

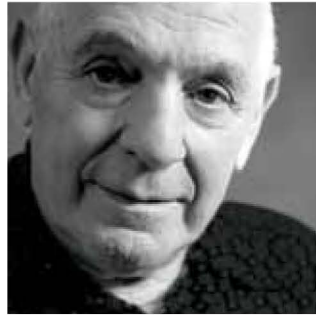
Summer 2009

PastForward

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USC SHOAH FOUNDATION INSTITUTE



Education



Documentation



Preservation



**USC
SHOAH
FOUNDATION
INSTITUTE**



Access

An Enduring Legacy Institute Marks its Fifteenth Year

PastForward

SUMMER 2009

Welcome

- 1 A New Era Begins

Education

- 2 *Living Histories*: A New Resource for Educators
- 3 Survivors' Stories Motivate Young Artists and Writers
- 3 Attention Educators: New Online Resource Available
- 4 *Witnesses of the Shoah*: Testimony Reaches Students in Germany
- 5 Institute Convenes Workshop for International Partners at Freie Universität Berlin

Documentation

- 6 Documenting the Cambodian Genocide

Higher Education

- 7 Students Prepare for Field Research in Cambodia

Access

- 8 Personalizing History: Survivors' Testimonies at the Illinois Holocaust Museum

In Memoriam

- 9 Remembering Severin Wunderman

Giving

- 10 Donor Highlight: Irving Feintech and the Feintech Family
- 10 Memorial Contributions: Dr. Charles S. Lieber
- 11 Extraordinary Leadership: Yossie Hollander
- 12 Partners in History and the Future

On the Cover: Founded 15 years ago by Steven Spielberg to collect and preserve the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute now disseminates those testimonies as part of an educational mission that has achieved global scale. In addition to providing access to the testimonies and driving their educational use, the Institute is assisting efforts to document eyewitness accounts of other genocides as well.

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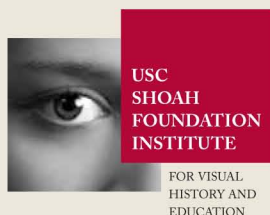
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A New Era Begins

In 1994, Steven Spielberg initiated a video project on an unprecedented international scale. The staff, leadership, donors, and volunteers of the Shoah Foundation set out on a global mission to capture the faces and voices of 50,000 Holocaust survivors and other witnesses, before it was too late.

During the most active point of the testimony collection phase, the Shoah Foundation reached a peak of conducting nearly 400 interviews a week worldwide. We worked with the constant urgency to interview; survivors and other witnesses matched this urgency with the drive to tell their life stories.

Fifteen years later, we experience and mourn the inevitable and ever-increasing loss of this generation. Yet, the testimonies they have entrusted to us are an enduring legacy, and their individual and collective memory will inspire hearts and minds for generations to come.

With an unwavering commitment to utilize the testimonies for educational purposes, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute now enters an era of new leadership, accomplishment, and opportunity. The Institute welcomes with great

anticipation the appointment of Dr. Stephen Smith as its new Executive Director. Stephen is the founder of The Holocaust Centre, Britain's first dedicated Holocaust memorial and educational institution, and co-founder of the Aegis Trust, which works globally to prevent crimes against humanity. He chairs the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in the United Kingdom and has been active in memorial projects around the world, including the establishment of the Kigali Memorial Centre in Rwanda. Stephen is regarded as one of the world's foremost advocates of Holocaust education, and the Institute will be strengthened by his leadership. For the past year, I have had the privilege and honor of serving as the

Cambodia's efforts to collect testimony from Cambodian genocide survivors. This issue of *PastForward* also pays tribute to Severin Wunderman, a board member and early supporter who recently passed away. Severin's involvement with the Institute was instrumental; he made an indelible impact on our organization and its mission, just as he made an impact on so many others throughout his life.

We have reached significant milestones, but much work lies ahead. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Rwandan Tutsi genocide and the 30th anniversary of the end of the Cambodian genocide, observances which call attention to the need to collect and preserve memories of those who survived these and other

**"The USC Shoah Foundation Institute now enters an era of new leadership, accomplishment, and opportunity. The Institute welcomes with great anticipation the appointment of Dr. Stephen Smith as its new Executive Director."
— Kim Simon**

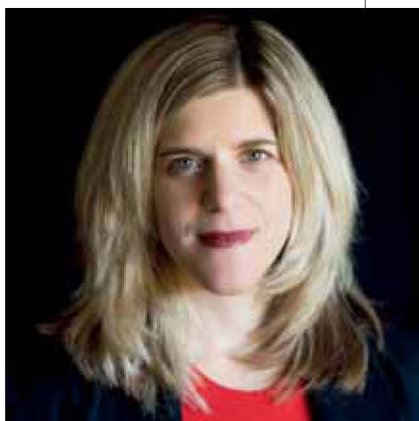
Institute's Interim Executive Director, and I look forward to working with Stephen in my new role as the Institute's Managing Director.

Though the focus of the Institute's mission has remained constant, its capacity to carry out that mission has grown considerably. Recent developments highlighted in this issue of *PastForward* include the integration of testimony into the new Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center; the launch of *Living Histories*, an online resource for high school students and teachers; a project at Freie Universität Berlin to translate into German the Visual History Archive search interface, and an internship program designed to support the Documentation Center of

genocides. Even as we move further into this new phase of activity, we will continue to increase access to the archive and encourage dialogue among those who use it; its potential as an academic and scholarly resource must be fully realized. The Institute is also developing an Internet prototype of the Visual History Archive so that in the future the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses will be searchable by, and accessible to, anyone with an Internet connection.

We thank you for your loyalty and generosity thus far, and we welcome your continued participation as the Institute enters a new era.

KIM SIMON
Interim Executive Director



Living Histories: A New Resource for Educators



Carson High School teacher Merri Weir (left) and her students view the testimony of Howard Cwick. (Photo by Kim Fox)

In March, Lisa Muller, a teacher at Castle High School in Newburgh, Indiana, piloted a classroom lesson with students in her freshman honors English course. The lesson is built around the life story of Johtje Vos, a rescuer and aid provider, who gave testimony to the Institute. After school, a large group of students stayed to discuss the lesson. “I think that today we can learn from Johtje’s story by realizing that the world is bigger than us and our families,” said one student, “and we need to reach out and help

those in need and do the greater good *because* it’s good...you don’t always have to be rewarded for doing what’s right.”

The lesson Muller piloted is part of *Living Histories: Seven Voices from the Holocaust*, a new multimedia resource for use in high school education, which is available at www.college.usc.edu/vhi/education/livinghistories. The resource features testimonies that have been abridged

a political prisoner, a rescuer and aid provider, a Roma and Sinti (Gypsy) survivor, and a war crimes trials participant—who share memories of prewar, wartime, and postwar experiences. It includes modular lessons consisting of student activities, discussion questions, extension activities, glossaries, biographical information, and links to online maps and other information, which can provide additional context. All video and supporting materials are downloadable for free from the Institute’s website.

The Institute piloted *Living Histories* with teachers in California, Indiana, and Oklahoma. At Jenks High School in Jenks, Oklahoma, Nancy Pettus introduced students in her Holocaust Studies class to a lesson based on the testimony of Vera Laska, who was deported from Czechoslovakia to Auschwitz as a political prisoner for her activities in the Resistance. “[The testimony] was, without a doubt, the highlight of the lesson,” Pettus said. “Vera’s story, style, and overall personality captivated the students.”

And at Carson High School in Carson, California, Merri Weir piloted a lesson based on the testimony of Howard Cwick, an American liberator, with students in her advanced-placement history course. “I believe the students were greatly affected not just by what they learned but by Howard Cwick himself,” she said.

Living Histories is available on the Institute’s website at www.college.usc.edu/vhi/education/livinghistories. Lesson development and the online distribution of *Living Histories* were made possible through generous funding by the Leo Rosner

to 30 minutes yet retain the narrative arc of the full-length testimonies in the archive.

“The Institute’s testimonies average two and a half hours in length, which can make it challenging for teachers to use them in the classroom setting, given the time constraints they encounter,” said Sherry Bard, Institute Project Director of Educational Programs. “This resource was created to help address this challenge.”

Living Histories focuses on the lives and unique viewpoints of seven Holocaust eyewitnesses—a Jewish survivor, a Jehovah’s Witness survivor, a liberator,

Foundation. Funding for the creation of the videos was made possible through generous funding by the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation and Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family

Foundation. “By presenting seven distinct perspectives, *Living Histories* can help students make a personal connection with individuals for whom the Holocaust was not a

historical event but a terrible reality,” said William D. Robbins, President of the Leo Rosner Foundation. “This emphasis on individuality is a necessary response to the preju-

dice and stereotyping young people encounter every day.” To learn how you can help support the educational use of the testimonies, visit college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

EDUCATION

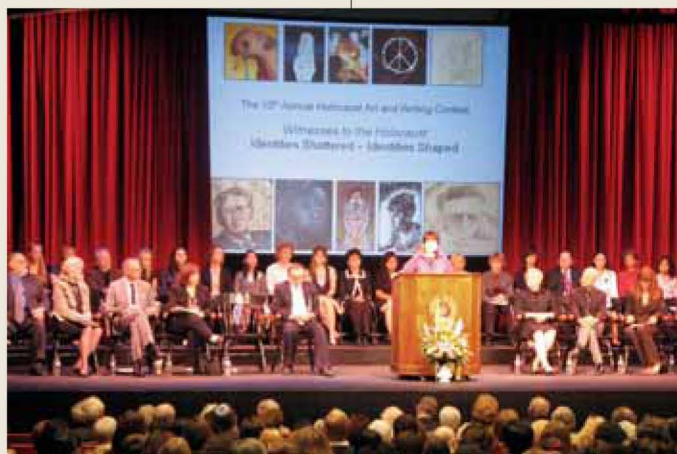
Survivors’ Stories Motivate Young Artists and Writers

Death had its grasp, but I threw it off. I couldn't let it consume me... Death has died; now I am free.

These words are from “The Fight against Death,” a poem by Jasmine Martin, a 14-year-old freshman at Saddleback Valley Christian School. Jasmine was a finalist in the 10th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest presented by Chapman University in Orange, California and the “1939” Club, a Los Angeles-based charitable organization made up of more than 1,000 Holocaust survivors. More than 5,000 junior- and senior high school students entered the contest, which encourages participants to create a work of art or writing inspired by a Holocaust survivor’s story. As a basis for their art and writing projects, students were able to access full testimonies from the Institute’s archive made available on the *Echoes and Reflections: Full Visual Histories* website (<http://tc.usc.edu/vhiechoes>). Jasmine Martin’s poem was inspired by the testimony of Jewish survivor Leo Bach. “Students understandably often feel overwhelmed by the

magnitude of the Holocaust as a historical event,” said Dr. Marilyn Harran, Stern Chair in Holocaust Education and director of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education at Chapman University. “The Institute’s testimonies are a powerful tool in connecting students to the Holocaust by transforming history into story, giving students faces and voices to which they can connect and from whom they can learn.” For her entry in the High School Art category, 17-year-old senior Andrea Avendano of Laguna Hills High School viewed the testimony of Jewish survivor Joseph Morton. “I drew a soldier,” she said of her draw-

ing *Hope to Many Lives*. “The soldier is holding a child’s hand, and the child has an expression of hope.” “Most of the time you just see World War II movies and Holocaust movies,” said 17-year-old Hertz Allegrio, a senior whose painting, *Turning a Blind Eye*, was inspired by the testimony of Esther Clifford. “But this felt personal. It felt more relatable, because it wasn’t dramatized, it wasn’t sensationalized; it was her own true testimony.” To view photos from the contest, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/education/chapman09. Additionally, in Little Rock, Arkansas, students used testimony as a basis for their entries in the 2008-2009 *Testimony to Tolerance Initiative* Middle and High School Art and Writing Contest. The testimony was provided through the Central Arkansas Library System, and awards were presented to students in February.



The awards ceremony for the 10th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest at Chapman University. (Photo by Jemal Young)

Attention Educators: New Online Resource Available

To support educators, the Institute has launched *Witnesses for Change: Stories of Liberation*, an online resource that features seven video clips from the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and liberators. A biography and description accompany each video clip. *Witnesses for Change* also includes links to additional online resources provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem, and other institutions. *Witnesses for Change: Stories of Liberation* is online at www.college.usc.edu/vhi/education/liberation.



Witnesses of the Shoah: Testimony Reaches Students in Germany



A student in Germany views testimony from the Institute's archive. (Photo courtesy of Freie Universität Berlin)

Freie Universität Berlin, which became the first European institution to gain access to the archive in 2006, has launched *Witnesses of the Shoah*, a new program designed to introduce secondary-school students throughout Germany to the life stories of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses.

Since fall 2008, *Witnesses of the Shoah* has enabled students from Berlin and Brandenburg to visit Freie Universität Berlin to

work with the testimonies contained in the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive in a specially equipped classroom. Here, they receive guidance from experienced researchers and instructors. This spring, the university announced the program's nationwide launch.

To make it easier for students and teachers in Germany to use the archive, Freie Universität

Berlin has created a German-language version of the Institute's online search interface, which

related didactic materials will contribute tremendously to our nationwide effort to increase usage of the archive in secondary-school education."

The Institute assisted Freie Universität Berlin's translation project by providing the source code, keywords, and other basic elements, while Institute staff members worked closely with the CeDiS technology specialists to help them understand the archive's structure.

"Through *Witnesses of the Shoah*, young people in Germany will encounter the life stories of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses," said Kim Simon,

"We expect that the translated interface and related didactic materials will contribute tremendously to our nationwide effort to increase usage of the archive in secondary-school education."

— *Nicolas Apostolopoulos*

allows users to locate specific testimonies by using more than 50,000 keywords.

"The translation of the search interface is part of Freie Universität Berlin's response to a need expressed by secondary schoolteachers in Germany who want to make use of the archive yet have found it challenging to navigate the English-language search tool," explained Nicolas Apostolopoulos, Director of the university's Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS). It has also begun developing a series of German-language educational DVDs that consist of selected testimony clips. "We expect that the translated interface and

Institute Interim Executive Director. "Furthermore, the translation of the search interface into German will facilitate the use of Holocaust eyewitness testimony as a foundation for education, scholarship, and research, and it may serve as a model for future translation projects. The Institute is grateful to Freie Universität Berlin for its pioneering efforts and its determination to see nationwide use of the testimonies at every educational level."

To learn about ways to support the educational use of the testimonies, visit college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

Institute Convenes Workshop for International Partners at Freie Universität Berlin

In May, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute and the Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS) at Freie Universität Berlin convened “Looking at History: Incorporating Video Testimony Across the Curriculum,” the first workshop for the Institute’s international partners. The three-day program took place at Freie Universität Berlin, and included participants from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom; it provided an opportunity to advance knowledge of the use of the Institute’s testimonies in education across Europe.

Over the last several years, Institute partners have crafted

innovative multimedia resources for local students and teachers, which feature video testimony of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses; some have also conducted teacher-training sessions to facilitate the use of these resources in the classroom.

“These are leaders in the fields of Holocaust- and tolerance education in their countries,” said Amy Marczewski Carnes, Institute Associate Director of International Programs. “The materials they have developed fill important knowledge and resource gaps for teachers in their countries and allow students to learn about the Holocaust from individuals who experienced it. While each project has been unique, discussions at the workshop revealed common factors as well, such as the challenges involved in working with emotionally charged materials and creating materials that help teachers meet national educational requirements. The workshop created an environment for the participants, and the

Institute, to learn from one another’s experiences.”

Topics of discussion included the use of video testimony to cover subjects introduced by educational reform; challenges of developing testimony-based materials and strategies for success; teacher training on testimony-based materials; and evaluation of materials and programs. The workshop gave participants opportunities to introduce new testimony-based projects and initiatives and to discuss the possibility of collaborative projects between and among countries.

“It has been extremely rewarding to work with our colleagues in Europe,” said Kim Simon, Institute Interim Executive Director. “The innovative ways in which they have approached the educational use of the testimonies has resulted in an array of unique materials for teachers and students. In light of what our colleagues have accomplished, we look forward to the future of testimony-based education in Europe.”

The workshop was made

possible through generous funding by the Ruth Ziegler International Training Fund. To learn about ways to support the Institute’s international educational outreach, visit college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

Below, from left: Martin Šmok, Institute Senior International Program Consultant; Alida Matković of the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports; and Darko Benäč, a teacher of history and civic education at Jabukovac-Zagreb Elementary School. At right, Alicja Bialecka (left) of Poland’s Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and Verena Nägel of Freie Universität Berlin’s Center for Digital Systems. (Photos courtesy of Freie Universität Berlin/CeDiS)



“These are leaders in the fields of Holocaust- and tolerance-education in their countries... The workshop created an environment for the participants, and Institute, to learn from one another’s experiences.”

— Amy Marczewski Carnes

Documenting the Cambodian Genocide

Since 1995, DC-Cam has catalogued hundreds of thousands of pages of documents and thousands of photographs; mapped 189 prisons and 19,403 mass graves; and gathered extensive bibliographic, biographic, photographic, and geographic databases of information related to the Cambodian genocide. Last year, DC-Cam expressed interest in learning about the Institute's experiences collecting, catalogu-

the Institute's methodology, documentation, and practices for use in Cambodia.

"The experiences of genocide survivors must not be forgotten, and DC-Cam is committed to preserving the testimonies of Cambodian survivors as a memory of our nation," said Youk Chhang, DC-Cam Director. "The internship program will allow knowledge and experience that the Institute has acquired over 15 years to inform our own preservation effort; DC-Cam is grateful to the Institute for welcoming its staff members, and we look forward to future oppor-

"After we conduct interviews, we always ask, 'How do you feel after giving your testimony?' They always say, 'I am happy to share my experience; no one ever listened to my whole story like that.'"

— Bunthy Chey



Above left: Bunthy Chey views the testimony of a Holocaust eyewitness. Right: Faily Sa (left) and survivor Phansy Peang prepare for the interview. (Photos by Kim Fox and Karen Jungblut)

"Most parents in Cambodia want to tell the whole story of the Cambodian genocide to their kids, but most of the kids don't want to listen, so [the parents] cannot release their suffering," said Bunthy Chey, a Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) staff member. "After we conduct interviews, we always ask, 'How do you feel after giving your testimony?' They always say, 'I am happy to share my experience; no one ever listened to my whole story like that.'"



ing and indexing, preserving, and disseminating testimony. The two organizations determined that an internship program would facilitate an exchange of knowledge and provide insight into how DC-Cam might adapt elements of

tunities to work together."

Bunthy Chey, Faily Sa, and Ratanak Leng interned at the Institute from February through April. Working closely with Institute staff, they drafted a Pre-Interview Questionnaire (PIQ) for use with Cambodian Genocide survivors; conducted

two pilot interviews with Cambodian genocide survivors living in the Los Angeles area; began indexing the interviews; and examined how the Institute uses technology to support its educational mission.

“We learned how every step is connected,” Leng said, “from



Left: Ratanak Leng (left) interviews Cambodian genocide survivor Danny Vong at the Institute. Above: Ita Gordon (left), the Institute's indexing trainer, works with Fatily Sa. (Photos by Karen Jungblut and Kim Fox respectively)



creating a PIQ and interviewing to indexing, to [preservation]. We went through the whole process, and the experience gave us a clearer picture of how to

conduct interviews with survivors once we return to Cambodia.” As an example of how the internship may shape their future work, the interns all described how the Institute’s interview structure helped to

bring to the surface the importance of documenting memories of life before and after the Khmer Rouge period in addition to memories of the genocide itself.

The internship program was also an important step

toward the Institute’s goal of developing a small collection of testimony of survivors of other genocides, which will be used for educational purposes alongside the testimonies of Holocaust eyewitnesses.

“The work Bunthly, Fatily, and Ratanak accomplished at the Institute has helped lay the groundwork necessary for the Institute to conduct interviews with Cambodian genocide survivors,” said Karen Jungblut, Institute Director of Research and Documentation.”

To view photos from the internship, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/dccamphotos.

To support the Institute's work with partners to document the personal accounts of survivors of other genocides, visit college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Students Prepare for Field Research in Cambodia

Following the Institute’s internship program for Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) staff members (see facing page), a group of USC students traveled to Cambodia for two weeks to conduct field research as part of a summer course called “Conflict Resolution and Peace Research.” Taught by Kosal Path, a lecturer at the USC School of International Relations, and Karen Jungblut, Institute Director of Research and Documentation, the course

is provided through the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences’ Problems Without Passports program.

“Conflict Resolution and Peace Research” examined the politics of reconciliation and sought to prepare students to interview Cambodian genocide survivors and others to gain understanding of their perspectives on reconciliation efforts currently under way in Cambodia, such as the memorialization of victims and the prosecution of former Khmer Rouge leaders.

Before traveling to Cambodia,



USC School of International Relations Lecturer Kosal Path (left), Holocaust survivor Renée Firestone (left of center) and Institute Director of Research and Documentation Karen Jungblut (right) with USC students who participated in the “Conflict Resolution and Peace Research” summer course. (Photo by Ari Zev)

students spent a week at the Institute learning about its methodology for interviewing Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. While in Cambodia, students met with DC-Cam staff members Fatily Sa and Ratanak Leng to learn about existing reconciliation efforts

and how interning at the Institute has influenced their work. More information about the students’ experiences will appear in upcoming Institute publications, and on our website, www.college.usc.edu/vhi.

Personalizing History: Survivors' Testimonies at the Illinois Holocaust Museum



Above: The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois. Right: Magda Brown, a Jewish Holocaust survivor born in Miskolc, Hungary, in 1927, gave her testimony to the Institute in 1995. She survived the ghetto in her hometown, Miskolc, and the concentration camps, Auschwitz II-Birkenau in Poland and Allendorf in Germany. In March, 1945, Magda escaped during a forced march to Buchenwald and was liberated by the U.S. armed forces. Magda lost her parents to the Holocaust; her brother, Miklos was the only one to survive. She came to the United States in 1946 and currently lives in Skokie, Illinois. Magda's testimony is part of a collection of more than 2,000 testimonies which are searchable and viewable at the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Testimonies of more than 2,000 Holocaust survivors living in the American Midwest, collected by the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, have been made part of the recently unveiled Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, which opened its doors to the public in April.

"How do you utilize this material to transform lives? That is what we are trying to do," said Rick Hirschhaut, Illinois Holocaust Museum Director.

A project of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, the museum is the

Midwest's largest and most advanced center dedicated to teaching the history and universal lessons of the Holocaust. As Hirschhaut described it, "The museum is a monument to the courage, resilience, and spirit of the survivors, a poignant memorial to those who are lost, and a vibrant and engaging center for learning and advocacy."

In January, the Institute delivered electronic copies of the testimonies to the museum, which has integrated testimony from the collection into its Zev and Shifra Karkomi Permanent Exhibition. This

and others, but at the same time, we wanted to draw attention to Jewish agency and response, to reveal how individuals retained their humanity, their dignity."

In addition to integrating testimony into the permanent exhibit, the Illinois Holocaust Museum has made all of the testimonies accessible on-site through a local area computer network. Visitors can identify and access testimony of interest, or specific segments of testimony, using keywords entered into a modified version of the Visual History Archive search interface.

On April 19, thousands of people gathered in Skokie to celebrate the grand opening of

"Testimony is featured throughout the permanent exhibit, and the result is a much deeper, textured, and, ultimately, human story."
— Rick Hirschhaut



central feature of the museum presents the narrative of the Holocaust, using more than 500 artifacts, documents, and photographs in addition to the video testimonies. "The permanent exhibition operates on two parallel tracks," Hirschhaut said. "It chronicles what the Nazis perpetrated against the Jews

the museum. President Bill Clinton delivered the keynote address. Guests included Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Professor Elie Wiesel, foreign dignitaries, Holocaust survivors, and many others; Steven Spielberg delivered a video

message, and Interim Executive Director Kim Simon and Institute Executive Director of Development Steven Klappholz attended on behalf of the Institute. “The Institute interviewed many Holocaust survivors and other witnesses in the Midwestern United States,” said Simon. “Their testimonies are integral to the region’s history and heritage, and the

Institute is pleased to see them become part of this center for Holocaust remembrance and education.”

Skokie received national attention in the late 1970s, when neo-Nazis attempted to stage marches in the Chicago suburb, which is home to many Holocaust survivors. In response, local survivors formed the Holocaust Memorial

Foundation of Illinois to resist hatred through education. “It was the moment when Chicago-area survivors began to express their experiences during the Holocaust in their own voices, through their own words,” Hirschhaut explained. “This museum is the culmination of their commitment to tolerance education. It was nine years in the making, and it will likely be

among the last major Holocaust centers to be established and created with the full participation of the survivor generation. We have really endeavored to personalize the presentation of the Holocaust narrative; testimony is featured throughout the permanent exhibit, and the result is a much deeper, textured, and, ultimately, human story.”

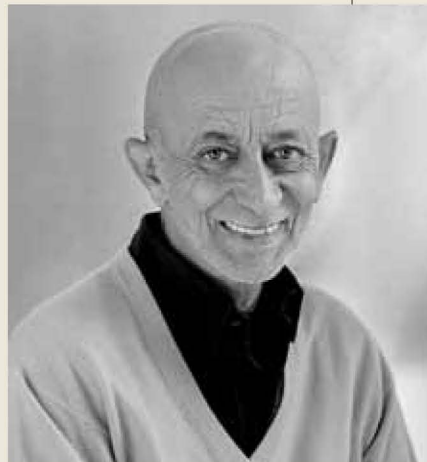
IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Severin Wunderman (1938-2008)

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute wishes to acknowledge the life of Severin Wunderman, a leader and benefactor whose dedication and commitment to Holocaust remembrance and the education of younger generations live on through the Institute’s educational mission.

“Severin Wunderman helped shape the USC Shoah Foundation Institute,” said Steven Spielberg. “He made tremendous, lasting contributions, not least of which are his memories of life, before, during, and after the Holocaust—memories that will exist in perpetuity. His life is a symbol of all that can be accomplished by one individual who is willing to work for the good of others, and he will never be forgotten.”

Wunderman was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1938. His father, a Jewish glove maker,



paid a Catholic priest to hide Wunderman, his brother, Max, and sister, Bella, when the Nazis invaded Belgium in 1940. Severin was hidden in a school for blind children (Wunderman was the only child with sight) for several years before leaving for the United States, alone, at the age of 10.

In 1970, while working as a salesman for a watchmaking firm, Wunderman had a chance encounter with Dr. Aldo Gucci. The two became friends, and

Wunderman was soon the sole manufacturer and distributor of Gucci watches, building the franchise into a multimillion-dollar business and one of the industry’s most recognized brands. In the years that fol-

lowed, he became a devoted philanthropist, establishing the Severin Wunderman Family Foundation and the Change A Life Foundation. He was an avid art collector,

“Severin’s life is a symbol of all that can be accomplished by one individual who is willing to work for the good of others, and he will never be forgotten.”
— Steven Spielberg

and purchased the entire collection of works by artist and Holocaust survivor Josef Nassy, who created more than 200 paintings and drawings while imprisoned in Belgium and Germany during the war. In

1992, Wunderman donated a substantial part of the collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, of which he was a founding member.

Wunderman was passionate about Holocaust remembrance, and in 1997 he gave his testimony to the Shoah Foundation. In 2001, Wunderman received the Shoah Foundation’s prestigious Humanity Through Technology Award; one year later, he became a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. While serving in this leadership role, he made a significant gift to establish the Severin Wunderman Collection of Child Survivor Testimonies. Wunderman’s contribution also funded the creation of *Voices of the Holocaust: Children Speak* (www.college.usc.edu/vhi/childrenspeak), an interactive online exhibit for middle school students designed to introduce them to the testimonies of survivors who were children during the Holocaust. His brother, the late Max Wunderman (1930-2008), was one of the child survivors whose testimony enhances the exhibit.

New Funds to Pursue Mission

Donor Highlight: Irving Feintech and the Feintech Family



The Feintech family has supported the Institute since its establishment in 1994. “The need for people to hear the stories of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses has become more important than ever, for if we forget, who will there be of us to remember?” asked Irving Feintech, President of the Feintech Family Foundation. “It has been encouraging to watch the Institute grow over the past 15 years, expand its outreach, and have a positive impact on students in the United States and around the world.”

Feintech and his family have funded key programmatic activities and educational programs for middle school, high school, and university students. “It is our

responsibility to ensure every generation the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust and its terrible consequences from those who experienced it. The testimonies contained in the Institute’s archive are a powerful teaching tool,” said Feintech, who has also contributed to the Institute’s annual Ambassadors for Humanity event.

Irving Feintech is active in community service and philanthropy, donating time and resources to a number of organizations. He is a former chairman of the board of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where the Feintech family has dedicated a water sculpture to honor the memory of the six million; a board member of the Los Angeles Music Center Foundation; and a former board member of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Foundation.

Norman Feintech, Irving Feintech’s late brother, served as president of Mt. Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles and was instrumental in the merger between Mt. Sinai Hospital and Cedars of Lebanon Hospital. Additionally, he was involved with the Stephen S. Wise Temple and the Skirball Cultural Center. His wife, Evelyn, was a founding member of the Cheerful Helpers Child and Family Study Center and is involved in many other

charitable organizations as well.

“The Feintech family’s support of the Institute these past years has made a significant impact on the lives of many young people,” said Steven Klappholz, Institute Executive Director of Development. “We are truly grateful for the contribution their leadership and involvement have made to our educational mission.”

Memorial Contributions: Dr. Charles S. Lieber



The Institute offers families and friends the opportunity to celebrate special occasions or pay tribute to the memory of a loved one. The passing in March of Holocaust survivor Dr. Charles S. Lieber prompted his wife, Dr. Maria Anna Leo-Lieber, and the Lieber family, to make a gift to the Institute in his name and encourage family and friends to do the same.

Lieber was born in Belgium in 1931. The Nazi invasion of 1940 forced him into hiding in Brussels and later in France, where he lived under false identity. After fleeing to Switzerland in 1942, Lieber lived in a refugee camp until he was taken in by a Swiss family, with whom he lived until the end of the war.

After the war, Lieber studied medicine at the University of

Brussels and later at Harvard University, where he earned a faculty position. He became a renowned physician and a professor of medicine and pathology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Despite his reluctance to share his memories of the Holocaust, Lieber gave his testimony to the Shoah Foundation Institute in 1998. When asked during the interview what he hoped his children would take away from his experiences, he said, “I think that it’s important to realize that there is evil in this world that we have the obligation to fight—that we cannot accept that evil, or even the first manifestation of it, because it even-

“Our gift to the Institute will honor his commitment to education, and it will give people across the world a chance to learn from his testimony, both now and for generations to come.”
— **Dr. Maria Anna Leo-Lieber**

tually leads to terrible things.”

“Charles had a lifelong love of teaching,” Dr. Maria Anna Leo-Lieber said. “Our gift to the Institute will honor his commitment to education, and it will give people across the world a chance to learn from his testimony, both now and for generations to come.”

To learn about ways to honor and remember the life of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion by making a gift to the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, contact Steven Klappholz at (213) 740-6001 or visit college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

Yossie Hollander

“I became involved with the Institute, and have remained involved, because I believe we must learn all that we can from the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses,” said Yossie Hollander. “Broad dissemination of the testimonies provides students with a powerful tool for inquiry and learning and enables educators to develop testimony-based classroom materials which can help young people better understand the Holocaust and its relevance to present-day issues they face in their lives.”

“When Yossie became involved with the Institute in 2004, it was clear that he would have a guiding influence on our mission,” said Kim Simon, Interim Executive Director. “He had a vision for the future and a strong commitment to seeing the testimonies used to enhance education in tangible ways, especially in the United States. Yossie also brought an understanding of how the Institute could use technology to broaden and improve access to the archive, and his focus in this respect has allowed us to share the testimonies with audiences across the world.”

In 2005, Hollander and his wife, Dana, underwrote the development of *Echoes and Reflections*, a testimony-based curriculum on the Holocaust developed by the Institute, the Anti-Defamation League, and

Yad Vashem. “It was Yossie’s idea to bring the three organizations together,” said Simon. “He had the foresight to realize all that could be accomplished through such an unprecedented partnership.”

The National Association for Multicultural Education honored *Echoes and Reflections* with its 2007 National Multicultural Media



Award; since its release, the curriculum has reached more than 8,300 teachers and 1.2 million students across the United States.

Hollander made one of his most significant contributions to the Institute’s mission by providing funding for eight new computer servers in 2007. The servers have made access to the archive instantaneous at USC and much faster at sites around the world; they have also created the potential to connect hundreds more institutions to the archive.

Hollander joined the Institute’s Board of Councilors in 2007.

Following the completion of a strategic plan that called for a new generation of online resources, he funded the research and development of a prototype of the Visual History Archive on the Internet. It will make 1,000 testimonies accessible on the web.

“Yossie has long championed the responsible use of the Internet to provide access to the testimonies,” said Simon. “Thanks to his groundbreaking efforts, this prototype is now being tested by high school teachers and students, university students, and scholars.”

Hollander, the son of Holocaust survivors, was born in Haifa, Israel. A founder of successful multinational software companies, he is a pioneer in the Israeli software industry, with more than 40 years of experience.

“I believe we must learn all that we can from the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses.”

— Yossie Hollander

Hollander has focused his philanthropic activities on Holocaust education and remembrance, economic policy, and energy policy. He is a member of the executive board and the management committee of the Weitzman Institute of Science; the founder of Our Energy Policy Foundation; and chairman of the Israeli Institute for Economic Planning.

How You Can Make a Difference

One person really can make a difference. The USC Shoah Foundation Institute counts on your support to continue its important work to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry.

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Pledges: You may wish to make a gift to the Institute which is paid over several years, following a payment schedule that is most convenient for you.

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Memorial or Tribute Gifts: Contributions can be made to honor special occasions, such as birthdays, weddings, or births, as well as to memorialize a friend or family member. The Institute will mail a tribute card announcing the gift.

In-kind Gifts: The Institute accepts gifts of goods or services that fulfill programmatic needs.

For more information, contact:
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USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education
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Kim Simon

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Summer 2009

New Leadership:
Stephen Smith, Executive Director
Kim Simon, Managing Director



The Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Smith (pictured at right) as its new Executive Director and the appointment of Kim Simon as its new Managing Director. To learn more, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/news/newleadership. (Photo by Kim Fox)

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*To overcome prejudice,
intolerance, and bigotry
— and the suffering they cause —
through the educational
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