“The importance of video testimonies...is the emotional aspect of it; it’s one thing to read powerful words, but it’s not anything near seeing the reactions in the person’s face...”  

Simon Payaslian, Chairman of ACT II Companies Inc. investment firm, Tapper also funds a fellowship at Clark University’s Foundation’s June workshop, where she researched testimonies at the Shoah Foundation’s Tapper Research and Testing Center. Payaslian is one of the first scholars to have direct access to the Foundation’s archive – in this case, to research a comprehensive study of armed resistance during the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust.

Albert M. Tapper Underwrites Center  

A longtime supporter of Holocaust education, Albert M. Tapper thought that funding the Shoah Foundation’s Research and Testing Center was “a wonderful opportunity... I think the Shoah Foundation’s testimonies are remarkable and it’s critical to disseminate this information around the world. Teachers don’t seem to learn from this; so this Center might help scholars pass on some crucial information.” Tapper also funded a fellowship at Clark University’s Center for Holocaust Studies. The first Tapper Fellow, Beth Lich, participated in the Shoah Foundation’s June workshop, where she researched displaced persons camps. 

The Center has already hosted two workshops for researchers, both funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Staff from the Education and Cataloguing Departments helped the researchers navigate the archive. Lisa Goeghegan, Coordinator of On-Site and Scholarly Access, organized the workshops: “The workshops were a great success because we were able to provide access to the testimonies to researchers working on widely varied topics. At the same time, they gave us feedback about this new resource that will help us improve the way we offer access to the testimonies.”

The first session included researchers from Clark University’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, such as Stefanie Fischer, a Fulbright Scholar from Berlin, who is studying the SS St. Louis: “I have been dealing with this subject for a year and this is the third time that I heard from the people. There’s really a treasure here... [It is] only archive where you can come to the people.” Filmmaker Gail Prensky, who also attended the June workshop, is producing a documentary about the Yiddish Koltherder, a cultural association of German Jews in the 1930s and 1940s. Through her research at the Center, she discovered former Koltherder members as she filmed in Africa and South Australia, some of whom Prensky will re-interview for her film, which will air on PBS.

The August workshop hosted participants from emerging fields related to Holocaust and genocide studies (including teacher Garry Barnette, see right). They were observed and interviewed by visiting technical scholars from institutions affiliated with the NSF grant who are researching usage of large visual archives in hopes of automating access to such archives.

Next year, the Foundation will continue hosting workshops that will bring a range of people, including teachers, scholars, filmmakers, and authors to the Center. These workshops will allow the Foundation to refine its software and learn how best to help people find the information they need in the archive. As a result, access to the Tapper Center is currently by appointment only.

In time, it is hoped that the Tapper Research and Testing Center will become a model that can be replicated at other universities who are researching usage of large visual archives in hopes of automating access to such archives.

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Q: What made you interested in starting a class on Intolerance and the Holocaust? A: When I went to high school there was no Holocaust education... it was never mentioned in history books. Through teaching about the Holocaust, I’ve undergone an amazing personal transformation, and I’d like to share that story with others.
CD-ROM Distributed to Bavarian Schools

Other speakers included Philip Graf von Hardenberg, Managing Director, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Germany, who called the CD-ROM “an educational tool that provides the tools for teaching the Holocaust.” Professor Dr. Hubert Burda, Chairman of the Board at Burda Media; Monika Hohlmeier, Bavarian Minister for Education; Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, Managing Director, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation; and Former State Minister Maren Kümmel, who commented: “The Shoah Foundation has done a tremendous job in the past decades, and the Bavarian government is happy to support this project.”

The inclusion of the CD-ROM in the Learning Center marks the beginning of a partnership between the Jüdisches Museum Berlin and the Shoah Foundation. German interviews from the Foundation’s archive will also be included in the Learning Center’s collection.

In Russia, where Holocaust history is rarely taught in schools, the CD-ROM was generously underwritten by the Severin Wunderman Family Foundation. Students and teachers in a number of Russian schools have benefited from this tool. A teacher from Chelyabinsk, for example, recently declared that “the CD-ROM is a very good resource for the future generation.”

CD-ROM also available at Jüdisches Museum Berlin

Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft is also available at Jüdisches Museum Berlin. Students who worked with this unique learning tool and teachers who participated in the CD-ROM event at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site were also screened.

Erinnerungen für Gegenwart und Zukunft CD-ROM

• 72,000 CD-ROMs in Germany, including:
  • 12,000 in Berlin schools
  • 2,000 in Bavarian schools
  • 2,000 in Baden-Württemberg schools
  • 1,440 in Hanover schools
  • 2,400 in Bremen schools
  • 300 CD-ROMs in Austria & Switzerland

In addition to the CD-ROM, the Shoah Foundation has also expanded its international efforts. The Shoah Foundation’s international documentary series, Broken Silence, will be shown on video cassettes in Russia and Hungary. Students and teachers throughout the world will be able to view the films via video cassettes from their classrooms, and visit the Shoah Foundation’s website for additional educational resources.

In Italy, the Shoah Foundation has partnered with the Italian Ministry of Education to bring the CD-ROM to schools. The CD-ROM is also available at the Jüdisches Museum Berlin, and is also available for the first time in the United Kingdom. The BBC will broadcast the five films included in the CD-ROM on September 27, along with representatives from the Museum, the Shoah Foundation, and the German government.

In the United Kingdom the BBC will broadcast at least five films; the Shoeah Foundation’s international documentary series, Broken Silence, will be broadcast on video cassettes in Russia and Hungary.

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Dear Friends,

The past months have been busy at the Shoah Foundation commemorating with our annual Auschwitz Commemoration for Humanity Lecture this December. I am pleased to congratulate this year’s Auschwitz Memorial, Jerry Bresnican, Mickey Rutman, and Bruce Kramer, the founding members of the Shoah Foundation Board. Nothing we have accomplished would have been possible without them. We are proud to have our board on our board, and I am proud to count them as dear friends.

As I write, I am traveling in Germany, where we have placed collections such as one of Sinti and Roma testimonies in Berlin, and another in Kassel, where we’ve set up a new memorial with survivors of eugenics policies in Kassel. In addition, thanks to the Bavarian Ministry of Education and Bubl Media, our German-language CD-ROM is in secondary schools across Bavaria, reaching approximately one million students and 50,000 teachers (see page 4). Copies of all our German-language testimonies will soon be in the Jewish Museum Berlin.

Last summer I traveled to Hungary to meet with the Hungarian Ministry of Education and others interested in tolerance education. These meetings were productive, and we hope they will translate in both an educational program in Hungary and a collection of testimonies at the Auschwitz Museum in Krakow. I made similar visits to Paris, Amsterdam, and Australia this fall, in the hope of finding ways to return our testimonies to the countries where they were collected.

Back in Los Angeles, we hosted summer workshops with researchers at our newly-opened Taper Research and Testing Center (see page 2). A range of guests, from former President Bill Clinton to local Harrow groups, have also visited the Foundation. As always, we welcome you to tour our facilities to learn more about our efforts not merely to preserve the testimonies of survivors but to ensure that they are good work in the world and help build a more tolerant and just human community.

Douglas Greenberg
President and Chief Executive Officer
An Evening in the Hamptons Raises $500,000 for the Shoah Foundation

On Sunday, August 11, more than two hundred people attended a fundraising event in East Hampton, New York, in support of the Shoah Foundation. The event took place at the home of world-famous TV producer Arnon Milchan and his wife Mili. The Milchans also served as co-chairs of the event, along with Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Milt Zuckerman, and Carole Caplin.

Beginning with a vesperal sunset at the evening captured the relaxed atmosphere of the Hamptons while generating serious support for the Shoah Foundation. “The Shoah Foundation is the imprint of one man, but the obligation of everyone who hates injustice,” remarked Glimcher, as he welcomed the guests in a tent lit with golden lanterns. The room was silent as Foundation President and CEO Douglas Greenberg spoke. “What we do at the Shoah Foundation is [Holocaust] statistics to something of human scale: the face and the voice of one human being looking into a camera and saying: I am not a number and I am not a statistic. I am a human being. I am talking. I am telling you what happened to me and to everyone I know and loved.”

After an address by founding chairman Steven Spielberg, the audience was treated to a performance by everyone I knew and loved.'”

Maxine and Arthur Baron graciously hosted an educational evening on behalf of the Shoah Foundation at their Beverly Hills home on September 12. More than 80 guests gathered in the Baron's garden for a thought-provoking discussion with Douglas Greenberg, Shoah Foundation President and CEO, and Renée Ziliott, educator and Holocaust survivor. The event attracted a diverse group - from Holocaust survivors to leading college students.

Arthur Baron, a prominent attorney in the Los Angeles area, and his wife Maxine are involved in many Jewish and educational organizations. The Barons and their daughters Carrie and Jody decided to help promote the Shoah Foundation after Maxine attended the Foundation’s documentary, “The Last Days,” with a survivor featured in Foundation’s documentary, “Testimonies.”

“I was so impressed with what I wanted to make all my friends aware of, is that the Shoah Foundation is doing in the educational arena. By getting these lessons into the schools, we’re helping young people become a more tolerant world, while meaning that this important part of our history will never be forgotten,” explained Maxine.

Douglas Greenberg spoke about the Foundation’s impact both at home and abroad. He then introduced Renée Ziliott, a former intern for the Foundation and a survivor featured in Foundation’s documentary, “The Last Days.” Hearing Renée speak of her own life experiences gave all who attended a firsthand understanding of the power of personal testimony.

The evening concluded with a question-and-answer session and an elegant address by Carrie Baron, who spoke about her importance of the Holocaust education, especially in communities that may have little or no knowledge about this time in history.

Supporters Host Reception for Foundation

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**Child of Survivors Includes Foundation in Her Estate Planning**

Prominent breast cancer surgeon Gail Lebovic is founder and medical director of the Bay Area Breast Center, an inventor (the MammoPad™), an entrepreneur, and an overachiever, all of even this brave lady to the fullest, she still thinks about her estate planning. “In my profession, I deal with mortality all the time. I treat women with breast cancer, some of them younger than myself, so I know it’s important to plan your estate, so you can make meaningful contributions.”

Gail first discovered the Shoah Foundation at a benefit premiere of the Last Days. “I realized right then, ‘I’m grateful for what they’ve done, and this is so important, I’ve got to get involved.’” Her mother, father, and uncle had all given testimony to the Shoah Foundation, but Gail wanted to help as well. Her sister, Kaitly, also wanted to help by volunteering. Gail added, “Knowing my family’s and other survivors’ stories has been strengthening for me; their survival and accomplishments make you respect and admire their courage. It’s truly uplifting.”

Recently, Gail learned about the Shoah Foundation’s planned giving program. “Planned giving is perfect for me,” Gail replies. “I can start to think about it as I go through my time, my money, and my network of friends. But now, through planned giving, I can do even more.” This fall, Gail established a testamentary gift to the Shoah Foundation, funded with stock and real estate. By making this gift at your end, Gail will also get an immediate reduction on her 2002 taxes. “My parents taught us to work hard and to be good citizens.”

Designating the Shoah Foundation in your estate or living will can help ensure a legacy of permanent impact for many years to come. For more information, please contact:

**Janet Beasley**

**Board Member**

**Underwrites Testimony Catalogue CD-ROM**

Janet Grynszpan Beasley recently contributed $500 to the Shoah Foundation to underwrite the cataloguing of a testimony in memory of her grandmother, Blanka Schrimmer. Next year she plans to contribute again in honor of her grandfather Jakob Schrimmer. “I had a need to do something permanent to show that my grandparents lived. It’s a wonderful way to honor someone,” says Janet.

When a donor supports the cataloguing of a specific testimony – in this case, Janet’s own testimony recorded in 1998 – a “virtual plaque” will appear when the interview is accessed digitally. Janet remembers, “My grandmother was a very special lady who taught me to read and write when I lived in Prague. There, she and her mother spent nearly a year before the war ended. Janet was born in 1935 in Berlin and at age nine was deported to Theresienstadt, the ‘metal ghetto’ in Prague. There, she and her mother spent nearly a year before the war ended. Janet came to the United States in 1945, passed an education, and married. Today, she volunteers as a translator for opera singer Jose Carreras’charitable foundation.”

Janet Beasley as a kindergartner in Berlin circa 1941

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**Survivor Pays Tribute to Grandparents**

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Janet Beasley as a kindergartner in Berlin circa 1941

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**Year-End Giving Benefits You and the Shoah Foundation**

Your year-end gift can create a tax advantage for you while benefiting the Shoah Foundation’s important work to overcome indifference, prejudice, and bigotry. Tax benefits - Gifts may be made by cash, check, or credit card. Partners - 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. Appreciated Assets - By contributing stocks or other assets that have appreciated in value, you can save significant tax consequences. Planned Gifts - Planned gifts may help you reduce income, gift, and inheritance taxes. Popular planned gifts include wills, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead 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:

**Stephen Klapko, Vice President for Development**

Shoah Foundation

FD Box 3168

Los Angeles, CA 90014-3168

Phone: 818-866-2004

Please note: The Shoah Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity in the United States, with related nonprofit organizations in Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. All contributions from U.S. individuals are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
Shoah Foundation Partners with Italy's Archivio centrale dello Stato

In a ceremony held on October 16 in Rome, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and the Archivio centrale dello Stato (Central State Archive) announced a partnership that is an inspiring model for the Shoah Foundation hopes to duplicate in many countries. To date, this relationship has produced a landmark Virtual Cataloging Project and an educational video. Future plans include establishing a collection of all the Italian testimonies at the Archivio so the stories of survivors and other witnesses will be able to speak directly to Italian citizens.

The partnership has also resulted in a GB film, a 40-minute video that was produced in 2001 for a permanent exhibit at the Museo Storico della Liberazione di Rome (Historic Museum of the Liberation of Rome). The reel is composed of Shoah Foundation testimonies from non-Jewish and Jewish survivors, who share their experiences of the Nazi occupation of Rome, deportation to concentration camps, and liberation. Working with the Federation of Italian Teachers, the Archivio plans to distribute it to 350 schools in and around Rome, along with an accompanying guide, and eventually plans to disseminate throughout all of Italy.

Among the distinguished guests at the October 16 event were Mel Sembler, United States Ambassador to Italy, Senators Italy, General Director of the Italian Archives, Maurizio Ficci, Director of the Archivio, Franco Cavalli, former Director of the Archives, Lorenzo Pantano, President of the Jewish Community of Rome.

The partnership is an example of the global and multi-cultural nature of the Shoah Foundation's work. The first in a series of programs, the Italy program is part of the Foundation's worldwide efforts to collect and preserve the testimonies of survivors and other witnesses.

As part of the event, the Archivio also held a ceremony to present the Shoah Foundation with a certificate of recognition for their joint efforts in preserving the memory of the Shoah.

The event was attended by a number of distinguished guests, including representatives of the Italian government, the Jewish community, and other organizations that support the work of the Shoah Foundation.

The Shoah Foundation is grateful for the support of its partners and looks forward to continuing its work in the future.
Father Aldo Brunacci Created a Safe Haven for Jews in Assisi

Father Aldo Brunacci is a Franciscan friar in Assisi. He was born in 1914, in a poor family of farmers on the outskirts of Assisi. He studied in Rome, where, as a member of Ateneo Cattolico in Catholic youth organization later replaced by the Fratelli, he became an independent thinker. When he returned to Assisi, he witnessed the Fascist dictator's actions imposed on the young Catholics in his community and the beatings of those who rebelled.

The September 1943 armistice split Italy in two. The South, liberated by the Allies, was governed by the King, who had escaped from bombed cities), more than 300 Jews found sanctuary in the ancient Jewish quarter in Rome: mother Grazia, father Giuseppe Placido Nicolini, did not hesitate to help. Even the Pakistani and the Bishop of Assisi, Monsignor Spizzichino, the only woman known to survive the October 1943 deportations.

The Stolen Years

The Stolen Years

So Settimia and Giuditta were alone. But Auschwitz passed away two years ago. The funeral ceremony, held in the ancient Jewish quarter in Rome: mother Grazia, father Giuseppe Placido Nicolini, did not hesitate to help. Even the Pakistani and the Bishop of Assisi, Monsignor Spizzichino, the only woman known to survive the October 1943 deportations.

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The Stolen Years

Strong-Willed Settimia Spizzichino Loved to Tell Her Story

In Rome, on October 16, 1943, the SS rounded up more than 1,000 Jews who, two days later, were deported to Auschwitz. Among them were the women of the Spizzichino family of Reginella Street, in the heart of the ancient Jewish quarter in Rome: mother Grazia, daughters Giuditta, Settimia, Ada, and Ada’s two-year-old daughter. Two other sisters, a brother, and their father,Marco, evaded the round-up.

Settimia Spizzichino was 22 years old. She was a rebellious girl, violating the racial laws, going where the Jews were not allowed, facing every situation with bravado and a quick tongue.

The Spizzichino family was poor. Settimia went to work at an early age, so was unable to study much, but she was curious, intelligent, and had many interests. She even wanted to join the Resistance, but it was simply out of the question. So, Settimia recalls, on October 16 at dawn, in a “very strong silence” broken only by the sounds of the SS, Settimia, her mother, sisters, and niece were taken away. When they arrived at Auschwitz, the selection: as they got off the train, Settimia was holding her mom, who had finally calmed down after much crying. But Ada wanted to hold the girl, and took her from her sister’s arms. Dr. Mengele, Settimia remembers, watched the scene calmly and, once the two sisters decided, pointed Ada, her little girl, and their mother to one side and Settimia and Giuditta to the other.

So Settimia and Giuditta were alone. But Auschwitz quickly drained “the beautiful Giuditta” of her strength and courage, leaving only her wish to die. In vain, Settimia brought her sister to the infirmary, where they were separated. Settimia was selected for Block 10, while Giuditta was selected for Block 1.

Settimia Spizzichino

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Settimia Spizzichino

Settimia Spizzichino
Bill Clinton Visits Shoah Foundation

“Prejudice and contempt have nearly destroyed our nation in the past. They plague us still. And they torment the lives of millions ... around the world.”

From Bill Clinton’s Second Inaugural Address, January 20, 1997

Accompanied by Steven Spielberg and Foundation President and CEO Douglas Greenberg, former President of the United States Bill Clinton toured the Shoah Foundation on July 15, 2002. Clinton visited departments such as Education and Cataloguing, shaking hands and speaking with staff members and volunteers along the way. During a demonstration of the Foundation’s archive at the Tapper Research and Testing Center (see pages 2-3), Clinton viewed excerpts of survivor Renée Firestone’s testimony, and later met Renée in person.

Another recent visitor to the Shoah Foundation was Camille Cosby (wife of Bill Cosby), who has established a visual history archive that interviews older distinguished African-Americans. The National Visionary Leadership Project, according to a New York Times article, “wants to do for Black Americans what Steven Spielberg’s Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation has done in recording the memories of aging Holocaust survivors.” For more information, see www.visionaryproject.com.