

# The Planned Giving Newsletter of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

# Generations



Above: Legacy of Light Guardian Sam Devinki.  
Right: Sam touring the Permanent Exhibition this spring with Kansas City teens.

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## A Guiding Light for the Next Generation

In each of the past three years, Sam Devinki has brought a group of ninth graders from his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In March, as he addressed this group of what Sam described as future leaders in government, business, and education, Sam shared his family's personal story and challenged the students to stand up whenever they witness antisemitism, hatred, or bigotry. Although Sam lost more than 100 members of his family during the Holocaust, he is alive today because a brave individual stood up in the face of Nazi terror.

Sam's family lived in Wodzislaw, Poland, 30 miles north of Krakow. His paternal grandmother and maternal grandfather

were both murdered by the Nazis. His grandfather's business partner, Jozef Gondrowicz, who was a member of the Polish nationalist resistance movement *Armia Krajowa* (A.K. or Home Army), alerted Sam's family that the Nazis were coming to liquidate the Wodzislaw ghetto. Gondrowicz arranged to hide Sam's parents and other family members in a 10' x 15' dirt hole underneath a barn, with no electricity or bathroom facilities, where they remained for 26 months. When the farmer who hid them withheld food, Gondrowicz threatened to kill him if he did not care for the Jews he was hiding.

In 1945, the Russians liberated the remaining family members, yet the family remained in peril, as Jews were still under threat of violence and death. Gondrowicz again warned them and ultimately, with his wife, saved at least 50 Jews. In 2007, while on a Museum-led trip, Sam had the privilege of meeting Gondrowicz's sons in Lodz, Poland.



After the war, Sam's parents went to Regensburg, the German displaced persons camp where he was born, and eventually reached Kansas City. Starting with nothing, his parents built the successful real estate development firm that Sam runs to this day.

In speaking to the school groups he brings, Sam implores them to study and preserve this history, not just by visiting the Museum and reading, but by traveling to concentration camps.

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## From the Director of Planned Giving



George Hellman

In March, the Museum welcomed its 30 millionth visitor since opening in 1993. And this past year alone, we had some 30 million visits to [ushmm.org](http://ushmm.org), our multilingual Museum Web site. With your generous support, a truly global audience is learning the universal lessons of the Holocaust.

But though our impact is far-reaching, *our work will never be done*. In a world where hate shows no signs of abating, antisemitism is surging, and where every day the truth of the Holocaust is denied, distorted, or minimized, the urgency of our mission has only grown. What will the world be like tomorrow?

Building a stronger endowment today is the only way we can ensure a secure future... a future that does not repeat the failures of the past. In this issue of *Generations*, we are introducing our new endowment recognition program. Supporters who choose to make any type of gift, of any size to the Museum's endowment, either deferred or outright, are recognized as **Legacy of Light Guardians**.

If you would like additional information about endowment gifts or to find out how to become a Legacy of Light Guardian, please contact me or Naomi Katz, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at 202.488.2681 or [nkatz@ushmm.org](mailto:nkatz@ushmm.org). *Safeguarding truth for future generations depends on people like you.*

*George E. Hellman*

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Banners with personal testimonials of Legacy of Light Guardians displayed during Days of Remembrance featured Ann and Paul Krouse, Chicago, IL; Deanie and Jay Stein, Jacksonville, FL; and Diane Wohl, Mill Neck, NY. Banners not pictured: Rebecca Knaster, New York City and Louis Smith, Washington, D.C.

## Endowment Gifts: A Legacy for the Future

As we move deeper into the 21st century, the challenge to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive in an uncertain future will become even greater. In addition to providing essential support for current needs, many Museum donors are directing legacy gifts to our endowment fund to ensure a source of *permanent support for the Museum* that will sustain its efforts over time.

Just like your own savings or investments provide you with a degree of security, endowments give the Museum a stable source of funding it can count on no matter what the future holds.

There are many ways you can make the Museum part of your enduring legacy through an endowment gift while preserving financial security for yourself and your loved ones:

- An immediate gift (such as cash, stock, or real estate);
- A future gift (such as a bequest through a will or trust);
- A contribution of a life insurance policy or its proceeds; or
- A donation of a portion of your retirement plan assets.

There are even giving options that allow you to arrange a gift today, while at the same time providing additional income for you or your loved ones. For example, through a charitable gift annuity, you could provide fixed payments to you and/or a spouse or parent for life, benefit from immediate tax savings, and designate a gift to the Museum's endowment at the end of the payment recipient's lifetime.

Or, perhaps you would like to make an endowment gift but you are planning to help with a grandchild's college education expenses. With a charitable remainder trust, you can fund a plan that will pay for educational costs for a specific number of years, while reducing or eliminating capital gains or income tax that could otherwise be due. At the end of the time period you choose, you can direct that the funds remaining in the trust become an endowment gift to the Museum.

Whether you would like additional income or wish to provide assistance for a parent or other loved ones, it is possible to make a meaningful endowment gift while meeting your family's financial obligations. We would be pleased to assist you and your advisors as you consider how to combine your personal planning goals with your desire to safeguard truth by securing the future of the Museum.

## In Memoriam

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum mourns the passing of the following Legacy of Light Society members:

William Begell	Alan J. Dworkin
Miriam Benjamin	Daniel Horwich
Samuel Dove	Lillian Siegel



**PLEASE JOIN ME** for this special day of behind-the-scenes programming at the Museum sponsored by the Legacy of Light Society. I promise it will be a day to remember! —Arlene Herson, National Chair, Legacy of Light Society

## SAVE THE DATE Monday, October 18, 2010

### A Day at the Museum

What you do matters

- Exclusive glimpse at Museum's conservation efforts;
- Updates and roundtable discussions on antisemitism and Holocaust denial with our scholars-in-residence; and
- Behind-the-scenes look at the creation of an exhibition.

*Cost is \$36 per person, lunch included. For more information, please contact Naomi Katz at 202.488.2681 or [nkatz@ushmm.org](mailto:nkatz@ushmm.org) or Celeste Z. Maier at 202.488.2634 or [cmaier@ushmm.org](mailto:cmaier@ushmm.org).*



Emily Heldwig, Paper and Photographic Conservator, provides participants in the 2009 Day at the Museum Program with a behind-the-scenes view of the Museum's conservation processes.

## A Forgotten Suitcase: A Hero's Story is Finally Told

Had he tried to save only one life during the Holocaust, it would have been enough. But as we are only now learning, one man single-handedly tried to save thousands of his fellow Jews.

As part of our effort to rescue the evidence of the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is analyzing a newly donated collection of more than 1,000 citizenship certificates. Issued between 1942 and 1944, the documents were discovered in an old suitcase in Switzerland.

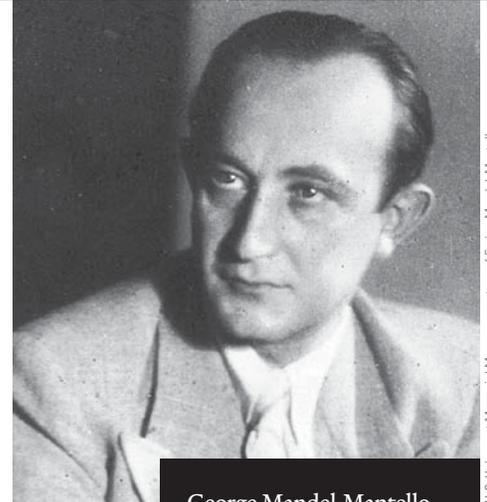
The suitcase had belonged to a Romanian/Hungarian Jewish businessman, Gyorgy Mandel, whose connections led him to work as a diplomat for the Republic of El Salvador. Mandel survived the Holocaust as "George Mantello" by immigrating to Switzerland and being hired by a friend who was a Salvadoran diplomat there.

Safe in a neutral country, George Mantello could have lived out his life quietly, comfortably, and safely as a diplomat. But he never forgot that he was Gyorgy Mandel. Having been the victim of Nazi persecution, Mantello said, "The terrible things I experienced left a mark on my soul."

He pledged to himself that he would do whatever he could to help other Jews reach safety.

In an attempt to save the lives of as many people as possible, Mantello issued citizenship certificates from El Salvador to Jews from nearly every country in Europe.

The Museum is currently investigating just how many lives Mantello saved. Our archivists are looking for those with knowledge of the people listed on these certificates. Most of those we want to interview are scattered around the world. Working back from the names and the dates on the certificates, we hope to document yet another dimension of the Holocaust, determining what happened to the people Mantello so desperately tried to rescue. **To explore our collections visit [ushmm.org/research/collections](http://ushmm.org/research/collections).**



George Mandel-Mantello

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum courtesy of Enrico Mantello

# Museum's Paul Shapiro Awarded Germany's Highest Civilian Honor

On May 18, Paul Shapiro, the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, was presented the Cross of the Order of Merit for his contributions to the study of the Holocaust. The award is Germany's highest civilian recognition. Ambassador Scharioth cited Shapiro's instrumental role in opening the International Tracing Service archive, based in Bad Arolsen, Germany, and making its contents available to Holocaust survivors and scholars in the United States and around the world. He also recognized Shapiro, who joined the Museum in 1997, for establishing the Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies as one of the world's preeminent Holocaust research centers and for his commitment to strengthening relationships between Holocaust scholars in Germany and the United States. [To learn more about the pathbreaking work of the Center visit ushmm.org/research/center.](http://ushmm.org/research/center)



**May 18, 2010** Paul Shapiro receives Germany's Cross of the Order of Merit for his contributions to the study of the Holocaust from the German Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Klaus Scharioth, at the German Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Christophe Avril/German Embassy

# 2010 Days of Remembrance Museum Honors Liberators

On the 65th anniversary of liberation, the Museum brought together, possibly for the last time, 120 U.S. soldiers who helped defeat Nazi Germany and liberate Holocaust survivors from years of suffering. These proud veterans from across the country gathered at the Museum for two days of special programming in April. It was a historic opportunity to bring them together. "The liberators have a story of enormous importance and we wanted to capture their stories to share with new generations," said Sara J. Bloomfield, Museum Director. At the National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, General David H. Petraeus, Commander of the U.S. Central Command, lauded them for their heroic efforts. "We—and indeed all of humanity—owe them an eternal debt of gratitude for accomplishing their mission in Europe and for giving Holocaust survivors the greatest gifts of all—their lives and their freedom." [Listen to General Petraeus's address at ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/petraeus.](http://ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/petraeus)



**April 14, 2010** General David H. Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command, shared a moment at the Museum with Susumu Ito, Lieutenant, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 44th Regimental Combat Team, which liberated sub-camps of Dachau.



**New Legacy of Light Society members** recognized during the 2010 National Days of Remembrance Legacy of Light Society Tea. From left: George E. Hellman, Naomi Katz, Helen Clawson, Bella Urbach Solnik, Janet Swanson, Lilliane C. Litton, John Swanson, Paul G. Loewner, Alan Roth, Dr. Harry Rosenthal, Anita P. Cowan, Donald J. Cowan, Meyer Zinn, Gala Bolsun, and Maurice Berry.

# WHAT KIND OF WORLD WILL FUTURE GENERATIONS INHERIT?

THE HOLOCAUST COMPELS US TO ASK THAT QUESTION... AND ABOVE ALL, TO ACT ON IT.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Courtesy of Shraga Weiner. Photo by George Kadish.



Portrait of two young boys wearing Jewish badges in the Kovno ghetto taken shortly before their round-up in the March 1944 "Children's Action".

# Legacy of Light **GUARDIANS**

We are proud to introduce Legacy of Light Guardians, recognizing the generosity of all supporters who make **SAFEGUARDING TRUTH** for future generations their personal legacy through any type of gift to the Museum's endowment. Every will matters—put the Museum in yours.

## Important Estate Tax Update

Legislation enacted by Congress in 2001 resulted in a gradual reduction in estate and gift taxes for many Americans. On January 1, 2010, the federal estate tax was repealed for one year only.

Unless Congress acts, the estate tax will be restored in 2011 and apply at lower thresholds and higher rates than those in effect in 2009. Some have predicted that Congress will enact legislation that will retroactively reinstate the estate tax at 2009 levels. Remember also that many states still impose estate taxes and have no plans to repeal them.

We are always here to help you and your advisors adapt your plans to your specific situation. Contact Sara Eigenberg, Planned Giving Officer, at 202.479.9733 or [seigenberg@ushmm.org](mailto:seigenberg@ushmm.org) if you would like to receive updates on tax law changes.

## A Guiding Light for the Next Generation

*Continued from page 1*

Leading by example, Sam has visited numerous camps and other Holocaust sites as part of the Museum's International Travel Program.

Sam and his family have been dedicated supporters of the Museum for the last 18 years, including his serving as a Council member from 2003 to 2008. To ensure that his lifetime of commitment and dedication to the Museum endures, he has made a significant bequest for the Museum's endowment.

In Sam's view, the Museum and its educational outreach is the best insurance that the lessons of this tragic history will be transmitted from generation to generation.

## Museum Exhibitions Around the Country

**Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings**  
New Brunswick, New Jersey  
New Brunswick Public Library  
June 12–August 10, 2010

**Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race**  
Skokie, Illinois  
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center  
July 22, 2010–January 2, 2011

For a complete listing of all traveling exhibitions visit [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

**EVERY WILL MATTERS.**  
Put the Museum in yours.



# SAFEGUARDING TRUTH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The **Legacy of Light Society** recognizes individuals who have made a commitment to secure the Museum's future and its timeless cause by including the Museum in their estate plans. Individuals who direct any type of gift to the Museum's endowment are recognized as **Legacy of Light Guardians**. Make a bequest or other planned gift today to the Museum's endowment, and let your commitment live forever.

**YES, I'm ready to safeguard truth for future generations.** I would like to receive more information about the Museum's endowment fund and how I can secure the future work of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with a gift that can also help enhance my financial security today.

I would also like to receive complimentary materials about:

- Gifts through my will
- Gift opportunities from retirement plans
- Giving through charitable remainder trusts
- Giving through life insurance
- Giving through gift annuities

Please send me payment and tax benefit information based on the following amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the birthdate(s) \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ (second individual optional).

- I have already included the Museum in my will or other estate plans.
- Please enroll me as a member of the **Legacy of Light Society** and send me information about the benefits of being a **Legacy of Light Guardian**.
- I would consider including the Museum in my estate plans.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*This information will be kept strictly confidential.*

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Legacy of  
Light  
Society

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Who will be at their side tomorrow?

**THROUGH YOUR LEGACY GIFT  
TO THE MUSEUM, YOU WILL.**



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