

December 19, 2011

Dear Friends:

It is with great sadness that we observe Warren Hellman's passing. Our city has lost a great leader, and those of us who knew him have lost an incredible friend.

We at Hirsch & Associates loved working with Warren on his philanthropy. He pushed us to think outside the box and always inspired us to be better. And when he said thank you, he meant it.

**Warren was a leader.** No matter how controversial, how small, how quirky, or how new, if Warren believed in a cause, he was not afraid to get behind it. He was a leader in a typical sense, as one who could solve tough problems and make things happen. But he was also a leader who inspired those who worked with him to believe in themselves, and to believe in the possible.

**Warren was generous.** He was generous with his personal talents, with his time, and with his money. He was intelligent and thoughtful, and he constantly considered the best way to support his beloved San Francisco Bay Area community, whether by bolstering existing initiatives or by devising new and inventive solutions. He shared his time liberally to many causes and people, and he was able to connect with people from all walks of life. He shared his fortune with hundreds of organizations, and with tens of thousands of people. It is hard to think of a person in the Bay Area who hasn't benefited. *Hardly Strictly Bluegrass* is a beautiful example of all that he has given our city.

**Warren was passionate.** And he always had fun. An avid runner, skier, Torah scholar, banjo player, and *many* other things, Warren's passions ran deep. Because of this, he made it a priority to give to organizations that furthered other peoples' passions. He approached life with great humor and zest, which spread his joy to those who worked with him, as well as to those who benefited from his generosity. His family was one of his greatest passions.

While we will miss Warren deeply, we are heartened by his example. It is an example everyone can follow, regardless of one's personal financial wealth. Each of us can endeavor to be a leader, to be generous in spirit, to give back to our community, and to approach life with passion. This is the legacy we will honor.

Sincerely,

Susan Hirsch