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Two Neptune to be renamed for resident



From left, Monty Mazin, Aubrey Dan and Marla Dan, donors of a \$5-million gift to Baycrest; Reuben Cipin, president and honoree; Temi Rosenthal, chair of the social committee; and Sharyn Gunter, co-chair of programs.

By **CYNTHIA GASNER**
Special to The CJN

The Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care's condominium building, known as Two Neptune Drive, will be renamed the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community, at a dedication ceremony for residents and their families on May 9.

Through a donation of \$5 million to the Baycrest Centre Foundation, Reuben Cipin's daughter and son-in-law, Marla and Aubrey Dan, say they are expressing their love for her father and their gratitude to Baycrest for providing a facility that has brought renewed life and enjoyment to her father and his partner, Sharyn Gunter, and to all those who live in the 120-unit life-lease building.

Cipin says the gift will also be an early birthday present. He turns 76 on May 14.

Marla Dan says the moment she visited the sales centre for the Two Neptune Drive building and discovered the amenities the facility would provide, she and her siblings knew this was the best place for Gunter and Cipin.

"It has surpassed all our expectations," she says. "There is a vibrant and thriving group of people who are active and reach out to one another. They have become one large family."

Cipin is the president of the 11-member elected residents council at Two Neptune. Gunter is the co-chair of the program committee with first vice-president Monty Mazin. This committee organizes onagei Shabbat, movie nights, speaker series and other programs. The social committee, chaired by Temi Rosenthal, helps organize all social functions, including the Cipin dedication.

Last year, the Dans were approached by the Baycrest Centre Foundation to make a donation to the 2003 Annual Campaign, which has a matching funds program. Aubrey Dan says that after taking a tour of Baycrest, "we were so impressed with the centre that we decided to substantially increase our support."

Part of their gift will help fund the gap between government funding and the cost of care at Baycrest and part will go to special projects of the Dans' choosing that will directly benefit seniors throughout the centre.

"A portion will be invested in an endowment fund that will provide social and wellness programming at the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community. These activities will be planned by the residents council," Marla Dan says.

"I was overwhelmed with great pride and deeply moved by the scope and purpose of the gift Aubrey and Marla made," Cipin says of the donation. "Not only does Baycrest Centre benefit financially, but the residents of this building will receive

substantial funds enabling them to enhance the various programs which are involved in the building's healthy living concept the residents have created.”

“We were both taught that the more you give, the more you get and tzedakah is a way of life in our household that is built into the human fabric of our souls,” says Aubrey Dan. “This is our family motto that we live by and that we are teaching our children.”

Born in Glace Bay, N.S., Cipin attended Acadia University at Wolfville, N.S., and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1956. He married Donna Cristall of Edmonton, Alta., and they spent their first year of marriage in Toronto, living on Neptune Drive.

Cipin then practised law in Edmonton, but left the firm in 1970, at the age of 42, after he had a heart attack. He worked for the Alberta Justice Department for 22 years. In Edmonton, he served as president of Beth Shalom Synagogue and was active with the Edmonton Talmud Torah.

His wife died in 1985 and in 1997, he moved to Toronto, following his five children, Jeff, Jacqui, Caralyn, Marla and Jennifer.

Marla Dan notes that when she moved to Toronto, she moved two doors away from the Dan family on Wychwood Avenue, and that's where the couple met.

“What a coincidence that my parents first lived on Neptune Drive after they were married and now, a half-century later, my father and Sharyn live on Neptune Drive. My father is there again to create a new definition of the golden years.”

Marla Dan says all her father's children and grandchildren live in Toronto, “and we can now celebrate his life.”

In a recent dvar Torah at the residence, Mazin, a former public relations specialist, said the donation made by the Dans will benefit those who live in the building.

“It is a wonderful, loving tribute to your dad and father-in-law, Reuben Cipin, and it has overwhelmed our entire Two Neptune mishpachah...

“It is young people like yourselves, sensitive to the needs of the community, caring, compassionate humanitarians, menschen, who are our hope for the future of Judaism.”

“I think it is important to lead by example,” Marla Dan says. “And to us, it is peace of mind to know that the residents can live in a community that is associated with Baycrest which provides a health and service network. People are coming back to life and the building is allowing them to grow old gracefully.

“We do not donate for personal recognition,” she adds. “We just want to recognize Reuben and his contributions and achievements in his life. Why not enjoy that recognition when you’re alive?”

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