



Leadership Learning: A Defining Leadership Moment **By Iris Wagner**

Iris E. Wagner is Wexner Heritage Alumna, Montreal Group, 2000. She is Founder, President and Executive Producer of Memoirs Productions—An Ethical Will and Video Biography Company that preserves legacies on DVD for families and their businesses. She can be reached at iris.wagner@memoirs.ca

Recently seated across from an eighty-one year old Southern Methodist retired CEO of a Fortune 100 company, I needed to pinch and ask myself “Am I really producing this?” Filming him quoting favorite Bible verses that inspired his Grandfather, the founding CEO of Coca Cola, I saw our cameraman and crew completely enraptured. I smiled and reflected—how did I get to be here?

It all began in Snowbird, Utah on the morning of July 9, 1998 at the last session of the Wexner Heritage Basic Judaism Retreat. I nearly lost my breath and it wasn't from the high altitude- at that moment I found my calling!

Rabbi Nathan Laufer handed us an article “Ethical Wills: So that your Values Live On” and an assignment to write our own. I began to write by reflecting on my life, the people who have shaped it and the values and beliefs that have moved and transformed me. Recording my life's wisdom and lessons learned was a cathartic and stimulating adventure.

This inspired me to lead others to do the same. My career path and my life have changed forever. My work is now not "work;" it is a passion and a pleasure. For me leadership is humbling. Every production is a learning experience, for our clients and inevitably, for me.

I am driven to work on my own legacy. I hope that this work will be a source of pride and motivation for my family and to my community.