



Item: X.

Monday, September 21, 2020

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE NOMINATION - KURT WALLACH**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Request approval of the conferral of Honorary Doctorate on Mr. Kurt Wallach

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

University Policy 2.3 (Honorary Doctorates) specifies that those nominated for Honorary Doctorates be recommended to the FAU Board of Trustees by the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee, the Provost and the President. One candidate is being recommended at this time.

Both in and outside of Florida, Mr. Kurt Wallach is a well-known and widely respected business man, philanthropist, and author. He received his education at Western Reserve University, first earning a Bachelor of Arts and later, a Master's in Hearing and Speech Pathology. Mr. Wallach is currently the Founder, Owner, President and CEO of Kurtell Growth Industries; also holding positions as President and Chairman of the Board of Prime Kurtell Properties. He is a major stakeholder in Citrus Bank and in addition to sitting on their Board of Directors for many years, has also headed several committees.

His business acumen aside, Mr. Wallach is a dedicated advocate for the Jewish community. As a World War II veteran and holocaust survivor himself, he has authored several books and led lecture series that seek to educate the public of the tragedy that was the Holocaust. Most notable are *Remembering Mark* and *The Killing of the Jews*, which earned him personal letters of thanks and praise from two former U.S. governors. *Remembering Mark* as well as *Kurt's Journey* align with FAU's Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education commitment to help teach, research, and lecture on the Holocaust when he like other survivors are no longer able to share their stories. Recently, between ages 85 and 93 years old, he has authored 3 books on the Holocaust. He's a model of "never giving up" in educating against hate for students in the Holocaust and Jewish Studies program. In keeping with this, he remains a major contributor to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Mr. Wallach's philanthropic contributions include sponsoring organizations such as the Vero Beach Indian River County Humane Society and CASTLE (Child Abuse Services Training and Life Enrichment), and dedicating 55 acres to the state of Florida for protection of the environment.

This nomination for an honorary doctorate degree is based on Mr. Wallach's generosity, his many contributions as a patriot of our country and advocate to the Jewish community, and his outstanding achievements in business.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

If approved, this Honorary Doctorate will be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

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**Supporting Documentation:** Materials detailing biography and accomplishments

**Presented by:** Dr. Bret Danilowicz, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs      **Phone:** 561-297-3061



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

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**To:** President John Kelly, Provost Bret Danilowicz, Vice President Danita Nias

**CC:** Laurie Carney, Linda Medvin

**From:** Dr. Michael J. Horswell, Dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

**Date:** August 22, 2020

**RE:** Nomination of Mr. Kurt L. Wallach for Doctor Honoris Causa in Humane Letters

Pursuant to the University Policy on Honorary Doctorates, I hereby nominate Mr. Kurt L. Wallach for the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters on behalf of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. As this memorandum of support will detail, Mr. Wallach has exceeded the criteria for this recognition, as laid out in our policy:

**“Selection criteria are based on national and international standards of exceptional achievements that are primarily intellectual in nature. Consideration may also be given to individuals who have contributed in significant ways to the advancement of disciplines or programs at FAU and/or to the development of the state and region.”**

As I will demonstrate below, Mr. Wallach’s life is one of extraordinary achievement in the face of unimaginable obstacles that he and his family overcame as Holocaust survivors; these achievements range from 1.) Starting over his life as his family escaped from the Nazis two times before the age of seven (once from Germany to Holland and again from Holland to the USA); 2.) military service to our country in WWII; 3.) building multiple businesses in our state and region; 4.) Becoming a tennis professional player, teacher and umpire; 5.) Remarkable research, teaching and publishing on the Holocaust. In addition, his generous philanthropy has supported myriad causes in our region, including our own FAU Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education.

Kurt Wallach will not forget the Holocaust. He’s working to make sure that nobody else does, either. And how could he, given that more than 200 members of his father’s family and 100 members of his mother’s family were brutally murdered by the Nazis. Mr. Wallach never forgot the anguish on his father’s face when they learned that two of his brothers perished in the concentration camps. Kurt felt that same pain after learning his two best friends from Holland, where they had escaped to the first time, were also exterminated by the Nazis, though they were only teenage boys.

Kurt Leo Wallach was born on August 26, 1926 in Magdeburg, Germany (55 miles west of Berlin), the youngest of three children. He was a seven-year-old Jewish child when the reign of terror began in 1933. His father, Mark, was a successful businessman who owned many apartment buildings in Magdeburg. He was also a Social Democrat who fought the Nazi Party hard during the 1920’s and 1930’s. When they came into power, they remembered and started after him because of his tireless and extensive activity in the anti-Nazi movement. Kurt’s first year in school in Magdeburg was marred by anti-Jewish

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bullying not only by his classmates but by his teachers. In 1933, his father learned that he was an assassination target. Within 24 hours, Mark gathered his family and escaped to Scheveningen, a seaside suburb of The Hague in Holland.

He rented a store that sold ice cream. Until this time, one could only purchase either chocolate or vanilla. Together with an employee, Mark developed flavours like strawberry, mocha, cherry and banana. When Americans Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson visited his store, they were delighted with what they saw – lines of people all day waiting to get in. Two years later, the Pennsylvania Turnpike opened, featuring Howard Johnson's 31 flavours of ice cream at their rest stops.

In 1936, once again sensing impending danger, Mark secured passage for his family on the *Queen Mary's* maiden voyage to New York. Before emigrating to the United States, Mark rented commercial space on the soon-to-be-completed ship. He was prohibited from transferring currency to the United States, so he filled part of the ship's hold with two things from Holland: barrels of herring and Gouda cheese. When the ship landed in New York and its contents became known, importers and restaurateurs flocked to Wallach to snap up his merchandise. When all the money was collected, Wallach and his family boarded a train to Cleveland, Ohio where his brother lived.

Given the Depression and Mark's lack of English, the young immigrant found it almost impossible to find work in Cleveland, so he started his own business. He built one house in Cleveland that sold for \$8,000. Then on a gamble, he built another in the suburb of University Heights, which sold for \$12,000. Kurt said it's estimated that his father built half of the homes in University Heights. Mark retired in 1948 and spent the winters in Miami. He died in 1981 and his wife died two years later.

Kurt described his father's heroic story in a book titled "*Remembering Mark.*" His father was instrumental in getting many Germans into the United States in the 1930s, not only other family members but strangers too. He felt his father did so much, however he was never recognized for it during his lifetime. This prompted Kurt to chronicle his father's exploits in this 1996 biography. The book also describes these moves as "traumatic" to Kurt. He was not familiar with the language or the customs and adjusting was difficult. They were challenging times and he felt very insecure, yet he survived and thrived, resulting in a highly successful life.

Kurt Wallach began his journey of extraordinary achievement at his high school in Ohio, where he became an athlete and good student. Kurt was 15 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and he had to wait three years to join the Navy. He finally was able to enlist in the Navy on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1944, serving through 1946 in Panama and the Pacific. Kurt's Florida story begins with his training as a "Frogman," now known as Navy SEALs, in Ft. Pierce, Florida and he became part of the attack boat Flotillas of the Amphibious Forces. Years later he would help restore the Fort Pierce USO club where he enjoyed dancing with local girls when on leave. The building was saved from demolition thanks in part to his efforts.

Discharged in August 1946, Kurt attended Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree, and then completing graduate credits toward the MA in Hearing and Speech Pathology, a profession he never practiced as the business he started while at university prospered and his first marriage and family began.

### **Successful Serial Entrepreneur**

Kurt enjoyed early success in Ohio. He founded, owned and operated “Kurt Wasco of Cleveland” (Wallach Aluminum Sash Company), one of Northern Ohio’s most successful aluminum window and door companies while in college. Hating Cleveland’s weather, he sold the company and moved to Miami in 1956 where he began a career in real estate and building. His move to Florida grew from his love of the state where he had been a member of the Under Water Demolition Team training in Ft. Pierce.

With the proceeds of the sale of Wasco, he founded Kurt and Company, the predecessor of Kurtell Growth Industries; he started a residential subdivision, building and selling a few hundred homes under the name Kurtell. Various enterprises followed and in 1969, he merged this company with Richford Industries and it was listed on the American Stock Exchange. After a few years, he bought the company out, taking it off the Exchange and once again making it private.

Kurt built Florida’s first condominium in 1959, when the concept of condos was new and not readily understood. He said “it was a new idea at the time and people confused it with co-ops, so it was turned into apartments – the Keystone Park Apartments on Miami Beach” which remains today.

Kurt spent several years as a tennis professional. He built and owned the Miami Racquet Club. It was at this time that he did his first published writing, a humorous tennis book called “Tennis is a Funny Racquet,” and then “Tennis: The Whole Game, Its Plots, Its Shots and Its Not’s.” He was head umpire for 11 southern states for the USTA and a frequent umpire at the U.S. Tennis Open championship in Forest Hills, NY including a “chair umpire” working major nationally televised matches. He also wrote a syndicated tennis column for more than twenty-nine years.

A successful businessman and an eclectic entrepreneur whether it’s a business project or writing a book, Kurt is actively involved in the real estate investment business and remains as the founder, owner, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Kurtell Industries, Ltd., one of the Treasure Coast’s oldest and largest real estate investment trust companies. He owns several mobile home parks, Mattress Firm stores, 7-11 Convenience Stores, Dunkin Donuts, office buildings, and a chain of medical buildings. He owns and operates shopping plazas and manufactured housing communities throughout Florida, Texas and Tennessee. He also owns and operates a mortgage company as well as sales company with nine offices throughout Florida.

Kurt was a founder and part owner of Citrus Bank with four others, a six-branch bank where he sat on the Board of Directors for many years. He headed several committees including the important Executive Loan Committee of which he was Chairman for one year.

### **Work related to philanthropy and Holocaust Remembrance**

He is a founding supporter of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, sponsor of the Indian River County Humane Society, benefactor of the Treasure Coast Opera Society (where he also served on its Board of Directors). Additionally, he served the Board of Directors of the Vero Heritage Society as well as the Vero Beach Exchange Club.

Kurt shared his personal testimony as a survivor of the Holocaust as part of the Survivors of the Shoah, Visual History Foundation, the most comprehensive library of personal testimonies ever collected. His testimony was filmed by Steven Spielberg in 1996 at his home in Vero Beach. His letter from Chairman, Steven Spielberg, described his participation:

- “In sharing your personal testimony as a survivor of the Holocaust, you have granted future generations the opportunity to experience a personal connection with history;” and
- “Far into the future, people will be able to see a face, hear a voice, and observe a life, so that they may listen and learn, and always remember.”

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum honored Kurt with its prestigious **Gold Medal in 2008**. The medal was in recognition of his work lecturing on the Holocaust and significant financial support of the museum. Kurt also gave two lectures during the Museum’s Days of Remembrance ceremonies that year. And in 2018, Kurt with other survivors were honored during the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. During the anniversary event, the Museum presented its highest honor, the Elie Wiesel Award, to all survivors for their courage and resilience and for inspiring the global movement for Holocaust remembrance and education, which the Museum leads today.

The extraordinary career in business and tennis was not enough for Kurt. His early memories of the trauma suffered by his family and the families of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust motivated him to take up as what he has called a “hobby”: the intense study of the history of the genocide of his people, something he pursued his whole life. As an octogenarian, he began researching more intensely that history by reading about and traveling to dozens of historical sites in Europe where the atrocities occurred. He visited archives and libraries, taking notes on his discoveries. He also began lecturing on his research. In the 1990’s he turned his writing talent, honed for years with his syndicated column on tennis, into two memoirs, one about his father and another chronicling his own life.

- “**Remembering Mark**” (1996) is not only a personal look at his father, it’s also a story about the strength and resiliency of his family that survived the Holocaust. Mark went from wealth to total poverty twice before becoming a highly successful builder and contractor in Cleveland starting in the 1940’s.

Prominent American journalist, Dan Rather described his book as an ambitious project and as “a touching tale of family love over many generations, and a fond tribute to a father of great courage and foresight, ‘Remembering Mark’ speaks plainly of simple truths worth repeating. Kurt Wallach offers not only a remembrance but a reminder of the unparalleled hardships brought on by Hitler’s rise to power, and of the strengths required to triumph over Nazi oppression.” (327 pages)

His life of study and teaching about the Holocaust culminated in a three-part series of “textbooks” on the atrocities.

- “**The Killing of the Jews**” (2016) is an overall history of this 12-year reign of murderous terror during the Holocaust. (611 pages)

- **“Murder Beyond Madness”** (2017) provides details of unbelievable atrocities committed in the name of “human cleansing” in the countries controlled by the Third Reich. Or as Adolph Hitler said, “Doing away with the eaters.” (600+ pages)
- **“Man’s Inhumanity to Man”** (2020) provides factual details concerning 37 major concentration camps that the Nazis and their collaborators built to exterminate some 13 million human beings including six million Jews. These included “death factories,” dedicated to the outright murder of prisoners. Other camps focused on labour dedicated to support the German war effort but often resulting in prisoners working until they died. (724 pages)

Kurt finished this last book when he was 93 years old with his greatest hope being “that the world will never witness such evil to take place in this world ever again.” He is truly inspiring as a model example of “life-long learning” and demonstrates how that active engagement of ideas can inspire future generations.

**Why Kurt has felt his Holocaust work continues to be a priority:** In 2017, a Korber Foundation survey found that 40% of 14-year old’s in Germany did not know what Auschwitz was. In 2018, a survey organized by the Claims Conference, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and others found that 41% of 1,350 American adults surveyed, and 66% of millennials, did not know what Auschwitz was, while 22% said that they had never heard of the Holocaust. A CNN-ComRes poll in 2018 found a similar situation in Europe. (referenced in his book, “Man’s Inhumanity to Man”)

#### **FAU Involvement:**

- **Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education (CHHRE):** Kurt participates within the Center’s Holocaust Survivor’s Bureau, teaching and lecturing to young people at Ft. Peirce Westwood High School or other schools as requested. Living in Vero Beach, Kurt offers the Center a Holocaust survivor for schools within the northern most part of our service area of Martin and St. Lucie counties.

Kurt donated hundreds of copies of his book “Remembering Mark” to the Center’s resource library. Books were distributed to schools for teacher use to supplement classroom resources about the Holocaust. He and Marilyn annually attend the “Outstanding Holocaust Educators” dinner presented by the CHHRE to recognize outstanding K-12 teachers who teach about the Holocaust. It was at a dinner a few years ago that they were able to connect with a teacher who turned out to be a member of Kurt’s family from Germany (Sandy Lopater). Since meeting, Kurt has also spoken several times for classes at John I. Leonard High School (Lake Worth) where Sandy teaches.

- **Lifelong Learning Society (Indian River County):** Kurt delivered a six-part illustrated lecture series “From Versailles to Potsdam” describing the rise of the Nazis in Germany, the Holocaust and WWII at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.
  - **LLL student described Kurt:** “Wallach, the lecturer, a remarkable, prominent and outstandingly knowledgeable teacher, gave us a first-hand insight into what the madness of Hitler was really all about. As a survivor himself, he taught and depicted it all brilliantly. Vero Beach is fortunate to have him here to share and to teach.” (Press Journal, Treasure Coast Newspaper article)
- Kurt also lectures extensively for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; Temple Beth Shalom in Vero Beach, and various others organizations.

**Other:**

Kurt and his wife, Marilyn reside primarily in Vero Beach with a summer home in North Carolina. They have one son, Mark, and Kurt has two daughters, Laurie and Penny, from a previous marriage. He is the proud grandfather of five.

His son **Mark**: is a criminal justice graduate of FAU, Class of 2004.



# KURTELL GROWTH INDUSTRIES



Founder, Owner, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Kurtell Growth Industries is Kurt L. Wallach. Mr. Wallach had early schooling in Holland and grew up from age 11 in Cleveland, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II being part of the attack boat Flotillas of Amphibious Forces. After spending a year and half overseas, he attended Western Reserve University in Cleveland, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree. He continued on at the graduate school working toward a Masters in Hearing and Speech Pathology. Mr. Wallach founded, owned, and operated "Kurt Wasco of Cleveland" (Wallach Aluminium Sash Company), one of Northern Ohio's most successful aluminium window and door companies. "Kurt Wasco" was sold and he moved to Miami in 1956 where he founded Kurtell and Company, which was capitalized by the sale of Wasco, the predecessor of Kurtell Growth Industries. In 1969, he merged this company with Richford Industries and was listed on the American Stock Exchange.

Mr. Wallach's credentials include a General Contractor's license, Mortgage Broker and Real Estate Broker license. He was a member of the United States Lawn Tennis Association and headed its Umpiring Unit for 11 southern states. Mr. Wallach was a frequent umpire at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships. As a tennis aficionado, he wrote a book on tennis humor ("Tennis is a Funny Racquet") which enjoyed national distribution, as well as writing a syndicated newspaper column on tennis technique. Kurt Wallach as Founder-President and CEO is the lone stockholder of Kurtell Growth Industries. He is married to Marilyn (nee Oakes) and resides in Vero Beach with his son Mark. He has two daughters by a previous marriage. Mr. Wallach is a major contributor to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. and donated 55 acres of land in Brevard County to the State of Florida for protection of the environment.

Currently, he is involved with Kurtell Growth Industries as well as President and Chairman of the Board of Prime Kurtell Properties. He is the author, recently, of the book "Remembering Mark", a biography of his late Father's life. This book enjoyed mass distribution and was highly lauded by such dignitaries as Governor George Pataki of the State of New York, Dan Rather of CBS News, Burt Reynolds and Ed Asner, both well-known actors, Eli Wallach (a cousin), former Governor Lawton Chiles of Florida, Senator Connie Mack, and many others.

Kurt Wallach was a major stockholder of Citrus Bank and sat on the Board of Directors for many years. He has headed several committees including the Important Executive Loan Committee of which he was Chairman for one year. He is a sponsor of the Vero Beach - Indian River County Humane Society. He is also a Benefactor of the Treasure Coast Opera Society and serves on its Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Wallach serves on the Board of Directors of the Vero Heritage Society as the Vero Beach Exchange Club.



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

August 29, 2014

Mr. Kurt L. Wallach  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Kurtell Growth Industries  
777 37th Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Dear Mr. Wallach:

Congratulations on the success of your book *The Killing of the Jews*. I applaud your commitment to motivating your readers to say "Never again" to the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Florida's prosperity is linked to the rich cultural heritage of our residents. The freedom we have as Americans gives us the right to exercise our faith without the fear of prejudice or intolerance and the opportunity to pursue our dreams. It is only in America that anyone from any family or zip code can have the freedom and opportunity to pursue the American dream, and there is no better place than Florida where that dream becomes a reality each and every day.

Violence against Jewish people and any act of anti-Semitism have no place in Florida or any part of the world that values freedom and democracy. Florida shares strong economic and cultural ties with Israel, which demonstrates the important link between Florida's rich cultural heritage and the prosperity of our state. As Governor, I remain committed to deepening the Florida-Israel relationship and making sure every Floridian has the best opportunity to pursue the American dream.

Thank you for honoring the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. You have my best wishes for the success of your book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Rick Scott  
Governor



THE STATE OF NEVADA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

555 E. Washington Avenue

Suite 5100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

BOB MILLER  
Governor

TELEPHONE  
(702) 486-2500  
Fax: (702) 486-2505

July 13, 1995

Kurt L. Wallach  
c/o Edythe Katz  
Jewish Federation of Las Vegas  
3909 S. Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89119-7520

Dear Mr. Wallach:

Having just finished reading Remembering Mark I wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on a moving, relevant work.

Remembering Mark is an outstanding tribute to the strength and resiliency of the family, demonstrating how that strength can transcend the most heinous challenges. The lessons to be learned in Remembering Mark are lessons that can be universally applied to all of us.

I know every parent could only hope to be so lovingly remembered, and to have such an important and meaningful legacy as that which you have created.

Again, my congratulations and my thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Miller".

BOB MILLER  
Governor



524 West 57 Street  
New York, New York 10019  
(212) 975-4321

Kurt Wallach  
Kurtell Growth Industries, Ltd.  
The Kurtell Building  
1717 20th Street, Suite 105  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

16 May 1995

Dear Mr. Wallach:

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to review the manuscript of Remembering Mark. I'm pleased to offer the following words, in the hope that they'll be useful to you in promoting the book.

A touching tale of family love over many generations, and a fond tribute to a father of great courage and foresight, Remembering Mark speaks plainly of simple truths worth repeating. Kurt Wallach offers not only a remembrance but a reminder of the unparalleled hardships brought on by Hitler's rise to power, and of the strength required to triumph over Nazi oppression.

This is an ambitious project; I wish you every success with the book.

Sincerely,

Dan Rather

*This could be*  
**THE BOOK OF THE YEAR**



**"Without this insightful and remarkable account of the life and times of Mark Wallach, the world would never know about this man's struggle to overcome adversity and hardship in the wake of the darkest period in human history. Kurt Wallach should be commended for this truly outstanding recount of his father's life in REMEMBERING MARK."**

**The Honorable George E. Pataki  
Governor of the State of New York**

***"REMEMBERING MARK is an inspiring account of one man's struggle to provide a life for his family, free from the hatred of the Hitler regime. This book promises to always remember one of the darkest chapters in the history of humanity."***

***The Honorable Lawton Chiles  
Governor of the State of Florida***

***In REMEMBERING MARK, author Kurt Wallach Demonstrates his love for his father, a man whose vision and selfless sacrifices helped protect his family from the brutal hardships that were created by Hitler's rise to and abuse of power. It is important that all of us remember not only the horror of Nazi oppression, but also the strength and determination of the courageous few who decried Hitler's tactics in the years preceding World War II. In this book, Kurt Wallach gives us a touching, instructive account of one such man, and I urge us all to remember his brave story.***

***The Honorable George Allen  
Governor of the State of Virginia***

SURVIVORS OF THE  
SHOAH  
VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

20 August 1996

Kurt Wallach  
256 Ocean Way  
Vero Beach, FL 32963

Dear Mr. Wallach,

In sharing your personal testimony as a survivor of the Holocaust, you have granted future generations the opportunity to experience a personal connection with history.

Your interview will be carefully preserved as an important part of the most comprehensive library of testimonies ever collected. Far into the future, people will be able to see a face, hear a voice, and observe a life, so that they may listen and learn, and always remember.

Thank you for your invaluable contribution, your strength, and your generosity of spirit.

All my best,



Steven Spielberg  
Chairman

S T E V E N   S P I E L B E R G

April 29, 2004

Dear Kurt,

I am thrilled to tell you that 2004 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. These have been exciting, productive, and wondrous years. In 1994, I could not fully foresee the power, impact, and success of this massive archive, or how your testimony and the 52,000 others we have collected would ultimately affect those who watch them. But survivors convinced me that their stories, your story, had to be told.

Today, I am honored to tell you that young people and adults are watching your testimonies in schools, libraries, museums, and universities—not only in the United States, but in countries around the world. Through documentaries, special collections, educational products and programs, and as research tools for scholars and researchers, your testimonies are making a profound difference by creating a bridge between history and contemporary issues.

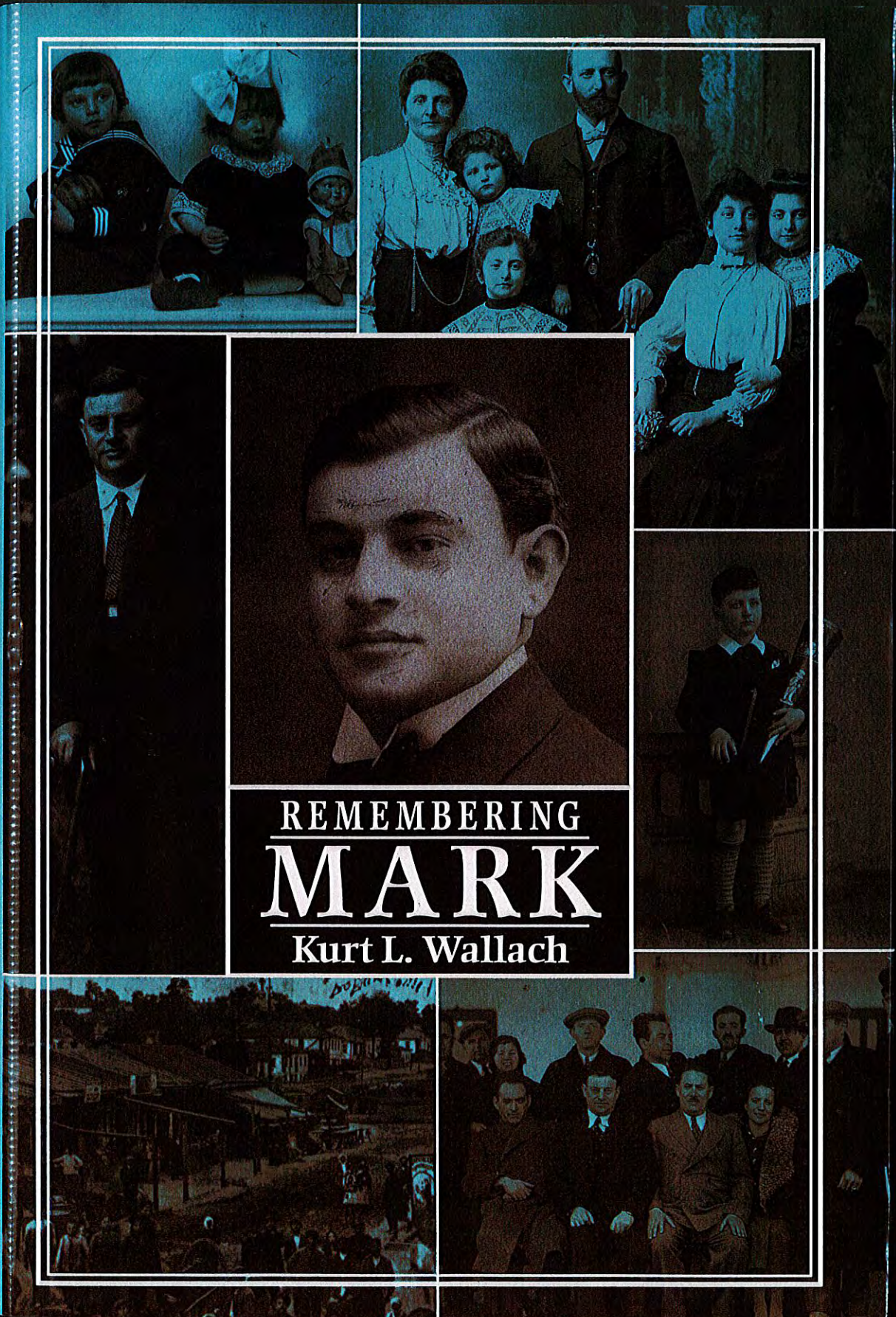
It is thanks to you, and your willingness to recall, retell, and record testimony, that all this is possible. The archive will serve as a valuable resource not only for countless people today, but for future generations. It is through your generosity that children 100 years from now and beyond will hear and learn about the terrible consequences of hatred and racism. By hearing your voice and seeing your face, they will recognize that they have the power to bring about change and act against intolerance.

I want to thank you so very much for your priceless contribution to the Shoah Foundation archive. You are helping us to achieve our urgent mission to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry — and the suffering they cause — through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and you have made it possible. I thank you for your priceless gift.

All my best,





REMEMBERING  
**MARK**  
Kurt L. Wallach



\$23.95 U.S. / \$28.95 Canada

"A touching tale of family love over many generations, and a fond tribute to a father of great courage and foresight. 'Remembering Mark' speaks plainly of simple truths worth repeating. Kurt Wallach offers not only a remembrance but a reminder of the unparalleled hardships brought on by Hitler's rise to power, and of the strength required to triumph over Nazi oppression."

*Dan Rather*  
*CBS Evening News*

"a wonderful and compelling story of the strength of the human spirit..."

*Connie Mack*  
*United States Senator*  
*State of Florida*

"You will certainly remember Mark—after reading Kurt Wallach's riveting story of his father's brave odyssey. A brave journey, taking us from Middle Europe to the Middle West, through leather, ice cream, herring, and cheese to a real estate empire. A devoted father, and a brave fighter against fascism. You'll be well rewarded by reading 'Remembering Mark.'"

*Eli Wallach*

"What could be more powerful than a son's love for a father. In this instance the product of that love is a glorious tribute to a man worth noting."

*Ed Asner*

"A wonderful read about something that is very close to me. A relationship between father and family."

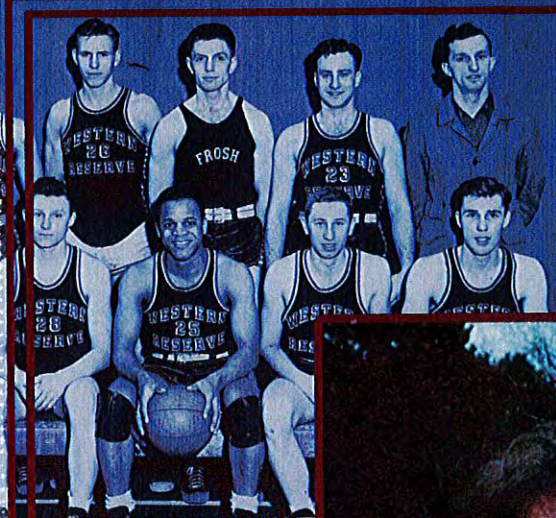
*Burt Reynolds*

"Greatness is more often than not recognized only by the passing of time and the nonspiritual continuum in which events occur. And so it was with Mark as I fondly remember him with deep love and admiration."

*Kurt L. Wallach*

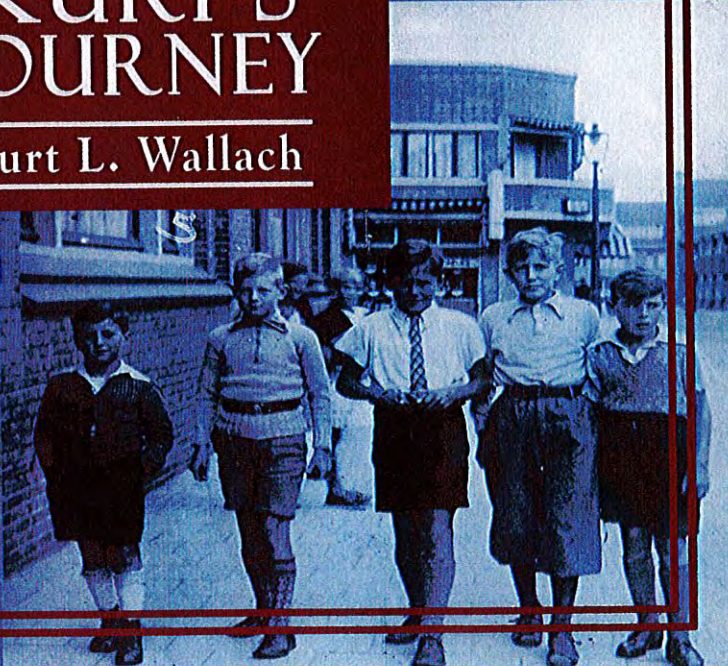


ISBN 0-9647999-0-1



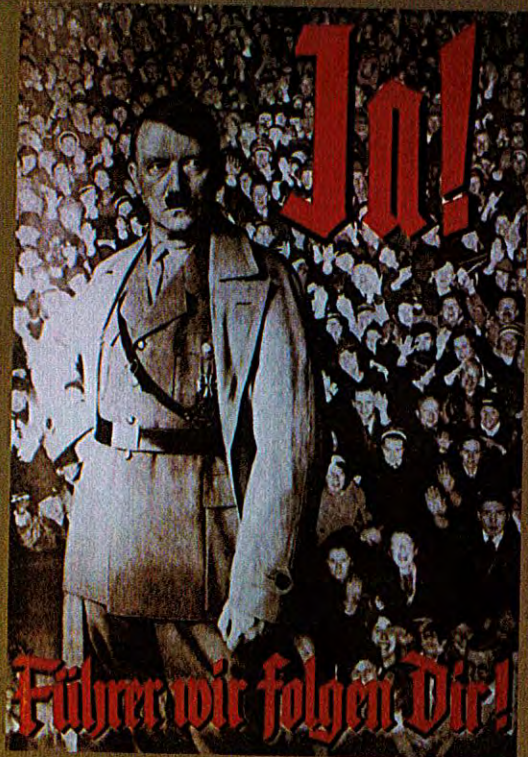
# KURT'S JOURNEY

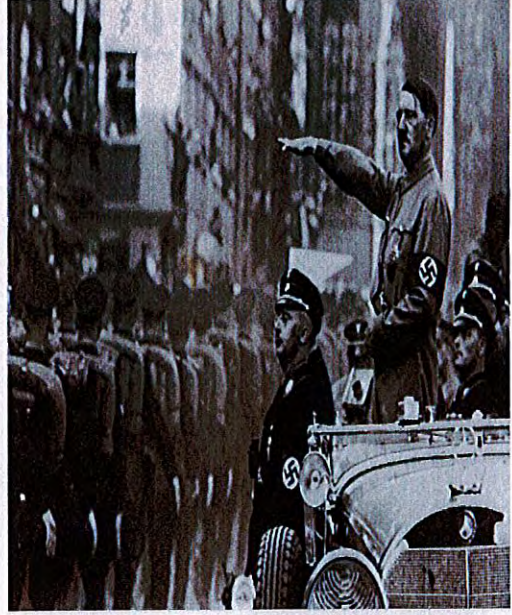
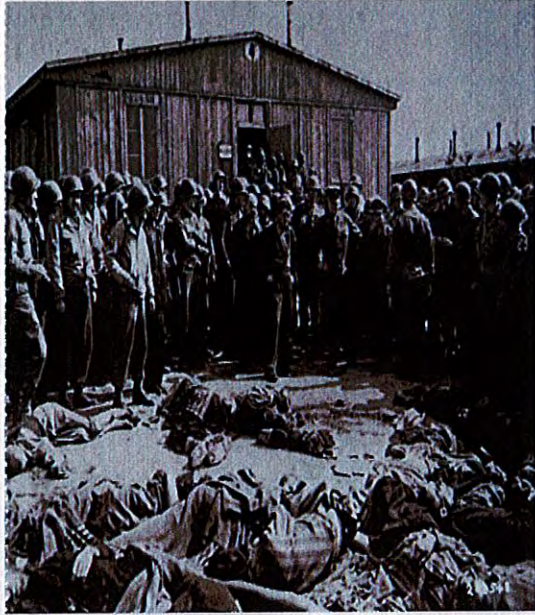
Kurt L. Wallach



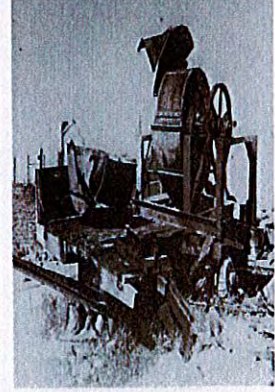
# Murder Beyond Madness

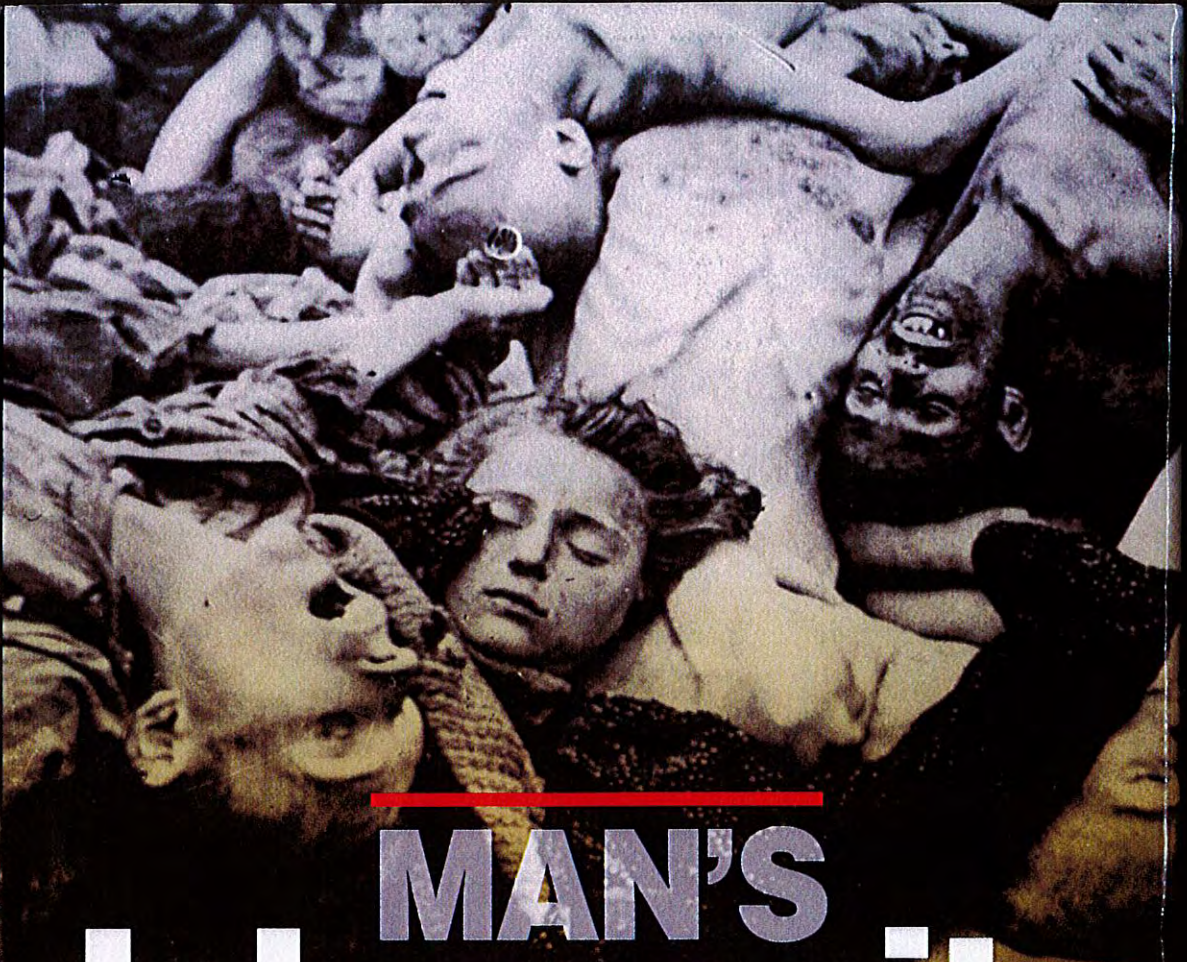
Kurt L. Wallach





**The Killing of the Jews**  
**By: Kurt L. Wallach**





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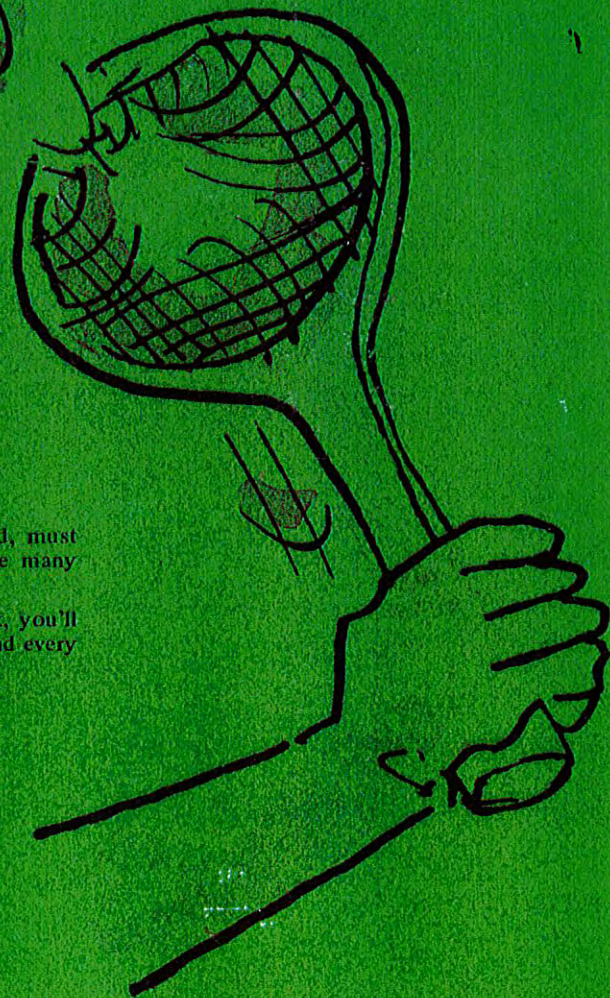
**MAN'S**  
**Inhumanity**  
**TO MAN**

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**A Detailed Documentary Depicting  
Life, Torture, Murder & Death in 37 Nazi Concentration  
Camps and Ghetto's**

**Kurt L. Wallach**

KURT WALLACH  
**TENNIS**  
IS A FUNNY RACQUET



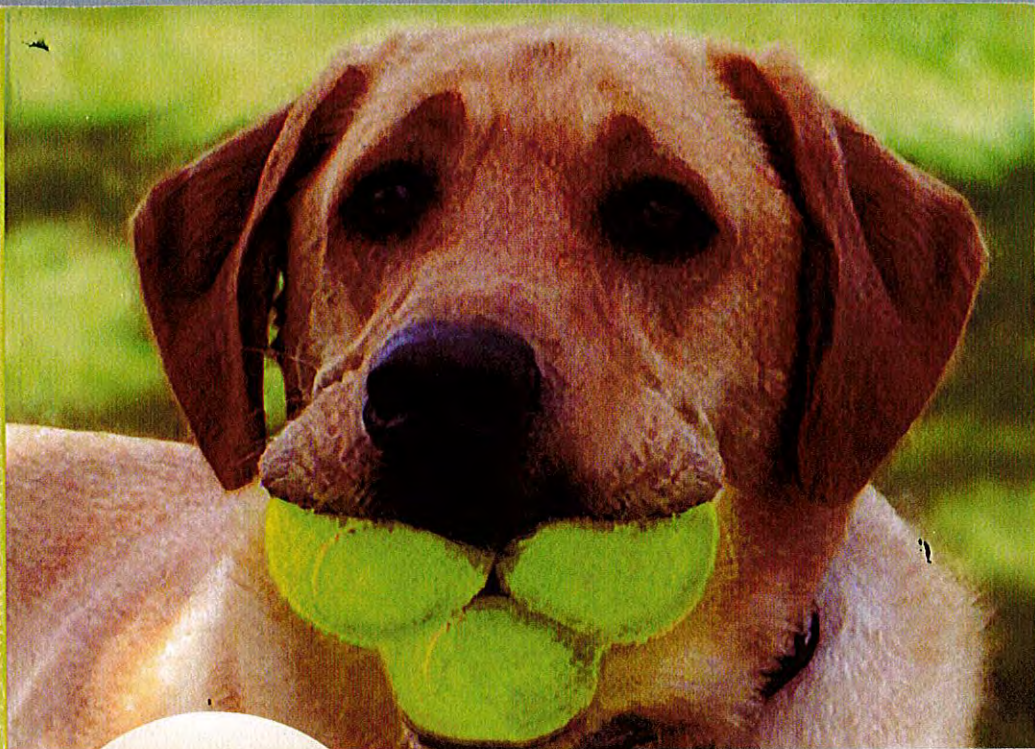
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FOREWORD BY CLIFF DRYSDALE



# TENNIS:

The Whole Game

its plots,

its shots,

and  
its nots

Kurt L. Wallach

# Author, 93, recalls inhumanity of Holocaust

**Stanford Erickson**

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH -- Kurt L. Wallach, the 93-year old founder and chief executive officer of Kurtell Growth Industries, has just published his third book on the Holocaust titled "Man's Inhumanity to Man."

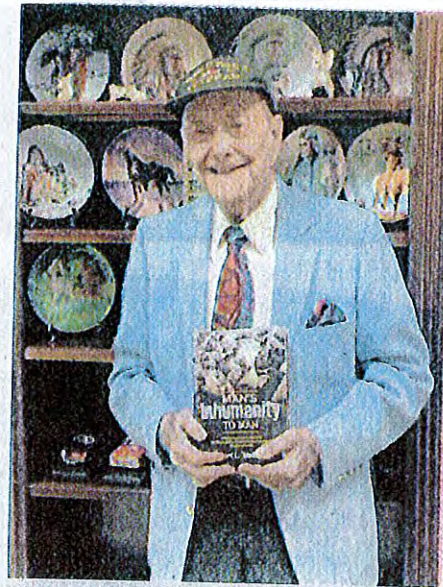
Wallach's first book on the Holocaust, "The Killing of the Jews," is an overall history of this 12-year reign of murderous terror. In his second book, "Murder Beyond Madness," Wallach provides details of unbelievable atrocities committed in the name of "human cleansing" in the countries controlled by the Third Reich. Or as Adolph Hitler said, "Doing away with the eaters."

In "Man's Inhumanity to Man," Wallach provides factual details concerning 37 major concentration camps that the Nazis and their collaborators built to exterminate some 13 million human beings including six million Jews. These included "death factories," dedicated to the outright murder of prisoners. Other camps focused on labor dedicated to support the German war effort but often resulting in prisoners working until they died.

Altogether, between 1933 and 1945, humanity suffered some 22,000 of these Nazi-sponsored concentration camps throughout Europe.

Wallach's third historical book includes the following paragraph:

"In 2017 a Korber Foundation survey found that 40 percent of 14-year old's in Germany did not know what Auschwitz was. In 2018, a survey organized by the Claims Conference, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and others found that 41 per-



**Kurt L. Wallach** STANFORD ERICKSON

Continued from Page 1Y

cent of 1,350 American adults surveyed, and 66 percent of millennials, did not know what Auschwitz was, while 22 percent said that they had never heard of the Holocaust. A CNN-ComRes poll in 2018 found a similar situation in Europe."

Wallach was a seven-year-old Jewish child living in Germany when the reign of terror began in 1933.

That same year Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and his family had to escape to Scheveningen, a seaside suburb of The Hague in Holland, or be murdered by the Nazis. Ultimately, the family made it to the United States.

More than 200 members of the family of Wallach's father were murdered by the Nazis and some 100 of his mother's family. Wallach and his wife Marilyn are founding members of the Holocaust Memorial Museum

**"My great hope in writing "Man's Inhumanity to Man" is that the world will never witness such evil to take place in our world ever again."**

**Kurt L. Wallach**

in Washington, DC.

"My great hope in writing "Man's Inhumanity to Man," started when I was 93, is that the world will never witness such evil to take place in our world ever again," said Wallach.

Wallach is a World War II veteran. He received his training as a Frog Man (yesterday's version of the Navy Seals), in Fort Pierce in 1944. He and his wife Marilyn and their son Mark moved to Vero Beach in 1986.

"Man's Inhumanity to Man is available on Amazon in hardcover and Kindle.





© SCRIPPS HOWARD

## Press Journal

Founded in 1919

"Give light, and the people  
will find their own way."

### **Holocaust lecture was fascinating**

My wife and I, vacationing winter visitors, were recently in attendance at a lecture series conducted by Kurt Wallach on a titled subject "Roots of the Holocaust." We did not expect what we were to learn in the next series of sequences from the brilliant orator, who filled in the gaps in our knowledge of the unbelievable events, murder, mass atrocities and genocide that took place in Europe almost 60 years ago.

Wallach, the lecturer, a remarkable, prominent and outstandingly knowledgeable teacher, gave us a first hand insight into what the madness of Hitler was really all about. As a survivor himself, he taught and depicted it all brilliantly. Vero Beach is fortunate to have him here to share and to teach.

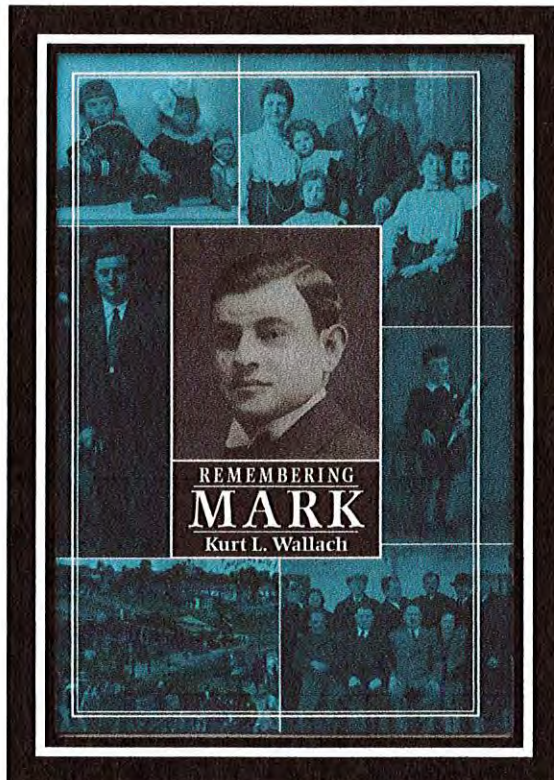
While Mr. Wallach is a veteran of World War II, I was only 7 when it ended. So I most appreciated the lectures and hope they may be repeated for us to hear more at a future visit.

Jack Baer  
Framingham, Mass.

# Regency Park Presents

Holocaust Survivor, WWII Veteran, Well-Known Author,  
Corporate President and Philanthropist

## Kurt L. Wallach



### Book Review

*Thursday September 26 at 2:00 pm*

*"Without this insightful and remarkable account of the life and times of Mark Wallach, the world would never know about this man's struggle to overcome adversity and hardship in the wake of the darkest period in human history."*

The Honorable George E. Pataki

*"A touching tale of family love over many generations, and a fond tribute to a father of great courage and foresight. 'REMEMBERING MARK' speaks plainly of simple truths worth repeating."*

CBS Evening News, Dan Rather

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FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY'S

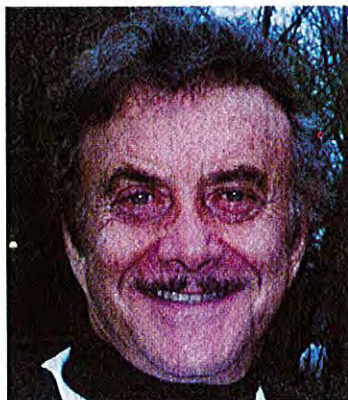
# *Lifelong Learning Society*

PRESENTS

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**January 15 – March 5, 2009**



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Holocaust Survivor, WWII Veteran,  
Well-known Author, Lecturer,  
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# Holocaust Memorial Museum honors Vero Beach's Kurt Wallach

BY PETER BRINOLE  
Correspondent

**VERO BEACH** — Kurt Wallach will not forget the Holocaust. He's working to make sure that nobody else does either.

For his efforts, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., has awarded the business executive its gold medal.

"It's a recognition of my financial contributions and activities on behalf of the museum," said the 81-year-old native of Magdeburg, Germany. "I'm elated. It's quite an honor."

The president and chairman of Kurtell Growth Industries, a development company, prefers not to speak about his generosity. "When you mention money," Wallach said, "people think that the museum is well off. It's doing

quite well, but there is so much work still to be done."

Most of it revolves around its mission to spread education about the Holocaust and present-day anti-Semitism. Wallach is eager to talk about his contributions to that endeavor. "I've done quite a bit of speaking. I made two presentations at the Days of Remembrance ceremonies where I received the medal. There are not many Holocaust survivors left, so having one as a speaker was an event."

Last year, Wallach directed a six-part illustrated lecture series in Vero Beach as part of Florida Atlantic University's lifelong learning program. He described the rise of the Nazis in Germany, the Holocaust and World War II.



Carl Cox/Holocaust Memorial Museum

Kurt Wallach, second from right, with his wife Marilyn receives a medal during the Day of Remembrance Founders Medal Reception in Washington April 30. At left is Museum Chairman Fred Zeidman; on the right is Vice Chairman Joel Gelderman.

"My goal is education," he said. "But it's not easy to stand up against those who don't believe the Holocaust occurred. How can anyone deny the extermination of 6 million people?"

Almost 200 of those who

died were his relatives, mostly on his father's side. He recalled that two were shot after complying with a Nazi commandant's orders to hand over all their possessions. Others were gunned down by so-called Einsatzgruppen, paramilitary groups that followed Nazi troops into conquered territory and went in search of Jews.

Still others were transported to concentration camps to meet their fate.

The toll would have been higher had it not been for Wallach's father, who worked tirelessly in the anti-Nazi movement. After learning that he was an assassination target, he fled from Germany to Holland with his immediate family in 1933. Kurt was 9 years old.

Three years later, sensing impending danger again, his father moved the family to the United States and settled in Cleveland.

Wallach described the moves as "traumatic. I was not familiar with the language or the customs and adjusting was very difficult. They were challenging times and I felt very insecure.

"My father was instrumental in getting many Germans into the United States in the 1930s," he said. "Not only other family members but strangers, too. He did so much, but was never recognized for it in his lifetime." He chronicled his father's exploits in a 1996 biography, "Remembering Mark."

After enlisting in the Navy on his 18th birthday in 1944, Wallach trained as a lieutenant in Fort Pierce, Fla., and the Pacific.

Wallach is not the first family member to be recognized at the Holocaust Museum. Thanks to an earlier gift, the names of his father and three uncles are inscribed on the marble entrance wall.

## Opera on the River: Lofty, lovely evening benefits CASTLE

Written by: *Kerry Firth* March 28 2019



*Marilyn and Kurt Wallach*

The moon shone faintly through an overcast sky as guests arrived for an elegant evening of Opera on the River, hosted by Kurt and Marilyn Wallach at their stunning 'Palacio Del Rio' home in Grand Harbor. The philanthropic couple opened their home and hearts to nearly 100 sophisticated opera lovers as a benefit for CASTLE (Child Abuse Services Training and Life Enrichment), which strives to prevent child abuse by "Teaching Safe Parenting."

Attendees enjoyed cocktails in the outdoor pavilion overlooking the lagoon, while listening to a jazz trio led by Grammy Award-winner Robert Navarro. That was just a preamble to what awaited them inside the residence, where they socialized while partaking of champagne, wine and a lavish spread of hors d'oeuvres.

The highlight of the evening was an unforgettable operatic performance by soprano Shirley Wang and tenor Mark Steven Schmidt accompanied by pianist Ryan Blakemore, as well as special guest singer Rose Lopater, who sang Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro." Lopater is married to a cousin of Wallach's, an indication that the love of opera and charity is a deep family trait.

"We are always thrilled to host this event and raise money for CASTLE," said Kurt Wallach, who serves on the CASTLE board.

He noted that the majority of children who lose their lives to abuse are under age 5 and are often murdered by their parents or a mother's boyfriend.

"Often there is an addiction to alcohol or drugs that leads to the abuse of these innocent children," said Wallach. "We have got to stop the cycle. Unfortunately, we aren't able to prevent many of the tragedies, but if we can save just one child then it is all worthwhile."

CASTLE was founded by Exchange Clubs in 1981 to prevent child abuse and neglect through education and awareness. Recognizing that 97 percent of abuse is committed by parents or someone known to the family, they saw a critical need for education on safe parenting methods and non-violent discipline. Their studies have indicated that for every dollar spent on child abuse prevention, \$100 is saved in more expensive measures, such as foster care and adoption.

"We offer parenting classes once a month for parents in need of a little extra help and guidance, whether they are first-time parents or parents going through conflict and divorce," said Chris Robertson, CASTLE's executive director.

"We also have in-home parenting assistance and 100 percent of the funds raised tonight will go directly into those educational programs. We are very grateful to the Wallachs for their continued support."

On April 2 at 5:30 p.m. CASTLE will plant 101 flags during a somber Memory Field dedication ceremony at Riverview Park in Sebastian. Each flag represents a Florida child who died last year as a result of child abuse or neglect. Their hope is to raise awareness, "because even one flag is too many."

For more information visit [CASTLE.org](http://CASTLE.org).



September 20, 1996

Mr. Kurt L. Wallach  
The Kurt L. Building  
1717 20th Street, Suite 105  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Mr. Wallach:

This letter is to confirm your support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In the recent past, your efforts have contributed in excess of \$50,000 to the Museum. In recognition of your tireless commitment, you have been inscribed on the granite walls of this Museum to serve as a testament of your generosity and of your faith in our mission to educate and remember.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy K. Force'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy K. Force  
Development Services Coordinator

# Press Journal

Sunday, August 1, 1993

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