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Founded in 2010, the Sousa Mendes Foundation is dedicated to honoring the memory of the Holocaust rescuer Aristides de Sousa Mendes and to educating the public about his action. It has a two-fold mission: raising funds for the restoration of the Sousa Mendes ancestral home "Casa do Passal" along with the creation within its walls of a museum and memorial site, and sponsoring projects worldwide that perpetuate his legacy.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for your interest in the Sousa Mendes Foundation! We are dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust hero Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Righteous Among the Nations. As the Portuguese Consul General in Bordeaux, France, he issued thousands of life-saving Portuguese visas in 1939 and 1940 to refugees seeking to leave Europe as the Nazis were overrunning the continent. In issuing these visas he went against the orders of his government, and simply followed his conscience.



"Their suffering was indescribable," he said of the refugees in defending his action to his superiors. The Portuguese government responded with cold indifference and vengefulness, and punished the diplomat for defying orders. But Sousa Mendes had no regrets. "I could not have acted otherwise," he told Rabbi Chaim Kruger, a leader and spokesman for the refugees.

In 2022 the Sousa Mendes Foundation spearheaded the dedication of Aristides de Sousa Mendes Square in Jerusalem. This project was the brainchild of Dr. Mordecai Paldiel on our Board of Directors, and you can read more about this event on the following pages.

We also continued offering our popular Sunday programs on stories of rescue, resistance and hope. You can see our wide array of documentary films and engaging speakers in the second half of this report.

Dr. Jud Newborn

The Sousa Mendes Foundation's highly professional and inspiring programs significantly expand the public's knowledge of the Holocaust and Jewish culture, while encouraging people to value human rights and the indelible spirit of those heroes of any background who rescue and resist.

- Dr. Jud Newborn, Founding Historian, Museum of Jewish Heritage -A Living Memorial to the Holocaust; multimedia lecturer, curator and author, Sophie Scholl and the White Rose

We also partnered on important exhibitions Bordeaux and Lisbon, and organized a working visit to Portugal to meet with our key partners on the future Sousa Mendes Museum.

I am grateful to my kind and savvy administrative team - Michael McCabe, Matthew Spirn and Valentin Hasler - for keeping all of our activities running at a very high level. I am also grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors and committee members for their commitment to our shared cause. And of course, I thank our loyal supporters listed on the final page of this report and on our website. We couldn't do it without you!

### **FILM SERIES ON** PORTUGUESE TELEVISION

The Sousa Mendes Foundation was a key partner in the creation of a fabulous five-episode documentary series, Visas for Life: Aristides de Sousa Mendes directed by Lucía Gonçalves, that aired in 2022 on the Portuguese television network SIC. This production featured Sousa Mendes visa recipients Anka Muhlstein Begley, Jerry Brunell, Henri Dyner, Jorge Helft, Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, Dr. Mary Seeman, Michael Spett, Sylvia Verdi and Iva Wummer as well as Sousa Mendes's family members including his daughter Marie-Rose Faure, and the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres among others. We hope to present this moving and beautifully made series to our audience in 2023.



## ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES HONORED IN JERUSALEM



Gerald Mendes rekindles the eternal flame at Yad Vashem in memory of his grandfather as Ambassador Jorge Cabral, Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, Dr. Olivia Mattis, and Colette Avital look on.

ARISTINES IN SOCIETY WINDER

On November 8 and 9, 2022, the Portuguese diplomat and Holocaust rescuer **Aristides de Sousa Mendes** was honored in the city of Jerusalem in a series of events co-organized by the Sousa Mendes Foundation, the Jerusalem Municipality and Yad Vashem.

On Tuesday, November 8, a city square was dedicated in memory of Sousa Mendes, 82 years after his daring rescue action of June 1940. This memorial action is largely thanks to the efforts of the historian **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel** who serves on the Board of the Sousa Mendes Foundation and who was previously the Director of the Department for the Righteous at Yad Vashem.

The street sign was put in the ground two years ago, in June 2020, on the 80th anniversary of Sousa Mendes's rescue action, but without any ceremony at that time because of COVID restrictions. The sign is in Hebrew, Arabic and English, and reads: "Aristides de Sousa Mendes Square, Consul General of Portugal in Bordeaux (France), saved thousands of Jews during the years 1939-40."

Speakers included: Mayor of Jerusalem Moshe Lion, Portugal Ambassador to Israel Jorge Cabral, former Israeli Ambassador to Portugal Colette Avital and Yad Vashem representative Dr. Joel Zisenwine.

Earlier that day, there was a moving ceremony at Yad Vashem, where **Gerald Mendes** rekindled the eternal flame in remembrance of his grandfather, while a cantor sang blessings. There was also a gathering of the group at the Sousa Mendes tree on the Avenue of the Righteous.



L-R: Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, Ambassador Jorge Cabral, Colette Avital, Gerald Mendes.

On the following day, Wednesday, November 9, a symposium took place at the Vert Hotel in Jerusalem on the subject of Aristides de Sousa Mendes and the Families He Saved. Speakers included Gerald Mendes, Dr. Avraham Milgram, author of Portugal, Salazar and the Jews; and representatives of various families rescued by Aristides de Sousa Mendes. Stories were shared and tears were shed in this emotional and impactful event.

Many thanks to our planning committee listed on page 2, and most especially to Board member **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel** and our Jerusalem representative **Avi Losice**, for putting together a beautiful program.



Avi Losice



Faigy Kruger and Gerald Mendes, in Jerusalem, recreate the famous pose of their grandfathers from 1940.



Mayor Moshe Lion of Jerusalem.

Paying tribute to this man today is an opportunity to look inside ourselves in search of values of peace, love, humanity and compassion for each other.

- **Jorge Cabral**, Portugal's Ambassador to Israel, at the plaza naming ceremony.

## **Great Press Coverage!**

Jane Friedman, "The Man Who Saved More Jews Than Schindler," The Forward, November 30, 2022.

Caleb Guedes-Reed, "Portuguese diplomat who saved thousands during Holocaust honored with plaza in Jerusalem," Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), November 16, 2022.

Ash Obel, "Jerusalem square named for Portuguese diplomat who saved 10,000 Jews in WWII," The Times of Israel, November 9, 2022.



Front row, L-R: Gerald Mendes, Della Peretti; back row L-R: Monique Rubens Krohn, Anna Torres, Isabel Barradas, Jackie Schwarz.



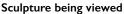
Mayor Carlos Moedas of Lisbon (left) and Mayor Anne Hidalgo of Paris with plaque.

# ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES HONORED IN PARIS

On September 28, 2022, at the initiative of the Paris City Council and the Comité français Aristides de Sousa Mendes, dignitaries, visa recipients and descendants gathered on the borders of Paris' 8th and 17th districts to inaugurate the new Promenade Aristides de Sousa Mendes. Present at the ceremony were Sousa Mendes' grandson Gerald Mendes, Mayor Anne Hidalgo of Paris, Mayor Carlos Moedas of Lisbon and the Secretary of State for Internationalisation of the Portuguese Republic, Bernardo Ivo Cruz, all of whom paid moving tributes to the man whose acts of moral courage saved thousands of lives. Board member Monique Rubens Krohn represented the Sousa Mendes Foundation at this event.

## SOUSA MENDES VIDEO SCULPTURE ON VIEW IN FRANCE







Board member, Leah Sills

In 2022, the multimedia sculpture Candelabro - Aristides de Sousa Mendes travelled from the National Pantheon in Lisbon to the Musée d'Aquitaine in Bordeaux, France where it was part of a larger exhibition highlighting the events of May and June 1940. The Bordeaux exhibit was so successful that its stay was extended by several months and was seen by over 100,000 people! The sculpture is based on an idea by Sousa Mendes' grandson Sebastian Michael Mendes and created by German artist Werner Klotz, with an original soundtrack by German singer and composer Almut Kühne. The work evokes the fraught days during which Aristides de Sousa Mendes sequestered himself in his study as he wrestled with his conscience trying to decide what to do about the refugees who were seeking his help. The exhibits in Portugal and France were accompanied by educational activities for students and guided tours.

#### **MEET OUR NEW INTERN FROM AUSTRIA**



Valentin Hasler comes from Vienna to under the auspices of prestigious the and competitive Austrian Ser-Abroad program, vice whereby Austrian young work people Holocaust education in place of

their military service. He has been helping with our Sunday programs and has translated our graphic novel *Aristides de Sousa Mendes – Holocaust Hero* into German. He also works in our archive preserving and digitizing our collection of artifacts and photos.

for the Sousa Mendes
Foundation, especially because
the Foundation has a focus on the
bright spots in such a dark story.
I am looking forward to helping
where I can to keep the legacy
of our marvelous hero Aristides
de Sousa Mendes alive.

- Valentin Hasler

#### MURALS IN CANADA AND PORTUGAL

Murals devoted to Aristides de Sousa Mendes have been created in Canada and Portugal! In Montreal, the Portuguese community commissioned artist Matthew Cadoch to create the mural, which was inaugurated in June 2022 in the presence of the Canadian branch of the Sousa Mendes family. In Portugal, the organization Artists4Israel commissioned artist **Mr. Dheo** to create the mural in Vila Nova de Gaia, near Porto, as part of their Righteous Murals Project.



Montreal mural, Canada



Vila Nova de Gaia mural, Portugal

## THE FUTURE SOUSA MENDES MUSEUM IN PORTUGAL



Mayor Paulo Catalino of Carregal do Sal, Portugal is overseeing the project.

The project to create a memorial to Aristides de Sousa Mendes in Casa do Passal, the former home of the Sousa Mendes family in Cabanas de Viriato, advanced at an accelerated pace in 2022. The imposing mansion had fallen into ruin over several decades. Nevertheless, it was classified as a Portuguese National Monument in 2011, and the Ministry of Culture undertook the first phase of the re-qualification with emergency repairs to the walls and replacement of the roof in 2015.

Further public investment in the creation of the Museum was delayed by complex public procurement norms and Government budget restrictions, but construction finally resumed in mid-2022, based on a revised budget totaling EUR 2.8 million, after securing additional funding commitments from EU investment grants and the Portuguese Government budget.

The creation of the Museum is being spearheaded by the Municipality of Carregal do Sal under a contract of comodato (lease) with the Portugal-based Fundação Aristides de Sousa Mendes, as owner of the property, and the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Culture as the Heritage au-

thority. This contract was recently extended to 2032.

On November 20, 2022, in the presence of the Minister of Culture Pedro Adão e Silva, the three museum project parties signed an agreement for the management of the future museum. The agreement names the US-based Sousa Mendes Foundation as a formal Partner Entity, in recognition of our active involvement, knowledge and collections and our potential contribution to "the development of the Aristides Sousa Mendes project, in particular to the Musealization of Casa do Passal." The Foundation's representatives on the museum project are Board members Dr. Mordecai Paldiel and Mariana Abrantes.

The construction is expected to conclude by the third quarter of 2023. The development of the museum program is advancing in tandem, with the museum projected to open in 2025.

#### STUDY VISIT TO PORTUGAL

In May of 2022, historian **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel** of our Board of Directors undertook a 10-day Study Visit to Portugal at the kind invitation of **Mayor Paulo Catalino** of Carregal do Sal, Portugal and with the generous support of the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) and **Dr. Carlos Rodrigues**, a strong supporter of the Sousa Mendes cause.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with the Municipality of Carregal do Sal, the Fundação Aristides de Sousa Mendes (FASM) and the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Culture (DRCC) – all stakeholders in the future Aristides de Sousa Mendes Museum.

Together with SMF Board Member Mariana Abrantes and Cookie Fischer, whose mother and cousins were saved thanks to Sousa Mendes visas, Professor Paldiel visited Jewish communities in Lisbon, Cascais and Porto. They



Dr. Mordecai Paldiel and Mariana Abrantes

were joined by Mayor Catalino in the visit to the Memorial Frontier of Peace in Vilar Formoso and to the Jewish community of Belmonte which was hidden for over 500 years.

Dr. Paldiel spoke to students and teachers at the Sousa Mendes Middle School and gave lectures in the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the University of Coimbra, at the kind invitation of **Professor Avelãs Nunes** and the **Vice-Rector Claudia Cavadas**.

## STORIES OF RESCUE, **RESISTANCE AND HOPE**

Our Sunday film-and-discussion series began in the early period of the COVID pandemic to provide inspiration, connection and hope. In 2022, we presented 36 programs and 92 speakers on a wide range of subjects. We were delighted to partner on some of these programs with the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, the Monuments Men and Women Foundation, the University of Denver's Center for Art Collection Ethics, the Chambon Foundation, and the Jan Karski Educational Foundation.

To view these programs go to:

https://www.youtube.com/user/SousaMendesFdn/

66 I want to thank you for the most amazing year of Sousa Mendes. We look forward to your weekly programs and their heartfelt life experience that colors our lives, bringing so much awareness, caring, empathy, and deeper meaning to our lives. It has been very moving in conjunction with the lockdown experience and to feel that no matter what happens currently, it doesn't compare to what others have gone through in the past just to make it through another day. 99

- An audience member

## JANUARY





Heschel



Scott



Shari Rogers

**SHARED LEGACIES, January 9** 

Film: Shared Legacies

Speakers: Dr. Susannah Heschel and Alexis Scott with moderator Shari Rogers

#### OTTO VON HABSBURG, **SAVED BY SOUSA MENDES,** January 23

Film: Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story Speakers: Michaela von Habsburg, Dr. James Longo and Felix Etienne-Edouard **Pfeifle** 







Felix Etienne-Edouard Pfeifle

#### THE LOST BOOK OF MOSES, January 16

Speakers: Chanan Tigay with interviewer Victoria Redel and guest host Laura Seltzer-Duny







Tigay

Redel

Laura Seltzer-Duny

#### HANS AND SOPHIE SCHOLL AND THE WHITE ROSE, January 30

Film: The Search for the White Rose

Speakers: Dr. Jud Newborn with interviewer Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff







Dr. Jud Newborn

Dr Miriam Klein Kassenoff

## FEBRUARY

### IRENE GUT OPDYKE, A WOMAN OF VALOR, February 6

Film: ABC News interview with Irene Gut Opdyke

Speakers: Roman Haller, Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, Jeannie Opdyke Smith and Tovah Feldshuh









Opdyke Smith Feldshuh

THE BORDER OF TRUTH, February 13

Speakers: Victoria Redel, interviewer Chanan Tigay and guest host Laura Seltzer-Duny



Redel





Chanan Tigay

Laura Seltzer-Duny

#### **Paldiel ROSE VALLAND, THE ART SPY, February 20**

Film: Rose Valland: The Art Spy

Speakers: Brigitte Chevet, Dr. MaryKate Cleary, Marianne Rosenberg and moderator Dr. Elizabeth Campbell



Dr. MaryKate Cleary





Campbell

#### SHIMON'S RETURNS, February 27

Film: Shimon's Returns

Speakers: Slawomir Grunberg, Dr. Shimon Redlich, moderator Richard Hurowitz and guest host, Joan **Arnay Halperin** 



Grunberg







Hurowitz

loan Halperin

### MARCH



"WE ARE ALL JEWS HERE" -THE STORY OF RODDIE **EDMONDS, March 6** Film: Footsteps of My Father

Speakers: Pastor Chris Edmonds, Stanlee J. Stahl



Pastor Chris Edmonds Stanlee J. Stahl



#### SHALOM CHINA, March 13

Speakers: Ester Shifren, Nicholas Zane and moderator Robert Jacobvitz



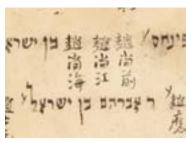
Ester Shifren



**Nicholas** Zane



Robert Jacobvitz



#### NOT IDLY BY - PETER BERGSON, AMERICA AND THE HOLOCAUST, March 20

Film: Not Idly By

Speakers: Dr. Rebecca Kook, Dr. Rafael Medoff, Pierre Sauvage and

moderator Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



Dr. Rebecca Kook



Dr. Rafael Medoff



Sauvage



Dr. Mordecai **Paldiel** 

### APRIL



Susan Nieman



Julie Néwman



Rabbi Michael **Paley** 

#### **ALBERT EINSTEIN - STILL A REVOLUTIONARY!**, April 24

Film: Albert Einstein - Still a Revolutionary! Speakers: Susan Neiman, Julia Newman and Rabbi Michael Paley



## MAY

#### JEWS IN JAMAICA - FINDING SAFE HARBOR, May I Speakers: Ainsley Cohen Henriques, Joan Arnay Halperin and moderator Dr. Shulamit Reinharz



Ainsley Cohen Henriques



Joan Halperin



Dr. Shulamit Reinharz

## **MOTHERS OF EXILE - EMMA LAZARUS AND LADY** LIBERTY, May 8

Film: Emma Lazarus - Poet of Exiles

Speakers: Edward Berenson, Esther Schor and poetry reader/

moderator Victoria Redel



Edward Berenson



Victoria Redel

Fsther Shor





SAVING ITALY - The RESCUE OF NAZI-LOOTED ART, May 15

Film: Stealing Italy Speakers: Anna Bottinelli, Doreen Carvajal and Robert Edsel



Anna **Bottinelli** 



Doreen Carvajal



Robert

#### TEVYE, THE BLACK CANTOR -The REMARKABLE STORY of **THOMAS LARUE JONES, May 29** Speakers: Rabbi Capers Funnye and

Henry Sapoznik



Henry Capers Funnye Sapozńik

to be Courted

THE POLISH **DIPLOMATS WHO ISSUED PARAGUYAN PASSPORTS, May 22** Film: Passports to Paraguay Speakers: K. Heidi Fishman, Dr. Mordecai Paldiel and Alexandra Reiter



Fishman



**Paldiel** 



## JUNE



Dr. Jud Newborn

#### DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER 94TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, June 5

Film: Ask Dr. Ruth
Speakers: Dr. Ruth Westheimer
with interviewer



DAUGHTERS OF THE INQUISITION – RETRACING LONG-LOST JEWISH ROOTS, June 12 Speakers: Doreen Carvaja

Speakers: Doreen Carvajal, Genie Milgrom and moderator Mariana Abrantes



Doreen Genie Carvajal Milgrom



Mariana Abrantes



Dr. Rafael Medoff



Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



Dr. Pamela Steiner

#### MORGENTHAU, June 28 Film: Morgenthau Speakers: Dr. Rafael Medoff,

Dr. Mordecai Paldiel and Dr. Pamela Steiner



## **JULY**

### THE CHILDREN OF CHABANNES, July 24

Film: The Children of Chabannes Speakers: Dr. Norbert Bikales, Lisa Gossels and Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



Dr. Norbert Bikales



Lisa Gossels



Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



CARTOONISTS WHO SPOKE OUT, July 31

Speakers: George Gene Gustines and Dr. Rafael Medoff



Gene Gustines



Dr. Rafael Medoff

## **AUGUST**

#### JAN KARSKI – HUMANITARIAN HERO, August 7

Film: Karski and the Lords of Humanity
Speakers: Dr. Michael Berenbaum,
Abraham H. Foxman, Slawomir Grunberg,
moderator Dr. Mordecai Paldiel and co-hosts
Joan Arnay Halperin and Bozena U. Zaremba



Dr. Michael Berenbaum



Abraham H. Foxman



Slawomir Grunberg



Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



Joan Halperin



Bozena U. Zaremba

## A NEW LOOK AT OSKAR AND EMILIE SCHINDLER, August 14

.....

Film: The Accidental Hero
Speakers: Dr. David M. Crowe, Marie P. Knecht and Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



Dr. David M. Crowe



Marie P. Knecht



Dr. Mordecai Paldiel

## SAFE HAVEN IN THE PHILIPPINES, August 21

Film: An Open Door: Holocaust Haven in the Philippines
Speakers: Ambassador Jose Manuel

"Babe" del Gallego Romualdez of the Philippines, Bonnie M. Harris, Noel Izon and Ralph Preiss





Ambassador Jose Manuel del Gallego Romualdez



Bonnie M. Harris



Noel Izon



Ralph Preiss

## FROM SWASTIKA TO JIM CROW – JEWISH REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH, August 28

Film: From Swastika to Jim Crow Speakers: James McWilliams, E. Ethelbert Miller, Peter Rasmussen, Joel Sucher and moderator Samuel G. Freedman



James McWilliams



E. Ethelbert Miller



Peter Rasmussen



Joel Sucher



Samuel G. Freedman

## SEPTEMBER

### **BOATLIFT, September II**

Film: Boatlift

Speakers: Jessica DuLong, Joshua Levine and poetry reader/moderator Dr. Jud Newborn



DuLong



loshua Levine



Dr. Jud Newborn



THE VATICAN AND THE HOLOCAUST. September 18

Film: Holy Silence

Speakers: Peter Eisner, Rev. Charles R. Gallagher and Steven Pressman



Eisner



Pressman

Rev. Charles R. Gallagher



#### THE U.S. AND THE HOLOCAUST, September 22

Film: The U.S. and the Holocaust Speakers: Dr. Rafael Medoff and Martin Ostrow



Dr. Rafael Medoff



Martin Ostrow

## **OCTOBE**

#### SECRET LIVES - HIDDEN CHILDREN AND THEIR **RESCUERS, October 2**

Film: Secret Lives - Hidden Children and Their Rescuers Speakers: Peter Hellman, Dr. Noémi Perelman Mattis and Aviva Slesin



Peter Hellman



Dr. Noémi Perelman Mattis



Aviva Slesin

#### **DISOBEDIENCE: THE SOUSA MENDES STORY,** October 23

Film: Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story Speakers: Craig Dershowitz, Dr. Olivia Mattis, Silvério de Sousa Mendes and moderator Mariana Abrantes



Craig Dershowitz



Dr. Olivia **Mattis** 



Silvério de Sousa Mendes



**Abrantes** 

#### NO PLACE ON EARTH, October 30

Film: No Place on Earth Speakers: Erin Grunstein Halpern, Chris Nicola and **Janet Tobias** 



Erin Grunstein Halpern



Chris Nicola



Janet Tobias

## **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**

#### HEROES OF THE ST. LOUIS, November 6

Film: When Canada Said No: The Abandoned lews of the MS St. Louis Speakers: Dr. Hans Fisher, Dr. Hans Scott Miller and guest

host Dr. Jud Newborn



Fisher



Scott Miller



Dr. Jud Newborn

#### SISTER ROSE'S PASSION, November 13

Film: Sister Rose's Passion



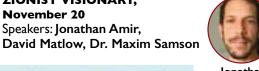


Oren

Dr. Jud Newborn

#### **MEYER WEISGAL - A FORGOTTEN** ZIONIST VISIONARY.

Speakers: Jonathan Amir,





Jonathan

Dr. Maxim

Samson



Alexandra Weisgal

Speakers: Abraham Foxman, Oren Jacoby, Barbara Wind and guest host Dr. Jud Newborn



Foxman



Jacoby



Wind



#### A CELEBRATION OF LIFE! THE RESCUE MISSION OF MR. AND MRS. KRAUS, December 4

Film: 50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. & Mrs. Kraus Speakers: Paul Beller, Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, Steven Pressman and Master of Ceremonies Samantha Massell



**Paul** Beller



**Paldiel** 



Pressman



Massell

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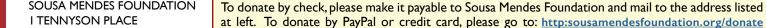
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