

## **BIO INFORMATION FOR FRANCINE AND MURRAY FARBER**

Francine and Murray Farber moved to Fresno in 2003 to be near their daughter and her family after their two sons, Michael and Steven, passed away at ages 35 and 42. They immediately began to work with non-profit organizations in Fresno as a way of getting involved with the community. After a few years Francine became president of the League of Women Voters of Fresno and led a campaign to get better access to quality preschool education for Fresno County children. She also served on the Board of Reading and Beyond for 10 years and has been a member of the Fresno County Behavioral Health Board for a number of years. Murray was the president of the Jewish Federation of Central California and still serves on their board where he promoted college scholarships, aid to programs for youngsters with handicaps, and educational museum trips. He is also a board member of the PBS Citizens Advisory Committee.

Together the Farbers have made education and the arts the focus of their interest and philanthropy. Their son Steven was a Silicon Valley entrepreneur and after his death they were given a million dollars from his estate. After some years of deliberation, they decided to create the Steve's Scholars program at Tehipite Middle School and so far have given over \$100,000 in scholarships to students who went to Tehipite and then graduated from any Fresno Unified high school. Each year they provide \$1,000 scholarships to former Tehipite students who have maintained high grades, excellent attendance and given community service to Fresno. Next month they are set to give out another \$36,000 in scholarships to these students. And every scholarship student can get another \$1,000 scholarship if they enroll for a second year of college. Steve's Scholars also have had field trips to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, to Wonder Valley, and had programs at school on financial literacy from CitiBank, to name just a few cultural activities.

The Farbers have also funded the arts in Fresno Unified. More than 25,000 fifth grade students have been able to see an original play written and performed by Roger Rocka personnel about the Revolutionary War which the Farbers sponsored. Students from elementary schools had a summer arts camp experience at Roosevelt a few years ago. Mrs. Farber donated her cello to a talented student at Roosevelt. Two of their granddaughters graduated from the RSA program at Roosevelt.

Before retiring, Murray was the co-managing editor of the New Haven Register, a prominent Connecticut newspaper. He also served as the long-time public relations director at Fairfield University, a Jesuit institution. Francine was a professional musician at an early age, became a school psychologist and functioned for many years as an educational administrator in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

The Farbers, both in their 80's, have been married for 66 years and met while working on their college newspaper in New York. Their daughter is a local physical therapist. She is married to a physician and their two daughters are in college, one of whom will graduate next month.