



Item: CG: A-1e

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend that the BoT approves the naming of the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building or building addition and the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Institute for Holocaust and Jewish Studies within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Donation:

Kurt and Marilyn Wallach are making gifts totaling Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) to the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters for recognition opportunities to name the "Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building" (gift of \$5,000,000) and to name the "Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Institute for Holocaust and Jewish Studies" (estate gift of \$15,000,000). A non-endowed fund to be known as the "Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Fund" will be opened for purposes of receiving the initial gift that will support the design, construction and on-going maintenance. Upon completion of construction, the fund will be converted to an endowed fund containing any funds remaining following completion of construction and for purposes of receiving the estate gift.

Gift Purpose:

The initial gift will be used to construct a building or building addition in a central location on the Boca Raton campus and support on-going maintenance that will bring together Holocaust, Human Rights and Jewish Studies Education programs, along with allied programs related to engendering greater inter-faith and inter-ethnic understanding, to encourage enhanced collaborations and strengthen the prominence of these programs.

The estate gift will establish an endowment to provide support for the establishment and operation of a new College institute that will integrate and coordinate research, service and/or educational offerings in these disciplinary areas and related programs with a mission to deter hate, bias and discrimination.

Donor's Background:

Kurt Wallach and his wife, Marilyn, are managing partners for several businesses including Sunny Lakes Capital, LLC and Kurtell Sales, LLC. They are general partners for Kurtell Growth Industries, Ltd., a real estate investment corporation.

Kurt Wallach's parents and their three children (Kurt was seven years old) fled Magdeburg, Germany in 1933 when his father, Mark, learned that he was an assassination target by the Nazis. The family escaped to Scheveningen, a seaside suburb of The Hague in Holland. Then in 1936, once again sensing impending danger, Mark secured passage for his family on the *Queen Mary's* maiden voyage to New York. The family then boarded a train to Cleveland, Ohio, where Mark's brother lived, to begin a new life in the United States.

Kurt Wallach was 15 years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and he enlisted in the Navy on his 18th birthday in 1944, serving through 1946 in Panama and the Pacific. He attended Western Reserve University in Cleveland, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree, and then completing graduate credits toward the Master in Arts in Hearing and Speech Pathology, a profession he never practiced, going instead into the business world.

Mr. Wallach enjoyed early success, founding, owning and operating "Kurt Wasco of Cleveland", specializing in aluminum windows and doors. In 1956, he sold the company prior to moving to Florida. Mr. Wallach established Kurtell & Co. in Miami. In 1971, he renamed the company, Kurtell Growth Industries, Ltd., and moved the company's location to Vero Beach.

Kurt Wallach has authored several books including "Remembering Mark: A Biography of a Father"; "Kurt's Journey"; and tennis books "Tennis: The Whole Game: its plots, its shots, and its nots." He also wrote three textbooks on the atrocities of the Holocaust: "The Killing of the Jews"; "Murder Beyond Madness"; and "Man's Inhumanity to Man" beginning at the age of 87 years and completing his last book at the age of 93 years.

Kurt and Marilyn Wallach met and married in 1979. They have one son, Mark (FAU alumnus, 2004), and Kurt has two daughter from a previous marriage, Laurie and Penny. They are the proud grandparents of five. The couple reside in Vero Beach in Indian River County, Florida with a summer home in Sapphire, North Carolina.

The Wallachs are founding supporters of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, sponsors of the Indian River County Humane Society, and benefactors of the Treasure Coast Opera Society.

Both have served as members of the board of directors for the Vero Heritage Society and Marilyn Wallach serves as a member of the board of directors for the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of the Treasure Coast, Inc.

The Wallachs are founders and directors for two philanthropic foundations: The Castle Foundation, Inc., whose mission is to support programs that work to prevent child abuse, and The Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Family Foundation, Inc., established in August 2020.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost of signage and installation funded through his initial gift.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Installation of signage and all promotional materials for the Center following BOT approval and construction of the building. A naming announcement and planning for other celebratory activities to follow.

Presented by: Danita D. Nias

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