

Frieda Shapira to receive Emanuel Spector Award

UJF release



UJF photo

Frieda Shapira

Frieda G. Shapira has been named recipient of the 1999 Emanuel Spector Memorial Award.

The annual award is given for outstanding leadership and commitment to the Pittsburgh Jewish community and is the highest honor presented by the United Jewish Federation for an individual's communal service contribution.

Shapira has played a significant role as a community leader for more than 50 years. Her volunteer work has touched numerous social, health, educational and cultural organizations and institutions.

Currently, Shapira serves on the board of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and is their 1999 Volunteer of the Year honoree.

A long history with the UJF, Shapira served on its board for numerous terms, was a leading volunteer with the Women's Division and also played a key role with the Community Relations Committee.

She is a past member of the Temple Sinai, Montefiore Hospital and Jewish National Fund boards. She is past chairperson of the American Jewish Committee and past president of the National Council of Jewish Women.

"This award has great meaning for me because Manny Spector was my cousin and I clearly remember the work he did for the United Jewish Federation," she said. "I am honored to join the very distinguished group of people who have received this award, including my husband and my son."

Beyond the Jewish community, Shapira is vice chairperson of the Pittsburgh Foundation; serves on the boards of the Forbes Fund, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and its Board of Visitors of the Graduate School of Social Work; the Pittsburgh Public Theater, the Pittsburgh Opera, Magee Hospital, Phipps Conservatory, and the Community College of Allegheny County. She is also a lifetime member of the board of the United Way and board member emeritus of WQED.

She has received many awards for years of volunteer service, including the first Florence Reizenstein Award for Advancement of Human Rights and Dignity from the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations; Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award from the National Council of Christians & Jews; Natalie Novick Award for Community Service from the Zionist Organization of America; the Pittsburgh Women of the Year in Community Service from Vectors/Pittsburgh Men & Women of the

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ear; Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania awarded by Gov. Richard Thornburg; Hannah G. Solomon Award from the Pittsburgh Section of the National Council of Jewish Women; and the Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee.

The Shapira family has a history of volunteerism within the community. Frieda Shapira's late husband, Saul, was a UJF board chairman, as is her eldest son, David. Daniel Shapira, the second eldest, is the immediate past chairman of the 1999 UJF Community Campaign and her

daughter-in-law, Karen A. Shapira, is current UJF chairman of the board designate. Shapira has two other children, Ralph and Edith.

Shapira will be presented the Spector Award at the United Jewish Federation Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. in Levinson Hall at the Jewish Community Center, Squirrel Hill.

A dairy dessert reception will follow the meeting. Dietary laws will be observed. There is a minimal cost. Reservations can be made by calling the United Jewish Federation at 681-8000, ext. 247.