

## KOH Library Writes a New Chapter

Bill Ostrow believed that Jewish knowledge should be accessible to all. He felt strongly that his generation was responsible for ensuring that it would pass to future generations. Before his untimely death, Ostrow joined with friends Hy Kashenberg and Michael Hayward to lay the financial foundations of the KOH Library on the Mosaic Law campus.

Ostrow also had the foresight to establish an endowment with the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, the William and Shola Ostrow Library Endowment Fund. His intent was to ensure the library's existence for generations to come. "My dad's goal was for the endowment to reach a million dollars so that the library would be self-sufficient," says Ostrow's daughter Jolie Baron, the library's director. The fund provides important financial resources to the library: This year, it will cover the costs of sending Baron and three others to the annual convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Montreal. The endowment did not, however, achieve the magnitude that its founder envisioned.

Recognizing the importance of financial stability for the library, the KOH board recently took a page from Ostrow's own playbook. It moved to guarantee the library's ongoing status as a cultural center for the region by establishing the KOH Library Endowment Fund with the Jewish Community Foundation of the West. The new fund will underwrite operational expenses and enable the library to continue providing free programming for the community.

But Baron believes that it will do much more. She foresees that as the endowment grows – through appreciation and additional donations – it will enable the KOH to bring in famous speakers who, until now, have not visited Sacramento. "My goal is to bring things to Sacramento that don't usually come here and make them available to the entire community, not just the Jewish community," she says.

"My dad was a trailblazer," says Baron. "He and the others made it possible for all of us to enjoy this great resource." She worries, however, that their generation is aging and that unless younger generations step up, the library's future is not assured. Few are in a position to create a new endowment, says Baron, but any member of the community who appreciates the library can further its work by donating to the KOH Library Endowment Fund in honor or memory of a loved one or be including the endowment in an estate plan.

*For more information about the KOH Library Endowment and other endowments managed by the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, visit [www.jcfwest.org](http://www.jcfwest.org) or contact [director@jcfwest.org](mailto:director@jcfwest.org).*