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Support for Jewish causes always in fashion Entrepreneur who defied gender roles is honored by Rutgers Chabad

by Debra Rubin NJJN Bureau ChiefMarch 19, 2018

There aren't many dinner honorees who would read an original poem and sing an original song in lieu of a stodgy acceptance speech.

But then again, there aren't many people like Ruth Hyman, 98, who built a successful business and made shrewd investments at a time when many women were homemakers who rarely ventured into these maledominated domains.

The almost-centenarian from Long Branch has donated millions to charity, Jewish causes in particular, a lesson she learned from her Lithuanian immigrant parents, David and Ida Hyman, who were founding members of Congregation Brothers of Israel in Elberon in 1896, where Hyman is still a member.

"My parents didn't have money, but they put a nickel in a pushka every day," said Hyman. "I was brought up to always give tzedakah. I learned tzedakah from them."

On March 13, Hyman was one of three honorees at the 39th annual Founder's Day Dinner of Rutgers Chabad in New Brunswick, which drew 300 people to the organization's College Avenue building.

In an interview with NJJN, Hyman said she felt "wonderful" about receiving the award, adding, "They recognized I deserved it."

Other honorees included Israeli Consul General in New York Dani Dayan and Rutgers Chabad alumnus Yair Kiyman, founder of Klyman Financial, as well as the Rutgers Chabad Alumni Group a year ago, which has already raised \$40,000 in donations.

After finishing her one-of-a-kind acceptance speech, Hyman continued her lifelong pattern of generosity by announcing she was donating \$100,000 to Rutgers Chabad. With that gift, the dinner raised approximately \$500,000, according to Chabad executive director Rabbi Yosef Carlebah. He also announced a vosef Carlebach. He also announced a campaign to pay off the remaining \$4 million mortgage on the \$20 million expansion of its building, which opened four years ago.



Philanthropist Ruth Hyman was honored with the Eishet Chayil Award from Rutgers Chabad. Photo by Debra Rubin

Sidebar

Dominican presidential candidate vows to move embassy to Jerusalem







Philanthropist Ruth Hyman was honored with the Eishet Chavil Award from Rutgers Chabad.

"By our 40th anniversary dinner in December we expect to have it paid off," he told the crowd.

A good fashion sense and boatload of self-confidence helped Hyman succeed in her business.

Ruth Hyman Fashions, launched in the early 1940s — on a dare from her cousin. As a young woman working in government payroll, Hyman would travel to the now-defunct Orbach's department store in Newark to buy clothes for her co-workers.

"They would compliment me every day on what I was wearing," said Hyman, who was, of course, stylish at the dinner, dressed in black and wearing pearls, her nails polished red.

One day an overweight coworker asked Hyman to buy something she thought would look good on her. Soon others were making the same request

"I bought it all retail and would charge them whatever I paid," said Hyman, adding that her cousin downplayed her idea of opening her own business telling her, the bank "will never give you credit he next day she went out "in defance" and secured the credit she needed to start her business.

Running her business out of her home, Hyman built up \$2 million worth of inventory and developed a reputation for her sense of style and excellent customer service

"Everybody who bought from me got compliments," she noted. "People would say to them, 'You bought that from Ruth Hyman.' People literally cried when I went out of business 25 years ago."

Hyman parlayed her profits through sound investments at a time few women were involved in financial markets.

"I enjoyed my years in business," said Hyman. "I never closed my door and thought, 'Thank God this day is over.' I loved my business and I loved my customers."

In addition to her gifts to Rutgers Chabad, Hyman has given to numerous other charitable causes. In 2015, she donated an ambulance in her parents' names to American Friends of Magen David Adom, Israel's national ambulance, blood services, and disaster-relief organization.















Throughout her life, she has supported various Jewish community organizations, including Hadassah, for which she also served as president of the Long Branch chapter; the former Ruth Hyman JCC of Greater Monmouth County; Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County; and the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, now merged into the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey.

Hyman's gift to the Red Bank-based Visiting Nurse Service established the Ruth Hyman Spiritual Support in the Jewish Tradition Hospice Program and the Ruth Hyman Advanced Care Institute.

She received the Jewish American Heritage Award as a major supporter of Aish International as part of the U.S. Senate's Congressional Jewish Heritage Celebration. Along with the many other honors she has received, Hyman had her list of accomplishments read into the Congressional record last year by N.J. Rep. Frank Pallone (O-Dist. 6).

Dominican presidential candidate vows to move embassy to Jerusalem

L. RAMFIS DOMINGUEZ-TRUJILLO, the leading presidential candidate in the Dominican Republic, told NJJN in an exclusive interview that if elected he would move his country's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"We have been talking with a lot of different friends here and if President [Donald] Trump is also moving the American embassy to Jerusalem, what's the big deal?" he asked. "It's a bilateral move that makes sense."

Dominguez-Trujillo also made the startling declaration that "I am a Jew," saying he had researched his ancestry and found he has some Jewish blood. Many Sephardic Jews who fied Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition in the 15th century settled in Latin America and the Caribbean.

His grandfather, Rafael Trujillo, was a brutal dictator who ruled the island nation from 1930-1961, killing many of his own people and about 25,000 Haitlans. Yet he took in hundreds of Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis during the Holocaust, though his Intentions were not altruistic: He hoped Jews would intermarry and lighten the complexion of his people.

After world leaders met at the Evian Conference in 1938 to discuss increasing numbers of Jewish refugees, Trujillo offered to take in 100,000 Jews, the only country willing to admit a substantial number. In the end, only 854 immigrated to Sosua in the tropical island nation, where they lived out the Holocaust in safety. After the war, most of them moved to the United States, although Sousa still retains a small Jewish population.

Dominguez-Trujillo was attending the 39th annual Founders Day Dinner March 13 at Rutgers Chabad in New Brunswick. Prior to the start of the event, he met privately with Dani Dayan, Israel's consul general in New York.

The candidate was first introduced to Chabad by Pedro Montalvo-Vientos, a Sephardic Jew from Puerto Rico who now lives in Monmouth Junction. In a phone interview with NJIN, Montalvo-Vientos said he was contacted by a friend asking for help in vetting the candidate on Jewish issues, and so he spoke with Dominguez-Trujillo.

"One of the first things I asked him is about the connection the Dominican Republic has with Israel," said Montalvo-Vientos. "I knew the Dominican Republic has not had a very good history in voting in favor of Israel at the United Nations."

After being assured of Dominguez-Trujillo's pro-Israel stance, he set up a conference call with Rabbi Mendy Carlebach, administrator of Rutgers Chabad and religious leader of the Chabad of North and South Brunswick, located near Montalvo-Vientos's home.

On the day of the Chabad dinner, Montalvo-Vientos asked Dominguez-Trujillo if he consider

"He told me once he was president one of the first things he will do is sign an executive order moving the embassy to Yerushalayim," said Montalvo-Vientos, noting polls show the candidate with strong support in the Dominican Republic and among expatriates.

Dominguez-Trujillo was born in New York to Dominican parents and raised in Miami; he said he neve met his controversial grandfather, who was assassinated in 1961. He maintains homes in both Miami and the Dominican Republic, which because of his family's history, he was barred from visiting until 2000.

The Dominican Republic is a representative democracy, and its current president is Danilo Medina. Dominican citizens residing abroad can vote in the May 2020 election. Dominguez-Trujillo has formen his own political party — Partido Esperanza Democratica, the Democratic Party of Hope — which has offices in New York City because of its large expatriate Dominican population.

Said Montalvo-Vientos, $^{\rm N}$ I'm really happy I was able to bring such a strong supporter of Israel to the Jewish community."

DEBRA RUBIN

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Jewish Defense Organization May 04, 2018 The Jewish Defense Organization supports the candidacy of L. RAMFIS DOMINGUEZ-TRUJILLO a friend to the Jewish people.

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