

Chair Emerita



Elaine Galinson

When asked why she's served on the UC San Diego Foundation Board almost continually since 1998, including as Chair, Elaine unhesitatingly replies that, "It's one of the better boards I serve on. Because the work is done at the committee level, our general meetings are always so interesting. We always hear from a faculty member, and I find it so intellectually stimulating – they're always terrific."

Elaine (along with her late husband, Murray, who also served on the Board) has been involved in and contributed to many areas across the UC San Diego campus, including a lifetime membership in Chancellor's Associates. She has also served on the Dean's Advisory Board for the Social Sciences, her major in college.

Elaine grew up in Minneapolis and met Murray while still in high school. When they married, the two moved to California to attend Stanford; they returned to Minnesota to enable Elaine to complete her degree and support her husband's law schooling. When their children were young, they moved to La Jolla where she soon became involved in not only raising a family, but contributing to the community, at home and also abroad. On one of her boards, for example, "We are a lifeline to Jews everywhere. In over 60 different countries for over 90 years we have rescued imperiled Jews, are re-vitalizing Jewish life in communities of every size and make sure that no Jew goes to bed hungry, sick or lonely. We live by the commandment of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and in that spirit we also offer non-Jewish communities relief and development assistance."

Elaine is a contributor, and she keeps her eye on far-reaching effects. For example, when her parents both experienced strokes, the Galinsons wanted to support the work of Dr. Patrick Lyden, a renowned stroke specialist at UC San Diego. They directed their gift to a graduate level fellowship in stroke research, because they recognized the broad value that high-performing students contribute to a university's output, and to a community.

"I learned about the importance of fellowships because of my participation on the UC San Diego Foundation Board," says Elaine.

"UC San Diego is so important to our entire region. It's such an outstanding university – in research and academics, the health sciences. It's important to nourish it so that it not only maintains, but grows and expands its reputation."

Elaine is also a connector, and she has brought other talented and committed people to the board via her relationships across San Diego. She currently chairs the San Diego Jewish Women's Foundation and serves on The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

National Board, the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation Board's Executive Committee, and the District Attorney's Women's Advisory Council.

Elaine attended Stanford University and graduated with a degree in the Social Sciences from the University of Minnesota.