



MERLE SAFERSTEIN

Merle R. Saferstein has dedicated her life to education, legacy preservation, and support for those facing significant life challenges.

Her career began as an elementary school teacher. She later became the director of educational outreach at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center and, for twenty-six years, worked closely with hundreds of Holocaust survivors to ensure their stories were passed on to students, teachers, and future generations. After Merle's long tenure as a Holocaust educator, her passion for legacy continued as she developed a course entitled Living and Leaving Your Legacy®. She now teaches and speaks to audiences locally, nationally, and internationally about leaving a meaningful legacy.

She trains hospice staff and volunteers, showing them ways to help patients leave their legacies, and works closely with the patients at the end of their lives doing sacred legacy work. For many years, she has volunteered at a camp for children who experienced the death of a family member—helping them gain important tools, including journaling, to cope with their grief. She also conducts all-day parent sessions at these camps. Merle facilitates a writing for wellness group at Gilda's Club for women impacted by cancer.



5890 South Pine Island Road, Davie, Florida 33328 • 954.252.6900 • jewishbroward.org

Since April 2020, at the start of Covid, Merle has led a weekly journaling circle. She culled through her 359 journals for fourteen years, taking excerpts from approximately seventy topics. She created Living and Leaving My Legacy, Vols. I and II from these excerpts, each containing eleven subjects. Vol. II is an Amazon #1 new release in two categories and is an Amazon bestseller in two additional categories. She is currently involved as the author of a project entitled Wisdom of the Century, which consists of interviews with 90 individuals 90 years old and older that will appear in a coffee table book and photographic exhibition.

Merle is a council member of the International Association for Journal Writing, is the author of Room 732, an award-winning short story collection that pays homage to the historic Hollywood Beach Hotel, is a contributor to the Huffington Post, Medium, Authority Magazine, Women Writers, Women's Books, and Thrive Global, and has been featured on NPR, MSN.com, and in an article in Writer's Digest. As a pioneer in the field of legacy journaling, her chapter on the subject appears in The Great Book of Journaling: How Journal Writing Can Support a Life of Wellness, Creativity, Meaning, and Purpose.

Merle was honored as the 2019 Greater Miami Jewish Federation Volunteer of the Year.

ABOUT THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF BROWARD COUNTY

The Jewish Federation of Broward County mobilizes the Jewish Community to provide leadership and financial resources that strengthen and enhance Jewish life in Broward, Israel, and around the world.



5890 South Pine Island Road, Davie, Florida 33328 • 954.252.6900 • jewishbroward.org
