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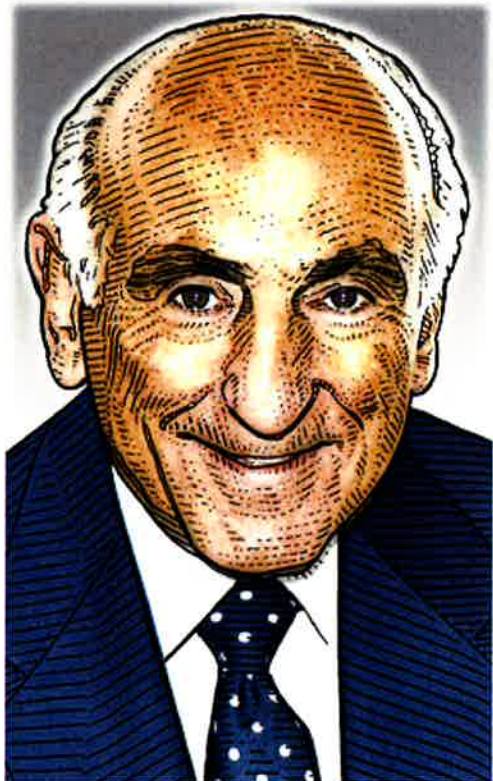
DONOR OF THE DAY

## Saying 'Thank You' With an Added Gift

By MELANIE GRAYCE WEST

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Count Bernard L. Schwartz among that generation of New Yorkers born in Brooklyn, who served in World War II, got a free public education and then went on to run an international company. Like many of his peers, Mr. Schwartz is now dedicating himself to storytelling and giving back to the city.



Bernard L. Schwartz

Mr. Schwartz, 88 years old, the son of a sign maker, was the one-time chief executive of Loral Space & Communications Ltd., a defense electronics company. He now runs a private investment firm based in New York. His memoir, "Just Say Yes," was released last month. The title comes from a phrase Mr. Schwartz uses to explain that once a decision is made, it's time to move forward.

In his book and in a recent conversation, Mr. Schwartz is quick to credit luck and timing to his success. When he emerged from the Army and after graduating from Baruch College, "the wind was at my back," he said.

"I am extremely grateful for being part of that American Dream," said Mr. Schwartz. "That sounds hackneyed, but I really mean it. I was lucky to be part of a whole generation that came out of the Depression and the war."

Mr. Schwartz is now stepping up his work to acknowledge the "bountiful opportunities" provided to him during his lifetime and by the City of New York.

His most recent gift of nearly \$10 million is to New York University's School of Medicine. Roughly half of the donation will establish a professorship and fellowship in gastrointestinal oncology. The other part of the gift establishes a venous thromboembolic disease center. The gifts are named for Mr. Schwartz and his wife, Irene, who he met during college and married in 1950.

The couple has already given around \$22 million to support NYU Langone Medical Center, where Mr. Schwartz has been a trustee for decades.

He is also what is widely called a "grateful patient." When he had knee-replacement surgery and blood clots began to accumulate in his body, he said, it developed into a near-fatal situation. After a NYU doctor discovered the clots on a Friday night, Mr. Schwartz said he was in the operating room the next morning and then left the hospital on Monday. The doctor "saved my life," said Mr. Schwartz.

In addition to New York University's School of Medicine, Mr. Schwartz and his wife support a number of other New York institutions, including the New-York Historical Society, the Asia Society, the Central Park Conservancy, the Film Society of Lincoln Center and WNET, the city's public broadcasting station, among others. He is also an active supporter of the Democratic Party.

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