

Kalman Silvert Society

by SANDY KLINZING

The Kalman Silvert Society was founded to perpetuate the legacy of this renowned Latin American scholar and LASA's first President. The Society honors those who make commitments to LASA through planned gifts of lasting impact. Such generosity bolsters Association programs that will solidly benefit future generations of Latin Americanists by nurturing their scholarship for many years to come.

Long-valued programs not covered by ordinary income will receive substantial advantage. These activities include travel grants for Latin Americans participating in LASA Congresses, special seminars and workshops, and other projects involving scholarly inquiry. The LASA Endowment Fund has been the major source of income for such programs, but the Fund will need tangible future support.

Charitable gifts made during one's lifetime are an effective form of giving because they allow for immediate tax deductions and reduce estate taxes after death. Hundreds of LASA members and friends have contributed in this fashion and continue to do so. Individuals who would like to make significant gifts to the Association but are currently not in a position to do so can defer their support: *Planned Gifts* help ensure that one has the necessary resources during a lifetime and also can benefit educational and charitable organizations named as beneficiaries.

Planned giving is possible through a host of mechanisms. Bequests are the most popular instruments. Any assets of value can be passed along in accord with a will or living trust. These include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, or cash. Other possibilities are life insurance gifts, gifts from retirement assets, among others. The first step is to seek the advice of professional advisors for counsel on personal legal, tax, or financial planning issues.

Kalman Silvert Society members are acknowledged in the *LASA Forum* and in other official publications—and are honored guests at receptions and other special events at the LASA Congress. The greatest premium of all is knowing that a gift to LASA will mean substantial returns for present and future colleagues in Latin American Studies.

Any gift to LASA may be general in nature or may be designated to fund a specific program, or type of scholarship or fellowship. Association staff would be pleased to present options. For additional information please contact the LASA Secretariat at 412-648-1907. ■