

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

**A**wards for exemplary teachers of Jewish education. Translations of survivor testimonies from an archive in Poland that's been essentially untouched for almost sixty years. A virtual think tank dedicated to democracy in the Middle East. An advocacy organization that helps Jewish women obtain gets (writs of divorce). The expansion of a reward program for information leading to the conviction of Nazi war criminals. A Torah lending library. A Jewish women's quarterly that explores the interrelationships of Jewish identity and feminism...

These are just a few of the more than thirty-five projects Targum Shlishi is currently funding. The initiatives we fund are a testament to the many people and organizations working for a better Jewish world and persevering despite difficulties, indifference, and even hostility.

We are living in daunting times – daunting for Israel and for Jews throughout the world. There are challenges being faced in all of the areas Targum Shlishi funds: education, women's issues, Israel, and justice for Nazi war crimes. At times these challenges can seem overwhelming. The state of Jewish education is dismal; women are still struggling for equality in many aspects of Jewish life; Israel is besieged with terrorist attacks and with an unprecedented lack of international support; and as the murderers age, there is less support for bringing remaining Nazi war criminals to justice.

What difference can thirty-five projects annually make?

We at Targum Shlishi believe that even one modest project can make a difference if it is effective. One innovative lesson plan can be something a child remembers for his/her entire life; one meeting of Kolot's Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!, a support group for adolescent girls, can help girls feel a sense of community and acceptance at a crucial time in their lives; one article on Israel published in *New Voices* may deepen or even change readers' views on Israel...and there's a domino effect. We have the ability to be flexible and creative in the projects we fund, and at times to go out on a limb for programs we believe in.

Our goal is to fund (and often initiate) projects we feel will create positive change. We actively seek out ways to use technology effectively. One example of a project that combines our interest in technology with our goal of making a difference is our funding of website improvements for Yad Eliezer, an Israeli program that provides a myriad of services, including food, to indigent families and individuals. The people involved are so dedicated and the program is so busy that funding tends to go straight to food. However, we specified that our support be applied to improving the website, in an effort to improve online representation and, eventually, online efforts to solicit funding.

Highlights from the past year include Operation Last Chance, which offers \$10,000 for information leading to the conviction of a Nazi war criminal and has made a significant impact to date. While nothing to do with this project will ever be cause for celebration, we have been pleased with the response. As of July 2004, the Wiesenthal Center had received names of 286 suspected Nazi war criminals from the countries where the program's been introduced: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, and Romania. Regrettably, Nazi war criminal Bodgan Koziy died in November 2003 as he was finally facing extradition from Costa Rica to Poland. We had worked for many years to bring Koziy to justice.

*Current Projects* lists our projects and includes financial information, in response to requests from readers of our previous publication, released last year, which was an overview of projects funded during our first decade. What you'll find here, though, is more than a simple list of project descriptions – *Current Projects* is, bottom line, a reflection of our hopes for a better present and future and a record of our efforts to realize those hopes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aryeh Rubin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aryeh Rubin

Hoshana Rabba 5765  
October 6, 2004  
Aventura, FL