



Here are some farewell messages Les Finke received on his retirement from Albert Einstein Residence Center

Congratulations

On Your Retirement, Les

"Best of luck to you in your retirement! You have certainly earned it after all you have done for so many. I've worked with hundreds of senior housing facilities across the country and there is nothing quite like Albert Einstein. The culture, compassion, and fun you were able to create is unmatched. I would have wanted any loved one to live at Albert Einstein. What you created at the facility is amazing and you should be very proud. Don't be a stranger! Please let me know if you're ever in Chicago or the Bradenton, FL area."

Kevin Laidlaw, Director

Lument

"I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed getting to know you and being part of the Board and Einstein. You have been a big part of many peoples lives and given your all. Your kindness, devotion and hard work have made Einstein a great place to live. I hope you have a happy, healthy retirement and enjoy all the finest things in life. You will be missed."

Dee Dee Moses

"If I haven't already done so, I congratulate you on your retirement and wish you a very happy and satisfying one, as mine has been.

Joann and I appreciate all you have done for our seniors at Einstein.

I remain always ready to help out as I can, especially to taste any new desserts developed by the kitchen staff."

Dwight Freund

"My goodness, Les! I'm so excited for you, but will miss you. Thank you for being one of the Good Guys, providing quality housing to the low-income seniors in our community for 40 years! You leave a positive and lasting legacy in Sacramento and beyond. I wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

Robin Thompson, Branch Chief

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

"Wow, you have had a long and successful career as the ED of Einstein Center. The many wonderful comments from residents show just a fraction of the many lives you enriched over the years. If I can even achieve a small fraction of what you have done by the time I reach retirement, I'd consider myself lucky. I'd love to view your documentaries and videos, might they be available?

"It has been our pleasure here at CAHI to work with you and your staff over the years. I hope we provided the support and partnership necessary to further your mission at the Einstein Center. I'll share your kind words with Kechia and her supervisor. Don't be a stranger, you know where to find us! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!"

Charles Young

CGI Federal

"I remember you and your parents coming to dinner at my parent's home on Saverien when you were applying for the job or perhaps just moved to Sacramento. Starting the Friends with Louise, being board president of the Einstein and of the friends, and even selling your home? Lots of memories....lots of water under the bridge.

"May the coming years bring you the best in health and all that you could wish for."

Elena Friedman-Weiss

"Mom and I were so fortunate to hear about the AERC in 2002 when she was looking to return to Sacramento from Gridley. Mom submitted an application and got a call to come meet Les. When he came out to greet us, the first thing I said to him after he told me his name was, "...as in less is more!" When I recently reminded Les about that, he gave me that same warm, broad smile we all know and love. I didn't realize at that first encounter those few words were an understatement as well as a predictor of the long-term, wonderful experience at this great place known as the Albert Einstein Residence Center.

"I speak for mom and our family when I say we all very much appreciate the wonderful home and experiences that Les has created at 1935 Wright St. In the beginning, we had no idea how deep that appreciation would become. Mom quickly got involved in many activities, made many close friendships, and enjoyed making apartment 136 her comfy home for the next 18 years.

"Several family members and I accepted mom's first invitation to join her at Friends dinner. We all quickly hit it off with the volunteers and instantly appreciated the program. These warm fuzzies continued for nearly two decades and are carried on in our hearts.

"Thank you Friends! Thank you staff! Thank you residents! And last but certainly not least, thank you Les!"

Jerry Gibbins

"How fortunate we are to have such a wonderful facility as Einstein in Sacramento, and most fortunate to have had the expertise of Les as our Executive Director over these years. We wish Les the best in his upcoming retirement, and look forward to working with Rabbi Matt Rosenberg."

Betsy Singer

"Shalom Les. I really really do not know how you do it and did it, I could not! Your heart is SO BIG! We love you. Todah Rabah."

Bud and Diane Miller

"The history of your long and magnificent relationship with Einstein is just remarkable! You are a rare and incredible person and I will miss all that you have brought to Einstein! Good luck in your new and wonderful life!"

Sue Skeer

"Les has connected with and embraced all residents and has considered them as family. He has worked tirelessly to insure the comfort and safety of the residents. Les has been a friend and confidant. He has worked as a proponent for the good of the residents. I feel so privileged to have been on the Board with Les. It is now time for Les to relax and enjoy his retirement. My very best wishes for Les to have happy and healthy retirement years."

Janie Gumpert

"Happy New Year to you and Catherine! You have certainly achieved a lot administrating Einstein. I don't think the place will be the same without you. But, time to move on and have new experiences in your life. Very proud of you brother!"

Marcia and Ken

"My dear, dear friend Les! Thank you for this great message. I have known you for forty-one years! I still remember my first visit to the unfinished building with my parents!!

"Have thought of you often! I hope that you might come too Baltimore one day....I am 85 now so you better come soon.

"I wish you a very happy and healthy New Year with much joy, love and peace."

Mina/Minoouchka Parsont

"Over the past 40 years you were the first and only Executive Director of the Albert Einstein Residence Center. Actually, both you and the Residence Center grew up together and you nourished the facility with your warmth, humor and knowledge to give Independent Seniors a clean and safe environment they could call 'home'.

"I loved working with you on many of the volunteer projects you asked me to help with.

"You should be very proud of what you accomplished in addition to making some wonderful memories and now it is your turn to enjoy your retirement years.

"Make new memories on this new journey you are embarking on, be healthy and safe and always remember to have an 'empowering' day."

Ethel Baron

"I don't know if this is your final week or you have one more but in any event thank you for all you've done and good luck to you in your next endeavors. I look forward to talking to you and seeing you soon. I hope you have had your Covid shots...all the best."

Alan Brodovsky

"Hi, Les--- Mazel tov on a job very well done!"

Bob Dresser

"Speaking for myself, thanks to you for your years of being a steady force at AERC. Your years of dedicated service have enriched so many lives, the many residents, your staff and, yes, we on the Board and the greater Jewish community."

Robert Mandelson

"I am sorry to see you go, but, I guess, there comes a time when every one of us has to bring things to an end. I appreciate very much your caring for my late wife, EJ, and for putting up with difficult problems. Thank you for your perseverance. I wish you lots of happiness in your retirement."

J. Daniel Khazzoom, PhD

"The Einstein Center will miss you, I am sure. They have probably found a good replacement, but no one can truly be your equal in your cosmopolitan ecumenicalism. You mentioned that you might be coming east after your retirement, perhaps quite close to where we are. We are hoping to get vaccinated in the near future

and slowly resume our normal lives, such as they were before the pandemic."

Sudhir

"After 40 years, the last week. You must be on a roller coaster. So proud of all you have done and wondering what the next stage will bring about.

"I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done in this community. It has been my pleasure to work with you, share special friends at fun personal gatherings and the finale, putting together this amazing food program.

"You will be truly missed but your touches will be all around this town. Maybe now, there will be more times to share with you and Catherine when you are not always working.

"Wishing you a retirement full of health, joy and goodness. For all you have given, you deserve much back."

Carol Loew

"Thank you for your commitment to Einstein. Best wishes always, Mahalo, and see you on the Islands."

Pam Herman

JCFW Executive Director

"I loved watching every last minute of the video tribute to you. Makes me miss being nearby when I see all the pictures of fun events in the past, but even more, it warms my heart to know that Mom is in such good hands (especially when I'm unable to be nearby).

"In your retirement, I hope you and Catherine have plans to come visit us in AK and I'll play some cello for you and Yo-Yo can join us.

"Again, no words can express the depth of gratitude I have for all you've done for the AERC residents. You are indeed, a GOOD GUY."

Shoo Salasky

"Mazel tov on your retirement! May you enjoy having your own schedule and finding satisfying things to do with it. Thank you for your dedication to AERC---you have done well!"

Harvey Edber

"Andy and Rivka's wedding and Ilana and Arik's wedding are a very special bond we share with the Einstein Center, and Bill and I

are very grateful for all the assistance we received from you and for the great food provided by the Einstein's kitchen. Those are wonderful memories. I also enjoyed the board meetings and the interaction with the residents.

"Enjoy your retirement. You'll find out that it will keep you very busy! Take good care of yourself and enjoy your new life."

Simone Monier-Clay

"I've so enjoyed working with you for the past year and a half. Not only have you've helped me with all the Federation events from LL to KMD, you've brought your own sense of calm and humor as well--and I appreciate that! I'll miss seeing you on Fridays.

"I know everyone at AERC will miss you and your years of leadership and kindness.

"Enjoy your travels and I wish you health and happiness as you start this new chapter of life!"

Gloria Storer

"If my memory serves me correctly, today is your last day at Einstein. Wanted to let you know that John and I are thinking of you and are excited that you have joined our ranks. This must be a difficult day for you, as well as everyone at Einstein. You are the Einstein Center. It surely is going to be so different without you

there. We hope that starting Monday morning, you will feel the relief that John felt, and continues to feel, of not having to worry about all the goings-on at Einstein. John's blood pressure has plummeted since leaving the campus. He feels like a new man. Hope you will, too.

"Congratulations to you. Please send our best to Catherine. Hope to hear from you soon."

Ilene and John Guion

"I wound up at the Albert Einstein Residence Center after a time of financial reverses. My son told me to come here, best advice ever. Ashley was at the front desk and you heard me and came out of your office to say 'Hello!' Einstein has been a WONDERFUL HOME. You made it that way! I cannot thank you enough.

"Wishing you the VERY BEST RETIREMENT!"

Sandi Wasserman

"What memories of Einstein - your kindness to my mother, the friends she made there, Barry Berger's big floral bouquets for the lobby, his little dog, Trouble, later Sophia, two memorial services, one for Barry, later one for my mother.

"Les, you played a large part and set the tone by your friendliness and interest in everyone. You made Einstein one of the most welcoming places I've ever seen. Thank you for everything and have a happy retirement!"

Lynda Straus

"I really appreciate you giving me the chance to work at the front desk. It enhanced my self esteem, and gave me a chance to help the residents. I became much more aware of the hard work that all of the staff does and the efforts put in to keep this place running.

"Please stay safe, enjoy this new chapter in your life, and thank you for everything you have helped me with and all of your kindness. The printing of my Torah readings means a great deal to me. I will think of you when I read Torah, and when I pray at services."

Dale Zinn

"Les, you are the definition of a mensch---a truly good man---and you have worked very hard over the last 40 years to make Einstein the remarkable, beautiful, comfortable and welcoming place it is. It truly is a shining example of what a senior residence can be. I know I speak for your residents and their families, your staff, the board and your legion of friends when I say I can't imagine Einstein without you. I hope you will give us the pleasure of your company often. Forty years are not enough! We love you and we thank you."

Jan Glazier

Any additional comments for Les should be sent to him at
lfinke@comcast.net