

# Natan Shcharansky Honored With Wiesenthal Center Humanitarian Award



Natan Shcharansky toured the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Holocaust Museum the day after he received the Center's Humanitarian Award at a dinner attended by some 2000 people. Pictured with Shcharansky as he listened to one of the audio exhibits on the Holocaust are (left to right) Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Beverly Hills Mayor Charlotte Spadaro, Elliott Feldman, and Senator Herschel Rosenthal. At Shcharansky's side is a great-uncle with whom he was reunited that day, David Milgrim.

Natan Shcharansky traveled to Los Angeles for his first appearance in the Western United

States, to receive the Simon Wiesenthal Center's 1987 Humanitarian Award, recently. More than 2000 government and community leaders, celebrities and international personalities attended the tribute to Shcharansky.

The dinner was co-chaired by Alan Casden, William Belzberg and Rosalie Zalis, members of the Wiesenthal Center Board of Trustees. In introducing Shcharansky Mr. Belzberg said, "He commands no armies, he holds no elective office. Yet his weapon, truth, has made the mightiest of powers stand in fear." Special guest Simon Wiesenthal flew in from Vienna for the event, which was emceed by Jane Fonda, who spoke of her work on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and her particular friendship and concern for the famous, former prisoner of conscience Ida Nudel. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley congratulated Shchransky for being "a giant among men."

Avital Shcharansky, largely responsible for her husband's freedom, was honored in absentia by the Wiesenthal Center with its Woman of Valor award. In presenting the award Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said, "One day when historians chronicle this period they shall write that it was a woman's staff that split the sea, a woman's voice that the pharaoh heard, a woman's sacrifice that humbled him to say, let him go... let him go."

Accepting his award as well as Avital's, Shcharansky spoke of his experiences in the Soviet

Gulag, the need for relentless public pressure on behalf of Soviet Jewry and the recent death of Soviet dissident Anatoly Marchenko.

Among the celebrated guests at the dinner chaired by Rupert Murdoch were William Shatner, Michele Lee, Veronica Hamel, Dr. Armand Hammer, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver, and Richard Dreyfuss. Community leaders Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, Consul Generals Eytan Bentsur of Israel, Bernard Miyet of France, Vincent Van Der Mersch of Belgium, and Leo Renggli of Switzerland joined the headtable guests.

Shcharansky held a press conference at the Simon Wiesenthal Center the following morning and toured the Center's Holocaust museum along with Mayor Bradley, Simon Wiesenthal, Mayor Charlotte Spadaro of Beverly Hills, California, and many others. He led a community rally for Soviet Jewry in Los Angeles on Sunday, February 1, which was attended by over 1000 people. Shcharansky urged that everyone should continue to speak out for the remaining 400,000 refuseniks who are still confined within the Soviet Union.

## Spiritual Thought For The Week

The wicked one borrows and does not repay, but the righteous acts graciously and gives.



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