

**RAOUL WALLENBERG HONORED**

Attracting some 1200 national leaders from the arts and business communities, the Simon Wiesenthal Center paid tribute to Raoul Wallenberg by presenting its coveted Simon Wiesenthal Humanitarian Laureate, in absentia to the non-Jewish Swedish diplomat who rescued 100,000 Hungarian Jews from extermination at the hands of the Nazis.

Serving as Co-chairpersons for the evening were Elizabeth Taylor and Jon Voight. Ms. Taylor, a Center Trustee was unable to attend due to laryngitis and Dinah Shore graciously filled in. Among the well known personalities paying tribute to Wallenberg were Barbra Streisand, Milton Berle, Rod Steiger and Rita Moreno. Joel Gray delighted the audience with after-dinner entertainment.

As the evening progressed, Master of Ceremonies Monty Hall introduced Jon Voight, who will portray the heroic Swede in an upcoming motion picture. "Raoul's saga is not only about courage and heroism,"

Voight told the audience, "it is about someone who cared about ethics and morals at a time when the world continued to place little emphasis on such virtues."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Wisenthal Center, then honored five members of the audience who personally worked with Wallenberg on his mission of mercy; including Swedish diplomats Lars Berg and Per Anger who travelled from Brazil and Paris to pay tribute to their friend and colleague. Delivering an emotional address on the man "who saw from afar," Rabbi Hier said, "My friends, you and I can only imagine what it was like, but George Levoy was there. One day he drove Raoul Wallenberg to the train, and with his own eyes watched an SS man push Raoul mercilessly to the ground threatening to shoot him if he persisted in his activities. George Levoy is here tonight to stand in testimony of Raoul's deter-

mination.

"No one ventured out," Rabbi Hier reflected, "to stand with Raoul at the edge of the Nether world there where Eichmann decided who shall live and who shall die. Not one of the famous came to measure the tears that flowed from those final farewells: not popes in their majestic robes, nor kings in their crowns, not presidents or prime ministers, not even humanists or noble laureates; only Raoul Wallenberg stood there tall and erect, handing out schutzpasses, that precious piece of paper, all that stood between the devil and the last remnants of European Jewry."

Hier concluded with the vow that "for so long as there shall be a people of Israel, for so long the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg will be passed on from generation to generation. Raoul Wallenberg; a man in the image of G-d."

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