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*Newsletter* SPRING 1987

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## Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale

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### Report of the Advisor

The Archive will mark its Fifth Anniversary this coming October. Through the original Holocaust Survivors Film Project deposit, our own videotaping, and that of our seventeen affiliates, we are now the curator of one thousand registered testimonies. We have initiated a new phase of "creative frame" taping to describe the experiences of special groups, such as the deaf; to explore the interaction of survivors and their children; to follow up themes from previous testimonies and to clarify the effect of time on memory. We continue, of course, to welcome every survivor or witness who wishes to be videotaped, and we plan a search for populations, such as Greek survivors, who are underrepresented in the Archive.

However important it is to bear witness and preserve these memories, we decided from the start that the Yale Archive would not be a collection "on the shelf." Housed in the major research library of Yale University, it should be used for educational purposes. Since my report of two years ago, we have made significant progress to that end. We now offer to schools and community groups fifteen short films centering on excerpts from the testimonies. The Museum of the Diaspora in Israel, whose testimony project we helped to organize four years ago, has also completed three important documentaries.

A major undertaking is the preparation of a unit on the Holocaust for high schools. Facing History and Ourselves, a Boston based educational foundation, is using the Yale histories as the core of a program consisting of testimony excerpts, a Teachers' Manual and teacher training workshops. We expect that the Facing History-Yale Archive effort will make a significant difference to secondary schools in this country.

A collection such as ours needs a comprehensive catalogue. As our supporters know, we have launched an ambitious technical venture to index all testimonies and to enter them into the RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) national bibliographic database. The task of viewing the tapes and summarizing them both for an initial RLIN entry, then in time-coded detail for our internal finding aid, is an enormous one requiring a great deal of stamina, sensitivity and gradually acquired competence. We also wish to "proof" the testimonies, that is, to have factual inaccuracies or lapses of memory noted. We intend to publish a first and partial index before the end of 1988, but to inventory and index the entire collection will take years beyond that.

In May 1986, "An Evening with Claude Lanzmann" was attended by 750 participants. Mr. Lanzmann's visit to Yale included a University-wide symposium. The benefit was or-



*Survivors and survivors of children  
meeting with their parents at Columbia forty years later*

### An Evening with Claude Lanzmann

For the benefit of The Video Archive for Holocaust  
Testimonies at Yale.

Sunday, May 4th-7:30 p.m.  
Sprague Memorial Hall, Yale University

ganized by a New Haven committee formed in the Fall of 1985 to support the Video Archive. Chaired by Barbara Wareck, the committee had the enthusiastic assistance of the New Haven Jewish Federation. In November 1985, a conference, "The Holocaust: Challenges to Education," drew participants from many areas of the United States. I am pleased to report that the New Haven Symphony will give a benefit concert for the Archive and other educational programs, and that WTNH-TV, channel 8, will devote two hours of prime time television to this event and to the work of the Archive.