

Agents of Change

Volunteer Extraordinaire Michele Rosen

Immediate Past President,
Jewish Family Service of Seattle

"My thinking has evolved over my years in volunteer life. I used to think the most important thing was to save the Jewish community. I still think it's important, don't get me wrong. But I do think that we are tapped on the shoulder, we are the chosen people because it's our job not just to help Jews but non-Jews as well."



Michele Rosen has called herself a "professional volunteer," and that's a perfect description for her: she's a powerhouse fundraiser with the ability to bring people together and make great things happen. Born and raised in Los Angeles, her father died when she was five years old, and she and her mother moved in with her grandparents, Latvian immigrants who spoke Yiddish in their home. She went on to get a B.A. in History from U.C. Berkeley and a Master's degree in History and teaching credential from the University of Washington. Through the United Jewish Appeal's Young Leadership Cabinet, she learned the nuts and bolts of fundraising, which has enabled her to be a key player in Seattle's Jewish community. In recent years, she has chaired capital campaigns of \$30 million for Jewish Family Service of Seattle and \$13 million for the University of Washington Karen Mayers Gamoran Family Center for Jewish Life. She was recently the Chair of the Jewish Women's Archive, the Immediate Past President of Jewish Family Service of Seattle, and is a board member of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society.



Michele with Hillary Clinton; with Shimon Peres; with husband Stan at a Purim party.



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