

USC Shoah Foundation

The Institute for Visual History and Education



**TRANSFORMATIVE
IMPACT:**
2016 Report

A New Home for USC Shoah Foundation

Construction on the Institute's new location — the entire fourth floor of USC's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Library — is scheduled to begin in 2017.



**George and Irina Schaeffer Hall
for Genocide Study**



**Jona Goldrich Center for
Digital Storytelling**



Asa and Sara Shapiro Lobby

Cover Image: View of the Pathways to Testimony Hallway



May 2017

Dear Friends,

In 2016, more people engaged with testimony in the Visual History Archive® and were positively influenced by the stories they heard than ever before in USC Shoah Foundation's history, thanks to our extraordinary staff, partners, and benefactors like you.

We hope you share in the pride we feel for the accomplishments highlighted in this report. Thank you for helping USC Shoah Foundation reach 16 million students, educators, researchers, and others with our testimony-based programs.

This past year, in addition to hosting the first-ever academic conference on the genocide in Guatemala, our Center for Advanced Genocide Research welcomed a cadre of talented researchers as fellows to study a myriad of subjects through the lens of testimony. Use of our digital resources for education and teacher training continues to increase ahead of our goals, and pilot museum exhibits and film festival presentations of our New Dimensions in Testimony program place us at the forefront of education in the digital space.

We are now entering the design and production phase of the Visual History Archive Program, building on our robust research and development phase to continue scaling up the reach and influence of our testimony-access platforms. Significant progress has also been achieved in the development of plans to relocate the Institute to the fourth floor of USC's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Library, in a newly renovated, technologically advanced setting, thanks to the tremendous generosity of George and Irina Schaeffer, and Melinda Goldrich and family. Your continued engagement and support enables these achievements and our ongoing efforts to fulfill our mission.

Thank you for doing your part to manifest our shared hopes for a better world into positive action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Smith'.

STEPHEN D. SMITH

*Finci-Viterbi Executive Director Chair
USC Shoah Foundation
UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education
Adjunct Professor of Religion*

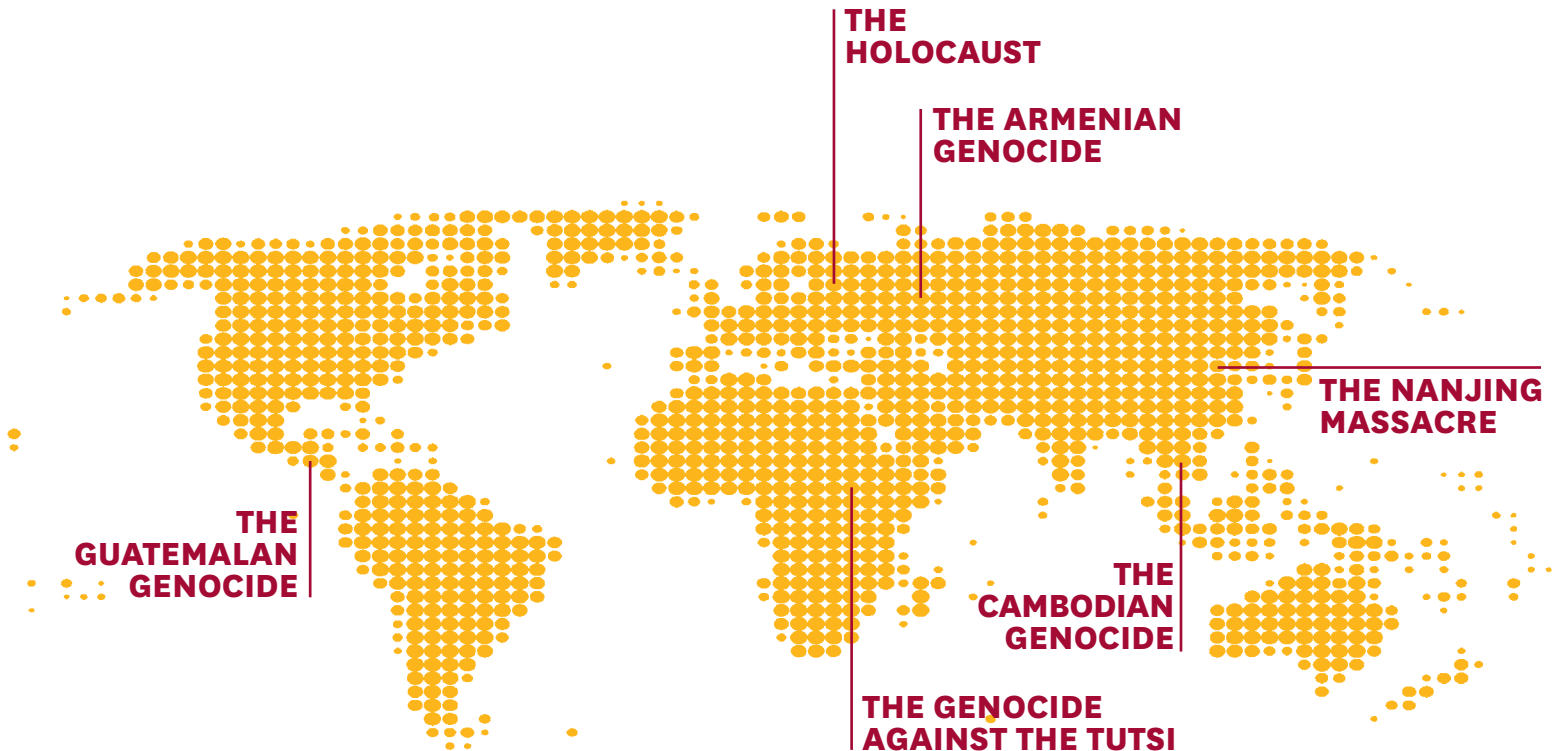
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen A. Cozen'.

STEPHEN A. COZEN

*Chair
USC Shoah Foundation
Board of Councilors*

VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

55,000 testimonies



115,589

hours of indexed, searchable testimony

62

countries represented
by testimonies

41

languages

1,861,032

searchable names

2 hours, 8 minutes

average length of testimony
in Visual History Archive

GLOBAL OUTREACH



4,791,393

cumulative YouTube views



13,608

Facebook friends



9,312

Twitter followers



1,716

Instagram followers

16 million

people reached in 2016

14 countries

have Visual History Archive sites

IWitness USC Shoah
Foundation

One Voice at a Time

IWitness is an award-winning educational website, developed by the Institute primarily for middle and high school students, that integrates testimony-based education with the development of digital literacy and other 21st-century competencies. IWitness activities boost students' knowledge of subject matter while developing their critical-thinking skills and empathy for others.

After using IWitness, students show:

47% increase in the belief that one person can make a difference if they see an example of stereotyping.

38% increase in the belief that people have a responsibility to be active citizens in their communities.

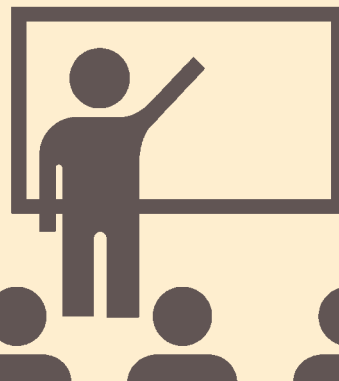
“IWitness will really influence me to think about how I act and what I say to people that are not like me.”
Fifth-grade student, Chicago

2016:

64% more activities published than 2015

35% of all activities published were in languages other than English

21 languages currently represented in IWitness



A single space with

With leadership gifts from longtime supporters George and Irina Schaeffer and Board of Councilors member Melinda Goldrich and her family laying the foundation, plans to move USC Shoah Foundation to the fourth floor of USC's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Library are quickly becoming reality.

Designed by award-winning architect Hagy Belzberg, whose work includes the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, the new location will considerably expand the Institute's space and technological capabilities. "This is why I became an architect," says Belzberg of his passion for the project.

When completed, it will incorporate the Institute's programmatic facets into a single space with global reach — a museum of living history that also functions as a vital center for research, education, and communication to build human understanding.

"I am dedicated to doing everything I can to help USC Shoah Foundation promote empathy

and tolerance," George Schaeffer says. "That's why my wife, Irina, and I have supported the Institute's efforts around the world. Leavey Library is the nerve center for expanding research and education programs, so we also wanted to help increase the space and capabilities here."

With natural light flowing in and surrounded by views of the campus and Los Angeles, the new space will feature an open layout fostering both formal and informal collaborations among staffers, scholars, and researchers, enabling people to appreciate — and join in — the range of activity.

"The fourth-floor building project will double the Institute's current operating space and allow for total collaboration between all functional teams within the Institute. I believe this new space will create a powerful hub from which we can engage a broader global audience and create a vibrant workplace in order to be a wonderful, visible destination where the team and our visitors can come together,"

"By becoming lead donors for USC Shoah Foundation's new site, our family is memorializing our father and grandfather Jona Goldrich (z"l). Holocaust education and the important work of USC Shoah Foundation was his mission and is now ours."

— Melinda Goldrich



global reach

says Stephen D. Smith, USC Shoah Foundation executive director.

The improved infrastructure will accommodate vast amounts of digital as well as analog content. It will also be expandable to keep pace with future additions and technologies.

Potion, a data-visualization organization, was consulted to ensure that resources always remain accessible for patrons, no matter how much the Institute grows.

Of course, the heart of the Institute will always be those who work, visit, and learn here. The current capacity of 40 people will more than double to enable up to 100 to work and study simultaneously. This will all be accomplished while maintaining the library's space for USC students.

In addition to offices, the expanded facilities will include a new studio for recording testimonies, multimedia classrooms and study

labs, conference suites, a lounge, a centrally located kitchen, and, of course, the Institute's powerful exhibits. A visitor's area will employ holographic, interactive content and visuals to support the important meetings that occur there.

As a gateway to it all, a welcoming lobby will beckon visitors to the wealth of engaging resources offered beyond it, generously supported by an endowment from Board of Councilors member Mickey Shapiro.

"My parents, Asa and Sara Shapiro, were among the last of a generation of Holocaust survivors who looked to USC Shoah Foundation to share their stories to inspire future generations. I'm deeply grateful that their names are forever linked to this work," Mickey Shapiro says.

Construction is planned to begin in 2017 and tentatively set for completion in time for the Institute's 25th anniversary in 2019. Funds are still being raised, and naming opportunities remain available.

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— George Schaeffer



Human Connection



Suzi Weiss-Fischmann's mother survived Auschwitz because upon arrival to the camp she was sent to the line to the right designated for slave labor. Her grandmother and uncles were directed to the left, to die in gas chambers because they were considered too old or too young to work.

Born in Hungary, Weiss-Fischmann supports USC Shoah Foundation's International Teacher Training program to help reverse the rising antisemitism and intolerance there. She wants no one else to ever have to suffer the way her mother did—or to endure the even worse fates of those family members she never knew. “It’s scary what young people perceive or believe,” Weiss-Fischmann

says. And since ignorance provides fertile soil for hatred, the Institute’s educational tools offer the sunlight to let tolerance and understanding blossom.

Weiss-Fischmann believes that the Institute’s work is vital to fighting hatred in all its forms, including bullying. “We live in a world where there is so much hatred that anybody can be singled out,” she observes. “And with social media, it’s more dangerous than ever, because people can send out all this hatred anonymously.”

Yet learning directly from educators equipped with Institute training and resources can offset such pernicious influences by promoting face-to-face dialogue. “There has to be a human connection, so young people can listen, learn, and talk through their feelings,” Weiss-Fischmann says. “Programs like this are more important than ever, and USC Shoah Foundation’s work is just beginning.”

The Art of Testimony and IWalk Learning Experiences

For centuries, Hungary was a center of Jewish life. In 1900, 1 million Jews lived in the country, accounting for half of the country’s doctors, lawyers, engineers, and journalists. In less than a year, from May 1944 to early 1945, this prosperity and vibrancy were destroyed, with the majority of Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz. Only a third of the prewar Hungarian Jews survived. Facing communist repression and continuing antisemitism, many chose to emigrate.

Today, Hungarian teachers are working to ensure that their students engage critically with this history by exploring testimony through the arts and connecting the testimonies of Hungarian Jewish survivors and witnesses to brick-and-mortar sites in their country.

For the fourth year in a row, the Institute and the Zachor Holocaust Remembrance Foundation sponsored a nationwide art competition for students, calling on them to create works of art based on the testimonies of survivors of and witnesses to genocide in the Visual History Archive. Some 119 students from across Hungary submitted pieces, including stirring drawings and paintings that contain incredibly penetrating and mature insights about suffering, loss, love, and resilience.

Throughout Hungary, educators partnering with the Institute are also creating IWalk interactive educational tours in which students walk through their own streets and neighborhoods to explore the prewar and Holocaust history of these locations through the testimonies of witnesses and survivors on a mobile



device. These tours elicit student responses such as, “I like the idea to show the various sites in an interactive way. It was interesting and I could fully focus.”

To date, partner teachers created IWalks in Budapest, Miskolc, Békéscsaba, and Szeged. Students who participate in the Budapest IWalk gain firsthand experience with the history of Budapest’s centuries-old Jewish neighborhoods, while exploring the Budapest Ghetto and the sites along the Danube where many Jews were killed from 1944–45. According to one ethics teacher, “It gives history a face. What is normally nothing more than a building, all of a sudden becomes history through IWalk. This is hard to achieve in any other way than through testimony.”

Bringing Testimony to Spanish-Speaking Audiences



The grandchild of a Holocaust survivor, Aliza Liberman wonders whether her children will feel as connected to its horrors and lessons as she does. As a member of USC Shoah Foundation's Next Generation Council, Liberman is doing what she can to ensure future generations feel that bond by supporting the Institute's mission.

From a young age, the Holocaust was part of her life. "The fact that my grandfather never talked much about his life and his family in Poland always moved me to know more," Liberman says.

Though she ended up with many unanswered questions about his experience, she was eager to learn about other survivors' stories.

"The best way to understand the collective impact of the Holocaust and other genocides is to look at the individual experiences," she says. "Testimonies make a palpable impression." Liberman hopes that the testimonies will allow people to become aware of the dangers of bigotry, bullying, and racism, so they will "learn to condemn it."

Her contributions include making sure the stories are accessible to Spanish-speaking audiences. Providing information to people in their native tongue helps them understand the Holocaust and other events more deeply, creating a stronger impact.

Ultimately, Liberman believes that survivor testimonies will help students—including her own children—understand the human impact of the Holocaust.

“The development of Spanish-language, testimony-based educational materials made possible by the generous support of Ms. Liberman was a turning point for the Institute. It helped us continue to globalize IWitness by making testimony accessible to an expanded audience of students and educators worldwide.”

—**Claudia Ramirez Wiedeman, PhD**
Associate Director of Education –
Educational Technologies and Training,
USC Shoah Foundation

Enduring Faith



At the behest of his father, 17-year-old Erwin Rautenberg boarded a steamer for South America in 1937 to escape Nazi Germany. His brother, sister, and parents planned to join him, but never made it. His father died in 1938, soon after being forced into the German army. The rest of the family was killed during the Holocaust.

Rautenberg spent the war years working on a ranch in Patagonia, where he was recruited by the United States government to spy on German naval operations in Argentina. He later built a large freight-forwarding company in Southern California, shipping military supplies for the Central Intelligence Agency.

His longtime accountant, Tom Corby, now the president of the foundation that bears the Rautenberg name, remembers Erwin as a hard-working, deeply principled man. "He established

the Erwin Rautenberg Foundation to strengthen Jewish causes," Corby says. "He wanted to make sure that the Jewish people and religion endured."

The foundation's support of USC Shoah Foundation's IWitness website helps fulfill that mission on a global level. The award-winning educational platform capitalizes on the power of visual history testimony through the innovative use of more than 1,900 personal testimonies of survivors and witnesses to the Holocaust and other genocides. IWitness reaches close to 15,000 educators and 68,000 students in 80 countries and all 50 United States.

"IWitness shows young people the reality of the Holocaust," Corby says. "It's an amazing teaching vehicle."

Although Rautenberg passed away in 2011, his memory lives on through his foundation and its support of programs such as IWitness. It also survives through his testimony at the Visual History Archive, which he gave in 1998.

"I think he would be very proud of how USC Shoah Foundation uses IWitness to spread tolerance around the world," Corby says.

Genocide and Resistance in Guatemala

For 35 years, from the early 1960s to the mid-1990s, the government of Guatemala systemically persecuted, arrested, brutalized, and slaughtered the country's opposition and much of the indigenous majority population. The systematic mass violence that peaked during the early 1980s left 200,000 Mayan Guatemalans dead and more than 1.5 million displaced without basic resources—a genocide hidden under the cover of a 36-year civil war that ended in 1996 with a peace accord. Twenty years have passed and yet few outside the country know the story.

USC Shoah Foundation partnered with the nonprofit Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG) to preserve the testimonies of the genocide's survivors and witnesses, as well as to create educational resources and inspire scholarly research focused on the mass violence and resistance. To date, the Institute and FAFG have collected 260 testimonies from survivors, 180 of which have already been digitally preserved. Ten have been integrated into the Visual History Archive, nine of them fully indexed and searchable.

From September 11th to September 14th, the Institute's Center for Advanced Genocide Research hosted the world's first international conference on the Guatemalan Genocide, gathering more than 30 international scholars at USC for discussion and collaboration. The event included a film screening, scholarly discussions, evening keynote, and cultural event that attracted an audience of more than a hundred, including scholars, activists, students, survivors, and members of the Guatemalan community in Los Angeles.

The conference, "A Conflict? Genocide and Resistance in Guatemala," began with a screening of the documentary film *Finding Oscar*, which tells the story of the destruction of the Guatemalan village of Dos Erres in 1982 and the survival of Oscar Ramirez, who was adopted and raised by one of the soldiers who participated in the massacre. *Finding Oscar* is directed by Ryan Suffern and produced by Frank Marshall and Scott Greathead in association with USC Shoah Foundation.

The conference continued with presentations and keynotes by multidisciplinary scholars from institutions across the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, and Canada. Panel topics included studying perpetrators, repression and resistance, racist discourse and genocide, and post-genocide justice.

Key participants included Fredy Peccerelli, executive director of FAFG; Rosalina Tuyuc, a survivor of the genocide, Mayan human rights activist, first indigenous woman to be elected to Guatemalan Congress, and founder of the nonprofit advocacy organization the National Association of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA); and Marvyn Perez, MD, a Guatemalan genocide activist tortured by civilian and military police while in high school, who continues to search for justice to this day.



“For the FAFG, collaborating with USC Shoah Foundation has launched us from our comfort zone. It has broadened our scientific approach of searching for the truth to also include opportunities for survivors to tell the truth through testimony, so their voice and expressions will live on forever as evidence.”

— Fredy Peccerelli
FAFG Executive Director



Top photo, from left:
Wolf Gruner, PhD, Executive Director Stephen D. Smith, Ryan Suffern, Frank Marshall, Scott Greathead, and Fredy Peccerelli
Middle photo: Rosalina Tuyuc
Bottom photo: Marvyn Perez, MD

Reimagine Global Access: Supported by Board of Councilors members Anita Friedman, PhD, through the Koret Foundation, and Lee Liberman, the Visual History Archive Program will significantly broaden the reach of testimonies by reimagining how the archive's four main audiences — scholars, educators, organizations, and communities — connect and engage through digital technologies. New partnerships and ingenious technological development are already resulting in expanded resources and new kinds of engagement with the stories in the archive.

Fighting Intolerance Through Culture and History

The San Francisco-based Koret Foundation shares USC Shoah Foundation's goals of using history to build connections between communities and cultures.

"An important pillar of the Koret Foundation is to create a vibrant and connected Jewish community," Koret Foundation Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Farber says. "One of the key ways to reach this goal is through educating generations on Jewish culture and history, and there is no greater tool for education than firsthand video account. We believe USC Shoah Foundation's archives of Holocaust survivor testimony deepens our understanding of Jewish history and supports our mission to increase Jewish identity and involvement worldwide."

The Koret Foundation's support of the archive's more than 114,000 hours of testimony helps give history a human face, allowing students the chance to connect more deeply with survivors' experiences than textbooks could ever allow. In addition, Farber says, "The extensiveness to which the archive is catalogued, tagged, and indexed makes it an invaluable resource for students, educators, and more."

According to Farber, "The testimonies also come from rescuers and other witnesses, who may not have been persecuted themselves but who understood the danger of intolerance. These accounts are just as important as the stories of survivors for students to become advocates for themselves and their peers."

As access to the Visual History Archive continues expanding around the world, ever-greater numbers of communities will be able to connect, share, and learn with and from each other. "The increased functionality will enable educators, individuals, and researchers to more effectively utilize the 55,000 priceless testimonies," Farber says.

The logo for the Koret Foundation, featuring the word "KORET" in a large, red, serif font, with the word "FOUNDATION" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it, all enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

"Survivors share the stories of their lives in order to tell the world. The Visual History Archive Program fulfills their purpose, bringing the power of their words to a global community of learners, teachers and scholars."

— Anita Friedman, PhD, LCSW
President, Koret Foundation

"ProQuest's partnership with USC Shoah Foundation helps ensure that the voices of survivors are heard by thousands of additional students, faculty and communities via libraries. The Visual History Archive's deeply personal stories inform our understanding of the impact of genocide, enabling positive change in the world."

—Andy Snyder, JD
Chairman, ProQuest

Institute Partners with ProQuest to Expand Access to Visual History Archive

Over the past 15 years, the Visual History Archive grew dramatically, from a core of offline video footage available at four universities in 2002 to a fully digitized, indexed, state-of-the-art collection available at hundreds of institutions around the world. Today, students, researchers, and others at 79 institutions have access to the full collection, with partial access at more than 200 additional sites.

This year, the Institute formed a close partnership with the technology company ProQuest to expand access to the Archive throughout the United States and beyond. ProQuest has decades of experience working with major university libraries on research tools. Together, the Institute and ProQuest aim to quadruple the number of institutions that have access to the Archive within the next two years and to reach 500 access sites by the time the Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2019.

As part of the partnership, ProQuest and the Institute are transcribing the 55,000 testimonies in the collection, working with translators specializing in 41 different languages. The process will be completed within 10 years, along with a renewed effort to engage the Archive primary audiences: colleges and universities, secondary school educators and students, communities, and organizations.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The Power of History and Testimony



Melanie Dadourian is an active member of the Next Generation Council because she understands all too well the dangers of silence and denial. Her grandparents were Armenian Genocide survivors who escaped certain death in Turkey by fleeing to the United States and that history deeply affects her.

“All genocides are horrible,” she says, “but ours is particularly difficult to educate people about because the Turkish government denies it to this day. It’s been written out of history.”

While working on efforts for the Armenian Genocide Centennial, Dadourian discovered that USC Shoah Foundation was entrusted with preserving the work of the late J. Michael Hagopian, MD, a pioneering filmmaker who recorded approximately 400 testimonies of Armenian Genocide survivors between 1975 and 2005. The overwhelming majority of these interviews are now digitized and integrated into the Visual History

Archive. In addition to contributing to this important project, the Dadourian family made a commitment to fund the Institute’s new Armenian Education & Outreach Specialist position. This important role will ensure that the testimonies are fully utilized and teach lessons to combat hatred and bigotry worldwide.

Through the Institute’s efforts, Dadourian felt assured that such “first-person” histories of the Armenian Genocide would spread beyond the Armenian community. “Being a documentary producer, I know the value of learning history through actual eyewitness accounts, so that resonated with me,” she says. “When I met with the folks from USC Shoah Foundation, my whole world opened up. I was meeting fascinating people whose sole mission is to educate on genocide and the Holocaust on a national and global platform.”

“Accessing and viewing eyewitness testimonies is an especially powerful and valuable educational tool for students and scholars,” Dadourian says. “They can read books, but I find this medium more engaging and compelling because it is real. It helps them to develop compassion, empathy, and sympathy.”

“When I met with the folks from USC Shoah Foundation, my whole world opened up. I was meeting fascinating people whose sole mission is to educate on genocide and the Holocaust on a national and global platform.”

—Melanie Dadourian

“The videos instill empathy, regardless of whether the viewer and the subject share any religious, ethnic, or geographic background.”

—Ruben Vardanyan

Overcoming Denial

Ruben Vardanyan believes there are many ways to aid USC Shoah Foundation in its mission. As a descendant of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, he is committed to ensuring that time never erases the memory of the 20th century’s first genocide.

“My grandfather was fortunate enough to be rescued as a young boy,” Vardanyan says. “The stories of perseverance shared by my family and other Armenians have inspired me — and my whole generation — to survive, to thrive, and to recognize that we owe our existence to strangers who dared to risk their own safety to help.”

Now, through USC Shoah Foundation’s Armenian Genocide Testimony Collection, such testimonies can educate and inspire countless others. “The thread that ties

together all these testimonies — from the Holocaust to Rwandan and Guatemalan survivors as well — is evidence of our common humanity, our common vulnerabilities, and our fundamental interdependence,” Vardanyan says.

Since so much denial surrounds the Armenian Genocide, Vardanyan sees the collection, and others like it, as especially vital to understanding history by connecting students to real people’s stories.

“The videos instill empathy, regardless of whether the viewer and the subject share any religious, ethnic, or geographic background,” he says. “They illustrate how individual intolerance can swell to become the basis for far-reaching prejudice and hate, which can escalate into a systemic and violent collapse of entire societies.”

THE NANJING MASSACRE

Preserving the Memory of the Nanjing Massacre

Surviving the Nanjing Massacre as a young girl had an indelible impact on Madame Xia Shuqin. She was just 8 years old when Japanese Imperial Forces took the Chinese city of Nanjing on December 13, 1937, and killed nearly 300,000 people. Her parents, grandparents, and sisters were among those who lost their lives. Only Madame Xia and her younger sister escaped death. Eight decades later, she is one of only 109 living survivors of the Nanjing Massacre.

In October, Madame Xia traveled to USC Shoah Foundation offices in Los Angeles with her family members, as well as staff from the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, to record her testimony as part of the New Dimensions in Testimony project.

“I want the world to know the truth of the Nanjing Massacre, to know how bad the war was and how important peace is, so that countries can work together in the future,” she says.

Using state-of-the-art, 3-D imaging technology and guided by a list of more than 500 questions, USC Shoah Foundation staff interviewed Madame Xia to construct an interactive testimony



From left: Gong Chen, Yanming Lu, Madame Xia Shuqin, Mingping Hao, and Yuan Xia

experience in collaboration with the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall that will engage and educate visitors.

Yanming Lu, PhD, a researcher at the Nanjing Massacre Hall, considers this an important step in preserving the memory of the event. “We sincerely hope that, through this project, we can build a new model of international cooperation and make the Nanjing Massacre a world historical memory,” he says.

As the small group of survivors and witnesses reach their 90s and beyond, this display will endure and survivors’ stories about what occurred in December 1937 will be passed on for generations to come.

“I want the world to know the truth of the Nanjing Massacre, to know how bad the war was and how important peace is, so that countries can work together in the future.”

—Madame Xia Shuqin

Moral Responsibility

Tianfu Bank and Tianfu Group support the collection of Nanjing Massacre survivors’ testimonies for USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive and New Dimensions in Testimony project. They want to ensure that the world will learn from — and never forget — the Nanjing Massacre, which resulted in the mass rape and killing that began on December 13, 1937, and lasted for several weeks, ending nearly 300,000 lives.

“Schools generally have been Euro-centric in the coverage of World War II, at the expense of students’ ability to fully appreciate the magnitude of this man-made horror,” Tianfu Group Executive Director Hubert “R.J.” Huang says.

“World War II’s Asian history must also be learned, because events are linked. We are blessed that we are able to support USC Shoah Foundation’s essential work.”

Huang and his partners see the work of USC Shoah Foundation as vitally important. “I work and give with my friends to honor our parents,” Tianfu Group’s Hao Wu says. “Every one of us is morally responsible to contribute — no matter his or her capacity — to make the world better.”

“New Dimensions in Testimony has the ability to connect students directly with survivors, creating a sense of awareness for our shared humanity, which should help students empathize with others and reject hatred,” says Huang.

TFB 天府银行
TFG 天府集团



Clockwise from top left: Yi Huang, Cheng Chi, Hubert “R.J.” Huang, and Hao Wu, of Tianfu Bank and Tianfu Group

Canadian Survivors Added to Collection of Testimonies

After the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of Europe, survivors of the Holocaust returned to scarred communities. Often, they returned to homes that were expropriated and given to their non-Jewish neighbors.

In the years after the Holocaust, thousands of survivors and witnesses left this devastated landscape for new homes and lives in Israel, the United Kingdom, Australia, and North America—including Canada, which saw more than 40,000 Holocaust survivors settle in communities across the country in the 1940s and 1950s. Decades later, many of these Canadian survivors agreed to give their testimonies on camera.

This year, the Institute partnered with archives and repositories across Canada to preserve, incorporate, and index more than a thousand of these interviews. By partnering with

archives at McGill University, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, the Ottawa Jewish Archives, and others, the Institute is preserving the histories of thousands of individuals and families and their experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust, as part of the Preserving the Legacy initiative.

The individuals interviewed include Ursula Feist, a survivor born in Germany in the 1920s who experienced firsthand the exclusionary effect of the Nuremberg Laws and describes witnessing Kristallnacht—the “Night of Broken Glass.” In 1939, she escaped to England through the Kindertransport, while her family left Europe for Shanghai, where they were interned by the Japanese. In 1951, Feist moved to Montreal with her husband and son.

Joseph Cooper, who grew up in Kielce, Poland, gave his testimony in Toronto in 1995. His parents and seven siblings were deported and killed at Treblinka in 1942. Cooper was deported first to Sosnowiec work camp and later to Auschwitz, Mathausen, and Ebensee, from which he was liberated on May 8, 1945. In 1948, he moved to Toronto, where he worked as cantor for the Beth Tzedec congregation for 49 years.

Institute staff and partners are integrating these stories and more than a thousand others into the existing catalogue of testimonies. This vast and growing constellation of human stories is inspiring generations of students in Canada and around the world.

**1,232
TESTIMONIES
FROM CANADIAN
PARTNERS**



Karen Jungblut (third from right) — director of Research and Documentation for USC Shoah Foundation — with Jewish Public Library staff members (from left) Phil Goldig, Alice Herscovitch, Julia Reitman, Helen Malkin, Daniel Rabinowicz, Frank Chalk, Naomi Azrieli, Rivka Augenfeld, Michael Crelinsten, Yehudi Lindeman, and Janice Rosen at the Montreal launch of the Visual History Archive

Bridging the Gap: David Zaslav and members of the *Auschwitz: The Past is Present* committee leveraged the momentum and attention generated by the program in Poland to form the Ad-hoc Committee on Countering Antisemitism within USC Shoah Foundation’s Board of Councilors. Chaired by Joel Citron, the committee worked with the Institute’s professional team to help launch the Countering Antisemitism Through Testimony program, which is developing new permanent resources and a three-year program of research and education.



Education and Empathy

“Stories have the power to educate, change people’s world view, and inspire empathy,” says David Zaslav, a member of USC Shoah Foundation’s Executive

Committee and the president and CEO of Discovery Communications. “It’s a kind of understanding that can’t be replicated by history books.”

Zaslav helped facilitate powerful visual storytelling experiences, in which history came alive, when he served as chair of the committee for *Auschwitz: The Past is Present*.

In partnership with Discovery Education, this program reached thousands of teachers and brought 25 educators from around the world to participate in a four-day professional development event in Warsaw, Krakow, and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Members of the *Auschwitz: The Past is Present* committee also worked in collaboration with the World Jewish Congress to gather 100 Auschwitz survivors as honored guests at a 70th anniversary commemoration.

“By bringing survivors and educators together on this mission, we seized an important opportunity—a chance for what will likely be the last living group of Holocaust witnesses to share their stories with the men and women who will bring these lessons to the next generation,” says Zaslav, noting how impressive and moving the experience was for all participants. “The stories of those survivors I met are sealed in my memory.”

Growing up, Zaslav heard accounts of oppression and escape from family members who left Warsaw and Odessa for the United States just before World War II. “It’s their story—rooted in gratitude for the full lives they had the opportunity to live—that built the foundation of my childhood and that still inspires me to this day to support organizations like USC Shoah Foundation,” he says. Zaslav’s hope is that by exposing current and subsequent generations to visual testimonials detailing the horrors that can grow out of intolerance, USC Shoah Foundation is preserving the past to protect the future.

“I can’t think of a more worthy cause, and I am privileged to be a part of it,” he says.

Personal Stories with Universal Relevance

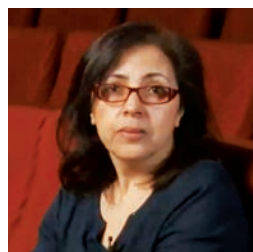
New testimonies spanning generations are being recorded for the Institute’s latest program aiming to humanize the experience of antisemitism by sharing firsthand testimonies of those it affects, including historic testimonies from the Visual History Archive. Several experiences have been recorded so far, thanks to a community of generous donors and brave interviewees like these:



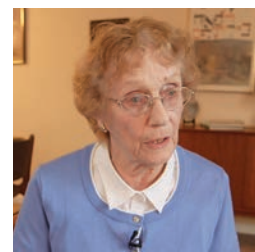
Niddal: A member of the Muslim community in Copenhagen, Niddal responded to the atrocious 2015 attack on the Great Synagogue by organizing a public “peace ring” of individuals from various backgrounds to promote a positive message of inclusion, coexistence, and solidarity.



Nársicz: A young non-Jewish woman from Hungary, Nársicz has been spurred by the antisemitic words and actions of her surroundings to teach literature in an orthodox Jewish school.



Samia: A high school teacher of Moroccan heritage who is known for her efforts to bridge ethnic divides in France, Samia regularly takes her students to Auschwitz to prepare them to create a better future.



Anneliese: A Holocaust survivor living in Pennsylvania, Anneliese speaks out against historical and contemporary antisemitism, offering her unique understanding of what has changed since the end of World War II as a message of caution—and hope—for the future.

IMPACT : 2016 AMBASSADORS FOR HUMANITY GALA

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The 2016 Ambassadors for Humanity Gala, held December 8, 2016, at the Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles, marked USC Shoah Foundation's 10th year at the University of Southern California. The event honored Mellody Hobson, president of Ariel Investments, and George Lucas, one of the world's most distinguished filmmakers, for their dedicated commitment to education and humanitarian efforts.

Steven Spielberg, USC Shoah Foundation's founder and a trustee of the university, chaired the event. **"Mellody and George possess courage, vision and humanity,"** Spielberg said while presenting the awards. **"They are fearless when it comes to pointing out hypocrisy and injustice. They have both led lives of the greatest integrity and the highest accomplishment."**

In accepting the Ambassador for Humanity Award, Lucas spoke about the importance of codifying great educational practices and making them widely available.

In welcoming guests, USC President C. L. Max Nikias spoke of the importance of preserving the 55,000 testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust and other atrocities in the Institute's Visual History Archive, and he commended Hobson and Lucas for working to keep memories alive.

Special guests featured in the program included artists and activists Harrison Ford and Kerry Washington, and *The Late Late Show's* James Corden. Composer John Williams conducted the Recording Arts Orchestra of Los Angeles in performances of the themes from *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars*. Williams was joined by solo violinist Bing Wang of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the theme from *Schindler's List*.

The event drew nearly 700 people, including members of USC's senior administrative team, the gala committees, the Institute's Board of Councilors, and Next Generation Council, as well as many other notable members of the community.

The Walt Disney Company, a longstanding supporter of the Institute, was the Presenting Sponsor. June Beallor, co-founding executive director of USC Shoah Foundation, produced the event, as she has every year since establishing the Ambassadors for Humanity Gala for the Institute in 2000.

Guests viewed architectural renderings of USC Shoah Foundation's new fourth-floor space and visited exhibits showcasing the various programs of the Institute. They were able to take a virtual walk with Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter through the Majdanek concentration camp and have a conversation with his interactive testimony via the Institute's New Dimensions in Testimony project. The event also highlighted a partnership with Chicago-based After School Matters, a nonprofit chaired by honoree Mellody Hobson that provides life-changing after-school and summer program opportunities for thousands of high school teens each year. The joint educational effort piloted a new IWitness activity focused on leadership and media literacy.

Many students from After School Matters participated in the event, including Lynette Lucero, who spoke about her own path to understanding and the importance of not being a bystander. **"What I am discovering is that we have a responsibility to do right,"** she said. **"We can use our words and our stories to unite us. We can help others find their words and tell their stories."**

The gala raised \$3.5 million in much-needed general funds to support the Institute's educational programs, including expansion of its award-winning IWitness website, professional development for educators globally, funding for the Center for Advanced Genocide Research, academic conferences, testimony preservation, and expanding access to the Visual History Archive.



- 1: Honorees George Lucas and Mellody Hobson with Gala Chair Steven Spielberg
- 2: Board of Councilors Chair Stephen A. Cozen, Sandy Cozen, Board of Councilors Executive Committee member Mickey Shapiro, Steven Spielberg, Arnold Spielberg, Erica Kives, and George Lucas
- 3: Executive Director Stephen D. Smith, Board of Councilors member Phyllis Epstein, and Dan Epstein
- 4: Board of Councilors member Cecilia Chan, Lisa Hofheimer, Holocaust survivor Paula Lebovics, and Board of Councilors Executive Committee member Lee Liberman
- 5: Irina and George Schaeffer
- 6: Barry, Andrea, and Derek Cayton, Board of Councilors member Melinda Goldrich, and Doretta Goldrich
- 7: Holocaust survivor and featured speaker Pinchas Gutter, Steven Spielberg, and Holocaust survivor Renée Firestone
- 8: The Walt Disney Company Chairman and CEO, Bob Iger, USC President C. L. Max Nikias, Niki C. Nikias, USC Dornsife College Dean Amber D. Miller, and Jonathan Neil
- 9: Reverend Jesse Jackson, Mellody Hobson, and George Lucas with teens and instructors from After School Matters
- 10: Lynette Lucero, After School Matters teen
- 11: Special guest Kerry Washington
- 12: Special guest Harrison Ford, Steven Spielberg, Mellody Hobson, and George Lucas
- 13: John Williams conducting the Recording Arts Orchestra of Los Angeles

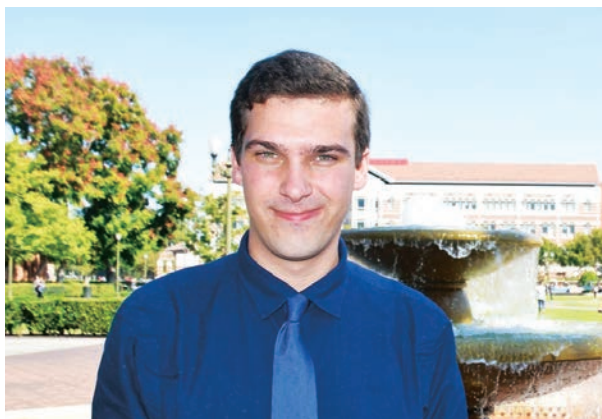
Annual Giving Campaign

The Annual Fund offers USC Shoah Foundation's community an opportunity to join together in a meaningful way to support the Institute's mission, programs, and goals.

Annual Fund donations provide flexible funding to support the Institute's day-to-day operations and its ability to achieve new levels of excellence. These current-use gifts fuel the immediate

impact and success of groundbreaking initiatives that aid every student, educator, researcher, survivor, donor, and friend engaged with the Institute's work.

In 2016, Annual Fund support enabled the Institute's leadership to implement additional, innovative programs, research, and hands-on learning opportunities for educators and students around the world, including:



Center for Advanced Genocide Research

Under the leadership of Wolf Gruner, PhD, the Center for Advanced Genocide Research generates new knowledge about the conditions that lead to genocide and resistance. The center's work inspired USC history student Zach Larkin, the great-grandson of a Holocaust survivor, to use the Visual History Archive to uncover the forgotten past of a resistance movement in Budapest that included his great-grandfather.

Top left: Zach Larkin, USC Shoah Foundation student intern



Junior Intern Program

With substantial growth in its second year — participants increased from 13 students in 2015 to 29 in 2016 — the Junior Intern Program helps middle and high school students learn the skills needed to develop their own voices through the study of the Holocaust and other genocides.

Center left: Members of the 2016 Junior Intern cohort conducting a workshop at the Institute



ITeach Workshop in Detroit

The IWitness education team held a three-day ITeach Workshop in August at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. During the ITeach Workshop, the first of its kind, 30 middle and high school educators developed knowledge and teaching skills for using IWitness in their classrooms.

Bottom left: A group of teachers attending the ITeach Workshop in Detroit

New Testimony Collection

In 2016, Institute staff was able to capture additional Holocaust survivor testimonies, and held a workshop to conceptualize and develop an indexing online training course. These endeavors were made possible by flexible Annual Fund support.

To learn more about the Annual Fund and ways you can get involved, please email: sf-annualgiving-1@usc.edu

Hope, Humanity, and Forgiveness

Samuel H. Pond, Managing Partner of Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano and a longtime supporter of USC Shoah Foundation, decided to dedicate even more time and energy to the cause by joining the Institute's Next Generation Council after a moving conversation with Board of Councilors Chair Stephen Cozen.

"We talked about what's important in life, what really matters," Pond recalls. "And, clearly, the work that the Institute is doing is profound. It's exponentially growing in influence every year and becoming so much more impactful as a global game changer."

Pond believes that the eyewitness testimonials archived at USC Shoah Foundation are of utmost importance for the organization's continued success. "It starts with the human experience and these real-life stories," he says. "They are often telling of horrific experiences, but in the end their stories are also uplifting. There's charity and courage. There's hope and humanity. There's forgiveness."

Pond recently hosted a well-attended event at his firm's Philadelphia office to help raise national awareness of USC Shoah Foundation. The power of these testimonials, he believes, is that when people see them they are transported —



From left: Thomas J. Giordano Jr., David F. Stern, Ruth Hernandez, Executive Director Stephen D. Smith, Jerry M. Lehocky, Samuel H. Pond, and Jayne Perilstein at Philadelphia reception hosted by Pond and his law partners

even riveted. "It touches them because it's not fiction. It's reality," he says. "If we can continue to get out these stories, to educate people, to just develop a dialogue, then the world may come closer together instead of continuing to separate."

Ultimately, he says, it is about education. "If we can educate people, if we can change the mind of one person toward love instead of hate, then hopefully we can prevent history from repeating itself."



Emotional Healing

As a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, Sarah Sternklar, PhD, recognizes the powerful healing effects of words — how important and therapeutic it can be for people to tell their story. "This is a wonderful benefit for the survivors."

Sternklar emphasizes, "The primary focus of these testimonies will always be education. Antisemitism is still a virulent, pervasive problem — subtler in some countries, flagrant in others. Nothing is more important than preserving survivors' stories to educate others on the evils of prejudice, intolerance, and hatred."

She points to the rhetoric surrounding the recent presidential election as showing how close to home bigotry can be. "Clearly the work of fighting intolerance is far from completed."

In the late 1990s, Sternklar trained as an interviewer for USC Shoah Foundation and at that time arranged for her father, Jack, to share his testimony of escaping Nazi-ridden Vienna in 1938, at the age of 16.

"When I walked in at the end of his interview, it was one of the

"USC Shoah Foundation is ensuring that future generations maintain the memory and intellectual understanding of one of the most painful pieces of the world's history while coming away with the strong desire to make a difference."

—Sarah Sternklar, PhD

only times I ever saw my father teary," she recalls.

A child and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, Sternklar supports USC Shoah Foundation and serves on its Next Generation Council. She recently experienced the latest technological innovation developed through the Institute: New Dimensions in Testimony, which uses advanced interview recording and display technologies that enable viewers to ask questions and receive responses in a lifelike dialogue with the witnesses to history. "It is remarkable and inspiring to see cutting-edge technology married to USC Shoah Foundation's vision and research. This new technology allows for the preservation of the emotional bond between the audience and the survivor long after the remaining survivors have passed."

"USC Shoah Foundation is ensuring that future generations maintain the memory and intellectual understanding of one of the most painful pieces of the world's history while coming away with the strong desire to make a difference."

Turning Hate into Love and Action

“It is with great appreciation and respect that we send this donation to your organization in honor of Hilda Mantelmacher. Mrs. Mantelmacher came to speak to our eighth-grade class and shared with students her experiences and stories as a survivor of the Holocaust. Her message of showing love and compassion to others, in spite of all she has been through, is an inspiration to us all.”

—Beth Nickel
Eighth-grade
History Teacher,
Eagle View
Middle School

Hilda Mantelmacher’s life features many defining moments, yet three in particular stand apart from the rest: going through the Holocaust; an episode of *60 Minutes*; and the film *Schindler’s List*.

An Auschwitz survivor who lost her parents, little brother, and grandparents during the Holocaust, she does not know her birthday, but says, “every day I wake up is my birthday.” After the camps were liberated, Mantelmacher came to the United States in the 1950s to begin her new life. She found work and started a family. Her two daughters became teachers, and she found her own life’s work as an educator.

In the 1980s, an episode of *60 Minutes* was her first call to action. Guests on the show suggested that the Holocaust was a “lie.” Mantelmacher worried that this revisionist history was not only circulating the airwaves but reaching young students. She decided to personally reach students throughout her home state of Pennsylvania, teaching them about the Holocaust and the effects of hatred. “Don’t use the word hate, and don’t hate,” she tells students from elementary school through college. “If you don’t hate, there is no Holocaust.”

Mantelmacher has also volunteered in Jewish nursing homes for more than 25 years, educating staff about survivors’ experiences and the possible effects of their painful memories. For instance, one resident always felt cold, a result of being forced to live in the woods with his wife and daughter in Poland. A female resident

refused to let her hair be cut because she thought it would be shaved off as done in the concentration camps.

In 1993, Mantelmacher saw *Schindler’s List*, and, after the film, a trailer for USC Shoah Foundation, which became her second call to action. She says Steven Spielberg was an inspiration, with his brave gamble of educating millions with the stories of survivors. “He decided to share the story with the world,” she says. “It was like a funeral — but a funeral that made me feel good.”

Today, she continues teaching about the Holocaust but requires that a contribution be made to the Institute for any speaking engagement she conducts. “Do not send me flowers; they die in one or two days,” she says. “Send a donation to USC Shoah Foundation, because it lives forever.” Through her selflessness and determination, the Institute has received many donations over the years.

For a woman who lost a great deal to hate, Mantelmacher seems to unfailingly respond with service and love. Through her life and work, she underscores the importance of USC Shoah Foundation’s mission to educate people of all ages and never let the world forget survivors’ own stories.

Hilda Mantelmacher speaking to a group of students at Central Penn College about her survival as a child during the Holocaust



Purposeful Leadership

For Board of Councilors Chair Emeritus Robert J. Katz, involvement with USC Shoah Foundation stems not from a direct personal connection, but from an emotional pull he later identified.

“My family escaped the Holocaust because my European ancestors immigrated to the United States before World War I,” he says. “But in an odd way, that actually energized me. I felt a greater personal need and obligation to get involved—not because I was a survivor or child of survivors, but because my personal survival had not been threatened. How can those of us who happened to be safe through no action of our own not be the first to stand with those who were murdered, or came very close to being murdered, through no action of their own?”

Duty found him in late 1999, when a piece of mail drifted across his desk at Goldman Sachs in New York. It was a newsletter from the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. “I’d never seen a previous issue, but I recalled the *Schindler’s List* trailer saying that Steven Spielberg formed a foundation to record survivor testimonies. This was the first I heard anything further about it.” He picked up the phone immediately and called the Foundation: “I don’t to this day know who answered the phone, but I know what I said: ‘I need to talk to somebody who knows something.’”

By then the organization was shifting gears, Katz recalls. The job of collecting testimonies was almost complete. “They were taking a deep breath and starting to ask, ‘OK, now that we’re almost at our goal, who are we? What are we? Are we a ‘project’ or an ongoing institution with a mission beyond collection and preservation?’” Part of that rethinking, he says, was to expand the organization’s footprint and raise its profile. That meant “growing” the underlying base—and “above all, embracing the East Coast.”

After meeting with the organization’s leadership, he signed on. “Nobody recruited me. I self-recruited out of intellectual curiosity and emotional resonance.” That led Katz to host the organization’s first East Coast fundraiser, help develop a national board and, over the course of several years, take part in far-reaching discussions concerning the organization’s evolving mission, including its progression from a self-standing foundation to an institute on the campus of a great research university—as USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education.

In his various roles, Katz was key to taking the Institute through its next steps, moving from “project” to “institution.”



“For me, the imperative remains: Capture and tell the firsthand stories. The power they have for making the world a better place is immense and self-evident: You feel it; you know it.”

— Robert J. Katz

“We’ve morphed, and very deliberately so, into an academic center—but a very unusual one, because we don’t operate purely as a scholarly institute devoted to research, writing, and teaching at the university level. One of the key places we knew we should be in is secondary school education, which is an area we’ve devoted ourselves to.”

The power, he knows, is in the testimonies themselves—those stories drawn from the past and those dealing with contemporary areas of conflict, intolerance, hate crimes, and genocide. “You want to use the power of survivor testimonies to help prevent recurrences,” he says. “But it doesn’t work unless the people you’re getting to view your testimonies can relate it to the modern day and their own lives. You have to broaden the base of both the experiences captured and the populations exposed to the stories.”

Katz realizes that how these stories may sway future generations is difficult to measure. “To some degree it’s a leap of faith,” he says. “But my watchword ever since I’ve been here has been: ‘Stop the talk, talk, talk, and always show, show, show. Just roll the tape. Let people see and hear the survivors and their voices telling what they experienced. Whatever we do, remember we are a visual force.’ For me, the imperative remains: Capture and tell the firsthand stories. The power they have for making the world a better place is immense and self-evident: You feel it; you know it.”

Educating the World

“Conditions in the Jewish Ghetto in Shanghai were grim,” says Holocaust survivor Sigmund Tobias of his experience during World War II. “It is my hope that publicizing such circumstances will deter others from genocide in the future.”

Just before the outbreak of World War II, Tobias fled from Europe to Japanese-occupied Shanghai, and his wife, Lora, fled from Germany, where her family lived for more than three centuries. Their detailed personal testimonies of the Holocaust, persecution, and antisemitism they experienced in Asia and in Germany are available within USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive. More recently, Tobias was interviewed for USC Shoah Foundation’s forthcoming documentary, *Two Sides of Survival*, which profiled the little-known story of Shanghai’s Jewish Ghetto.

“We hoped that our testimony would help students develop empathy for the horrors posed by bullying, bigotry, racism, and, ultimately, genocide,” he says. “Because the world desperately needs this empathy. Especially today.”

After the war, Tobias found success as an educator—he currently is eminent research professor of educational psychology at State University of New York at Albany—and wrote a memoir about his experiences, *Strange Haven: A Jewish Childhood in*



“We hoped that our testimony would help students develop empathy for the horrors posed by bullying, bigotry, racism, and, ultimately, genocide. Because the world desperately needs this empathy. Especially today.”

—Sigmund Tobias

Wartime Shanghai. He also volunteers his time and insights to further the Institute’s educational mission through talks about his book and films in which he participated.

“After the Shoah, I believed that horrors like that could not reoccur,” Tobias says. “I was shocked by what happened in Rwanda, Kosovo, and in so many other areas It seems that there is a beast lurking within us and it takes continued vigilance and hard work to keep that beast at bay.”

These insights came at a high price for his and Lora’s families. Fourteen of Tobias’s relatives and 16 members of his wife’s family were murdered during the Holocaust. “These were not merely names to us but close relatives with whom we laughed and cried — and can never do so again. Our testimony and involvement with USC Shoah Foundation is a tribute to them and the millions of other Jews who did not survive to tell their own stories.”

“In another four or five years, there won’t be any Holocaust survivors who were in camps. The children will still be around — the hidden children, like we were — but the Holocaust survivors won’t be around. And sooner or later, like now they already say, ‘It didn’t happen; it’s a myth.’”

—George Weiss



Preserving Survivors’ Stories

For more than two decades, George Weiss made his way to USC Shoah Foundation almost every week, to add yet another layer to the story he is helping preserve. Sentence by sentence, memory by memory, Weiss wants to ensure that history does not get lost.

Weiss transcribed numerous testimonies of Holocaust survivors. “Hundreds, thousands of testimonies — all different subjects,” he says. “They could be describing what they did after the war. Did they go back to school? Did they have a business?” He finds that each personal remembrance brings the speaker into focus — what they had and what they lost.

Born in Belgium in 1933, Weiss has a deeply personal connection to these stories. “I was one of the ‘hidden children.’ My wife, Gisele, lost both of her parents,” he says. “Listening is really, really not easy; some of the things the survivors went through were horrific.”

He keeps to his task, however, because he knows it is imperative. In the scope of his own lifetime, he has witnessed a different nightmare: Jewish children who do not know their own history, and deniers who insist that these past atrocities are fictions. It makes his weekly work an essential ritual.

“In another four or five years, there won’t be any Holocaust survivors who were in camps,” Weiss says. “The children will still be around — the hidden children, like we were — but the Holocaust survivors won’t be around. And sooner or later, like now they already say, ‘It didn’t happen; it’s a myth.’ But through the Institute we will make sure that if we talk about it and people, through technology, can see people, not just a voice, it won’t die off.”

See George in the new Institute film, *Let Their Testimonies Speak* at sfi.usc.edu/toolkit.

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*“As the protectors of a vast archive of human memory,
USC Shoah Foundation honors the experiences of survivors of genocide.
Their testimonies inculcate a sense of the moral and civic responsibility
of the individual and contain universal lessons of survival, resilience,
hope and life.”*

LEE LIBERMAN,
MEMBER, BOARD OF COUNCILORS

“On a daily basis, we hear stories of bullying and hatred. Tolerance can only come about if young people are taught the importance of compassion and empathy. The heartbeat of USC Shoah Foundation from its inception is to fulfill this all-important mission.”

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“The collected testimonies of USC Shoah Foundation will provide an absolute response to Holocaust deniers wherever they may be and an eternal resource to hundreds of thousands of students all over the world and as teaching materials for their teachers.”

STEVEN BARAL,
WASHINGTON STATE

Steven's father, Martin Baral, is a Holocaust survivor who gave his testimony to USC Shoah Foundation

“As most of you know the Shoah Foundation grew out of Schindler’s List and over the course of more than two decades, the last 10 years of which were partnered with USC, we have in a sense extended Schindler’s List from 1,200 Holocaust Survivors to now 55,000.”

STEVEN SPIELBERG,
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