



Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation
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A Foundation to support and preserve our earth, medicine, Jewish culture and causes special to all our local communities.

Florence Laurence Carol Debbi Danny Glenn

Date: February 18, 2010

Simon Waksberg – Our Friend
September 10, 1921 – February 18, 2010
A Note From Danny Spungen

It is with great sadness, yet such an honor that I take these few moments to write about our dear friend Simon. My family has known Simon for many years through our Bar-Bat Mitzvah events in Memphis that we will always treasure.

However, when Simon took a well deserved “center stage” at several different Holocaust related events in 2008 and 2009, he captured our hearts forever. In such a short time he also captured the inspiration of so many new people he met, inspiration that will keep all our hearts beating strong whenever he is thought of!!!

Simon spoke with such open passion about his life’s tragic beginnings and blessed post WWII years. I knew Simon was special when I became a student of the Holocaust in 2007. I immediately sensed that Simon’s smile, sense of humor, and his overall ability to keep an audience fixated with his stories that I had to bring him to Chicago to meet my friends and family. My daughter said it best when I heard her say, “Oh, little sweet Simon is coming?”

In July 2008 our family hosted an event in Waukegan, IL to display our newly acquired award winning exhibit of letters, postcards, stamps and monies used during the WWII era in ghettos, concentration camps and internment camps. We invited guests from local Rotary clubs, family, friends, and several guests from out-of-state. Although the exhibit speaks for itself, the several survivors of the Holocaust that attended spoke even greater and Simon was the honored guest! He left Chicago with so many warm hugs, that it was hard to imagine that Chicago had a reputation for being a cold/windy city!!!!

There was an incredible “leap of hugs” when Simon was the featured speaker at many 2009 events in Memphis. In March 2009 Simon spent four days on such a busy schedule that only dignitaries can relate too! In every introduction speech guests were told that Memphis had such an incredible gem right in their own backyard and by the end of the events they all agreed! Simon was busy with events at the Belz Museum, The Civil Rights Museum, The University of Memphis (Bornblum Studies), Memphis Rotary Club, and St. Benedict High School.

