

Health & Fitness news

Couple establishes Gift of Life Foundation

By Madeleine Gordon
Guest columnist

Last fall, during the High Holidays, Rabbi Lewis Kamrass, senior rabbi at Isaac M. Wise Temple, asked the congregation to find a cause and commit to that cause; we were to make it something about which we felt passionate; a cause that lay possibly beyond our beloved Wise Temple.

Behind the news

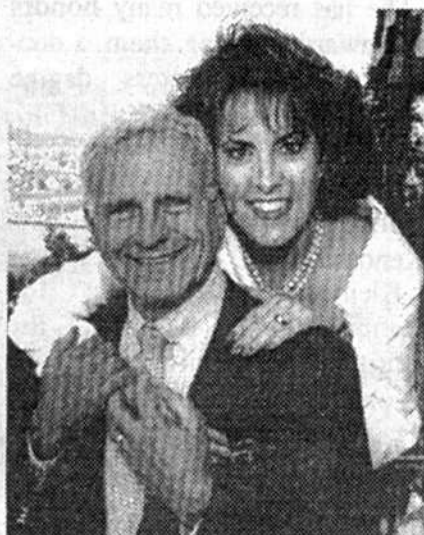
This sage advice came as a prologue to my 50th birthday; a time "to seek meaning in an occasion of life;" a time when one would tend to evaluate, reprioritize, and scrutinize dreams and goals.

I began to ponder: What is the issue, the commitment beyond husband, family, friends? Where is this passion for cause? The thought process gave birth to the Madeleine and Jerome Gordon Gift Of Life Foundation.

I explained our foundation to my stepsons, Jerry Jr. and David, in a letter, with the following:

"For many years it was my dream to have a child. Through my marriage to your father, and because he loves you both so, and is so devoted to fatherhood, he helped me pursue some of the finest infertility experts in the world. Although our own quest was unsuccessful, we wanted to promote the possibility of new life for others, facing the "disappointments and challenges of infertility.

"We saw couples who mort-



Madeleine and Jerome Gordon

gaged homes and sold wedding bands to have one chance at invitro-fertilization. It is really, in part, because of you, and your father's love for you, that this dream has become a reality. Thanks for being my sons, also."

Medicine in the 1990's is curtailing insurance monies for candidates seeking infertility treatments. Some insurance companies are making only partial payment; The state of Maryland just passed a law allowing only \$800 paid; each medical attempt at creating life is often thousands of dollars.

Our foundation will provide funding for couples with a financial need, deserving candidates of infertility care, at the University of Cincinnati Hospital, department of obstetrics and gynecology. A portion of the foundation's assets will be used to purchase equipment for the infertility program.

What's happening in the field? Plenty!

Did you know that we long have been able to freeze a man's sperm, but not a woman's unfertilized egg? Why is this an issue? Women may decide to pursue and prolong their professions. By freezing their own, ripe, young eggs, they no longer will be forced to act based on the ticking of a biological clock.

They will, instead, enjoy extended childbirth years. Did you know that the layers of an egg today can be peeled and the sperm can be injected directly into the egg? It guarantees the joining of the sperm with the microscopic egg.

Research in the field is leading us to perfecting embryo biopsy: detecting diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis and Tay Sachs in the embryonic stages; research is also leading us to replacing an abnormal cell in the embryo stage, with a normal cell, so that a healthy fetus is developed, and a normal take home baby is delivered.

It is our dream, Jerry's and mine, that the foundation will play a small part in these miracles, and that it will survive beyond our own lifetime.

If you are interested in contributing to the Madeleine and Jerome Gordon Gift of Life Foundation, or in knowing more about the foundation, or would like to be considered for candidacy as a recipient, write to: The Madeleine and Jerome Gordon Gift of Life Foundation, P.O. Box 6945, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206.