The Shoah Foundation is moving to the University of Southern California. Please note our new contact information, starting January 1, 2006

USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education
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Los Angeles, CA 90089-2571
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A New Beginning Winter 2006

By Douglas Greenberg

When the Shoah Foundation conducted its first test interview with a Holocaust survivor on April 18, 1994, a race against time began: to capture on video as many stories as possible before it was too late. Nearly 12 years and 52,000 interviews later, we are running yet another race against time—to preserve these testimonies, not just for the present, but also for decades to come. It is a race that consumes us. It is our moral obligation and our most challenging responsibility.

This January, the Shoah Foundation is becoming part of the University of Southern California. In our new identity as the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, we will continue to pursue our mission to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Foundation’s visual history testimonies.

Most importantly, we will know that a piece of history captured through the eyewitness accounts of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses will exist in perpetuity. USC will play a critical role in the mission of the Shoah Foundation and advance academic research and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. This includes expanding the scope of our research and education. Like all such collections, their effectiveness depends upon a dedicated community of researchers and teachers prepared to mine and utilize them to advance research and education in a wide variety of fields. As one of the great American research universities, USC offers just such a community.

This development is of great significance to us. It offers opportunities for new accomplishments that we couldn’t have exploited in any other way. Appropriately, it coincides with the completion of a momentous task in the history of the Foundation: the conclusion of the indexing of the testimonies in the archive. It seems only natural that the programmatic work of the Shoah Foundation will also shift as the indexing comes to an end.

USC, a national and international leader in the digital library field, will provide the technological expertise to support not just the preservation and use of the archive, but also its dissemination. Electronic access to our collection, through Internet2, a high-speed private computer network, is currently available at USC, Rice and Yale universities, and the University of Michigan. We hope soon to extend access to the full archive to as many as a dozen additional institutions on the network.

In addition, if funding permits, the Institute expects to be even more ambitious in developing educational activities and partnerships in this country and in other parts of the world. This includes expanding the scope of our archive to document the experiences of other groups. Just last month, we received funding to begin this process.

One hundred years from now, historians who do research about our time will use video as their main resource. In the future, the past will be visual, and as the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, we will play a critical role in enhancing opportunities for interdisciplinary research and scholarship that draw upon visual history sources.

This is an extraordinary moment in our short history, but also a tremendous challenge. We know that your support and loyalty will help us excel in this new beginning, and beyond.

Douglas Greenberg
President and Chief Executive Officer

On the Cover

The Shoah Foundation moves to USC, and becomes the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. The Institute will be part of the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, and housed on USC’s Los Angeles campus.

The University of California, under this landmark agreement, guarantees the perpetual preservation of the Shoah Foundation’s repository of 52,000 testimonies of survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust.

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education will uphold the mission of the Shoah Foundation and advance academic research and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. See articles pages 10-11.

Photograph by Phil Channing

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation®  www.vhf.org

Pastforward, Winter 2006 1
ne year ago, three leading organizations joined forces to undertake an admirable and arduous task: to teach a new generation of students what can happen when prejudice and discrimination are allowed to flourish, and when individuals, community leaders, and government don’t take a stand against injustice.

The result is Echoes and Reflections—a multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust born of an unprecedented partnership between the Anti-Defamation League, the Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem.

Rich with testimony clips from 51 survivors and other witnesses, seamlessly integrated into 10 multi-part lessons, Echoes and Reflections allows students to investigate major themes associated with the Holocaust. The ten lessons—on topics including anti-Semitism, Nazi Germany, the ghettos, the final solution, and resistance—provide a thorough historical background for this period. Additional lessons that look at liberators, war criminals trials, the issue of guilt, and the effects of the Holocaust on children, give a thematic perspective as well.

This curriculum is phenomenal,” says teacher DeAnna K. “Being able to break up [the study of the Holocaust] into steps and having ten separate lessons really provides a great framework for teachers.” Each lesson contains all the materials high school educators need to teach the complex issues of the Holocaust and also support the study of world history. English, Holocaust studies, fine arts, and character education. Echoes and Reflections is modular, so educators can use just one lesson—or even part of a lesson—as all the activities and procedures in the curriculum are stand-alone.

Echoes and Reflections also helps students connect the study of history to contemporary issues of diversity, prejudice, and violence. “I see a lot of connections as I am going through the curriculum, ways that I can bring in current genocides,” says Brandi G., a 9th grade teacher in Washington. “It serves as a great stepping stone to talk about those issues, because students need to know that this is something that is still going on right now—that this is not something that’s fixed in history. It’s something we can talk about, and we need to talk about it today.”

According to Douglas Greenberg, president and CEO of the Shoah Foundation, “This is principally a curriculum about the Holocaust, but it is, by implication, not only about the Holocaust, not only about the past.” Greenberg adds, “Studying the Holocaust would be an arid and somewhat futile thing to do if we didn’t draw from it lessons that we can apply to our own lives.”

Teachers are encouraged to have students keep a journal during their study, and numerous journal topics are provided throughout the curriculum. Some topics are specific to visual history testimony, and some are specific to the other primary sources also included—such as poetry, art, diaries, and photos. Journaling exercises prompt students to reflect on what they are learning and to consider how the material has meaning in their own lives and in society.

To complement the curriculum, www.survivors.org provides teachers and students with additional resources, such as documents, photos, and background information. This added feature allows them to delve as deeply as they would like into the issue and to explore other aspects of the Holocaust.

The Shoah Foundation provided more than two and a half hours of video testimonies culled from its collection of 52,000 interviews. The integral part played by visual history testimonies in the curriculum sets it apart from other materials. Video testimonies give students an important and rare opportunity to connect with survivors or other witnesses to the Holocaust. “It takes the names, dates, and serial numbers out of a history class and makes them more real,” shares Cindy W., a teacher in Seattle.

Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies was able to provide material for this project by drawing upon its own vast pedagogical resources as well as on other Yad Vashem resources, such as the archives, library, art collection, and on-site historians.

“Clearly, this partnership signifies the imperative to remember and to educate about the Holocaust,” shares Avner Shalev, Yad Vashem chairman. “It is hoped that every pupil who will study Echoes and Reflections will remember this chapter of history and connect with the authentic voices of the witnesses featured in it.”

To me, the most important lesson to be taught,” expresses Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, “is not the evil, not the ugliness, not the brutality—we see it every day. We see how low mankind and humankind can sink every single day. The legacy of the Holocaust is to teach the power of an individual to make a difference.” The ADL, with 30 regional offices in the United States, is serving as the program’s outreach arm, training teachers on the use of the curriculum and working with school officials and state authorities throughout the nation to distribute it.

As part of the launch of Echoes and Reflections, the Shoah Foundation hosted a three-day training session for 50 ADL regional staff members. They, in turn, were charged with a mandate: to train high school teachers and other educators and school administrators.

“Holocaust education can teach not only facts, but also principles. The job of Echoes and Reflections is not to give answers, but to raise questions.” – Yossi Hollander

Hollander says. “I believe that Holocaust education can teach not only facts, but also principles. The job of Echoes and Reflections is not to give answers, but to raise questions.”

Paul Wieser, director of the Anti-Defamation League’s Braun Holocaust Institute, led one such training with 30 Catholic high school teachers from all over the country as part of the ADL’s Bearing Witness program. “It is clear that this curriculum will help them satisfy their objectives when talking about moral issues, dilemmas, choices, how people treat one another,” says Wieser. “The teachers were excited about the possibilities and very enthusiastic about the product.”

To view a testimony clip from Echoes and Reflections, read a sample lesson, or to order the curriculum, visit www.echoesandreflections.org.

Above: Regional staff members from the Anti-Defamation League take part in a three-day training session on Echoes and Reflections at the Shoah Foundation Center. (L to R) Yossie and Dana Hollander (donors), Avner Shalev (Yad Vashem), Douglas Greenberg (Shoah Foundation), and Abraham Foxman (ADL). Left: Echoes and Reflections contains ten multi-part lessons with a companion DVD or VHS of visual history testimonies from Holocaust survivors and other witnesses.
Remembering Their Paths

New online exhibit follows five survivors through five continents

For millions of individuals across Europe, the Holocaust was a catalyst for exile. Families, uprooted and scattered, had to start anew in other countries, marked forever by the tragedy that forced their exodus. The life stories of diverse individuals connected by this common experience of flight, loss, and recovery form the basis of Surviving Auschwitz: Five Personal Journeys, the Shoah Foundation’s latest online educational exhibit. Organized around an interactive map of the world, Surviving Auschwitz traces the crisscrossing paths of five men and women across five continents, utilizing their video testimonies from the Shoah Foundation archive to recount their personal histories during the Holocaust, Auschwitz.

With four hours of English-language testimony video clips, more than any other online exhibit on www.vhf.org, Surviving Auschwitz reveals the breadth of experiences that can be found in the Shoah Foundation archive. Students are helped to understand the references that are helped to understand the references that the survivors make to places and events - a [framework] will be valuable for teachers who use Surviving Auschwitz in classes that focus on the history and implications of the Holocaust. Lesson plans and other teacher resources will be available to download from the online exhibit.

“More than is usually the case,” says Professor Roth, “the testimonies are accompanied by historical contextualization. Viewers are helped to understand the references that the survivors make to places and events - a [framework] will be valuable for teachers who use Surviving Auschwitz in classes that focus on the history and implications of the Holocaust.” Lesson plans and other teacher resources will be available to download from the online exhibit.

“The testimonies not only drive home that there was an unmatched and unrecordable loss, they also show how people did not let despair overwhelm them,” says Professor Roth. “Instead, they went on, in spite of the odds against them, to rebuild their lives. The testimonies (in Surviving Auschwitz) are stories of determination. They emphasize the importance of not giving up, of not giving in, while at the same time underscoring the Holocaust’s devastation.”

Surviving Auschwitz: Five Personal Journeys is available free of charge to educators, students, and the general public at www.vhf.org/survivingauschwitz, thanks to generous funding from Bloomingdale’s and Mel Simon.

Lauren Merage. “We emigrated from Iran knowing the way to extinguish intolerance around the world is to support and promote education that seeks to respect differences.”

— David and Laura Merage

A recent gift of $25,000 helped establish the DAVID AND LAURA MERAGE FOUNDATION EDUCATION FUND, helping to develop and distribute anti-bias educational resources based on the visual history testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses in the Shoah Foundation archive.

“Our father and father-in-law, Harry Hayes, was one of the young American soldiers who liberated the Gunskirchen Concentration Camp in Austria in 1945. The experience fundamentally changed him,” says his daughter, Elizabeth Witten, and her husband, Richard Witten. “In Hayes’ honor, they set up the WITTEN FAMILY EDUCATION FUND in Memory of Harry R. Hayes with a gift of $30,000. “

Bloomindale’s recent $15,000 donation to the Shoah Foundation established the BLOOMINGDALE’S FUND OF THE FEDERATED DEPARTMENT STORES FOUNDATION “It is our hope that by establishing this fund in his memory, we will enable others to carry forward these messages that Harry Hayes so deeply believed in.”

David and Laura Merage are long-time supporters of the Shoah Foundation. “As children in Iran we experienced first-hand the difficulty of living in a country where variances in beliefs—religious or otherwise—were not encouraged,” share David and Laura Merage. “We emigrated from Iran knowing the way to extinguish intolerance around the world is to promote education that seeks to respect differences.”

— David and Laura Merage

Above: The Witten Family

With a generous $25,000 donation from Barry Sternlicht, Chairman and CEO of Starwood Hotels Group, the Shoah Foundation established the BARRY STERNLICHT EDUCATION FUND. “I grew up being very protected from the horrors of the war,” says Sternlicht, the son of Holocaust survivors. “My father, who gave his testimony to the Shoah Foundation, never spoke of the war and would turn off TV shows we might see if we passed the room. As I have grown, I remain amazed at the ignorance and the underlying racism and antisemitism that remains today, not only in the United States but around the world. The Shoah Foundation is the living record of the wrong people can do. Hopefully it shows man at his very worst, so that others will never embark on programs of hate and, worse, genocide, based on color, race, or religious beliefs.”

The Barry Sternlicht Education Fund enables the Shoah Foundation to pursue a wide range of educational activities in public institutions and schools around the world.

“Although himself a devout Catholic, Harry believed deeply that all people were equal in the eyes of God and that all religions deserved respect,” share the Wittens. “In his later years, Harry joined with a survivor of Gunskirchen to meet with high school students in the greater Albany, New York, area to speak about tolerance, acceptance, and personal freedom.”

“It is our hope that by establishing this fund in his memory, we will enable others to carry forward these messages that Harry Hayes so deeply believed in.”

Above: The Witten Family

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation® www.vhf.org
Hungary—A new Holocaust-education kit designed specifically for Hungarian students reached every secondary school in Hungary at the beginning of the 2005-06 school year.

Looking Towards the Future Through the Eyes of the Holocaust—An Educational Package for Hungarian Schools consists of the Shoah Foundation's Hungarian-language documentary Eyes of the Holocaust on DVD, Gyula Hosszú's Roads to the Holocaust: stories about the Holocaust, a nationally recognized scholar book; and Approaches—A comprehensive teacher's guide that helps educators with content on how to use the film and the book in a classroom setting.

Looking Towards the Future… is the result of the combined efforts of the Shoah Foundation, the Hungarian Association of History Teachers, and the Hannah Arendt Foundation.

“A lot of books, films, or documentaries about the Holocaust are being used in schools in Hungary,” says Ms. Luca Tilly, the Shoah Foundation’s regional representative in Hungary, “but teachers have to design their own lessons or curriculum around them. Until now, they didn’t have access to resources that were created specifically for classroom use.”

László Miklós, president of the Hungarian Association of History Teachers, conceived of and initiated the idea for the kit. “Visual media and personal experiences are basic and definitive elements in educational practice,” he says. “That is why it was important that the visual history testimonies in the Visual History Testimonies collection be the part of the kit.”

“But nothing is usable and applicable in education,” Mr. Miklós adds, “if there is no appropriate didactic and methodological help offered to educators. The real goal of the study guide is to help teachers create their vision and their own approach to thinking and teaching about this topic.”

The Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research and the Hungarian Ministry of Education provided the financial support for this project.

“I hope that Hungarian educators will first of all think about the role and importance of Holocaust education,” states Mr. Miklós, “and then, while teaching, use various tools that are appropriate to students’ interests and needs. This is essential, as it gives students a complete picture of what happened in the past—how and why—but most importantly, because it prepares them to think critically and react to what is happening today: acts of intolerance, hatred, and anti-Semitism.”

Austria—The Austrian organization Nationalsozialismus und Holocaust: Gedenken und Gegenwart (National Socialism and the Holocaust: Remembrance and the Present) is producing a Holocaust—and tolerance—education DVD that will center on visual history testimonies from the Shoah Foundation archive. A team of three experts—Markus Barnay, a film editor; History Professor Albert Lichtblau, and Ph.D. candidate Maria Ecker—spent a week at the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles to search the archive and identify testimonies from Austrian survivors and other witnesses, such as Jehovah’s Witnesses, political prisoners, and Sinti and Roma survivors.

“Students are used to visual information today,” says Mr. Barnay, “and we think it is a good way to engage them not just in terms of learning, but also emotionally. These are real living people who tell about their own lives. This pilot is going to help us determine what the best educational approach is, and what the best use of testimonies is, both for teachers and for students.”

The pilot DVD has been financed by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism and by the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture. Additional funding will be needed to finalize the DVD and distribute it to secondary schools in Austria.

“We want to facilitate the transmission of the experiences of survivors and other witnesses to the coming generations,” says National Socialism and the Holocaust: Memory and Present director Dr. Werner Dreier, “and we hope that this DVD has an impact on public memory and education in Austria. We anticipate more public funding to come from Austria, but we still need additional support, and we are actively looking for private or corporate sponsorships to help our project come to fruition.”

Far left: Students at Budapest’s Alternative Secondary School of Economics (Alternatív Közgazdasági Gimnázium) watch the Shoah Foundation’s documentary Eyes of the Holocaust as part of a lesson from the Shoah Foundation’s regional representative in Hungary. At the same time, the Shoah Foundation urges everyone to join the campaign to recover the names and identities of those who did not survive and have yet to be registered in Yad Vashem’s online Database.

Experienced interviewers and volunteers—anyone committed to ensuring that no Holocaust victim is forgotten—would be a significant asset to this endeavor. With the aid of promotional materials developed by Yad Vashem, volunteers will reach out to survivors and their families and assist them in registering the names of men, women, and children who they know were murdered in the Shoah.

To request a free guide and resource packet to initiate a names project in your community, please send an email with the subject heading “names campaign” to names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il.
A Southern Initiative

Twenty one testimonies find a home in Jackson, Mississippi

The unveiling of this collection represented the first phase of the Shoah Foundation’s Testimony to Tolerance Initiative. The initiative, funded in Jackson by the Levy-Markus Foundation, provides supported access to a subset of the archive in cities that would not otherwise have access to this type of material. The Initiative is implemented in three distinct phases. The first phase focuses on the general public. The second phase focuses on local educators. And the third phase focuses on students.

The Jackson Visual History Collection — 71 English-language testimonies from survivors, rescuers and aid providers, and other witnesses — includes the firsthand testimony of Gilbert Metz, the only known Holocaust survivor still residing in Mississippi.

Mr. Metz attended the collection-opening celebration at the Eudora Welty Library. He admitted to being thrilled and “quite surprised,” saying that when the Shoah Foundation videotaped his interview in 1998, he figured it would just go into an archive that only researchers can access, and never dreamt that it would be so widely available. The Testimony to Tolerance Initiative generated a variety of activities in Jackson, with a focus on school and community outreach using the local collection housed at the library. In August, the Shoah Foundation held an on-site workshop for local teachers, educators, and members of the library staff. The 30 attendees learned how to utilize their new resource effectively — including how to identify clips of testimonies that are particularly valuable in an educational setting, how to use testimonies in the classroom, and how to incorporate testimonies into existing lesson plans and other materials.

As part of the Initiative, the Eudora Welty Library also hosted a monthly Lunch Lecture Series funded by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council from September through December. “The goal of the Series,” says Jamie Holcomb, the Shoah Foundation’s on-site workshop coordinator in Jackson, “is to introduce the collection and use visual history to promote active dialogue on race-related issues and connect Mississippi history, politics, and religion to a broader discussion.”

The Testimony to Tolerance Initiative is one of the main regional, community-based education programs in the United States. “In the years to come, as educators begin to use the incomparable resources of the Shoah Foundation’s testimony collection, I am confident that it can become a major tool for honoring the memory of Holocaust victims and for teaching students at all levels about the necessity of overcoming intolerance and discrimination.”

The Shoah Foundation is currently working with educators in Jackson, providing them with additional training and support as they implement student-run, Foundation-sponsored diversity clubs at their school. The clubs, called A.D.A.P.T. (Advocating Diversity and Promoting Tolerance), will carry out school-wide and community-centered outreach (such as after-school cultural presentations, campaigns, and field trips) and will provide an environment for students to focus on the respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the diversity of all human cultures.

In July of 2005, middle and high school students from various Jackson Public Schools met at the Eudora Welty Main Library Branch in Jackson, Mississippi, where visitors can view testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. Previous page right: Gilbert Metz with Carolyn McCallum, executive director of the Jackson-Minds Library System.

Illustrating Diversity

In July of 2005, middle and high school students from various Jackson Public Schools met at the Eudora Welty Library for the first Express It! Art Workshop. The workshop, funded through a grant from the Junior League of Jackson, was one of the first public events associated with the Shoah Foundation’s testimony collection in Jackson and the Testimony to Tolerance Initiative.

Students at the art workshop watched clips of Holocaust survivors’ testimonies from the collection, and original footage from the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. Participants then created original artwork based on the question “What does diversity look like to you?”

For further information about funding a Testimony to Tolerance Initiative, please contact the Shoah Foundation’s at 213-740-6001.
On Course with USC
The Shoah Foundation becomes the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education

This January, the Shoah Foundation becomes part of the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at the University of Southern California. From now on, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation will be known as the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education.

“Our goal, from the beginning, has been to create a permanent home for the testimonies,” says Douglas Greenberg, president and CEO of the Shoah Foundation, who becomes the first executive director of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute. “Our hope has always been that the faces and voices of the survivors and other witnesses could still be seen and heard a hundred, even a thousand, years from now. Our arrangement with USC turns that hope into a reality.”

The University of Southern California is one of the top-ranked private universities in the United States. The Shoah Foundation’s collection is the largest digital library in the world, and USC will use the most advanced methods to ensure that the archive is not only preserved but remains accessible in the future.

“USC is where the Shoah Foundation belongs. It is where the Shoah Foundation will be in guaranteed perpetuity. This is the anchor that the Shoah Foundation needs, even more than symbolically, to reach out to other institutions all across the world, to disseminate 52,000 voices that will never be silenced.” – Steven Spielberg

“Those materials in the Foundation’s archive are essential primary sources for scholarship and education about the Shoah,” says Professor Mark Harris, who has taught the course for six years. “I was struck by how affected the students were by the testimonies, by how they saw their classmates and discovered a range of interdisciplinary applications for this new resource (see article below).

Holocaust historian Anthony Anderson also turns to visual history testimonies, focusing on the many Dutch-related experiences available in the archive. Anderson, who has taught the course for six years, says testimonies personalize historical events and “add a new dimension to the course.”
La Mémoire et l’Education*

The new Memorial de la Shoah in Paris and Le Monde.fr embrace visual history

The Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Collections are compilations of testimonies from the archive, accessible for research, education, and general use at libraries, museums, universities, and other institutions worldwide. Collections include some, or all of the testimonies collected by the Shoah Foundation in a specific city, country, or language, or representing a specific set of experiences.

The following institutions obtained Visual History Collections in 2005

North America
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Australian Liberators
- Testimony to Tolerance Initiative
- Several public libraries and educational institutions

Europe
- Memorial de la Shoah—Centre de documentation juive contemporaine
- National Collection representing all 1,800 testimonies conducted in France and in the French language
- Staatliches Museum Simonswald Trier
- 13 testimonies collected with interviewees born in Trier, Germany
- Archivio Centrale dello Stato
- National Collection representing all 435 testimonies conducted in Italy and in the Italian language
- Uppsala Programme for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Uppsala University
- 49 testimonies collected in Sweden

Asia and Australia/Oceania
- Victoria University of Wellington
- 58 testimonies given in New Zealand, including testimonies given by Sinti and Roma interviewees in the English Language

The names of 76,000 French deportees etched on a long wall, the voices and faces of more than 1,900 French survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust on computer screens. At the newly reopened Memorial de la Shoah in Paris, words carved in stone and video testimonies come together in one location for a mission of remembrance and education.

Spanning 15,000 square feet in the historical Marais district of Paris, the Memorial (which reopened on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz) features permanent exhibits, a library, an auditorium, educational spaces, and a media center housing the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection of French testimonies.

A large number of guests have visited the Memorial’s media center to watch the Shoah Foundation testimonies since its opening, visitors eager to supplement their museum experience, researchers, and students who come to attend the Memorial’s various educational workshops. The workshops offer an initiation to the history of the Holocaust through the presentation of a CD-ROM about Auschwitz and the screening of a survivor testimony.

“We are developing our workshops as a way to guide and advise visitors on ways to choose a testimony to watch,” says Memorial Director Jacques Fredj, adding that “despite the length of some testimonies, visitors tend to watch them in their entirety.”

“Placing the collection of French testimonies at the Memorial de la Shoah is a landmark event in the history of the Shoah Foundation,” shares Douglas Greenberg, president and CEO of the Foundation. “The Memorial is the premier institution of Holocaust memory and scholarship in France; the collection is the largest European collection in the Foundation archive, and the French Jewish community is the largest in Europe. These testimonies not only document the horror of the experience of the Shoah in France, they are also eloquent voices to help address the complexity of life in contemporary France.”

“As the voices of witnesses are growing quieter every day,” adds Eric de Rothschild, president of the Memorial, “the reopening of the Memorial comes at a moment when our country, and more largely Europe, is going through a tense period and racist and antisemitic turmoil. The goal of the Memorial is to contribute not only to the teaching of a history that continues to haunt our daily lives, but also to provide a forum for a reflection on tolerance, freedom, and democracy.”

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Visual History on the Horizon
Shoah Foundation initiates grassroots visual history program in central and eastern Europe

With funding from two donor-sponsored education grants, Martin Smok, the Shoah Foundation’s senior program consultant for central and eastern Europe, is spearheading the Visual History Pilot Program in Croatia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia. Smok met with a core group of educators in each country to explore the use of visual history testimonies in classrooms.

“For many educators in central and eastern Europe, using interviews of Holocaust survivors recorded in their countries seemed to be beyond reach for years,” says Mr. Smok. “The Visual History Pilot Program is about to change that.”

The Shoah Foundation compiled a small yet representative set of testimonies to be allocated to each classroom, and include interviews with survivors, rescuers and aid providers, and liberators.

create projects that actively deal with prejudice and hostility toward foreign nations, cultures, and religions. Tolerance Wins! is open to schools, youth clubs, and individuals 19 and under throughout Germany. The competition focuses on the topic of persecution and exclusion. Different media can be used for the projects, which range from documentaries, videos, and soundtracks to websites and photo essays.

This year’s winners were announced last May at the Jewish Museum Berlin. One of the winning teams, a group of students from the Braunschweig region, interviewed labor camp survivors for their project and acknowledged the Shoah Foundation’s German-language educational CD-ROM Grimm für Gegenwart und Zukunft as a source of inspiration.

Back row (L to R): Wolf-Rüdiger Feldmann (Cornelsen publishing house), Aneta Säder (member of the jury), Dr. Gustav Parrenting (teacher of the winning students), Prof. Klaus Siebenhaar (Jewish Museum Berlin), Ulrich Kaupisch (state secretary of the Ministry of Education)

Front row (L to R): Veronika Burget (Shoah Foundation), Victoria Bach, Romy Adler, Andreas Kallmerten (winning students from Braunschweig)

Equipment with the testimonies, Mr. Smok met with leaders at the Goldstein-Goren Center at the Bucharest University, and the University of Craiova, in Romania, and held workshops with individual educators from the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj, the Al. I. Cuza University of Iași, and the Romanian Institute for Recent History in Craiova. He met with educators from Zagreb and Opatija, as well as Croatian NGOs such as the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies. He also presented testimonies to a group of educators gathered by the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, an organization that works to combat dangerous stereotypes through Holocaust education.

“The opportunity to use visual history testimonies truly electrified the local educators,” says Mr. Smok. Cristiana Teodorescu, dean of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Craiova, shared her enthusiasm after the presentations, saying: “The testimonies truly electrified the local educators.”

Back in Berlin, Germany, May 18, 2005— For the third year in a row, Cornelsen publishing house organized the Tolerance Wins! contest to encourage students to

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Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation* www.vhf.org

Buenos Aires, June 18th, 2005— 790 students at the School of Police officers and Agents of the Argentine Federal Police participate in a seminar titled Training and Reflection. Planned and developed by the Argentine Federal Police (Investigations of Discriminatory Behaviors Department) and Fundación Memoria del Holocausto-Buenos Aires Shoa Museum, the seminar’s main objective is to promote a change in the conscience of Argentinean citizens concerning tolerance, democracy, human rights, and mutual respect.

As a part of the program, Graciela Nabel de Jimich, the Shoah Foundation’s regional consultant in Argentina and the executive director of the Fundación Memoria del Holocausto, screened Algunos que vivieron (some who lived), the Shoah Foundation’s Argentinean documentary directed by Luis Puenzo. “Puenzo’s film allows viewers to reflect about our society today,” says Ms. Nabel de Jimich. “It helps us value democracy, by recalling the suffering brought about by the Nazi regime and the Argentinean dictatorship. It suggests that human rights and equal rights are owed to each and every human being, regardless of ethnicity, origin, or religion…”

“Through regular communication between the Foundation and participants, the objective is to explore with educators the various ways in which they can use visual history in a classroom setting, and to give them the tools to create their own testimony-based educational resources. “Relying on an informal network of local educators and activists at a grassroots level ensures that the resources and activity stemming from the use of testimonies of the Shoah Foundation address local sensitivities and needs,” says Kim Simon, the Shoah Foundation’s vice-president for partnerships and international programs. “It also ensures that the testimonies are really put to use in classrooms, as the educators involved in developing lessons with video testimonies are the ones ultimately using them.”

Tatjana Matetic, a teacher from Opatija, initiated tolerance and Holocaust education in Croatia with a colleague three years ago. She believes that to be effective, any Holocaust education initiative must connect to the present and address the recent wars that devastated the region. According to Ms. Matetic, ‘tolerance education must be more sensitive and more contemporary.”

“The Shoah Foundation’s approach in terms of its international work is unique, not just because it relies on this rich archive, and it is in so many languages,” says Mr. Smok. “It is unique because it’s not about telling our international partners what should be done and how. It is about offering to share a precious resource, while valuing the distinctive skills and knowledge of each country.”

The Visual History Pilot Program is made possible by the generous funding of Karen and Mickey Shapiro in honor of Sara and Asia Shapiro, and the Schaeffer family.

The opportunity to use visual history testimonies truly electrified the local educators,” says Mr. Smok. Cristiana Teodorescu, dean of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Craiova, shared her enthusiasm after the presentations, saying: “The testimonies truly electrified the local educators.”

“For many educators in central and eastern Europe, using interviews of Holocaust survivors recorded in their countries seemed to be beyond reach for years.”— Martin Smok

Back in Berlin, Germany, May 18, 2005— For the third year in a row, Cornelsen publishing house organized the Tolerance Wins! contest to encourage students to...
The Shoah Foundation presented its Ambassador for Humanity Award to President William Jefferson Clinton at an event held in Los Angeles on February 17, 2005. More than 750 guests attended the gala to support the work of the Shoah Foundation and pay tribute to President Clinton’s commitment against racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination. The Ambassadors for Humanity Award honors individuals who embody the Shoah Foundation’s goals of promoting tolerance, cultural understanding, and mutual respect around the world.

“Let us never be guilty of teaching our children to categorize others by the color of their skin, the source of their creed, the nature of their politics, or their ethnic, tribal, or clan background.” —William Jefferson Clinton

1. President Bill Clinton receives the 2005 Ambassadors for Humanity Award from Shoah Foundation founding chairman Steven Spielberg.
2. Brad and Anne Globe
3. Marc Sanisi and Lily Kanter
4. Gary and Shelly Belz
5. Phil Kent, chairman and CEO, Turner Network Television
6. Ehud Danoch (left, consul general of Israel in Los Angeles) and George Scharf
7. Central and eastern European Shoah Foundation representatives Luca Illy, Anna Motyczka, Anya Yudkowsky, and Martin Smok (L to R) with Douglas Greenberg (center)
8. Ukrainian documentary director Sergiy Bukovskiy and wife Victoria Bondar
9. Professor Yehuda Bauer (Hebrew University), researching testimonies at the Shoah Foundation
10. Recent Visitors

1. Donor and Board Member Stephen Cozen, with wife Sandy
2. Australian donor Lee Liberman (right), with husband Professor Leslie Reti and daughter Berry Liberman
3. Viktor Pinchuk (left), underwriter of the Shoah Foundation’s upcoming Ukrainian documentary, with wife Elena Franchuk, and Douglas Greenberg
4. Actor and donor Tom Cruise with Katie Holmes
5. Donors Neil and Robin Goldberg
6. Professor Andrew Markus (right), director of the Australian Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilization at Monash University, Victoria, Australia, with Douglas Greenberg
7. Central and eastern European Shoah Foundation representatives Luca Illy, Anna Motyczka, Anya Yudkowsky, and Martin Smok (L to R) with Douglas Greenberg (center)
8. Ukrainian documentary director Sergiy Bukovskiy and wife Victoria Bondar
9. Professor Yehuda Bauer (Hebrew University), researching testimonies at the Shoah Foundation
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