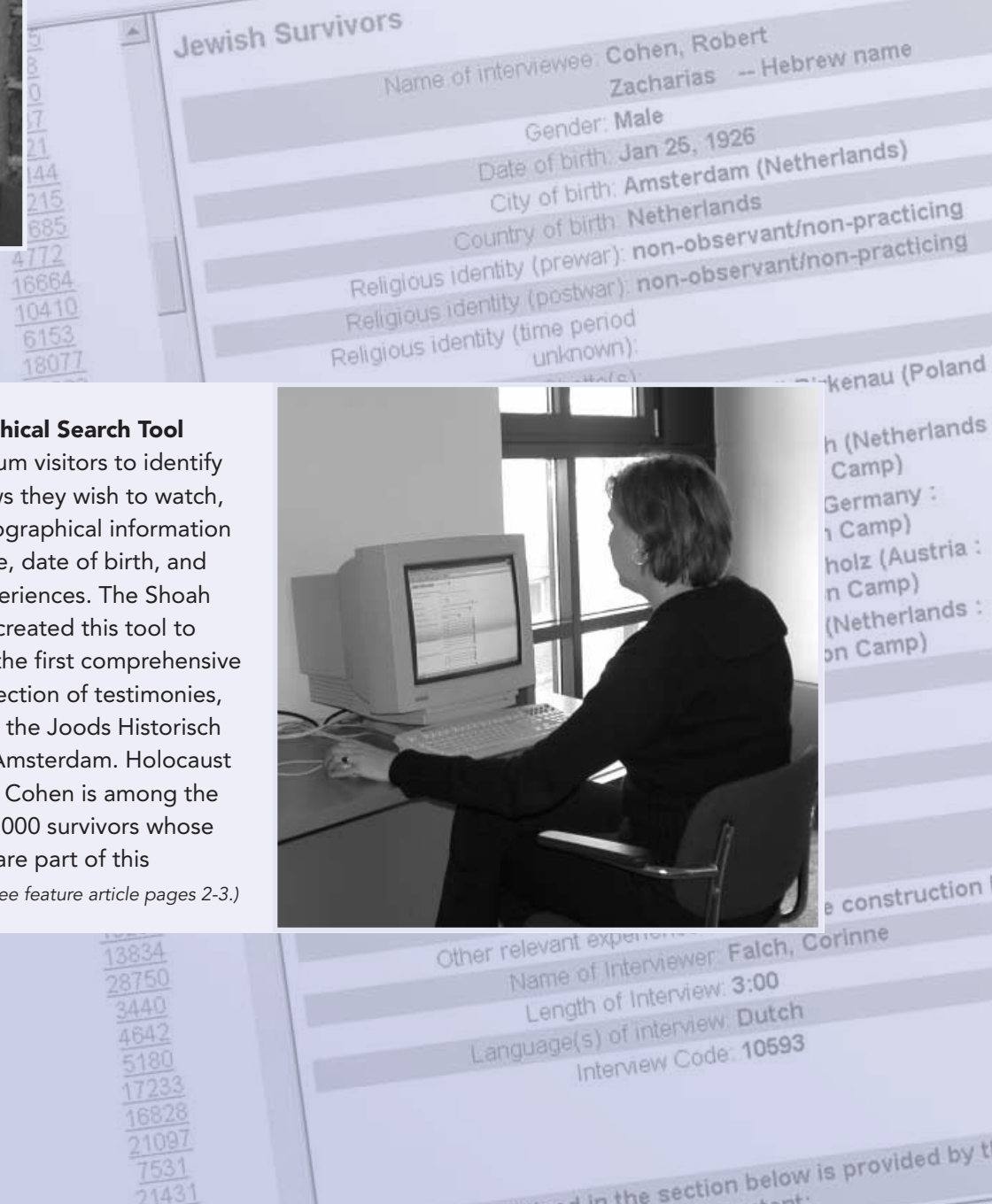


The **Biographical Search Tool**

allows museum visitors to identify the interviews they wish to watch, based on biographical information such as name, date of birth, and wartime experiences. The Shoah Foundation created this tool to accompany the first comprehensive national collection of testimonies, now open at the Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam. Holocaust survivor Rob Cohen is among the more than 1,000 survivors whose testimonies are part of this collection. (See feature article pages 2-3.)



Dutch Collection Opens in

"As I watched my father's videotape, I had trouble understanding why he was able to tell his personal story to a complete stranger in only a few hours, while it had taken me about thirty years to get the same information out of him."



Ralph Levie (left), Executive Secretary of the JHM, with Jan Brak, from the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Sixty years after the *Shoah*, the stories of the Dutch men and women who survived are finally heard in their homeland as the Joods Historisch Museum unveils the first comprehensive national collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies.

"As I watched my father's videotape, I had trouble understanding why he was able to tell his personal story to a complete stranger in only a few hours, while it had taken me about thirty years to get the same information out of him," says Ralph Levie, Executive Secretary for the Joods Historisch Museum (Jewish Historical Museum) in Amsterdam. "The Shoah Foundation seems to have enabled him to overcome the paradox between reluctance to burden the next generation with the horrors of war and the urge to tell his story."

Between 1995 and 1998, more than 1,000 Holocaust survivors and other witnesses who were born or have resided in the Netherlands gave testimony to the Shoah Foundation. Their videotaped interviews compose the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection at the Joods Historisch Museum.

The Collection marks a milestone in one of the Foundation's goals: to return the testimonies to the countries where they were gathered. For Ralph Levie, it is an essential step in a national dialogue: "It's very hard to realize that 75 percent [of Dutch Jews] were killed, but even harder to admit that, as a society, a lot of people helped the Jews, but a lot of people also helped the Nazis... It's a long process, but things are slowly changing and that's why this collection is so important."



Shoah Foundation Regional Consultant (Netherlands) Denise Citroen (left) and Kim Simon (VP for Partnerships and International Programs)

The Joods Historisch Museum (JHM) is an appropriate home for this collection. Housed in former synagogues from the 17th and 18th centuries, the JHM preserves the religion, culture and history of Jews in the Netherlands and provides educational programs and a resource center. Even before the Shoah Foundation completed its interviewing in the Netherlands, the JHM expressed an interest in eventually housing the collection. "These are the stories of our families and our communities," says Ralph Levie. "They should be available to the Dutch public; the next generation needs them."

The Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection at the JHM:

- 1,035 testimonies
- 926 Jewish survivors
- 76 rescuers and aid providers
- 27 Jehovah's Witness survivors
- 4 political prisoners
- 1 Sinti and Roma survivor
- 1 homosexual survivor

Although the majority of the interviews are in Dutch, this collection also includes testimonies in English, French, German, Hungarian, and Flemish.

The Shoah Foundation relied on more than 80 local Dutch interviewers and videographers to conduct the testimonies of more than 1,000 people in the Netherlands. Their efforts were led by Regional Consultant Denise Citroen, who also facilitated the Shoah Foundation's partnership with the JHM. Denise reflects that although the Foundation's focus has evolved over the years, the core of its work remains the same: the survivor who "takes you by the hand, takes you in [to her life], and takes you back out again." She says viewers respond to the interviewees with such empathy and respect that even young students are inspired to watch entire interviews, which average more than two hours in length.

Amsterdam

Students and other visitors to the JHM have the ability to find specific testimonies they are interested in watching, thanks to the Biographical Search Tool designed by the Shoah Foundation for this collection. This software allows searches of interviewees' basic biographical information (such as name, date of birth, place of birth). Visitors can also search for interviewees who had particular experiences, such as those who were deported to specific camps or ghettos.

The JHM recognized early on the importance of these testimonies and their place in Dutch society and with funding from the Dutch government's Ministry for Health, Welfare, and Sport, the Shoah Foundation was able to provide the collection and develop the Biographical Search Tool.

Ministry representatives joined Shoah Foundation European staff and Dutch interviewers and videographers, JHM staff, and others at the collection's opening on October 24, 2001. Foundation CEO Douglas Greenberg and Vice President for Partnerships and International Programs Kim Simon, who led the project, attended the event. The program included a demonstration of the Biographical Search Tool, addresses from Ralph Levie and Douglas Greenberg, and a videotaped message from Founding Chairman Steven Spielberg, in which he concluded: "If future collaborations are undertaken in the same spirit of mutual respect that animated our work here in Amsterdam,



L to R: Staff and volunteers of the Shoah Foundation Netherlands office: Ireen van Engelen; Maarten van Werkhoven; Jack Weil; Wils van de Ven (Regional Assistant Coordinator); Denise Citroen; Koen Piller

"At a moment in history when many of us feel in danger of being overwhelmed by hatred and violence, we could do worse than to heed the wisdom of men and women who came from the ashes of war to condemn the evil that led to the slaughter of so many of their friends and family. It is an honor to thank each of them for their contribution to a better, more peaceful world."

– Shoah Foundation President and CEO

Douglas Greenberg at the opening of the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection at the Joods Historisch Museum

then the survivors' dream that their voices will be heard long after they are gone will become a reality."

Later, a video featuring Holocaust survivor and Dutch news anchor, Jaap van Meekren, and the woman who hid him during the war, Bastiaantje Meijer, was shown as an example of the life stories contained in the collection. "There are not many heroes," says van Meekren, sitting next to Meijer in their Shoah Foundation interview, "But she is one." Van Meekren and Meijer have both since passed away, but their testimonies will endure as part of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Collection at the Joods Historisch Museum.

Survey of Visitors to the Collection

Between October 25, 2001 and February 20, 2002, the JHM's Director of Library and Archives, Lonnie Stegink, and her staff distributed surveys provided by the Shoah Foundation to visitors who used the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection. Below is a sampling of the results.

- 97% came from one of 31 cities in the Netherlands
- 3% came from other countries
- 32% were researching family history
- 9% were students
- 6% were journalists
- 13% were historians

Visitors ranged from a high school student researching a paper on Jewish identity to an anthropologist interested in Roma and Sinti experiences. Several visitors were Holocaust survivors themselves. Others included a documentary filmmaker interested in interview techniques and an archivist interested in the Jehovah's Witness survivor testimonies. Many visitors cited an interest in World War II, the Holocaust, or Jewish history.

Lonnie Stegink explains, "Working in this library, I'm used to reading about many topics in 20th-century Jewish-Dutch history, but I'm experiencing the same thing many visitors are: the events and people the interviewees talk about come alive."

For more information about the JHM, visit their website at www.jhm.nl.

L to R: Denise Citroen; R.C. Musaph-Andriese, Honorary President of the Board of the JHM; Douglas Greenberg

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*As *Past Forward* was going to press, we were saddened to hear of Lew Wasserman's passing. The Shoah Foundation thanks Mr. Wasserman for his incredible generosity and ongoing support of our work. He will be missed.

The Charleston County Public Library



Charleston Library Unveils South Carolina Collection

Dientje Krant Kalisky spent three years hidden by a nun in a closet with only her beloved doll, Aneke Pop, for company. When her parents, who had also been in hiding, came back for her after the war, seven-year-old Dientje didn't recognize them.

Dientje's testimony is part of the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection, which debuted in April at the Charleston County Public Library, in Charleston, South Carolina. The Collection consists of the testimonies of 28 Holocaust survivors who were interviewed in South Carolina between 1994 and 1998. The first of its kind in the United States, this regional collection will provide educational support for Holocaust studies in the public school and library systems.

The collection is a milestone for both the Shoah Foundation and the Charleston community. In 1996, the city's Holocaust Memorial Committee established the Jerry and Anita Zucker Holocaust Memorial Collection at the Library. To enrich this resource center, committee development chair Jennifer Henriques Phillips, a former Shoah Foundation interviewer, facilitated a relationship between the Foundation and the Library to bring Holocaust eyewitness testimonies home to Charleston.

The official opening took place on April 8 in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The program included a video presentation, incorporating portions of testimonies available for viewing at the library. Survivor Pincus Kolender was honored to have his testimony included, saying, "It's the only way we can combat bigotry and hatred – by education."

"The survivors are our treasures, and we must cherish their testimonies."

– Anita Zucker, founder of the Jerry and Anita Zucker Holocaust Memorial Collection at the Charleston County Public Library and the daughter of Holocaust survivors

Shoah Foundation President and CEO Douglas Greenberg later said, "The vision of the Library's Director, Jan Buvinger, the commitment of the community expressed by Jerry and Anita Zucker, the leadership of the mayor, Joseph Reilly, and the educational potential of the collection were all inspiring to me. Charleston has created a model that I very much hope other cities will follow."

For more information, see the Library's website at www.ccpl.org.

"I truly think that everyone in the community will benefit from viewing the collection, regardless of their religious background or political beliefs. These testimonies remind us all to stay mindful of the intensely personal impact of world events."

– Jan Buvinger, Director,
Charleston County Public Library

Opening the Archive: Diverse Projects Depend on Testimonies

A key facet of the Shoah Foundation's mission is to provide direct access to testimonies in the archive. Since 1999, the Foundation has received more than 600 requests for access from diverse sources, including museums, universities, documentary filmmakers, researchers, students, governments, and educators. To date, the Foundation has fulfilled about half of the requests, a number that will rise as increasingly detailed information becomes available through cataloguing.

Past Forward shares a sampling of the requests that have been fulfilled.

Regional Collections – Various institutions have established collections for public viewing, consisting of copies of testimonies, usually from a particular region. Since 1999, the *Jevrejska Zajednica Bosne i Hercegovine* (Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina) in Sarajevo has housed 40 testimonies from Bosnian Holocaust survivors. (Other examples include the Charleston County Public Library, opposite, and the Joods Historisch Museum, page 2.)

Common Experience Collections – Collections can also be defined by a common experience, such as the one at *Dokumentation und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma* (Documentation and Cultural Center for German Sinti and Roma) in Heidelberg, Germany. The center unveiled a collection of twelve testimonies of German and Austrian Sinti and Roma survivors of the Holocaust on May 23, 2002.

Publications – Many writers have quoted directly from testimonies, or viewed testimonies as research for their work. Svetlana Danilova's 2000 book on the "Mountain Jews" of the Nalchik region of Russia's Caucasus Mountains includes transcripts of testimonies of eleven survivors from this community.



Svetlana Danilova's book on Mountain Jews

Scholarly Research –

Suzanne Kaplan, the Foundation's Regional Consultant in Sweden, is the first scholar to base her doctoral research on Shoah Foundation testimonies. Suzanne viewed and utilized 40 interviews with child survivors for her thesis on children's reaction to trauma and loss.



Suzanne Kaplan, Foundation Regional Consultant in Sweden

Documentary Films – The makers of *Paragraph 175*, a documentary about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals, viewed eleven interviews as research and included portions of homosexual Holocaust survivor testimony on the DVD version. (See www.tellingpictures.com for more information.)

Use of Methodology – In addition to requesting access to the testimonies themselves, some institutions have also asked to make use of the Shoah Foundation's methodology. One such group, the U.S. Latino and Latina World War II Oral History Project at the University of Texas at Austin, adapted the Shoah Foundation's Pre-Interview Questionnaire in order to interview Latino veterans.



Jakov Finci (left), President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Ed Serotta, founder of Centropa: The Jewish Heritage Project, visit the Shoah Foundation

Background map: A Kiev, Ukraine community group viewed Shoah Foundation testimonies as research for their recreation of a historical map of Babi Yar, where more than 33,000 Jews were massacred in 1941.

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FOUNDATION NEWS

A Letter from Douglas Greenberg...



Dear Friends:

Last summer, the Board of the Shoah Foundation adopted a new mission: to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry – and the suffering they cause – through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies. This new mission carried with it new imperatives to expand our programs, develop our products, and provide access to our 52,000 testimonies throughout the world. We have begun to meet these challenges in the last several months.

For example, I have recently had the opportunity to visit institutions in several European countries, including the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, and Hungary. We also are establishing or have established relationships with institutions in France, the Russian Federation, Italy, Australia, and Sweden. With our friends at Yad Vashem we hope soon to announce a new project to provide access to our testimonies in Israel. And, of course, our relationships with colleagues at the Museum of Tolerance, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Yale University remain essential components of our plans for the future.

I want to highlight here two partnerships that have recently come to fruition. In October, the Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam opened the first European collection of our archive, containing more than 1,000 Dutch testimonies of survivors and witnesses. I was privileged to attend the opening and to describe its importance for the Dutch press. I have just returned from South Carolina, where the Charleston County Public Library opened one of our first regional collections in the United States. This collection contains 28 testimonies from survivors and other eyewitnesses residing in South Carolina. Its reception by the entire Charleston community and its presence in a public, secular institution has been a gratifying confirmation of the Foundation's new direction.

Collections are important steps in returning the testimonies to the communities where they were collected – a goal the Foundation will continue to pursue

throughout the world, with your support. I can report, for example, that supporters like you have helped us to place testimonies in 13 different institutions in the last two years and that our testimonies have been used in more than 25 exhibits and other educational programs during the same period, as well as in countless books and documentary films. We believe each of these has been an opportunity to pursue our mission, and we pledge to expand and continue this work with your help.

Our series of five documentaries in foreign languages, *Broken Silence*, has been aired on Cinemax in this country and in countries throughout the world. Our growing Education Department is developing a series of innovative programs and products that we think will appeal to people around the globe.

Finally, technical improvements in our indexing of testimonies have permitted us to vastly increase the pace at which this important work is being done. Provided that we can continue to find financial support for our effort to create worldwide digital access to our entire archive, we will complete the cataloguing of all 52,000 testimonies in 32 different languages late in 2005.

All of these activities and accomplishments would not have been possible without the financial and moral support of individuals, corporations, and foundations who share our commitment to building a better world by permitting the faces and voices of survivors and other eyewitnesses to speak loudly and clearly to a world in need of their wisdom.

Sincerely,

Douglas Greenberg

President and Chief Executive Officer



Douglas Greenberg (left) with Friends star David Schwimmer and his sister, Ellie Schwimmer

L to R: Zev Fried (Manager of Community Relations and Public Information), Judge Albie Sachs of South Africa, Foundation cataloguer Nadine Kadey (also from South Africa), and Nadine B. Hack



L to R: Karen Jungblut (Director of Cataloguing), with guests from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam: Jan van Kooten, Elizabeth Feerick (Anne Frank Center, NY), and Jan Erik Dubbelman



Recent Visitors



Cast and Staff from Everybody Loves Raymond visit the Foundation. L to R: Doris Roberts, Ray Romano, Producer Phil Rosenthal, Brad Garrett, Steven Spielberg, Peter Boyle, and Patricia Heaton (Photo courtesy of Cliff Lipson, CBS Television)



L to R: Volunteer Jerry Cohen gives a tour to Rosemary, Carl, and Rebeka Schindler (relatives of Oskar Schindler)



(Left) Steve Klappholz (VP for Development) with Richard A. Brown, VP of Corporate Philanthropy, Toys "R" Us Children's Fund

Shoah Foundation Expands Board

The Shoah Foundation's Board of Directors has recently elected additional members to help fulfill the Foundation's newly adopted mission. The board is expanding to meet the challenges of fulfilling the organization's strategic plan. The new directors will bring their collective experience and expertise to aid the Foundation in many areas, including education and fundraising. On April 18, 2002, the expanded board held its first meeting in Los Angeles.



Susan Crown, Board Chair, and Gerald Breslauer, Executive Committee Chair

As of May 2002, the board includes: Gerald Breslauer; Stephen A. Cozen; Susan Crown, Board Chair; Emanuel Gerard; Douglas Greenberg; Eric Greenberg; Alan Hassenfeld; David Kassie and Susan Harris; Robert J. Katz; William Lauder; Barbara Levy Kipper; Skip Paul; Bruce Ramer; Michael Rutman; Alex Spanos; Jerry Speyer; David H. Strassler; Severin Wunderman.

The Board represents civic, business, and community leaders from around North America, all of whom are enthusiastically committed to realizing the Shoah Foundation's full potential in the years to come.

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Broken Silence Fundraiser Held in New York City

On April 9, a standing room only crowd attended a fundraiser held at the New York headquarters of HBO television to raise awareness of the U.S. premiere of *Broken Silence* on HBO's Cinemax channel.

Sponsored by HBO, the event was generously co-chaired by Terry and Russ Bernard, Susan Crown, Jane and Bob Katz, Karen and William Lauder, Deborah and Sunny Sassoon, Jerry Speyer, and Steven Spielberg. Vice-chairs were Carol and Andrew Boas, Steve and Sandy Cozen, Sara Evans, Angela and Eric Geadelmann, and Audrey and Zygmund Wilf.

Representing the Foundation were President and CEO Douglas Greenberg and founding executive directors June Beallor and James Moll. Vojtech Jasny, director of the



L to R: HBO's Julie Anderson, Douglas Greenberg, Sheila Nevins (HBO), and James Moll

Czech film in the series, *Hell on Earth*, also attended. Sheila Nevins, Vice President, Original Programming, and Julie Anderson, Director of Documentary Programming, represented HBO. *Sopranos* star James Gandolfini, who served as the evening's host, and Nevins both spoke about the importance of the broadcast before Douglas Greenberg introduced the series' Hungarian film, *Eyes of the Holocaust*.

Based on Foundation testimonies from around the world, *Broken Silence* comprises five documentaries by directors from Argentina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Russia. The series was produced by James Moll, director of *The Last Days*, which also aired on HBO.

Douglas Greenberg stated, "The Shoah Foundation's long relationship with HBO has been a remarkable asset to us in the pursuit of our educational mission. The broadcast of the *Broken Silence* series on Cinemax highlights the international character of our work. At a time when racism and antisemitism are rife throughout Europe, we are grateful to have friends who understand the significance of what we are trying to accomplish and who are prepared to support our work."

Event Launches New Website

Nearly 200 guests attended a party to launch the Foundation's newly redesigned website, www.vhf.org. The party, held at Compass restaurant on the Upper West Side, attracted a mix of New York's younger philanthropic community, former interviewers, interviewees, and technology journalists. Compass co-owners Lewis C. Pell and Leonard Schwartz graciously sponsored this event.



Steve Klappholz, left, with guests Nancy Fisher (former interviewer) and Ramin Fathie (former videographer)

The new website includes excerpts from survivor and witness testimonies, conveys information about the Foundation's global activities, and provides a venue for online donations. The site, spearheaded by June Beallor Productions in association with the Shoah Foundation, was made possible by generous in-kind donations from Impossible, Inc. and VitalStream.

HBO Fundraiser photos courtesy of Scott Gries, ImageDirect

L to R: Russ and Terry Bernard, Steve and Sandy Cozen, Andrew and Ann Tisch





Eric Greenberg Honored as Ambassador for Humanity

At December's *Ambassadors for Humanity* dinner in Los Angeles, the Shoah Foundation honored Board Member Eric Greenberg. The evening was co-hosted by the Foundation's Founding Chairman, Steven Spielberg, and Nicola Bulgari, Vice Chairman of the Bvlgari Corporation, which sponsored the event and designed the sculpted crystal award. Greenberg, a San Francisco-based businessman and philanthropist, joined the Board in April 2001 after he and his wife Carmel toured the Foundation and decided to make a significant commitment to the Shoah Foundation's future.

In presenting the award to Greenberg, Spielberg said, "The promise of a better world is made real by people like our new *Ambassador for Humanity*, Eric Greenberg. Eric brings leadership and vision to our collective goals... Today we realize that the Shoah Foundation's work has taken on even deeper meaning, for in this year, each one of us has become a witness."

Also present at the ceremony were Board Member Bob Katz; Lily Kanter of Social Venture Partners; Phil and Monica Rosenthal; Tobi Sargent, Ken Moore, and Celine Khavarani, all of Bvlgari; Therese Hunsberger and Maura Corey from the premier editing facility Filmcore; and Sherlee Rhine, owner of the San Francisco spa, 77 Maiden Lane.

◀ L to R: Douglas Greenberg, honoree Eric Greenberg, Steven Spielberg, and Carmel Greenberg

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Daisy Miller (Associate Director for Annual Development) chats with Robert Greenberg, CEO of Skechers Footwear, at the company's Southern California headquarters

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**"I'm not rich, I'm not famous,
I'm just a regular person.
But I've been really touched by the Shoah Foundation."**

Dr. Janie Brown
Photo by John Mainka, Courtesy of
Villanova Magazine, Villanova University

Interviewer Includes Shoah Foundation in Her Will

"It was a phenomenal experience." This is how Dr. Janie Brown remembers her time interviewing dozens of Holocaust survivors for the Shoah Foundation. Many friends thought it must be depressing, but Janie says, "On the contrary, it was life-affirming. These people had experienced the worst inhumanities and they had survived, thrived, and most kept their faith. It really strengthened my identity as a Jew."

To help insure that the archive will profoundly impact people for years to come, Janie decided to include the Shoah Foundation in her will. "Even more than a museum, these living testimonies are so important. They can be shared with children who were born fifty years after the Holocaust." By designating the Shoah Foundation as a beneficiary of her IRA, Janie is able to make a significant contribution to the Foundation without reducing her current income, and while supporting meaningful educational opportunities for the future.

Education is a cause close to Janie's heart. A nursing professor at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, Janie is a leader in the development of distance learning courses for the Graduate Nursing program. Her own graduate work in nursing history gave her oral history and historical research experience that served her well when interviewing survivors. Although her immediate family was safe during the war, Janie lost many Russian, Polish, and Hungarian family members. "I have no family left – so this is a history of my family as well."

Today, Janie keeps in touch with many of the people she interviewed for the Foundation and she also speaks about the Shoah Foundation at various educational and community organizations. She decided that making a planned gift was a natural extension of her enthusiasm: "I'm not rich, I'm not famous, I'm just a regular person. But I've been really touched by the Shoah Foundation."

For more information on making a planned gift of your own, contact Eric S. Grodan, Esq., Director of Planned Giving, at 818-866-9110.

Your Gift Makes a Difference

Your donation will help support the important work of the Shoah Foundation – developing educational programs and materials based on the Holocaust testimonies in our archive. In addition to general support of the Foundation's mission, there are many specific projects and programs you can underwrite through philanthropic support.

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 (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.

Planned Gifts - Planned gifts might help you reduce or avoid income, gift, and inheritance taxes. Popular planned gifts include bequests and charitable remainder trusts. You may wish to consider funding a planned gift with such assets as cash, life insurance policies, real property, retirement plans, or marketable securities.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Steven Klappholz, Vice President for Development
Shoah Foundation, PO Box 3168
Los Angeles, CA 90078-3168
Phone: 818-866-2004

The World Responds to Broken Silence Documentaries

The films in the Shoah Foundation's foreign language documentary series, *Broken Silence*, are airing in countries around the world to great acclaim. The Shoah Foundation produced the one-hour documentaries in 2001 for television broadcast in Russia, Poland, Argentina, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Directed by prominent directors from those countries, the films highlight testimonies from the Foundation's archive in the native languages of the five nations.

The films' primetime national television broadcasts are reaching mass audiences who might not otherwise seek out this information and who could likely be addressed no other way. Among the broadcasts so far:

The Polish film, *Pamiętam* (I Remember), was seen by 11 percent of the Polish population last April. A review in *Rzeczpospolita*, the second largest daily, noted: "*Pamiętam* is a dramatic story of human fate in the time of contempt."

The September 2001 broadcast of the Russian film *Deti iz bezdny* (Children from the Abyss) marked the 60th anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre. The film reached large audiences in 11 Former Soviet Union countries, including Russia and the Ukraine.

The national broadcast of the Hungarian film *A Holocaust Szemei* (Eyes of the Holocaust) touched many in that country. Reviewer Peter Gyorgy wrote: "This film was made to insure that whatever happened in our country could and should be known to future generations..."

After the November 2001 airing of *Peklo na Zemi* (Hell on Earth) in the Czech Republic, the newspaper *Pravo* reported that the film "...belongs among the most grave testimonies of its kind, using clear statements against racism and neo-Nazism...present in our country today."

Approximately 4,000 people, half of whom were students and educators, attended community screenings of the *Broken Silence* films throughout Italy in January and February 2002. The screenings were organized by the *Centro Espressioni Cinematografiche*, with support from Doris Felsen-Escojido, the Foundation's Regional Consultant in Italy.



A still from the Israeli broadcast of *Hell on Earth*, with Hebrew and Russian subtitles.



Alejandro Horvath, a survivor featured in *Some Who Lived*

In Israel, Keshet TV broadcast all five films with both Hebrew and Russian subtitles in commemoration of *Yom Hashoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) on April 9, 2002.

The full series had its U.S. premiere on HBO's Cinemax channel during April 2002 (see article on page 8). *The Denver Post* called the films "haunting" and noted: "Powerful, sometimes difficult viewing, the films [reflect] the power of memory, the lessons of history, the triumphant survival of a people, and getting beyond prejudice."

"...the power of memory, the lessons of history"

In addition, Telefe will air *algunos que vivieron* (Some Who Lived) in Argentina later in 2002, and the BBC

plans the series' U.K. premiere in January 2003. Numerous community events and film festivals, such as the Berlin International Film Festival, continue to spotlight the films as well. To widen the impact of *Broken Silence*, the Foundation will continue to pursue screenings and television broadcasts as well as the eventual educational and commercial video distribution of the films.



Leszek Allerhand, a survivor featured in *I Remember*

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TESTIMONIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Educational Efforts Expand

As the Shoah Foundation shifts its focus from the collection of testimonies to their educational distribution, the Education Department's expanded staff concentrates on three primary goals: developing innovative educational products, extending educational programs, and facilitating access to the Foundation's archive. Overseeing the department is a new Director of Education, Kimberly Bonheim Birbrower.



Kimberly Bonheim
Birbrower, Director
of Education

After receiving her B.A. in English and African American studies, Kimberly earned a Masters Degree in English and American Literature. In her ensuing years as a high school teacher, she incorporated Holocaust literature and diversity education into her classes. From there she joined the national staff of the Anti-Defamation League as the Assistant Director of Educational Policy and Programs. In 2001 she was honored with the Spirit of Anne Frank Award for her work in anti-bias and Holocaust education. Bringing a keen understanding of the needs of underserved students and a strong background in curriculum development, Kimberly joins the Shoah Foundation with a goal "to bring these life stories to classrooms and communities around the world, building empathy and promoting tolerance one person at a time."

On-Site Research and Testing Center Supports Educational Objectives

One way the department plans to accomplish this goal is through the new On-Site Research and Testing Center. The Center will allow visiting scholars to independently search the archive on computers in a classroom space on the Foundation's campus. Each workstation will be loaded with the User Interface (UI) – the Shoah Foundation's digital search tool, a VCR, and later, the Foundation's educational CD-ROMs. The testing phases of both the Center and the UI will continue this summer with scholars from Clark University's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Funded in part by a

National Science Foundation grant, the Center will eventually serve as both a research center and an on-site classroom open to teachers, researchers, and students.

To supplement the on-site center, the Department will continue to develop off-site programs and products, and pursue national and international distribution. As a result, the Department hopes to see materials such as the *Broken Silence* series and the Foundation's new English-language CD-ROM (see article, page 13) in the hands of even more students. With ongoing research into educational mandates and requirements, the Department also ensures that the Foundation remains aware of the ever-changing educational landscape worldwide.

The efforts of the Education Department continue to expand in order to further the Shoah Foundation's mission, using, as Kimberly states,

"the impact of the archive as the driving force behind every new initiative in the Foundation's educational arena."



Cathy French, Program Specialist at Reid High School / Renaissance Career Academy in Long Beach, speaks about the impact of the Shoah Foundation's educational materials at the Ambassadors for Humanity event.

Photo by Lee Salem

New CD-ROM Will Focus on Child Survivors

Thanks to a generous grant from Severin Wunderman and the Wunderman Foundation, the Shoah Foundation is hard at work producing a third educational CD-ROM, *Voices of the Holocaust: Children Speak*. This newest product will be geared toward middle school students (ages 11 to 14) and is scheduled for release in the 2002-2003 school year.

The CD-ROM focuses on perspectives and themes unique to the experiences of child survivors of the Holocaust. This focus will be presented in portions of testimonies from four child survivors from the Foundation's archive, supported by a historical overview, film footage, archival photographs, maps, and the survivors' personal photos. Together with accompanying study guide and teacher's guide, the Foundation plans for the finished product to receive extensive educational distribution throughout the United States in public, private, and religious schools.

There are a number of interactive elements to engage students and enrich their learning experience, including the capability to view portions of testimony according to educational theme. Students will hear different perspectives on a variety of child survivor experiences, such as hiding, separation and loss of family, loss of childhood, and identity issues. The result will be a dynamic, captivating environment where kids can explore themes, guided by stories of survival and life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

These interactive elements, combined with the character education focus of the CD-ROM, will help enhance the special capability of child survivor oral histories to convey messages of tolerance, dignity, and personal responsibility for one's fellow human beings.

Shoah Foundation
Regional Consultant (Italy)
Doris Felsen-Escojido



The Consequences of Hate are Hard Lessons to Teach

An important educational goal of the Shoah Foundation is to provide teachers with resources based on the archive, helping them to create a classroom environment in which students feel comfortable talking about prejudice, bigotry, and other complex issues raised by history, and also manifested in contemporary society.

To support this goal, the Shoah Foundation has participated in a host of educational programs. Shoah Foundation Regional Consultant Doris Felsen-Escojido joined educators and government officials at a forum hosted by Italy's *Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea*. In the U.S., the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education at Chapman University presented Foundation CD-ROMs at their writing contest. The Foundation is also sponsoring California legislation designed to increase support of state-mandated Holocaust and genocide education.

Additionally, the Shoah Foundation cosponsored an Anti-Defamation League's Teacher Training Workshop and made presentations at professional development seminars, including a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Teacher Forum, a teacher workshop in Sweden presented by The Living History Project, and an international educators' conference at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in Israel. At that session, regional consultant Shoshana Mandel spoke about using the Shoah Foundation's CD-ROM to encourage critical thinking and build empathy. "These issues need to be addressed to develop compassion and a deeper understanding of the other," Mandel reported. "This will enable teachers to take a more meaningful approach, which is important, as their students represent our collective future".

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Cataloguing Illuminates the California Collection

“Being thrown into a racist mentality left an impact on me in terms of what conditioning can do. If you can teach someone to be prejudiced, then you can teach someone to be tolerant as well.”



Donor Irina Mondelina (standing) with Shoah Foundation volunteer Dorrit St. John, whose testimony is part of the California Collection

The Shoah Foundation has interviewed nearly 4,000 survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust now living in California. This diverse collection includes interviews in English, Russian, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, and even Yiddish. Cataloguing – attaching keywords to specific moments in the videotaped interview – reveals the richness of each testimony and enables searches of individual testimonies and the archive as a whole.

In 2000 and 2001, the Shoah Foundation received funding to catalogue testimonies collected in California. These grants came from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act via the California State Library through a partnership with University of Southern California. To catalogue all the California testimonies, the Foundation turned to its donors for additional funds. San Francisco's Jewish Community Endowment Fund responded with \$74,000 to catalogue 300 Bay Area testimonies.

Irina Mondelina of Los Angeles sent in \$2,500. Her own experiences motivated her gift: Irina spent her childhood in Germany, where her great-grandmother (who lost five sons in the war) was determined to educate Irina about the Holocaust. When Irina came to the U.S. in the 1970s, she was appalled at the intolerance she witnessed in her Texas high school. "Being thrown into a racist mentality left an impact on me in terms of what conditioning can do. If you can teach someone to be prejudiced, then you can teach someone to be tolerant as well."

10,000 Testimonies Catalogued

The Foundation recently reached the milestone of cataloguing 10,000 testimonies, over 5,000 of which were catalogued since the introduction of a newly streamlined system in October 2001. In addition to English-language testimonies, multilingual staff members have begun to catalogue testimonies in German, Serbo-Croatian, Swedish, Spanish, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, French, Portuguese, Hungarian, and Russian.

“Life goes on.



Recorded by the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles in 1998, Sophie Weinstein's testimony is part of the California Collection. Like every account in the Foundation's archive, Sophie's story is at once universal and personal. While many survivors share similar experiences of persecution, grief, hunger, and loss, Sophie's interview also reveals a twenty-year-old woman suffocating in a Warsaw Ghetto basement, fearful of what might lie ahead.



top: grandchildren Robert and Annette Gold; Michael Weinstein
bottom: Sophie Weinstein, Natalie Gold, Leon Weinstein

The pain in your heart never goes away.”

Sophie Weinstein had a happy childhood. Growing up in a middle-class Warsaw home, Sophie did not have any toys. “We didn’t need them,” she remembers. “We made our own fun”—making mischief, playing volleyball, and spending summers with a tiny, big-hearted grandmother. Sophie’s parents, Mordka and Dwojra Sikora, stressed the importance of education to their five children. The two oldest began university before the war: Helen at the Sorbonne in Paris and Sarah at a Polish university where she and the other Jewish students were forced to stand on one side of the room during class. Sophie, the middle child and an avid reader, had just finished high school in 1939 when the war began.

The Nazis soon created the Warsaw ghetto, sealing off the neighborhood where Sophie’s family lived, forcing Jews from all over Warsaw and the surrounding countryside into an area of about 1,000 acres. Another family moved into their bedroom, so the Sikoras crowded into the dining room. Sophie’s family fractured: Helen was safe in France; Sarah fled to Tashkent; her younger brother Julek was caught on the street and sent into forced labor; and, one evening in 1942, her beloved father never returned from his work kommando.

Sophie, her mother, and youngest brother Szymek hid in a little room behind a bookcase whenever the Germans came. Szymek, only 13, decided that “nothing and no one is going to help us,” and gave himself up. Sophie never saw him again. “My dictionary is not that rich, I do not have words for what life was like in the ghetto...how terrible it was.”

When the Nazis started to burn buildings, Sophie and Dwojra, joined by a very sick Julek, took refuge in rat-filled basement bunkers. Isolated in stifling darkness, unaware of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising raging above them, they imagined they were the only ones left alive. In May 1943, Nazis found them. Julek, who had seen too much during his forced labor, refused to come out. Sophie and her mother stood outside and watched soldiers throw grenades into the bunker.

Before going into hiding, Sophie dyed Dwojra’s gray hair with black ink in a desperate attempt to help her mother appear more youthful. The resulting purple hair helped Sophie locate her when they were separated in

the chaos of deportation. Hand in hand, mother and daughter entered Majdanek concentration camp. “I don’t know how I lost her hand. People were shoving; a soldier pulled her; I was frantic. I didn’t know what had happened to her, but I was sure that I was going to see her later.” When she realized that her mother perished in the gas chamber, Sophie could not speak for months.

In December 1943, Sophie was among 600 young women transferred out of Majdanek. “I was so glad to leave this hellish place and it turned out they took us to Birkenau.” Weighing 60 pounds after a bout of typhus, Sophie knew she would never be chosen for an indoor work detail like the Kanada kommando, so she pushed herself into the group. Kanada (so called because of the rumored richness of that country) was a coveted assignment: prisoners sorted and packed the clothes and belongings of the arriving deportees. “There were mountains of clothes and jewelry, but bread, sugar, a carrot had more value than diamonds.”

At liberation, “The gates opened and we ran out free without a hair on our heads.” Sophie walked back to Warsaw. She could not find her family, but she did meet Leon Weinstein, a handsome widower who had participated in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Now married nearly sixty years, Leon says Sophie “is the most wonderful girl I ever met. She’s a mensch.” Together they raised his then-four-year-old daughter, Natalie (who spent the war hidden in a convent orphanage), and their son Michael. In Los Angeles since 1953, Sophie and Leon endured the loss of their son in 1993, welcomed grandchildren, and built a business and a life together. She also discovered that her sisters survived: Helen, now 91, still lives in France; Sarah is in Israel.

Sophie never wanted to return to Poland, but Natalie finally convinced her to revisit Warsaw so Natalie could find the orphanage where she spent the war. During their visit, they went to the city’s remaining synagogue on a Saturday. “I was sitting and crying: a beautiful big temple and there wasn’t a single soul. Then it started to fill up with young people from all over the world – from every country where there might be a Jewish soul. So many young people,” remembers Sophie. “It’s a miracle of miracles.” The same could be said about Sophie.

Sophie’s parents, Dwojra and Mordka Sikora



“I don’t know how I lost her hand. People were shoving; a soldier pulled her; I was frantic.”



Sophie’s grandmother Jochwet Esterowicz with one of Sophie’s cousins in Warsaw before the war

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Military Bases Screen *The Last Days*

The Shoah Foundation's documentary *The Last Days* is reaching an important new audience: the U.S. military. On April 9, 2002, Fort Irwin screened *The Last Days* at their annual Holocaust Remembrance event. The screening drew approximately 250 people, including enlisted men and women from various units and the base's chief commander, Brigadier General James Thurman. Located in the California desert, Fort Irwin is the major training base for troops that are deployed to Afghanistan.

"Many in the audience told me that they knew little of Holocaust history, and that this film gave them new information and perspective on the past," says the Foundation's Associate Director for Annual Development Daisy Miller, who spoke at the event. "The General spoke about diversity in the military and the importance of education when dealing with this subject. I think *The Last Days* is a very good way of reinforcing this message."

In addition to the event at Fort Irwin, *The Last Days* has been seen by soldiers at Fort Knox and Fort Hood, and by nearly 5,000 cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The film has also been made available to U.S. soldiers stationed in Germany.



Fort Irwin presented this medal to the Shoah Foundation in honor of a Yom Hashoah screening of *The Last Days*

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