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Community's Bequest Provides for Sacramento's Jewish Seniors; Emphasizes L'dor V'dor

Zoltan Rosenberger's life took him around the world, from Transylvania to Mexico and, finally, to California. When it came time to bequeath a legacy, he looked to Sacramento, where he and his wife made their home for twenty years. Indeed, Mr. Rosenberger divided his estate among several philanthropies, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, including Sacramento's Jewish Federation, the Mosaic Law Congregation, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Hadassah, and others. One of his most personal gifts was made to the Jewish Community Foundation of the West's Trust Fund for Jewish Seniors, an endowment supporting programming at the Albert Einstein Residence Center.

"Zoltan was a long time participant at the Tuesday Lunch Bunch at Einstein," said Lynn Dean, Rosenberger's attorney and friend. "He felt it was important that the activities he knew so many enjoyed continue into the future. He was just that sort of person."

Having been predeceased by his wife Sarah and their only son George, Mr. Rosenberger made great efforts to plan the bequests of his estate. "He wanted to make sure that the money he and Sarah earned in their life was spent on the things that mattered to them after their deaths," said Dean. "The Trust Fund for Jewish Seniors, which is managed by the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, let them make a bequest with the confidence that their endowment would provide funds for Sacramento's senior community for generations to come."

When Rosenberger left his native Transylvania in 1929 for Mexico, few might have predicted his life would offer him the opportunity for such generosity. In Mexico he became a shoe maker and eventually met and married his wife Sarah. Together they relocated to California in the 1950s, and in 1971 they opened a department store in St. Helena, which they sold in 1991. They then retired and relocated to Sacramento.

Rabbi Taff of Mosaic Law Congregation was also moved by Rosenberger's gift. "While the Rosenbergers were not religious in the sense of coming to Shul on Shabbat, they still felt that it was important to connect with the synagogue and the Jewish community. In that way, they were Jewish to the very core. I recall visiting them in their apartment in Land Park and was inspired by their humility. In their generous bequests they provide the rest of us not only with a fine example of *tzedakah*, but also the principle of *le dor v' dor*, each generation's responsibility to the next."

"I have no doubt Zoltan would take great pride in what will be accomplished through his generosity," said Dean.

Anyone interested in learning about creating an endowment or contributing to a fund set up with the Jewish Community Foundation of the West should contact Cindy Klutznick, JCFW's Director of Philanthropy, at CindyJCFW@aol.com or by phone at 916.484.0954.