

## Manfred Steinfeld

Manfred Steinfeld was born on April 29, 1924 in Josbach, Germany. In July 1938, he was sent to live with an aunt in Chicago where he attended Hyde Park High School. He graduated in 1942 and enrolled in the University of Illinois. He completed only one semester before joining the U.S. Army that same year.

The army sent Mr. Steinfeld to the European Theater of Operations where he participated in five battle campaigns with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal. His knowledge of German proved valuable at the end of the war. He was involved in translating into German the unconditional surrender document of the German 21st Army Group, operating east of the Elbe River that surrendered to the 82nd Airborne Division.

After the war, Mr. Steinfeld resumed his education at Roosevelt University in Chicago and graduated in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. The following year he married Fern Goldman. When the Korean War started, he was recalled to active service as a first lieutenant in the military intelligence service.

In 1953, he and an associate purchased the bankrupt Great Northern Chair Company for \$10,000 and renamed it Shelby Williams Industries. During Mr. Steinfeld's leadership, Shelby Williams grew into the country's leading seating company serving the contract and institutional market. It was also one of the few to go from private to public to private and then public again.

In 1999 when Mr. Steinfeld sold Shelby Williams to Falcon Products, he reported that Shelby Williams was profitable every one of its 46 years in business, hitting \$165 million in annual sales and doing business in 87 countries.

In 2002 with several long-time colleagues, Mr. Steinfeld founded Daniel Paul Chairs LLC, named for his grandson who passed away at the age of seven.

Throughout his business career, Mr. Steinfeld has received numerous business and industry awards for his leadership, business acumen and generosity. They include:

- 1963 U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Midwest Region, Outstanding Businessman of the Year;
- 1973 American-Israeli Chamber of Commerce Industrialist of the Year;
- 1981 Horatio Alger Award for Distinguished Americans;
- 1986 American Jewish Committee Humanitarian of the Year Award;
- 1987 Platinum Circle Award, Hospitality Design Magazine;
- 1993 Holocaust Foundation of Illinois Annual Humanitarian Award;
- 1995 Volunteer of the Year Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN;
- 1997 Honorary doctorate from Roosevelt University in Chicago;
- 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award, called "the Manny," from *Hospitality Design Magazine*;
- 2000 Julius Rosenwald Memorial Award from the Jewish Federation of Chicago;
- 2001 Mount Scopus Award from the American Friends of the Hebrew University;
- 2001 Hadassah Hospital's Guardian of Tomorrow Award;
- 2001 Anti-Defamation League, Guardian of Freedom Award.

Philanthropy has always been an integral part of Mr. Steinfeld's life. As a result, many educational, cultural, religious, social service and medical institutions have benefited greatly from the generosity of Mr. Steinfeld and his wife. Endowments and contributions include:

- 1983 Established the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Fund for Excellence at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, which awards 15 scholarships annually;
- 1984 Endowed the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative American Arts Gallery at the Art Institute of Chicago;
- 1985 Founder of the Horatio Alger Scholarship Program;



- 1985 Established the Fifth Floor Gallery at Orchestra Hall, Chicago;
- 1985 Established a Professorial Chair at the Weizman Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel;
- 1986 Endowed the Sam Horwitz Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago;
- 1987 Funded the Steinfeld Dining Center at Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago;
- 1986 Established scholarships at Roosevelt University, Chicago;
- 1992 Endowed the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Chair of Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN;
- 1992 Manfred and Fern Steinfeld became founders of the United States Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C.;
- 1993 Underwrote the Bentwood Furniture Exhibition at the Art Institute, Chicago, featuring furniture from the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Collection;
- 1994 Established and endowed the Manfred Steinfeld School of Hospitality Management at Roosevelt University of Chicago;
- 1996 Made major contributions to the refurbishing of the Lyric Opera and Symphony Center, Chicago;
- 1997 Established at the Jewish Federation of Chicago, the Naftali; Steinfeld Scholarship Fund for Summer Experiences in Israel;
- 1998 Established the Naftali Steinfeld Education Center at Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem, Israel;
- 1998 Established the Danny Cuniff Leukemia Research Fund in memory of his grandson who died at the age of seven;
- 1999 Endowed the Danny Cuniff Leukemia Research Laboratory at Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel;
- 1999 Established the Danny Cuniff Park at the Park District of Highland Park, IL;
- 1999 Established the Danny Cuniff Playground at the George Lutz Center, Jewish Youth Services, Highland Park, IL;
- 2000 Established the Danny Cuniff Woodlands at the Jewish National Fund Forest in Israel;
- 2001 Made major gifts to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA;
- 2001 Established Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Scholarship Funds at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA;
- 2001 Made a major gift to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN;
- 2002 Established the Computer Center at Patronato Synagogue, Havana, Cuba;
- 2002 Made an additional major gift to become a "A Pillar of Memory" at the United States Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C.;
- 2003 Major gift for the building of a community center at Kibbutz Schluchot, Israel;
- 2005 Made a major gift to the Spertus College of Jewish Studies for its new building on Michigan Avenue, Chicago;
- 2006 Endowed professorship in the Judaic Studies Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN;
- 2007 Made an additional major gift to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, for research in pediatric leukemia;
- 2007 Made a major building fund gift to the Illinois Holocaust Memorial Foundation.
- Manny and Fern Steinfeld are inducted into the Golden Giver Society by the Jewish Federation of Chicago for 50 years of annual giving.

In addition to his philanthropic contributions, Mr. Steinfeld has given his time and talent serving in numerous leadership capacities in business organizations, his industry and many religious and civic groups. These include:

- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce (formerly the Chicago Association of Commerce & Industry);
- Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, Board of Directors;
- American Israeli Chamber of Commerce, Midwest Chapter, Board of Directors;
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, School of Ecology, Board of Advisors and its Board of Development Council;
- Roosevelt University, Chicago, Life Member of the Board of Trustees;
- Jewish United Fund, Chicago, General Campaign Chair, 1987 and 1997;
- Jewish Federation of Chicago, Board of Directors, 1985-98 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1999-2000;
- United Jewish Appeal, National Vice Chair, 1987-1992;
- Shelby Williams Industries, Chairman of the Board and CEO, 1954-1995;
- Albany Bank & Trust Company, Chicago, Board of Directors, 1983-1993;
- Amalgamated Bank of Chicago, Board of Directors, 1966 to present;
- Amalgamated Investments, Chicago, Board of Directors 2003 to present;
- Daniel Paul Chairs LLC, Board of Directors, 2002 to present;
- StackChairDepot.com, Founder and Partner in the Internet merchant company, 2004 to present.

Mr. Steinfeld's remarkable life and personal and professional contributions have been documented in print. In 1992, the Art Institute in Chicago published a book called *Against the Grain: Bentwood Furniture from the Collection of Fern and Manfred Steinfeld*. In 2000, *A Legacy of Style* was published chronicling the history of Shelby Williams Industries.

There also have been several videos and TV documentaries:

- In 1985, CNN aired a documentary series called "Pinnacle," featuring Mr. Steinfeld in one of its weekly segments;
- In 1988, he was featured in a PBS TV show entitled "Profiles of Success";
- In 1995, the Discovery Channel aired a show entitled, "Nightmare's End," which featured Mr. Steinfeld as a liberator of the Wobbelin concentration camp after World War II;
- The documentary, "Victim & Victor," produced by David C. Lewis in 2000 is a video biography of Mr. Steinfeld.

Although Mr. Steinfeld remains an active member of the Chicago business, cultural and philanthropic communities, a major focus of his life continues to be his family: his wife, Fern; two sons; a daughter; their spouses and his 10 grandchildren.