

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2003

Contact: Janet Keller
818/777-4999
janetk@vhf.org

**GREENWICH LIBRARY UNVEILS COLLECTION
OF LOCAL HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TESTIMONIES**

Second Shoah Foundation Collection at a Public Library

Greenwich, CT; October 22, 2003 – The videotaped interviews of eight Holocaust survivors and witnesses who live in Greenwich were unveiled today by the Greenwich Library. This is the second regional collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies available for viewing at a public library in the United States. The Shoah Foundation's archive of nearly 52,000 eyewitness testimonies is the largest collection of videotaped Holocaust testimonies in the world.

"The opening of this collection is a significant milestone for the Shoah Foundation as it enters as its 10th year," said Dr. Douglas Greenberg, president and CEO. "It has always been the Foundation's intention to return the testimonies to the communities from which they were gathered. It may sound as though eight testimonies out of an archive of 52,000 is a relatively small number. But every one of those stories is a miracle."

Kimberly Birbrower, Shoah Foundation Director of Education, spoke at a ceremony marking the opening of the collection. "There is tremendous power in using the familiar medium of video to teach the lessons of history to young people. Each testimony is a living, breathing reminder of the consequences of hate," she said. "And it is particularly compelling for young people to have a survivor look them in the eye and say: 'this happened to me.'"

Michael Bobkoff, Chairman, Department of Humanities, Westchester Community College, also addressed the guests, which included local Holocaust survivors whose testimonies are included in the Collection.

The collection was made possible through a generous gift to the Shoah Foundation by the Bonheim family in honor of Dr. Nelson Bonheim, a local resident. "By making the testimonies of local Holocaust survivors and witnesses available to the public, the Bonheim family is helping to teach future generations about the evils of racism and bigotry in the modern world," said Greenberg.

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in 1994. Since then, the Foundation has videotaped testimonies in 56 countries and in 32 languages. Today, the Shoah Foundation endeavors to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies. To this end, the Foundation partners with organizations around the world to incorporate testimonies into classroom lessons and museum exhibits, to create educational products, and to preserve, and provide access to, the entire visual history archive.

Individuals interested in supporting the Shoah Foundation are encouraged to call 818/777-4673 or write to PO Box 3168, Los Angeles, California, 90078-3168. For more information, visit the Foundation's homepage at www.vhf.org.

The Greenwich Library is located at 101 W. Putnam Avenue (Rte. 1, Boston Post Road), in Greenwich, CT 06830. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Phone: Info/Reference (203) 622-7910. Public Information Office: 203-625-6550.

#

