

Fortunoff Video Archive
for Holocaust Testimonies
Yale University

TENTH ANNIVERSARY
Donor Reception
Patron Dinner
Monday, December 7, 1992

The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies is dedicated to the recording, collection and preservation of videotaped oral testimonies of survivors and witnesses, and to the educational and research use of such testimonies.

In 1979 a project was undertaken by a Connecticut TV specialist, Laurel Vlock, and a survivor, Connecticut psychiatrist Dr. Dori Laub, based on the premise that the medium of video could be used successfully to document the personal memories of Holocaust witnesses. This undertaking led to the formation of a grass roots organization, the Holocaust Survivors Film Project, Inc. It brought together survivors, under the leadership of William Rosenberg; academic consultants led by Yale Professor Geoffrey Hartman; and other community members committed to this urgent task. Their efforts resulted in an initial collection of more than 200 videotaped testimonies.

In 1981 all the original tapes were formally deposited at Yale University. The following year, with the aid of a start-up grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Video Archive was founded as part of the University's Sterling Memorial Library, an internationally recognized research center. The Archive opened in the fall of 1982. A major gift to endowment by Alan A. Fortunoff in 1987 established the Archive in perpetuity at Yale.

The collection numbers over 2,600 testimonies, crucial documents for the education of students and community groups in an increasingly audio-visual era. Each tape, of broadcast quality, is made under the supervision of a professional and supportive team. Testimonies from affiliate projects throughout North America, France, Belgium, Yugoslavia, England and Israel are included. Cataloged and cross-referenced, the tapes are an important addition to the oral and written history of the period. The Fortunoff Video Archive, by preserving these testimonies in a central research library, has created a living memorial to counteract forgetfulness, ignorance and malicious denial.

The accomplishments of the past ten years have been made possible by all those who have contributed so generously to our effort through individual donations and volunteer work.

Donor Reception 5:30 PM

Geoffrey Hartman,
Faculty Advisor

William Rosenberg,
Chair, Friends Committee

Barbara Wareck,
Chair, Friends Committee

Elie Wiesel

Patron Dinner 7:00 PM

Geoffrey Hartman, *Faculty Advisor*

Leon Weinberg, *Friends Committee,*
Dinner Chair

Howard R. Lamar, *Acting President*

Elie Wiesel