

We are delighted to announce that **Marc Sacks** will serve as our 2010 CFJE Honoree.

Marc is more than deserving of this special honor. As a member of the CFJE Board and Executive Committee he has been a staunch advocate for the agency. Marc's strong grasp of immediate and long term pressing issues facing the CFJE and the community has been extremely valuable in the agency's strategic planning. His guidance, focused thinking, and ability to appreciate the larger context for CFJE programming, has truly benefited the agency's significant progress.

Marc believes strongly in the power of exciting, informal Jewish education (e.g., youth groups; CFJE's Ta'am Yisrael Eighth Grade Israel Experience; Jewish summer camps) to produce educated and committed Jewish youngsters and future leaders. To that end, Marc has demonstrated particular commitment to our Israel and Hebrew programs, most notably Ta'am Yisrael. In addition to sending his two older sons, Josh and Steven, on Ta'am Yisrael (2005 and 2009, respectively), Marc and his wife, Susan, have provided direct subsidies over the years to families who otherwise could not afford to have their own children participate in the program. He has also been deeply engaged in critical strategic conversations addressing ways to continuously strengthen and grow the Ta'am Yisrael program.

Marc and Susan have supported Deerfield High School's Hebrew language program by enhancing CFJE's recruitment efforts to sustain and grow the initiative. He also represented the agency at last year's CIJE (Chicago Informal Jewish Educators), CFJE's annual professional development conference for Chicago's informal educators who work with Jewish teens. Marc serves on Congregation Bnai Tikvah's Board of Trustees and is past Chairman of the synagogue's Youth Commission and has also served on its Finance Committee. He has worked with USY and AIPAC to expand participation by pro-Israel high school students to attend the AIPAC policy conference .

Marc's other areas of community leadership include: Board of Directors, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago/Jewish United Fund and current Chair, JUF's Financial Services Division; Leadership Board and Past Mission Leader, Nachshon/JUF, the men's leadership mission to Israel; and AIPAC National and Chicago Leadership Councils. Marc is also working with leadership of Ramah Wisconsin to develop Family Camp programming.

Marc and Susan's three boys have also all been active in Jewish life and leadership.

Marc is a Senior Managing Director and head of the private equity investment business for Mesirow Financial Private Equity in Chicago. Marc serves on Mesirow Financial's Executive Committee and its Board of Directors. Marc earned his BA in Economics from Queens College in NY and his MBA in Finance from Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management. Since 1998 Marc has served on the private equity investment subcommittee for the Cornell endowment.