

Marchbeins make UJF Foundation gift

The United Jewish Federation Foundation has received a quarter million dollar endowment from the estate of Irene Marchbein, according to Leonard H. Rudolph, chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees.

The income of the Irene and Andrew Aryeh Marchbein Memorial Endowment Fund is to be distributed in perpetuity, two-thirds to "enhance the general comfort and well being of the residents" at Riverview Center for Jewish Seniors and the remaining third to the Pittsburgh Council of B'nai B'rith specifically for youth programs and activities.

Nephew William J. Lazar explained that the Marchbein family came to this country from Hungary. His grandfather Theodore was a cantor in McKeesport; great-grandfather Marchbein was a "chazan" in Poland. The Marchbein family has a long tradition of Chazonim from Eastern Europe.

Much of the large family was lost in the Holocaust. "It was only natural that the family become interested in preserving Jewish tradition,"

said Lazar.

For 30 years Ms. Marchbein operated the Irene Marchbein Dress Shop at Fifth Avenue and Wilkins with her sister, Charlotte Lazar, and brother, Andrew Marchbein. She was a designer of fashions and interiors and an avid supporter of Jewish causes. Her brother Andrew, a scholar and deeply religious, received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh; he died in 1980. Since Ms. Marchbein and her brother had no children, they wanted to pass on something to nurture "the Jewish way of life."

The Marchbein Memorial Endowment is managed by the United Jewish Federation Foundation, which acts to expand resources available to the UJF, its beneficiary agencies and the Greater Pittsburgh community.

The UJF Foundation helps ensure that future needs of the Jewish community can be met efficiently, effectively in the face of change. At the same time the Foundation makes available seed money for pilot projects and innovative programs to enrich the life of the community.