

# PastForward

WINTER 2001

SURVIVORS OF THE  
שׂוֹאָה  
VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

The Newsletter of the Shoah Foundation®

## **“It has been said**

**that it is far better to light a candle  
than curse the darkness. The testimonies  
videotaped and maintained by the  
Shoah Foundation have brightened our often  
dark and troubled civilization with the living  
presence of survivors whose permanent record  
of perseverance in the face of evil offers us,  
and our progeny, inspiration to work toward  
the highest human good – Tikkun Olam,  
the repair of our broken but perfectible world.”**

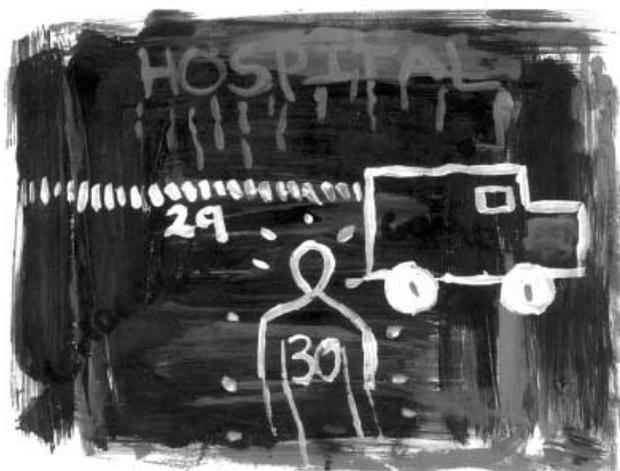
**THE HONORABLE BRUCE J. EINHORN, U.S. IMMIGRATION JUDGE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**



# Shoah Foundation Embarks on New Mission

To overcome prejudice, intolerance, bigotry – and the suffering they cause – through the educational use of the Foundation’s visual history testimonies.

**“Why did you choose to give testimony?”**  
**“Do you have a message for future generations?”**



At the end of every Shoah Foundation interview, the interviewee is asked to respond to one or both of these questions. Most survivors or witnesses express the hope that, by speaking out, they will be remembered and will help prevent future tragedies by educating others about the consequences of hatred. This year, the Shoah Foundation embarks on a new mission—one that enables all interviewees to play a role in changing the world through their videotaped testimonies.

Since the first interview in April 1994, the Shoah Foundation’s archive has grown to include testimonies from 51,710 Holocaust survivors and witnesses. Each interviewee shared his or her own experiences, losses, blessings, and hopes. Recording the testimonies of thousands of eyewitnesses was, for Founder and Chairman Steven Spielberg, “a dream that became a remarkable reality.” Now that the Shoah Foundation has completed its original mission of building a vast and inclusive archive, the time has come to utilize this archive more actively for global education.

Artwork created by students in the Portland, Oregon public schools, as part of the Shoah Foundation’s Pilot Education Initiative (see page 5)



“Our new mission, with its emphasis on worldwide education to prevent catastrophes such as the Shoah, is as compelling as the original mission to collect 50,000 testimonies, and it must also be pursued relentlessly before it’s too late,” commented Douglas Greenberg, Foundation President and CEO. He notes that the Foundation aims to “change not only how people think, but how they behave.”

In order to concentrate resources on the educational mission, the Shoah Foundation has concluded its interviewing activities. The core programmatic activity for the Foundation is now concentrated in the Education Department, which will expand in 2002 in order to share the testimonies with students, educators, and researchers.

To maximize the impact of its new mission, the Foundation will focus primarily on “underserved” students around the world—those who have not been exposed to this material or whose exposure is very limited. To reach these young people most effectively, the Foundation will form partnerships with other organizations to support three main strategies.

#### **Products:**

We will continue to create educational products, such as CD-ROMs and documentary films, for students and for broader audiences. These materials will all be developed using the eyewitness testimonies in the archive. Among the first new projects will be a CD-ROM for middle school students, based on testimonies from child survivors.

#### **Programs:**

With the help of educational partners, the Shoah Foundation will build and support new educational programs that advance its mission, as well as continue existing programs such as the Pilot Education Initiative (see page 5).

#### **Preservation and Access:**

The Foundation continues its commitment to preserve the archive, in both digital and videotape form, and to provide access to it by individuals and institutions.

The Technology Department will aid in the dissemination of the archive by streamlining systems and supporting the larger educational effort. The Foundation will also develop new technological tools, such as a user interface, which will guide end users through the archive at public access sites. A new website at [www.vhf.org](http://www.vhf.org) is up and running,

# foundation news

providing the first opportunity to view clips of testimony on the Internet. Greenberg notes that, due to security concerns, “We won’t put the entire archive on the Internet, but we’ll find a sensible and secure way to share portions of it.”

Cataloguing is still a crucial component of the Foundation’s work. A newly developed and innovative system will allow an average-length testimony (about 2½ hours) to be catalogued in half a day instead of a week. The Cataloguing team made tremendous strides during a six-week testing period of the new system this fall. Still using the evolving thesaurus of more than 23,000 “keywords,” cataloguers now typically watch and index one or two testimonies a day. (At this pace, cataloguing work will be completed in about four years.) Cataloguing will enable the Education Department, and end users, to find specific information within the nearly 117,000 hours of videotaped testimony.

Global education work also depends on the strong support of the Foundation’s Development Department. “This new mission will require a comparable expansion of our fund-raising efforts among institutions, corporations, individuals, governments, and other granting organizations,” says Greenberg. Among the first steps in this expansion was the



Artwork by student in the  
Portland, Oregon public schools

hiring of Vice President for Development Steven Klappholz, who has worked with other nonprofit groups, including the San Diego Jewish Federation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation.

All Shoah Foundation staff members and volunteers are working to share the archive with a world that, now more than ever, needs to see, hear, and experience these testimonies. The survivors and witnesses who contributed testimonies to the archive found the strength to survive the Holocaust and, later, the strength to share their experiences. Their strength and survival offer rare and important lessons in hope. If those who view the testimonies take these lessons to heart, then they will fulfill the wish of so many survivors who told their stories so that the world would never know another Holocaust.



**A Letter from  
Douglas Greenberg**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends:

As I write, the news of the catastrophes at the World Trade Center and Pentagon is only beginning to sink in. Those of us who work at the Shoah Foundation, like our many friends in this country and throughout the world, have been shaken deeply by these terrible events. All of us here are safe, but many of us have been touched directly by the atrocities of September 11 and all of us have been indirectly affected in ways we can only begin to calculate now.

We join our fellow citizens of the United States and friends in other parts of the world in extending our condolences to the families of all those who lost their lives in these senseless acts of terror. As people who live every day with the faces and voices of witnesses to horrors of another kind, we feel a special responsibility to marshal our best efforts to combat the hatred that seems to have motivated the attacks in New York and Washington.

Last summer, the Board of the Shoah Foundation adopted a new mission statement which compels us “to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Foundation’s visual history testimonies.” The moral responsibility such a mission imposes at this frightening moment in the history of civilization is daunting. But all of us here at the Foundation feel ready, even eager, to shoulder that responsibility and to pursue it with renewed commitment and dedication. We look forward to your support as we undertake this profoundly important effort, and we promise that you may rely upon us to expend all our energies in the pursuit of these high aspirations.

I look forward to telling you more in the future about the new range of educational programs and products we will be creating. In the meantime, the Board and staff of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation join me in the hope that you will help us in working to ensure that violence—and the hatred that spawns it—has no place in the future of humankind.

Sincerely,

Douglas Greenberg  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# international views

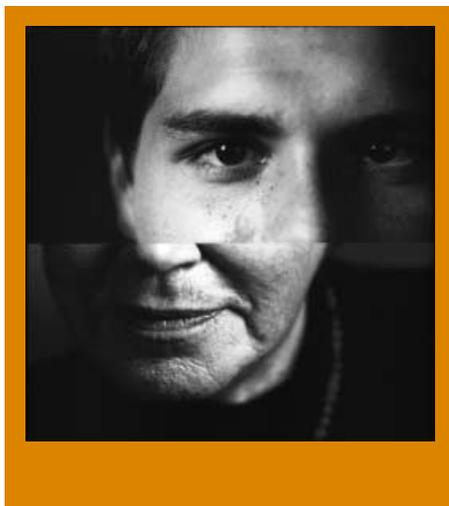
## Third Generation Gains New Insight from German CD-ROM

In 2000, the Shoah GmbH (a nonprofit foundation established in Germany by the Shoah Foundation) released its first foreign language CD-ROM, *Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft* (Remembering for the Present and the Future). It has received warm reviews in the German press and was awarded the Giga Mouse by the magazine *Eltern für Family* (Parents for Family) during the 2001 Frankfurt Book Fair. Best of all, the CD-ROM is now available in all 500 Berlin secondary schools, thanks to the organization Computers in Schools that provided 8,000 computer workstations.

In 1999, before beginning work on the CD-ROM, the Shoah GmbH commissioned an extensive focus study to determine the specific challenges of teaching about the Holocaust in German schools. The study found that in general students did not make much of a distinction between World War II, the Nazi perpetrators, and the victims of Nazism. Instead, schools presented this material as a historical unit with little focus on the perspective of persecuted groups. The study also documented students' desire for integrating film and other media into classes that often relied solely on outmoded textbooks.

Based on the study's findings, the CD-ROM production team resolved to give students immediate, visual access to survivors' perspectives and personal memories—thereby providing both an intellectual and emotional approach to Holocaust history. As racial, ethnic, and cultural hatred remains an acute threat in Germany today, the Shoah GmbH challenges these dangerous attitudes through a greater awareness of the personal suffering caused by prejudice. The resulting CD-ROM combines Holocaust survivor testimony with original documents, explanatory texts, photos, film clips, and timelines. In addition to Jewish survivors, it also includes Sinti and Roma, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others.

Before using the CD-ROM, German students characterized their more conventional history lessons as “a mere recapitulation of facts and dates,” sometimes rejecting the topic of the Holocaust as “a guilt-trip” or simply “outdated.” After viewing *Erinnern*, they felt that “you have to read it, hear it, and see it” to even begin to understand this event. Boredom and indifference were replaced by a high degree of involvement. Statements such as “I am very sad and feel like crying” and “I suddenly understood what the Jews had to go through” are testament to their new empathy and awareness. Students come away from the CD-ROM with fresh insight, seeing history not as outdated, dry material, but as deeply personal and relevant to their own lives.



Images from the *Erinnern* CD-ROM

## International Documentaries Break the Silence

In response to its educational mission, the Shoah Foundation is proud to present the five international films of the *Broken Silence* documentary series - *Some Who Lived* (Argentina), *Hell on Earth* (Czech Republic), *Eyes of the Holocaust* (Hungary), *I Remember* (Poland), and *Children from the Abyss* (Russia). Completed in 2001, four of these films have already been broadcast in their home countries. In 2002, additional air-dates will occur in Argentina, Italy, Nicaragua, and the United Kingdom.

National television stations in Russia (ORT Broadcast) and the Ukraine (Studio 1+1) scheduled broadcasts of *Children from the Abyss* for September 29, 2001 to coincide with the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the massacre at Babi Yar. These broadcasts also reached audiences in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

Steven Spielberg addressed these viewers in a pre-recorded video introduction to the film: “These testimonies will help people remember this period of history because, unfortunately, we still live in a time when racial hatred continues to thrive.” In conjunction with the Ukrainian broadcast, politicians and human rights activists from that country and Germany, Israel, Russia and the United States, participated in a videocast discussion. Connected via satellite link by Studio 1+1, these individuals shared ideas and thoughts about the common roots of genocide and terrorism. Anya Yudkovskaya, Shoah Foundation regional consultant in the Ukraine, reported that participants also shared “stories about Babi Yar, the Holocaust and other 20<sup>th</sup> century genocides, as well as the terrorist attacks of September 11.” Discussions continued the next day, followed by a screening of the Foundation's documentary *The Last Days*.

In addition to the television broadcasts, a number of educational screenings have been hosted by various institutions in six countries. Among these presentations was a screening of *Some Who Lived* at the Amnesty International Film Festival in Amsterdam.

The Shoah Foundation looks forward to the eventual video release of the films and the development of supplemental educational materials that may be used in further outreach and programs.

**HBO's Cinemax cable channel will air all five documentaries in the United States in April 2002 in honor of Yom Hashoah.**

# education

## Tolerance Education Program Starts Second Year

The Shoah Foundation kicked off the second year of its Pilot Education Initiative (PEI) in August with a two-day conference in Los Angeles. The sessions brought together seven administrators from the five participating U.S. school districts and members of the Education Department to discuss the program's progress and potential.

Despite the common challenges of budget cuts, staff changes, and the pressure of standardized tests, the districts remain dedicated to the project. "It is invaluable to have this kind of contact with the other project directors and the Shoah Foundation staff," said Bernadette Glaze, Advanced Academic Programs Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, who added that she has gained "a fuller appreciation of the challenges that we all face in teaching tolerance education, both from a pedagogical and a content perspective."

Launched in March 2000, the PEI combines the Shoah Foundation's educational resources with the abilities of school districts in Chicago, IL, Fairfax, VA, Long Beach, CA, Portland, OR, and Sarasota, FL, to create classroom programs for fostering a more tolerant and humane generation of American students.

By the end of the first year, existing Holocaust and character education programs were reviewed, lesson units were developed and implemented, and Shoah Foundation educational materials—the documentary *The Last Days* and the CD-ROM *Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust* – were incorporated into curricula.

Building on these accomplishments, administrators, teachers, and curriculum writers are refining lesson units, striving to connect the learning objectives to state and local standards. The revised units will be piloted in classrooms in the 2001-2002 school year. Districts will also conduct evaluations to assess classroom activities and student learning. To further supplement their continued professional development sessions, districts are encouraged to explore partnerships with local institutions and to incorporate additional resources including content-specific websites with topics such as the Holocaust, Character Education, Current Events, and Social Justice.

The Pilot Education Initiative is the Shoah Foundation's first formal classroom initiative. "Working with the five districts has taught us a lot about the unique and varying needs of public schools and the evolving disciplines of tolerance and diversity education," said Manager of Programs Bonnie Samotin. "We hope to build upon these experiences so that we can serve more students and schools in the future."



Artwork by student in the Portland, Oregon public schools

## Foundation's Work Highlighted at Oral History Conference

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Oral History Association (OHA) was held in St. Louis this October on a theme related to the Shoah Foundation's work: "Bearing Public Witness: Documenting Memories of Struggle and Resistance." Jessica Wiederhorn, Manager of Academic Affairs, co-chaired the conference as a representative of the Foundation. Mary Marshall Clark, OHA Vice President, invited the Shoah Foundation's active involvement because she was "interested in the memory the interviews in the archive represent and in the technical and human skills that were brought to the documentation of these experiences."

The four-day meeting focused on the challenges of collecting and documenting memories and histories that reflect social and political disorder, trauma, violence, and genocide. The conference drew oral history students and teachers, researchers, and theorists from the U.S. and abroad. Workshops were offered on topics such as the uses of oral history in the classroom and the ethical issues regarding the collection and dissemination of narratives of trauma and oppression in digital and artistic media. A special session focused the events of September 11.

A number of Foundation staff and interviewers participated in the conference. Plenary speaker Sam Gustman, Executive Director of Technology, spoke of how digitizing oral histories impacts every facet of a project, from interviewing to cataloguing to distribution. Director of Cataloguing Karen Jungblut gave an in-depth demonstration of our cataloguing methodology. Three Foundation interviewers participated as well: Zepporah Glass presented a paper on interviewing Holocaust survivors as a child of survivors; Albert Lichtblau spoke about documenting the memories of Austrian-Jewish refugees; and Elisabeth Pozzi-Thanner chaired a panel on Latvian narratives of migration, dislocation, and war. In addition, two Foundation documentaries, *The Last Days* and *Some Who Lived*, were screened.

Upon returning from the meeting, Jessica Wiederhorn remarked, "The Foundation's work was given great exposure at this conference. It was a remarkable opportunity to share our work with others who are committed to preserving memory, and, in so doing, to gain recognition for our innovation and leadership in the future of oral history."

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# RECENT VISITORS

The Broken Silence team  
 Standing L to R : James Moll, Producer; Pavel Chukhraj, Russia;  
 Luis Puenzo, Argentina; Steven Spielberg, Executive Producer;  
 Seated L to R: Vojtech Jasny, Czech Republic; Janos Szasz,  
 Hungary; Andrzej Wajda, Poland



Doug Greenberg (L)  
 and Daisy Miller (R)  
 chat with CA State  
 Senator Sheila Kuehl



Ari Zev with Israeli Ambassador to  
 the U.S., The Honorable David Ivri



From left: Daniel,  
 Prince of Saxony,  
 with fiancée  
 Christine  
 Schnauber; the  
 Governor of  
 Saxony, Professor  
 Kurt Biedenkopf;  
 Doug Greenberg



Ari Zev with Bess Myerson,  
 former Miss America 1945



Doug Greenberg with Professor  
 Deborah Dwork, from the Center  
 for Holocaust Studies at Clark  
 University, MA



Shoah Foundation Founder and  
 Chairman Steven Spielberg,  
 with Doug Greenberg and  
 Development Board member  
 David Kassie



President of Sydney Jewish  
 Museum John Roth (L) with Steven  
 Klappholz, Shoah Foundation VP  
 for Development

## Foundation Names Eric Greenberg as 2001 Ambassador for Humanity

This December, Steven Spielberg presents the Shoah Foundation's second annual *Ambassadors for Humanity Award* to Development Board member Eric Greenberg. The award honors individuals who embody the Foundation's goals of overcoming intolerance through education. This honor is sponsored by Bvlgari, who also created the beautiful sculpted-crystal award.

Due to recent events, the Foundation has transformed the *Ambassadors for Humanity* event from a benefit dinner to a national mail campaign. Bvlgari has graciously recommitted its support to broaden awareness of the Foundation's mission—now more important than ever in light of world events. Through this grassroots campaign, the Shoah Foundation hopes to raise funds to support its educational work.

Eric Greenberg is a leader in both the philanthropic world and the high-tech industry. He started two profitable Internet businesses in the last four years and recently received the Albert Einstein Award for Technological Innovation from the Jerusalem Fund. Eric founded Scient, an e-business systems innovator in 1997. Eric currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Innovation Investments, Inc., which holds interests in various technology companies. He is also Senior Advisor to Red Herring Communications and serves on the board of several private companies.

"The work of the Shoah Foundation is vitally important to educate people against racism and to ensure that crimes of genocide against humanity cease," remarked Eric Greenberg in a recent interview. "I am proud to have been chosen as this year's *Ambassador for Humanity* and to have the opportunity to help the Foundation achieve its fundraising goals and educational objectives."



Eric Greenberg

## Committed Co-Chair Susan Crown leads Development Board

Susan Crown believes that "When the work is important, you make the time; and the Shoah Foundation is important."

It's not easy to find a spare moment in Susan's schedule: she's a mother of two; president of the Arie and Ida Crown Memorial, a grantmaking foundation in Chicago; a partner and vice president of Henry Crown and Company, a family owned and operated investment firm whose holdings range from the Chicago Bulls to General Dynamics; a corporate board member for three Fortune 100 companies; a trustee of Yale University, Rush-Presbyterian St. Lukes Medical Center, the Aspen Foundation, and other philanthropic organizations; and she actively leads the Shoah Foundation's Development Board in its efforts to broaden support for the Foundation.

Susan first heard of the Shoah Foundation when Steven Spielberg called her several years ago. He spoke about the evolution of the Foundation and about his hopes for its future. Susan recalls she was "so intrigued by the promise of this project that I wanted to be involved." Since 1998, she and William Lauder have served as co-chairs, leading the 18-member Development Board. Susan describes the board as a "generous, intelligent, and committed group." Involvement has been a family affair: her mother, Renee, serves as one of the Development Board's honorary co-chairs (along with Lew Wasserman and Edgar M. Bronfman); and the Crown family generously supports the Foundation.

Susan received a B.A. from Yale and M.A. from New York University and pursued her M.B.A. at Northwestern's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. She has worked as a drug treatment counselor in New York and helped initiate a fund at Chicago Community Trust to assist the homeless. From these hands-on experiences, Susan learned that "change is hard, but it is possible."

Her hope for the Foundation's future is grounded in two strong beliefs: "that there are gifted storytellers whose experiences have the power to transform others" and that "people can learn and can change." Eventually, she would like to see the testimonies in the Foundation's archive "be filed away in the memories of school-aged children around the world."

"The Foundation touches me on both an emotional level and a conceptual level—using video archives as a teaching tool to broaden thinking is a groundbreaking idea," says Susan. "I can't think of a more interesting, challenging, or rewarding task."

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The Shoah Foundation thanks the LEO ROSNER FOUNDATION for helping to underwrite the cost of this newsletter.

## Survivors Imre and Vera Hecht Make Generous Planned Gift

“Because my wife was in Bergen-Belsen and I was in a forced labor battalion, we have unfortunate memories [of the Holocaust] and we appreciate what Steven Spielberg is doing with the Shoah Foundation. It was important to us to do something for the future; anything to do with children.” Imre Hecht, originally from Budapest, explains their motivation for supporting the Shoah Foundation with a generous charitable remainder trust.

His wife Vera Hecht, born Vera Leb in Osorhel, Romania, recorded her testimony for the Shoah Foundation in 1995. She went to school in Budapest where, in the spring of 1944, she boarded a train hoping to flee to Palestine. Instead, this train of Hungarian Jews was diverted to Bergen-Belsen. In December 1944, Vera was among the 1,684 Jews from the original train who were sent to Switzerland, thanks to the intervention of Zionist leader Reszo Kasztner.

In 1950, Vera and Imre met in New York and married just two weeks later. Together, they built a business that exported textiles to Europe, and later began investing in real estate. Today the Hechts divide their time between Florida and New York, where Imre serves on the Board of Trustees for the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Imre is also an accomplished sculptor and painter, and together the couple established a children’s music school in Florida.

Imre credits his continuing hope for humanity to “the fact that I was always optimistic... that was what enabled me to escape from the forced labor battalion [and make it to] Romania, where the Joint [American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee] gave me soup and a suit, and then to this country where everything is possible.”

The Hecht’s charitable remainder trust gives the Shoah Foundation new possibilities by providing funds for the Foundation’s future. A charitable remainder trust (CRT) provides income to the donors for life, or a term of years, after which the remainder of the trust is distributed to a charity. With a CRT, you can provide for family, gain an immediate income tax deduction, reduce estate taxes, increase income from assets, and possibly eliminate capital gains taxes.

The Shoah Foundation offers a variety of planned giving opportunities that can be tailored to your personal needs and budget. For more information about planned giving, please contact the Foundation’s Director of Planned Giving, Eric Grodan, at 818-866-9110.



Artwork by Imre Hecht



Another painting by Imre Hecht

## The Shoah Foundation Thanks Recent Major Donors

- Clintons Solicitors** In-kind gift of pro bono legal services
- Creative Artist Agency** \$100,000 unrestricted gift
- Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust** \$25,000  
To catalogue testimonies from San Antonio, TX
- Neil Diamond** \$10,000 unrestricted gift
- Joseph Drown Foundation** \$50,000  
To support the Education Department
- Filemaker Inc.** In-kind gift of computer software
- Saul & Karen Gamoran** \$25,000 unrestricted gift
- Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation** \$10,000  
Grant to catalogue testimonies from Houston, TX
- Impossible Inc.** In-kind gift of professional services associated  
with launching the new Foundation website
- The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation** \$15,000  
To underwrite Pilot Education Initiative costs in Chicago
- Library Services and Technology Act, U.S. Institute of Museum  
and Library Services via the CA State Library, through a  
partnership with USC** \$180,000  
To catalogue testimonies recorded in California
- Kenneth Lipper** \$10,000 unrestricted gift
- Morton Capital Management** \$25,000 unrestricted gift
- Rose K. Rose** \$10,000  
Unrestricted gift from a survivor who provided testimony
- The Leo Rosner Foundation** \$25,000  
To underwrite Pilot Education Initiative costs in Florida
- Skip Paul** \$100,000 unrestricted gift
- David Strassler** \$50,000 unrestricted gift
- Werner Family Foundation** \$10,000 unrestricted gift

## YOUR YEAR-END GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your year-end donation will help support the important work of the Shoah Foundation—developing educational programs and materials based on the Holocaust testimonies in our archive. There are a number of ways you can contribute.

### Cash Donations

All donations from U.S. residents are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Gifts may be made by cash, checks (payable to the Shoah Foundation), or credit card. A phone representative can accept your donation by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express).

### Pledges

You may wish to make a gift to the Foundation that is paid over several years, following a payment schedule that is most convenient for you. These payments may be made via check, credit card, or appreciated securities.

### Appreciated Securities

By contributing stocks or other assets that have appreciated in value, you could save significantly at tax time.

### Matching Gifts

Your gift to the Shoah Foundation could double in value if your employer has a matching gift program. Please ask your human resources or community affairs office for details.

### Planned Gifts

You may make a planned gift through such vehicles as life insurance, bequests, testamentary gifts, or charitable trusts. Planned giving can help you reduce or avoid state and inheritance taxes. We encourage you to speak with your financial planner about planned giving.

### Memorial or Tribute Gifts

If you wish to honor or memorialize a friend or family member with your gift, the Foundation will be pleased to mail a Tribute Card.

### In-Kind Gifts

The Shoah Foundation accepts gifts of goods or services that fulfill programmatic needs. Please contact the Development department before sending an in-kind donation.

### For more information, please contact:

Steven Klappholz  
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Shoah Foundation  
Post Office Box 3168  
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The Shoah Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity in the U.S. and has affiliated non-profit organizations in several other countries. A copy of the Shoah Foundation's audited financial statement may be obtained by contacting the Foundation's Chief Financial Officer at P.O. Box 3168, Los Angeles, CA 90078-3168.

# technology

## NSF Awards Foundation \$7.5M for Technology Research

The National Science Foundation, an independent U.S. government agency that promotes science and engineering, awarded the Shoah Foundation a \$7.5 million grant to develop speech-recognition software for cataloguing Holocaust survivor testimonies whose multilingual aspects pose special research challenges. The NSF grant, distributed over five years, will support the development of a computer system that could review the tapes and recognize important words and phrases. Of the grant, \$1.5 million goes to the Shoah Foundation, while the remainder will fund the research efforts of Johns Hopkins University, IBM, and the University of Maryland in the automatic processing of video for search and retrieval in online systems.

IBM will focus on preparing speech data and researching Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) systems for English, while Johns Hopkins University will focus on researching Eastern European transcription efforts, the development of Czech ASR systems, and initial feasibility studies for developing a Czech language thesaurus. The University of Maryland will focus on design activities in the first year of the project, and move personnel costs to later years in order to provide sufficient funds for the training data annotation effort at other sites.

“As the Shoah Foundation’s diverse archive is digitized, we now have a unique opportunity to partner with experts from IBM, Johns Hopkins, and University of Maryland, with the support of the NSF, to further knowledge of automatic cataloguing of digital libraries for the Holocaust survivor and witness testimonies, as well as any other collections that we wish to learn from, process, and make available through video and audio information,” remarked Sam Gustman, the Foundation’s Executive Director of Technology.

The National Science Foundation organizes programs that invest over \$3.3 billion per year in almost 20,000 research and education projects in science and engineering. The Shoah Foundation is one of 309 organizations to receive grants for computer science and applications.



Bill Byrne, an associate research professor in the Johns Hopkins University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, one of the team developing a speech recognition system for Holocaust interviews conducted in the Czech language  
Photo by Will Kirk

# Sydney Exhibit Features Shanghai Survivors' Testimonies

On October 17, 2001, the Sydney Jewish Museum opened the exhibition *Crossroads: Shanghai and the Jews of China*, which chronicles Shanghai's Jewish communities before, during, and after World War II. The exhibit features original documents, artifacts, photographs, and a video that includes segments from five Shoah Foundation interviews. These interviews were conducted with survivors who fled to China from Nazi-occupied Europe and eventually immigrated to Australia.

Through the personal stories of Jews who lived in Shanghai, the exhibition examines the different Jewish communities in that city, their lifestyles, their relationships with both the Chinese community and the occupying Japanese forces, and their postwar experiences (with a special focus on those who immigrated to Australia). *Crossroads* is open to the public at the Sydney Jewish Museum until March, perhaps longer, with a possibility of traveling to other locations around the world.

The Shoah Foundation would like to thank the volunteers and staff of the Sydney Jewish Museum, including museum President John Roth, CEO Toby Hammerman, Project Manager Alan Jacobs, Curator Jane Wesley, and Project Coordinator Robyn Gerber. Also, the Shoah Foundation's Regional Consultant in Sydney, Eva Scheinberg, was instrumental in facilitating our participation in this exhibit. Both Eva and the Foundation's Melbourne Regional Consultant, Pauline Rockman, attended the exhibition opening.

Paul Engel, one of the survivors whose testimony was featured, passed away in July 2001. His wife Eva and son Roger were moved by this exhibition that Paul had long championed. After viewing the video, Roger felt it demonstrated that "the best way to learn history is not from books but from the people who lived through it."

**Survivors whose testimonies are included in the *Crossroads* exhibit:**

Dita Beran  
Paul Engel  
Gertrud Jellinek  
Hans Mueller  
Marcel Weyland

**Interviewers who conducted these interviews:**

Suzy Coleman-Hilton  
Dasha Gilden  
Dawn Grayce  
Patricia Wollford  
Mary Ziegler

**Videographers who filmed these interviews:**

Joanne Parker  
David Perry  
Scott Williams

**In Australia, the Shoah Foundation gathered 2,478 interviews, conducted by 157 interviewers and videotaped by 28 videographers. In addition, the Foundation archive includes 308 interviews with survivors who lived in Shanghai during the war. We thank all who contributed to this tremendous achievement.**



A 1942 Chinese identification document for Piotr (Peter) Sapir, then seven years old. Polish-born Peter fled with his family to Shanghai and later immigrated to Australia, where he recorded his testimony with the Shoah Foundation in 1995.



Shoah Foundation Australian Regional Consultants Pauline Rockman (L) and Eva Scheinberg (R), with survivor Gerta Jellinek at the opening of the *Crossroads: Shanghai and the Jews of China* exhibit at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

From the Archive:

## A Brief History of Jews in Shanghai

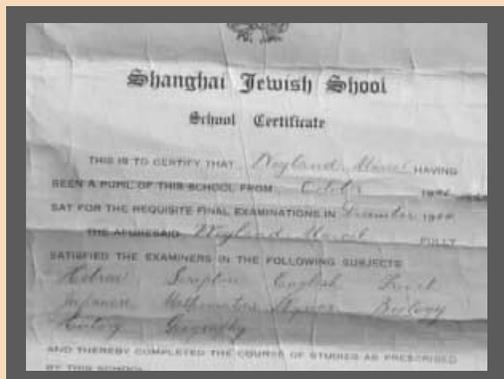
Today, it is hard to spot signs of a once-flourishing Jewish community in Shanghai—yet, for a decade this Chinese port city was home to Yiddish theatres and Viennese coffee shops, German-language newspapers, and even the prestigious Mir Yeshiva.

The first physical evidence of Jews in China are Hebrew documents from 718. However it wasn't until the 1840s, when China opened to foreign trade and ceded Hong Kong to the British, that the area's Jewish communities really flourished. Shanghai especially had a bustling international community; the city was composed of three areas: the Chinese metropolis, the French Settlement, and the International Settlement, which was governed by foreign consuls, including Britain, Japan, and the U.S.

By the mid 1930s, Shanghai had two main Jewish populations: a small Sephardic community from Baghdad and several thousand Russian Jews who had fled the 1917 Revolution. When the Nazis gained power, Jewish refugees, mostly Austrian and German and later Polish, flooded Shanghai, swelling the city's Jewish populace to nearly 30,000 (25% of the non-Chinese population). Refugees flocked to Shanghai because it was one of the few destinations that did not require a visa. Helped by established wealthy Jewish families like the Kadoories and the Sassoons, these refugees lived fairly peacefully until Pearl Harbor, and the subsequent Japanese occupation of all sections of Shanghai.

After the war in the Pacific began, the Nazis put pressure on their Japanese allies to deal with the Jewish "problem" in China. In 1943, the Japanese established a ghetto for "stateless refugees" in Hongkew, in the Chinese section of Shanghai. In Hongkew, conditions were crowded and harsh. Disease and hunger were rampant, but many refugees continued working outside the ghetto, or ran their own businesses, cafes, or theatres within the ghetto walls.

Once liberated in 1945, most Jewish refugees left China for Israel, the United States, or Australia—as Paul Engel and Hans Mueller did. Friends in Shanghai, they remained close in their adopted homeland, where, decades later, their Shoah Foundation testimonies are featured in an exhibit at the Sydney Jewish Museum.



Marcel Weyland's leaving certificate from the Shanghai Jewish School



From left: Paul Engel during his Shoah Foundation interview in 1995; Paul Engel's permit to leave the Hongkew ghetto (and the badge he had to wear on his lapel when outside the ghetto); Hans Mueller during his 1995 Shoah Foundation interview

## Paul Engel Found Sanctuary in Shanghai during the Shoah

Paul Engel is probably the only Austrian Jew who survived the war by selling *yahrzeit* candles to the Chinese. Usually lit by Jewish families on the anniversaries of a loved one's death, long-burning *yahrzeit* candles were introduced to Shanghai by the Engel family, who fled there from Nazi-occupied Vienna in 1939. As he spoke English (the common language between Chinese locals and European refugees), it was teenaged Paul's job to convince shopkeepers to carry his family's homemade perfumes and candles. At first the Shanghai storekeepers did not believe that a candle could burn for 24 hours, but after Paul gave them a sample candle, they were sold.

Just a year earlier, the Engels' comfortable middle-class life was changed forever by the Nazi annexation of Austria. For sixteen-year-old Paul, it meant his Christian friends crossed the street to avoid him; he had to transfer to a Jewish high school; and, most agonizing at the time, he could not play in the championship soccer game. During *Kristallnacht*, the November 1938 pogrom against Jews in Germany and Austria, the Engels' apartment was ransacked and armed men took Paul's father away. Fortunately, he was released by the local police after signing a document promising to leave the country within three months.

The Engels wanted to go to Palestine, but could secure only one visa, which went to Paul's brother, Robert (Yehuda). (They thought they would reunite within a few months, but it was ten years before they saw each other again.) In January 1939, the rest of the family traveled to the port of Trieste "with our hearts in our throats, because you weren't safe until you crossed the border." After the long sea journey to Shanghai, trucks took them to the Embankment, a building where the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees provided aid to newly-arrived refugees. Soon the Engels moved into a tiny flat in a devastated area of the city. From their kitchen, they produced candles and colognes based on the recipes they had used in their

"All I can say is I felt very, very happy and very, very secure in Austria. Nobody would have believed that a thing like this could happen. We should always guard against this and never be too sure that things won't change. Any madman could come along and change the whole destiny of a nation, or even the world. That's why [since the war] I've never taken anything for granted. Most of us living here [in Australia] don't know how lucky and how happy we are to be here."

**Paul Engel's closing words from his Shoah Foundation testimony, recorded June 2, 1995 in Bondi Junction, Australia**

*continued on page 14...*

From the Archive (continued)

Vienna parfumerie. Eventually, they opened “Houbet Parfumerie” in the International Concession, contributing regularly to a fund that provided food for the refugee camps.

In 1943, the Engels had to close their store and move into the “Designated Area for Stateless European Refugees” in Hongkew, “the slums of Shanghai.” Although the sordid conditions bred widespread dysentery and typhoid, Paul stresses that they were all very fortunate when compared with the situation in Europe. There were no indoor sewers, hot water, or stoves and no time for Paul to continue his schooling. Still, thanks to a Russian friend of his father’s, Paul obtained a permit to work outside the ghetto. Although he had to face Goya (Hongkew’s despotic Japanese ruler) every month to renew it, the permit allowed Paul to continue servicing the candle customers, providing an essential life line for his family.

Isolated from the outside world, the Hongkew community was unaware of the concentration camps and the fate of their loved ones who had remained behind in Europe. Via Russian radio, they found out that Hitler had been defeated in the spring of 1945. Still, there was no change in Shanghai until that summer, when an Allied aerial attack killed 32 refugees and many Chinese. Then, on the morning of September 2, 1945, the Japanese soldiers who had ruled the Hongkew ghetto suddenly disappeared, “as if swallowed up by the earth.” The next day, Paul and 17,000 other Jewish refugees were liberated by an American goodwill mission. Only years later did the world learn that the Germans had stored canisters of lethal gas on Tsungming Island, the proposed site of a Nazi death camp not far from Shanghai.

His parents returned to Vienna in 1947, but Paul felt “I’d rather rot here than go back to Austria.” He worked for

the U.S. army and a paper company, but the 1948 communist revolution brought hard times, and Paul became more desperate to leave. Luckily, a German friend from Hongkew, Hans Mueller, was engaged to a girl whose family had secured Australian visas before the war. Immediately after the war, Hans’ fiancée in Sydney sent for Hans, who laughingly remembers, “I was a male war bride!” Not long after, Hans sponsored Paul’s bid to come to Australia.

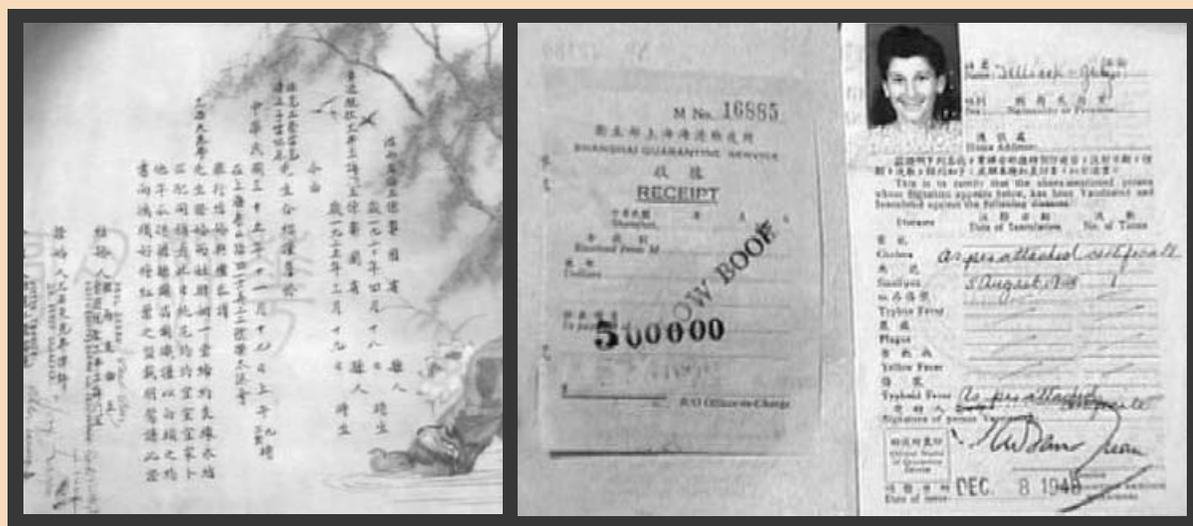
Once he had his visa, Paul decided to visit his parents in Austria first. Berths were hard to come by, so another friend arranged for Paul to be an “escort officer” on an International Refugee Organization boat. That was how Paul became responsible for 600 Jewish refugees on a coal steamer built to hold 120 people. During the 62-day journey to Naples, Paul steadied the passengers through hunger, lack of medicine, and endless meals of mutton. Finally, he reached Vienna, where despite his reunion with family, he felt very uneasy. He was glad to leave for Australia, where he ran a menswear business with his friend Hans for several years. In 1952, Paul married Eva Stern, who also escaped Vienna before the war, and they raised two children. Paul retired in 1984, but kept busy with part-time work, music, and many philanthropic ventures. Toward the end of his 1995 Shoah Foundation interview, Paul sums up: “For every bad thing in life, there is a good thing. If *Kristallnacht* and my father’s arrest had never happened, we probably would have stayed in Austria... and probably suffered the same fate as a lot of our relatives.”

On July 18, 2001, Paul passed away at age 79. “He’s left such a void,” says Eva. But Paul Engel left a legacy as well. Not just for his family and many friends, but for everyone who will view his testimony.



Paul Engel with his wife Eva

Left: Dita Beran’s Chinese wedding certificate (she and Paul Beran were married November 1946 in Shanghai). Right: an inoculation document issued to Gertrude Jellinek by the Chinese after her liberation in 1948



Douglas Greenberg and Denise Citroen,  
Regional Consultant in the Netherlands,  
at the opening event at the  
Joods Historisch Museum



## Testimonies from the Archive... Seen around the World

The Shoah Foundation works with museums and educational institutions around the world to enrich exhibits and provide public access to our archive of visual testimonies. Here are several places around the world where you can view some of the Foundation's interviews.

### THE AUSCHWITZ JEWISH CENTER ([www.ajcf.org](http://www.ajcf.org))

Oswiecim, Poland

Excerpts of testimonies from Oswiecim-born survivors are featured in *Remembering Oswiecim*, a permanent exhibit about prewar Jewish life.

### CENTER FOR DIVERSITY EDUCATION ([www.main.nc.us/diversity/](http://www.main.nc.us/diversity/))

Asheville, North Carolina, United States

October 15 to November 15, 2001 (ongoing in area schools)

The Center's international traveling exhibit, *Anne Frank: A History for Today*, will be augmented and localized with screenings of testimonies from five North Carolina residents. Later, the testimonies will be incorporated into a Holocaust educational program that will travel to local schools.

### JOODS HISTORISCH MUSEUM ([www.jhm.nl/](http://www.jhm.nl/))

Amsterdam, Netherlands

In October 2001, the Joods Historisch Museum opened a comprehensive collection of more than 1,000 Shoah Foundation testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses who were born or have resided in the Netherlands. This permanent collection will be available for both viewing and searching via the Biographical Search Tool, which was developed by the Shoah Foundation. (An article about the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection at the Joods Historisch Museum will appear in the next *PastForward*.)

### MUSEO STORICO DELLA LIBERAZIONE DI ROMA, VIA TASSO

([spazioweb.inwind.it/nb/viatasso/mostra.htm](http://spazioweb.inwind.it/nb/viatasso/mostra.htm))

Rome, Italy

Testimonies from five survivors and two rescuers are featured in a permanent exhibit about Jewish life in Rome, the Racial Laws, deportation, and liberation.

### MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE – A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST

([www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org))

New York, New York, United States

Since the museum's opening in 1997, a permanent exhibit about Jewish life before, during, and after the war has included excerpts from Foundation testimonies.

### SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER'S MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE

([www.wiesenthal.org](http://www.wiesenthal.org))

Los Angeles, California, United States

Photographs and summaries from testimonies of child survivors are featured in the museum's "Passport" program.

### VERZETSMUSEUM ([www.verzetsmuseum.nl](http://www.verzetsmuseum.nl))

Amsterdam, Netherlands

A traveling exhibit on the return and reception of Dutch war victims features audio segments and quotes from Dutch survivors' testimonies.

## Diverse Committee Advises Foundation on California Testimonies

In August 2000 and again in October 2001, the Shoah Foundation received funding from the U.S. government through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to begin cataloguing the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses living in California. The Foundation is partnering with the University of Southern California (USC) on this project to speed public access to the California testimonies in the Foundation's archive.

The grant recommends that the Foundation work with an outside advisory group to explore appropriate uses for the California Collection. This diverse advisory group meets twice a year to hear reports on our progress and ask questions about the future of this collection. (To date, 160 testimonies are catalogued for the California Collection.)

In addition to Shoah Foundation staff, the committee includes USC representatives Lynn O'Leary-Archer, Executive Director, Archival Research Center (ARC); JoEllen Williamson, ARC's Associate Executive Director; and librarian Marje Schuetze-Coburn. Rick Moss, formerly of the California African-American Museum, and Paul Apodaca, American Studies Professor at Chapman University, also have served on the advisory board. The other committee members are Leda Ramos, Marilyn Schmitt, and Bruce J. Einhorn.

In a state known as a immigrant haven, the Foundation values the participation of artist and educator Leda Ramos, Art and Culture Director at the Central American Resource Center. There, Ms. Ramos established the Memoria Histórica Community Archive in order to preserve and document the cultural heritage of Central American immigrants. She is "inspired by the work being done at the Shoah Foundation to reclaim histories and narratives...and [to bring out] the voices of immigrant communities."

After a long teaching and research career in art history, Marilyn Schmitt took up a second career with the J. Paul Getty Trust's Information Institute in 1983. There, she addressed the automation of research materials in the humanities, a central concern of the Foundation's archive. For her part, Dr. Schmitt comments that "the Shoah Foundation's program, and its staff, [show] extraordinary dedication and competence. They are creating an unprecedented resource with great imagination, and I am happy to have had this chance for a close-up view."

A well-respected U.S. Immigration Judge, the Honorable Bruce J. Einhorn is former Chief of Litigation for the Justice Department's Nazi War Crimes prosecution unit, and a frequent lecturer on hate crimes legislation. Judge Einhorn, who has advised the Shoah Foundation on several projects (including *The Last Days*), became involved because he believes that education is vital in overcoming prejudice.

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**"From my work with the Foundation, I have derived the strength to believe, as Anne Frank wrote, that 'people are basically good,' and as William Faulkner wrote, that humanity may sometimes be 'defeated, but never destroyed.'"**

THE HONORABLE BRUCE J. EINHORN,  
U.S. IMMIGRATION JUDGE

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He touched people with his kindness, his music, and his message. He was a soft spoken man who always had time to share a joke, a warm smile, and a friendly greeting of "Hey, guys!" His name was Henry.

Born on October 7, 1925, in Czeladz, Poland, Henry Rosmarin survived several concentration camps during World War II. At one of the camps, Henry was ordered to play a piece by Schubert on his harmonica. He did, and was awarded a piece of bread. Henry attributed his survival to this little harmonica, a precious item he had taken with him when he was deported from his home.

After the war, Henry was reunited with his childhood sweetheart, Janet (Jadzia) Jakubowitz. The two were married while in a displaced persons camp. They came to the United States in 1948, where Henry found work as a salesman. The Rosmarins raised two sons, Marvin and Harry.

Among the first to be interviewed by the Shoah Foundation, Henry remained involved by dedicating his time and efforts to our organization. Over the years, he worked as a reviewer, a volunteer, and a research assistant. A lover of languages, Henry enjoyed using his skills in Polish, German, and Yiddish. Segments of his testimony have been viewed by hundreds of people, who saw the clip as part of a tour of the Foundation. Henry also participated in many Foundation fundraising events, moving audiences with his powerful story of survival and his soulful harmonica playing.

Music was Henry's passion—he loved to sing and his harmonica was always with him. But when Henry spoke of what was most meaningful to him, he talked about people. The Shoah Foundation and its staff meant the world to him. The students he impacted during classroom visits were an inspiration to him. And all of us who interacted with Henry were uplifted and heartened by his company.

Henry passed away on August 28, 2001, in Van Nuys, CA. He lived through the darkest time of modern history, yet amidst the pain and immeasurable loss, he maintained a love of life, and hope for a better world.

We will always remember his music, his miraculous spirit, and his very dear friendship.

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