Legacy Profile

Andrea and George Cronson

Andrea and George Cronson are among the 198 individuals and families in our community who have created legacy gifts to support its future. Please take the time to read their story and thank them for their generosity. It is our hope that you will be inspired and encouraged to think about how you can create your own Jewish legacy.

By Andrea and George Cronson

Andrea was born and raised in Greensboro, NC. Although she lived in a tight-knit Jewish community and around the corner from a synagogue, it wasn't easy growing up Jewish in the south. She attended a Jewish Day School throughout elementary school with only seven students in her graduating class. Andrea was always aware that being Jewish made her a minority. Andrea's parents were involved in teaching Sunday school and fundraising for the community.

George grew up in Lexington, MA. His parents moved their young family to this Boston suburb from Rhode Island for its larger Jewish population in comparison to other communities in the area. George's family was actively involved in their temple, as well as a havurah that greatly enhanced their Jewish life and sense of community. We were both raised by parents who led by example. We saw firsthand the importance of volunteering and their support of the Jewish community.

We met at Northeastern University in Boston. After we married, we moved to Raleigh and then to Charlotte in 1992 to open a new store and expand our fabric company. We were excited about Charlotte and the opportunity to live near Shalom Park. It is a very special and unique place. Since our arrival in Charlotte, it has been the center of our family's life.

Many of our family's most meaningful experiences have happened at Shalom Park.

When we first moved to Charlotte, Temple Israel's Young Couples club enabled us to establish meaningful friendships. Our children, Deena and Scott, attended the Charlotte Jewish Preschool and the Charlotte Jewish Day School. The Levine JCC is also important to us, for the programs and fitness facility. Our children went to Camp Mindy and participated on LJCC sports teams for many years. Temple Beth El, BBYO, Hebrew High and other organizations have shaped our family and have connected us to other Jewish families in Charlotte.

We have followed our parents' example by donating our time and resources on a regular basis serving on numerous boards and committees. We feel strongly about our obligation to support and help sustain Jewish organizations.

We are very concerned about the continuity of the Jewish community. It is very important to us for future generations to have the same Jewish experiences as our family. Creating our Jewish Legacy will help to insure that the organizations that are most important to us will continue to prosper making it easier to grow up Jewish in the south. ✡

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 34 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 198 individuals/families throughout our Jewish community who have included a local Jewish organization in their legacy plans creating 390 unique legacies. We thank our newest legacy donors and welcome them into our community's Book of Life Society.

Andrew and Elka Bernstein
Samuel and Nancy Bernstein
Ron and Frances Liss
Jennifer Monroe
Martha and Brian Yesowitch
Melvin Segal
Suly and Richard Chenkin
Paula and Richard Klein
Staci and Darren Mond
Steven and Olivia Cohen ✡

The Vacant Lot on Providence Road

By Richard A. Klein

I have no memory of 1727 Providence Road without the building that was once Temple Beth El. The initial construction took place when I was two years old and the first service took place before I was three. And just a short time ago, the building, most recently the Dore Academy, went down in a flash and is no more.

I look at the empty lot and it reminds me of the mouths of my younger grandchildren who are missing their baby teeth. Gone with a yank. And with the collapse of the bricks and mortar go the thousands of moments spent in the sanctuary, educational building, fellowship hall, and the downstairs education rooms — the original fellowship hall.

It was the downstairs part that always received the most complaints through the years. The nearby creek rarely left that hall at peace. Flooding was an on-going problem for years. But the downstairs was also filled noisy classes, assemblies, socials and even Broadway-like plays.

Charlotte was a small Jewish community in the 1950s and the congregational memberships at Temple Beth El and Temple Israel grabbed every opportunity to get together at home congregations or the Amity Club on Sharon-Amity Road. Among the highlights at Temple Beth El were the occasional opportunities for talented congregants to dress up like Broadway stars and sing show tunes to the delight of the attendees. Hilbert Fuerstman often organized and performed in those events. The shows were so popular that the congregation was motivated to add a large stage to the new social hall addition that was on the same level as the sanctuary. Strangely, I don't recall any