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Schottenstein remembered for 'life of helping others'

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Geraldine Hurwitz Schottenstein, philanthropist and devout supporter of the Jewish community in Central Ohio, is remembered by her children as a caring and avid advocate for charity after she died on March 3, 2026, at the age of 93.

Born in New Orleans on Feb. 1, 1933 to her parents, Eva and Joseph, Geraldine moved to Columbus after marrying her late husband, Jerome Schottenstein, in 1953. Today, their names can be found on numerous buildings throughout Columbus and the surrounding region, as well as on projects throughout the Jewish diaspora, echoing the impact that their donations had and will continue to have for years to come.

According to her son, entrepreneur and philanthropist Jay Schottenstein, the belief in

the importance of giving back stemmed from his mother's Jewish values – one that was instilled in her early in life.

"My mom grew up in New Orleans in a family that was involved in and cared deeply about the Jewish and general communities," Jay Schottenstein told the Columbus Jewish News in an emailed statement. "Her parents were role models for her. My father also came from similar values and was always concerned about helping the community. Throughout her whole life, my mom continued to express her concern for helping people and that was a value we all learned."

Ann Schottenstein Deshe, daughter of Geraldine and sister to Jay, told the CJN it was of the utmost importance to her parents that their children were raised with Jewish values.

"It was really important for their kids to be raised Jewish and to have a Jewish life," Deshe said. "We had Shabbat dinners every Friday

night at their home, and she just wanted to teach us to be a part of the community."

According to Deshe, the family continues to have Shabbat dinners every Friday night and raises their children with the same values that they learned from their mother.

On a personal note, Jay Schottenstein added, "My mom was a stay-at-home mother who devoted her life to taking care of my father and the whole family. She taught us so much, including how to defend ourselves growing up."

With Jewish education at the forefront of Geraldine and Jerome's wishes for their children, and no day schools in Columbus at the time, the couple helped found Columbus Torah Academy in 1958 as a way to provide community members with the opportunity to pursue Jewish education. This endeavor

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Leadership change at Ohio State: Bellamkonda named 18th president

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The Ohio State University in Columbus has named Ravi V. Bellamkonda as its 18th president, effective immediately.

Announced March 12, Bellamkonda's appointment follows the resignation of the university's 17th president Walter "Ted" Carter on March 9 after he disclosed an "inappropriate relationship" with Kri-santhe Vlachos, the host of a JobsOhio podcast "The Callout." Carter had been tapped

as the university's president in August 2023, beginning his tenure on Jan. 1, 2024, following the resignation of its 16th president, Kristina Johnson. She began her tenure in June 2020.

Bellamkonda, who is a bioengineer and neuroscientist through a Ph.D. at Brown University and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has served as Ohio State's executive vice president and provost since Jan. 14, 2025, according to a news release from Ohio State. Previously, he served as provost and

executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory University and the Vinik Dean of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University.

As provost, Bellamkonda led a university-wide portfolio of programs and initiatives in the Office of Academic Affairs and Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge. He also played a role in crafting and leading early phases of the Education for Citizenship 2035 strategic plan; lead the launch of AI Fluency, a initiative to integrate AI into the undergrad experience; a new

Career Center for Excellence to connect students with internships and jobs after graduation; and faculty hiring programs, the release said.

"Dr. Bellamkonda is well positioned to lead this institution at a time when Ohio State continues to see record achievements both in terms of student success and impact in the many communities we serve," board chair John W. Zeiger said in the release.

"Throughout his career in higher education,

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