





Four local residents, one foundation, will be honored for philanthropic work

CV 10-25-00

This year's honorees are Ann Moskovitz, Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award; Ruth Kemmerer, Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fortinsky, Outstanding Philanthropist Award; and Verizon Foundation, Outstanding Foundation Award.

Four individuals and one foundation will be honored for their fundraising efforts and philanthropic activities during an awards luncheon Nov. 15 at the Best Hotel, Pittston.

The Greater Pocono Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives will sponsor the luncheon as part of National Philanthropy Day.

Chapter President Regina Peters explained this year's honorees are Ann Moskovitz, Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award; Ruth Kemmerer, Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fortinsky, Outstanding Philanthropist Award; and Verizon Foundation, Outstanding Foundation Award.

Moskovitz, Jermy, in addition to serving on the board of Allied Services, has sat on boards and committees for Mercy Hospital, Scranton; St. Joseph's Hospital, Carbondale; St. Joseph's Center, Scranton; the Visiting Nurses Association, Family Services of Lackawanna County and the Catherine McAuley Center.

In 1999, she was appointed to the board of Mercy Health Partners Foundation.

Her involvement extends to the Everhart Museum, the Philharmonic League, for which she is chairwoman of this year's Antiques Show; Lucan Center for the Arts, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Lackawanna County, Scranton Club and the Women's Golf Association, Country Club of Scranton.

Her participation in parish and diocesan activities as well as membership in Hadassah, the Jewish Community Center and Temple Hesed Sisterhood expresses her support of her own faith and that of her husband of 30 years, I. Leo Moskovitz.

Mrs. Moskovitz is a former board member of the University of Scranton and presently serves on its Weinberg Memorial Library board. She has been team captain for Marywood University's Annual Fund campaign and in 1998 was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of laws from the University of Scranton.

Moskovitz has received the Estee Lauder Star Achiever Award, the American Cancer Society's Vision of Hope Award, the B'nai B'rith Americanism Award, the Boy Scouts' Woman of the Year Award and the Scranton Public Theater Community Service Award.

Kemmerer, Exeter, has been involved with fund-raising for the Arthritis Foundation for more than 19 years - first as a local board member, now as branch director for the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. In her capacity as branch director, Kemmerer administers chapter programs, services and fund-raising efforts for a nine-county area.

From 1989 through 1996, Kemmerer produced the Arthritis Foundation National Telethon for the northeast Pennsylvania area. She also established the Arthritis Foundation's Mini Grand Prix, Jingle Bell Run/Walk and the Arthritis Foundation's Community Leader of the Year dinner.

She spearheaded the Arthritis Task Force, a project comprising Arthritis Foundation board members, community volunteers and health care professionals from a 15-county area of eastern Pennsylvania.

Kemmerer is a founding member of the Greater Pocono Northeast Chapter of the NSFRE and served as its first secretary. She also is a founding member of the Non-profit Committee for the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry and is that committee's chairwoman.

Kemmerer chairs the Friends Committee of Family Service of Wyoming Valley - a fund-raising vehicle designed to support educational programs and direct services for families and children in crisis in the Wyoming Valley.

She is the mother of two children, Richard and Kristen, and has two grandchildren, Brittany and Mackenzie.

Robert and Shirley Fortinsky, Kingston, owners of Fortune Fabrics Inc., Swoyersville, and related companies, have spent the last 30 years contributing to a number of educational, civic, religious, recreational and business inter-

ests throughout the Wyoming Valley.

One of Mr. Fortinsky's first fund-raising efforts occurred in 1972 when he chaired the United Jewish Appeal campaign in Wilkes-Barre. He also chaired the UJA campaign in 1984, the Israel Bonds endeavor in 1985, and the Pennsylvania drive for the Chair for Jewish Studies at the Pennsylvania State University in 1989. He co-chaired the Jewish Community Center Endowment Fund in 1983.

In addition, he has served as president and chairman of the board of Temple Israel, Wilkes-Barre.

The Fortinskys donated a building to Wilkes University and a teleconference auditorium to the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus. Mr. Fortinsky is a former member of the Mount Nittany Society of Penn State and is a member of the King's College Century Club and Wilkes University's John Wilkes Society. He is chairman of the board of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus and is on the board of trustees of Penn State University.

Mr. Fortinsky also is affiliated with Luzerne National Bank, the International Textile Society, the Wyoming Business Club and the Luzerne Foundation.

The Fortinskys have one daughter, Jill Schwartz.

In 1999, Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic division of Verizon Communications Inc. contributed more than \$230,000 to non-profit

organizations throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. Among the many causes to benefit from Verizon's generosity were the Bach & Handel Chorale, Scranton Public Theatre, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, American Diabetes Association, The Salvation Army, St. Francis Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, Hazleton Civic Association, Scranton Tomorrow, the Committee on Economic Opportunity, Lacawac Sanctuary and several area colleges and universities.

Verizon Foundation also supports United Ways in Stroudsburg, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Pottsville, Bloomsburg, Berwick, Tamaqua and Williamsport.

With seed money and financial support from Verizon, Junior Achievement three years ago was able to initiate a golf marathon, and three latchkey programs were established for children in need of supervision while their parents are at work.

The company encourages its employees to lend their time and talents to people and organizations in need. Verizon provides incentives for individuals to work with non-profits and offers grants and

matching contributions to organizations that meet certain criteria.

Verizon also is known for the dedication of its Pioneers (regular and retired) to community service.

National Philanthropy Day is an annual event celebrated by more than 100 NSFRE chapters throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. NSFRE is a professional association of fund-raising executives that advances philanthropy through its more than 22,000 members in 157 chapters.

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Temple Israel to honor Fortinskys Nov. 2



Robert Fortinsky



Shirley Fortinsky

Temple Israel will honor community activists and philanthropists Robert and Shirley Fortinsky as "Amudei Tzibbur," or pillars of the community, at the 81st annual dinner meeting at 5 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Plains Township.

The couple has continued a long family tradition of hard work and support for educational, civic, religious, recre-

ational and business interests throughout the Wyoming Valley and beyond.

Robert is past president and chairman of the Temple Israel board of trustees and was chairman of the 1972 United Jewish Appeal campaign, the 1985 Israel Bond campaign and the 1989 Pennsylvania drive for the Chair of Jewish Studies at Penn State University. He is past recipient of the B'nai B'rith Lodge Community Service Award and the Anti-Defamation League Distinguished Community Service Award.

Shirley is affiliated with organizations focusing on community service, health and the arts. She serves on boards of directors of the Association for the Blind, Family Service

Association, the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts and the Domestic Violence Center. In 1993, the Wilkes-Barre Jewish Federation presented her with a Distinguished Service Award.

They donated Fortinsky Hall to Wilkes University, helped to create the Center for Technology and provided the Fortinsky Auditorium at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus, Lehman Township.

They have two daughters, Jill Fortinsky Schwartz and Judith Null, both lifelong members of Temple Israel. They have seven grandchildren.

Chairpersons of the dinner are Sherry Davidowitz and Joel Zitofsky.

For more information, call Temple Israel at 824-8927.