



LEGACY SOCIETY

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 · HONOURING SAM RUTH

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A Legacy of Caring Prompts Family Support for Baycrest

To say that Joan Tator-Mirsky and Brian Mirsky are huge supporters of and donors to Baycrest, seriously understates their involvement with the organization. For the Mirskys, Baycrest is a family affair.

Joan's paternal grandmother volunteered and lived for more than 25 years at Baycrest, including taking up residence at Baycrest Terraces (formerly the Terraces of Baycrest) to be around the community she had grown to love. In her later years, through failing health, she wound up staying at the Jewish Old Folks Home, the precursor to Baycrest's long-term care home, The Apotex Centre. Similarly, Joan's mother also entered Baycrest for rehab purposes later on and her father ended up in palliative care at Baycrest in the final stage of his life.



Brian Mirsky and Joan Tator-Mirsky

"I can't tell you how incredible the care that he received in palliative was," Joan says. To her, over the years, Baycrest has become synonymous with family. After her mother passed, Joan, her sister, Terry Tator and Brian decided to set up an endowment fund and focus more energy on supporting Baycrest. "And that's around the time that Brian got active and involved on the board. And it all just coalesced for us," she says.

Brian's direct influence and involvement continues to this day. He is a member of Baycrest's Board of

Directors and serves on its Commercialization and Strategic Planning Committees as well as on the Public Awareness and Branding Committee. It's also about the family experience for him.

"Both of my parents suffered from dementia," Brian says. "When I saw how Joan's grandmother, mother and father all appreciated the care they received, I knew it was the kind of institution that prioritizes its residents and their families; and helps bring along the caregivers as well."

From a board member perspective, Brian says it's incredible to see how all his peers on the board volunteer their time for one reason only - finding a solution to the problem of dementia.

"We believe in the vision of making Baycrest a North American centre of excellence for brain health," he says. Joan adds: "There's a lot of synergy between caring for those who come into residence at Baycrest and for those who wish to age in place in their own homes in the community. Baycrest's work in research and aging is so critical for everybody. Baycrest is bigger than just its physical space. It's not just a place where older adults go at the end of life, it's critical for brain health research in order to help understand brain function better."

The Mirskys know their legacy gift will help ensure that the critical work Baycrest does to unlock the secrets of dementia will continue, and help benefit future generations to live their best lives.

"Dementia is one of the fastest-growing diseases in an aging population and the work Baycrest does to address this is woefully underfunded," Brian says. "By leaving a gift to Baycrest, we are giving to the foremost organization working to help alleviate this disease through its work in research, education and innovations in brain health and aging. In our lifetime, we're all going to be touched by it as much as cancer, whether it's your parents, grandparents or other loved ones. Baycrest's competitive advantage is its leading-edge research in dementia, and funding is crucial to that work."

FEARNOAGE™

Baycrest

Informal Mediation - Management of Intra-Family Disputes During the Last Stages of Life

The COVID-19 pandemic has wrought many changes, not the least of which has been a prevalent increase in emotional stress. We have also become more acutely aware of the precariously thin line separating a healthy life from an unexpected end-of-life scenario.

While we thankfully appear to be emerging from the worst of the pandemic, our appreciation for not only the preciousness but the quality of life ought to guide our approach toward how we support individuals in their Last Stages of Life (LSL individuals) and their family members, in coping with the exacerbated issues that can arise in such a fragile and tense situation.

A critical element of this multifaceted approach ought to be the provision of informal mediation services to support both LSL individuals and their families. Whether through access to a private, informal mediator in a home-based setting or as a dedicated service offered by health care facilities to residents, informal mediation would be of invaluable assistance in enabling LSL individuals to live out their remaining days in a peaceful environment, unencumbered by unnecessary tension and conflict.

The Law Commission of Ontario recently recognized the increased stress and propensity for conflict in an LSL context:

*"Death, dying and bereavement are highly emotional and important experiences for everyone involved... Conflicts in the last stages of life may revolve around health care decision-making, a preference for treatment, or concerns about the quality of care being provided."*¹

To these health care-related issues, I would add conflicts concerning financial issues, which often arise from disagreements over health care alternatives.

These health care and financial issues – already challenging in the pressure cooker of a LSL situation – are frequently exacerbated by latent resentment amongst family members, including the LSL individual. If not addressed, disputes over health care and financial issues may trigger further intra-family hostility (and litigation) after the LSL individual passes away. This is not the legacy most LSL individuals would wish to leave.

While this seems obvious, there remains a clear need for the cultivation and deployment of informal mediators to support both LSL individuals and their families.

In the next article, we will examine the practical implementation of informal mediation, as well as related avenues toward avoidance of disputes in the LSL context.

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¹ Law Commission of Ontario, Final Report dated October 2021, p. 82

Thoughts from an Advisor

"Leave a Bequest with Minimal Reduction to the Inheritance for Your Children"

by Tina Tehranchian, Senior Wealth Advisor, Assante Capital Management Ltd.

Read the full article at: www.baycrestfoundation.org/Ways-to-Give/Estate-Planning-Legacy-Giving

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This is an easy way to maximize your gift and receive a charitable tax credit. Changing your beneficiary does not have to be documented in your Will, so the process is quick and convenient.

Do your estate plans include Baycrest Centre Foundation?

You can help achieve extraordinary things, simply by planning ahead.

For a confidential discussion on naming Baycrest in your Will or donation options contact the Legacy Giving Team. Please call **(416) 785-2500** Becki Willoughby ext. 3895; Joanne Gittens ext. 2023; Melissa Sobel ext. 6288.

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