

Final coda to a treasured record collection



Marlene Englander with a fraction of father Jack Saul's enormous record collection.



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When Jack Saul died in May at age 86, he left a loving family and admiring friends. He also left behind a whole lot of records!

A lifetime of collecting 78s and 33-1/2 LPs translated into a collection of 150,000 records that filled the modest South Euclid bungalow Saul shared with his wife Hinda.

“Jack kept every record in pristine condition,” says Hinda. “And despite the size of his collection, he could lay his finger on any recording in minutes and give you a full lecture on the musicians and the pieces being performed. He always had time for musicians and music lovers who came to our door.”

Thanks to a personal visit to the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Judaica Sound Archives in Boca Raton in February, part of Saul’s collection will now find a permanent home there, where it can be enjoyed by generations to come. Over Labor Day weekend, Nathan Tinanoff and Benjamin Roth-Aroni of FAU Judaica Sound Archives, family members and volunteers packed up thousands of records to ship south.

“Our dear friend Cantor Louis Danto, who had been Park Synagogue’s great cantor, donated part of his Jewish music collection to FAU,” says Hinda. “We went there and were impressed with what we saw. It was a good thing, because now I feel that I am carrying out Jack’s wishes by giving some of his beloved records a good home.”

The Saul family is also donating a portion of the collection to The Cleveland Orchestra and The Guy Lombardo Society. “Jack adored Guy Lombardo records,” says Hinda. “When I called The Guy Lombardo Society and asked if they had room for all of Jack’s recordings, they said, ‘No, but we’ll make room.’”

The Sauls’ daughter Marlene Englander has set several boxes of records aside for herself, especially sentimental ones like “Tubby the Tuba” and “Peter Ponscil and His Tonscil.”

“I feel as though Jack is leaving the house with every box that goes out the door,” says Hinda as she watches all the activity around her. “I never get attached to objects, just to people. That’s why when the records are finally gone, I won’t miss the collection – I’ll just be missing Jack.”

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