

Martin Schwartz

Martin Schwartz was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and raised in Muncie. He graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1938 and received his master's degree in social science from Ball State University in 1962.

Martin's lifelong interest in the American Jewish experience led to his involvement with several Jewish organizations, both nationally and locally. He was an overseer for Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In 1978, with several other Harvard students he was instrumental in creating the Harvard Center for Jewish



Studies. He is an honorary member of the board of the Indiana University Jewish Studies Program in recognition of the support that he and his wife have given to that program over the years. He was also a mainstay of Temple Beth El in Muncie; serving on its' Board of Trustees, numerous committees and two terms as temple president. Martin commissioned a Jewish oral history project that resulted in the publication of several articles and the book *Middletown Jews*. He was also active in many other community activities including the Muncie Boys Club, Muncie Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Junior Achievement, Muncie Symphony Orchestra and the Muncie Public Library.

Helen Schwartz

A native of New York, Helen Berger Schwartz met Martin Schwartz in New York in 1940 and they were married soon thereafter. Helen and Martin moved to Muncie in 1946, where she lived the rest of her life as a wife, mother, businesswoman and community leader. Helen died in 2007 at age 87.

Helen was active and instrumental in several Muncie organizations including: Muncie's first Human Rights Council, the United Way Recreation Committee, the Riley-Jones Women's Club NS RHW Hoosier Bounty, an organization that provided thousands of meals a year to public agencies in order to feed people in need. Like Martin, she served Muncie's Temple Beth El in several capacities including being the first woman president, various sisterhood committees and served as vice president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

Joint Activities

The Schwartz's interest in furthering Jewish education led them to endow activities at both the Harvard Center for Jewish Studies and the Indiana University Jewish Studies program. At Indiana University, they established the Helen and Martin Schwartz Lectures in Jewish Studies, the Helen and Martin Schwartz Scholars Program, and the Helen B. Schwartz Fund for New Scholarship in Jewish Studies.

Martin and Helen also have a long history of supporting Ball State University, the University Libraries, and the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, and many other local organizations.