

# The Maurcie and Evelyn Schaller Collection

*Maintained by the Foundation of Shalom Park for the Enjoyment of All*

By Kelly Keeling

Many people have heard of Levolor® Lorentzen window blinds, but how many Charlotteans know that the glass collection given by its former CEO, Maurice Schaller, is cared for by the Foundation of Shalom Park (FSP)?

Maurice Schaller (1917-2008) started his career in 1937 in New York City. In order to avoid being refused a job because he was Jewish, Mr. Schaller neglected to indicate his religion on the job application



At the dedication of the collection in October 2010, left to right: Anita Rounds, Nick Rounds, Eve Rounds, Jacob Bradley, Jason Hart, William Hart, Adriana Hart, Bonnie Hart; Ethan Bradly is in front. Photo courtesy of The Charlotte Jewish News.

(asking about religious affiliation was common practice in the 1930s). He found employment at H.K. Lorentzen, Inc., as an office boy/janitor. Thirty-one years later, Mr. Schaller was Mr. Lorentzen's "second hand man," according to the New York Times (NYT, May 15, 1988), and president of the company. Throughout his career, Mr. Schaller never discussed being Jewish, though he often heard many derogatory and anti-Semitic remarks at board meetings.

Mr. Schaller attended Brooklyn College and Fordham University, and was admitted to the NY State Bar. He married Evelyn Feit, and they raised two daughters, Anita and Bonnie, in Flushing, NY and Clifton, NJ.

"When times became easier and my father was well up the corporate ladder and could have safely said he ... was Jewish, he felt that the slurs made in front of him in the past would make continued contact with those business people embarrassing," Anita "Neef" Rounds shared at the collection's dedication in October 2010. "So in spite of the hurt he felt by not admitting he was Jewish, he kept silent. This caused him a great deal of guilt because he did feel a strong connection to his heritage. As soon as he was financially able, he started making major donations to the closest Jewish Federation."

"The only time Dad came to Temple was when we were doing

something, to show us support. Most people assumed that only his wife was Jewish," says Bonnie Hart, reflecting on her childhood.

After retirement, the Schallers lived in Pompano Beach, FL, where Maurice's beloved Evelyn died in 1986. Mr. Schaller relocated to Lake Wylie, SC in 2006 to be closer to his daughters. Sue Littauer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte (JFGC) developed a warm, friendly exchange of phone calls and emails with Mr. Schaller, and he made many generous donations to further the work of Jewish agencies in Charlotte and abroad.

glass, filled with whimsy and wonder at the natural world. The Foundation commissioned Gaines Brown to design a display case, which echoes the architecture of the hall. Rosen and Gorelick placed the entire collection on tables in the Oasis Senior Center to curate the exhibit. About 60% of the collection is on display at any one time.

In the collection, one finds African zebras galloping across the savannah and a unicorn delicately treading thru an enchanted wood. It is hard to choose a favorite, as each piece is uniquely wonderful. The collection contains many limited editions

and the glass-in-glass designs are exquisite (e.g., Artic Fisherman depicts an Eskimo fishing down an ice hole and Balloon Rally shows hot air balloons taking off in a sky of glass).

Karen Maniloff, Associate Director of the Levine JCC, says, "I love to watch the 2, 3, and 4-year olds from the Charlotte Jewish Preschool enjoy the Schaller collection on their way to Shabbat on Fridays." The children delight in the animals, and they just may find the Frog Prince (placed just at their eye level) to be their favorite of all.

For us, however, Maurice Schaller is our prince, whose love of his Jewish heritage brought this lasting gift to our community.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is the steward of the facilities and grounds at Shalom Park. For questions about how you can give a legacy gift to care for Shalom Park, please contact Kevin Levine, Executive Director, FSP at [hklevine@shalompark.org](mailto:hklevine@shalompark.org) or call 704-944-6840. ☆

Amy Krakovitz contributed to this story.

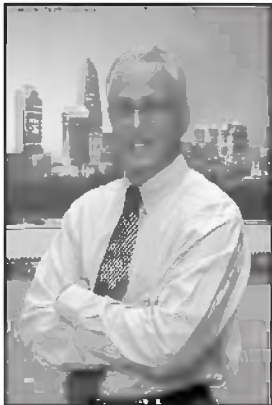



The popular Frog Prince (Centennial Heritage) with Steuben's Mystic Castle and the Heritage Unicorn. Photo courtesy of The Charlotte Jewish News.

Upon his passing, Schallers' daughters offered the glass collection to the Jewish community. Butch Rosen, former Executive Director of FSP, recalls Sue Worrall of the Federation, calling him about a possible donation. Butch and Foundation Board Member, Bill Gorelick, visited the collection and were astounded by what they found. They decided they had to make this work. Rosen says, "The Schaller Collection demonstrates how agencies can work together for the good of the whole Jewish community."

The Schaller collection consists of over 40 pieces, mostly Steuben


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## BBYO

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man shared her story of hope with us. We sent a great group of Members in Training (MITs) to our MIT/AIT Convention and they came back inspired to be even more involved in our chapter. We want to congratulate Jessie Sachs on her marriage to her fiancé, Joni Cohen, on October 26.

- Chai Chaverim BBG had a great turn out for MIT/AIT Convention. Our new members came back passionate about BBYO. Anna Wilson planned an amazing program regarding Israel and our Jewish identity. She included themes of how to combat anti-Semitism and discussed different current events that we face as young Jewish leaders.

- Mickey Barak Aberman AZA has had a great fall season. We sent many new members to new member convention and they all came back with a great knowledge of what AZA is all about. We had a very successful business meeting on October 7, where we were

able to plan our programs for the next few months. We had an awesome Football and Wing Day on October 19 while we watched the Carolina Panthers play. We are still looking for an advisor. If you are looking for a way to give back to AZA please contact our City Director, Erin Goldstein at [eringoldstein82@gmail.com](mailto:eringoldstein82@gmail.com)

- Hank Greenberg AZA is continuing to have a great month. Just like the other chapters, we had a group of guys go to MIT/AIT and came back ready to dig deep into BBYO. We had a great survivor program planned by our S'gan, Grey Silverman, in October. We are gearing up for Global Shabbat, Sweetheart Beau, Regional Convention, and International Convention in Atlanta.

If you have questions or want to become involved in Charlotte BBYO, please contact Erin Goldstein, Charlotte City Director, at [eringoldstein82@gmail.com](mailto:eringoldstein82@gmail.com) or 980-253-4863. ☆