



It is with great sadness that the Trustees and staff of The Fund for New Jersey share the news of the passing of our longtime friend, colleague, Chair, and co-Trustee, Leonard Lieberman, who passed away January 3, 2015. We extend our deepest sympathies to Len's beloved wife Arlene, his daughters, grandchildren, and extended family and to his countless friends in Newark, in New Jersey, and beyond.

A long-time Trustee of The Fund for New Jersey, Len Lieberman was the Chairman of the Board from 1997 through 2009 and an active participant through his final days. Co-chairs Lawrence Lustberg and Gary Rose said: "We are all so fortunate to have had the opportunity to benefit from Len's leadership and from the extraordinary wisdom with which he guided us, the amazing passion with which he always approached issues of public policy and social justice, and the energetic commitment to making our work a more effective means to a cleaner, fairer and more equal society."

Len was a great leader of the Fund because he cared about public policy in New Jersey, which is the focus of our grantmaking, about the causes for which our grantees stood, and about maintaining a vital non-profit sector in our society. In addition to his work in government, serving several governors on high-level commissions and task forces, Len held leadership roles in a wide array of nonprofit organizations, including the Corporation for Supportive Housing, New Jersey Committee of the Regional Plan Association, Partnership for New Jersey, Center for Analysis of Public Issues, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Board of Governors of Hebrew University, Board of Regents of Seton Hall University, Council on New Jersey Affairs of Princeton University, New Newark Foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, and importantly as a long-time Trustee of the Newark Performing Arts Corporation and, since its founding, of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Len was a great leader because of not only what he achieved, but how he achieved it; not only because of what he has done -- which is so very much -- but how he has done it. He was fearless and intensely committed to what is right, while also extraordinarily open-minded and willing to revisit issues based upon good arguments or upon his concern for those who are affected. He was brilliant and deeply empathetic. He was interested in people who had vastly different perspectives and he listened -- truly listened -- to what they had to say.

Len Lieberman will be profoundly missed by all of us at The Fund for New Jersey.