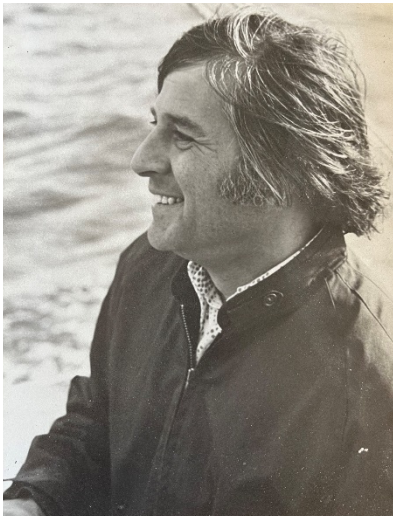


# Jay Kahn Biography

San Diego Foundation donor and establisher of legacy endowment fund



Jay Kahn was born on February 23, 1932, in Benton Harbor, Michigan, to a recently immigrated German father and his second-generation wife. His father, Gene, was a livestock dealer and the family farm shared a property line with an adjacent small airfield.

When Jay was 14, after just a couple of flying lessons, he figured out that the pilots typically left the ignition keys in their small single engine planes. Early in the morning Jay would sneak into the airfield and help himself to the planes stored there. In this way he learned to fly and was an avid pilot for the rest of his life. He eventually earned his license to fly larger, two-engine aircraft and flew all over the U.S.

He left Benton Harbor just out of high school after he was awarded a full scholarship to study clarinet at the University of Texas, Denton. Though he didn't finish the program, classical music, specifically chamber music for winds, remained a lifelong passion of Jay's and he played in several ensembles around San Diego, including orchestras at both UC San Diego and the University of San Diego.

Jay worked as a salesperson for many years in the clothing industry, spending much of his time between San Diego and Mexico. This drew him to San Diego and permanently to Ocean Beach. In 1972, Jay bought a home on the cliffs in Ocean Beach that is as eclectic and unique as the community itself, and he almost never left. He loved Ocean Beach and was enamored of the Pacific.

Jay built his wealth through prudent investments. He befriended Sol Price and was an original investor in Price Club. His initial \$25,000 investment became several million. When that happened, Jay retired. A later investment and purchase of \$250,000 of Apple stock turned into \$80 million. Jay hosted a weekly music rehearsal at his Ocean Beach home for years where he and friends would gather to play chamber music, followed by drinks and dinner. Jay was an avid, accomplished cook with a gourmet kitchen.

For many years, Jay played tennis several times a week. He entered and won a number of tournaments and met some of his best friends on the court, people he remained close to even after he stopped playing.

Jay was a risk taker who chose to be low profile in the San Diego community. He had regular dinners with friends and enjoyed discussing politics. He was a thinker who was progressive, open-minded and compassionate, though reclusive.

Jay wanted his estate and legacy to be managed and used for the good of San Diego, and believed that San Diego Foundation would achieve that goal and honor his wishes.