

Prof. Alvin H. Rosenfeld was born in Philadelphia to Russian Jewish Parents. He came to Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1968. IU had no Jewish Studies Program- nor did most other universities in America. He was not hired to create such a program, but Dr. Rosenfeld did just that in 1973 and when on to become the founding director of the Borns Jewish Studies for the next 30 years. In addition, when he came to Bloomington, there wasn't a synagogue in the area. He helped establish the first synagogue and has led services for over 50 years. Dr. Rosenfeld received his PH.D. from Brown University and holds the Indiana University Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies. Many thousands of students from Indiana and elsewhere have come to Bloomington to take courses in Jewish Studies, and countless numbers of them have gone on to careers as rabbis, cantors, teachers in Jewish schools, professionals in Jewish agencies, and to take up life in Israel. Alvin's family includes his son, Gavriel, a history professor at Fairfield University in Connecticut, and his daughter, Dalia, who lives in Israel and is a fiction writer, translator, and editor. He has five grandchildren: three, Julia, Benjamin & Gidon, who live in the US, and two, Adan & Natan, who live in Israel. He also has two brothers: Sidney, 92, a retired professor at Oberlin College, and Leonard, 89, a still practicing physician in Philadelphia. And, of course, the love of his life, his wife Erna, who passed away after 50 years of married life together and working together. Rabbi Dennis Sasso remarked, "Dr. Rosenfeld has helped to shape generations of Jewishly knowledgeable and committed young students who have been taught, mentored, and inspired by him over many decades. He has elevated the level of Jewish discourse and awareness beyond the academy to the interfaith and civic communities. He has brought to IU and the State of Indiana an international reputation as a center for studying antisemitism." Through multiple forms of outreach, he has informed citizens, political leaders, clergy, and educators about the Jewish presence in history and our challenges against our existence. Prof. Rosenfeld built the Jewish Study program at Indiana University. It is recognized as one of the finest Jewish studies programs on a university campus. He has received many awards, including the Distinguished Service Award, the Provost Medal for Distinguished Service to Indiana University, and in 2019, the President's Medal for Excellence, the highest award an IU President can confer on a faculty member. His most recent work is the Institute for the Study for Contemporary Anti-Semitism. His work at the Institute has been essential in the struggle of the Jewish community against the hatred and bigotry in the world today. Emily Berman Pevnick, AIPAC Midwest Deputy Regional Director, wrote: "When I think of a Jewish Legend in Indiana and on the global stage, I think of Alvin. "At age 85, many people would have retired and looked back on their career with pride and peace. Not Alvin. So long as there is work to be done to fight anti-Semitism, he continues. I am inspired by his devotion and grateful that he continues to fight for the Jewish people every day with purpose and passion. I admire his work and feel two honored to have had the opportunity to learn from him. His work will have a lasting impact on world Jewry, and I cannot think of a more deserving person for the Hoosier Jewish Legend Hall of Fame award than him."