

HUC-JIR honors Schwartz at fundraiser

by Angela Osborne
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Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's 25th Annual Cincinnati Associates Tribute Dinner honored Theodore (Ted) L. Schwartz on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

Over 400 supporters, colleagues, friends, students and faculty of HUC-JIR gathered to honor

Schwartz as an exemplary model of civic and philanthropic leadership and achievement.

Proceeds from the dinner raised approximately \$650,000 to benefit the graduate and rabbinical school at HUC-JIR.

Rabbi David Ellenson, President of HUC-JIR, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening, which began with remarks by Tom Conlan Jr., co-chair of the event. Mona Kerstine

served as co-chair while Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, chancellor emeritus of HUC-JIR, was the keynote speaker at the event. The invocation was offered by Father Michael Graham, President of Xavier University.

"I first got to know Ted in a period when the college was said by others to be, 'the best kept secret in Cincinnati,'" said Rabbi Gottschalk. "(HUC-JIR) is a remarkable institution."

"(At that time) the college had not been a part of the community...until there was a threat for it to leave," added Rabbi Gottschalk. "Ted and his late wife were one of the first contributors to (help keep it here)."

Schwartz and his late wife Debbie endowed the T.L. and Debra Schwartz Scholarship Fund to benefit first-year rabbinical stu-

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dents in HUC-JIR's Year-in-Israel Program.

"Endowing the Year-in-Israel program took vision and persistence," added Rabbi Gottschalk.

HUC-JIR also began the Associates Group in Cincinnati in the 1970s. "It was a period of awakening on our campus," said Rabbi Gottschalk.

Now another awakening is about to occur in the Cincinnati community.

"We recently completed an enormous expansion in our library," said Rabbi Gottschalk. "It's a treasure here in Cincinnati."

And community support for the college continues to grow.

"(HUC-JIR) is no longer such a secret," added Rabbi Gottschalk. "It's a rebuilding

phase now. It was the archives; now it's the library."

Ellenson added jovially, "HUC does intend to stay in Cincinnati."

And it intends to become an even stronger part of the community, working on interfaith cooperation.

"Dr. Wise's vision is an enduring vision," said Ellenson.

HUC-JIR's vision is growing to major dimensions in Cincinnati.

"We're creating a spirit of civility in religions ... one with another," added Gottschalk. "We're going to work with Catholics, protestants, Muslims."

It's all in the name of creating religious, civic and secular leadership.

And it was with thanks for that kind of leadership that Ellenson presented Schwartz

with his award.

"Teddy, thanks for helping to create a better community and a richer world," said Rabbi Ellenson.

Founded in Cincinnati in 1875, HUC-JIR is the oldest institution of higher Jewish education in the western hemisphere and the academic and professional leadership development center of the Reform Movement. The College-Institute prepares rabbis, cantors, religious school educators, and Jewish communal workers at its four campuses in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem. In addition to training professional leadership to serve the Jewish community, HUC-JIR's School of Graduate Studies awards Masters and Doctoral degrees to men and women of all faiths.

Schwartz is general partner of Palmway Investments in Cincinnati and vice-chairman of the board of Lion Apparel, Inc., of Dayton, Ohio. He serves as a member of the Board of Governors of HUC-JIR and, in addition, has served as a distinguished member of the Board of Overseers of HUC-JIR's Cincinnati School, including a term as chairman, since 1979. He also served as a member of the State of Israel Bond Council.

Ted has also been involved in a variety of other community activities for the past 60 years. His leadership roles have included chairmanships with the American Red Cross and division chairman of the United Way/Community Chest Campaigns. He has served as a trustee of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and National Museum of American

Jewish History, Philadelphia, Pa.

For over 20 years, Schwartz has served as a board member of the Glen Manor for the Agad, now Cedar Village, and as its president for three years. Currently, he serves as a member of the board of Boys Hope Girls Hope, and he was presented with the Heart of Gold Award for his support for that group. He also serves as a trustee of the Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation.

Schwartz has been a longtime benefactor of education and the arts through his support of the University of Cincinnati, College of Mount St. Joseph, Contemporary Arts Center, and Cincinnati Ballet Company.

He is the father of two sons, Steve and Andy, and grandfather of Olivia, Sam, Devorah and Judah.