

LIGHT THE WAY
THE CAMPAIGN FOR BERKELEY

CAL FUTURES

PHILANTHROPIC, FINANCIAL, AND ESTATE PLANNING NEWS
FOR UC BERKELEY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FALL 2023

**GO BEARS,
GO GREEN!**

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What iconic
UC Berkeley landmark
commemorates the spot where
the trustees first met to dedicate
Berkeley's new campus?
Answer inside.

Photo: Keegan Houser

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Office of Gift Planning
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A Note from the Interim Co-Executive Directors

Welcome to the Fall 2023 issue of *Cal Futures*! As we head into the final months of the year, *Light The Way: The Campaign for Berkeley* draws to a close. With gifts thus far totaling over \$6.7 billion and coming from more than 221,000 donors, we couldn't be more proud of Berkeley's community of supporters. Together, we contribute to Berkeley's excellence in providing the very best education to a diverse range of students, attracting the world's most talented faculty, and leading the way in path-breaking research. It is through your generosity that support for faculty and graduate students, vital campus research, and an improved undergraduate experience is possible. Learn more about our final campaign year at light.berkeley.edu.

In other exciting news, the recent addition of the College of Computing, Data Science, and Society (CDSS) has the campus buzzing. Three years in the making and Berkeley's first new college in 50 years, CDSS will help redefine our university in this digital age by bridging computing, statistics, the humanities, and social and natural sciences.

Did you know that planned gifts offer you flexibility in the ways you can give and the benefits you may receive? Judi and Murray Cantor, who are featured in this issue, worked with the Office of Gift Planning to create a charitable remainder trust (CRT) to support the Chancellor's Professorship at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI). A CRT not only provides them with an income tax charitable deduction, but also pays an annual income. When the trust term ends, the remainder will benefit Berkeley as the Cantors have designated.

Thank you for your commitment to and support of our great university. We wish you joy, good health, and much time with friends and family in the coming holiday season. *Fiat Lux*, and Go Bears!

Rachelle Regan, J.D.

Rebecca De Kalb, J.D.

Interim Co-Executive Directors
Office of Gift Planning



Photo by Michael J. Lutch

Murray and Judi Cantor: A Legacy of Mathematical Exploration and Philanthropy

By Jonah Charney-Sirott

Mathematics has been an ever-present thread woven into the tapestry of Murray Cantor's life. From his early fascination with the subject to his distinguished career as an industrial mathematician, the three-time Berkeley graduate ('69, M.A. '70, Ph.D. '73) has dedicated his life to unraveling the complexities of mathematics and promoting rationality in the world. Together with his wife, Judi, their generous philanthropy has made a profound and lasting difference in many people's lives.

Growing up in Los Angeles, Murray was drawn to the vibrant atmosphere of Berkeley in the '60s. **As an undergraduate, his passion for mathematics blossomed as he encountered inspiring faculty members, many of whom were pioneers in the fields they taught.** One such role model was Jerrold (Jerry) Marsden, Murray's thesis adviser, who left an indelible mark on his approach to presenting technical concepts with clarity and accessibility. Another formative mentor was Oscar E. Lanford, III. "He was such a great teacher," Murray says. "He worked on truly deep problems."

After completing his undergraduate degree, Murray's conviction in the excellence of the Mathematics Department led him to apply exclusively to Berkeley for his graduate studies. The rigorous academic environment and the egalitarian, meritocracy-based approach of Berkeley's math department shaped Murray's confidence and prepared him to tackle challenging problems in the real world. According to Murray, Berkeley had a different approach compared to other institutions that admitted fewer students who were almost guaranteed to graduate. Instead, "the admitted classes were much larger," says Murray, though not everyone would finish the program. "The students who did end up succeeding," says Murray, "came out feeling ready to deal with anything the world put in front of them."

Armed with his exceptional education, Murray became an assistant professor at Duke and later at the University of Texas at Austin before embarking on a career as an industrial mathematician at IBM, where he attained the title of Distinguished Engineer. After Murray left IBM, his entrepreneurial spirit led him to co-found Aptage, a pioneering company focused on leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning to optimize portfolio management.

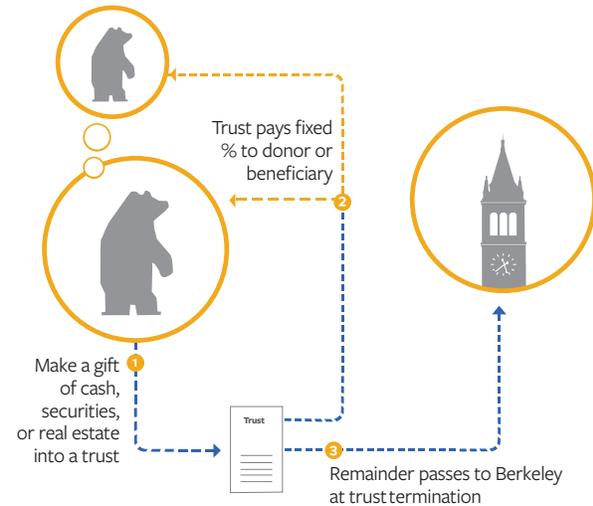
After success at Aptage, retirement approached. Murray and Judi recognized the opportunity to give back to Berkeley. **They furthered their financial planning by establishing a charitable remainder trust with the UC Berkeley Foundation, using Aptage stock as the funding asset.** With Judi's experience working in development for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and Harvard University, the two of them were well aware of the benefits of this type of giving.

For Murray, much of his philanthropy is an extension of his belief in the power of mathematics to create a more rational world. He actively collaborates and volunteers with various organizations, such as the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, assisting them in applying mathematical principles to their decision-making processes.

The charitable remainder trust created by Murray and Judi will pay them income for life. The remainder is slated to benefit the Chancellor's Professorship at The Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath), formerly known as the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), an institution close to Murray's heart and with strong ties to UC Berkeley's Department of Mathematics. Through the establishment of a charitable remainder trust and their continued philanthropic efforts, Murray and Judi strive to leave a lasting legacy that fosters the development of current faculty and advances the field of mathematics. Furthermore, Murray hopes to ensure that Berkeley remains an inclusive place, allowing individuals to rise to the occasion and make significant contributions to the world writ large. ■

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

How it works



**For appreciated assets such as stocks/bonds and real estate held more than one year*

New from University Development and Alumni Relations

Unlock a world of opportunities through the Berkeley Alumni Portal at my.berkeley.edu, the ultimate hub connecting you to our incredible Cal community. The Alumni Portal provides exciting volunteer options, powerful networking tools, university resources, and more. Additionally, you can now sign up to receive one of

three new ethnic affinity newsletters for Black, Asian, and Latinx alumni to stay up-to-date on current happenings within Berkeley's ethnic communities. Visit linktr.ee/ucberkeleyudar to subscribe to the newsletter of your choice. ■



What iconic UC Berkeley landmark commemorates the spot where the trustees first met to dedicate Berkeley's new campus?

The origins of the University of California can be traced back to 1860 when the College of California, a small, private institution in Oakland, purchased 30 acres of land for the "benefits of a country location." On April 16, 1860, the Trustees of the College of California met at the location of Founder's Rock, located at Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, to dedicate the new campus that would later become UC Berkeley. ■

The Benjamin Ide Wheeler Society

On July 21, we were honored to welcome more than 220 Wheeler Society members and guests back to Lower Sproul Plaza for the 36th Annual Benjamin Ide Wheeler Society Luncheon. Professor Lisa Garcia Bedolla, vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the graduate division, gave a spirited lecture entitled “Talking Politics: How We Can Transform Our Democracy.” We are grateful that so many were able to attend this year’s luncheon! For photos and a recording of Professor Garcia Bedolla’s lecture, visit planyourlegacy.berkeley.edu/wheeler-society/benjamin-ide-wheeler-society-events.



Wheeler Society members from Berkeley Optometry. Pictured from left to right: Weylin and Rose Eng, Dean Flanagan and Kathy Dumbleton, Larry and Esther Thal, Chancellor Christ, Charmaine Eng, Page Yarwood, Charlotte Tlalac, and Collin Chu.

If you have included Berkeley in your estate plan but have yet to be welcomed into the Benjamin Ide Wheeler Society, please reach out and let us know: **510.642.6300** or ogp@berkeley.edu. Read about the benefits of joining at planyourlegacy.berkeley.edu/wheeler-society/about. ■

Tax Tip: Invest in Berkeley’s Future with a Gift That Provides You Income

Charitable gift annuities (“CGAs”) and charitable remainder trusts (“CRTs”) can provide you or a loved one with income, with the remainder benefiting Berkeley as you have designated. CGAs can be funded with cash or securities, while CRTs can be funded with cash, securities, or real estate. Tax benefits may include:

- Income tax charitable deduction for the charitable portion of the gift
- Deduction can be used to offset up to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for gifts of cash, or up to 30% of AGI for gifts of appreciated securities or real estate in year of gift
- Unused portion of deduction can be carried forward for up to five years
- With gifts of appreciated assets held long term, no capital gains tax due at time of gift. ■

This newsletter offers only general gift planning information. We urge you to seek the advice of an attorney in developing your personal estate plan, as the Office of Gift Planning may not render tax or legal advice to friends and alumni of the university. If you would like more information concerning charitable giving as a component of estate planning, we would be happy to provide you with more specific ideas.

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