



With the passing of a legend in our industry, Jean McFaddin, I took a lot of time to reflect on our relationship. The fun we had together, and the conversations we had. The amount of knowledge she passed on to me. The inspiration she gave me to be more creative. To never settle. And to never let last year's show be the best. Always looking forward and continuing to get better show after show. I took time to reflect on my career - the good, the bad, and the ugly. And trust me, it is all of that. I began to think of the impact Jean had on my career, as well as all the other individuals I've encountered along the way. The influence they had on me, and the effect they had on my career and what I do every day and at every event.

After going down my memory lane, the word legacy started to creep into my thinking. To be honest, I really never thought about legacy before, let alone my own. I started doing some research. What does legacy mean? I discovered so many different meanings. Here are a few that popped up on my screen when I did my Google search, "children, wealth, ethical choices, moralistic lifestyle, sustainable ecological living, charitable work, compassion to humanity, scientific discoveries, artistic creations". As I read many articles, I came across one in the *Huffington Post* by Katherine Meadowcroft who surmised that "legacy constitutes one's character and good (or bad) deeds. It is important to note, it is not what one acquires but what one creates. Think of a legacy as encouraging the next generation, through one's choices and actions, to identify and work towards realizing their own accomplishments and greatness."

"It's not about what you acquire but what you create" was a powerful statement for me. All of us in the event world are developing and creating experiences every day. We bring people together and create memories through our celebrations. This is what we do. That is part of our legacy. Many of you have shared amazing stories and memories of Jean in this edition of "ie." How you met, the fun you had with her, the influence she had on your career, and how she inspired you. The one common denominator here is IFEA. Jean loved this organization and loved giving back to all. If you were lucky enough to meet her, you know

exactly how she gave back. Her passion, her stories, her advice, her energy. If you were not lucky enough to meet her, read these stories. Take inspiration from us who knew her and loved her. Glean the knowledge in these stories and learn from her life. Help to continue her legacy.

The IFEA Foundation helps to support the mission and vision of the IFEA by providing financial support that allows the organization to fulfill its educational goals. These scholarship and educational funds honor the service and dedication of so many legends of our industry, helping to keep their legacy alive for years to come by assisting the next generation of event professionals to continue to elevate the quality of all events worldwide. Much of the financial support for the IFEA Foundation comes through generous donations from YOU, our IFEA Members, through Annual Giving Gifts, Special Fund-Raising Campaigns and our Annual Foundation Auction held each year at the IFEA Convention & Expo.

There are many ways to give back and support this industry. As Foundation Chair, the one that I must encourage you to attend and participate in is our annual Convention. This year the convention will be held in San Diego in October, so register soon and book your flights. It is always a fun time with many learning and career-developing opportunities. The big fundraiser for the IFEA Foundation during the Convention is our annual auction and party. This year's theme will be "Surf's Up!" A fun beach party, taking inspiration from the California surfing scene and music during the 50's and 60's. Think Beach Boys and Jan & Dean. If you would like to donate items or an amazing event experience, please reach out to me at slemheny@pennhort.org or Kaye Campbell at kaye@ifea.com. We can always use new and exciting items. Your donation will help us to honor the legacy of so many legends for years to come.

See you in San Diego!

SAM LEMHENY, CFE

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