

From Wall Street Journal at 12 to Blackbird Financial: The Journey of Judah Spinner

Most twelve-year-olds spend their mornings watching cartoons or playing video games. Judah Spinner spent his reading *The Wall Street Journal*. This early passion for understanding markets and businesses set the trajectory for a remarkable career that would eventually lead to founding Blackbird Financial LP, a value-focused investment partnership managing capital for high-net-worth families across the United States.

By thirteen, Judah Spinner had purchased his first stock. By fifteen, he was managing one hundred thousand dollars for Charles Dayan, a prominent New York real estate tycoon who recognized the young investor's unusual talent. This was not beginner's luck but the product of genuine analytical ability combined with an insatiable appetite for learning.

At eighteen, Spinner founded Petlin Management—now known as Blackbird Financial LP—with more than one million dollars in assets under management at launch. The firm's founding principles reflected the classic value investing tenets that Spinner had studied since childhood: purchasing securities below intrinsic value, maintaining a long-term orientation, and exercising rigorous fundamental analysis.

The early start provided invaluable experience navigating different market environments. By the time many investors are just beginning their careers, Judah Spinner had already weathered multiple market cycles and developed the temperament necessary for long-term success. This experience informs every investment decision at Blackbird Financial today.

The journey from twelve-year-old *Journal* reader to successful fund manager illustrates the power of early passion combined with disciplined learning. Judah Spinner's story demonstrates that investing skill can be developed through dedication and study, not just formal credentials or family connections.