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WORDS
OF
WISDOM

ARTHUR JAFFE

Curator, Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts

It's somehow fitting that Arthur Jaffe's name has become synonymous with books in Boca Raton. A conversation with the founder and curator of the Arthur & Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts at Florida Atlantic University is like opening a volume of short stories. The tales range from his days interrogating Germans on the front lines during World War II to working as a spy for the Jewish underground in Palestine to life lessons learned over the course of 87 years. The Delray Beach resident reflects on his amazing life with Boca Raton.

[] "When I joined ROTC, Hitler was starting to appear on the scene. He said that he didn't like Jews—and that he was going to get rid of them. I thought, 'I'm not going to let him do that without putting up a fight.'"

[] "I wasn't scared of the Germans as much as I was of the soldiers under my command. They have to respect you, they have to believe in you, and they have to trust you because you're going to take them into battle. Their lives are in your hands. That's a great responsibility at 21."

[] "Being a spy sounds very glamorous, but it's not. It's just trying to get information."

[] "I've learned more in the last part of my life than I learned in the first part of my life. I'm a more understanding person for it—and I'm a better human being for it."

[] "It's an adventure every time I see a book. I like looking at beautiful books, just as much as I like looking at beautiful women. It keeps me young."

[] "[Before he goes to bed at night], I think about what I'm supposed to be doing tomorrow, because there's only tomorrow. The past is gone."



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REST OF OUR
INTERVIEW
WITH ARTHUR
JAFFE AT
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LEARN MORE
ABOUT HIS
REMARKABLE
LIFE.

