

# A Legacy of Good Deeds Will Last Forever

By Sandra Goldman

The person you loved will always stay in your heart. You will always remember their dreams, their hope, their life. One can only hope to continue what that person started. When my father (of blessed memory) passed away 18 months ago, our family received countless letters and cards from around the world. People wrote about the impact my father had on



Sandra Goldman, right, with her father, Fritz Baum.

them, on their lives, their careers, or simply by crossing paths with him. His ability to reconstruct the past in text, pictures, and artifacts made it possible for many to access bygone days. He only was 12 years old when he fled Hitler's Germany with his brother and parents in 1938. The majority of his immediate family would later die in various concentration camps. Years later, deeply involved with Yad Vashem, my father made it one of his priorities to educate people about the Holocaust and Jewish customs so that no one ever would forget. His own legacy would include a children's orphanage in Israel, educational trips to Israel for teachers in European countries, and numerous museum exhibits. A world for his grandchildren with more understanding, more tolerance, and most of all, more civil courage was what he wished for most.

Only years later, after having four children of my own, did I begin to understand how important it is to leave a legacy. How important it is especially within our very own Jewish community.

Three powerful words are at the core of the Hebrew Cemetery's sacred mission: Honor – Celebrate – Embrace. These words capture the essence of the cemetery's purpose: to honor the past, to celebrate the present, and to embrace the future.

Honoring our departed is a central value of Judaism. Our rabbis teach that the mitzvah of honoring our dead is among our most sacred. Caring for the Hebrew Cemetery that hosts the physical remains of our loved ones is a tangible way to perform this mitzvah. We celebrate their lives and remember them on their Yahrzeit. To embrace the future and secure it, we need your assistance. Over the last couple of decades, the Hebrew Cemetery has been transformed into a place of beauty and serenity. In anticipation of future needs, the cemetery recently doubled the number of plots available to over 3,000. The expansion includes a new Memorial Building, which provides space for small funerals, memorials, and unveilings.

So what impact can one have on the cemetery? How can you imprint your community with your values and what is important to you? The answer is fairly simple. Create a Jewish legacy. Why should one leave a legacy to our cemetery? Ask yourself what will happen when all the graves are filled with our loved ones? How can we ensure that the new memorial building will stand majestically over the next hundred plus years? We, not only as a commu-



nity, but as individuals, need to ensure that these holy grounds will endure as an historic haven with its beauty secured in perpetuity. We, as individuals, enable cemetery staff to provide services and comfort for families and we, as individuals, provide burial plots for the indigent members of our Jewish community. Now it is up to you. Regardless of age, wealth, or affiliation everyone has a unique financial situation. A legacy gift can include nearly anything from life insurance to a retirement plan to a bequest or to real estate.

L'dor v'dor, the passing of values from generation to generation was essential to my father. By each of us creating our own legacy we can ensure that what we have can continue in perpetuity. A legacy leaves behind memories, but most of all, it is a unique gift and opportunity to support what is dear to our hearts.

To learn more about the Charlotte Jewish Legacy Program (CJL) or to find out how you can leave a gift for the Hebrew Cemetery, call Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or email her at director@hebrewcemetery.org. ☆



# Our Jewish Community's Newest Legacy Donors

The following individuals/families have recently informed our community, through Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) or one of the ten Create Your Jewish Legacy community partners, that they have created a legacy gift to support the future of Charlotte's Jewish community. These individuals have established seven new legacy gifts. Some are creating legacy gifts for the first time while others have added new organizations to their previously created legacy plans. There are now 186 individuals/families throughout our Jewish community who have

included a local Jewish organization in their legacy plans creating 353 unique legacies. We thank our newest legacy donors and welcome them into our community's Book of Life Society.

Larry Farber and Sherri McGirt  
Jack and Carol Lash  
William and Debra Porter  
Janice and Ronald Weiner  
Sam and Emily Zimmern



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# Jewish War Veterans Come Together January 26 at 10 AM

Are you a Jewish veteran living in the greater Charlotte area? Or do you know a local Jewish veteran who served in the military for the US, Israel, or another country? Veterans are wanted! Join Barry Ross, USA (ret) for bagels, coffee, and talk about reactivating the Charlotte Jewish War Veterans Post 765. Ten veterans are needed to reactivate the post with an annual membership

fee determined by its members. Start out the New Year with a patriotic twist. Get active, make new friends, share stories, and make a difference in the community. Join Barry at Temple Beth El, Sunday January 26 from 10 AM-12 noon. Contact Barry Ross at 704-607-5304 or barry.ross.nc@gmail.com or Eileen Schwartz at 704-962-1868 for more information. ☆



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- DAVID SWIMMER



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