A BRIEF BACKGROUND

The goal of the Holocaust Survivor Film Project is to make permanent record of the recollections of Connecticut area residents who survived the Nazi Holocaust.

The HSFP concept was developed in the spring of 1979 by Laurel Vlock and Dr. Dori Laub. They recognized that the time was right to approach survivors of the Holocaust and invite them to film their memories. In May of that year, Mrs. Vlock and Dr. Laub, with the support of numerous members of the New Haven community, began their filming. In the fall, the HSFP received a grant from the New Haven Foundation which has supplied necessary funds for more extensive filming which is now underway. In addition, the project directors will use some of the funds to produce an educational film for the New Haven public schools.

DORI LAUB, PROJECT CODIRECTOR AND SURVIVOR

Dori Laub, project co-director of the HSFP, is eminently qualified for the role. Not only is he a Yale University psychiatrist with sterling credentials, but a Holocaust survivor as well.

To Dr. Laub, this project is "mostly a breaking down of walls between people, survivors or non survivors, who have been profoundly affected by what happened to the Jewish people. This recording of painful and personal histories on videocassette is one way to share something with members of our community or family and as such is the building of a meaningful bridge."

Born in Rumania in 1937, Dr. Laub spent two years in the camps of Transnistria into which the Jews of Rumania were deported. He emigrated to Israel in 1950.

Dr. Laub, con't.

Dr. Laub received his medical degree from Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School, and served in the Israeli Army. In 1966, Dr. Laub came to the U.S. to continue his studies, first at Boston and then at Yale in 1970. He is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University, Associate Director of Mental Health Training at Connecticut Valley Hospital and has a part-time private practice.

Speaking about the HSFP, Dr. Laub says, "I hope these histories, these videotaped remembrances of Jewish life in Europe and its subsequent apocalyptic destruction during the Holocaust will help us to gain a clear sense of our background, and the legacy we must impart to our children so that they are less prone to look for their identity in other cultures; so that they will cherish their own heritage and begin to understand the cruel complexity of a world that allowed this to happen.

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER:

APRIL 9, 8 p.m. on Channel 5: Holocaust survivors living in New York speak out.

APRIL 10, 7:30 p.m. Film of excerpts from New Haven survivor histories and panel discussion at The New Haven Jewish Community Center. First public showing.

LAUREL'S TRAVELS

Because the project has drawn nationwide acclaim and interest, the idea of videotaping survivors' stories has spread to other cities. The project co-directors hope the (con't. on page 2)
LAUREL'S TRAVELS (con't.)

New Haven format will serve as a model for other communities. During the past year, Laurel Vlock, co-director of the HSFP and a nationally known film and television producer, has travelled to such diverse places as Palm Beach, Florida, Norfolk, Virginia, Boston, Massachusetts and Israel—wherever there were survivors and the means to record their stories. While in Israel, Mrs. Vlock was able to explain her work to the President of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, who requested and received a tape. Both Prime Minister Begin and Yitzhak Arad, Director of Yad Vashem, offered their support. In addition, The Jerusalem Post wrote a long article in explanation and praise of this effort.

WHO ARE THE INTERVIEWEES OF THE HSFP?

The people being interviewed are survivors of the Holocaust from Germany, Poland, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Hungary. Some were in concentration or extermination camps, including Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Bergen-Belsen, Sobibor, and Transnistria. Others left Germany and German-occupied territories through 1941. Some were hidden with families, in orphanages or in the woods; others fought in the Resistance. There are both Jewish and non-Jewish subjects being interviewed.

Thus far, about 70 individuals and 12 couples (husband-wife, mother-daughter, sisters) have been interviewed—eighteen before and grant and the rest since. The taping is presently scheduled to continue through April.

For the interviewees, the project affords a rare opportunity to re-examine and understand their experiences through the perspective of time. Although the interviews are difficult emotionally, they provide a release for many from what has been an inexpressible burden and an opportunity to record for posterity their personal experiences of this most devastating event.

For the convenience of the survivors and their families the Jewish Community Center will make available a machine to view their tapes in the privacy of the Center. The logistics of this will be announced in the near future.

HILLEL KLEIN, HOLOCAUST SCHOLAR

Dr. Hillel Klein, who has been helping with the interviewing, is an Israeli psychiatrist at the Yale Child Study Center this year. He has worked on questions related to the Holocaust over many years.

As medical director of a hospital in Jerusalem, Dr. Klein has followed numerous survivors and their children over years of study. Dr. Klein is also involved with an inter-disciplinary professional group in Jerusalem which discusses issues and problems for survivors and their children. Based at the Center of the Study of Traumatization in the Holocaust, the therapists are exploring means by which people cope with this kind of trauma.

Dr. Klein feels often the individual is overwhelmed by the momentousness of the historical event and loses his sense of self. For this reason the therapeutic value of the person-to-person approach demonstrated in the New Haven project cannot be overemphasized. Thus, the experience of recording is important not only historically, but also therapeutically for the person trying to integrate and ventilate his experience. Sensitive interviewers can focus on the person in the experience and to individualize. The interviewers, in their interest in the person, are able to give a stronger sense of the individual self as opposed to some of the drama of the topic and the filming process.

VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THE HSFP SUCCESSFUL

Though Laurel Vlock and Dori Laub are the most visible members of the Holocaust Survivors' Film Project, there are many people working behind the scenes offering various kinds of support whom we would like to acknowledge and thank. Except for a part-time secretary, Jane Mathias, and two crew members—John McCally and Craig Rogers, everyone involved in the project is a volunteer, donating many hundreds of hours of service and facilities.

The organizations which have been particularly supportive include the New Haven Jewish Federation, the Connecticut AntiDefamation League, the Farband and Southern Connecticut Community College. Very special thanks must be extended to Mr. Ciaburri, President of the Bank of New Haven, and Mr. Barone, the building superintendent.

In addition, Yale University, Wesleyan University and The President's Commission on (con't. on page 3)
the Holocaust have all contributed.

The Holocaust Survivors’ Film Project has five main divisions: the Board of Directors; an advisory committee; a consultant committee; an executive board; and a cohesive group of individuals from the community who help to facilitate the scheduling, to manage the public relations and community relations aspects of the project, and to handle the administrative work of the project.

The Board of Directors, whose president is William Rosenberg, is composed of people from the New Haven area and beyond: Danielle Kinstlinger, Vice President; Melvin Ditman, Secretary; Ludwig Friedenberg, Treasurer; Abraham Brodach; Philip Felig, M.D.; Gerald Fishbone, M.D.; Geoffrey Hartman, Ph.D.; Doris Laub, M.D.; Rebecca Milekowsky; Miriam Pouzzner; Laurel Vlock; Malcolm Webber and Leon Weinberg.

The Advisory Committee is composed almost exclusively of survivors who live in the New Haven area: Jack Einbinder; Linda Kantor; Aaron Rosenblatt; Esther Sal; Stanley Swimmer; Zelig Telis; and Leon Zamkov.

The Consultant Committee includes Geoffrey Hartman, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Yale; Peter Gay, Ph.D., professor in the department of history; Philip Hallie, Ph.D., professor in the department of philosophy and the humanities at Wesleyan; Hillel Klein, M.D., professor at Hadassah Medical School; Albert Solnit, M.D., Director of the Child Study Center at Yale; and Hillel Seidel, member of the Israeli Knesset in Jerusalem.

The Executive Board is four strong: Doris Laub; Laurel Vlock; Geoffrey Hartman; and Malcolm Webber. This group is the one which grapples most directly with the daily problems and challenges of the project.

Special appreciation must be extended to the volunteer staff who have been largely responsible for the success of this phase of the project. These include Paula Thier, Project Coordinator; Annette Levine, who recruited and scheduled survivors; Ruth Lesser, who contributed publicity and who helped Annette; Cynthia Pincus, who scheduled the interviewers. The mental health interviewers include: Annette Auerhahn; Eva Benda; Marilyn Blum; Rosemary Balsam; Iza Erlich; Don Grinder; Hillel Klein; Miriam Pouzzner; Harvey Rubin; and Paul Schwebber. Harriet Leveridge was responsible for public relations; Danielle Kinstlinger and Harriet Cooper worked jointly in community relations, selecting houses and audiences for the first edited film screenings; Sydney Lichtenstein contributed to the organization and administration of the project; Dana Klein assisted with research and oral history projects; Helene Rosenberg and Marcia Barnestein helped with support at the tapings.

Recent staff additions include Sam Kravitt, a retired nationally known film maker, and Larry Wapnick, who will be assisting in both an organizational and fund raising capacity.

HSFP - WHAT NEXT?

The initial phase of the Holocaust Survivors’ Film Project will end soon. Videotaping of New Haven area survivors will be complete by the end of April. The project co-directors, much encouraged by the support and response of the community, see this work continuing to grow in other communities.

The second phase of the New Haven project is the production of an educational film for the public schools.

After this, the project directors see continuing the archiving and cataloguing of survivors’ histories in the U.S. and Israel. From this raw material, many research and educational possibilities are conceivable.

After April, there are many immediate roles for volunteers who wish to continue with the project as well as for new people who wish to join and offer their skills and expertise. Specific tasks include cataloguing and cross-indexing the tapes; making the films available for private viewing by the survivors; and developing ways of working the Holocaust into school curriculums. Interested persons should contact Paula Thier at 389-6205.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Don’t forget the television show on Ch. 5, April 9 at 8 p.m. and the April 10 film and panel discussion at the Jewish Community Center 1136 Chapel St. at 7:30 p.m. This is the first time an edited film version of the New Haven survivors’ stories will be open to the public. There will be no charge.
NEW HAVEN FOUNDATION GRANT

As previously announced a grant by the New Haven Foundation provided the HSFP with funds to continue filming survivors of the Holocaust and to develop their testimonies into an educational film for the New Haven School System. During the Winter and Spring of 1980, Dr. Dori Laub and Ms. Laurel Vlock developed a film crew and core of volunteers completely dedicated to the project. By the end of May, due to their efforts, over 100 survivors had been interviewed and their stories permanently recorded on videotape. During the Fall and Winter months the directors spent an enormous amount of time developing the final product: a film designed to carry the message of those who survived to today's young people in urban high schools. The New Haven Foundation has now given HSFP a special grant to fund the first public showing of this film.

A DATE TO REMEMBER

Monday, May 4, 1981  7:30 P.M.

"About the Holocaust"

At: Sheridan Middle School, 191 Fountain St., New Haven

The first public showing of the film made for the New Haven School System by the HSFP.

THE HSFP and YALE UNIVERSITY

Yale University has announced a Development Drive to expand its Judaic Studies program. Funds are being sought for three professorships, for a fulltime library curator and book acquisitions, and for a visiting professor from Israel or other centers of Jewish learning. Associated with the Development Drive, as a special project, is the funding of an historical archive to house the HSFP videotape testimonies of Holocaust survivors. The Archive will also accept documents, photographs, and other historical and research materials on the 1933-1945 period.
The purpose of the HSFP-Yale Archive is not only to document the attempted destruction of European Jewry, but also to present their rich pre-Holocaust life and culture. In addition, it is hoped that workshops could transmit HSFP expertise to community representatives elsewhere, so that each major city with Holocaust survivors might initiate their own HSFP organization. The Archive will, of course, be invaluable for future scholarship on the Holocaust and its aftermath, and will provide basic data for the creation of educational films.

The primary responsibility for funding the Archive, including the services of a fulltime curator and supporting staff, lies with the HSFP.

We are therefore launching an appeal to:

1) Make HSFP operational ($30,000)
2) Duplicate present holdings of videotapes ($10,000)
3) Permanently endow the Yale Archive

We appeal to you for a tax exempt donation. We are enclosing the following schedule of costs to acquaint you with our needs and to allow you to specify where your gift should be used.

-- To duplicate one tape: $ 50
-- To make five duplicates of a tape: * $250
-- To videotape one survivor (up to 2 hours): $300
-- To purchase equipment for taping or community display: $100 - $1,000
-- To edit a one-half hour television film program: $5,000
-- To help endow the Yale-HSFP Archive: $100 - $1,000

* Five copies of each original tape are needed to preserve the mastertape and to allow for possible distribution of films to the following institutions: Yad Vashem or Haifa University; The President's Commission on the Holocaust; Yale University; and the participating survivor and family.

Please note: For the purposes of this campaign donations of $500 or more are considered Major Gifts. These gifts can be made in the name of another person or persons whom the donor wishes to commemorate. The HSFP and Yale are non-profit institutions and can accept transfer gifts of Israel Bonds.

Contributions should be made out to HSFP, Inc. and should be sent to:

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS FILM PROJECT, INC.
904 Howard Avenue, New Haven, Conn. 06519

NAME ______________________________

ADDRESS ______________________________

ZIP __________________

AMOUNT ________________________ TO BE USED FOR: ____________________________
OUR DIRECTORS

On March 10, 1981 LAUREL VLOCK was awarded an Emmy for her documentary "Forever Yesterday" which was produced by HSFP in cooperation with WNEW-TV, New York. New Haven and greater New York viewers watched this program on April 9, 1980, and it has subsequently aired in major cities throughout the United States.

On January 8, 1981, Channel 5 in Boston aired a documentary based on the testimonies of survivors now living in that city. She has completed "Flight from Destiny", narrated by Yale History Professor Peter Gay, which tells the stories of the European Jews who fled aboard the ship, The St. Louis, and those who fled to Shanghai. This film will be released in the near future.

Ms. Vlock's other films in progress include: interviews with Walter Laqueur, author of The Terrible Secret: Suppression of the Truth About Hitler's "Final Solution", which deals with the U.S. State Department's role during the Hitler era; and a documentary dealing with the quality of the survivors' lives in the concentration camps. This latter film stresses their attempts to maintain the culture and heritage of their faith.

DR. DORI LAUB has accepted guest speaking requests from several universities, among them The Hahnemann Medical School, The University of Hartford, and Wesleyan University. Using film clips from HSFP videotaping, he has lectured widely on the psychological effects of the Holocaust.

Dr. Laub has also been a guest speaker in a series of April 1981 seminars sponsored jointly by the greater New Haven Jewish Community Center, and the New Haven Jewish Federation on "The Media and the Message: How Television and Films Use and Abuse the Holocaust."

Yale Professor GEOFFREY HARTMAN has published an article in the March/April issue of Moment magazine as part of a symposium on "The Meaning and Demeaning of the Holocaust." Moment is a monthly magazine of Jewish issues, founded by Leonard Fein and Elie Wiesel.

Professor Hartman has also been recently appointed Special Advisor to Elie Wiesel, Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

1981 YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE

Mrs. RENEE HARTMAN will again chair the Yom Hashoah observance to be held Sunday, May 3 at 2:30 P.M. at the New Haven Memorial to the Six Million. This event brings together thousands of people to pay homage to the memory of those who died in the Holocaust.

THE WORLD GATHERING

June 15 - 18, 1981 will be a period of special significance for Jewish people throughout the world. It will be the occasion for all the Holocaust survivors to gather together in the Holy City of Jerusalem. Highlights of the three days of events will be televised and, via satellite, will be broadcast live over all 200 Public Broadcasting Systems nationwide. In addition, the original tapes will be deposited with the HSFP.
NATIONAL JEWISH TELEVISION

On December 8, 1980 the National Jewish Television service was launched by Laurel Vlock and New York producer Joel Levitch. This venture is dedicated to the presentation of programs of interest to the Jewish audience and to serve as a communications link for the Jewish communities nationwide. The first program featured news correspondent David Schoenbrun as co-host with Ms. Vlock, and interviews with Eugene Rostow, Elie Wiesel and Ernest Michel, among others. Beginning May 10th, programs will be appearing every Sunday from noon to 4:00 P.M. on cable television networks throughout the country. News, interviews, holiday specials and feature films will be offered.