

## Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies

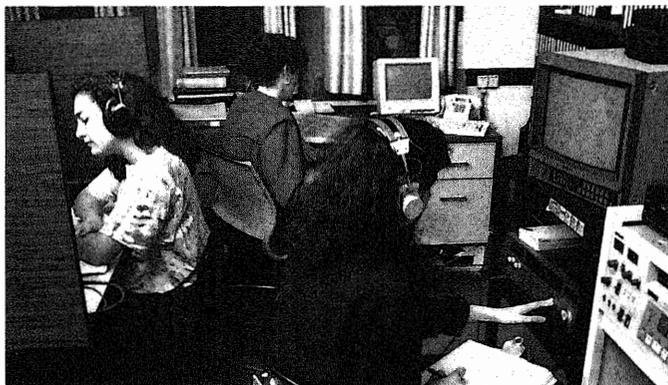
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### The Crucial Years

As we mark the Tenth Anniversary of the Yale Archive, what remains to be accomplished confronts us with a challenge at least as great as what we faced when we opened our doors in 1982. Despite the over 2600 witness accounts we have gathered and which are gradually being catalogued for students, teachers and researchers, it is only during the last two years that we were able to expand our videotaping to Europe. Testimonies are now coming in from England, France, Belgium, and – till the recent troubles – Yugoslavia. A modest beginning has been made in Germany and planning is underway for Czechoslovakia. In Buenos Aires – to move to another international activity – we hope to go beyond our pilot project of ten testimonies. In Israel a major cooperative undertaking with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Massua Institute for Holocaust Research and Commemoration has yielded 470 hours of testimony in 1991 alone. Yet the urgency of our work, as most witnesses pass their seventieth year, continues to increase. We would like to make significant progress in this final period of taping.

During recent years Holocaust denial has not lessened and the forces of slander and oblivion continue to confuse or distort public memory. Some progress is being made, but it was only this summer, for example, on the fiftieth year following the notorious round-up of Jews by French police in the Vel d'Hiv of Paris, and after an unsuccessful prosecution of two high Vichy officials, that there was widespread commentary in French press and television about the 1942 event and what it implied. Only now is the full story of the French detention camps and of Vichy anti-Semitism becoming a matter of thorough public discussion. On a related front, the specter of "ethnic cleansing" is once more devastating Yugoslavia.

We estimate that the next five years, from 1993 to 1998, will be among the most intensive for taking survivor and bystander testimony. The Archive has become well-known, and we have established extensive contacts in the United States and abroad. At the same time we continue to think of how to make the testimonies available for research and education. This June, for example, I was able to attend a screening of testimonies made by our French affiliate at a conference sponsored by the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris. In the Chicago area, the Holocaust Educational Foundation, an affiliate of the Yale Archive since 1983, is helping to develop curricula on college campuses. The Foundation and Northwestern University co-sponsored a major conference



Students view tapes at the Fortunoff Video Archive

whose proceedings were published in 1991 as *Lessons and Legacies: The Meaning of the Holocaust in a Changing World*. In Israel a one hour television film, made on the basis of our testimony project there, was broadcast on Yom Hashoah and is now available with English subtitles.

We have not given up the idea of a Study Center at Yale, and the number of students and visitors to the Archive is steadily increasing. At the same time, we are cooperating with schools and educational institutions: in particular, with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, A Memorial to the Holocaust/Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, and Massua in Israel, a pedagogical institute that teaches high school and university students from Israel and abroad. In the future we hope to strengthen our contacts with Yad Vashem, the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt, the Fondation Auschwitz in Brussels, and several French organizations.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed so generously to our effort. It is heartening to realize how many gifts, large and small, have come in, and how many volunteers have contributed their time, both at Yale and in their communities. In our last Newsletter I wrote: "When we began our interviews, a collection of eight hundred testimonies was envisioned. Now the collection of fifteen hundred already in the Fortunoff Archive is expected to grow to twenty-five hundred before the decade is over." Less than three years into the decade my prediction is again obsolete. This Newsletter summarizes a vast communal activity; even so it cannot do full justice to the selflessness and devotion of our friends.

Geoffrey H. Hartman

### *Affiliates Abroad*

**Yugoslavia** – Despite the recent turmoil in the former Yugoslavia, Jasa Almuli completed thirty-one more testimonies. The project is recording stories that add significantly to the history of less documented regions.

**England** – The British Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies has entered the second phase of taping under the leadership of Alberta Strage. The “45 Aid Society,” an organization of survivors who arrived in England after the War, assists in identifying those willing to participate. The British testimonies are deposited in the National Sound Archive of the British Library, where Director Robert Perks assures their security and preservation. World-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman, accompanied by the Philharmonia Orchestra, gave a benefit performance for the British Video Archive in London’s Royal Festival Hall on May 10, 1992.

**France** – A first stage of taping has been completed under the supervision of Annette Wiewiorka, a historian working with the Centre Nationale de Recherche Scientifique. She heads a research group of volunteers who generously contribute their time. Seventeen testimonies have already been received at Yale in a pilot project funded by the Revson Foundation. The French taping will continue another year, thanks to a grant from Laboratoires Hoechst. Approximately seventy additional interviews are planned.

**Israel** – The video recording of survivor testimony did not come to a halt even during the Gulf War, when a number of Iraqi Scuds landed within one mile of the studio in Ramat Gan. The taping staff went to the homes of witnesses in quieter locations and continued to work with gas masks at hand.

In the first year of the program, Nathan Beyrak, coordinator of the Israel project, reported the completion of 60 witness accounts comprising 470 hours. For the first time, interviews were conducted in languages other than Hebrew: in Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, English and Russian. New immigrants from the former Soviet Union provide detailed and rare information on events such as the massacre at Babi Yar.

In 1991 and 1992, Israel Television’s Channel 2 broadcast excerpts from the testimony project throughout the day of Yom Hashoah. This year a one-hour documentary was produced featuring the project coordinator, Nathan Beyrak, two survivors who had participated in the video taping project, and Professor Yehuda Bauer of Hebrew University. They discussed and analyzed the importance of the testimonies to historians and educators.

The project, growing out of Yale’s initiative in Israel, is a cooperative one with three participating institutions: the Fortunoff Video Archive, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Massua Institute for Holocaust Research at Kibbutz Tel Yitzhak.

**Argentina** – The Instituto Argentino para Estudios del Holocausto has completed ten survivor testimonies, some in Spanish and some in Yiddish. Susy Rochwerger and Noemi K. de Rychter coordinate the project in Buenos Aires. The survivor population in Argentina is significant and their post war experiences may differ from those in North America. These testimonies offer a valuable perspective previously unavailable.

### *News from Affiliate Projects*

**Chicago** – The Holocaust Education Foundation of Illinois taped ten survivors in 1991. Theodore Ze’ev Weiss, Director of the Foundation, and Professor Peter Hayes of Northwestern University, have assisted in the establishment of courses in Holocaust studies at Swarthmore, West Point, Bates and Bowdoin. The Foundation also awards grants to graduate students who focus their work on the Holocaust. *Lessons and Legacies: The Meaning of the Holocaust in a Changing World*, edited by Peter Hayes, was named co-winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award from the Cleveland Foundation. A conference will be held in October focusing on teaching the Holocaust.

**Vancouver** – The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society has videotaped over one hundred witnesses. The interviews have all been summarized in a book that serves as an index to the collection. The Centre has produced a series of teaching tapes based on survivors speaking to high school classes in British Columbia. Programs are eighteen to twenty minutes in length and include a teachers’ guide. Future plans include a two hour discussion among Auschwitz survivors to be broadcast on public television.

**Baltimore** – On April 7, 1991 a reception was held at Baltimore Hebrew University to inaugurate the Baltimore Jewish Community Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. Those addressing the gathering reflected on the momentum that had brought them from their first videotaping in 1988 to the deposit of 100 testimonies, now cataloged and ready for viewing. Supported for the first three years by the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Fund for the Enrichment of Jewish Education (Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore), the project will be continued until June 1993 through the generosity of the Harry Weinberg Family Foundation.

**New York** – New York’s Memorial to the Holocaust/Museum of Jewish Heritage began the testimony project two years ago with a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation that supported training by and partnership with Yale. The grant, renewed this year, provides funding for interviews of Holocaust survivors, hidden children, rescuers, liberators and war crimes prosecutors. Selfhelp Community Services continues to aid the Museum in its work. Two hundred eighty-six testimonies have been received at Yale.

### Conferences

A Tenth Anniversary conference, "The Future of Memory," is planned for October 25 and 26, 1992, at Yale's Whitney Humanities Center. Sessions will be held on the following topics: Museums, Media and Monuments; The Future of Memory; Generations; Memory and Imagination. Among the speakers are: Charles Maier (Harvard), Dori Laub (Yale), Deborah Dwork (Yale), James Young (University of Massachusetts), David Altshuler (Museum of Jewish Heritage), Lawrence Langer (Simmons), Dominick LaCapra (Cornell), Jonathan Boyarin (New School), Alan Mintz (Brandeis), Sidra Ezrahi and Yaron Ezrahi (Hebrew University), William Gass (Washington University), John E. Wideman (University of Massachusetts), Andreas Huyssen (Columbia), and Richard Bernstein (*New York Times*).

### Publications

*Holocaust Testimonies: The Ruins of Memory* by Lawrence L. Langer was published by Yale University Press. Based upon Professor Langer's viewing of Archive holdings, it was named one of the "Ten Best Books of 1991" by the *New York Times* Book Review, won the 1991 National Book Critics Circle Award in the category of Criticism and the 1991 Eugene M. Kayden Press Prize for the most distinguished book in the humanities published by an American University Press. A video program to accompany the book is being developed by the Archive.

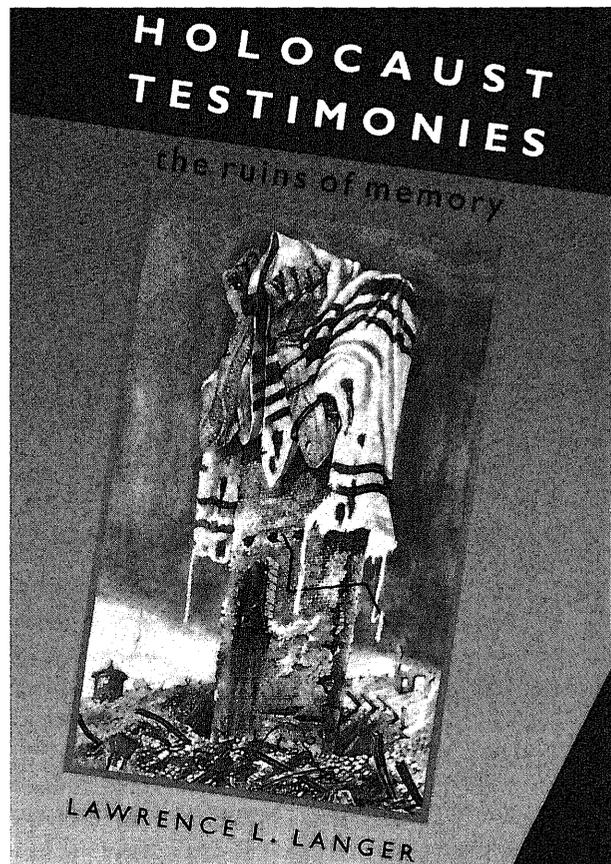
An article by Scott Heller in the December 11, 1991 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* described the work of the Fortunoff Video Archive and its contribution to scholarship and education.

"Campus Life," *The New York Times*, December 16, 1990, reported on Mary Felstiner's Yale Seminar in an article titled "Students Come Face to Face with Holocaust."

Geoffrey Hartman's essay, "The Book of the Destruction," was included in *Probing the Limits of Representation: Nazism and the "Final Solution"* edited by Saul Friedlander (Harvard University Press). Blackwell will publish *Shapes of Memory* edited by Mr. Hartman in Spring 1993.

*Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis and History* by Yale's Dori Laub and Shoshana Felman was published by Routledge. Dr. Laub's article "Truth and Testimony: The Process and the Struggle" appeared in *American Imago*, Vol. 48, No. 1, 1991 (Johns Hopkins University Press) and with Nanette C. Auerhahn, "Holocaust Testimony," in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 4, 1990.

Volume I of the *Guide to Yale University Library, Holocaust Video Testimonies* is available from Garland Publishing. Volume 2 will appear in 1993.



Professor Langer's book, based on his viewing of Archive holdings, was named one of the "Ten Best Books of 1991" by the *New York Times* Book Review.

### Presentations

Principals of the Fortunoff Video Archive have read papers or addressed the following gatherings:

U.C.L.A. Conference, "Nazism and 'the Final Solution': Probing the Limits of Representation;" Stockton State College; Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; Association for Jewish Studies, "Holocaust Testimony Videotape Collections: Physical and Bibliographic Control, Access, Preservation and Research Issues;" Temple Emmanuel (Orange), "Religious Observances in the Camps;" the Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk Jewish Federation Young Leadership Group; Ramapo College, "Use and Misuse of the Media and Survivors in Teaching the Holocaust and Genocide;" Oneonta State College, New York; State University of New York at Albany; Stadt Frankfurt am Main's conference "Cinematographie des Holocaust;" and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Conference, "L'annee 1942 et les Juifs en France."

Laurel Vlock was the keynote speaker at Brandeis University's Yom Hashoah observance and Geoffrey Hartman spoke at Bridgeport's observance.

### *The Encounter*

Dana L. Kline

It is not entirely my story. That is to say, GH told me about Nadia when he returned from Tel Aviv a few years ago.

I met Nadia at Yale seven years ago when she came to speak with us at the Video Archive. Her granddaughter was a student at the university, and perhaps it was she who encouraged her to come and record events that took place in Vilna during those dark years. Or maybe Nadia came to tell us about her husband and his stories in Russian that needed a translator. Survivors have many reasons for coming to the Archive, always layered with complications.

I was immediately taken with Nadia. She was somewhere in her eighties, slim and full of energy. Her silver hair was worn in a French twist, held in place by a long comb. She wore a grey flannel skirt and a pink sweater. We met in the television studio on campus, and her concern for how she looked on camera took me by surprise. But then she had always worked in fashion or cosmetics, so I should have known. That was what got me to remember my grandmother, also a business woman who had spent her life dressing brides and bridal parties. She too would have wanted to look good on camera.

Then there was the matter of Vilna. I looked at Nadia that morning thinking 'I have seen your city recently,' and wondered if she herself had ever been back. Later I learned she had not. Because she was Israeli, Nadia was denied a visa. Nadia spoke of her desire to go there if only to breathe the air, to walk the streets, to see her home once more. She had no illusions that she would find old friends. They were all dead. I still think about Nadia as I am telling you something of her life, without knowing if she is still alive. GH saw her three years ago. Today she would be ninety.

It was going back to Vilna before the war that was her downfall. She had lived in Manhattan for about ten years, during the late twenties, almost to the end of the thirties. Working at Milgrims on Fifth Avenue, Nadia sold perfumes and later became a personal shopping advisor, putting together splendid outfits for women in "high society." I think she may have done some modeling as well. She loved the glamour and the excitement New York offered. As she remembered those days, her face became young again.

Nadia spoke of her last trip back to Vilna. It was in 1937, a summer visit with her family. She stayed longer than she intended. She fell in love and married, leaving Fifth Avenue behind. Then came the war. After liberation, she moved to Israel with her husband and children.

Months passed, and one day she called to say that she had forgotten to tell us a few things. Could she return and do a second interview? All was arranged at the studio, but then it was canceled – bad weather. Another appointment made – poor health. A year passed and still Nadia promised to come, but did not. Ambivalence? Then one day she came. This time, instead of going to the studio, we found a private room in the Yale Library. She only wanted to add a few details to her story, so we decided to use an audiotape recorder – no camera.

Nadia said her testimony would be incomplete without including two images, both of children. One picture was of a four year old standing on the second step of a bus going to Ponary, a wooded area near Vilna where thousands of Jews were slaughtered. The mother is fussing with the little girl's curls, tucking them under a bonnet, an ordinary maternal act. The mother knew what the daughter could not comprehend. There was no need to have beautiful hair. I remember Nadia saying the little one will have no "wedding date," only a date with death.

The second image was that of Nadia in the hospital just after her husband was wounded during a bombing of the city. She overheard a conversation between her brother-in-law, a physician, and a German official who was issuing a policy change. No more children were allowed to be born in the ghetto. This was not abortion, Nadia said, but the killing of an entire generation. I'll have to listen to the tape to recall more of what we spoke about.

But what if it's not there? You see, she asked me to turn off the machine for a while. Some words were not recorded. Some memories she brought with her were not to be preserved on tape. The witness is always in charge, deciding what is revealed, what is recorded.

After our second conversation in New Haven, I did not see Nadia, though she occasionally called or wrote us at the Archive. I thought of her often. She had a spirit that immediately captivated me, and there was an inner grace that drew me near. She knew how to tell stories. Which brings me back to GH. He was on his way back to his hotel room in Tel Aviv when he noticed a small cafe. Walking in, he was tempted by an almond ring in the glass display case. He paused for a moment and then decided to leave. Counting calories? Perhaps.

But the almond ring refused to recede from his thoughts, and a half hour later he returned to enjoy a cup of coffee and the pastry. The cafe was fairly empty and he chose a seat near the window. Reading a slim volume of poetry, GH glanced up when the waitress refilled his cup to see a woman staring at him, or was she trying to read the title of his book?

She asked him what he was reading. And so it began. She said she approved of studious people. Her father had owned a book shop. Later GH told me he had never been picked up by a woman over eighty. Eventually they exchanged names and, to his amazement, his was familiar to her. But how? Had she read any of his books?

No. It had to do with stationery. GH is the Faculty Advisor of the Fortunoff Video Archive. On our letters to her, Nadia must have looked at the upper right hand side of the page and noticed GH's name. She remembered.

Nadia and GH talked for quite a while. He noticed that her mind sometimes wandered and that she repeated things she had just said. The little girl going to Ponary was mentioned. Other things were fading or unclear. She insisted on taking him home to show him some of her mementos. When she arrived, Nadia had difficulty finding what she was seeking.

I made him recount all of this very slowly, wishing I could have been there.

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*Thoughts on the Eyewitness to History Trip  
Holocaust Education/Prejudice Reduction Program*

Nicole Lacata, Class of 1994,  
Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven

My most vivid memory of Auschwitz is the white ash of human bones that covers the earth. This is all that remains of the millions of nameless, innocent people who passed through the camp gates and never returned. No matter how many movies one sees or books one reads of the horror of the Holocaust, I doubt that anyone can truly prepare themselves for the reality of Auschwitz.

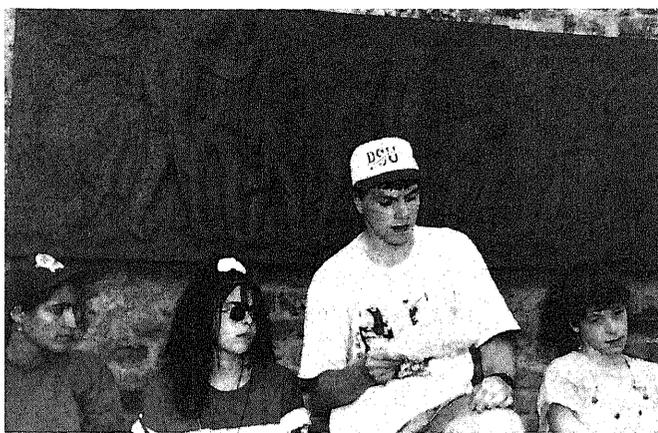
I was one of a group of twenty-six high school students that traveled to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Israel this summer. During our two-and-a-half week visit we gained a better understanding of history. Being raised a Roman Catholic, I grew up with a limited knowledge of the Holocaust. I knew the statistics and facts, but still I felt very removed from the whole experience. Though I naturally felt compassion for those who perished, I could not see how it related to me. Consequently, I was ignorant of the connection the Holocaust had to all of mankind. Until I was forced to see overwhelming evidence, it was difficult to comprehend such extremes of man's injustice to man.

The piles of shoes, glasses and other objects that fill the museums in Auschwitz are powerful reminders of what happened there. I felt very numb at first, not really knowing what to expect from myself. The numbness lasted until I came to a room piled with human hair. It was then that I lost control. I was filled with a rush of tears and emotion – anger, pity, but most of all, confusion. Confusion was the prevailing emotion because I could find no possible justification for all the killing. It was all so pointless.

Without an understanding of the past, there will be no understanding in the present and no hope for the future. I don't think there is anyone who could go to Auschwitz and come back the same. If everyone went once in their lifetime this world would undoubtedly be a more compassionate place to live.

Today we still can see prejudice ripping apart society. Obviously, mankind has not yet learned to love each other unconditionally. The war in Yugoslavia is enough evidence to see that prejudice is very much alive today. If the world sits back and allows this to continue, we could see another Holocaust.

I was fortunate enough to learn about the Holocaust in a way that was different from my textbook knowledge. Now, in any way I can, I am personally committed to change the lack of tolerance people have for one another.



*Eyewitness to History trip participants read poetry at Terezin  
Lauren Ruff, Jennifer Bonito, Christopher Borajkiewicz, Nicole Licatta*

*Holocaust Education/Prejudice Reduction Program*

Geoffrey Hartman, Marvin Lender and Murray Lender are the co-chairs of this project, founded in the spring of 1988. The program has four co-sponsors: the Fortunoff Video Archive; the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; the Area Cooperative Educational Service (ACES); and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. School superintendents and headmasters form the Advisory Committee. The coordinator is Jean Webber at the Jewish Federation.

Fourteen area schools and school systems participate. The New Haven school system is one of the most active members and its staff and students take full advantage of the training sessions, book and video resources which the program provides.

The Video Archive assists teachers in the selection and use of appropriate educational video programs for their classes. In addition to educational programs produced by the Fortunoff Archive, a library of video documentaries is available to participating schools. Ms. Webber provides consultative services and in-house training. Scholars from Yale and other institutions have been a resource in training sessions. Among those who have shared their expertise with area teachers are Lawrence Langer, Aharon Appelfeld, Samuel Kassow, Mary Felstiner, Paula Hyman, James Young and Deborah Dwork. Staff members of Facing History and Ourselves have assisted as well.

This summer the program sponsored a three week trip to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Israel. Twenty-six area students and four teachers participated. The greatest number were from the New Haven public school system; others came from Hamden, Milford, Amity, West Haven, Notre Dame, Laurelton Hall, Hamden Hall, Choate and Hopkins. Jean Webber was the program staff person and Joanne Rudof provided the educational guidance. The Lender family's commitment contributed to the success of the venture.

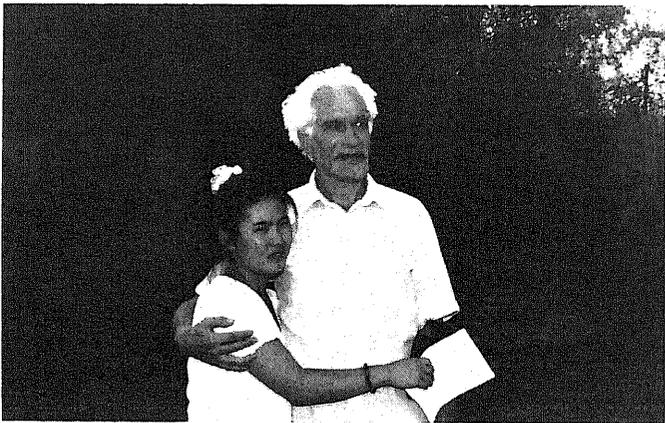
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Honorary Board of Consultants

Christopher J. Dodd, U.S. Senate; John Hersey, Yale University; Raul Hilberg, University of Vermont; Lawrence L. Langer, Simmons College; Joseph I. Lieberman, U.S. Senate; Elie Wiesel, Boston University

The vast landscape of Birkenau looks like an immense cemetery of chimneys. Most of the wooden barracks have rotted, leaving only the tall brick markers as 'tombstones' to what was. The spaces between the barracks and the huge Appelplatz are now overgrown with grass and wild flowers. Wooden drying racks dot the area waiting for their harvest of fodder. When this place functioned, there was no grass, no flowers, only oozing mud and frozen ground, each in their season. If indeed a blade of grass had the temerity to poke above the ground, it would have immediately been eaten.

The visit this summer, with high school students and teachers from schools in the New Haven area, is engraved in my memory. In 1988, this trip was the vision of Marvin Lender. His sense was that it would offer the ultimate lesson in prejudice reduction to student participants. Having accompanied these young people to Warsaw, Treblinka, Krakow, Auschwitz, Prague, Terezin and Israel, I can confirm that Marvin Lender's vision was clear and true. Through the coming together of students and teachers from twelve different schools, as diverse a bunch as I have ever seen, we learned to respect individual differences.



*Susie Choi and Dr. Toman Brod at Terezin*

Walking under the gate marked "Arbeit Macht Frei," I fought rising hysteria. We adults had to maintain some emotional control to help the young people through this ordeal, placing our arms around them when they needed us. One of the students cannot stop crying. Some cry at one place, stare off into space in others, offer their shoulders for others to cry upon when they are not crying themselves. It is not the place alone that causes this rush of emotions; it is the knowledge that we bring with us, the knowledge of what happened here fifty years ago that overwhelms.

The pre-trip lectures were the beginning of knowledge for some; for others, a review of material studied before. But my sense was that the people these students met, both personally and through testimonies, made the greatest impact. When we stood at the monument on the Umschlagplatz and in the camps, we could envision that summer fifty years ago because

we had heard of it from the mouths of those who had experienced it. The words of the survivors and witnesses allowed us to use our imaginations to envision those places as they were "then," without grass and wild flowers, covered with a pall of smoke from chimneys, filled with that stench.

The lessons about patience and kindness, about helping strangers, about appreciating differences in others which make our world richer, we learned from those who were there. Dr. Toman Brod – a Czech survivor of Terezin, Auschwitz and Gross-Rosen – shared his time and his memories with us. The students will not forget him.

I am more certain than ever that witness accounts must be recorded and preserved, and that the video format offers us the opportunity to allow students of the future to meet survivors when it is no longer possible to do so in person. Patron use of the Fortunoff Video Archive is increasing every year. The number of student papers, both graduate and undergraduate, speaks for itself. Researchers from France, Germany, Israel, Canada, Holland, Japan, and North America, tell us how important their time at the Archive has been. They verify that our computerized indexing is essential for their work and of enormous assistance in locating appropriate research material.

Not every student can visit the site of the camps; however, everyone can meet a survivor or witness, whether in person or through the video testimonies. Using our materials is challenging. It takes more time and effort than printed sources alone. I asked a student this year why she had chosen to do her term paper based on Archive holdings when it was not a course requirement. "This is real. Until I viewed these testimonies, it was all abstract, a historical event that occurred such a long time ago. I am telling every one of my friends to come up here and watch something, anything."

Joanne W. Rudof

### *At Yale*

Patricia Joplin, of the English Department screened edited testimonies, in her seminar "Literature and the Scapegoat." Faculty member Tracy Seeley worked with Archive staff to identify testimonies for her seminar "Remembering Ourselves: Memory, Narrative and Culture." Joanne Rudof presented edited testimonies in Mary Felstiner's Yale College Seminar "Interpreting the Holocaust." A final paper based on the testimonies was required. Testimony was used with Aharon Appelfeld's course on Holocaust Literature. Deborah Dwork's "Jewish Children in Nazi Europe" included a session about the Archive, its work and holdings, and required a paper based on viewing a testimony. Paula Hyman's "Historical Perspectives on the Holocaust" used the Archive's resources and several students based their final papers on testimonies in the Video Archive. A session on the Archive is part of the annual orientation for new library staff.

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*Excerpt from the late President Giamatti's letter to Geoffrey Hartman  
authorizing the eventual establishment of the Archive.*

*October 7, 1980*

I am pleased to express to you and your colleagues the University's strong interest in assisting the Holocaust Survivors Film Project in establishing an archive of videotapes and other materials on the Holocaust. I believe that, although the archive should be accessible to a broad public, this collection should be viewed as a national resource for scholarly research and, directly and through the research that it may sustain, as a resource for teaching in a number of fields. To achieve this end, the archive should be located within a major research university with a library system capable of meeting the needs of such special collections.

Yale is such a place, possessing an internationally renowned library which attracts and serves researchers from all parts of this country and abroad. The Yale University Library is precisely the kind of environment necessary to the maintenance and growth of the archive....

My purpose in writing is to applaud your efforts and indicate Yale's sincere interest in encouraging the establishment and growth of this archive as an international research resource. I look forward to a fruitful collaboration.