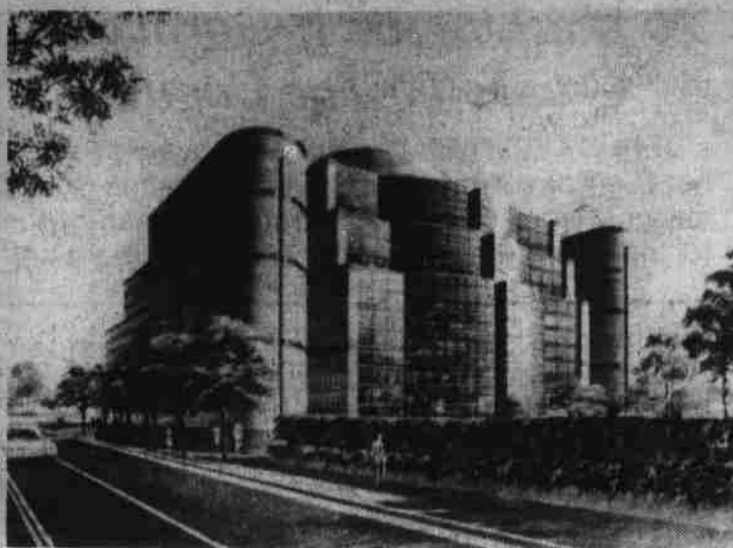


Wiesenthal Center Breaks Ground For New Beit HaShoah - Museum Of Tolerance



Over 200 Holocaust survivors (pictured above) joined an audience of approximately 1400 community members to watch the groundbreaking ceremonies in Los Angeles for the Simon Wiesenthal Center's new Beit HaShoah - Museum of Tolerance, slated for completion in 1989. The museum, which will trace the roots of prejudice and anti-Semitism which eventually culminated in the most shocking inhumanity of all - the Holocaust - will be part of a larger complex that will include a library, auditorium, theatre, seminar rooms and memorial gardens. During a moving part of the event the survivors formed a procession and poured out vials filled with earth from the death camps into the earth being turned for the new building. Guest speakers included U.S. Senators Pete Wilson (R-CA) and Alan Cranston (D-CA). Also pictured is the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps which provided musical cheer for the occasion.

Recently, the Simon Wiesenthal Center held groundbreaking ceremonies for its new Beit HaShoah - Museum of Tolerance. The event, which was attended by 1400 people, marked the opening phase of construction of a \$24 million, 150,000 sq. ft. complex, which will house a 36,000 sq. ft. museum, a library and research facility, an auditorium, theatre and memorial garden. The Beit HaShoah - Museum of Tolerance, being designed by Karl Katz of New York, James Gardner of London and Herb Rosenthal of Los Angeles, will document the origins of hatred and prejudice, the rise of anti-Semitism and the history of the Nazi Holocaust. It is scheduled to



Simon Wiesenthal Center
Beit HaShoah - Museum of Tolerance
(Scheduled to open in 1989)

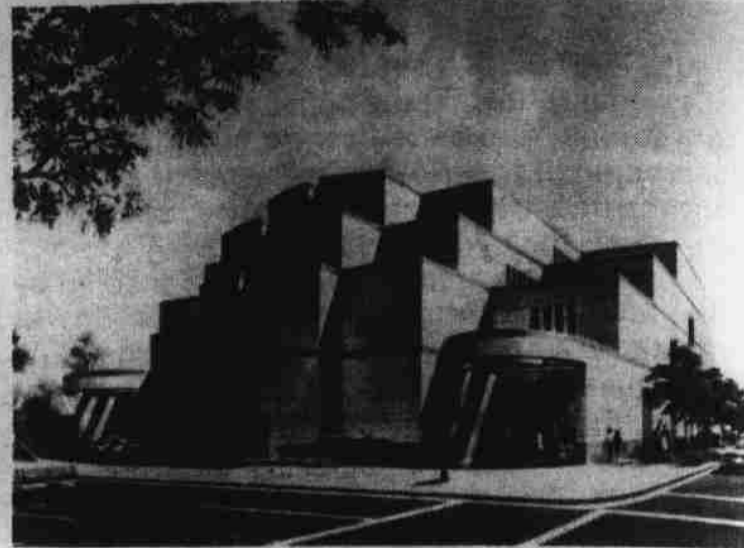
open in 1989.

California Senator Pete Wilson (R-CA), told the gathering that the museum would be a "reminder in stone and glass that intolerance was not buried in the rubble of Nazi Germany," and where visitors "will be given a sense of indignation to match their idealism."

Auschwitz survivor Henry Appel, who lost his entire family in the Holocaust, said, "The only thing worse than the reality of Auschwitz is if the world is allowed to forget or deny what happened there."

During the emotional culmination of the ceremony, Rabbi Marvin Hier, Founder and Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, invited 200 Holocaust survivors to deposit earth brought from eight of the Nazi death camps into the ground on the site where the new museum will be built. Rabbi Hier observed, "Today we have brought earth from the darkest places on this planet -- places where the sun never shines -- where the stars never glitter -- places engraved upon the conscience of man -- earth from Bergen-Belsen, from Struthoff, from Neuengamme, from Mauthausen, from Theresienstadt, from Dachau, from Majdanek and from Auschwitz."

Samuel Belzberg, Chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees, addressed the audience with the purpose of the museum, stating, "I believe strongly that if the world is to be a better place, we must come to recognize that hatred is a form of malignancy which can only be ignored at great peril. The cancer of hatred and prejudice must be treated with the same determination as the illnesses which afflict us physically." He concluded by quoting Simon Wiesenthal who said, "It is not the presence of Nazis I fear, rather it is



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the absence of the anti-Nazis." Wiesenthal Center trustee Alan Casden, whose vision and efforts have also helped to make the new complex a reality, expressed the ultimate hope underlying the creation of the museum: "Each of us will be proud that we passed on an important message to our children and their children, and that perhaps by learning the lessons contained in this museum, the world will forever be spared the agony of having to record another genocide."

The ceremony, emceed by Museum Planning Committee Chairwoman, Frances Belzberg, was attended by numerous other distinguished guests, including U. S. Senator Alan Cranston, California Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy, State Senator David Roberti, Assemblyman Richard Katz and Tom Hayden, Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky and Efraim Weichselfish, Deputy Director of Yad VaShem.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) arrived in Israel with assurances that the international furor over U.S. shipments of arms to Iran with Israel's help has not harmed U.S. - Israel relations.

"Recent events over Iran notwithstanding, U.S.-Israel friendship is strong, solid and enduring. America looks to Israel as our oldest, closest friend in the region in a world of change and doubts," Kennedy told reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport.

The Senator declined to reply to specific questions about the arms sale to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the Contras, the Reagan Administration-backed rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

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