



February 26, 2009

Deborah A. Batiste
Project Director, *Echoes and Reflections*

Dear Deborah,

Although several weeks have passed since I returned home—and hit the ground running with the new semester—I find myself continuing to process all that I learned and experienced during the amazing week in Israel. The seminar was extremely well organized and well conceived. Each presentation and discussion connected seamlessly to the next, the content of which was supplemented by the opportunities to utilize the amazing resources available on the Yad Vashem campus. You were instrumental to the success of the seminar, and I hope you know how much we all appreciated the time, energy, and enthusiasm required for such a stellar program!

The opportunity to interact with such knowledgeable experts among the ADL and Yad Vashem staff members, as well as our colleagues from institutions in the US provided such fertile ground for discussion, contemplation, and action planning. Casual discussions over a meal or enroute to the Dead Sea were also invaluable. As a result we have become part of a network that makes each of our individual efforts more effective through the myriad possibilities of collaborative projects. I am very excited about our recent conversations regarding a fall 2009 *Echoes and Reflections* workshop for teachers in our region, as well as other programs which are a direct result of the seminar.

Thank you so very much for inviting me to join the January 2009 seminar. It was without doubt one of the most significant professional development experiences I have ever had—one which will continue to impact my work at the University of Southern Indiana and within the Evansville community for the rest of my career. I look forward to many years of continued cooperation and collaboration with you and your colleagues!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Gregori-Gahan".

Heidi Gregori-Gahan
Director