

## LEADERSHIP IN RESHAPING THE WORLD COUNCIL

HOWARD CHARISH  
*President, WCJCS*

*and*

THEODORE COMET  
*Executive Vice President, WCJCS*

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "An institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man." In contrast, as Jewish communal professionals, our goal is to underpin our agencies with the broadest possible base. Nevertheless, we recognize that there are occasions when one leader can make a crucial difference, and Stephen D. Solender was such a leader for the World Council of Jewish Communal Service (WCJCS).

He took over the presidency during a time of change and wisely guided WCJCS' expanded role by redefining its mission, strengthening contacts with professionals around the world, deepening the connection to Israel, and involving more colleagues.

WCJCS was founded in 1967 at a conference in Jerusalem for the purpose of fostering interchange, contacts, and a sense of commonality among Jewish communal professionals worldwide. It was based on two premises: first, that problems facing Jewish life have become so complex that no community can address them successfully alone, that there is a need to be part of a global network; and second, professionals have a special leadership role to play, and this too can be done better if part of a global professional network.

For the next three decades, professionals gathered together every four years until it

was realized that the Quadrennials alone were insufficient and that there was a desire for activities during the intervening four years. The WCJCS was reconstituted into an organization focusing on professional activity on a year-round basis. To reflect this broadened role, the name was changed from the World Conference of Jewish Communal Service to the World Council of Jewish Communal Service.

Steve brought to bear his extraordinary authority, sensitive leadership skills, myriad contacts at home and abroad, especially in Israel, his upbeat optimism, and global outlook to enable WCJCS to broaden its operation.

This global outlook is one of Steve's most inspiring traits. It reflects the years he spent working in Europe for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, first as Consultant for Jewish Community Centers and then as Consultant for Community Organization. For him *Klal Yisrael* is not a vague, sentimental abstraction, but a fundamental and organic part of his makeup. This quality was recognized by colleagues overseas, who felt that Steve was one of them.

Stephen D. Solender is a role model of a caring, compassionate, and unusually skilled professional—an inspiration for us all.

COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES



*Congratulates*

*UJC President/CEO Stephen D. Solender*

*On Completing 40 Years of*

*Outstanding Leadership*

*and Service to the Federation Movement*

*and the Jewish People*

Ted Benard-Cutler  
CJP Board Chair

Barry Shrage  
CJP President