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Gift to UC San Diego Library Honors Legacy of Late Holocaust Survivor, Lou Dunst

Holocaust survivor Lou Dunst could have lived life consumed by anger and resentment after his horrific experiences during World War II. He had been left for dead in the Ebensee concentration camp in Austria when United States troops broke through the gates with a military tank. Soon after his liberation and recovery, Dunst made a conscious decision to turn the hate, violence and inhumanity that he had witnessed into feelings of peace, compassion and love.

Over the years, with prompting from his wife, Estelle, Dunst began sharing his story with others. By the time of his death in 2015, at the age of 89, the businessman and educator had spoken to thousands—from schoolchildren and community members to dignitaries and judges—sharing his philosophy of love and compassion to ensure that atrocities like the Holocaust never happened again.



Lou Dunst

In honor of Dunst's legacy of education and tolerance, Estelle Dunst has made a gift to the University of California San Diego, through the Lou Dunst Trust, in support of the Holocaust Living History Workshop, a joint program hosted by the UC San Diego Library and the campus' Jewish Studies Program. The gift establishes the Lou Dunst Memorial Endowment, which will provide funding for the annual Lou Dunst Memorial Lecture. The Dunst Lecture will be held as part of the Holocaust Living History Workshop annual lecture series, in which Dunst had been a frequent participant. The workshop was established to preserve the memory of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and to engage the community in thoughtful considerations of events surrounding the Holocaust and their continued relevance in the world today.

In addition, the gift will provide funding to support ongoing access to the Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive through the UC San Diego Library. The subscription ensures that students and community members can continue to benefit from eyewitness testimonies of Holocaust survivors, including Dunst.

