



Philanthropist  
**Becky Benaroya**

Donor, The Benaroya Wing,  
Tacoma Art Museum

*"My grandfather was my biggest influence. He taught me to read Hebrew, tell time, tie my shoes, ride a bike, make his Turkish coffee. He had wonderful values: live and let live; your name is the most important thing; wealth is just a gift; you can't take money with you. As a child, he tried to relate to me in a way that I could understand. One story was, if you pull a strand of hair from your head can you put it back? And I said, no poppa. He said, that's your reputation. Once it's gone you can never repair it. After all this time, I still quote him."*



*Becky at the Dreambuilders'; with husband Jack during WWII; the Benaroyas' 50th anniversary celebration.*

**B**orn January 14, 1923, Becky Benaroya is the grand dame of our Agents of Change: the 95-year-old matriarch of the Benaroya family, which has given so generously to so many in the state of Washington. Her parents came to Seattle at the turn of the 20th Century, her father from the Island of Rhodes, her mother from Constantinople, Turkey. Becky grew up in Seattle's Sephardic Community and attended Garfield High School, where she met her future husband, Jack. They married on Valentine's Day, 1942, and he shipped out with the Navy for World War II later that year in July. After the war, Jack founded a real estate empire, and Becky raised their family. Together, they felt strongly about sharing their good fortune, and began a tradition of giving generously to countless worthy causes. Benaroya Hall, the Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason, and the forthcoming Benaroya Wing of the Tacoma Art Museum are just a few of the nonprofits that bear their name.

Washington State  
**JEWISH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

50

1968 ▶ 2018

Washington State

**JEWISH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**