

# WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE - AN INITIATIVE

## MISSION

The Mission of **WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE**® is to present the arts and culture that were created during the Holocaust as an educational tool and acting as a lesson of the past to be carried and revised to the present. Emphasizing the message of moral courage and acceptance, we will present compelling exhibitions and performances in the realms of music, visual arts and literature.

The focus of this project is to:

- Showcase the astonishing creativity of Shoah composers, artists and writers, despite the brutality and inhumane conditions under which they produced their work.
- Give voice to those silenced Shoah artists and to enable them to be heard today.
- Honor our Holocaust survivors through this unique programming.
- Offer this project as a model for others to adapt and emulate.
- Transmit the lessons of the Shoah from the generations who still live in its shadow to future generations.

OUR VISION: **WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE?** will become a widely used EDUCATIONAL TOOL to combat HATE. Through the inspiration of the arts and culture created during the Holocaust, we aspire to teach the LESSONS OF MORAL COURAGE in order to further the goals of RESPECT, ACCEPTANCE and PEACE within and across communities.

This vision seeks to assist in building a world in which all persons flourish through the respect and value of every individual and group, and their right to live in a just and peaceful world, a world of UNITY and LOVE.



Logo designed by my Granddaughter, Yvette B. 10 years old

**VIEWING LINKS FOR THE "CARRY ON" TRAILER and DOCUSERIES**

WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE CARRY ON TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/503705234>

WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE CARRY ON DOCUSERIES

<https://vimeo.com/490944805>

WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE DOCUSERIES CHANNEL

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1793205>

### SELECTION OF WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE EVENTS LINKS

The following virtual events were presented by WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE

**JANUARY 20, VIRTUAL EVENT - UCSD** [Geisel Library, Seuss Room](#)

**“Jackie Gmach and the Sephardic Experience: Between Two Worlds**

**[Jackie Gmach and the Sephardic Experience: Between Two Worlds | Library Digital Collections | UC San Diego Library \(ucsd.edu\)](#)**

### 2021 WTL PREVIOUS VIRTUAL EVENTS

- April 30 “WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE: CARRY ON” PREVIEW SCREENING  
Viewing Link: <https://youtu.be/bRf98-7Ak4s>
- May 27 SEARCHING FOR THE LOST MUSIC – Francesco Lotoro  
Viewing: <https://wearethetreeoflife.com/videos/searching.mp4>
- JUNE 1 JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH COMPOSERS OF THE HOLOCAUST  
Viewing Link: [https://youtu.be/xt6JNJM\\_To8](https://youtu.be/xt6JNJM_To8)
- JUNE 2 TRANSCENDING REALITY - A virtual exhibit on the artistic works  
Viewing Link: <https://youtu.be/RhkJogFqU8w>
- JUNE 23 THE DANCES OF THE HOLOCAUST – THE ART OF SILENCE – MARCEL MARCEAU IN THE RESISTANCE  
Viewing Link: <https://youtu.be/B6albpVu5mg>

### FALL 2022 WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE PROGRAMS

- **September 6, 4:00 PM: Presented by USC Shoah Foundation - VIRTUAL CARRY-ON EPISODES AND SHOES - A dialogue**  
CARRY ON, to give voice to those silenced, Shoah artists, enabling them to be heard today. SHOES, a short film on the Holocaust, or in fact, any Genocide and any dramatic acts of Hate  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0s0mf5q2i48gy1t/Shoes%20Shoah%20Event%20Part1%20.mp4?dl=0>  
SHOAH - SHOES CARRY ON Part2

➤ <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ilbk4a0u78oc6yx/Shoah%20Shoes%20Carry%20On%20Part2.mp4?dl=0>

➤ **October 6, 7:00 PM: Presented by ARTS&IDEAS, LFJCC - LIVE EXPLORING THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH DANCE**

Tammuz Dubnov, dancer, choreographer, and founder of ZUZOR

<https://youtu.be/CPyV9M9TtvU>

➤ **October 24, 2022: VISUALIZING THE PAST, A LESSON OF TODAY**  
"CARRY ON" EPISODES and "SHOES" - Presented by USC Shoah Foundation

[www.wearethetreeoflife.com/videos/ShoesShoahEventPart1.mp4](http://www.wearethetreeoflife.com/videos/ShoesShoahEventPart1.mp4)

➤ **November 16, 7:00 PM: Presented by ARTS&IDEAS, LF JCC LFJCC - LIVE ON WINGS OF SONG**

Sponsored by The Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival.

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/b1qcohbn0xalsjp/IMG\\_9537.MOV?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/b1qcohbn0xalsjp/IMG_9537.MOV?dl=0)

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/qsapi3e3jkms3f9/IMG\\_9522.MOV?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qsapi3e3jkms3f9/IMG_9522.MOV?dl=0)

*Videos for the two links above are unedited and raw.*

<https://www.sdjewishworld.com/2022/11/29/local-performances-spotlight-holocaust-era-composers/>

➤ **January 16, 2023: Presented by Solana Salons, IFAM and WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE IMPROMPTU CONCERT HONORING IEGOR ROMANENKO.**

➤ **February or March 2023: Presented by ARTS&IDEAS, JCC LFJCC - LIVE MUSIC OF THE HOLOCAUST: FROM SURVIVAL TO ETERNITY**

➤ <https://www.sdjewishworld.com/2023/05/17/poets-of-the-past-to-feature-distinguished-holocaust-era-writer-primo-levi-yiddish-composer-bertha-kling/>

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➤ **Working with TAMMUZ DUBNOV - Zuzor - Dancer and Choreographer**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xj6ompgQuI9Nsfd4Hws8yX3obc1GOoLM/view>

## Working with IFAM - WITNESSES - Trilogy

- ❖ Here is the link to Witnesses

<https://vimeo.com/326217336>

Password: Witnesses\_ARK\_2023

- ❖ Working with USC Shoah Foundation

[www.wearethetreeoflife.com/videos/ShoesShoahEventPart1.mp4](http://www.wearethetreeoflife.com/videos/ShoesShoahEventPart1.mp4)

- ❖ WITH YI LOVE JEWISH

<https://youtu.be/GywePEHJPqg>

- ❖ Working on Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis

HUG ME WITH IFAM

<https://youtu.be/vHxlJlkI458>

<https://youtu.be/2S6lfaEnCRA>

WITH COASTAL ROOTS FARMS - Celebrating Tu Be'Shvat - LIVE

WITH PETER YARROW (Peter, Paul and Mary)

<https://vimeo.com/799684684>



- ❖ JEWISH CULTURE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

[\[CHR Presents - WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE - JACKIE GMACH & SAMI STEIGMANN - 9.18.2022 - YouTube\]](#)

[Listen WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE](#)

This song is composed by Yael Gmach,

Courage always finds a plan to a whole new circumstance.  
And would I put out your fire if I saw the chance.  
Your troubles will I soften? Am I you if you ain't me?  
A double truth in front of me.  
Are you sure someone is in your tree?

Love can replace the chair where you're sitting there,  
Too darkened to hear the truth,  
Barely afloat the gates of hell.  
When can we forgive?  
When will we know the winds have blown?

The seeds have grown a new TREE OF LIFE.  
Kindness holds the measure.  
Take a sip of faith from the well of mercy.  
Throw out your fear. To grow a tree of love.

Hope you know what I mean.  
Make your way to say what you want to, in your own time.  
In those days, the notes were silent, now they will be heard.  
In those days, drawings were hidden, today they will be seen.  
In the days of voiceless stories, now their words will be spoken.

Their ways won't be forgotten, let a people hear them.  
Now let' em work it out somehow.  
As we remember the Shoah, so it will never happen again, to you and me.  
My G'd unravel the story  
Tree of life, you and I, WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE.

- **Jacqueline Semha Gmach, Creative Director** Our founder is Jacqueline Gmach. Jacqueline has dedicated her life to the furtherance of Jewish culture. Born in Tunisia, and until the age of 14, she was learning-challenged, unable to read or write with her only desire to be a tomboy. A teacher changed her life by saying: "If you want, YOU CAN," and these words became the inspiration of her life, as she opened doors to the world of knowledge while sharing this compassion with others. Jacqueline is one of the Project Directors for the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, and she previously curated several Jewish events in San Diego, including the renowned San Diego Jewish Book Fair. Jacqueline has authored "From Bomboloni to Bagel: A Story of Two Worlds" and the upcoming novel, "The Antiphony of Love: The Call of The Scroll."

- **Alan G. Markowitz, IMAX® Filmmaker/VFX Producer** As an award-winning industry veteran, with over 40 years of film production experience, Alan specializes in "Giant-Screen" documentaries. His work can be seen in more than 300 film productions exhibited on IMAX® screens, destination cinemas, theme parks, and in special venues around the world. With a long list of successful IMAX® feature film credits, Alan has set the bar for achieving & maintaining the "Gold-Standard" caliber of filmmaking that is essential for the giant screen experience. Alan is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Art & Sciences Tech-History Sub-Committee, a charter member of the Giant Screen Cinema Association (GSCA), and Charter Member of the Visual Effects Society, (VES).

[IMDB Film Credits www.visceralimageprods.com](http://www.visceralimageprods.com)



- **Clint Burkett, Producer** As a multi-award-winning documentary filmmaker, Clint started as a production assistant and Music Supervisor in Hollywood, and at 18, working on psychic phenomena documentaries. Now, with over 30 years working in television and as a documentary filmmaker, video producer and editor, Clint enjoys telling stories that involve music, art, and history. He spent ten years editing local TV News and nine years editing magazine format shows. Some of his most recent work includes a short Documentary about a Dutch Resistance fighter in WWII, the life story of singer-songwriter, Steve White, and a short documentary about Hawaiians from Maui healing the town of Parkland Florida. He's also worked for Soka University on concert documentaries, with many Jazz legends, in an effort to preserve Jazz music. His work has been seen locally and internationally. [IMDB Film Credits](#)  
[www.timelin3studios.com](http://www.timelin3studios.com)



**Jacqueline**



**Alan**



**Clint**

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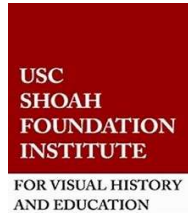




RUTH



OHR SHALOM  
SYNAGOGUE



UC San Diego Theater + Dance

JEWISH CULTURE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

THE SAMUEL AND REBECCA ASTOR JUDAICA LIBRARY

YI LOVE YIDDISH/YI LOVE JEWISH, and Zikaron BaSalon, Jerusalem

are joining our 2018 San Diego Community Wide Initiative!

