

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

– Mission Statement of the Shoah Foundation

**SPRING 2004
THE TENTH YEAR**



Montgomery, Alabama
January 25, 2003

HATE CRIMES CONTINUE

The FBI recently reported that 62 percent of the hate crimes in the United States are committed by offenders under the age of 24, half of these under the age of 18.

Munich police arrested a group of Neo-Nazis for planning an attack on a new synagogue in that city in October 2003.

The Southern Poverty Law Center monitored the activities of 708 hate groups in the United States during 2003.

In November 2003, bombers attacked two synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey, killing 62 people.

The National Alliance, a U.S.-based hate group, uses the internet to sell young people a computer game called "Ethnic Cleansing" with a product tag line: "Enter the Virtual Race War!"

Rock music that advocates rage toward all "non-Aryans" is now commonly identified as "hatecore."

In November 2003, arsonists destroyed the CANDLES Holocaust Museum. Located in Terre Haute, Indiana, it was the only museum in the United States dedicated to children used in Nazi medical experiments.

The Anti-Defamation League has identified 541 hate-based music groups worldwide.



Cover: White supremacists from six states demonstrated at the site of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama on January 25, 2003. Photo courtesy of Joe Roy, Director of the Center's Intelligence Project.



A Letter from Douglas Greenberg...

Dear Friends,

Over the last 10 years the Shoah Foundation has collected 52,000 testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust and other eyewitnesses in 56 countries and in 32 languages. We have indexed and digitized half the testimonies, and two years from now, we will have completed the entire task.

The archive is now available at three universities in the United States and, before long, it will be available at universities and libraries around the world. Parts of the archive, in the form of national and state collections, are already available in 14 countries; our documentary films have been broadcast and screened in 40 countries, having been subtitled into 19 languages. Our educational products are in use in 11,000 schools nationally and internationally, and many will soon be available on our new website, reaching hundreds of thousands of schools in virtually every country on the globe.

We have accomplished much these past 10 years with the generous help of friends and supporters like you, and we have even more ambitious plans for the future to commemorate our 10th anniversary.

But this flurry of numbers and the pride we take in our accomplishments do not lull us into complacency. They serve instead to remind us of how much more we have yet to do, how much more the survivors and other witnesses in the archive can still teach. We live in a dangerous world, a world in which anti-Semitism and racism threaten not only Jews but all of humankind.

Because we live in such a world, and because we have the special responsibility of caring for the testimonies given by witnesses to history's greatest crime, our mission goes beyond education about the Holocaust. Our educational goals encompass the Holocaust, but they are broader still; they compel us to use the testimonies in our archive to combat racism and violence in the modern world wherever they appear and whomever they threaten. It is that struggle that absorbs us, that evil we seek to combat, and that challenge our mission captures.

We hope to give future generations the tools to do what ours has failed to do: to abolish intolerance and genocidal violence from the human landscape. At the Shoah Foundation we believe, indeed we know, that each student who sees and hears a testimony is changed by it. This is finally how the world changes: one person at a time. And that – immodestly perhaps – is all we seek at the Shoah Foundation: to change the world, to change it fully, to change it completely, and to change it, if we must, one person at a time.

On behalf of the staff of the Shoah Foundation, I want to thank you for your support these last 10 years and ask you to join us as we begin our second decade of world-changing work.

Douglas Greenberg
President and Chief Executive Officer

A Look Back . . .

10 Years

Although they embrace like long lost friends, the bond between Dana Schwartz and Helen Chalef has been unwavering for years. Both child survivors, they were Shoah Foundation pioneers – participating in its earliest interviews one decade ago. Dana, who barely escaped with her mother from a Polish ghetto, gently guided Helen through the videotaping of her own harrowing story. “I promised never to cry again... but I wasn’t as tough as I thought I was,” says Helen. “The softness of Dana’s voice, the way she encouraged me without probing, made it possible for me to continue.”

“I hope my testimony makes people aware that segregating a group and negating their humanity is a very dangerous thing – not only to those they degrade but because they too become dehumanized.”

– Helen Chalef

The women met recently in Los Angeles to share their thoughts on the Foundation’s milestone anniversary. Dana shows her visitors a painting that she purchased in Israel. It depicts a cellist gone mad because Nazis, upon learning his profession, crushed his fingers. Neither the name of the artist nor of the cellist, both survivors, is known. “This shows why these testimonies are so important,” says Dana.



Dana Schwartz (left) and Helen Chalef

With razor-sharp memory, Dana knows the details from more than 100 survivor interviews that she conducted. She recalls how Helen at age 10 laid down for a nap with her grandmother and dreamed these words from the woman: “You are not hungry. You are not cold. You are not tired. Keep walking.” When she awoke, Helen saw that her grandmother had died in her sleep. Years later, no longer safe at home, and a prisoner in a Nazi death march, Helen helped to save herself by repeating these words over and over.

Although sharing her story made it sometimes feel like “yesterday,” Helen is glad to have done so. “I hope it helps make people aware that segregating a group and negating their humanity is a very dangerous thing – not only to those they degrade but because they too become dehumanized,” she says. And of the friend who helped her through the experience, even as her voice sometimes cracked and her hands sometimes shook: “To this day, I find myself calling Dana just to hear her voice and feel reassured,” says Helen. “She makes me feel that all is going to be well.”

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. . . And Moving Forward

"We have to learn a lesson from the Holocaust – to stop the killing of peaceful, innocent people no matter what it costs to do so."

– Russian student Grigorii Morozov



Grigorii Morozov, a ninth grader at school #87 in a city east of Moscow, watched *Children From the Abyss* twice.

"The first time I just cried," says Grigorii about watching the Foundation documentary that is based upon the firsthand accounts of survivors of Nazi massacres in the Former Soviet Union. "The second time I prepared myself to understand it. Before that, I could never understand why Nazis viciously killed Jews. Fear and envy turned so many people into cold-blooded murderers."

This pensive reaction, elicited from an otherwise typically animated teenager, is encouraging to Feliks Dukhovny. One of the Foundation's regional representatives, Feliks handled all of the scheduling details for the 1,200 interviews conducted with survivors and other witnesses in Russia. This was no small feat. People were "afraid to reveal their Jewish identity" says Feliks, who recently visited the Foundation's Los Angeles headquarters. "In Russia, anti-Semitism permeates from top to bottom."

And this was just one of the challenges he faced while doing the Foundation's work. Throughout the collection process, Feliks often had to make arrangements with town officials to address electricity shortages, and traveled 1,000 miles or more to reach survivors and other interviewees who lived in towns and villages.

10 Years

"Of course during the project I realized it was more important than I ever thought it would be – probably the most important project ever in Russia," he says.

This is why Feliks is eager to see more of the Foundation's testimonies and educational products reach young people like Grigorii Morozov. Towards this end, he has worked hard to make *Children From the Abyss* available in more than 100 educational centers throughout Russia.

"A lot of Russian teachers are hungry for these materials, but the Shoah Foundation lacks the resources to distribute them," he says. "Collecting the testimonies and distributing *Children From the Abyss* are just the first steps toward changing ingrained attitudes."

To return the testimonies to the communities where they were recorded, supporters are encouraged to make



Feliks Dukhovny

a donation to establish an Educational Eastern European Fund. This fund would enable the Foundation to provide access to its archive and products to educators and scholars in Russia and other Eastern European countries – and to students like Grigorii.

Foundation Honors Richard Lovett As 2004 Ambassador for Humanity



L to R: Michael Rutman, Gerald Breslauer, Douglas Greenberg, Bruce Ramer. Greenberg joined the three founding board members in honoring Lovett.

More than 400 guests spanning the generations turned out to honor Richard Lovett, President of Creative Artists Agency, at the 4th Annual *Ambassadors for Humanity* dinner.

The event, held on the lot of Universal Studios on January 14, raised more than \$900,000 for the Foundation. It featured a special musical performance by Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora.

Founding Chairman Steven Spielberg, President and CEO Douglas Greenberg, and event host Mike Meyers paid tribute to Lovett for promoting tolerance, and for his deep commitment to education. In addition to heading CAA, Lovett mentors high school students, teaching courses on goal-setting and on the nature of good and evil.

"If I can be affected in less than 10 minutes from hearing the real-life experience of a survivor, imagine what a whole school can do to help prevent another Holocaust."

– Christina de la Rosa
Venice High School student



L to R: Richard Lovett and his parents, Carol and Mike Lovett

"We have in you a friend who truly understands our work because your own commitments to building a better world are so profound," Greenberg said of Lovett in his remarks.

Presenting Lovett with the *Ambassadors for Humanity 2004 Award*, Spielberg said: "Richard's leadership has encouraged more than half the company of CAA to participate in local school mentoring, literacy, technology, and art programs. Richard is not only the most successful president of the largest talent agency in the world. He makes a difference in people's lives outside of the office."

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**“What would motivate
a person to risk
his or her own well being
to do what is right?”**

– Roberta Ahmanson



Roberta and Howard Ahmanson

Couple's Gift Funds Collection of Rescuer Testimonies

Philanthropists Howard and Roberta Ahmanson travel the world, donating their wealth to numerous charities. Yet of all the causes they support, the Ahmansons describe their recent grant to the Shoah Foundation as being “among the most important that we have ever made.” The gift of \$551,540 will fund the *Corrie ten Boom Collection of Rescuer Testimonies* – stories from more than 1,000 men and women who, at their own peril, rescued and provided aid to others during the Holocaust and immediately afterward. The gift, donated through the Ahmanson Charitable Community Trust, enables the Foundation to index and digitize these testimonies so that they can be accessed by students, scholars, and researchers.

Corrie ten Boom and her family harbored Jews and resisters in their home during World War II. As part of the Dutch Underground, they saved hundreds of men and women. Betrayed to the Germans, ten Boom, her father, and sister were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps where all perished, except for Corrie. She spent the remainder of her life traveling throughout 60 countries where, as a writer and inspirational speaker, she promoted Christian values. For her work as a rescuer, she was honored as a “Righteous Gentile” at Yad Vashem in Israel.

“When their Jewish neighbors were sought for arrest and deportation, the ten Booms, as did many other courageous Dutch families and others throughout Europe, opened their home to hide them and help them escape,” said Roberta Ahmanson, who, in addition to her charitable work, is also an award-winning journalist, and a patron of the arts. “Devout Christians, they were known for helping their Jewish friends keep the Sabbath. Many lived because of the ten Booms.”

Ahmanson added, “In Reformed and Evangelical Christian circles in the United States and Canada, Corrie ten Boom is a heroine. But, though a tree is planted in her name at Yad Vashem, and her name is listed at the Holocaust Memorial, she is not much known beyond those communities. We make this grant in her name because Corrie ten Boom is the example we all need, the person who had the conviction and the courage to risk her life to save the other, to save someone very different from herself. She risked her life that others might live. We need to ponder her example and that of others like her, not only today but for generations to come.”

Rescuer stories in this collection include:

- Irene Gut-Opdyke was the assistant housekeeper for a German Nazi major. She succeeded in hiding 12 Jews throughout the war in the basement of the major's headquarters. She was interviewed in Yorba Linda, California in 1995.
- Maria Sodor helped her family rescue Jewish families when her father was the mayor of Budapest. She gave her testimony in Budapest, Hungary in 2001.
- Henk Liefers and his family, Jehovah's Witnesses, hid 20 people, mostly Jehovah's Witnesses, on their large farm. He was interviewed in 1997 in the Netherlands.
- Amnon Ajzensztadt, a rabbi's son, used false papers to enlist in the Nazi military, where he was able to smuggle himself into and out of the Warsaw Ghetto so he could rescue Jews. He later crossed to the Russian side and was almost executed as a Nazi spy. He was interviewed in 1997 in Toronto, Canada.

An Evening in the Hamptons

Raises \$780,000 for the Shoah Foundation

On Sunday, August 10, the Shoah Foundation held its second annual *Evening in the Hamptons*, raising nearly \$780,000 to support its work to combat intolerance and bigotry. More than 300 people attended the benefit at the home of Mickey and Paola Schulhof in East Hampton, New York – for cocktails, dinner, and a special performance by The Harry Connick, Jr. Quartet. The funds generated will bolster the Foundation's educational efforts – helping to speed the delivery of the testimonies to classrooms, libraries, and museums worldwide.

The Schulhofs, supporters of the Foundation since its inception, were joined by co-hosts Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker, Jerry and Jessica Seinfeld, Mort Zuckerman, Arne and Milly Glimcher, and Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw. Welcoming the crowd, Mickey Schulhof said the Shoah Foundation's work has special meaning for him and his wife. Both have parents, and other relatives who are survivors, who gave testimony. Praising the Foundation's achievements, he added that "the work is far from over."

A highlight of the evening was the performance by Harry Connick, Jr. who said that he was grateful that his three young daughters would be able to learn from the testimony of survivors and other witnesses that "prejudice and violence are unacceptable."

Foundation President and CEO Douglas Greenberg said that the recording and cataloguing of nearly 52,000 testimonies was merely preparation for the real work of the Foundation. "Our goal is that someday children in every school in all of the 56 countries where we conducted interviews will have the chance not only to know about racism and ethnic violence but to understand them too. Perhaps then we will be able to count upon them to do what we have failed to do: to oppose and eventually defeat ethnic, racial, and religious hatred."

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L to R: Milly and Arne Glimcher, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick



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L to R: Jerry and Jessica Seinfeld, Steven Spielberg, Matthew Broderick, Sarah Jessica Parker, hosts Paola and Mickey Schulhof, Harry Connick, Jr., Jill Connick

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Helga Wolffs (left) and Miriam Kafka

“No matter how high your expectations of Helga, she always kept her promises. She was always there for you.”

– Miriam Kafka

Helga Wolffs' Legacy

A survivor of four concentration camps who lost her parents at Auschwitz, Helga Wolffs discussed her wartime experiences reluctantly. “Most of the time, we talked about old times or the present, not in-between,” says Miriam Kafka, Helga’s childhood friend from Prague. Still, Helga gave her testimony to the Shoah Foundation and made provisions for a generous bequest to support its work. “She felt it was important that there would be a record of what people experienced,” says Kafka.

Gifted in languages, Helga served as a translator during war crimes trials, and later for a lawyer who handled restitution to Czech and German Holocaust victims. Although she was in almost constant pain from injuries inflicted on her in the camps, Helga traveled the world with her husband Herbert. She was an avid reader, an opera buff and, after leaving New York to retire in San Diego, loved to walk to the beach with her husband. And she was as gifted in friendship as she was in languages. “There are very few people who you can 100 percent rely upon,” says Kafka. “No matter how high your expectations of Helga, she always kept her promises. She was always there for you.”

Helga’s promise to support the Shoah Foundation’s educational mission was fulfilled through a generous gift she left in her will. By making this planned gift, Helga made an important contribution towards ensuring the future of the Foundation and its critical programs to fight intolerance and bigotry.

There are many ways to make a planned gift, including wills, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, retirement plans, real property, and more. You too can make a difference by supporting the Shoah Foundation as a member of the *Legacy Society*. For more information about making a planned gift, please contact Steven Klappholz at (818) 866-2004.

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New Major Gifts through December 2003

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Maxine Dunitz	\$10,000
J. Hammond Investments Pty Ltd. <i>to distribute testimony in Australia</i>	AUD \$10,000
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A & E Network	\$15,000
Ervin Katz <i>to distribute testimony in Australia</i>	AUD \$15,000
Warner Home Video	\$15,000
Jack & Maxine Zarrow Foundation <i>to establish the Oklahoma Collection of Holocaust Testimonies at the Sherwin Miller Museum in Tulsa, OK</i>	\$18,295
Richard Witten <i>to establish the Witten Family Education Fund in honor of Harry R. Hayes</i>	\$20,000
Fran Bermanzohn	\$25,000
Helen Weiss	\$25,000
The Hite Foundation <i>to support the Shoah Foundation's partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust in the United Kingdom</i>	\$30,000

The Leo Rosner Foundation <i>to convert Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust from a CD Rom to an internet educational tool</i>	\$ 35,000
Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation <i>to establish the Oklahoma Collection of Holocaust Testimonies at the Sherwin Miller Museum in Tulsa, OK</i>	\$ 36,590
Louis Borick	\$ 50,000
CBS Entertainment	\$ 50,000
John & Janet Kornreich	\$ 50,000
Pears Family Charitable Foundation <i>to support the development of a program with the Holocaust Educational Trust in the United Kingdom</i>	£ 50,000
Phil & Monica Rosenthal	\$ 50,000
Courtney Ross-Holst	\$ 50,000
Robert Greenberg	\$ 66,100
Levy-Markus Foundation <i>to launch the Testimony to Tolerance Initiative in Jackson, Mississippi</i>	\$ 75,000
Library Services & Technology Act, U.S. Institute of Museum & Library Services Via the CA State Library, through a partnership with USC - <i>to digitize California Testimonies in preparation for university access via Internet2</i>	\$146,655
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L to R: Professor Leslie Reti and Ms Lee Liberman, visiting the Foundation from Melbourne, Australia.

L to R: Douglas Greenberg, Courtney Ross-Holst and Anders Holst, Founder and Co-Chair, Ross School and Institute in East Hampton, New York



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National Teachers' Workshop Held at Shoah Foundation

Michelle Butorac, a tenth grade Catholic school teacher from Downey, California, seemed to speak for all of the eight men and women who recently attended a workshop at the Shoah Foundation's Los Angeles headquarters. "I want my students to be transformed through the study of the Holocaust," Butorac told the group. "It's important to me that they become people who will make a difference."

"Testimonies give students a very human, real experience. It transcends the cultural and linguistic barriers that I constantly face. With the students that I teach, I need to get to their hearts before they'll let me into their heads."

– Sharon Hine, Miami, Florida

Towards this end, the Shoah Foundation hosted a week-long *Summer 2003 Teacher Workshop*, a milestone which marked the first time that a group of classroom teachers could search the archive for testimony clips to integrate into their classroom work. The teachers traveled from geographically and culturally diverse cities throughout the United States.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and conducted at the Foundation's Tapper Research and Testing Center. The new Center provides educators, students, and researchers access via computer stations to the nearly 52,000 testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses that have been recorded by the Foundation since 1994.

After a tutorial on the use of the digitally searchable Visual History Archive, the teachers worked in teams to identify testimonies that related to specific themes, including: *Can One Person Make a Difference?*, *Character Defining Moments*, and *The Power of Language*. With decades of combined teaching experience, these veteran teachers – many of whom are

teacher trainers and community leaders themselves – were deeply affected and inspired by their first encounter with this unique teaching resource.

"You build the technology, and we'll learn how to talk to it... and then we'll teach others how to use it so that these memories can be shared throughout the world," said Cathy Pettijohn, a high school teacher from Oklahoma City who also serves as Director of Holocaust Education and Community Resources for the local Jewish Federation. "Even if one student is able to have a character-defining experience of her own, then my work is not in vain – and neither is yours."

Butorac anticipated that her students would have "an immediate, empathetic connection" with survivor testimony. "One woman recalled things that hurt and devastated her when she was a teenager before the war," she said. "Those moments enable my students to think about the Holocaust – not in terms of numbers or figures... but in terms of individuals. Watching testimony helps students to realize this happened to *people*. In so many cases, people just like themselves."

In addition to Butorac, Hine, and Pettijohn, the teachers included Marshall Marvelli from Kernersville, North Carolina; Lisa Muller from Evansville, Indiana; Lisa Armstrong from Overland Park, Kansas; Lisa Rodriguez-Placencio from San Antonio, Texas; and Eric Talley from New York, New York. Currently, the testimony segments identified by these teachers are being compiled to create a classroom video for teachers around the country. This teaching tool will be distributed with a teacher's guide based on the lesson plans that the eight participants wrote during the workshop.



Eric Talley teaches at-risk and special education students at Satellite Academy in New York City



Professor Mark Harris, from the USC School of Cinema-Television, uses Foundation testimonies in his class, *Creating the Nonfiction Film*

Three Universities Now Connected to Archive

A professor of German and Slavic Studies at Rice University in Houston, Regina Kecht examines the factors that create an “altruistic personality” with the students in her freshman seminar, *Between Resistance and Collaboration*, a course which highlights the varied responses by individuals to totalitarianism in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.

Now, thanks to a pilot project that began in 2003, Kecht and her students for the first time have direct access in their classrooms, and on their personal computers, to Foundation testimonies – to assist them in understanding what nurtures altruism, and the nuances of other issues such as courage and civil disobedience.

“The witness reports from the Foundation’s archive corroborate literary studies, and encourage students from this very visually-oriented generation to evaluate the choices they make in today’s world,” says Kecht. “By seeing and hearing the testimony of people with very diverse backgrounds, my students understand that these are not only issues from the past. They are the epitome of human depravity that exists to this day.”

This new level of academic research, made possible in large part through a one million dollar grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, allows the Foundation to deliver its testimonies not only to Rice University, but to the University of Southern California (USC), and Yale University through Internet2. Internet2, separate from the World Wide Web, is a high-quality, very secure network created to promote research and communication between nearly 200 universities and research institutions.

The project, which was also funded by the Library Sciences Technology Act and by the National Science Foundation, lays the groundwork to eventually connect the Foundation’s archive not only to USC, Rice, and Yale, but to all of the schools served by Internet2.

“This is a milestone in our effort to erode the walls separating the Foundation from scholars and libraries,” says Douglas Greenberg.

Esther Brown, a Rice senior, tapped into the archive for her final project in *Violence, Terror, and Social Trauma*, an anthropology course. She wrote:

“One of the most moving moments in my research took place when a woman, recounting the doubts and questions that haunted her after her family’s deaths, broke down into weeping. It conveyed her utter, devastating loss in a way that moved far beyond the facts of her experience.”

Yale University was a pioneer in recording the testimonies of Holocaust survivors, now housed in its Fortunoff Archive. “Students were very happy about the new methodologies for their research and study,” says Derek Merleaux, Project Manager for Educational Technology. “Previously, their access to survivor testimonies was very limited, but now they can view testimonies at work stations and on their personal computers on campus at any time of day or night.”

Via Internet2, three universities began to incorporate Shoah Foundation testimonies into coursework that covers a variety of disciplines. These courses include:

Yale University

European Bestsellers in Contemporary Fiction (German Studies, Literature) • *Italy, 1852-1945* (History) • *Visuality and Violence* (American Studies, Women’s & Gender Studies)

Rice University

Between Resistance and Collaboration: Individuals Responding to National Socialism (German Studies) • *Introduction to Judaism* (Religious Studies) • *Violence, Terror, and Social Trauma* (Anthropology)

University of Southern California

Creating the Nonfiction Film (School of Cinema-Television) • *Representations of the Holocaust* (School of Cinema-Television)

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Douglas Greenberg (center) with Eva Scheinberg, Sydney Regional Consultant (left) and Pauline Rockman, Melbourne Regional Consultant (right) in front of the National Library of Australia with institutional leaders from Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney

Australia

Douglas Greenberg traveled to Australia to preside over a meeting at the National Library in Canberra with leaders from ten Australian institutions to discuss forming a consortium to make the 2,500 Australian testimonies available in libraries, museums, and universities throughout the country.

In addition to the National Library, participants included State Library of Victoria, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney Jewish Museum, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre, Makor Jewish Community Library, Monash University Library, Powerhouse Museum, and Museum of Victoria.

“The placement of the collection in these important places of learning will be powerful recognition that these testimonies are an important resource, not only about the Holocaust and for the Jewish community, but about Australian history, and for Australian citizens of all backgrounds,” said Greenberg.

The next step is to raise funds for the Australian project, which will enable the 10 institutions, and potentially others in the future, to have access to the collection.

While in Australia, Greenberg also visited the Koorie Heritage Trust, a museum in Melbourne dedicated to promoting and protecting the history and culture of southeastern Indigenous communities. After touring the museum, Genevieve Grieves, Coordinator, Oral History Unit, noted an “inspiring link” between the Foundation and the museum. “We share a similar commitment to learning from the past to provide a better future,” she said. “The Trust is excited about working with the Foundation to achieve these shared goals. As we say, “Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki: give me your hand my friend.”

Greenwich, Connecticut

In a ceremony at the Greenwich Library, the Foundation returned eight testimonies given by Holocaust survivors and witnesses from Greenwich, Connecticut to that community. “By donating these testimonies, the Shoah Foundation has become an integral part of the Holocaust educational process,” said Michael Bobkoff, Chairman of the Liberal Arts/Humanities Curriculum at Westchester Community College. The family of Dr. Nelson Bonheim, a local resident, donated the collection in his honor.



L to R: Professor Michael Bobkoff; Richard Hart, Greenwich Library Information Team; Kimberly Bonheim Birbrower, Director of Education; Carolyn Bonheim and Dr. Nelson Bonheim

Dachau

On October 21, 2003, in a dedication ceremony, the first collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies was made available at a Holocaust memorial site. Held at the former concentration camp at Dachau, the event was attended by dignitaries and survivors as well as representatives of the Shoah Foundation. The collection contains 33 German-language testimonies.

Those attending the dedication included Dr. Max Mannheimer. Mannheimer survived six camps, including Dachau, and lost six of his eight family members during the war. He said “The biological process is irreversible and in a few years from now, there will be no more eyewitnesses. Thus, it was important to interview these very people, so everyone learns what happened and to make young people familiar with that time.”

Dr. Barbara Distel, Director of the memorial site, said that the educational seminars offered there will now be highlighted by survivor interviews. This collection was made possible by a grant from the Allianz Group.

Hungary

With an unprecedented, multi-lingual archive, the Shoah Foundation is continually exploring the ways that educators around the world can utilize and integrate this international resource in their classrooms. Towards this goal, Douglas Greenberg met with the Education Working Group of The Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research.

Greenberg led a discussion that focused on the use of testimonies in classroom settings, and presented a sample lesson created by the Shoah Foundation for use in U.S. classrooms. The lesson provided testimony, along with other primary source material – a combination designed to encourage critical thinking, build writing skills, and highlight civics, conflict negotiation, and historical analysis.

“Our dream is to see educators and policy makers in a given country, using Shoah Foundation testimonies in that country’s language, to address the most crucial issues that face young people in their own communities,” said Greenberg.

The Task Force consists of representatives of government, as well as governmental and non governmental organizations. Its purpose is to place political and social leaders’ support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research on an international level. The Task Force currently consists of sixteen member countries.



Steven Klappholz hands the videotaped testimony of a local survivor to Varda Ratner. Also pictured are Sharon Greenwald (third from left), dedication co-chair; Maxine Cohen, Executive Director, Holocaust Memorial of the San Antonio, Texas Jewish Federation

San Antonio, Texas

At a moving ceremony chaired by the daughters of Holocaust survivors, the Foundation returned twenty testimonies given by survivors residing in San Antonio to that community.

More than 150 students, educators, community leaders, survivors, their children, and grandchildren attended the dedication of the collection, now housed at the Holocaust Memorial of San Antonio.

“I’m very glad that my mother gave her testimony to the Shoah Foundation,” said Varda Ratner, event co-chair and the daughter of Ilona Haendel, whose testimony is in the collection. “It means a lot to both of us that her story isn’t lost forever and that something will come of it.”

As a child, Ratner only heard “snippets” about her mother’s harrowing wartime experiences. Now, she recites the story in vivid detail – from Haendel’s risky escape with her own mother from a Nazi death march, and the months of hiding that followed in Budapest.

Also participating in the dedication were Sharon Greenwald, event co-chair; Rabbi Samuel Stahl, Chair of the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Commission; Maxine Cohen, Executive Director of the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial; and Steven Klappholz, Vice President for Development of the Shoah Foundation. Funding for this collection, one of three local collections now available for viewing in the United States, was provided by the Dalkowitz Foundation.

“The 20 testimonies are a treasure for San Antonio and for those who were able to rebuild their lives through the hospitality of this community,” said Oscar Ehrenberg, whose testimony is included in the collection.

Czech Republic



Douglas Greenberg with Leo Pavlát (right), director of the Jewish Museum of Prague, and Miloš Pojar (left), head of the Educational and Cultural Center of the Museum. Greenberg was in the Czech Republic to explore ways to make the Czech collection of testimonies available to educators, students, and scholars.

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“We hope to give future generations the tools to do what ours has failed to do: to abolish intolerance and genocidal violence from the human landscape.”

– Douglas Greenberg
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Highlights of the Shoah Foundation's First Decade

1994

One year after Holocaust survivors visit the set of *Schindler's List*, Steven Spielberg establishes Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation as a nonprofit organization.

The original mission of the Foundation is to record the testimonies of 50,000 Holocaust survivors and other witnesses around the world before it is too late.

The Foundation's newly-trained interviewers conduct the first interviews, including those of a child survivor, Jewish and non-Jewish resistance group members, a war crimes trial participant, and a liberator.

The first regional offices open in New York and Toronto.

1995

The Foundation collects its 10,000th testimony. Interviews conducted this year include the first political prisoner, homosexual survivor, and Jehovah's Witness survivor testimonies.

The first multi-national and multi-lingual interviewer training session is held in Amsterdam.

Regional offices open in 16 cities internationally. In its first decade, the Foundation establishes 36 such regional offices.

1996

The Foundation installs a digital computer system with the capacity to store 50,000 digitized visual history testimonies. The digital indexing of testimonies begins.

Survivors of the Holocaust – the Foundation's first documentary – is released.

The United States Government grants one million dollars to support the Foundation's work.

1997

The 25,000th testimony is collected – representing 50 percent of the Foundation's collection goal.

The Lost Children of Berlin, the Foundation's second documentary, premieres on the A&E network.

New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage incorporates Foundation testimonies into its exhibit, *A Memorial to the Holocaust*.

The Foundation records the first testimony of a survivor of Nazi eugenics policies.

1998

The 40,000th testimony is collected. The Foundation expands its outreach and begins collecting testimonies in Italy and Greece.

The Foundation releases its first educational CD-ROM, *Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust*, with an accompanying study guide.

The Last Days, the Foundation's first theatrical documentary, premieres at screenings in New York and Los Angeles. The film chronicles the experiences of five Hungarian survivors as they return to their hometowns and the sites where they lived through the Holocaust.

The Lost Children of Berlin is honored with the Edward R. Murrow Award.

1999

The Foundation reaches its original goal of collecting 50,000 testimonies.

The Last Days receives the Academy Award® for Best Documentary Feature.

The Last Days companion book debuts in English, French, and German.

Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft (Remembering for the Present and the Future), the Foundation's German-language interactive CD-ROM incorporating the testimony of survivors and other witnesses, debuts at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina receives a collection of testimonies conducted with Bosnian Holocaust survivors in Sarajevo.

The Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris is the first institution outside the U.S. to incorporate French testimonies from the Foundation's archive—in its “Kristallnacht” exhibit.

Milestones

2000

The Foundation completes *Broken Silence*, a series of five one-hour foreign language documentaries representing the Holocaust as experienced by survivors from Argentina and Uruguay, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Russia. Each documentary was directed by an award-winning filmmaker native to the country being portrayed.

Remembering Oświęcim, a video incorporating the testimonies of survivors who were part of a thriving Jewish community in Oświęcim before the Nazis invaded the town and renamed it Auschwitz, is now part of a visitor's exhibit at the Auschwitz Jewish Center.

The Foundation launches a three-year Pilot Education Initiative in the United States to examine the use of Shoah Foundation educational materials by teachers and students in five public school districts, in California, Virginia, Florida, Illinois, and Oregon.

2001

The Foundation announces its new mission: To overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry – and the suffering they cause – through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies.

The Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam partners with the Shoah Foundation and opens the first national collection of Foundation testimonies. The collection contains more than 1,000 testimonies of survivors and other witnesses who were born or who have resided in the Netherlands.

Children from the Abyss («Дети из бездны»), the *Broken Silence* documentary based upon testimonies of child survivors, and other witnesses from the former Soviet Union, is broadcast in Russia – where Holocaust history is rarely taught in schools.



A Chicago student listens to survivor testimonies

2002

The Foundation establishes an Education Department to explore and expand the use of visual history in educational settings. The department is charged with creating educational programs and products for classroom use by students of all ages, and broadening access to the archive.

Remembering for the Present and the Future (the German-language interactive CD-ROM) is now available in five German states reaching approximately one million students.

Broken Silence debuts in the United States, airing on five consecutive nights on Home Box Office's Cinemax channel.

The Tapper Research and Testing Center is dedicated – an on-site research center that enables researchers, students, and educators to conduct independent research in the Foundation's archive.

The Charleston County Public Library opens a collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies containing the interviews of 28 survivors and witnesses who gave testimony in South Carolina. This is the first regional collection available for viewing at a public library.

The Foundation and the Archivio centrale dello Stato (Central State Archive) of Italy form a partnership. Three Italian archivists travel to Los Angeles to index more than 400 Italian-language testimonies that will be housed at the State Archive.

2003

The Shoah Foundation completes the indexing of one half of the Foundation's archive, including more than 25,000 English language testimonies.

A newly designed, interactive website launches at www.vhf.org, providing access to testimonies, searchable data, historical context, and educational resources for students, educators, and researchers worldwide.

The Foundation partners with the Anti-Defamation League in the U.S., and with the Holocaust Educational Trust in the U.K., to create multimedia products to meet the needs of the many educators with whom these organizations already work.

One Human Spirit, the Foundation's first educational video for classrooms, becomes available to United Learning's 22,000 subscriber schools across the United States.

Racism-Antiracism, the first college course based on the Foundation's visual history testimonies, is offered to students at Bárczi Gustáv College in Hungary.

Algunos que viveron (*Some Who Lived*), the *Broken Silence* Spanish-language documentary featuring survivors from Argentina and Uruguay, is broadcast for the first time in both of those countries. Thirty copies of the documentary are purchased by the Holocaust Museum in Houston for use in local, bilingual schools, and communities – the first time that students in the U.S. have widespread exposure to the Foundation's Spanish-language materials.



Students from *Giving Voice*

This new educational product weaves survivor testimonies with the interviews and "video diaries" of seven diverse teenagers as they examine prejudice and bigotry in their own communities and in society today.

For more information, visit *Films for the Humanities & Sciences* at www.films.com or call 1-800-257-5126.



"None of your children will be able to meet a survivor. So you have a very important mission to teach future generations through the testimony we have given."

– Sidonia Lax, Holocaust survivor, speaking to teens who recently visited the Shoah Foundation

The Shoah Foundation is approaching its 10th Anniversary – completing a decade of remarkable achievement. Won't you please consider making a donation to our **10th Anniversary Fund** to help us continue our urgent work into the next decade?

The envelope in this publication gives you a way to support our important mission – to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry – and the suffering they cause – through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies.

Creating a more tolerant world is our collective responsibility. We need your help to assure that the thousands of life histories we have recorded will be seen and heard by as many people as possible for generations to come.

Please take a moment to make a donation and return it in the enclosed envelope. Your gift of any size to commemorate our **10th Anniversary** will be greatly appreciated.

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