

The Planned Giving Newsletter of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Generations



Miriam ("Mim") Citron Burhans, Legacy of Light Guardian, with her husband Hank

Photo courtesy of Miriam ("Mim") Burhans

INSIDE

Letter from the Planned Giving Director

Legacy of Light Society Names Chair

Nurturing a New Generation of Holocaust Scholars

Charitable Lead Trusts: Ensure the Future

Leave a Bequest

Authentic Evidence as Powerful Teacher

Leading by Example

Upcoming Museum Trip to Lithuania/Belarus

Securing the Future of Her Family's History and the Museum

Miriam ("Mim") Burhans did not know much about her family's history until she began a seemingly ordinary graduate school assignment: to prepare a family tree. Although initially reluctant to discuss the subject with her parents, Holocaust survivors who never spoke about their experiences, Mim recognized that her desire to become a social worker stemmed from her family's connection to the Holocaust and decided to uncover their untold story.

Mim's parents, Bella and William Citron, both from Poland, met in the Hasag forced labor camp in Czeszochowa. Most members of their immediate families did not survive the Holocaust. They were married in 1945 in a displaced persons camp near Stuttgart, Germany, where their only child, Mim, was born in 1948. Ultimately, they made their way to the United States, where they first settled

in Springfield, Massachusetts, home to a large community of Holocaust survivors.

As she began to work on her family tree, Mim discovered the reason behind her parents' silence. William and Bella did not share their stories with Mim because they believed she was not interested; Mim had always yearned to know her parents' history but never had asked because she feared the memories would upset them.

With this cathartic discovery, Mim's father found his voice. William began sharing his story with local high school and college students. Believing it was important, Mim's husband, Hank, paid for Mim and William to travel together to Germany and Poland, where they visited William's childhood home in Plock, Poland. Mim's mother chose not to make the trip.

Mim and her parents first visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993. The experience was emotional and illuminating for Mim and

her mother, Bella. Walking through the Permanent Exhibition evoked Bella's memories of those dark days and the family she lost, and it gave Mim a sense of what her family endured during the Holocaust and what it meant to be a survivor.

In honor of her parents, Mim, a Charter Member of the Museum since 1992, dedicated a portion of her estate to the Museum's Endowment in 2008 to ensure that the Museum has the permanent resources to educate future generations. Understanding the important role that authentic artifacts play in transmitting this history, she also contributed letters her father wrote after the war to find relatives and a suitcase her parents used in their travels from Europe to the United States. Through Mim's extraordinary commitment and generosity, the Museum will be able to continue telling this story with power and authenticity.

From the Director of Planned Giving

We are approaching the end of a year of tremendous financial changes. There have been dramatic fluctuations in global investment markets. New federal gift and estate laws have seen many rushing to update their estate plans. During the recent debt-ceiling debate, Congress considered putting a cap on the deductibility of charitable gifts. While these efforts to change or eliminate the charitable income tax deduction were shelved in July, the cap has reappeared in recent proposals. The government committee charged with issuing a report on ways to reduce the deficit by November 23, 2011 is considering these and other future revisions to the charitable deduction.

Carefully determining how best to make your charitable gifts this year-end may be key if you wish to maximize the tax benefits currently available to you. In fact, given the uncertainty surrounding possible limits on future levels of charitable deductions, undertaking such a review may never be more important. It may also be a good time to revisit your estate plans, as well.

Here at the Museum, we are also taking a close look at the future. In many ways, this is a turning point, as we contemplate a world without the survivor and eyewitness generation. How do we ensure that Holocaust memory remains a vibrant force for a changing world? In this issue of *Generations*, we discuss how, through a charitable lead trust, you can make a meaningful gift to the Museum's Endowment to ensure that we can teach the lessons of the Holocaust to future generations, while providing what may be a larger inheritance for loved ones, all in a tax-wise way (see page 3).

For more information about maximizing your giving this year-end and in the future, please call or e-mail me or contact a member of our Planned Giving team (see listing at right).

George E. Hellman

George E. Hellman
202.488.6591 • ghellman@ushmm.org



George E. Hellman

Legacy of Light Society Names New Chair

The Museum is pleased to announce that Diane Wohl of Mill Neck, New York, is the new National Chair of the Legacy of Light Society, the Museum's planned giving donor recognition group. Diane has supported a number of critical Museum programs including the fellowship program and the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945*, both within the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. In 2009, Diane established a generous bequest to benefit the Museum's Endowment, thereby becoming a Legacy of Light Guardian Founder.

Diane is a past president of Temple Beth Torah in Westbury, New York, as well as an Endowed Lion of Judah at UJA-Federation. She is a strong supporter of world Jewry through Project Kesher, Limmud FSU, Hillel, and Livnot U'Lehibanot; and, locally, she also is actively involved with the Jewish Theological Seminary, AIPAC, the Jewish Women's Archive, and the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation.

Diane is excited about her new Museum leadership position. "I am delighted and proud to take on this meaningful role, and look forward to meeting with individuals around the country who will be encouraged by our impact and our story to consider making the Museum a part of their own personal legacy."

The Museum extends its deepest gratitude to former Council member Arlene Herson for her service as National Chair of the Legacy of Light Society. We look forward to Arlene's continued involvement as the Museum's Southeast Regional Chair of the Legacy of Light Society.



Diane Wohl

The Planned Giving Team

The Museum's Planned Giving team is a group of professionals who are dedicated to helping secure the Museum's future. For more information on how we can help you achieve your philanthropic goals, please contact your regional officer listed below.

George E. Hellman, JD
Director of Planned Giving
ghellman@ushmm.org • 202.488.6591
Midwest and Northeast Regions

Naomi Katz, JD
Associate Director of Planned Giving
nkatz@ushmm.org • 202.488.2681
Mid Atlantic, Midwest, Northeast Regions

Sara Eigenberg, JD
Senior Planned Giving Officer and Estates Coordinator
seigenberg@ushmm.org
202.479.9733
Southwest, West and New England Regions

Mark W. Glickman, CFRE
Associate Director, Planned Giving and Major Gifts, Southeast Region
mglickman@ushmm.org
561.995.6773

Celeste Z. Maier
Director of Stewardship, Legacy of Light Society
cmaier@ushmm.org • 202.488.2634

Johanna Neumann
Planned Giving Associate
jneumann@ushmm.org • 202.488.6106

Yvette Jones
Planned Giving Program Assistant
yjones@ushmm.org • 202.314.1748

In Memoriam

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

Hyman Bookbinder	Milton Herson	Diane Sherman
Dorit Brennan	Ellen Jones	Winfred Siegel

Nurturing a New Generation of Holocaust Scholars

How do we ensure that the Holocaust remains a widely studied, vital part of human knowledge as this history recedes, especially when the field is undergoing a pivotal transition from the eyewitness generation of scholars to the next generation? The Museum is playing a critical role in shaping future leaders of Holocaust scholarship. In addition to our programs on college campuses, the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies' fellowship program supports the work of individual scholars from across the world in a range of disciplines and at varying stages in their careers. Fellowships are awarded annually to stimulate new research and enhance networking and the exchange of idea. Scholars spend up to nine months at the Museum.

Emily Dabney, a PhD candidate in history at Clark University, was a **Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies Sosland Foundation Fellow** during the 2010–2011 academic year. During her time at the Museum, she conducted research for her dissertation project, “Forced Labor in the Maghreb, 1940–1943.” Exploring the wartime experience of Jewish légionnaires in North Africa, she sought to uncover and reconstruct the systems by which Jews were enslaved.

“Support from the Museum has been invaluable, not only to my current dissertation project, but also to my development as a scholar. The archival resources at the Museum are unparalleled. In one space, I had access to more than six vast collections that would have otherwise required travel to three continents! Throughout the

research process, and even beyond my fellowship tenure, Museum staff has provided critical advice, guidance, and assistance. I cannot stress enough how grateful I am.”

For more information on how you can create an endowed fellowship or otherwise support the fellowship program, please contact Naomi Katz, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at 202.488.2681 or nkatz@ushmm.org. Fellowships may be named in honor or memory of a loved one or a Holocaust victim, survivor, rescuer, or liberator, whose name would be acknowledged in all printed and electronic materials relating to the fellowships.



Photo: Mikal Bromov

Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies 2010–2011
Sosland Foundation Fellow, Emily Dabney

Charitable Lead Trusts: Ensure the Future of Your Family and the Museum

Have you been looking for a tax-wise way to transfer wealth to your loved ones, while at the same time supporting causes in which you believe, such as the Museum? A charitable lead trust may be a good way to accomplish both goals.

Perhaps you read about the resurgent popularity of lead trusts in the *New York Times* (July 22, 2011). The renewed interest in lead trusts comes on the heels of gift and estate tax law changes last year that, for 2011 and 2012, make it easier to pass much more property to loved ones completely tax free. The use of a charitable lead trust can further magnify these opportunities, and can be especially attractive in the current low interest rate environment.

Sometimes referred to as a “living endowment,” the lead trust allows you to place cash or appreciated assets in a trust for a predetermined period of time—for example, while children or

grandchildren are growing up and learning to be responsible managers of their assets.

During the term of the lead trust, the assets will be managed by an investment advisor of your choosing. The trust will make an annual distribution to the Museum—either for current use or to strengthen the Museum’s Endowment. Distributions to other charities can also be made, if desired. When the trust term ends, the assets in the trust are transferred to your beneficiaries with little or no transfer tax.

The Museum would be happy to provide you or your advisors with more information on how you can create a lead trust that benefits you, your loved ones, and your charitable interests, such as the Museum. Please contact Sara Eigenberg at 202.479.9733 or seigenberg@ushmm.org.

A Bequest in Your Will: A Simple Way to Create Your Lasting Legacy

The most powerful way you can help secure the Museum's ability to meet global challenges in an uncertain future is through an unrestricted gift to the Museum's Endowment. If you are considering including the Museum in your will or living trust, you may want to provide your attorney with the language to the right.

Should you or your attorney have any questions, please contact a member of our Planned Giving team (see page 2). We are always happy to assist in any way we can.

"I [Name] hereby give, devise and bequeath [the sum of \$ (dollar amount)] [(percentage) % of my residuary estate] to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Federal Employer Identification Number 52-1309391), an independent establishment of the United States government, located at 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126, to be used by it in support of its Permanent Endowment Fund, an unrestricted permanent real endowment fund, or its successor fund, if any."

Authentic Evidence: A Uniquely Powerful Teacher

As we look to the future, how will we tell the story of the Holocaust without the survivors—our best teachers—at our side? We continue to build what is already the world's most comprehensive collection of evidence because each artifact tells a different aspect of this history, a unique story of life and death.

Holocaust survivor Miriam Klein, from Ramat Gan, Israel, was born in 1933 in Przemyśl, Poland, as Amalia Marysia Reinhartz. In June 1941, life for 8 year-old Marysia and her family changed forever as the Germans reoccupied the eastern part of the city. Eventually German authorities forced more than 22,000 Jews into the ghetto. Determined to save his daughter, Marysia's father arranged for her escape. Hidden under the coat of a Jewish woman who worked in the garden of the Przemyśl ghetto's commandant, Marysia would find refuge in the Sacred Heart Convent with the help of a Polish woman. Five nuns cared for 60 children in the orphanage, 13 of them Jewish. Although physical conditions were austere, the nuns protected and cared lovingly for the Jewish children.

After the Germans liquidated the Przemyśl ghetto in November 1942, a Polish woman brought a handful of Jewish prayer books to the convent. The Mother Superior asked Marysia and another girl if they knew how to pray to a "Jewish God." When they responded affirmatively, she asked them to pray from the "siddur" in order that they not forget their religion, telling them, "You'll pray to the God of the Jews and we'll pray to Jesus; if we will pray together, perhaps we will also survive the war."

Miriam donated the prayer book, along with many family photographs, to the Museum so that her family's history could be preserved and transmitted to future generations. This is how we



Miriam Klein's "siddur" (Jewish prayer book) and a photo of her as a young girl.

tell the story of the Holocaust—not as a monolithic event but as the story of six million murders committed one by one; and as the stories of those who survived, so often because of the unimaginable courage of individuals who chose to do the right thing.

The Museum's collection is the foundation of our educational work. Every exhibit, scholarly publication, training program and online resource relies on this collection. But the Museum faces three challenges. First, we must keep collecting—huge amounts of fragile evidence are at risk of being lost forever. That is why Museum professionals are working closely with survivors, eyewitnesses, and governments in more than 40 countries across six continents to rescue these materials before it is too late. Second, we must devote painstaking care to preserve and catalog each item in our collection. And finally, we must make this collection accessible to the world, as it is one of the most effective ways to counter Holocaust denial. Once the eyewitnesses are gone, this evidence will be the sole authentic witness to the Holocaust. *For all time.*



The late Lore and Eric F. Ross
Legacy of Light Founder Guardians

Leading by Example: A Remarkable Legacy

In September the Museum received an extraordinarily generous bequest of more than \$17 million from the estate of Eric F. Ross of Palm Beach, Florida, and West Orange, New Jersey. It is the single largest contribution ever made to the Museum. Eric and his late wife, Lore, both of whom were refugees from Nazi Germany, donated more than \$30 million to the Museum in lifetime and estate gifts.

This unprecedented gift will support the Museum's Endowment, providing vital permanent resources to secure the Museum's future.

During their life, the Rosses encouraged others to support the Museum by sponsoring four challenge grants, which together raised more than \$4 million and recruited 1,500 new Museum supporters. Inspiring others to give was a central tenet of the Rosses's philanthropic efforts, according to Museum Director Sara J. Bloomfield. "They truly led by example."

WHAT KIND OF WORLD WILL FUTURE GENERATIONS INHERIT?



The Holocaust compels us to ask that question... and above all, **TO ACT ON IT.** We are proud to recognize as Legacy of Light Guardians supporters who have made **SAFEGUARDING TRUTH** their personal legacy through a deferred or outright gift to the Museum's Endowment. To learn more, please call George E. Hellman, JD, at 202.488.6591 or visit ushmm.org/endowment.

Legacy of Light **GUARDIANS**

Portrait of two brothers in the Kovno ghetto taken shortly before their round-up in the March 1944 "Children's Action."

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

Museum International Travel Program Upcoming Trip

Lithuania/Belarus
September 2 – 9, 2012

Don't miss this unique opportunity to go behind the scenes with Museum experts and gain unparalleled access to historical sites, government officials, and other leaders. For more information, please contact Nadia Ficara, Director of Special Events, at 202.488.0470 or nficara@ushmm.org.

Visit sites such as the extraordinary monument to the victims of a mass murder at the IX Fort in Kovno (left) and the remnants of a recreated bunker in the Rudnikai forest, where a Jewish partisan encampment once existed, through the eyes of Fanya Boncovskaya, a Holocaust survivor from Vilna who fought in the partisan unit.



Museum Exhibitions Around the Country

Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race

New York, New York

Museum of Jewish Heritage—
A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
Through January 16, 2012

Dallas, Texas

University of Dallas – Haggerty Art Gallery
November 17, 2011, – January 15, 2012

Ann Arbor, Michigan

University of Michigan Taubman Health
Sciences Library
February 3 – April 13, 2012

**Fighting the Fires of Hate: America
and the Nazi Book Burnings**

Aberdeen, South Dakota

Northern State University – Williams Library
November 29, 2011 – January 24, 2012

Sarasota, Florida

New College of Florida
February 3 – April 2, 2012

For a complete listing of all traveling
exhibitions, visit ushmm.org.

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024-2126

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Washington, D.C.
Permit # 4828

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 deferred or outright gift to the Museum's Endowment are recognized as **Legacy of Light Guardians**. Make a bequest or other 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 and how I can secure the future impact 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:

- Giving Through Your Will
- Giving Through Charitable Lead 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.
- I am interested in making a contribution to the Museum's Annual Fund. Please contact me.

Name (please print)

E-mail (optional)

Telephone (optional)

Address

City, State

Zip

*This information will be kept strictly confidential.
The Museum's Federal Employer Identification Number is 52-1309391*



FOLD AND TAPE CLOSED, DO NOT STAPLE



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Planned Giving
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126



Who will be at their side tomorrow?
**THROUGH YOUR LEGACY GIFT
TO THE MUSEUM, YOU WILL.**

Photo: Thomas Arledge

EVERY WILL MATTERS. PUT THE MUSEUM IN YOURS. USHMM.ORG/ENDOWMENT