

PARTNERS

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE SUMMER 2004



A Legacy of Giving Through 'Purple Lady Fund'

Barbara Meislin, known as “The Purple Lady,” has been an avid Center supporter for over twenty years. Ms. Meislin’s passion for the color purple is much more than an alias; it is the theme of her life. “Purple is recognized as the color of joy,” she said. “It energizes me to live life to the fullest.”

Combating hate and intolerance through the work of the Center’s Intelligence Project are among Ms. Meislin’s favorite social issues. She makes gifts in memory of Mulegetta Seraw, the Ethiopian student killed by Skinheads in Portland, Oregon in 1988. The Center’s lawsuit against the White Aryan Resistance (WAR) Skinhead group resulted in a \$12.5 million verdict in 1990 on behalf of Seraw’s young son, Henok.

“Courage, a creative spirit, and a total commitment to justice are the special qualities that endear the Center to my heart,” she said. “They are the core ideals that I would most like to see embodied in the lives of all people and adopted by the family of the world.”

Growing up in a single-parent household in New York City was a powerful experience for Ms. Meislin. It taught her the importance of giving back, even when there wasn’t a lot to share, of working hard, and of benefiting from living in a “multi-cultural, multi-racial environment.” Her family had progressive views on various social issues—a perspective she has carried into her own life.

When her daughter and brother died, Ms. Meislin was passionate about her need to honor their memories. “I have found after a deep loss, one of the core ways to heal is to do something beautiful for others that embraces the essence of the loved one who has passed on,” she said.

One of her most meaningful projects has been funding a playground in the village of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (The Oasis of Peace) in memory of her seven-year-old daughter Lori. Created for Palestinian and Jewish children, it features at its entrance a seven-foot rainbow arch as a symbol of harmony, hope, and love for all children.

In the fall, Ms. Meislin will release an inspirational book, *No One Can Ever Steal Your Rainbow*. Beautifully illustrated by Helen Webber, all of its proceeds will benefit “The Oasis of Peace” and other organizations that enhance the lives of children.

Ms. Meislin often offers to those who have lost a child the gift of healing through the songs she sings, some of which are her own. Her love of music motivated her to help sponsor the Center’s first music project, *I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peacemakers*.

Ms. Meislin is committed to not only leaving a monetary gift to the Center, but also a legacy of giving. Her daughter Marla and her son Kenneth will designate how “The Purple Lady Fund” will be spent at the Center.



Barbara Meislin, “The Purple Lady”

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New Partners

We are pleased to recognize the newest members of Partners for the Future who have included the Center in their estate plans.

Herman C. Bainter	Joan G. McBeth
C. M. Barringer	Richard and
Raymond J. Berard	Linda Miller
Kathy Bheam	Richard Morris
William G. Blakney	Terry Anne Morse
L. Marie Blakney	Joan W. Oylar
Garland A. Borden	Barbara and
Mary Lord Brown	Bet von Papen
Susan W. Bynum	Edith K. Peters
Leie Carmody	Ellen Pofcher
Ruth L. Cohen Ph.D.	Mary Kaiulani Quinn
Gerald N. Cohn	Elizabeth E. Rands
Mary. L. Dunn	Macey Ringel
George Gardner	Maurine Ryan
Sandra Glenny	Jeanne Savelle
Rose Greco	Richard Knutsen
Pete Kusulas	Elaine Schuman
Robert Holczer	Martin and
Jan Holczer	Barbara Seaney
Gerhard T. and	David Sklar
Virginia W. Johnson	Col. Henry D. and
Frances V. Kehr	Esther H. Smith
Marilyn Kettlewell	Charlotte G. Snyder
Dag Knudsen	Sheila E. Stewart
Tine Thevenin	Monika B. Vizedom
Royce and Una Ladd	Marguerite Watson
Kathryn R. Lewis	Mark and
Mona Logsdon	Brenda Wiger
Albert E. and	Ted and
Eunice G. Lovejoy	Sharon Wimer
Kurt and Trudy Low	Peggy W. Wolf
Richard B. Luers	Bryan Wren

For several years I have wanted to apply for a charitable gift annuity with Southern Poverty Law Center. For my circumstances this is the best way I can express my deep appreciation of the work being done and my wish to help it continue. Tolerance and justice are fundamental in all human endeavors. Thank you all – Morris Dees and staff. I am proud to be able to contribute my small part. **M. R. Washington**

The Southern Poverty Law Center has and continues to be a staunch champion for us all in the civil rights arena. I am proud to be a supporter and to inform you that the Center is named in my Will as one of several beneficiaries of my estate. **R. B. California**

I am already making a monthly gift to the Southern Poverty Law Center through your Friends of the Center program. I now want to do more by setting up a charitable gift annuity with the Center. You are all doing an extremely important service to the entire population. Thank you. **M. W. Connecticut**

I am so proud to have this association with the Southern Poverty Law Center. I have updated my Will to include a bequest to the Center. **S. G. New York**

Your work and efforts with great success continue to be extremely important, and I am pleased to be part of your support group. Thanks again for all you do – you really are a tremendous leader in helping us support a true democracy and in keeping the “bad guys” way in the back rows. **H. K. Illinois**

We have been supporters of the Southern Poverty Law Center for many years and have decided to establish a charitable gift annuity with you... It is the persistent, resourceful and expert work of Morris Dees and the Center that has kept Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysberg Address promise alive; “...government of the people, by the people, for the people.” **A. L. Arizona**

My gratitude for what you stand for continues to promulgate. I have officially named the Center as beneficiary for my insurance. Even though I am not a wealthy woman financially, I now feel rich because of my affiliation with the Center. **B. P. Minnesota**

Visit us on the Web!

For planned giving information, the latest Center news or to make a donation, go to www.SPLCenter.org

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Honoring a loved one through a charitable gift to the Center is an especially meaningful way of paying tribute to someone special. Memoriam and “in honor” gifts allow you to thoughtfully remember family members and friends. The Center accepts gifts in memory of those who have died or in honor of someone on a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. If you would like to honor or memorialize someone, please contact the Center. It is easy to do and can add meaning beyond measure to your special gift.

Hate and Intolerance Do Not Die Easily

For more than 30 years, the Center has been dedicated to serving society's most vulnerable members. It all started when two little black boys wanted to attend summer camp at the then-segregated YMCA in Montgomery, Alabama. They were turned away. I'll never forget the hurt I saw in the eyes of those boys and their mothers when they came to my law offices.

Since our first victory against the YMCA, the Southern Poverty Law Center has fought on behalf of African Americans vying for a position with the Alabama State Troopers... Vietnamese immigrants terrorized by Texas Klan members...young children lost in the South's harsh juvenile justice system...and incarcerated individuals wrongly accused of crimes simply because of their race or economic status.

In about a month, we will go to trial in Texas to defend another group of helpless individuals—a Salvadoran man and woman who suffered at the hands of a vigilante border group called Ranch Rescue. The woman watched in horror as her companion was detained and pistol-whipped. You can read more about this important case on page 7.

It disturbs me to think that in this nation, people are discriminated against—even hurt or killed—simply because they are different. We may come from various backgrounds and have conflicting views about politics, religion, or societal norms. We may look different, act different, and think different. But we are all human beings. And everyone—no matter how different he or she may be—deserves to be treated with respect and understanding.

I believe you share those same values and concerns. By supporting the Center, you join in our efforts to make this a better America for all people.

We all must do our part to push this country toward positive change. My staff does this by winning landmark legal suits, exposing hate group activity, and teaching tolerance to a new generation of leaders. Caring people like you make a difference through your generous financial and moral support of our work.

Unfortunately, success doesn't happen overnight, as much as I wish it would. Though we've made great strides, we still have a long way to go.

Hate and intolerance do not die easily. But I promise you that as long as those attitudes exist — and as long as they victimize innocent people — the Center's work will carry on.

You can help ensure the Center continues to help those oppressed by hate and intolerance long after you and I are gone. I encourage you to read the feature article on Living Trusts (page 4) and consider how you may leave a legacy for tolerance and justice by becoming a Partner for the Future.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Center family.



Mark Deen

Consider a Bequest in a Living Trust

Most people agree that having an estate plan is a good idea. However, many find it difficult to take that first step. Some people find it uncomfortable to face their own mortality. Others don't like the idea of talking to an attorney or fear it will cost too much. Another misconception is that only wealthy people need an estate plan.

Actually, no one dies without an estate plan. Your state government has laws in place that stipulate how your estate will be distributed if you fail to do it yourself, often to heirs you would not choose and with no regard for your individual priorities, commitments, or wishes.

The steps you take now to create an estate plan will bring you peace of mind and provide for the people and organizations you care about.

A personalized Will or other distribution document such as a Revocable Living Trust gives you the freedom to make choices about who will handle your affairs and benefit from your estate.

A Revocable Living Trust is a popular estate planning document that resembles a Will in many ways. It contains instructions for managing your personal assets during your life as well as the distribution of those assets after your death. Setting up a Living Trust is more involved than a Will, but it may have advantages for some people.

Perhaps the most significant advantage of a Living Trust is that you can designate a trustee to manage your assets for you in the event you become disabled or incapacitated.

As the trustee of your own Revocable Living Trust, you grant yourself broad powers to manage

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A LIVING TRUST AND A WILL:

- A Will must be probated to be verified and enforced, which results in attorney/executor fees and delays. A Living Trust does not go through probate so assets can be distributed according to the owner's instructions by the person selected to be the trustee.
- If real estate is transferred to a Living Trust, the estate administration can be avoided in multiple states. Without a trust, estate settlement proceedings would have to be conducted upon your death in all the states where you own real property.
- A Living Trust is more difficult to contest than a Will. When an estate is "in probate," the assets are usually frozen for a period of time to enable relatives and creditors to come forward and make their claims. With a Trust, assets are not frozen. Instead, depending upon circumstances, they are immediately and privately distributed to the beneficiaries.

your assets during your lifetime. Nothing changes about the way you run your household, your business, or any of your financial affairs. You determine what's in the trust, and you can amend it easily.

In order to take full advantage of the benefits of a Revocable Living Trust, you must change the titles on all real estate, securities, and other assets from your name to the name of your trust. It may be necessary to have a Will in addition to a trust to properly distribute any property you may chose not to place in your Revocable Living Trust or that you acquired after the trust was established.

Having a Living Trust also means that you are taking advantage of ways to reduce probate costs by designating what will happen to your property and who will be responsible for handling the details. The cost savings from a carefully constructed estate plan means more will be left for family members and other beneficiaries.

Charitable Bequests Offer Tax Savings

Depending on the size of your estate, a charitable bequest may offer considerable estate tax savings. Estate taxes are based on the value of your estate at the time of your death and include all your financial interests, both money and property such as life insurance, IRAs, and other retirement plans. However, there is no limit to the amount that can be left to charity. Once deducted from your estate, a bequest minimizes the portion of your estate that goes to Uncle Sam, while providing a meaningful gift to the Center and its programs. Many of the Center's Partners for the Future use a Living Trust to make current and deferred gifts.

If you are interested in more detailed information about Living Trusts, use the enclosed card to request the free booklet, *Giving Through Living Trusts*. We encourage you to consult an attorney to determine the best planned giving arrangement for your particular circumstances.

planned giving Questions?

It's easy to
contact us:

- 1 Call Linda Stringer or Gwen Moore toll free at 1-888-414-7752
- 2 E-mail us at plannedgiving@splcenter.org
- 3 Return the enclosed card in the envelope provided
- 4 Write us at: 400 Washington Ave. Montgomery, Alabama 36104

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

When including the Southern Poverty Law Center in your Will, you can choose one or more of the following types of bequests:

Residual or percentage bequest gives the residue, or a portion (usually a percentage) of the residue, of your estate to the Center after specific bequests have been made;

Specific or general bequest leaves a stated amount of cash, securities, and/or other property to the Center;

Contingent bequest provides an alternative beneficiary, such as the Center, if one or more of your bequests cannot be fulfilled;

Life-income bequest provides a life income to someone close to you with the principal passing to the Center after his/her lifetime;

Combination bequest combines several of the types of gifts listed above.

Whether you are preparing a Will for the first time or wish to make a change to your existing Will, we strongly suggest that you consult your attorney.

Susan Garfield (1938-2002)

BECOME A PARTNER

More than 3,000 supporters have become Partners for the Future by including the Center in their long-term giving plans. Many have planned a bequest through their Wills; others have made a life-income gift. By making a deferred gift, supporters can:

- Provide a legacy of values for loved ones
- Ensure their intentions are carried out
- Help safeguard the Center's long-term work
- Join our **Partners for the Future** society

Making a long-term commitment to a charitable organization is a personal and commendable choice. If you'd like to learn more about the benefits of gift planning, contact us today.

Toll free **1-888-414-7752**
plannedgiving@splcenter.org
 Or return the card in the envelope provided to:

Planned Giving Office
 Southern Poverty Law Center
 400 Washington Avenue
 Montgomery, Alabama 36104

You can also visit our
 planned giving page at
www.SPLCenter.org/donate.

Susan Garfield, writer, director and executive producer and long-time supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center, died one day before her 64th birthday after a fierce battle with liver cancer. With her passing, several causes of critical importance in the 21st century lost a brilliant and committed champion. Her legacy continues after her death through substantial bequests to the organizations she supported throughout her adult life.

Ms. Garfield grew up in Scarsdale, New York. After graduating *cum laude* from Radcliffe College, she worked as a filmmaker and documentarist, rising quickly from a research position to become a writer, producer, and director. She was the first woman to write, produce, and direct documentaries which were aired nationwide on ABC, CBS and PBS. Her work received major awards, among them the DuPont-Columbia Journalism Award, the Albert & Mary Lasker Medical Journalism Award, the Ohio State Journalism Award, and the Grand Prix for Best Documentary at the Berlin International Festival.

One of the first documentaries Ms. Garfield helped write and produce, ABC's "The Agony of Vietnam," was the first nationally-aired program (August 1965) voicing American dissent from U.S. Policy in Vietnam. She also wrote and produced "The Long Childhood of Timmy," the story

of a mentally retarded boy and his family; and she wrote, produced, and directed "Your Children Will Learn," a Westinghouse Special broadcast exploring the issues surrounding sex education. "All the Kids Like That," which she also wrote, produced, and directed, was described by Judy Bachrach in the *Baltimore Sun* as "innovative and strangely beautiful ... a drug documentary with a difference."

Ms. Garfield's work, and her personal quest, led her to travel on several continents and to embrace Buddhism. After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, she worked as a co-director and group leader/trainer of the S.A.G.E. project, obtained an M.A. in psychological counseling, and worked for several years as a Jungian psychotherapist. Joseph Henderson, former Director of the Jungian Institute in San Francisco, wrote of her: "I recognized in Susan one of those exceptional members of our Western culture who is engaged in looking into and beyond something more true to the nature of reality and how it is created." Dr. Henderson remained a mentor and close friend to Ms. Garfield until her death.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is honored to be among the organizations to which Ms. Garfield left bequests. She will be sorely missed, but through her bequests, her legacy will continue long after her.

CENTER ATTORNEYS SUE ANOTHER VIOLENT PARAMILITARY GROUP

Last March, a group of Salvadorans were traveling on foot across a Texas Ranch when camouflaged members of the vigilante border-patrol group Ranch Rescue approached them. The Salvadorans were forcefully captured and held at gunpoint. They were interrogated and threatened with death. One man was pistol-whipped.

No one in America should be subject to that sort of abuse and terror. In August, the Center's legal team will go to court in Texas against key members of Ranch Rescue and the rancher that hired them to abuse these peaceful migrants—who are among the most vulnerable and impoverished men, women, and children on earth.



Ranch Rescue member

Taking immigration matters into their own hands, Ranch Rescue members conduct paramilitary operations. They are equipped with high-powered assault rifles, handguns, night-vision devices, two-way radios, observation posts, flares, machetes, all-terrain vehicles, and trained attack dogs.

The Center's suit has the important goal of stopping violent paramilitary activity along the U.S.-Mexico border. If vigilante groups like Ranch Rescue and the ranchers who conspire with them are forced to pay monetary damages for their unlawful actions, they will think twice before taking the law into their own hands and attacking unarmed migrants in the future.

CENTER ATTORNEYS ADDRESS SAFETY OF INCARCERATED YOUTH

For the past few years, the Center's legal team has been fighting for the rights of children incarcerated in juvenile prisons across the South.

Lately the focus has been on the children in Mississippi's "training schools." These 10- to 17-year-olds are predominantly black, poor, and suffering from one or more mental or emotional disability. They have been locked up for minor offenses that include run-

ning away, skipping school, and underage drinking.

And they are subject to what Center lawyer Danielle Lipow calls "blatant torture."

These young people have been hogtied, shackled to poles, and forced to run with automobile tires around their necks or



Mississippi's Oakley Training School

mattresses on their backs, according to a 2003 report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice.

There is no rehabilitative value in this sort of "cruel and demeaning" treatment, the Department of Justice concluded.

"These are children who need mental health services, education services, and delinquency prevention programs," said Center lawyer Sheila Bedi. "They do not need jail."

To bring about reform, Center lawyers are focusing on three areas: bringing a lawsuit against one of the training schools, working with legislators to develop community-based alternatives, and educating parents of the incarcerated youth.

Things have improved since the Center became involved. But there is still work to be done. With the help of its supporters, the Center will continue its crucial efforts to ensure the safety and rehabilitation of Mississippi's incarcerated youth.

planned giving Questions?

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I am considering establishing a charitable gift annuity with the Southern Poverty Law Center later this year. I don't want the income to begin until I retire. Must I specify a firm starting date for the annuity payments?

N. C. New York

No. You can provide a flexible starting date for deferred gift annuity payments. The gift annuity agreement between the donor and the Center must specify a different payment amount (increasing with the deferral of the start date) for each possible age at which payments might begin. The income tax charitable deduction allowed for the gift will be based on the lowest possible deduction that would be available at the earliest annuity starting date.

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Do I have to pay income tax on my gift annuity payments?

R. R. Maryland

In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free, because it is considered a tax-free return of capital. The rest is taxed as ordinary income and, if appreciated property is used to fund the gift, as capital gain income. Once you reach your life expectancy (calculated at the date of the gift), the entire annuity payment is taxed as ordinary income.



Philip Temple is a partner in the law firm of McCarthy, Fingar, Donovan, Drazen & Smith, L.L.P., White Plains, New York. He frequently speaks on taxes, charitable giving and estate planning. In each issue of this newsletter, Mr. Temple answers questions about planned giving from Center supporters. Please send your questions to the Center in the envelope provided.

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If I name the Center as the beneficiary of my IRA, will those assets be subject to federal estate tax?

L. T. Texas

Funds directed to charities from traditional retirement plans can escape federal estate and income tax. There would be no federal estate tax because of the estate tax charitable deduction and no income tax because of the Center's exemption from federal income taxes.

The funds should be left via beneficiary assignment, or the will or living trust should direct that charitable gifts be made from retirement plan assets to the extent possible. The former is by far the preferable way and avoids any questions regarding taxability for income tax purposes.

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How do I determine my federal income tax charitable deduction for a gift of stock?

P. R. Massachusetts

Generally, the average of the stock's high and low trading prices on the date of the gift determines the value of the gift. For example, if your broker transfers your stock directly to the Center, the date of the gift is the date the stock is received in the Center's brokerage account.

Have a Planned Giving Question?

We're eager to answer your questions and to be of assistance. Use the enclosed envelope to drop us a note or e-mail your questions to us at plannedgiving@splcenter.org.

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