at a Bloomfield Hills residence on May 15, and at a May 21 “Lunch and Learn” gathering at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

CEU credits are available for the lunch-time event. Proceeds will benefit JFS’s mental health services. Sponsorship opportunities are still available with numerous recognition opportunities.

Register for either event by visiting: www.jfsdetroit.org/anniesghosts, or contact Amy Singer at 248-592-3975 or anniesghosts@jfsdetroit.org.

Annie’s Ghosts Event
Sponsors to Date, Include:

Guardian ($5,000)
Anonymous • DTE Energy Foundation • LSG Insurance Partners • Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit • Melissa and Larry Lax

Activist ($1,000)
Andrew Kukes Foundation for Social Anxiety • Easter Seals Michigan • Deena and David Fishman • Milford Singer and Company • Mark Milgrom

Eric and Patrice Phillips • Gail Danto and Art Roffey • Schostak Family Support Foundation • Doug and Margo Woll

Ally ($500)
Amherst Partners • Arrow Office Supply • Avis Ford • Birmingham Maple Clinic • Dennis and Anita Blender • Business Communications Systems • Common Ground • Curt’s Service • Detroit Jewish News • Grigg Graphics • Guardian Alarm • Jewish Historical Society of Michigan • Jewish Senior Life • Perry Ohren • Southfield Collision Center • Spartan Stores • Sheldon and Beth Stone • Telemus Capital

Counseling Services
Proceeds from Annie’s Ghosts events will support JFS counseling and mental health services. Jewish Family Service provides a wide range of counseling and mental health services to the community. In 2013, these programs served more than 950 community members.

Services for families and individuals include psychiatric evaluation, medication management for addiction, crisis support and family therapy. Specialized counseling services help older adults cope with unique challenges faced by elders. Our services are centered on the unique needs of each client within a positive, supportive environment.

For more information, visit jfsdetroit.org or contact us at 248.592.2313.