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Hamilton Jewish Federation

Georgina Rosenberg & Benjy Katz Holocaust Endowment Fund



Georgina and Benjy were looking for a meaningful way to include his late mother and her late parents in their upcoming wedding. Although their parents never knew each other, the couple feels that Rhoda Katz's lifelong interest in the Holocaust and Georgina's parents having survived its horrors is a point of connection. That's why they've decided to open an endowment fund in their parents' memory with the Hamilton Jewish Federation, that will provide scholarships for young people to attend experiential Holocaust education programs such as March of the Living.

When Rhoda was 12, she became friendly with a girl whose family fled Europe from the war. They became close friends and Rhoda was told story upon story of the atrocities they endured and witnessed. This left a lifelong impression on her. She read voraciously about the war and shared that interest with Benjy.

Georgina has always identified as the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Her mother was only 12 years old when her family was deported from their small Romanian town and forced into a ghetto. Eventually they ended up in Auschwitz, where her parents and three of her seven siblings were murdered. Georgina's father spent the war years living under extremely harsh conditions in a Soviet labour camp. Georgina's parents met in Romania after the war and immigrated to Canada in 1965. Georgina and her sister grew up in Toronto, with Hungarian as their first language.

Georgina's parents never shied away from speaking to their daughters about their wartime experiences. Asked what she would say to a Holocaust denier, Georgina said, "Most children got bedtime stories, I often heard Holocaust stories as a child.

The Holocaust happened. I never had grandparents, had far fewer aunts, uncles and cousins because of it. I know what happened. My parents lived to tell the stories."

Georgina and Benjy believe that the Holocaust must forever be a constant warning to all of us of the danger of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice and where it can lead. It is their hope that the fund they created will help educate a new generation about their Jewish heritage, and the ultimate consequences of intolerance.

Georgina Rosenberg

Benjy Katz

