

The Power of Community



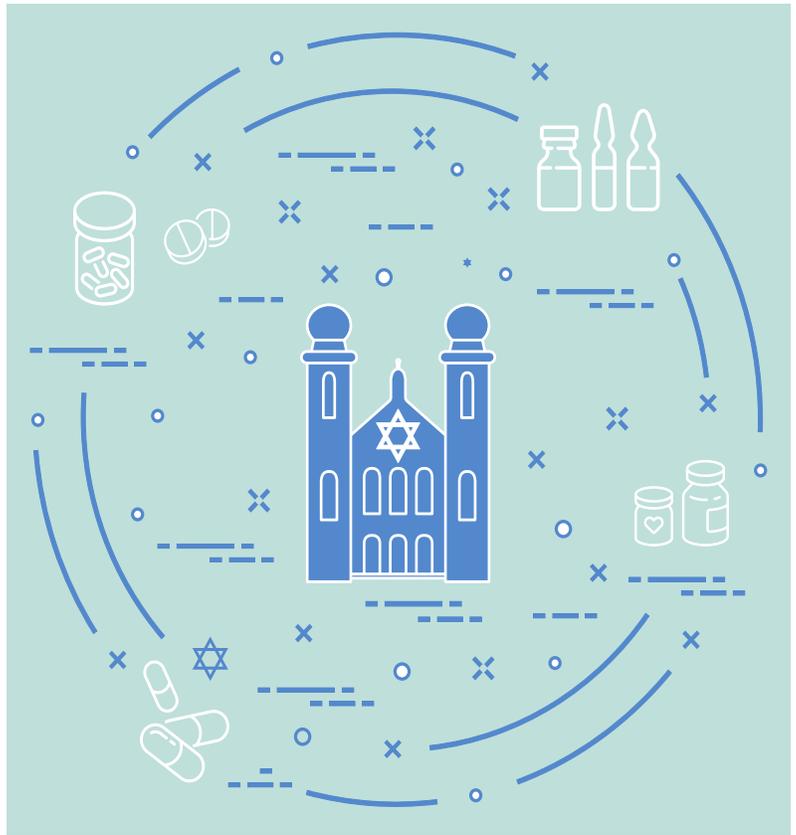
**Larry Rosenstein,
survivor and
board member**

“I’m sorry to have to tell you this, but I’ve reviewed your test results, and it’s cancer.” Hearing this, most patients would - reasonably - be concerned first and foremost for their own well-being. Not Larry. While he was fighting cancer, Larry Rosenstein was trying to figure out how he could help others—if he survived.

First, Larry consulted his rabbi. They discussed creating a small foundation but concluded that the foundation would be too small to have a significant effect on people’s lives. Larry and his wife wanted to go bigger. He mentioned to his oncologist, Dr. Barry Rosenbloom, that he was looking to make a difference. Rosenbloom immediately responded that Tower Cancer Research Foundation might be just the thing, and introduced him to Linda David and Nancy Mishkin.

Larry has always been involved in causes dear to him. Until his diagnosis, he served on the boards of many synagogues and Jewish organizations and was involved with the Legal Division of the Jewish Federation. That is to say, non-profit board service was nothing new to him. But there were a couple of differences this time. Not only was he learning quickly about the world of medical research and its funding, but he was concurrently undergoing medical treatment as a patient. Despite his medical condition, Larry wasted no time getting involved.

It seems as if Larry’s spiritual care and his medical care were working simultaneously to see him through. Every time he was hospitalized, a



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rabbi or a congregant charged with visiting the sick came to visit; his rabbi came to read Psalms with him at home. Both, Larry says, were very helpful. He even came to know the Cedars-Sinai chaplain.

And his medical community went even further to help Larry stay in touch with his synagogue and its members, recognizing the importance of this connection. “While I was undergoing chemo, my wife said that I really couldn’t be going to synagogue like I used to. And I still remember this, my doctors and nurse practitioners said, ‘No, he needs to go. This is important to him. Support him in this and let him go. And on the days he’s had chemo,

we’ll just give him a mask.’ People knew that I was sick so I just showed up with my mask,” recounts Larry, gratitude audible.

Just like Larry’s synagogue and medical communities, “Tower never underestimates the power of community to heal,” Larry says. “Tower is big enough to make a real difference but not so big that we can’t see immediate impacts on patients. In the next 5 to 10 years, we hope that our research advances to cancer cures. As government funding continues to diminish, private funding becomes that much more crucial.” Larry believes that despite the current climate, Tower can make a big difference in diagnosing, treating and curing cancer, “something that touches all of our lives.”

Community support has been crucial to Larry’s recovery, and he has found it both in the Jewish community and in the medical community. “I was observant before my illness,” says Larry, “so turning to Judaism when I was sick was a reasonable extension of what my life already was. I felt very supported by my synagogue community.”