

The Heritage Society of THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

News & Gift Planning Ideas for Friends of the Aspen Institute

Summer 2015

A Legacy of Leadership and Impact

For the past 65 years, the Aspen Institute has been a forum for open-minded debate that generates real solutions to pressing issues in our society and around the world.

Thanks to the commitment of people like you, the Institute's impact has grown to new heights as we apply a values-based approach to topics such as education, security, poverty, the arts, the environment, and many others. We have also made our public events, seminars, and leadership networks open and accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Building a legacy

Looking ahead to the next decade and beyond, I hope you will consider becoming part of The Heritage Society by naming the Aspen Institute as a beneficiary in your will or other estate plans. A planned gift of this kind is a personal and lasting way you can help sustain the Institute's work and growth for generations to come.

The Heritage Society is our way of thanking Trustees, Society of Fellows members, and other friends for choosing to extend their legacy of leadership and impact in this special way. In this issue you will learn about three of these friends: Trustee **Bill Nitze** and **Ann Nitze**; and Society of Fellows member **Joan Lebach**. I hope you will consider pledging your support as well.

If you have questions or would like to explore how the ideas outlined in this newsletter align with your interests, please feel free to contact our Vice President of Development, Kris Robinson.

Also, please join us in Aspen on August 5th for a special Heritage Society luncheon at Plato's.

Thank you again for your partnership.



All best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WALTER". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Walter Isaacson



Inside:

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Why Your Investment Matters

Investments in the Aspen Institute strengthen our innovative programs and expand our impact. For example, because of donations to scholarships, more leaders can now participate in roundtables, policy programs, and fellowships than ever before. Our future depends on making the work and programs of the Aspen Institute available to leaders everywhere, which is why building our endowment fund is so important.

The following are scholarship recipients who were able to participate in Aspen Institute programming thanks to the availability of general-use scholarship funds, such as the SOF Leadership Fund:



“As a professional opera singer, I feel that changes are necessary if we want to keep the classical arts alive and well. Leadership will be necessary for this to happen, and rather than continue to talk about how we can make the arts relevant, I want to initiate change. The way in which the Institute brings people

together and cultivates a nurturing environment is nothing short of magic. It was here, among a group of people I had just come to meet, that I found the sort of truth and communication that I have been seeking. I left my time at the Institute full of optimism, energy, and hope.” —Carla Dirlikov, Opera Singer/Entrepreneur, El Camino Project, Merchantville, NJ

“It was an absolute privilege to be part of the Seminar. I now more fully appreciate how my work at Facing History fits within a larger conversation about ethics, I encountered perspectives that I don’t often hear, I grew as a leader, and I formed relationships with remarkable people that I trust will last many years. Apparently the Aspen Seminar has been active for sixty years; I hope it goes for another hundred.” —Dave Fulton, Director, Facing History and Ourselves, Denver, CO



“I am immensely grateful for the opportunity and exposure the Socrates program has given me. The topic was, ‘The New Global Middle Class.’ Upon my return home I have initiated a project that will uplift some 100,000 peasants with a timeline of eight years, from their current low income to the middle class. During the seminar I developed a network of useful contacts for this project, but also for academic and political partnership.” —Zitto Z. Kabwe, Member of Parliament- Kigoma North, Tanzania

Donor Spotlight

Joan Lebach has been an active member of the Society of Fellows and Aspen Institute community for more than ten years, and attends many of the Institute’s summer programs. Her gift to the SOF Leadership Fund ensures that future generations of young people will be able to participate in illuminating Institute programs and add value back to their communities.

“Sophisticated, passionate, and respectful debate leads to synthesis of polarities, encouraging creativity and thoughtful leadership. That, along with the mindfulness of balancing freedom and responsibility, are the foundations of democracy. I made a planned gift to the SOF Leadership Fund to enable more active participation and open exchange of viewpoints from members of diverse communities.” —Joan Lebach



Joan Lebach

Planned Giving Is Easier Than You Think

When it comes to your will and other long-range plans, you can designate your loved ones and charitable interests to receive gifts through your estate with a number of flexible, hassle-free options. Here are a few ideas to consider:

- **Give “what’s left.”** After first providing for loved ones, you can devote all or a portion of the remainder of your estate to a charitable interest.
- **Give adjustable amounts.** You can allocate designated percentages of your estate to loved ones and charitable interests. The amounts received are then automatically adjusted as the value of your estate changes.
- **Give a fixed amount or property.** You can specify a dollar amount or a particular property to give. This option can make sense if you would like to ensure that heirs receive a certain property, or that they receive a fixed amount, before you leave any remaining assets elsewhere.
- **Life insurance and retirement plans.** You can designate gifts to the Institute from life insurance proceeds or amounts remaining in a retirement account. Because retirement plans can be subject to more taxes than other assets when received by heirs, it may be best to make charitable gifts from these accounts and provide for heirs from other sources.
- **Bank and investment accounts.** In many states, it is possible to title one or more investment and bank accounts in such a way that whatever remains becomes a charitable gift that can also pass free of estate tax and outside of probate.

Sample Bequest Language

“I give, devise and bequeath ___% percentage of my estate or \$_____ fixed dollar amount to the Aspen Institute, a 501 (c) (3) qualified nonprofit organization, located in and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, and with the principal business address of One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036. Tax identification number: 84-0399006. I would like to support general-use scholarships through the Society of Fellows (and/or) Trustee Leadership Fund.”

Should you prefer to restrict your bequest to a particular program the following language would be appropriate:

“I give, devise and bequeath ___% percentage of my estate to benefit _____(for example, the Aspen Global Leadership Network) program at the Aspen Institute, a 501 (c) (3) qualified nonprofit organization, located in and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, and with the principal business address of One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036. Tax identification number: 84-0399006.”

Tell us if you have already included the Aspen Institute in your estate plan so that we may welcome you to the Heritage Society, which recognizes friends who name the Institute as a beneficiary of a future gift. If you wish to remain anonymous, you may do so. All inquiries remain strictly confidential.



Join us August 5th at Aspen Meadows for a special Heritage Society luncheon at Plato's Restaurant

Planned Giving Leadership

Donor Spotlight

Ann and Bill Nitze have been part of the Aspen Institute family for more than 30 years. They joined the Society of Fellows in 1981 and Bill has served on the Board of Trustees since 1988. Their Aspen roots run deep: Bill is the nephew of Aspen Institute founders Elizabeth and Walter Paepcke.

Over the course of his career, Bill has held key positions in both the public and private sectors, and Ann is a private art dealer in New York City, Aspen, and Washington, DC. Throughout their careers and in their personal lives, they have remained committed to addressing pressing issues facing our society and supporting philanthropic causes.

Ann and Bill have invested in many innovative programs and projects at the Aspen Institute. By leaving a legacy gift to the Institute as part of their estate plans, Ann and Bill have joined the Aspen Institute Heritage Society and will help ensure that Institute programming is open to leaders from all backgrounds for generations to come.



“We are delighted to make a legacy gift to a great institution that has played such an important role in our lives and has meant so much to our family.”

—Ann and Bill Nitze

Are Your Plans Current?

Many of life's most common events make it necessary to review and update estate plans. Such events might include a change in marital status, a move to another state, a change in the value of assets, new tax laws, or the birth of grandchildren. These are just a few examples of why you might want to revisit your plans to be sure you can achieve your personal, financial, and philanthropic goals.



Contact the Vice President of Development for more information on how to include the Aspen Institute in your estate plans.

Kristin Robinson
One Dupont Circle, NW #700
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 736-3852

kristin.robinson@aspeninstitute.org

www.aspeninstitute.giftplans.org

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