



LEGACY of LIGHT

Planning Today for Tomorrow

A Newsletter for Friends of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

"I Wanted to Help People—I Still Do."



Photo by John Kafka.

From left: Helga Wolffs, Betsy Franks and Miriam Kafka, taken on Helga's birthday in 2003. Ms. Kafka is Helga's childhood friend from Prague. Betsy Franks, Ms. Kafka's daughter-in-law, helped Helga after her husband died.

Whenever asked, Helga Wolffs would say she never figured out how she managed to survive the horrors of the Holocaust.

Born in Prague in May 1921, Helga's life changed abruptly after the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia in 1938. Soon thereafter, life became a constant struggle for survival—first in Terezin and Auschwitz, where she worked as a nurse; then in Hamburg and Neugraben, where she did slave labor clearing rubble; and finally, in Bergen Belsen, where she was liberated by the British. After that, Helga worked as a secretary for the British Military Government, at times personally observing her previous tormentors at war crimes trials. "I felt no satisfaction in seeing them imprisoned," she said in her recorded oral testimony, "only contempt."

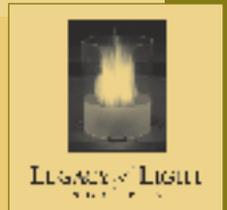
Her parents were murdered in Auschwitz, and her sister survived and returned to Prague. Helga immigrated to America, where she later met and married her husband.

"Life is very important to me," she said, explaining why she became a nurse. "I wanted to help people—I still do." She felt that decency and togetherness, not every person for himself, is what is important. This may explain Helga's extraordinary gift of nearly \$400,000 to the Museum through a bequest in her will. Helga's legacy will enable us to impart the vital lessons of the Holocaust she endured to future generations.

Unfortunately, we were unaware that Helga had included the Museum in her estate plans until she had passed away. We wish we could have thanked her in person. If you have included the Museum in your estate plans, please let us know. By informing us of your intentions, we can celebrate your commitment by including you in our Legacy of Light Society today.

FALL 2004

EDUCATION
REMEMBRANCE
CONSCIENCE



EDUCATION REMEMBRANCE CONSCIENCE

Honor the last generation.

Enlighten the next.

Leave a legacy bequest to the Museum.

"We Give...and That's a Great Feeling."



Charlene and Erwin (Ed) Schiff

Though small in stature, Charlene Schiff has incredible inner strength and determination. "In spite of everything, I have been very lucky in my life. I have helped men, women and children learn about the Holocaust and had the opportunity to share the most important lessons I learned from my life—that we must never forget and that hate is a wasted effort."

Charlene was born in the town of Horochow, Poland, 50 miles northeast of Lvov. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland; three weeks later, the Soviet Union occupied eastern Poland. On June 26, 1941, the Germans occupied Horochow, and in 1942, Charlene and her mother escaped the Horochow ghetto. Hidden near a river, at times submerged in the water, Charlene and her mother floated by the river's edge for days. One day, after dozing off, Charlene awoke to find her mother had vanished. Charlene spent the remainder of the war alone in the forests; she is the only survivor of her family.

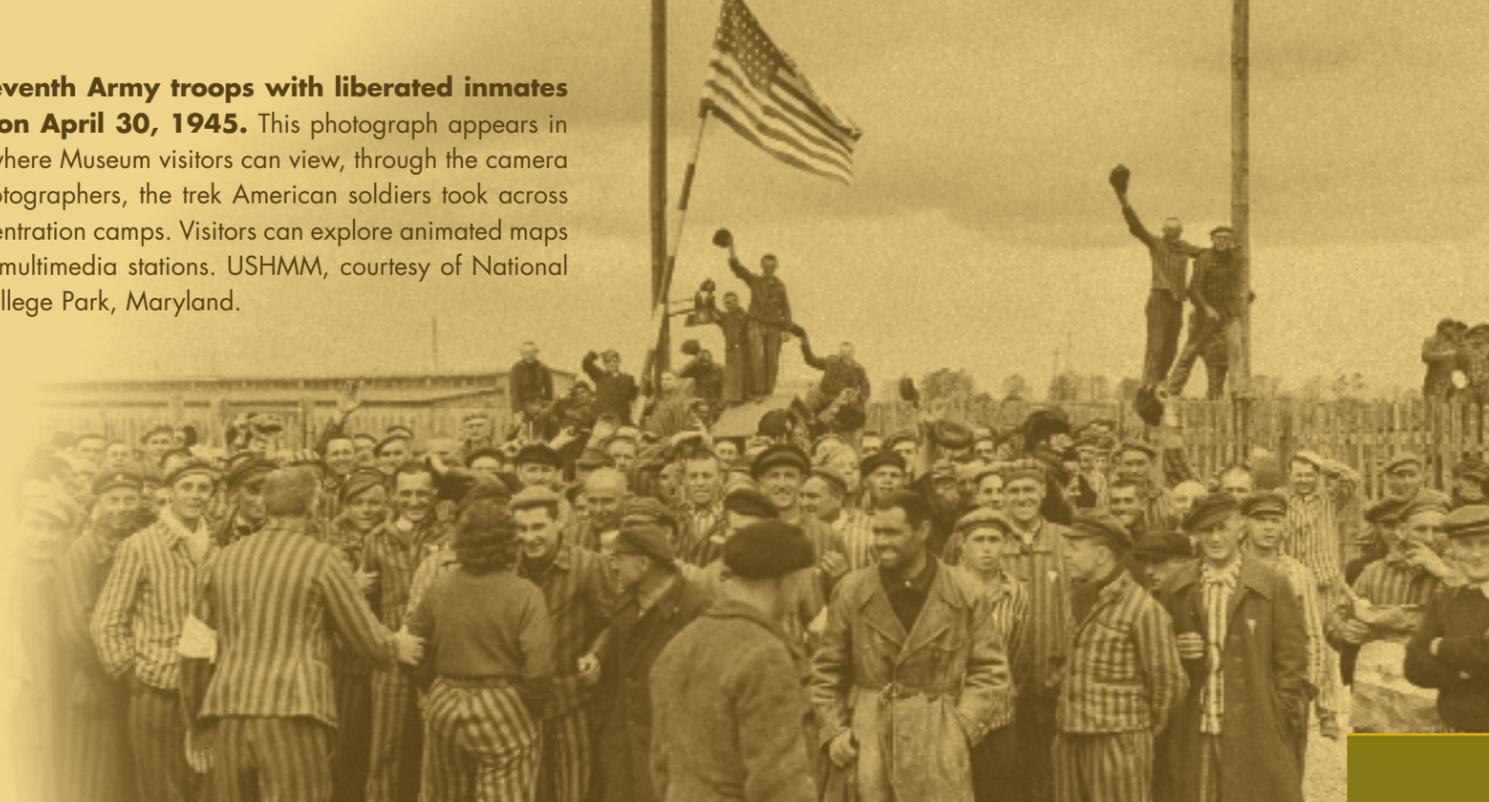
Three years after the war's end, Charlene finally immigrated to Columbus, Ohio, to live with relatives. At Ohio State University, she met her husband—Erwin (Ed) Schiff. Ed, born and raised in Brooklyn, enlisted in the Army after Pearl Harbor. After serving in the Pacific during WWII, Ed was recalled to the service during the Korean War and completed several tours in Vietnam. Ed was employed by the Army for the rest of his professional life. He, Charlene and their son Stephen traveled around the world, eventually settling in Alexandria, Virginia.

Even before the Museum opened, the Schiffs began supporting the developing endeavor. Charlene recorded her oral history for the Museum's archives, and she and Ed contributed to the Capital Campaign. Today, Charlene speaks regularly to adults and children about her Holocaust experiences, and Ed volunteers weekly as a Visitor Services representative.

Charlene and Ed recently made a very meaningful, long-term commitment to the Museum by establishing two charitable gift annuities. "We wanted to make a significant gift to the Museum that would benefit us too," Ed said. "Every time we receive an annuity payment, it reminds us of the gift we made to help the Museum, and that's a great feeling."

We invite you to join the Schiffs in establishing a planned gift that will help the Museum continue to teach the history and lessons of the Holocaust and shape the future.

42nd "Rainbow" Division, U.S. Seventh Army troops with liberated inmates at a subcamp of Dachau, Allach, on April 30, 1945. This photograph appears in the Museum's Wexner Learning Center, where Museum visitors can view, through the camera lens of two U.S. Army Signal Corps photographers, the trek American soldiers took across Europe and their encounter with the concentration camps. Visitors can explore animated maps and eyewitness testimony at interactive, multimedia stations. USHMM, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.



Secure Income for Life and Your Legacy Forever

A charitable gift annuity, with its fixed annual payments and numerous tax advantages, not only works to your advantage but also benefits the Museum.

Low earnings on cash investments have many investors looking for higher returns and a better source for potential lifetime income. Others are looking for tax benefits generated through charitable giving to nonprofit organizations like the Museum. The answers to both needs are likely found by creating a charitable gift annuity (CGA) contract.

The concept of a CGA is simple. A person wishing to support our mission makes a gift of cash or marketable property to us. We invest the assets and agree to make fixed annual payments to the donor for life (and, if desired, for another beneficiary's lifetime). Upon the death of the last beneficiary, the remaining funds are available for the Museum.

The transaction is partly a charitable gift and partly the purchase of the income interest. The annuity rate is the dollar amount returned to you annually as a percentage of the value of your gift, and these rates are related to the ages of the annuity recipients at the time the gift is made. The contract specifies the frequency of payments (typically quarterly) and the date of the first payment.

Cash is the most common asset used to fund a CGA, but real estate is another option—in states where allowed. If you contribute appreciated securities such as stocks, you will need to pay a portion of the capital gains taxes on the "sale." These capital gains taxes, however, are usually paid over your life expectancy—not all payable in one year.

Call us to arrange a confidential personalized illustration of how a gift annuity could work for you.

Help us **shape the future** by making a planned gift to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Send for our brochure by returning the enclosed reply card.



Charitable Bequests: A Reflection of Your Values

If you're like most people, your first concern when planning your estate is to provide for your family. But if your children are already secure or you don't have any children, please consider helping the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Charitable giving through a bequest in a will or trust is the traditional way Americans support a worthy cause beyond their annual contributions.

Of course, you may not want to leave everything to charitable organizations; instead you can bequeath a sum of cash or a particular asset. If you want to make certain a spouse or other survivor is provided for, your bequest can be contingent—payable only if that person doesn't survive you.

There are many ways to carry out your charitable intentions. And you may wish to make your gift in memory of someone. We welcome the opportunity to recognize you and your loved ones.

Need our suggestions? We'll be glad to help you determine a suitable and tax-wise bequest.

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Director of Planned Giving

**Chicago Book and
Author Luncheon**
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Oct. 25, 2004

**Varian Fry, Assignment:
Rescue, 1940–1941**
Fort Morgan Museum
Fort Morgan, Colorado
Sept. 1, 2004–Nov. 30, 2004

Schindler
New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance
Museum and Study Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Oct. 18, 2004–Nov. 30, 2004

**The Nazi Olympics
Berlin 1936**
Basketball Hall of Fame
Springfield, Massachusetts
Oct. 22, 2004–Jan. 23, 2005

**Remember the Children:
Daniel's Story**
Roberson Museum and
Science Center
Binghamton, New York
Feb. 17, 2005–Sept. 24, 2005

**Life in Shadows:
Hidden Children and
the Holocaust**
Spertus Museum
Chicago, Illinois
March 20, 2005–July 31, 2005

For a complete listing, please visit our Web site at www.ushmm.org.

Cover Photo of Ratzner family, Poland 1934.
USHMM, gift of Shirley Koperberg Willig

Cover Photo of Children in USHMM by
thomasarledge.com



LEGACY OF LIGHT
SOCIETY

The LEGACY OF LIGHT SOCIETY is the planned giving society of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. To find out more about the variety of planned giving opportunities, please contact George E. Hellman, Esq., Director of Planned Giving, at 202.314.1748 or via e-mail at planned_giving@ushmm.org.