

# Guide to the Holocaust Survivors Film Project Records

MS 1909



compiled by Stephen Naron

September 2009

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Associated Materials .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	10

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1909

**CREATOR:** Holocaust Survivors Film Project

**TITLE:** Holocaust Survivors Film Project records

**DATES:** 1978-1986

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Holocaust Survivors Film Project (HSFP) was a grass roots project to videotape testimony of survivors. The records document the establishment of the project and its growth from a volunteer effort to an established academic research collection, now known as the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, at the Yale University Library. The collection includes administrative and financial records, such as correspondence, press releases, meeting minutes, grant proposals, pamphlets, and clippings.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1909>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1909>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, 2008.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the Holocaust Survivors Film project has been transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu).

Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

## Preferred Citation

Holocaust Survivors Film Project Records (MS 1909). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Associated Materials

Other records related to the Holocaust Survivors Film Project and its successor organization, the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, are maintained by the Yale University Archives in Manuscripts and Archives.

---

## Biographical / Historical

In 1979, a television specialist, Laurel Vlock, and a survivor of the Holocaust, psychiatrist Dr. Dori Laub, launched a project to document the personal memories of Holocaust witnesses using the medium of video. They helped form a grass roots organization, the Holocaust Survivors Film Project (HSFP), together with local survivors, under the leadership of William Rosenberg, academic consultants led by Yale Professor Geoffrey Hartman, and other community members committed to this urgent task. Initially, this group videotaped almost 200 testimonies; produced, with New York's WNEW-TV, *Forever Yesterday*, an Emmy award-winning documentary; and created *About the Holocaust*, a specially prepared documentary for secondary schools. In 1981 Yale University accepted all the original testimony tapes as a formal deposit. The following year, with the aid of a start-up grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Video Archive was established as part of the University's Sterling Memorial Library. Additional information about the HSFP and its successor organization, the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, can be found at the Video Archive's web site: <http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies>.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Holocaust Survivors Film Project (HSFP) was a grass roots project to videotape testimony of survivors. The records document the establishment of the project and its growth from a volunteer effort to an established academic research collection, now known as the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, at the Yale University Library. The collection includes administrative and financial records, such as correspondence, press releases, meeting minutes, grant proposals, pamphlets, and clippings.

Of particular interest is the correspondence between members of the HSFP (particularly Dori Laub, Laurel Vlock, Geoffrey Hartman, Malcolm Webber, Melvin Ditman, and Ludwig Friedenberg) and survivors; grant funding agencies; various affiliate projects and Jewish organizations, such as Yad Vashem; television

stations; scholars of the Holocaust, including Elie Wiesel, Yizhak Arad, and Yehuda Bauer; representatives from the President's Commission on the Holocaust; and potential repositories to house the HSFP tapes.

---

## **Arrangement**

The records follow two arrangements that reflect how they were received. Administrative and financial records are followed by records in an alphabetical filing system. This latter group of records includes generic files and subject files.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-4	Administrative records A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1979-1980
b. 1, f. 5-8	Financial records The financial records include correspondence, particularly with then treasurer Ludwig Friedenber, related to donations and expenditures for HSFP tapings, including pages from an accounting book for the documentary about the New Haven Farband.	1979-1986
Alphabetic files		
b. 1, f. 9	A Correspondence and agreement between the HSFP and Laurel Vlock and Dori Laub.	1979
b. 1, f. 10	<i>About the Holocaust</i> study guide	Circa 1980-1981
b. 1, f. 11	B	1979-1982
b. 1, f. 12	Boston Documents related to establishment and management of an affiliate taping project in Boston, Massachusetts.	1980
b. 1, f. 13	Budget	1979
b. 1, f. 14	By-laws	Circa 1979-1981
b. 1, f. 15	C	1980-1982
b. 1, f. 16-16A	Clippings	1979-1982
b. 1, f. 17	D	1980
b. 1, f. 18	Development of the HSFP Publicity packet, including short history of the project.  A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1979-1980
b. 1, f. 19	F	1980
b. 1, f. 20	Foundations Lists of foundations to which the HSFP applied, or considered applying, for funding.	1978-1981
b. 1, f. 21	Future interviewees Information regarding potential interviewees.	1980-1982

b. 1, f. 22	G Correspondence with Yale President A. Bartlett Giamatti, Itzhak Gottesman, and others.	1979-1981
b. 1, f. 23	Grant proposals	1980
b. 1, f. 24	H	1979-1982
b. 1, f. 25	Hartford Documents related to establishment and management of an affiliate taping project in Hartford, Connecticut, including the production of film <i>The Survivors Among Us</i> , which was screened on public television.	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 1-3	Holocaust Survivors Film Project Agendas, press conferences, organizational charts, newsletters, grant proposals, and a transcript of a presentation given at press conference at the home of William Rosenberg.  A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1979-1981
b. 2, f. 4	Initial prospectus A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1979-1980
b. 2, f. 5	Interviewer psychology Documents related to interviewer methodology and training.	1980
b. 2, f. 6	J	1980
b. 2, f. 7	Jerusalem Concentration Camp Conference Correspondence (some in Hebrew), photographs and documents regarding Dori Laub's participation in the Fourth International Historical Conference in Jerusalem.	1980
b. 2, f. 8	K	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 9	Katherine Engel Center Correspondence related to taping efforts at Katherine Engel Center in New York City, staff lists, taping schedules, and taping procedures.	1981
b. 2, f. 10	Kline, Dana Transcript of interview conducted by and correspondence with Dana Kline.	1980-1982
b. 2, f. 11	L	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 12	Laub, Dori Packet of photocopied correspondence, brochures, and other materials documenting Dori Laub's involvement in the HSFP.  A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1980-1983

b. 2, f. 13	M	1978-1981
b. 2, f. 14	Meeting minutes A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1979-1981
b. 2, f. 15	N Correspondence and photocopy of New Haven Foundation grant proposal submitted in 1979.	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 16	National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities Correspondence, clippings, and other materials related to the submission of an NEH grant.	1979
b. 2, f. 17	Newsletter	1982
b. 2, f. 18	Norfolk Documents related to possibility of establishing an affiliate taping project in Norfolk, Virginia.	1979-1980
b. 2, f. 19	Oral history projects Correspondence with Yehuda Bauer, among others, and photocopies of manuscripts on oral history and the Holocaust.	1979-1980
b. 2, f. 20	P	1979-1981
b. 2, f. 21	Palm Beach Documents related to establishment and management of an affiliate taping project in Palm Beach, Florida.	1980
b. 2, f. 22	Position paper regarding the relevance of the HSFP for New Haven	1979
b. 2, f. 23	Publicity Clippings, photocopies of letters from important community figures, press releases and other materials used to promote the mission of the HSFP.	1979-1983
b. 2, f. 24	R Various correspondence and photocopy of Revson grant proposal.	1981-1982
b. 2, f. 25	Research proposal Paper by Dori Laub suggesting study of survivor adaptation to trauma.	1978
b. 2, f. 26	Résumés Résumés from interviewer candidates.	Circa 1979-1981
b. 2, f. 27	S	1979-1981



b. 2, f. 28-28A	<p><i>St. Louis</i> (German ocean liner) English</p> <p>Photocopies of manuscript materials and photographs, clippings, and correspondence related to two film projects: <i>Flight from Destiny</i>, a documentary about the journey of the ocean liner <i>St. Louis</i>, and a film about the Jewish community of Danzig. Includes a series of articles in German from the periodical <i>Stern</i> about the <i>St. Louis</i>.</p>	1979-1981
b. 2, f. 29	T	1979
b. 2, f. 30	<p>Tape inventory</p> <p>A list of the first wave of testimonies recorded starting in 1979 with short biographical sketches.</p>	1979
b. 2, f. 31	<p>Television programs</p> <p>Correspondence with television stations regarding screenings to documentaries made with HSFP materials.</p>	1979
b. 2, f. 32	<p>Transcripts of Laurel Vlock's tapes</p> <p>Transcriptions of Laurel Vlock describing HSFP.</p>	Circa 1979-1981
b. 2, f. 33	U	1980-1982
b. 2, f. 34	<p>V</p> <p>Memos, budgets, and job descriptions.</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 35	<p>Video Archive</p> <p>Materials related to the establishment of a Video Archive for HSFP testimonies at Yale.</p>	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 36	<p>Video Archive requests</p> <p>Requests from various organizations interested in forming an affiliate with the HSFP/Video Archive.</p>	1982-1983
b. 2, f. 37	Video Archive staffing	1982
b. 2, f. 38	<p>Videotaping</p> <p>Letter from Geoffrey Hartman regarding provision of mental health support to survivors after taping sessions.</p>	1982
b. 2, f. 39	W	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 40	<p>Weiss, Lillian</p> <p>Correspondence between Lillian Weiss and Dori Laub.</p>	1979-1981
b. 2, f. 41	Y	1979-1980

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- Personal narratives  
Holocaust survivors -- Interviews  
Video recording

### **Corporate Body**

Holocaust Survivors Film Project