

# Traurig Family

*"If you share with others, you'll be a better and happier person."*

## - Rose Traurig

The philanthropic activities of the Traurig Family, particularly in support of higher education in Waterbury and elsewhere, have left a legacy that reflects their concern for people.

In 1962, the children of William and Nettie (Raydner) Traurig established the Traurig Foundation in memory of their parents who were the inspiration for the many humanitarian projects for which the family became known. Each member of the family contributed generously to the well-being of Waterbury in accordance with their talents, interests, and genuine love of the community.

Max R. Traurig, born May 3, 1898, was one of the strongest supporters of higher education in Waterbury during the 20th century. A graduate of the Yale Law School, he maintained a law firm in partnership with his brother Edward for many years. He served in the Navy in World War I and in the Army in World War II as a legal advisor in the Judge Advocate General's office. He received both the Bronze Star and the French Croix de Guerre for his war-time service.

In the 1960's Max Traurig became the motivating force behind the founding of the

Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Higher Education Center, serving on the Board of Governors as well as the Board of Trustees of Regional Community Colleges. His generous gift of \$100,000 to Mattatuck Community College in 1981 was proof of his strong commitment to the Center. The college's Learning Resources Center/Library bears his name in fitting tribute to his untiring efforts in its behalf. Max Traurig died October 19, 1983.

Louis Traurig, born January 30, 1900, joined his brothers and sisters in working for virtually every civic and educational cause in the city. A veteran of World War I, and a graduate of the University of Connecticut as well as the School of Banking of NYU, he continued the tradition of banking begun by his father, who had been president of the Sanditz and Traurig Bank. Louis Traurig served for many years as the financial advisor of the law firm Traurig & Traurig. He endowed four annual scholarships at the University of Connecticut's Department of Economics where he was president of the UCONN Foundation. He was also a founder of the Einstein School of Medicine at Yeshiva University. He died November 26, 1984.

Gertrude Traurig, born June 23, 1901, was for many years, one of the most beloved teachers at Crosby High School. A graduate of Crosby High and Connecticut College, Gertrude Traurig began her teaching career in Roxbury. During her long tenure at Crosby, she taught Spanish and French. An annual scholarship is given in her name to students excelling in a foreign language.

Rose Traurig, born May 3, 1905, was quoted as saying "Our mentors were Mother and Dad. They believed that there is



*The Traurig Siblings (L to R): Rose, Max, Gertrude, Louis, & Edward*

continued the tradition of good works for which the family became known. After graduating from Brown University, she worked in New York at Brooklyn Charities finding jobs for people with disabilities. In the 1930's she returned to Waterbury to join the family law firm as officer manager. She gave of her time, talent and resources to countless individuals and agencies, including a transitional living center for individuals with traumatic brain injuries at the Gaylord Hospital in memory of her brother Louis.

Rose Traurig had a long affiliation with Post College (later Teikyo Post University), establishing numerous scholarship funds. A program especially dear to her heart was the Rose Traurig Scholars Program which provides adult women students with academic, professional and personal support in their goal of achieving a college degree. She died November 30, 1993.

Edward Traurig, born March 23, 1903, practiced law for over 60 years in partnership with his brother Max. A graduate of Yale Law School, he established the first Waterbury Bar Association scholarship, and was a staunch supporter of Teikyo Post University to which the family foundation donated \$40,000 for the Traurig Center for Legal studies. The school's library is named for the Traurig Family. He was a member of the Silas Bronson Library Board of Agents from 1960 to 1976, and among his many donations to the library was a gift of \$10,000 in 1963 for completion of the library terrace, given in memory of his parents. Following his death on April 12, 1992, Teikyo Post awarded him a posthumous community service award. It was said of him "the man was pure love."