

## Lore & Erwin Jacobs Holocaust Education Fund

**Lore and Erwin Jacobs** were active members of the Hamilton Jewish community for more than 60 years. With Lore's recent passing, her children expanded and renamed a fund their mother created in their father's memory many years ago to establish the Lore and Erwin Jacobs Holocaust Education Fund.

Erwin and Lore were both born into German Jewish families who were subjected to the horror of Kristallnacht and the terror of rising Nazism that followed. Both barely escaped Germany for England as teenagers in the summer of 1939. Weeks before the war began, Erwin was hired as a toolmaker in the industrial city of Birmingham, although he was soon designated an enemy alien and interned for more than a year on the Isle of Man. Lore's life was saved on one of the last Kindertransport missions, after which she was taken in by a Quaker farming family living in the English countryside. Lore and Erwin met each other at a refugee club and married in 1944.

At the end of the war, the Jacobs learned that all four of their parents, and several aunts and uncles, had perished in the Holocaust. Having missed out on an academic education, life in post-war England was difficult for them. They sought new opportunities by immigrating to Canada, eventually settling in Hamilton.

Erwin found work at Westinghouse, where he remained for 35 years. Lore pursued art, spinning and weaving at the Dundas Valley School of Art and Mohawk College. They were long-standing members of Temple Anshe Sholom, and Hamilton provided a welcoming place for them to lead a productive life, raise their children Gale and Peter in a Jewish community, and find joy in their natural surroundings.

After the reunification of Germany, Erwin submitted a claim to obtain restitution for the seizure of his parents' Berlin coat factory in 1937. Although processed, the claim stalled for more than 25 years, and Erwin did not live to see justice done. Lore, Gale and Peter continued the correspondence through the Claims Conference but the case was not settled until 2019.

When the money arrived, Gale and Peter felt that it rightfully belonged to their parents. "My father applied for and deserved it. Its receipt after so many years is tinged with sadness," said Gale.



In April 2019, Gale and Peter donated the restitution settlement to their family's fund in support of an annual teachers' seminar on the Holocaust offered by the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

"Even though we have both moved away, we still have a deep connection to Hamilton. This is our way of helping keep their story alive and to educate future generations," said Peter.

