



# AMARIM

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## WHY WE SOLICITED A NAMING GIFT FROM THE MILKEN FAMILY

By Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin



## \$8 MILLION DONATED TOWARDS TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

I am sure by now that many of you are aware of the *Los Angeles Times* article and other media accounts of the name change of our high school, now to be called the Milken Community High School of Stephen Wise Temple. Unfortunately, the media coverage to date has been both misleading and incomplete. I would like to take this opportunity to explain more fully why we chose to name our school after the Milken family—and why the family is so richly deserving of this honor.

The Milken family—individually and through their family foundations—have long been generous supporters of Stephen S. Wise. Would that there were

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In addition to the \$5 million pledged by the Milken Family Foundation, three \$1 million donations have been announced according to **Pam Balton**, President of the congregation. The new donations come from the **Ruth and Allen Ziegler Foundation**, from **Dr. Jerome and Judith Tamkin** and from an anonymous donor family that is a founding member of the congregation.

The \$8 million will all go towards the two new high school buildings which include a gymnasium, a performing arts auditorium, a library, a *Beit-Midrash* (learning sanctuary), four science labs, 15 classroom, and administrative offices, all comprising over 50,000 square feet.

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## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### ***Naming Gift, continued from page 1***

other family foundations that recognized the importance of Jewish education to the survival of the Jewish community in the United States! As the largest charitable group supporting Jewish education in the city of Los Angeles, the family's foundations have provided the funds for more than a thousand scholarships to be awarded through the Bureau of Jewish Education to be used for Russian, other immigrant, and other Jewish children to attend Jewish day schools in Los Angeles. The family also has been awarding outstanding Jewish educators with financial prizes and professional development opportunities, thus encouraging teachers and administrators to remain with the profession of Jewish education.

The Milken family's commitment is long-standing, dating back two decades. In particular, they became involved in the now-defunct Einstein Academy, which ran a high school for Conservative and Reform youngsters. In the late 1980s, they provided substantial financial and moral support when the academy faced a huge annual deficit and waning community support. In subsequent years, the family became the largest single giver to the Academy.

Our Temple has also been the direct recipient of numerous family beneficence. For example, our teacher enrichment program, the scholar-in-residence program, and the entire school administration building all have been made possible through gifts from the family.

While it is true that the Milken family has long been a generous supporter of Stephen S. Wise, their generosity has always extended to their time and individual commitment to a range of Temple activities. Most notable has been the family's long-standing personal involvement in our educational efforts. **Ferne Milken** is an active volunteer in many Temple activities, **Lowell Milken** has been intimately involved in the development of a number of educational programs in place today, and **Michael Milken** has been a volunteer teacher in math. He established Mike's Math Club,

which continues to this day under the guidance of **Joni Milken Noah** and her husband, **Ian**. In addition, both **Sandy Milken** and **Lori Milken** are deeply involved in a number of the synagogue's educational activities. These individual efforts continue to touch many individual children and families in our congregation.

This is not the time nor the place to enumerate the Milken family's contributions to secular education, to medical research and to community betterment organizations throughout the Southland and throughout the entire United States. Suffice it to say, the family has played a leadership role—setting a standard for giving for all members of the community.

That is why we solicited the Milken Family Foundation for a naming gift. No other family has done as much for our educational programs here at Stephen Wise, proving through their deeds a true understanding of the importance of education to a healthy community.

The spirit of community would have been better served if the media reports had accurately reported the story as a symbol of what it is—an appropriate honor for all the Milken family has done to further educational excellence in communities across the nation. We at Stephen S. Wise consider ourselves blessed by the caring, concern and commitment of the entire Milken family and proudly stand by our decision to honor them with a community high school in their name.

### ***\$8 Million Donated, continued from page 1***

Schematics for the buildings are being completed by the architectural firms of Robbins and Bown and Leidenfrost/Horowitz and Associates. Blueprints will soon be in the works and grading is expected to take place in the spring of 1996. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer with final completion by the September 1997 semester.

Total cost of the high school is estimated at \$10-11 million and an area-wide fund raising campaign for the last \$3 million is now being planned.