

THE NATE & LILY HORODEZKY ENDOWMENT FUND



(LtoR) Lily Horodezky, Bertha Gold, Nate Horodezky
Lily & Nate's 50th Wedding Anniversary August 1976

In 1990, Bertha Gold opened an endowment fund with the Calgary Jewish Heritage Foundation (now known as the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary) in memory of her parents Nate & Lily (nee Switzer) Horodezky.

Nate and Lily were both hardworking immigrants. Nate arrived to Canada, from Russia in 1910 at the age of just ten years, and Lily arrived from Poland in 1921 at the age of 20 years. Lily was not in Calgary long before meeting Nate at a graduation ceremony at the Calgary Hebrew School. They were married in 1923.

Shortly after arriving in Calgary, Nate became a newsboy selling local papers. He saved to support his family in every way. In two years he had enough money for his father (homesteading in Rumsey) to replace their sod hut with a log home and build a well. Soon after marrying Lily, they moved to Nate's brothers farm in Rumsey. Farming was very bad that year so they decided to go back to Calgary. Nate was entrepreneurial in so many ways so they opened a second-hand store, Imperial Clothing, located in downtown Calgary on 8th Avenue East.

Lily helped him operate the business while trying to start a family. Lily gave birth to their only child, Bertha, in 1924. As a young mother and wife Lily also became an active community volunteer. She was most recognized for thirty-five years of service with Chevra Kadisha and in the development and planning for a Jewish seniors apartment building. In an interview with the Jewish Historical Society in 1997 Lily's daughter Bertha Gold said, "Lily was an extremely modest person and she played an important role in our Jewish community. Through her volunteerism she had a profound effect on the community as well as many of our relatives who immigrated from Poland."

Earned income from the endowment fund was originally used to develop a collection of Hebrew language books at the Calgary Jewish Academy. Now the income supports projects such as oral interview transcription for the Jewish Historical Society and Jewish Family Service Calgary.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary is proud to support the family in their continued tradition of Tzedekah and service in Calgary. You can contribute to any of these funds via memorial donations or by ordering tribute cards through JCFC.