

INSPIRING IMPACT

A survivor sees himself or herself as a messenger and guardian of secrets entrusted by the dead.

A survivor fears he or she may be the last to remember, the last to warn, the last to tell the tale that cannot be told, the tale that must be told in its totality, before it is too late, before the last witness leaves the stage and takes his awesome testimony back to the dead.

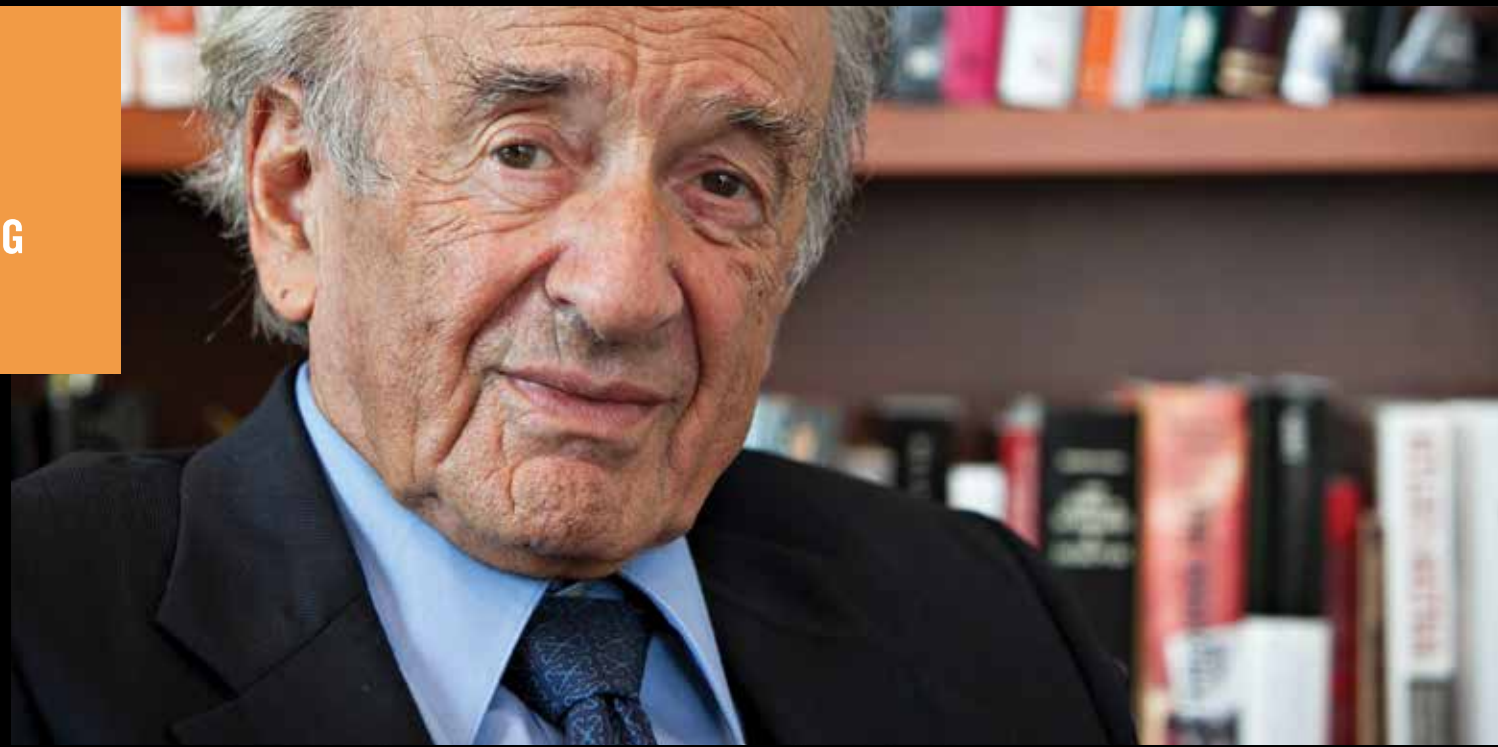
In the hope that you will enable this testimony to be brought to the attention of the American people, and the world, I submit the attached report to you, Mr. President.

Respectfully yours, Elie Wiesel

Chairman, President's Commission on the Holocaust, 1979



REMEMBERING
ELIE WIESEL
1928–2016



ABOVE: In April 2013 on the occasion of the Museum's 20th anniversary, Founding Chairman Elie Wiesel gave an impassioned call to action to publicly launch the campaign to secure the Museum's future.

Elie described the "awesome and forbidding" work of the President's Commission on the Holocaust as "a task which required reaching far back into the past as well as taking a hard look into the future."

He was acutely aware that the proposed museum in the capital of the free world needed to make Holocaust memory a transformative force for change.

It was a bold proposal. Elie never hesitated to be bold and pushed all those involved in what he called "the most important project of my life" to be more than we thought we could be.

Leading this historic campaign as honorary chairman was Elie's final expression of that ethos.

As stewards of this memory and with his guidance, we launched this campaign to help the Museum realize its enormous potential to address some of the most pressing issues of our times—ideological extremism, violent hate and antisemitism, and the persistent threats of genocide.

Elie is gone, but his vision and moral compass will always guide and challenge us.

Once when asked by his students what would happen when there were no survivors left to tell the story, Elie replied, "Just think, perhaps you are the only hope I have. Fulfill it." This is precisely the role of the Museum.

Elie never gave up hope that if empowered with the truth of the Holocaust, the good in people would ultimately prevail over indifference—the great enabler of evil.

With this campaign, we're making an investment in humanity because we believe it too.

Tom A. Bernstein
Chairman

Allan M. Holt
Vice Chairman

Sara J. Bloomfield
Director

**NEVER
AGAIN**
WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

THE CAMPAIGN



Preparing The Collection of Record to Move to Its Permanent New Home



There are 19,000 artifacts in the Museum collection—"object witnesses" that each tell a unique story. One is this scale model of a men's barracks at Theresienstadt. For conservators, the question is how to house each artifact in a way that it can be safely moved and its preservation enhanced for the long term.

Jiri Lauscher was deported to Theresienstadt from Prague in December 1942. His woodworking skills got him assigned to the camp technical department—a skill that ultimately saved his life. Immediately after the war, Jiri built a scale model to document his experiences. Like a macabre dollhouse, the intricate details include clothing and suitcases with names of victims. Today, a team of trained Museum specialists are preparing it for the historic move this spring to the new **DAVID AND FELA SHAPELL FAMILY COLLECTIONS, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH CENTER** with the same painstaking detail.

The precision with which America's collection of Holocaust documentation is being prepared for the move falls under the rubric of "preventive conservation." Each artifact in the collection is being individually assessed to identify its vulnerabilities and inherent weaknesses and to develop methods to mitigate risk during the move—and beyond. In addition to potential environmental hazards such as temperature, humidity, and light exposure, preventive conservation focuses on potential hazards in housing and handling. Whether for documents, photographs, or objects, customized housing creates a neutral micro-environment that doesn't contribute to the artifact's degradation and minimizes direct handling.

RIGHT: Conservation Fellow Natalie Meurisch from Germany (left), reviews how to stabilize a fragile doll that belonged to a child in a displaced persons camp with Chief Conservator Jane Klinger (right). **BELOW:** Natalie, working on the custom-built housing for that doll, is one of a new generation of conservators being trained by the Museum to preserve fragile Holocaust-era artifacts through preventive conservation.



Preserving History A Conversation with Jane Klinger

MUSEUM CHIEF CONSERVATOR

What are the challenges of conserving the Museum's collection?

JK: Preserving a collection as vast and varied as ours poses a unique set of challenges. An additional complication is that the vast majority of the items in the Museum collection were not meant to last. In the camps, the Nazis were producing things for a population that wasn't intended to survive; and more broadly, the lack of good raw materials during any war means that many of the objects in our collection are at great risk of deterioration. Our goal is not only to preserve the object but to do so without removing the marks of historical events that are crucial to preserving the story associated with the object.

How is the Shapell Center going to transform conservation efforts?

JK: It's going to be transformative on so many levels. Just one example: During the period that we're dealing with—from the 1920s through 1946—there was a lot of experimentation in the use of plastic materials. These early plastics have what we call "inherent vice." In other words, no matter what we do, the chemical and physical makeup of what was used to manufacture the items is a real problem. One way we can slow down the degradation is through controlling the environment. In the new Shapell Center, we'll have the advantage of cool and cold storage. By lowering the temperature, we're relying on a concept in chemistry that the energy from heat increases the rate of chemical reactions, of degradation. Our primary goal is to prevent or delay the deterioration of the evidence in any way we can.

Why is it important for the Museum to train new conservators?

JK: As in all areas of the Museum's primary work, whether it's scholarship or education, we are at a critical juncture where those who really know this subject area are retiring. The Museum's Conservation Program has become a world leader in the preservation of perishable Holocaust-era artifacts and a model for other institutions dealing with objects of trauma. We are committed to educating a new generation of specialists with the knowledge and sensitivity to preserve this history. Artifacts in the collection are imbued with an importance beyond their deceptively simple everyday appearance.



The Museum has built the world's most comprehensive collection on the Holocaust. And it's growing daily as curators work all over the world to "rescue the evidence" while they still can. In addition to artifacts, the collection includes: 96.4 million archival pages; 190.3 million images from the International Tracing Service; over 111,000 historical photographs; over 985 hours of historic film footage; over 110,000 published works in 61 languages; and more than 15,000 testimonies from survivors, witnesses, collaborators, and perpetrators.

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THE CAMPAIGN

Seeking Justice and Accountability

BENJAMIN FERENCZ & THE PLANETHOOD FOUNDATION

It is a simple motto that has defined a life's passion: Law, not war. A belief

indelibly forged when Benjamin Ferencz, as he said, "peered into hell." Following law school in 1943, Ferencz, who had emigrated as an infant with his family from Transylvania to America in 1920, served in an artillery battalion preparing for the invasion of France. Toward the end of the war, because of his legal training, he was assigned to a team tasked with collecting evidence for a new war crimes branch.

He was sent into the camps as American soldiers liberated them, so he was among the first witnesses. "Even today, when I close my eyes, I witness a deadly vision I can never forget."

Shortly after being honorably discharged from the US Army in 1945, he was called back to serve in the prosecution of Nazi perpetrators at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He was only 27 years old when he successfully prosecuted what the Associated Press called "the biggest murder trial in history." Twenty-two senior officers in the Einsatzgruppen mobile killing squads were charged with murdering over a million people. It was his first case.

"I didn't ask for the death penalty, I simply asked for a new rule of law that would protect humankind against that type of criminal abuse," explained Ferencz. "We hoped that we would lay a foundation stone saying that genocide was a crime; crimes against humanity are punishable. Nobody is immune."

Still going strong at 96, the last living Nuremberg prosecutor has relentlessly pursued his vision of a world of law over war for seven decades. A generous \$1 million gift from his Planethood Foundation to the Museum's Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide to establish the **BEN FERENCZ INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE**—a gift renewable annually for up to \$10 million—is the latest salvo in that battle.

"I came into the world a poor boy. I want to go out of this world a poor boy," he says. "My resolve is to give it all back in gratitude for the opportunity I've had in the United States. I have been trying with my life, ever since I can remember, to try and create a more peaceful and humane world. I realize it will not happen in my lifetime, because I'm trying to reverse thousands of years of tradition and glorification of war."

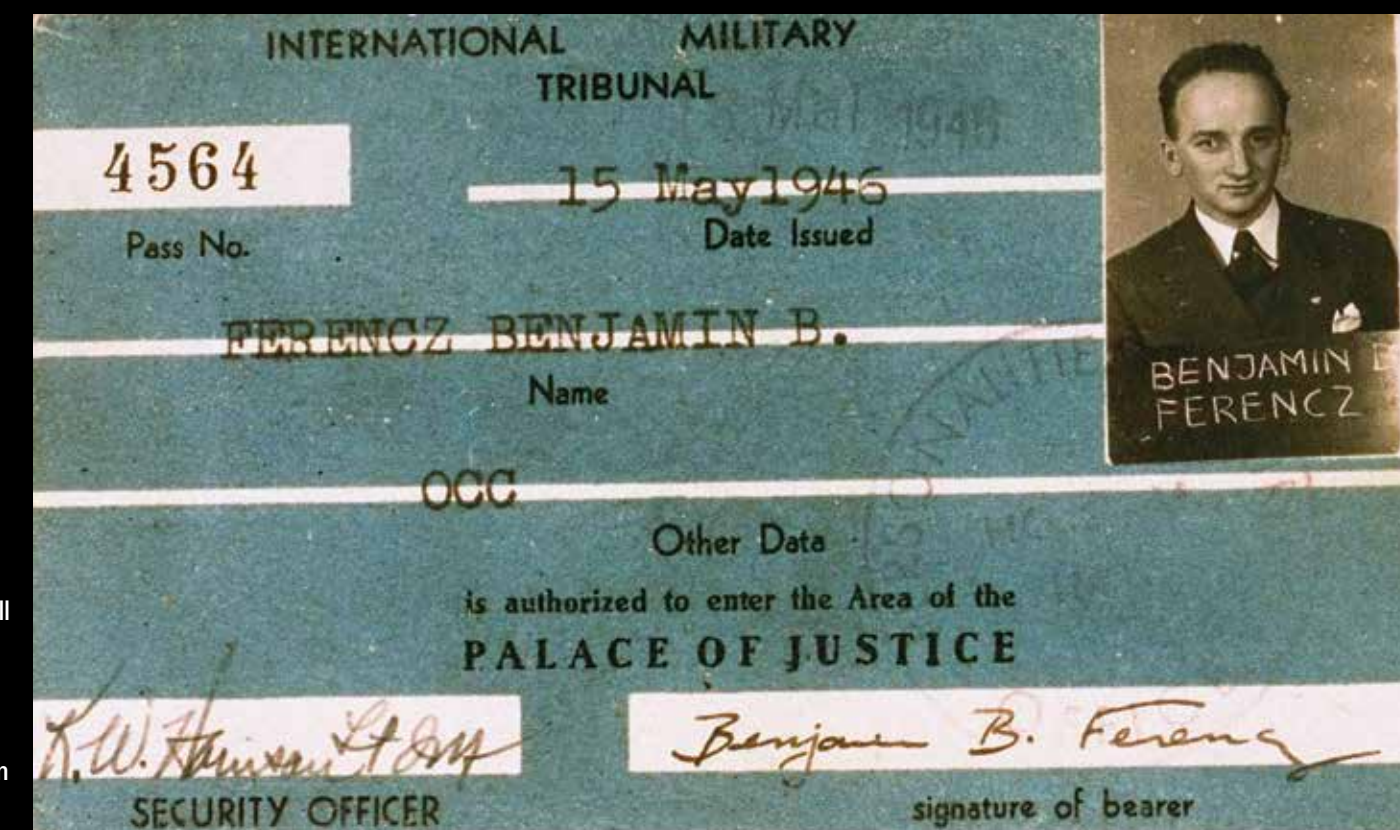
The new initiative will aim to strengthen the legal architecture for atrocity prevention and response, promote justice and accountability for atrocities committed in countries of concern, and establish a significant new locus for policy and research.

"We're planning to make sure the fight he has waged his whole life continues after he is gone," says Cameron Hudson, director of the Simon-Skjoldt Center. "Ben's seen the worst of humanity up close and to have this kind of faith in humanity—that we can overcome our most base impulses—is amazing."

“My hope is that people will not be content to look at the past and say 'never again' and then do nothing. So I am taking the measures for preventing it from ever happening again.” —Benjamin Ferencz



LEFT: In 2015, Ferencz was awarded the Museum's highest honor, the Elie Wiesel Award, in recognition of his relentless efforts to search for approaches to genocide prevention by creating greater accountability for crimes against humanity.



RIGHT: Benjamin Ferencz' International Military Tribunal identification card is part of an extraordinary collection of personal papers he donated in 1994. They will be among the millions of historical documents housed in the new David and Fela Shapell Family Collections, Conservation and Research Center.

Recent Gifts

The Museum is grateful to our supporters who have made outright gifts of \$250,000 or more between May 25, 2016, and September 30, 2016.

Gifts of \$5,000,000 and Above

Allan and Shelley Holt, through The Hillside Foundation
Washington, DC
\$20,000,000 gift to the Revitalization of the Permanent Exhibition

Gifts of \$1,000,000 and Above

Katz Family
New York
Gift of the Katz Ehrenthal Special Collection

Michel F. Adler

Lexington, MA
\$1,028,123 gift to the William Levine Family Institute for Holocaust Education

Bildners—Joan & Allen z"l, Elisa Spungen & Rob, Nancy & Jim

Livingston, NJ
\$920,000 gift to the Americans and the Holocaust Initiative; \$80,000 gift to the Endowment

Peter and Adrienne Feuer

Rydal, PA
\$1,000,000 gift to the Collections, Conservation and Research Center

Planethood Foundation

Delray Beach, FL
\$1,000,000 gift to the Ben Ferencz International Justice Initiative

Gifts of \$500,000 and Above

Anonymous
\$900,000 gift to the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

New York, NY
\$316,800 grant to the Cataloging, Description and Digitization Project; \$173,700 to the Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945; \$112,500 to Regional Education Summits; \$20,000 to the Scholarly Initiative, International Tracing Service Archives

Gifts of \$250,000 and Above

Jones Day Foundation
Atlanta, GA
\$420,000 grant to the Initiative for the Study of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union

The Harris Family Foundation

Chicago, IL
\$250,000 gift to the Survivor Affairs Program

NEVER AGAIN
WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

THE CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Museum Receives \$20 Million Gift for the Revitalization of the Permanent Exhibition

Washingtonians Allan and Shelley Holt have made one of the largest gifts the institution has ever received to sponsor a 21st century, comprehensive revitalization of its acclaimed Permanent Exhibition. The gift will ensure that the centerpiece of the Museum, which attracts 1.6 million visitors a year as well as many heads of state, will remain a state-of-the-art educational experience for people from all parts of the world and all walks of life.

With the Museum's 25th anniversary in less than two years, the exhibition project will be central to the institution's strategic vision for its next 25 years. This will be a pivotal period for the Museum as it continues to work with Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses to build its collection and ensure their history is transmitted to future generations with authenticity and sensitivity through an updated exhibition. "The power of the Permanent Exhibition is at the heart of the Museum's ability to impact new generations," said Museum Chairman Tom Bernstein. "The Holts' transformative gift will enable the institution to move into the future with the bold vision that our challenging times demand of us."

See the feature article on the impact of the Holts' transformative gift and the revitalization of the Permanent Exhibition in the fall issue of **MEMORY&ACTION**.

“As the son of Holocaust survivors, I wanted to do something that would honor the victims and would also ensure the Museum's ability to impact new generations in an ever-changing world.”

—Allan M. Holt

SAVE THE DATE
Days of Remembrance
APRIL 23–25, 2017
Washington, DC

JOIN US in making history at the dedication of the David and Fela Shapell Family Collections, Conservation and Research Center during National Days of Remembrance events.

Learn more about ways to support the Campaign for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:

Visit ushmm.org/campaign

Call 202.488.0435

E-mail campaign@ushmm.org

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You can help keep Holocaust memory alive.
VISIT ushmm.org/campaign to learn more.