

## Lillian & Marvin Goldblatt Family Legacy Endowment Fund

**Wendy Schneider** and her family have been an integral part of Jewish Hamilton for more than a century. Her great-grandfather Jacob Goldblatt, who emigrated to Hamilton from Lithuania in 1905, was the Hamilton Jewish community's foremost philanthropist of his day. His legendary generosity enabled countless immigrants to achieve their dreams and he never turned down a request for help. Jacob started out by collecting scrap metal to feed his family, eventually founding the family business, International Iron and Metal, a company whose stellar reputation matched that of its founder.

Jacob was revered by his children, who eagerly took on the mantle of communal leadership after his death. Wendy's grandfather Frank, together with his brothers George and Morley, became the community's "go to" philanthropic family, as did Frank's sons Marvin (Wendy's father) and Abby in their turn.

Like many young people of her generation, Wendy went off to university with no intention of settling in her hometown. Fate, however, would bring her back to Hamilton in 1983, after an 11-year period away, that included two years of study in Israel, and nine years in Montreal as a Jewish educator. This period would see Wendy and her husband Lorry raise their four daughters, Hillary, Becca, Tanya and Emily and Wendy teach Hebrew and Judaic studies at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Beth Jacob Hebrew School.

Wendy found her calling in 1994 when she took on the role as editor of the Hamilton Jewish News. Working on the paper has been, in her words, a "labour of love," that she sees as her contribution to a community that is so dear to her heart. Wendy has also immersed herself in volunteer activities throughout the 35 years she's been back in Hamilton. During her two terms as president of Na'amat Hamilton and five years as co-president of Beth Jacob Synagogue, she developed a reputation for initiating innovative programs. From Na'amat's Building Bridges art exhibition that showcased the work of Israeli and Palestinian artists, to the Jewish Hamilton Project, an oral history collaboration with McMaster professor Billy Shaffir, Wendy has devoted herself to bringing intellectually stimulating programs to Hamilton's Jewish community.



"I feel very blessed to have been raised in a family where generosity and philanthropy were core values," Wendy said. "My own way of giving back has been about illuminating for others the fascinating history, personalities and institutions that have always defined Jewish Hamilton. It's been incredibly rewarding."

Wendy played a pivotal role in her family's decision to transfer a previously created endowment fund to the Hamilton Jewish Federation. The establishment of the Goldblatt Family Legacy Endowment Fund is her way of honouring and perpetuating her family's legacy in the Hamilton Jewish community, so that it will have an impact for generations to come.

