

## Tapper Research and Testing Center Opens the Door to the Archive

"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 reaction in the person's face..." This was how Simon Payaslian, Professor of Armenian History and Genocide Studies at Clark University, described his reaction to viewing visual history 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 comparative study of armed resistance during the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust.

After months of work, the staff and volunteers of the Shoah Foundation celebrated the dedication of the Tapper Research and Testing Center on October 25. The Center, named for benefactor Albert M. Tapper, links the needs of students and educators with the rich resources in the Shoah

Foundation archive. Mr. Tapper was present for the dedication, along with Debórah Dwork, Rose Professor of Holocaust History and Director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University.

Housing six computer workstations, the Tapper Center is home to the Foundation's digital Visual History Archive. The Archive is a cutting-edge software application developed by the Foundation which will eventually allow visiting scholars and educators to search through nearly 52,000 testimonies and to identify and view the interviews that are most pertinent to their work. In addition to being a research facility, the Center will also serve as an on-site classroom open to teachers and students.



(L to R): Daisy Miller, Associate Director for Annual Development, Al Tapper, Debórah Dwork, Director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, Douglas Greenberg, Shoah Foundation President and CEO, at the Tapper Center Dedication October 25

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 Goodgame, 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."

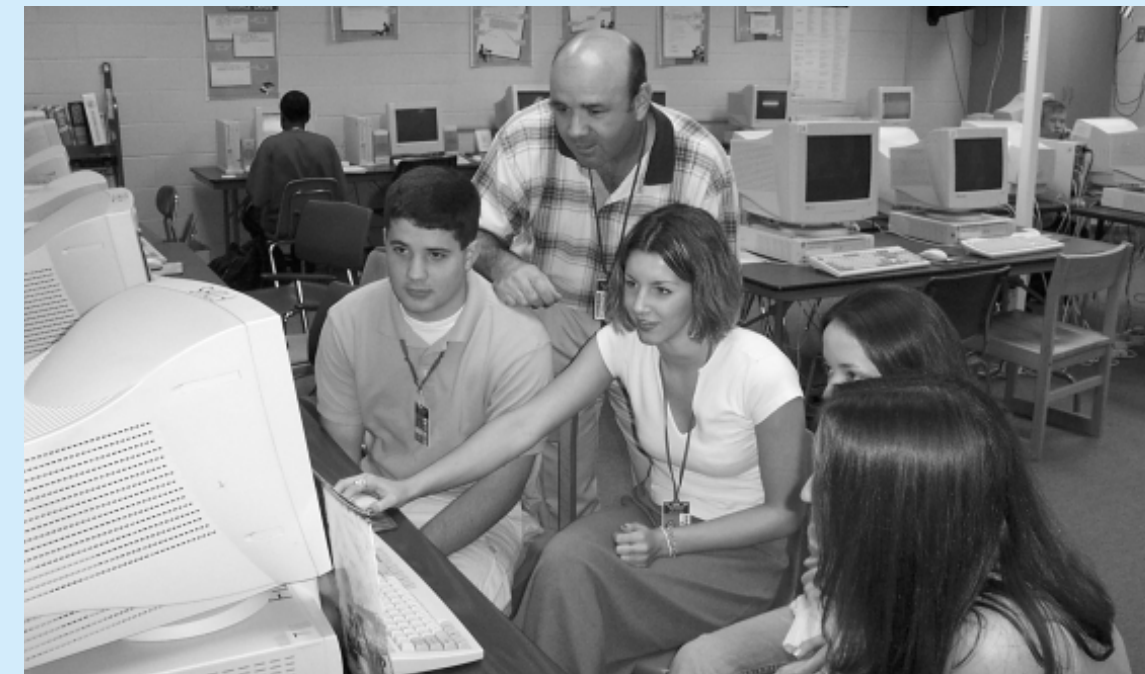
The first session included researchers from Clark University's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, such as Stefanie Fischer, a Fulbright Scholar from Berlin, who is studying the SS *St. Louis*: "I have been dealing with this subject for a year and this is the first time that I heard [from] the people. There's really a treasure here...[It is] the only archive where you can come to the people."

Filmmaker Gail Prensky, who also attended the June workshop, is producing a documentary about the Jüdische Kulturbund, a cultural association of German Jews in the 1930s and 1940s. Through her research at the Center, she discovered former Kulturbund members as far afield as Australia and South Africa, 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 researchers 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 in universities and research institutions around the world – allowing students and researchers to see and hear the testimonies in the Shoah Foundation's archive.



## Garry Barnette Brings Lessons from the Research Center into His Classroom

Garry Barnette spent a week last August at the Tapper Research and Testing Center, but now he's back at school, teaching *Intolerance and the Holocaust* at Fort Dorchester High School in Charleston, South Carolina – the first class of its kind in that state.

Garry started the class six years ago when the Dorchester II school district began funding new elective courses. Since then he's taught hundreds of teenagers (grades 10-12) about the events and significance of the Holocaust. Recently Garry spoke with *Past Forward*.

**Q: What did you take away from your experience at the Tapper Center?**

**A:** One of the things I stumbled on in my research that was moving for me was the effect that a teacher had on these [survivors as] young people when they came to school. Suddenly their teacher, who was someone they respected, started teaching Nazi ideology or even harassing the Jewish students. As a teacher, it helped me come back into the classroom with a newfound sense of responsibility to my students.

**Q: How do you use eyewitness testimony in your classroom?**

**A:** One of the ways I use testimony is to provide different perspectives on the same topic. For instance, if we are reading about Auschwitz in Elie Wiesel's *Night*, we also watch part of [the Shoah Foundation documentary] *The Last Days*, to see how another survivor describes her arrival at the same camp. *The Last Days* is a must – they did

a fantastic job picking survivors to give a good representation of what you'd like to cover in a class.

**Q: How do your students respond to watching eyewitness testimony?**

**A:** When students see a testimony, they almost always say "that person reminds me of my uncle, or my grandmother..." It really helps them personalize their perception of the Holocaust. Also, testimonies speak to the strength of the human spirit [demonstrating] that people are resilient and able to forgive. They present a challenge to the rest of us: tragedies are part of life and we must find the strength and resolve to get on with life. And kids get that. One of my students said "If the people hadn't recovered after the Holocaust then Hitler and the Nazis would have won completely."

**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 wasn't even mentioned in history books. Through teaching about the Holocaust, I've undergone an amazing personal transformation, and if I had gone through that sooner it would have made a big difference in my life.

Being raised in the South, differences [prejudices] were accepted; you turned a blind eye to it because that was the way it was. Learning about the Holocaust makes you realize that we are all capable of hating and acting on it: and if we don't acknowledge that then we lose the battle.

"...it's one thing to read powerful words, but it's not anything near seeing the reaction in the person's face..."

-Simon Payaslian



Simon Payaslian, the Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor of Armenian History and Genocide Studies at Clark University

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Local students who participated in the CD-ROM event at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

**“The memory of the past  
 belongs in the schools  
 as it is here that the  
 future is created.”**

*-Monika Hohlmeier, Bavarian Minister  
 for Culture and Education*

## CD-ROM Distributed to Bavarian Schools

### Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft CD-ROM

- 72,000 CD-ROMs in Germany, including:  
 32,000 in Bavarian schools  
 8,000 in Berlin schools  
 2,400 in Bremen schools  
 8,500 in Brandenburg schools  
 1,440 in Hanover schools
- 300 CD-ROMs in Austria & Switzerland

The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site was the somber setting for a hopeful event this September; the Shoah Foundation and the Bavarian Ministry for Culture and Education announced the distribution of the Foundation's German-language CD-ROM, *Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft* (Remembering for the Present and the Future), to nearly 2,000 Bavarian secondary schools.

This interactive educational tool highlights testimonies of Jewish, Sinti, homosexual, and Jehovah's Witness survivors, as well as political prisoners, rescuers, and aid providers. The distribution of the CD-ROM to Bavarian schools will reach approximately one million students and 50,000 teachers in high schools, vocational schools, and Gymnasiums.

“The memory of the past belongs in the schools as it is here that the future is created,” stated Monika Hohlmeier, Bavarian Minister for Culture and Education, as she symbolically presented the CD-ROM to local students at the event. Students whose lives had been impacted by the CD-ROM then stepped forward to speak about the compelling power of visual history and interactive learning.

Professor Dr. Hubert Burda, Chairman of the Board at Burda Media, which helped underwrite the CD-ROM, stated, “It is our responsibility to ensure that not only the eyewitnesses remember the events of the past.”



Two Bavarian students examine a map during the CD-ROM event

Other speakers included Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, Managing Director, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History gGmbH in Berlin; Wolf-Ruediger Feldmann, Managing Director, Cornelsen Verlag; and Former State Minister Maurer. A videotaped message from Shoah Foundation Founding Chairman Steven Spielberg was also screened.



L to R: Hubert Burda, Chairman of the Board, Burda Media; Monika Hohlmeier, Bavarian Minister for Culture & Education; Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, Managing Director, Shoah gGmbH in Berlin

### CD-ROM also available at Jüdisches Museum Berlin

*Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft* is also available to visitors in the Rafael Roth Learning Center at the Jüdisches Museum Berlin (Jewish Museum Berlin). Students who worked with this unique learning tool and Irmgard Konrad, a Holocaust survivor featured on the CD-ROM, attended an official presentation of the CD-ROM on September 27, along with representatives from the Museum, the Shoah Foundation, and the German government.

The inclusion of the CD-ROM in the Learning Center marks the beginning of a partnership between the Jüdisches Museum and the Shoah Foundation. Soon German interviews from the Foundation's archive will also be available to museum visitors on video cassettes.

For more information about the CD-ROM please contact Cornelsen Verlag at [www.erinnern-online.de](http://www.erinnern-online.de).

# Broken Silence Speaks to Students around the Globe

Teachers around the world are engaging students in the study of history and discussions of tolerance through the Shoah Foundation's international documentary series, *Broken Silence*. The five-film series includes documentaries based on Shoah Foundation testimonies in Russian, Polish, Spanish, Czech, and Hungarian languages. Educational activities that match these films with teachers' needs are underway in Russia, Hungary, and Italy, and provide exciting models for international programs to follow.

In Russia, where Holocaust history is rarely taught in schools, the Russian-language documentary, *Children from the Abyss*, will show hundreds of students and teachers throughout Russia how the Holocaust affected citizens of the former Soviet Union. These screenings will be coordinated by the Russian Holocaust Foundation in Moscow and other organizations in Russia.

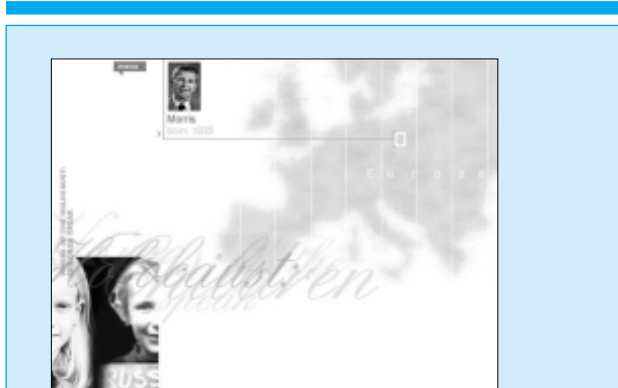
Similarly, the Polish, Russian, and Argentine *Broken Silence* documentaries will be available to schools throughout Italy, through a distribution program with the Centro Espressioni Cinematografiche (CEC) for the 2002-2003 school year. The films will have Italian subtitles and a study guide.

Meanwhile, Shoah Foundation regional consultant Luca Illy is working on behalf of the Foundation in Hungary to implement classroom screenings of *Eyes of the Holocaust*, the Hungarian-language documentary. After a school screening for 600 high school students, one Budapest teacher called the documentary “a wonderful masterpiece,” noting how “the Holocaust is seen from children's perspective... [and it] captivates students' attention.”

At the university level, *Eyes of the Holocaust* will soon be integrated into a course titled *Racism-Antiracism* at the Bárczi Gusztáv Training College of Special Education in Hungary, thanks to a grant from the Soros Foundation. Five Hungarian-language testimonies from the Shoah Foundation's archive will also be included in this course for social workers, which examines issues of prejudice and diversity management.

To expand these international efforts, the Shoah Foundation participated in the European Council of Jewish Communities educators' conference in London this November, where Luca Illy conducted a workshop on using visual history testimony in the classroom. Additionally, educators from around Europe attended screenings of the *Broken Silence* films. This conference was an important step in the Foundation's dialogue with European teachers and students. As Luca explains, “Teaching European students about the Holocaust requires going beyond a theoretical approach. For instance, there is a high school in Budapest where 2,000 Jews hid during the war. The challenge is to teach beyond the facts and connect students to personal perspectives of events that occurred in their own towns, in their own backyards.”

In the United Kingdom the BBC will broadcast all five *Broken Silence* films in January 2003.



### Voices of the Holocaust: Children Speak

The Shoah Foundation has just completed work on a third educational CD-ROM, *Voices of the Holocaust: Children Speak*, designed for middle school students ages 11-14. Narrated by Elijah Wood and Natalie Portman, the CD-ROM highlights testimonies from four child survivors, supported by an historical overview, archival film footage, an extensive glossary, maps, and survivors' personal photos. In addition, students can explore specific themes such as identity, responsibility, and friendship.

A teacher's guide will be included, to promote educational distribution throughout the United States in public and private schools in 2003. The CD-ROM was generously underwritten by The Severin Wunderman Family Foundation.



(left) Luca Illy, Foundation Regional Consultant in Hungary, introduces the Broken Silence documentaries at the Sziget Festival (see page 13 for related story)

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## FOUNDATION NEWS

# A Letter from Douglas Greenberg...

Dear Friends,

The past months have been busy at the Shoah Foundation culminating with our annual *Ambassadors for Humanity* fundraiser this December. I am pleased to congratulate this year's *Ambassadors*: Jerry Breslauer, Mickey Rutman, and Bruce Ramer, the founding members of the Shoah Foundation Board. Nothing we have accomplished would have been possible without them. We are proud to have them 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 Heidelberg, and another of interviews with survivors of eugenics policies in Kassel. In addition, thanks to the Bavarian Ministry of Education and Burda 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 Minister of Education and others concerned with tolerance education. These meetings were very productive, and we hope they will eventuate in both an education program in Hungary and a collection of testimonies at a Hungarian institution. 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 Tapper Research and Testing Center (see page 2). A range of guests, from former President Bill Clinton to local Havurah 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 do good work in the world and help build a more tolerant and just human community.



Douglas Greenberg  
President and Chief Executive Officer

L to R: Bonnie Samotin, Manager of Educational Programs for Shoah Foundation; Ed S. Alster, Ed.D., Director, Education for Anti-Defamation League; Marjorie B. Green, Director, Educational Policy and Programs Department for Anti-Defamation League; Kimberly Bonheim Birbrower, Director of Education for Shoah Foundation



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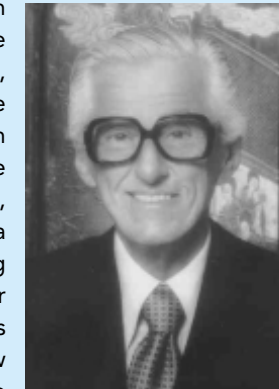
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a member of Clinton's  
staff, Bill Clinton,  
Douglas Greenberg



Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn visits with Director of Education  
Kimberly Bonheim Birbrower in the Foundation's Education Department

### Remembering Foundation Friend Lew Wasserman

The Shoah Foundation mourns the loss of longtime supporter Lew Wasserman, who passed away in June 2002, at age 89. As an Honorary Co-Chair of the Shoah Foundation's Board, Lew Wasserman was a driving force in raising funds and awareness for the Foundation since its inception in 1994. Lew served as an invaluable advisor and advocate for the Foundation over the years.



Lew was born the son of Jewish immigrants in Cleveland in 1913. He came to Hollywood in the 1930s to work at MCA, rising to president by 1946. After acquiring Universal Pictures in 1960, he oversaw blockbuster movies such as *Jaws*, *E.T.*, and *Schindler's List*, all directed by Shoah Foundation Founding Chairman Steven Spielberg. "For decades he was the chief justice of the film industry – fair, tough-minded, and innovative. I feel that all of us have lost our benevolent godfather," said Spielberg.

During his long career, Lew received many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. He will also be remembered for his devotion to philanthropy and family: his wife of more than 60 years, Edie, his daughter Lynne, and his grandchildren Carol and Casey (now president of the Wasserman Foundation).

To Lew, giving was a way of life that he encouraged in others. "As a father, grandfather and mentor, I encourage young people to support the promise of the Shoah Foundation as an educational resource. It is future generations that will benefit from the Foundation's efforts to teach students about the crucial need for tolerance, and the essence of peaceful coexistence."

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# 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 art dealer and film producer Arne Glimcher and his wife Milly. The Glimchers also served as co-chairs of the event, along with Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Mort Zuckerman, and Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg.

Beginning with a cocktail reception at sunset, the evening captured the relaxed atmosphere of the Hamptons while garnering serious support for the Shoah Foundation. "The Shoah Foundation is the inspiration 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 reduce [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. Listen to me. I am going to tell you what happened to me and to everyone I knew and loved.'"

After an address by Founding Chairman Steven Spielberg, the audience was treated to a performance by singer Tony Bennett, who had been among the Allied troops who liberated the concentration camps. Although

Bennett did not reference his own past, he did perform "New York State of Mind" (a nod to composer and fellow guest Billy Joel) as one of the evening's allusions to September 11. The crowd, made up primarily of New Yorkers, erupted into applause. Earlier, Spielberg referred to September 11 as "a day that hate came knocking on our door" and he thanked the audience for helping the Shoah Foundation in the "race against time to educate new generations to turn them away from the darkness that threatens civilization."

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Billy Joel and Ralph Lauren



Harrison Ford and Tony Bennett

L to R: Kate Capshaw, Steven Spielberg, Milly and Arne Glimcher



Sir Evelyn and Lady Lynn Rothschild with Mort Zuckerman

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## Supporters Host Reception for Foundation

Maxine and Arthur Barends 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 Barends' garden for a thought-provoking discussion with Douglas Greenberg, Shoah Foundation President and CEO, and Renée Firestone, educator and Holocaust survivor. The event attracted a diverse group – from Holocaust survivors to local college students.

Arthur Barends, a prominent attorney in the Los Angeles area, and his wife Maxine are involved in many Jewish, community, and educational organizations. The Barends and their daughters Carrie and Jody decided to help promote the Shoah Foundation after Maxine toured the Foundation with a museum group last February.

"What I was so impressed with, and what I wanted to make all my friends aware of, is what the Shoah

(top photo) L to R: Bruce Corwin, Toni Corwin, Douglas Greenberg, Maxine Barends, Arthur Barends, Terri Smooke, and Michael Smooke  
(bottom photo) L to R: Carrie Barends, Amy Friedlander, Jody Barends Moran, Caroline Konheim, Jessica Pilch, and Ashley Kraine



Foundation is doing in the educational arena. By getting these testimonies into the schools, we're helping young people build a more tolerant world, while insuring 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 Firestone, a former interviewer 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 closed with a question-and-answer session and an eloquent address by Carrie Barends, who spoke about the importance of Holocaust education, especially in communities that may have little or no knowledge about this time in history.

**New Major Gifts since May 2002**

Bank One Corporation	\$ 20,000
Arthur and Maxine Barends	\$ 20,000
Shelly and Gary Belz	\$ 10,000
Circle of Service Foundation	\$ 25,000
Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust to catalogue testimonies conducted in San Antonio, TX	\$ 10,000
James & Judith Dimon	\$ 10,000
Paul Goldenberg	\$ 50,000

Library Services and Technology Act, U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services via the CA State Library, through a partnership with USC a third grant from this source to catalogue testimonies videotaped in California	\$150,000
Philip and Monica Rosenthal	\$ 25,000
Leo Rosner Foundation for educational programs	\$ 30,000
Ann and Robert Sacks	\$ 10,740
Mace Siegel	\$ 10,000
Albert Tapper to name the Shoah Foundation's Research and Testing Center	\$200,000

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## PARTNERS IN HISTORY AND THE FUTURE®

# Child of Survivors Includes Foundation in Her Estate Planning

**"It's not that hard to give and it feels good."**

- Dr. Gail Lebovic  
 Director, Bay Area Breast Center



Dr. Gail Lebovic

Prominent breast cancer surgeon Gail Lebovic is founder and medical director of the Bay Area Breast Center, an inventor (the MammoPad®), an entrepreneur, and a lot of fun. Even though she lives life 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 so 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, Kathy, also wanted to help by volunteering. Gail added, "Knowing my family's and other survivors' stories has been enlightening 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. I always try to give as much as I can of my time, 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 year end, Gail will also get an immediate reduction on her 2002 taxes.

"My parents taught us to work hard and to be good people.... I think we, the children of survivors, have a responsibility to keep these precious memories alive. Designating the Shoah Foundation in my estate is a comforting way to help insure its survival."

### 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 intolerance, prejudice, and bigotry.

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**Planned Gifts** - Planned gifts might 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:

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Janet Beasley's grandparents, Bianka and Jakob Schrimmer, before the war

## Survivor Pays Tribute to Grandparents

Janet Grybski 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 Jewish children were no longer permitted to go to school; who reworked old clothes into something new and frequently sewed a matching outfit for my doll. She was an excellent cook but her attempt at making matzoh in a frying pan almost set the kitchen on fire." In March 1943, Blanka was deported from Berlin to Auschwitz, where she was almost certainly killed on arrival.

Janet was born in 1935 in Berlin and at age nine was deported to Theresienstadt, the "model ghetto" the Nazis set up near Prague. There, she and her mother spent nearly a year before the war ended. Janet came to the United States in 1946, pursued 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



## Board Member Underwrites Testimony Catalogue CD-ROM

Board member and long-time Shoah Foundation supporter David Strassler (of the Barrington Foundation) recently contributed \$50,000 to the Shoah Foundation to develop a CD-ROM version of the Testimony Catalogue.

The Testimony Catalogue is similar in function to a library's card catalogue - enabling end-users to search through basic information in nearly 43,000 testimonies of the Shoah Foundation's archive (a number that will rise as data is entered from more foreign-language interviews). For example, using the Testimony Catalogue, researchers can identify which testimonies they want to view based on information such as name, birthdate, place of birth, or key Holocaust experiences (e.g., interviewees who were in a particular ghetto).



A prototype of the Testimony Catalogue was developed in 2000 to accompany the large collection of Dutch testimonies at the Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam. Now that the Testimony Catalogue is available on CD-ROM, scholars who do not live close to an access site, such as a museum or university, will be able to conduct preliminary research utilizing the Shoah Foundation's archive.

Having completed the design and testing of the Testimony Catalogue CD-ROM, the Foundation is now exploring various distribution opportunities. Thanks to David Strassler's support, this portable and versatile research tool marks a new milestone in the Shoah Foundation's efforts to open its archive to the world.

**"I had a need to do something permanent to show that my grandparents lived. It's a wonderful way to honor someone."**

- Janet Grybski Beasley

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# 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 the Shoah Foundation hopes to duplicate in many countries. To date, this relationship has produced a landmark Visitor Cataloguing Program 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.



Salvatore Italia, General Director of the Italian Archives; Maurizio Fallace, Director of the Archivio; Paola Carucci, former Director of the Archivio; Leone Paserman, President of the Jewish Community of Rome

In the first program of its kind, Italian archivists are currently working with the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles to index the more than 400 Italian-language testimonies in the Foundation's archive. Funding for this project was provided by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Assets and through the General Directorate of Archives. Established in 1875, Archivio centrale dello Stato holds collections of government documents, private archives of prominent Italians, as well as photographic and audiovisual archives.

Three archivists are spending six to nine months each at the Foundation, lending their knowledge and expertise in Italian history, culture, and language to the project. This cataloguing work lays the foundation for the delivery of the Italian Collection, which will eventually be housed at the Archivio. According to Shoah Foundation CEO Douglas Greenberg, "In the capable hands of the Central State Archive, we know that this material will reach the broadest audience in the most expert way. This partnership has resulted in a genuine cultural exchange."

Paola Carucci, who promoted the partnership when she served as Director of the Archivio, remarked, "It is of

the greatest importance also to acquire the testimonies of the survivors of the [Holocaust], to give to the Italian public, especially for educational purposes, more complete historical sources."

**"This partnership has resulted in a genuine cultural exchange."**

- Douglas Greenberg, CEO Shoah Foundation

The partnership has also resulted in *Gli Ebrei a Roma 1938-1944* (Jews in Rome 1938-1944), a 40-minute video that was produced in 2001 for a permanent exhibit at the Museo Storico della Liberazione di Roma (Historic Museum of the Liberation of Rome). The reel is composed of Shoah Foundation testimonies from rescuers 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 an initial distribution to 300 schools in and around Rome, along with an accompanying guide, and eventually plans to disseminate it throughout all of Italy.

Among the distinguished guests at the October 16 event were Mel Sembler, United States Ambassador to Italy; Salvatore Italia, General Director of the Italian Archives; Maurizio Fallace, Director of the Archivio; and Doris Felsen-Escojido, Shoah Foundation Regional Consultant. For more information about the Archivio, visit [www.archivi.beniculturali.it](http://www.archivi.beniculturali.it).



Ambassador Mel Sembler and wife Betty



Students from Fruitvale Junior High School in Bakersfield, California in their National History Day presentation about Berihah

## Archive Supports Projects

The Shoah Foundation archive is being accessed by a range of people in a variety of ways. Testimony collections are now open in twelve countries around the world. Individual testimonies provide invaluable research for many endeavors. *Past Forward* shares a sampling of the projects that rely on Shoah Foundation interviews.

**Eugenics Policies Collection in Germany** - In September, the Landeswohlfahrtsverband Hessen in Kassel, Germany, opened a collection of 13 interviews with survivors who were victims of eugenics policies under the Nazi regime. The Shoah Foundation recorded these testimonies in Germany and Austria between 1997 and 1999. The collection is significant because the experiences of such survivors are largely undocumented.

**Documentary in Italy** - Filmmaker Davide Trincherio and the Lab 900 production company in Turin, Italy, have just completed *Romani Rat* (Romani Night/Romani Blood), a documentary about the liquidation of the Sinti and Roma block in Auschwitz. Trincherio viewed Shoah Foundation testimonies of Jewish survivors who witnessed the event and included portions of three testimonies in the film.

**National History Day in USA** - A group of students at Fruitvale Junior High School in Bakersfield, California, viewed Shoah Foundation testimonies as research for their National History Day presentation. The students won the national championship in the junior division for their dramatization of Holocaust survivors who escaped to Palestine after the war with help from the underground Zionist movement, Berihah. National History Day is an education program that encourages students to utilize primary source materials to research projects based on an annual theme. The 2002 theme was Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History. More than 700,000 students participate annually.

**Memorial Book in Mexico** - The nonprofit organization Memoria y Tolerancia summarized eleven Shoah Foundation testimonies to include in *El Rostro de la Verdad* (The Face of Truth). The book features photos and personal remembrances of nearly 80 Holocaust survivors living in Mexico and will be distributed free of charge to Mexico's Jewish community.

### Shoah Foundation Participates in Hungarian Festival

This summer, Shoah Foundation documentaries reached new audiences in Hungary when they were screened daily at the Sziget Festival in Budapest. Attracting over 350,000 visitors, the festival offers concerts, lectures, films, and exhibit tents from 130 nonprofit organizations.

The Shoah Foundation was invited to participate in the Holocaust Memorial Tent by the future Hungarian Holocaust Museum. The tent featured a photography exhibit, a drawing workshop for children, and screenings of *The Last Days* and *Broken Silence* documentaries. Nearly 4,000 people visited the tent during the week, including the deputy mayor of Budapest, the Israeli Ambassador, and many journalists.

"Visitors of the tent ranged from very tolerant to less tolerant, from the age of 16 to 50.... It was moving for us to see that the kind of tolerance we wanted to represent did have an effect on each of them, without exception," said Klara Sziklai, Program Coordinator.

Shoah Foundation Hungary Regional Consultant Luca Illy shares a memorable moment from the Festival:

*After one of the Broken Silence films, a young man told me that he used to be a skinhead. Now he cannot understand how he could have ignored documents like those shown in the film. He said realizing the truth was a process, "collecting" pieces of information that eventually became a clear picture. He mentioned his first experience of this: in a cemetery, he saw tombs with "Jewish letters" and realized that all these people died in 1944. He put this piece of information aside in his mind. Later, there were other pieces, and in time, he put them together and realized that the Nazi ideas he believed in were lies.*

*This conversation is proof that we have to go on with our work - to fight against racism with every possible means (films, lectures, conversations). The results will not be immediate and spectacular, just little pieces of a puzzle to be born in someone's mind.*

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# Italian Testimonies Brought to Light by Visiting Cataloguer

Thanks to visiting cataloguer Micaela Procaccia, Past Forward shares non-English testimonies from the Shoah Foundation archive for the first time. Micaela, a State Archivist from Rome, recently spent six months in Los Angeles, cataloguing Italian-language testimonies at the Shoah Foundation as part of an important international partnership (see page 12). "I was born and raised in the Jewish community of Rome, so I know many of these people; they speak of people and places that I know.... This is my history." Micaela notes that cataloguing visual testimony is quite different from working with written documents: "Video cataloguing is more complex and involving.... You have to be objective, yet not too objective – these are people, not pieces of paper." Here, Micaela shares the stories of Father Aldo Brunacci, who helped rescue more than 300 Jews in Assisi, and Settimia Spizzichino, the only woman known to survive the October 16, 1943, deportation of 1,000 Roman Jews to Auschwitz.



Lucilla Garofalo and Micaela Procaccia, visiting cataloguers at the Shoah Foundation

Father Aldo Brunacci during his Shoah Foundation interview, November 1998

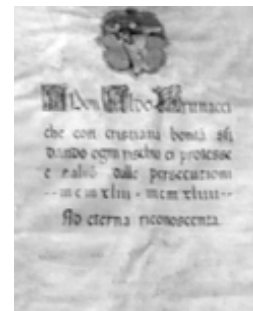


## Father Aldo Brunacci Created a Safe Haven for Jews in Assisi

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 Azione Cattolica (a Catholic youth organization later disbanded by the Fascists), he became an independent thinker. When he returned to Assisi, he witnessed the Fascist dictates 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 Rome. North of Rome was the Italian Social Republic created by Mussolini and controlled by the Germans. Assisi became inundated with Jews in flight, many of whom were refugees from Germany, Austria, or France. The friars and the Bishop of Assisi, Monsignor Giuseppe Placido Nicolini, did not hesitate to help.

Dressed as monks and nuns, hidden in underground passageways, camouflaged among the "evacuees" (Italians escaped from bombed cities), more than 300 Jews found asylum in the ancient birthplace of Saint Francis. Father Aldo Brunacci, as the Bishop's chief aide, found himself in charge of this mass of people. He had to provide food for them, procure false papers, confront the Nazis and Fascists,



A certificate presented to Father Brunacci by a group of Holocaust survivors from Trieste, in gratitude for protecting them from persecution during the war

assist the sick, and care for the children. He was not alone: a network of priests and monks in the Umbria region and the citizens of Assisi cooperated any way they could. Even the Bishop of Assisi, together with Brunacci, became a bricklayer, and with cement and a trowel, they enclosed the prayer books, ritual objects, and valuables of the Jews within the underground passages of the Bishop's quarters.

One day, an old lady, a Jew from Vienna, died. She was buried in the Assisi cemetery under a false name. Father Brunacci remembers the lengths taken to ensure that the Catholic rituals would not in any way be disrespectful to the deceased. There would be a ceremony after the war, when a new gravestone, with the woman's real name and a Star of David, was erected. At her family's request, her remains are still in the Assisi cemetery, next to those who protected her.



Monsignor Giuseppe Placido Nicolini, Bishop of Assisi

Suspected of underground activities, Father Brunacci was arrested by the Fascist authorities in May 1944. Thanks to the Vatican's intervention, he was released after a period of detention. To protect him, the Bishop sent him to work in the Vatican State Secretariat for the rest of the war. Father Brunacci has been named "Righteous among the Nations" by Yad Vashem, and two trees, one for him and one for Bishop Nicolini, now deceased, are planted in Jerusalem's Avenue of the Righteous.

## Strong-Willed Settimia Spizzichino Lived 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 boldness 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 noise from the boots 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 niece, 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,



Settimia Spizzichino's sister Giuditta before the war



Settimia Spizzichino during her Shoah Foundation interview, September 1998

the infamous site of medical experiments. There, with a superhuman will, she vowed to survive so that she could one day tell her story. Settimia succeeded, coming out of Block 10 alive, and recounted her vivid memories so precisely that you could almost see the typhoid and scabies experiments to which she was subjected. She says little of the other experiments, just mentioning how the Greek girls screamed during gynecological experiments and returned covered in blood.

Settimia survived this, as well as a death march to Bergen-Belsen and abandonment in that camp that was "worse than Auschwitz." She returned to Rome after the war, the only known woman survivor of the many who were arrested on October 16. Her father and two sisters were there to welcome her. But her brother had disappeared in the camps.

Since then, indefatigable, Settimia has told her story. Settimia spoke every day of her life, to people young and old. She knocked on doors of innumerable schools, when the Holocaust was not yet being discussed, and told her story. She accompanied dozens of students to Auschwitz, she wrote her memoirs, spoke on television, granted interviews. Day after day, she maintained the promise that she made to herself, and there are many Italian students who know the Shoah through her words.

Settimia passed away two years ago. The funeral march stopped in the old ghetto of Rome, a few steps away from Reginella Street, where she, her mother, and her sisters were captured. Then it slowly wound through the center of Rome, escorted by an honor guard sent by the mayor. Her voice still speaks to the world through the Shoah Foundation's archive.



Settimia Spizzichino's memoirs, The Stolen Years



Settimia Spizzichino's mother Grazia before the war

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# Bill Clinton Visits Shoah Foundation



L to R: Former President Bill Clinton, survivor Renée Firestone, Steven Spielberg, Douglas Greenberg

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

**"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*

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, "aspires 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](http://www.visionaryproject.com).

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The Newsletter of the Shoah Foundation®

WINTER 2002



Photo courtesy of Péter Tólas

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**BROKEN SILENCE DOCUMENTARIES REACH YOUNG HUNGARIANS**  
 Shoah Foundation participates in Budapest's Sziget Festival  
 See related stories pages 5 and 13