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## **\$36,000.18 DONATION TO FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE MATCHED**

*For the third year in a row, David and Sharon Leiman help donations make double the impact.*



**Flat Rock, NC (June 9, 2020)** - Thanks to a generous donor, beginning May 1, donations that met specific categories were matched dollar for dollar, up to \$36,000.18. And thanks to generous community members, that challenge was met and exceeded by the end of May.

Just a few days after moving from New York City to Flat Rock in 2016, David and Sharon Leiman decided to explore the arts in their new community. They saw *Million Dollar Quartet* at the Flat Rock Playhouse and they state “it absolutely removed the pain of giving up 34 years of attending the Metropolitan Opera and living just a few blocks from Broadway theaters.” They have since become regular patrons and major supporters of the Playhouse.

In 2017 the Leimans (pictured above) named the Leiman Mainstage to memorialize and honor family members who perished in Auschwitz among 6 million other Jews plus the millions of Catholics, gay people, people with disabilities and other minorities who also were killed in the Holocaust. The Leiman name has been affixed to several other places of memory including the Leiman Garden of Reflection at the Gurwin Center in New York, founded by Joe Gurwin a Holocaust survivor and a Founder of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. The Leiman Fund has donated many reclaimed and newly discovered artifacts to the Museum and David served on the Gurwin Board of Directors for 25 years.

This is the third year the Leimans have made a matching gift, challenging others to step up to support the Playhouse. Their gift of \$36,000.18 is that specific amount because of the Jewish belief that multiples of 18 bring good luck; the magic of Chai. Thanks to 110 donors, that amount was met and exceeded in three short weeks, totaling \$43,833.68.

If you are interested in continuing the momentum started by David and Sharon, you can make a donation today by clicking the link below.

<https://purchase.flatrockplayhouse.org/donate/contribute2>.

## **FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE**

In 1937, a group of struggling performers, led by Robroy Farquhar, organized themselves as the Vagabond Players. The Vagabonds worked in a variety of places over the course of three years, and in 1940 found themselves in the Blue Ridge region of Western North Carolina. The local and tourist community welcomed them with open arms when they presented their first summer season of plays in a 150-year-old grist mill they converted into The Old Mill Playhouse at Highland Lake. So successful was that summer, they returned in 1941. After WWII, the Vagabond Players reorganized came back to the region and opened a playhouse in nearby Lake Summit. The Lake Summit Playhouse thrived during the post-war years and soon the Vagabond Players were looking for a larger and permanent home. In 1952, the troupe of performers, and a newly formed board of directors made an offer to buy an 8-acre lot in the Village of Flat

Rock. This new home made the Vagabonds “locals” and a rented big top gave birth to Flat Rock Playhouse. As the beautiful Western Carolina region continued to grow, so did the Playhouse and in 1961, by Act of the North Carolina General Assembly, Flat Rock Playhouse was officially designated The State Theatre of North Carolina. What began as a few weeks of summer performances in 1940 is now a nine-month season of plays including Broadway musicals, comedy, drama, and theatre for young audiences.

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