

**November 29, 2007**

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### **Women Share Values, Life Lessons at Ethical Wills Session**

West Hartford, CT – On November 27, 15 women, donors to the Jewish Community Foundation and the Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy Division, gathered at The Spa at Norwich Inn for a session on ethical wills. Janice Rothstein and Hollie Barkoff, clinicians from Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford, facilitated a discussion on this unique way to share your values, blessings, life lessons and dreams for the future with loved ones.

Unlike a last will and trust, ethical wills are not legally binding documents. They come in a variety of forms, from a short letter to a lengthy autobiographical statement, from an audio-recorded message to a bound album. Some people choose to share their ethical wills during life, usually at an important anniversary or family milestone like sending children to college or retirement. While ethical wills are traditionally written documents, they don’t have to be.

Ethical wills are gaining in popularity today as some people want to find a way to leave their loved ones with “values” instead of just “valuables.” There are several resources available to those interested in writing ethical wills, including Barry Baines’s book *Ethical Wills: Putting Your Values on Paper* and Rachael Freed’s *Women’s Lives, Women’s Legacies*.

The ethical wills program is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and the Jewish Community Foundation.

For more information about the ethical wills program and giving to the Jewish community, please call Debbie Glassman, Director of Women’s Philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, at 860-727-6100, or Deborah Rothstein, Director of Development and Communications at the Jewish Community Foundation, at 860-523-7460.

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#### **ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Established in 1972, the Jewish Community Foundation is the central resource for Jewish philanthropy in the Greater Hartford area. With assets over \$81 million, the Foundation administers more than 980 separate charitable funds established by individuals, families and community organizations. In 2007, the Foundation and its donors made \$2.9 million in grants to a broad range of charities. It received gifts of more than \$4.2 million. To learn more about the Foundation, please call 860.523.7460 or visit [www.jcfhartford.org](http://www.jcfhartford.org).

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[PHOTO CAPTION – ETHICALWILLS-1.JPG]

Lisa Fishman and Merrill Kate Mandell discuss ethical wills during a November 27 educational session at The Spa at Norwich Inn. The two co-chair the Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) program, a joint women's philanthropy initiative at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford and Jewish Federation.