



LEGACY

SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

HECHT FAMILY GIFT OF \$1.0 MILLION CREATES NATIONWIDE JUDICIAL PROGRAM

Surrounded by family and friends, Don and Susie Hecht were recognized at a tribute event in April by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (USHMM) for their \$1.0 million gift to fund the Law, Justice, and Society Initiatives Division of the Museum. The funds are designated to provide staff, research, and material support to expand the Museum's successful ethical leadership programs for justice professionals called: *"Law, Justice, and the Holocaust"* and for law enforcement professionals, called: *"What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust."* With their gift the Hechts were inducted into the Museum's Founders Society, a group of distinguished Museum supporters that includes Steven Spielberg and Estee Lauder.



Don and Susie Hecht are all smiles as they unveil their inscription at the Founders Wall at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C

The Hechts have worked in partnership with USHMM for several years to develop and promote these innovative programs that seek to use the *Lessons of the Holocaust* to frame the contemporary discussion of ethics within the criminal justice system. By supporting a pilot program presented at the Conference of Chief Justices in August of 2009, the Hechts provided an opportunity for the Chief Justices of all fifty states to experience this unique ethical leadership course. That pilot program was enthusiastically received and soon states across the nation were requesting USHMM provide the training for all judges within their own state.

Seeing the success and realizing the impact of the program, it was a natural step for Don and Susie to provide long term funding for this initiative – enough funding that every single judge in America would experience the program in the coming years. When asked about their gift, the Hechts stated: "We believe that education is the cornerstone of a free and healthy society. We are proud to support these vital programs and the

dedicated and talented Museum staff who are spreading the Lessons of the Holocaust across our nation."

The Museum has focused these resources on the leaders of the courts, those serving on the appellate courts and state supreme courts. With more than 31,000 state judges across the country, the Museum has already trained more than 10,000 of these professionals, including judges, prosecutors, and court support staff in 27 states across the country.

Marcus Applebaum, Director of the Law, Justice, and Society Initiatives Division at USHMM, had this to say about the Hecht's donation: "The Museum is overwhelmed by the Hecht family's generosity and support of these programs. Their commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust through these contemporary programs is truly noble. Don and Susie are caring, wonderful people and the Museum is honored to have them as partners in this endeavor."



“DEEDS OF GIVING ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD.”

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

CROWD MESMERIZED BY 100 YEAR-OLD SURVIVOR



Abe Meth playing the Jewish song, Hatikvah, on his violin.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It’s hard not to be proud of the announcements in this issue of Legacy. Foundation trustee, Don Hecht, and his wife Susie have provided a \$1.0 million gift to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to fund a nationwide initiative in ethical leadership programming for the country’s judiciary. This gift will resonate through our society and strengthen our democracy for decades to come.

The annual Days of Remembrance event once again exceeded all expectations with a spellbinding talk by a 100 year-old Holocaust survivor who shared his life experiences with the overflow crowd and brought everyone to their feet with his solo violin performance.

For the thirteenth year, the Foundation’s community grants were awarded to deserving local service agencies and charitable organizations that provide necessary services for our community.

Lastly, we welcome Rabbi Jessica Rosenthal as the new spiritual leader at Temple Brith Shalom. We wish her the best and know she will bring enthusiasm and energy to our great community.

David S. Hess, M.D., President

A full house packed the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center on April 7, 2013 to hear the heroic story of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Jews in Budapest in the waning months of World War II. Abe Meth, only two months shy of turning 101 years old, described to the audience how Wallenberg saved him from death at the hands of the Nazis.

Taking the stage with Rabbi Billy Berkowitz, Abe described his happy childhood in Budapest, Hungary in the 1920’s – an innocent life he shared with his parents and four younger siblings. Abe described how at age 27, just months before WWII broke out in Poland, he married his sweetheart, Lilly. Although initially protected by their status as Hungarian citizens, Abe and Lilly were still targets for persecution and work details. Through sheer luck, cunning, and courage they avoided deportation, but their fate seemed sealed when the Nazis took control of the Hungarian government in 1944 and targeted the remaining Jews of Budapest for extermination.

Although discouraged by this grim turn of events, Abe never lost hope that he and Lilly would somehow survive. His prayers were answered when the mild mannered Swedish diplomat, Wallenberg, arrived in Budapest. Establishing ‘protected Swedish houses’ throughout the city, Wallenberg eventually housed tens of thousands of Jews and kept them safe from the Nazi henchmen. Among those Wallenberg saved were Abe and Lilly.

Abe advised the students in the audience to “never become discouraged – to have faith that things will improve;” it is the philosophy that helped save Abe from the Nazis. He then implored those same students to “study everything they could get their hands on, for education was the path to success in life.” It was sage advice from someone who had lived more than a century by that principle. At the end of the evening Abe entertained the audience with a violin solo, playing the Jewish song of Hope, Hatikvah, – a song that eventually became the national anthem of the state of Israel. It was a moment no one will ever forget.



LOCAL CHARITIES AWARDED GRANTS



Berlyn Mazy, a client at Horses with H.E.A.R.T., is all smiles as he pets his favorite therapy horse, Molly. Assisting in the background is volunteer handler, Jeremiah Schedlock.

“Despite awarding a record amount in grants this year, the need in the community far exceeded the Foundation’s capability to fund all the worthwhile requests it received,” stated David Dinerman, chairman of the grants committee. The organizations awarded Community Grants included:

Hungry Kids Program at Prescott and Chino Valley School Districts – providing much needed food for the weekend needs of disadvantaged children in Prescott and Chino Valley, these programs received a \$10,000 grant.

Boys to Men Mentoring Network – this group received a grant of \$5,000 to support its innovative programs designed to encourage teenage boys to become responsible individuals.

Arizona’s Children Association – this program will utilize its \$3,500 grant to provide short-term housing and care for vulnerable infants and children in crisis.

Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary – the Foundation’s \$3,500 grant will upgrade the raptor enclosures that house the newly acquired Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle.

Yavapai Reentry Project – received a \$3,000 grant to support staffing for this successful program designed to integrate persons exiting prison into the community.

Community Pregnancy Center – was awarded a \$3,000 grant to provide education on a variety of parenting topics through their innovative Earn While You Learn program.

Horses with H.E.A.R.T. – the Foundation’s \$3,130 grant will be used to construct a permanent mounting ramp and Sure-Hands lift for wheelchair bound clients of this charity.

Prescott Meals on Wheels – will use its \$1,870 grant to expand its capacity in the seniors’ dining room.

Prescott Center for the Arts – received a grant of \$1,000 for an original play contest for young playwrights.

NAZCARE – this creative group received a grant for \$1,000 for marketing of its Slot Car Raceway empowerment project.

“For over 5000 years the concept of charitable giving has been an integral part of Jewish tradition,” said Foundation president David Hess. “The Foundation is proud and honored to support these fine local organizations and agencies that provide such vital services to the greater Prescott area.”



American Bald Eagle, Montana, in his new raptor enclosure at the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary.



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WHAT'S INSIDE

HECHT FAMILY GIFT TO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

100 YEAR-OLD HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

FOUNDATION AWARDS COMMUNITY GRANTS



FOUNDATION WELCOMES RABBI ROSENTHAL

On July 1, 2013, Temple B'rith Shalom announced that Rabbi Jessica Rosenthal was assuming the position of Rabbi for its Reform congregation. A graduate of New College, the Honors College of Florida, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Rosenthal holds both a master's degree in Hebrew letters from Hebrew Union College and also a master's degree in Jewish Education from Siegel College of Judaic Studies. Rosenthal was recently ordained by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Rosenthal has an extensive background in Jewish education, counseling, and community activity. When asked, Rosenthal said she: 'looks forward to the rewards and challenges of being the spiritual leader in a non-urban setting that is steeped with Jewish tradition.'

The Foundation welcomes Rabbi Rosenthal and wishes her the best as she assumes her duties as the religious leader for our Jewish community. For more information about Temple B'rith Shalom or Rabbi Rosenthal, please call 708 – 0018.



Rabbi Jessica Rosenthal, new spiritual leader of Temple B'rith Shalom.

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