

Carrying Holocaust Memory Forward



Holocaust survivor Eva Nathanson embraces Matthew Taleghani after hearing him tell her story for the first time.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

For decades, Holocaust survivors have told their stories themselves. Their testimony has shaped how we remember the Holocaust. As the generation of first-hand witnesses leaves us, ensuring that their stories continue to be told becomes our responsibility.

Teach the Shoah's mission is to meet that responsibility.

Our work centers on a simple but powerful idea: that the stories of the Holocaust must continue to be told not only through books and archives, but through people who have taken the time to learn them carefully and share them responsibly.

When testimony is carried from one person to another, it remains living memory.

This year offered many moments that reminded us why this work matters. In our *Lesaper* program, college students interviewed Holocaust survivors and began the careful process of learning to tell their stories. They experienced the extraordinary moment of presenting that testimony to the survivor whose life they had studied — often the first time the survivor had heard their story told by someone else.

At the same time, our trained storytellers continued to bring Holocaust testimony to schools, universities, synagogues, and community organizations, helping audiences encounter the Holocaust not as distant history, but as lived human experience.

The need for this work remains urgent. Antisemitism and Holocaust distortion persist. Personal testimony plays a unique role in confronting both realities, creating human connection in ways that statistics and textbooks cannot.

The pages that follow describe how this work takes place.

I am deeply grateful to the survivors who entrust their stories to us, to the students and storytellers who commit themselves to carrying these stories forward, and to the supporters who make this work possible.

With gratitude,

Deborah Fripp

Executive Director

WHAT WE DO

Our Mission

Teach the Shoah trains people of all ages, generations, and backgrounds to learn and share testimony-based stories of the Holocaust. Through these stories, we build personal connections across generations, faiths, and identities. We confront ignorance and antisemitism through lived human experience.

Storyteller Training Program



With the Storyteller Training Program, we train individuals to craft and share stories drawn from Holocaust testimony with accuracy, context, and care. Storytellers learn to interpret the testimony and to shape these narratives for students and community audiences. In doing so, they help ensure that the voices and experiences of the Holocaust continue to be heard.

Lesaper: From Survivor Memory to Living Teller



In our *Lesaper* program, we pair young adults with Holocaust survivors to learn their stories and carry them forward. Students conduct interviews, study historical context, and develop testimony-based accounts they can share with passion and integrity. In doing so, they become part of a new generation responsible for ensuring that survivors' stories remain present in public life.

Storyteller Bureau



Through our Storyteller Bureau, we place trained storytellers in schools, universities, synagogues, museums, and community organizations. Storytellers engage audiences with testimony-based stories and thoughtful discussions about the Holocaust. In doing so, storytellers help audiences encounter the Holocaust as lived experience — personal, immediate, and human.

BY THE NUMBERS

A snapshot of Teach the Shoah's work

To Date

143

Storytellers trained

Ages 16 to 83

300

Stories carried

Survivors, Victims, Rescuers,
Liberators, and Bystanders

8

Countries represented

US (20 states), Canada, UK, France, Germany,
Israel, South Africa, and Singapore

In 2025

73

Programs presented

At schools, museums, synagogues,
and community organizations

6,900

Audience members reached

Students and community audiences

34

New storytellers trained

Through public programs and
partner organizations



From Survivor Memory to Living Teller

Lesaper 2025 Cohort



Gabriella Karin and
Taylor O'Neil



Gitta Morris & Monika White
and Rowan Fripp



Henry Slucki and
Avery Epperson



Eva Nathanson and
Matthew Taleghani



Elly Rubin and
Sonia Chiappe



Joe Samuels and
Gabe Schraer

In the *Lesaper* program, college students and recent graduates work directly with Holocaust survivors to learn and carry their stories forward. Through interviews, research, and conversation, students come to understand not only what happened, but how the survivor remembers and interprets those experiences.

Each student takes responsibility for learning one life story carefully and faithfully. Over the course of the program, they prepare to present that testimony publicly.

The program culminates in a presentation where every student tells the survivor's story in front of the survivor whose life they have studied.

At the end of their presentation, each student turns to the survivor and says:

**“I promise to keep your memory
and tell your story.”**

Survivors who have spent decades recounting their experiences with remarkable composure sometimes find themselves overcome as they hear their story entrusted to the next generation.

In that moment, the story is no longer carried by one person alone.

“It’s a strange thing to hear my own life
from someone else’s mouth.

Being with you these past two weeks,
I feel that you are part of my family now.”

— *Eva Nathanson to Matthew Taleghani*

WHEN SURVIVORS CAN NO LONGER SPEAK

Storyteller Bureau

Teach the Shoah's Storyteller Bureau brings trained storytellers into schools, universities, synagogues, museums, and community organizations. By connecting tellers with venues and audiences, the Bureau helps ensure that Holocaust testimony continues to be heard in public settings.

These presentations allow audiences to encounter the Holocaust through personal story rather than abstraction alone. What might otherwise feel distant becomes immediate, human, and specific.

When survivors can no longer speak for themselves, their stories do not disappear. We carry them forward and bring them to new audiences with historical accuracy and deep respect.

Carrying the Story Forward: Michelle Ultmann

Since joining Teach the Shoah in 2024, Michelle has brought the Holocaust story of her mother, Ruth Erna Lichtenstein Layton Ultmann, to more than 700 students and adults across western Pennsylvania. Michelle tells the story of her mother's survival on the Kindertransport with clarity and love. After her mother's death this year, Michelle's work as a storyteller has taken on added meaning: she now carries forward a story her mother can no longer tell herself.



In the Classroom

"The value of the storytelling was incalculable."

— *High school teacher*

One student reflected that she had always known the Holocaust was a terrible historical event, but hearing the story in the first person helped her grasp its enormity for the first time and feel real empathy for those who lived through it.

**The stories are carried forward,
person to person.**

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS NOW

Testimony-based storytelling today

We believe empathy is the most powerful tool against hate.

Across the world, antisemitism and other forms of hatred are once again becoming more visible in public life. For many people, the Holocaust can feel distant — something confined to textbooks, museums, or the past.

The Holocaust was not an abstract historical event. It was the lived experience of millions of individuals whose lives, families, and communities were forever changed. When we encounter those experiences through personal testimony, history becomes human.

Testimony-based stories create understanding in ways that facts alone cannot. When audiences hear the story of one person's life — their choices, fears, losses, and in some cases survival — they begin to see the consequences of hatred more clearly.

By helping people encounter the Holocaust through individual stories, Teach the Shoah works to build that empathy across generations, communities, and identities.



The Next Generation of Storytellers: Dylan Rauseo

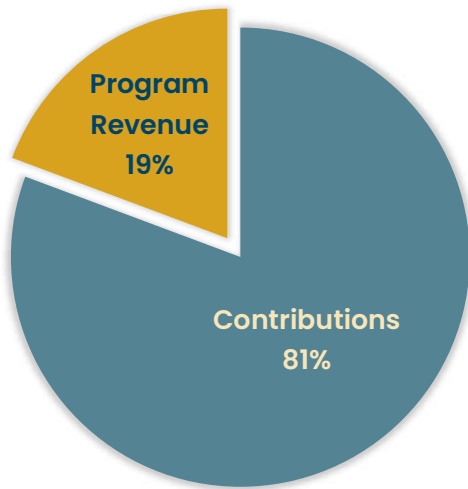
At just 16, Dylan is already helping carry Holocaust testimony to new audiences. A student at The Park School of Baltimore, Dylan tells the story of his great-grandmother who survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Working with Teach the Shoah, he developed her story into a live presentation that he now shares with audiences, helping ensure that her experiences—and those of her generation—are not forgotten.

One high school coordinator reflected that in a time of growing divisiveness, Holocaust storytelling helps students to see the human face behind the horror and to commit themselves to making positive change:

**“You put a face to an unimaginable atrocity.
Each of you gifts us with truth.”**

2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

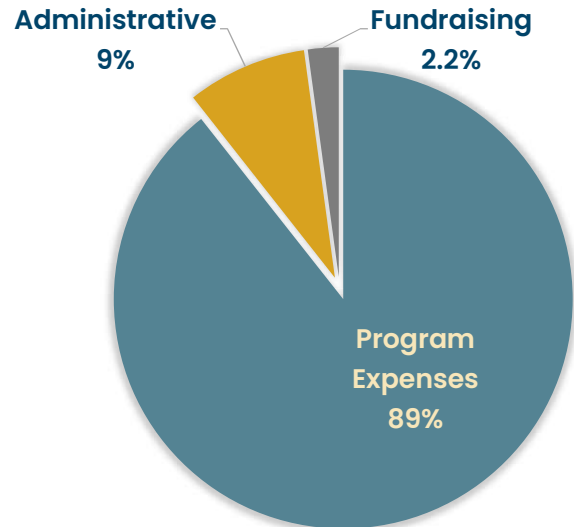
Revenue



Total Revenue: \$79,492

- ❖ Contributions: \$64,159
- ❖ Program Revenue: \$15,333

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$106,911

- ❖ Program Expenses: \$95,553
- ❖ Administrative: \$9,046
- ❖ Fundraising: \$2,311

Year-End Net Assets: -\$4,690

Program growth in 2025 outpaced revenue growth, resulting in a year-end deficit. We are focused on strengthening fundraising and rebuilding reserves in 2026 to support continued program expansion.

Teach the Shoah remains primarily supported by individual donors. We are working to broaden our base of support to ensure long-term sustainability.

Public Support Percentage: 49% (509(a)(2))

OUR DONORS

We are grateful to every donor who makes this work possible.

Guardians of Memory (\$10,000+)

Drs. Ginny & Joe (z"l) Redish
Drs. Michael & Deborah Fripp

Pillars of Memory (\$1000+)

Dr. Richard & Claudia Andorsky
Paul Dietz
Drs. Gilbert & Rona Eisner
Dorothy Gold and Jim Wolf
In memory of Iris and Noe Guerra

Dena Hirsh
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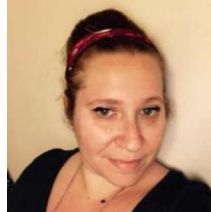
LEADERSHIP

Teach the Shoah is guided by a volunteer board and supported by a small professional staff.

Staff



Dr. Deborah Fripp
Executive Director
Singapore



Lynne Feldman
Director of Holocaust Scholarship
Tel Aviv, Israel



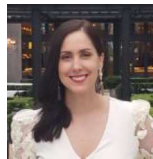
Violet Neff-Helms
Senior Storytelling Director
Marietta, TX



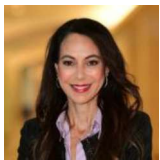
Cathy Polakoff
Storytelling Director
Coppell, TX



Cantor Karen Webber
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Jenna Price
Storyteller Bureau Manager
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Jessica Silverman
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Staff members who also serve on the Board of Directors receive no compensation for their board service.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the number of living Holocaust survivors continues to decline, the responsibility to carry their stories forward becomes even more urgent. Teach the Shoah was founded to prepare people to learn, preserve, and share these testimonies with care. We will continue to grow this work in the coming years.

Expanding the Storyteller Bureau

Bringing trained storytellers to schools, museums, and community organizations in new locations

Growing the *Lesaper* Program

Pairing more students with Holocaust survivors and launching cohorts in new communities

Reaching Wider Public Audiences

Introducing new programs that engage the public with Holocaust storytelling, both online and in person

Strengthening Philanthropic Support

Building the donor and institutional partnerships that sustain and grow this work

The future of remembrance is already taking shape in the next generation of storytellers.



Los Angeles Lesaper Cohort 1 Survivors, Fellows, & Instructors

**These stories continue
because people choose
to carry them forward.**

Founded in 2018, Teach the Shoah prepares people to learn, preserve, and share Holocaust testimony through storytelling.

www.TeachTheShoah.org

