

## THE WILLIAM & SARAH LAWRENCE SOCIETY

recognizes the many alumni and friends who have informed the College that they have included Sarah Lawrence in their estate planning. It is named for William Van Duzer Lawrence and his wife, Sarah Bates Lawrence, in whose memory he created the College.



# Legacy News

## Tax-Wise Giving: IRA Charitable Rollovers



JANE REISEN '62

***“It saves money and you can be even more generous!”***

“What pocket you take your money from matters a lot,” said Jane Reisen '62, who had just made her gift to the SLC Ahead of the Curve Campaign. “My financial advisor told me to make all

charitable gifts from my IRA account. It saves money, taxes and you can be even more generous! It is a great technique and, at my age, you have to take yearly distributions anyway. You can take out more than the required distribution and, either way, without tax consequences if you give to charity. It’s called ‘the permanent IRA Charitable Rollover.’”

Jane treasures her SLC education and the lifelong friendships she made there. After college she was active in the alumni board, became a trustee for eight years and has attended events on campus and off—including hosting a Faculty on the Road event last year at her home. Showing her devotion to SLC, she had just returned home from the hospital with a broken hip!

Jane took the opportunity of giving her gift on April 4, Giving Day this year, so that her gift could be matched by a group of trustees and alums who pledged to match gifts on that day. “I believe strongly in the College; it is a unique place and offers an education that bestows benefits that resonate through the years after graduation.”

*Note: The newly permanent Charitable IRA Rollover permits philanthropic members of the Sarah Lawrence community to distribute up to \$100,000 directly to the College while incurring no federal income tax liability on that distribution. Check with your financial advisor or e-mail us at [giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu) for more information.*

# A Father's Advice on Tax-Savvy Giving

Although the 1930's and '40's were a frightening time, with the Depression's economic instability and the subsequent horrors of World War II, I was fortunate to have grown up within a stable, supportive family. My parents' marriage was an equal partnership based upon mutual respect, love, friendship and shared responsibility for raising my two older brothers and me within an emotionally wholesome home.

It was a "no nonsense" household based upon direct communication. I loved my mother with whom I shared a special confidential friendship and the joys of a sheltered and interesting childhood filled with storytelling, music and the arts and fun. But I adored and revered my father. He was the "fulcrum", the key role model for me and my brothers.

---

## ***"Pay attention to the tax consequences of your philanthropic decisions."***

Who was he? A Lithuanian Russian with a gymnasium education, he'd immigrated with his family to America in 1911 at age 13. Although reduced to subsequent impoverished circumstances, my father possessed a positive and independent mind. An innate linguistic ability enabled him to learn unaccented English quickly. He succeeded in supporting himself, compassionately interacting with all types of people in various working environments while continuing his education and professional goal of medicine.

He remained intellectually curious, open to new ideas throughout his life and valued a liberal education as the foundation for critical thinking and creative problem solving. Most significant, however, was his "generosity of spirit," the essence of his being!

I have fond memories of family dinnertime conversations, which were central to the family's daily routine and the only time during which my parents and we siblings could exchange various topics. My father would hold forth on subjects ranging from politics, history, philanthropy, community or religious issues, literature to daily happenings and stories related to house calls or interesting medical subjects.

My most significant recollection, however, was my father's often-repeated statement, "Service. We all serve. Life is about compassion, trust and sharing within one's family and with other human beings. Not what is owed us, but what we owe others, especially if we have been one of the more fortunate."

My father's philosophy of service was the foundation for both his and my mother's community volunteerism and philanthropy, as well as their assistance to German Jews resettling in the Milwaukee community prior to World War II. He was a consistent and generous donor to Northwestern Medical School because he wanted to "give back" to the institution that had enabled him to practice medicine and become an effective human being with a purposeful life. During the 1960s, as Chairman of their Alumni Donations, he was instrumental in developing a very successful annual philanthropic campaign program.

The legacy of my father's philosophy of service, his "generosity of spirit," has permeated my own life view. I cannot imagine life without sharing, especially if one is as fortunate and lucky as I have been. Part of that good fortune was an investment that appreciated substantially due to an imminent takeover. Another of my father's lessons, after I had graduated from college, was to pay attention to the tax consequences of my decisions, i.e. take full advantage of any IRS deductions involving capital gains and philanthropy. By making a gift to Sarah Lawrence of the appreciated shares, the College gets the benefit of the current high value and I avoid the capital gains tax on the appreciation. I've been a regular donor to Sarah Lawrence and the College is named in my will.

Now, it gives me enormous pleasure to be able to support the Health Advocacy Graduate Program by planting some seeds for the new Health Advocacy Fund.



NAOMI BERNHARD LEVINSON '56

# Using a Retirement Plan as a Charitable Bequest: Smart Tax Planning



JEAN CHANDLER MILLER, CCE '88

Lew Miller remembers what a huge step it was for his late wife, Jean Chandler Miller, CCE '88, to return to school and earn her degree.

"When she was in her fifties and our children were grown, Jean worked up her courage and enrolled at Sarah Lawrence. She'd learned about Sarah Lawrence's College for Continuing Education and knew a couple of people who'd attended the College. With small classes and no required major, it was the kind of environment she could feel comfortable in."

For many years, Jean Chandler Miller had regretted dropping out of college. Her husband recalls that after she finally went back, fulfilling her long-held dream of studying creative writing in a serious way, "she greatly valued and enjoyed her experience—so much so, that she encouraged other women in our community to enroll." He adds, "It worked out very well for them, too. At Jean's funeral, they talked about how much it had meant that she'd inspired them to attend Sarah Lawrence."

Jean's supportive advice to friends mirrored her abundant support for the College itself. She was consistently generous in her outright giving and she and Lew made Sarah Lawrence the beneficiary of a charitable trust. On top of that, she made Sarah Lawrence the beneficiary of her retirement plan, too.

Always financially savvy, Jean applied that expertise very effectively to her own investments and charitable gifts. By naming Sarah Lawrence, rather than an individual heir, as her retirement account beneficiary, she arranged for that money to pass outside her estate. Had it gone to an individual or even directly to her estate, it would have been subject to income as well as estate taxes. Heirs are better off if a retirement plan is directed to charity with gifts from non-taxable sources directed to heirs.

***"Jean's supportive advice to friends mirrored her abundant support for the College itself."***

When she died last December, remembered by family, friends and neighbors as an earnest, judicious, and generous philanthropist, her loved ones asked that any memorial gifts be directed to Sarah Lawrence. At the same time, Miller's full IRA balance moved to the College exactly as she'd planned, completely tax-free.

"Sarah Lawrence had a very special place in her heart," says her husband, a Princeton grad who joined her in befriending the leaders of her alma mater, attending countless events on the Bronxville campus, and supporting other worthy schools and charities. "She and I both held the view that whatever we had, we wanted to share."

## COULD GIFT PLANNING HELP YOU ADDRESS A PERSONAL FINANCIAL ISSUE?

- Concerned about outliving your assets?
- Looking to boost retirement income?
- Looking for ideas to reduce the tax on your estate?
- Hoping to provide major support to Sarah Lawrence without jeopardizing your heirs?
- Concerned about cashing in an investment because of the expected capital gains tax?

**Gift planning can help. Talk to us! We have lots of creative solutions for just such situations. There is never any obligation.**

# Office of Career Services: Helping Students Find the Next Step

Sarah Lawrence's Office of Career Services helps integrate all of Sarah Lawrence's constituencies to help make sense of career options available to students. By drawing on the resources and good will of alumni and employers near and far, Career Services helps connect students and alumni with internships and full time employment.

Career Services is ready to assist undergraduates, graduates, and alumni to explore, define, or just begin to think about life after Sarah Lawrence. Whether it's finding that perfect internship, getting practical information for landing the job, or just looking to explore your options, the Office of Career Services is the place to start. Job hunters and career explorers are invited to meet with career advisers to learn how they can help candidates get started. Their attitude is, it's never too early to start exploring.

How do they do it? They take advantage of the knowledge and experience of successful alumni and other interested professionals in many fields to mentor, advise, and offer openings for both permanent jobs and internships. Employers know that the College's small seminars, independent projects, real-world criteria, and one-on-one student/professor relationships result in a student population that is confident, articulate, dependable, motivated, and resourceful. They also know that, when they are searching for creative thinkers, team-oriented leaders, resourceful doers, and employees who bring an immediate contribution, they are looking for a Sarah Lawrence College student.

---

***"Their attitude is, it's never too early to start exploring."***

Employers know that they can experience the Sarah Lawrence difference by partnering with the Office of Career Services on student career development initiatives or by recruiting interns and entry-level employees from Sarah Lawrence College's impressive student body.

Career Services offers programs that connect students to employers and professionals who share their expertise and work-related experience. The programs also provide employers with the opportunity to meet the College's future graduates. Programs include:

- **CAREER INSIDER'S VIEW:** Industry-specific roundtable discussions with employers

- **CAREER PATHWAY SERIES:** Presentations and counsel from working professionals
- **RESUME WORKSHOPS BY INDUSTRY:** Real-world advice from real-world recruiters
- **MOCK INTERVIEW DAY:** Constructive practice and invaluable preparation provided by industry professionals
- **EMPLOYER SITE VISITS:** Workplace tours and networking opportunities in New York City and Washington, D.C.
- **SENIOR TRANSITIONS PROGRAM:** Wisdom and guidance for upcoming graduates

The Office of Career Services provides multiple ways for employers and students to connect. Employers can:

- **Post internships and job openings** to our online database
- **Conduct student interviews** on campus
- **Solicit resumes** for interviews at their office
- Join the annual **on-campus internship and volunteer fair**
- **Recruit at Career & Internship Connections**, a multi-college event held in four cities during the first week of January

And donors help make programs possible, by offering travel stipends and paid internships.

- Student participation in the SLCeeds 5 Day Intensive (Innovation and Entrepreneurship program) is 100% funded by alumni.
- Travel stipends provided by both alumni and parents are awarded during the academic year enabling students to travel to internships in the New York area. Sites include the New York Botanical Garden, China Institute, ELLE Magazine, Women Make Movies, Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP, Legal Aid Society, Parsons Dance, and many more.
- Through the new Summer in the City Internship Program, students will reside on campus for free while interning in New York City, and attend a professional development and networking summer series.
- Several alumni have created summer funded internship opportunities, enabling students with limited resources to accept coveted unpaid internships in their chosen field.

**PASSION + | A CAREER  
PURPOSE | YOU LOVE**

# Susie Stein '74: Intended Bequest Honors Faculty She Loved



In high school in Waterbury, CT, Susie Stein was a talented pianist, fluent in French, who loved writing and political science. One Passover, at a family Seder, another young pianist told her about a promised land of academic freedom, excellent music teachers, and attentive advisors.

"She was in her first year at Sarah Lawrence, and raved about the school," Stein recalls. So when Stein herself applied to college and sifted among the acceptances, she chose Sarah Lawrence as well.

Soon she was the one raving about her teachers. She studied piano with both of the Wentworths, Jean and Kenneth, the married musical scholars acclaimed for performing together on classical stages. She also had the privilege of studying writing and literature with E.L. Doctorow "before he became famous," she says. "He was great."

Stein was equally delighted with the French faculty. But what she calls "the best experience of all" was a special winter-break program led by the poet and political activist Muriel

Rukeyser. The group focused on works that Stein describes as "very complex, very intense," and Rukeyser "stayed a mentor of mine until she died."

Today, Stein calls herself "blessed" to have that college education. Though she went on to Ivy League graduate and professional schools, in her view, none came close to Sarah Lawrence. And because she believes that "regardless of our income level or difficulties in life, it's really important to give back," she has made yearly gifts to the Fund for Sarah Lawrence and has named the College in her will.

Stein is literally an expert in giving back. While pursuing her lifelong interest in piano performance, she built a thriving career in the world of charitable funding. Her company, Strategies for Philanthropy, LLC ([www.strategiesforphilanthropy.biz](http://www.strategiesforphilanthropy.biz)), advises nonprofits and individual and institutional donors on all aspects of raising and contributing money. Founded in 2002, the company is based in Milwaukee, where Stein has lived for many years, and is known for helping major organizations clarify and meet financial goals.

---

***"Today Stein calls herself 'blessed' to have that college education."***

Like her growth as a musician, Stein's development as a writer, critical thinker, and problem solver was fed and inspired by the teachers and mentors she found at Sarah Lawrence. That's why, when she wrote a will benefiting her two beloved children, she also established a legacy of support for her cherished college—a college as important to students today as it was to Stein and the young woman who steered her there.

## SARAH LAWRENCE IS MOST GRATEFUL TO OUR WSLS MEMBERS

Sarah Lawrence offers its heartfelt appreciation to all members of The William & Sarah Lawrence Society. By including us in your legacy, you are building a lasting connection to future generations of Sarah Lawrence students. Your generosity helps ensure that a transformational Sarah Lawrence education will be available to tomorrow's independent and creative thinkers.

### NEWLY REGISTERED:

Jennifer Feeley '64  
Melody A. Foti '75  
Eric Hillel Glassgold '85

Susan Hirshfeld Halpern '66  
and Robert Halpern  
Gregg Horowitz '81  
Lisa Kimball '70  
Michelle Le Brun '82

Frank Mauran  
Carol Maxym '70  
Lewis A. Miller, FR  
Joanne Mrstik '59 and  
Richard S. Mrstik

Gregory Nanopoulos MFA '00  
Talib Nichiren  
Nancy Press '69  
Susan Q. West '53  
Anonymous [2]

**If Sarah Lawrence is in your estate plan, please let us know. We would be honored to include you in The William & Sarah Lawrence Society.**



**DOREA FERRIS**, Director of Gift Planning

Phone (914) 813-9251

Fax (914) 813-9205

Office Location 45 Kraft Avenue, Bronxville, NY  
(next to the Bronxville Metro-North station)

[giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu)

LEARN MORE AT [SARAHLAWRENCE.EDU/GIFTPLANNING](https://sarahlawrence.edu/giftplanning)

## YEAR-END TAX PLANNING STRATEGIES

Alumni find that making a tax-deductible gift to Sarah Lawrence College is a wonderful way to demonstrate your commitment to the College and its programs while having a positive impact on your tax situation. Charitable gifts made by December 31 apply to the current tax year. Talk to your professional advisers. Your tax adviser, attorney or other professional can best explain the impact of your gift on your personal tax situation.

Now's the time to begin serious year-end tax planning. Enough of the year has passed to estimate your taxable income, yet there is still time to take tax-saving steps before the end of the tax year. Contact us at [giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu) for more information.

- **IRA ROLLOVERS:** If you or your spouse are age 70½ or older and must take distributions from your IRA, you likely know that Congress has made permanent legislation allowing philanthropic members of the Sarah Lawrence community to distribute up to \$100,000 directly to the College while incurring no federal income tax liability on the distribution.

- **IRA DISTRIBUTIONS:** Not yet 70½? Your IRA can still be a source of funds for your gift to Sarah Lawrence. After age 59½, withdrawals from retirement plans are no longer subject to an early withdrawal penalty. You may want to consider the use of retirement funds for your charitable giving.
- **USE SECURITIES:** You can take advantage of extra tax benefits if you use long-term appreciated securities to make your gift. You get gift credit for the full current value of the gift, yet you are not liable for federal capital gains tax on any increase in the value of the securities.
- **GIFT ANNUITIES:** Sarah Lawrence Charitable Gift Annuities pay one or two income beneficiaries age 60 or over fixed payments based on the age and number of income beneficiaries and the value of the gift. Go to [sarahlawrence.edu/giftannuities](https://sarahlawrence.edu/giftannuities) or email us at [giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu) for more information.