Lee Seeman and Her Work Abroad

Lee Seeman, North Hempstead town councilwoman and a member of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, attended a Commission meeting in Washington D.C. where Stuart Eizinstat, former U.S. Ambassador to the European Union and former U. S. Deputy Treasury Secretary, received the Cultural Pluralism Award from the U.S. Commission. Ambassador Eizenstat is currently working with the State Department to focus on the social welfare benefits for Holocaust survivors worldwide, and the return of looted personal property. As part of his address to the Commission he talked about how more than half the 500,000 Holocaust survivors in the world live at or below the poverty line. In the U.S. alone, about 25 percent of survivors live in poverty. He informed the Commission that at a recent conference in Prague, 46 countries pledged to develop private property principles to lead to the return or, more likely, some compensation for private property.

The U. S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad's mission is to preserve memorials, burial places, and places of worship abroad for people of all religions. Lee Seeman, as a member of the Commission, is currently working on two projects; one is in Serock, Poland and the other in Riga, Latvia. The Holocaust left many cemeteries without anyone to take care of them and in dire need of preservation. Lee Seeman says "We must preserve the heritage of the Jewish people in Eastern and central Europe."

Lee Seeman and Stuart Eizinstat