

The Jerry R. Goldsmith Memorial Scholarships

for students pursuing careers in healthcare or science, or in special need:

This program was initiated by his wife of almost 50 years, Sharon Michelle Goldsmith, in honor of her beloved husband, Jerry R Goldsmith, who passed away in May 2017.

Jerry Goldsmith was the son of German Jewish immigrants who fled the Holocaust in Germany to come to the US in 1938. They came with no English language skills and no money. Jerry's mom worked cleaning houses and his father held a variety of jobs in order to survive. Jerry's parents died within a month of each other when he was 17, leaving him and his brother nothing but debts. Jerry went to live with an aunt and uncle in New York City. Even though the public colleges in New York City did not charge tuition at the time, Jerry despaired of being able to go to school because of the money required to buy books and pay other fees. A local philanthropic organization, alerted to Jerry's situation by his uncle, gave him a small (\$2000) scholarship. That gesture made all the difference for Jerry; it meant someone believed in him! On a practical level it meant that he had funds to buy books and pay for subway fare to commute every day to school. He still worked every day while he was in school (as a busboy and waiter and then line cook) to pay school expenses and help out his aunt and uncle with household expenses.

Jerry graduated from City College of New York with a degree in Chemistry in 1964. He immediately went into the Peace Corps, being the second group to be assigned to Ghana where he taught chemistry at a teacher's training college. Jerry entered the business world after returning from the Peace Corp and retired as Vice President of Marketing for a leading international professional organization representing medical laboratory directors and researchers in the medical diagnostics industry.

Jerry and Sharon came to Borrego almost every year for 25 years before his death. Jerry was an avid birdwatcher and conservationist. He loved the area and some of the happiest times of his life were spent here. He cared about the young people of Borrego he met over the years. He admired their courage and dreams. And he well understood the challenges of being a child of immigrants who came to the US with very little. Jerry and Sharon were long time supporters of the BASIC scholarship program and they both read and commented every single application that the BASIC scholarship committee received when Sharon was a member. Jerry always said that that scholarship he was awarded as he was trying to figure out how he could possibly go to school changed the course of his life!

The Jerry R Goldsmith scholarships are focused on "DACA children" and on individuals seeking careers in science and healthcare.

Sharon has stated that "it is an honor and a privilege to be able to provide these scholarships in Jerry's name and I know he would be so happy about this program. He would think it's a terrific way to acknowledge his wonderful life and to help others as he was helped many years ago."