Andrea Sachs (AB ’75, JD ’78), a reporter at Time for 29 years who also earned an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University (’83), recently established a bequest intention at the University of Michigan (U-M) in honor of her mother, Joan Abrams Sachs (LSA ’46), and in memory of her father, Theodore Sachs (JD ’51). The Theodore and Joan Sachs Scholarship Fund will provide support for students in the Department of English Language and Literature. Thank you, Andrea, for sharing your family’s Michigan story (below).

When I enrolled at Michigan in 1971, it came as no surprise to anyone. All through my childhood, my parents had proudly called Ann Arbor their second home. Both had spent time on campus, starting with my mother, Joan. For her, Ann Arbor life began inauspiciously.

It was 1945. World War II was ending, and veterans filled the dormitories. My mother found housing with three other women in the attic of a rooming house, but it was a disappointing year, and she moved back home with her parents, transferring to Wayne State University to study social work.

Soon after, she and my father, Theodore Sachs, reconnected, having dated a little in high school. That year—1946—they fell in love. Both would graduate from Wayne State: he, in 1948; she, in 1949.

My father moved to Ann Arbor to attend U-M Law School—a dream come true for him. As one of five children in a family of limited means, he relied on scholarships and summer jobs to finish school. He would sell Good Humor ice cream or, traveling by horse-drawn carriage, deliver milk.

My mother found work as a caseworker, visiting homes to ensure that proper care was taken of dependent children and seniors receiving public aid in Wayne County. Still in love, she and my father shuttled between Detroit and Ann Arbor. Sometimes my father would hitchhike—an affordable way to travel.

In Law School, my father studied hard. By 1950, he was editor-in-chief of the Law Review. By now, my parents were married, and my mother—like many Law School wives—was accustomed to her new husband’s nonstop studying. Their parakeet, Clarence—named after the revered attorney Clarence Darrow—offered a welcome distraction.

My mother’s social work job was transferred to Washtenaw County; that sometimes meant unsettling trips to remote farmhouses where clients didn’t always welcome such visits. My parents’ modest apartment near the Law Quad (monthly rent: $59) quickly became a destination among single friends in the dorms. And, though money was scarce, my mother and father—both 21—found ways to enjoy such cultural offerings as concerts at Hill Auditorium.

When my father finished Law School in 1951, my folks moved back to Detroit. He joined the firm Rothe, Marston, Edwards & Bohn, and my parents began our family. I was born in 1952, and my brother, Jeffrey, arrived in 1954. My mother became a homemaker and helpmate to my father in his busy career.

As an attorney, my father assumed a public role in Detroit city politics. Clients included the Detroit firefighters union, the Detroit teachers union, the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Michigan United

— Continued on next page
As a loyal friend of U-M, you’re an important part of the enduring Michigan legacy. You may join other U-M alumni and friends in ensuring your legacy and wishes through careful preparation of your will or trust.

YOUR WILL

Many people, especially young individuals and those who feel their estate is too small, believe that a will represents an unnecessary expense. However, you need a plan for your future and the preparation of a will need not be expensive. Even if you don’t own a lot of property, a will may be needed for other important decisions such as:

- Naming an executor
- Naming a legal guardian for minors
- Making gifts or transfers
- Reducing estate tax liability

The absence of a will is costly. The state will resort to a formula; a judge will name an executor; a bond may have to be posted; the court will name a guardian; and a formula will determine asset distribution.

THE CHARITABLE BEQUEST

A charitable bequest is one way for you to express your wishes and philanthropic legacy. In fact, the bequest is the most frequently utilized method to support charity in America. Here are some options for your bequest to U-M:

- A specific dollar amount
- A percentage of your estate
- Specific asset allocation

Philanthropy is not reserved for the wealthy. Every bequest to Michigan helps us continue our mission. If you would like more information on how to provide a charitable gift for Michigan, please contact us or read more on our website.

CONTACT US FOR A FREE WILLS GUIDE!

Includes U-M’s draft bequest language and informational forms to use to gather pertinent information before visiting an attorney

PLANNING A BEQUEST?

Here’s all you need to document it:

- Completed Declaration of Future Intent form, and/or;
- The portion of your will, trust or beneficiary designation form referencing U-M as a beneficiary, or;
- A signed gift agreement or gift letter detailing the use of your gift by the University of Michigan.

Joan and Theodore Sachs

Along the way, my parents kept up with life in Ann Arbor.

For more than 15 years, my father headed the Committee of Visitors, a Law School alumni advisory group. My parents often visited friends on the faculty, including L. Hart Wright, the Paul G. Kauper Professor of Law; Theodore St. Antoine, the James E. and Sara A. Degan Professor of Law Emeritus, who would go on to serve as dean (1971–78); and Terrance Sandalow, the Edson R. Sunderland Professor Emeritus of Law, also a dean emeritus (1978–87).

My parents’ relationship with U-M—and the trips on I-94—intensified when my mother’s brother Gerald D. Abrams (MD ’55, MedRes ’57) attended U-M Medical School, joining the faculty in 1959. My own adventure, which would revolve around the English Department, had yet to begin.
In 1894, Albert A. Stanley, director of what was then the School of Music, and Frances W. Kelsey, president of the University Musical Society, determined the need for an adequate auditorium for the university. By 1895, plans had been drawn and the university attempted to raise funds for the project for many years.

In 1904, Arthur Hill ('65E), whose first term as regent began in 1901, became interested in the project. Unbeknownst to others, he inserted a provision in his will to provide $200,000 for such a building, which was made public after his death (1909). The famous Detroit firm of Albert Kahn and Associates designed the hall, successfully incorporating the two characteristics most desired by the university: a large size and excellent acoustics.

Since opening in 1913, Hill Auditorium has been a showplace for some of the world’s most renowned performing artists. Home to important artistic debuts and historic speeches, it has provided Ann Arbor area audiences with access to unsurpassed cultural experiences and has been an inspirational venue for students at U-M’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance for 100 years. With its superb acoustics, Hill Auditorium is known and loved throughout the musical world.

In addition to bequests made through your will or trust, you can use beneficiary designations to support the University of Michigan and our work. Here are some of the more common assets of which you can name U-M as a beneficiary:

- Checking, savings, and/or mutual fund accounts
- Retirement accounts such as an IRA, 401(k), 403(b)
- Life insurance policy
- Commercial annuity

There are several benefits of using beneficiary designations, including the following:

**AVOID PROBATE**—Gifting assets via a beneficiary designation will keep your assets out of the probate process.

**TAX SAVINGS**—Your estate will receive a charitable deduction, may save estate taxes, and avoid income taxes on certain assets such as retirement plans and annuities. The combined tax savings could be as high as 60%.

**REVOCABLE**—You may designate how your bequest is used but retain the flexibility to modify it anytime during your lifetime. We understand that your priorities and circumstances may change.

**EASY TO DO**—Simply fill out a brief form provided by the account administrator.

**YOUR WISHES COME TRUE**
Documenting your intentions will help ensure your wishes are met. It also allows us to keep you apprised of new programs or developments that may influence your intention.

**YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE A CHANGE**
By documenting your intentions, you in no way enter into a legally binding or irrevocable gift agreement (unless you enter into a binding agreement for specific reasons). You retain the flexibility to change your plans should your circumstances or priorities change. As a courtesy, we ask that you notify us should you update your plans for Michigan.

**YOU ARE A VICTOR FOR MICHIGAN**
When you document your intentions with U-M, the estimated value of your future gift counts toward current fundraising goals and inspires other alumni and friends to follow your example. Right now, your planned gift will make you part of one of the biggest fundraising campaigns in the history of public higher education, the Victors for Michigan campaign.
John Monteith served as a leader in the cultural, religious and educational development of Michigan in the early 1800s. Along with other Detroit civic leaders, John Monteith drafted the first education law for the Michigan territory, which led to the founding of the University of Michigan in 1817. He was appointed as its first president in the same year.

THE JOHN MONTEITH LEGACY SOCIETY
Just as the University of Michigan founders had a vision that would create an educational system of the future, so do the members of the John Monteith Legacy Society share in that vision. Donors who generously support the university with a deferred gift plan provide the foundation for academic excellence in years to come.

RECOGNITION
Participation in the John Monteith Legacy Society is automatic upon notice that a gift in any amount to the University of Michigan has been included in your charitable estate plans or beneficiary designation. However, you can tell us how you want to be recognized. A Declaration of Future Intent form is one way to provide notice of a planned gift to the University.

If you would like to learn more about creative ways to support the University of Michigan, including gifts that pay you an income for life or other ways to include the university in your estate plan, please visit our website or call us today. A member of our Office of Gift Planning will be very pleased to help you.


Regents of the University of Michigan: Michael J. Behm, Mark J. Bernstein, Laurence B. Deitch, Shauna Ryder Diggs, Denise Ilitch, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, Katherine E. White, Mark S. Schlissel, ex officio.

Please note: The University of Michigan (U-M) is a tax exempt public charity and does not provide tax, legal, or financial advice. Any document or information shared by our staff is intended to be educational and informational. U-M strongly encourages all of our benefactors to seek counsel from their own legal and financial advisors. Please know that any information or documents shared by the development staff cannot be used to avoid tax-related penalties.