
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2000

Contact: Janet Keller
Shoah Foundation
818/777-4999
janetk@vhf.org

AMBASSADORS FOR HUMANITY BRUNCH
HONORS NANCY AND HOWARD MARKS

Sponsored by Bvlgari
To Benefit The Shoah Foundation

Los Angeles, CA; 11/5/00 – Today Shoah Foundation Founder and Chairman, Steven Spielberg and Nicola Bulgari, Vice Chairman, Bvlgari, co-hosted a fundraising event to benefit the Shoah Foundation. The brunch, sponsored by Bvlgari and emceed by Debra Messing, of the Emmy Award winning TV series, "Will & Grace," honored local philanthropists Nancy and Howard Marks with the first *Ambassadors for Humanity* award for their enthusiastic support of the Foundation's work and for setting an example within the Los Angeles young leadership philanthropic community.

The *Ambassadors for Humanity* award honors individuals who embody the Shoah Foundation's goals of promoting tolerance, cultural understanding and mutual respect. Just as the Shoah Foundation works around the world to enhance tolerance through outreach and education, *Ambassadors for Humanity* promote social justice in their own communities through social action and philanthropy.

Supporters of the Shoah Foundation who attended the brunch at the Beverly Hilton Hotel had the opportunity to experience firsthand the achievements of the Foundation to date. An interactive *Foundation Exhibition* featured ways the Foundation will disseminate its archive of over 51,000 videotaped testimonies. Highlighted in the *Foundation Exhibition* was the Foundation's digital library system, its cataloguing methodology, its educational CD-ROM, and other groundbreaking archive-access technologies developed by the Shoah Foundation. Students, teachers and survivors were on hand to discuss their experiences with Shoah Foundation educational materials and archive.

In his speech, Spielberg said, "Today we mark the historic achievements of the Shoah Foundation and look to the Foundation's future. Partnerships forged this morning will pave the way for the Foundation's archive of Holocaust testimonies to reach students and scholars worldwide. My hope is that the archive will be a resource so enduring that fifty, or one hundred, or even five hundred years from now, people around the world will learn directly from survivors and witnesses about the atrocities of the Holocaust—what it means to survive, and how our very humanity depends on the practice of tolerance and mutual respect."

Upon accepting the exquisite crystal and silver award designed by Bvlgari, the Marks said, "When we reflected on the work of the Foundation, not only in preserving the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses, but also in its efforts to teach tolerance of all human beings, we saw in this generous honor the opportunity to lend our names to draw attention to, and increase financial support for, the unique and essential work that is underway."

more

According to co-host, Nicola Bulgari, “Bvlgari is proud to sponsor this brunch to benefit the Shoah Foundation. The work that the Shoah Foundation has undertaken to preserve and share eyewitness testimonies of Holocaust survivors will help to enlighten future generations on the consequences of prejudice and hatred. Only through the involvement of individuals like the Markses and corporations alike at all levels in the community can we solidify our commitment to remembering and teaching the lessons embodied in the testimonies of the survivors.”

The Markses are involved in many philanthropic endeavors. Howard, who founded Oaktree Capital Management, is a Chartered Financial Analyst, a Chartered Investment Counselor and a member of the Los Angeles Society of Financial Analysts. He chairs the Investment board of the University of Pennsylvania and the Investment Committee of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, the Wharton Undergraduate Executive Board and the Council on the Business School of the University of California. Nancy Marks serves on the Boards of the Lynne Cohen Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research and the American Ballet Theater in New York. She is a founding Board member of the Paul Newman Painted Turtle Camp for terminally ill children.

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation was established by Steven Spielberg in 1994 to videotape and preserve the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses so that future generations can learn from the past. The foundation has collected more than 50,000 eyewitness testimonies in 57 countries and 32 languages, and is committed to the broad and effective educational use of the archive worldwide. The Foundation has produced a groundbreaking CD-ROM, *Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust*, and three documentaries: *The Last Days*, 1999 Academy Award winner for Best Feature Documentary; *The Lost Children of Berlin*, honored with the Edward R. Murrow Award; *Survivors of the Holocaust*, winner of the Peabody and two Emmy Awards. Individuals interested in supporting the efforts of the Shoah Foundation are encouraged to call 818/777-4673 or write to P.O. Box 3168, Los Angeles, Calif., 90078-3168. The Foundation’s home page is www.vhf.org.

#