



Rosalie Sharp Honoured by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center as a 'Woman of Valour'

TORONTO—October 31, 2007—At its second annual *Woman of Valour* Luncheon, the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) honoured Rosalie Sharp for her dedication to supporting the greater community in which she lives and fostering the importance of tolerance and understanding of others. FSWC launched its *Woman of Valour* program in 2006 as a way to acknowledge the important role that women play in their homes, workplace and communities.

The Woman of Valour Luncheon took place earlier today at the Four Seasons Hotel, and among the 400 guests in attendance were notables such as Honey Sherman (Canadian philanthropist) and Rabbi Meyer H. May (executive director of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Museum of Tolerance). The event raised over \$250,000 for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

“Rosalie Sharp exemplifies a Woman of Valour,” said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of FSWC. “We applaud her for her exceptional community involvement, generosity of spirit, strength and purpose, and willingness to give of her time and resources to support important causes, including the vital work of The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.”

The Luncheon was hosted by Jeanne Beker, a Canadian television personality, author and newspaper columnist who is best known as the host of “FashionTelevision”. Prior to giving an inspirational keynote address, tribute was paid to Rosalie Sharp by Judy Bronfman and Jill Reitman, co-chairs of this year’s event, and Avi Benlolo. During their tributes, Rosalie Sharp was acknowledged as a down to earth, inspiring woman of our time whose ongoing philanthropy and work with diverse groups in an active way will encourage and inspire others to help create a loving world with loving hearts.

“Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center continues to honour the memory and incredible work of one of my heroes, Simon Wiesenthal,” said Rosalie Sharp. “They play a very important role in teaching tolerance of others and I am privileged to be able to support the Center and their work in the community.”

Rosalie Wise Sharp was born and raised in North Toronto, following her parents’ emigration from Poland in 1930. In 1955, she married Isadore Sharp, the founder of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. In addition to being one of Toronto’s notable philanthropists, Rosalie designs interiors and writes in her spare time. In her recently published memoir, *Rifke: An Improbable Life*, Rosalie provides her account of being the last link to the vanished world of the Eastern European shtetl. Rosalie and Isadore have provided support and leadership to the Simon Wiesenthal Center and FSWC for more than two decades.

About ‘Woman of Valour’

FSWC launched its *Woman of Valour* program in 2006 as a way to acknowledge the important role that women play in their homes, workplace and communities. The word ‘valour’ comes from the biblical word ‘chayil’, which means to be worthy, to be of value, to be determined and brave in the face of obstacles. Carole Grafstein, Elise Kalles, Pauline Menkes and Bonnie Fuller were honoured in the inaugural Woman of Valour program, and recognized for their generosity of spirit, strength, character and goodness.

About Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a Canadian human rights organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. It has 25,000 members across Canada, and confronts important contemporary issues including racism, antisemitism, terrorism and genocide. The Center is affiliated with the world-wide, Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, an accredited Non-Government Organization with status at international agencies, including the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE and the Council of Europe. With over 400,000 members of all faiths around the world, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has offices in New York, Miami, Paris, Jerusalem, Buenos Aires and Toronto. Simon Wiesenthal died in 2005 after devoting his life to preserving the memories of the victims of the Holocaust, while simultaneously seeking justice for the war criminals. Visit: www.fswc.ca.

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