ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Annual Report 2018, Jerusalem
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Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, is the definitive source for Holocaust education, remembrance, documentation and research. From the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is at the forefront of unceasing efforts to safeguard and impart the memory of the victims and the events of the Shoah period. Yad Vashem works tirelessly to accurately document one of the darkest chapters in the history of humanity; and to grapple effectively with the ongoing challenges of keeping the meanings of the Holocaust relevant today and for future generations.

“I had a very emotional experience at Yad Vashem. I had visited there in the past, but returning there gave me the opportunity to internalize the many messages that Yad Vashem provides, and contemplate their relevance to modern times.”

Adam Silver, Commissioner of the NBA
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Dear Friends,

This Annual Report provides an encouraging perspective on Yad Vashem’s extensive and effective accomplishments during 2018 in the diverse yet focused areas of Holocaust remembrance, research, documentation and education. The achievements highlighted here are tangible indications of our institution’s scope, energy and enduring ability to continue realizing the vision of its founding generation, the remarkable survivors of the Holocaust. This is all the more noteworthy in light of the perplexing realities and increasingly complex challenges that we currently encounter.

Seventy-five years ago, following the destructive upheaval of the Shoah, the remnants of the Jewish people were deeply shaken. Most recognized the vital importance of remembering and telling the story of the Holocaust and its victims. Many were hopeful that documenting and recounting the annals of our people’s unprecedented devastation would be an effective means of preventing further genocidal atrocities, against Jews and other potential victim groups.

For decades, faith in the value and impact of recording and recalling the full and accurate story of the Holocaust has motivated and energized much of the world’s Shoah remembrance activity, including that of Yad Vashem. Based upon our varied and extensive experience, we continue to believe in the deep significance and value of our endeavors. However, recent disturbing trends and developments worldwide have caused some to doubt the power of our fact-based message. The doubters either strangely question the very need for historical accuracy or note fearfully that others are skeptical about it.

At Yad Vashem, we do not ignore this unfortunate phenomenon. However, neither do we despair over it. We bear the mantle of memory, and guard its truth, with a determination and confidence that are rooted in our vast, unmatched knowledge bases, our comprehensive experience, and our proven expertise.

We are convinced that the legacy of the Holocaust is eternally relevant both for the Jewish people and for all of humanity. At the same time, we recognize that each contemporary context calls for an updated means of effectively conveying that relevance. We proactively seek out opportunities to do that, and persistently devise technologies and adapt techniques to ensure their effectiveness in the face of today’s dynamic challenges.

A prime example of Yad Vashem’s commitment to squarely face and fight those who deny or distort historical truth are our groundbreaking Massive Open Online Courses on Holocaust history and contemporary antisemitism. The courses offers video lectures on key aspects of these central topics, presented by dozens of leading researchers and public figures from Yad Vashem and around the world.

Another Yad Vashem initiative that highlights our vigorous policy is our new Shoah Heritage Campus project. The Campus will serve as a home for the preservation of Yad Vashem’s treasured and unparalleled collections of Holocaust-related art, artifacts and archival materials. Thus, the legacies of the victims and survivors of the Shoah will remain intact and available for generations to come.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generous and consistent backing of our friends, which we greatly appreciate. The resources we gather to implement our mission are utilized meticulously by Yad Vashem’s outstanding staff, whose abilities, expertise and devotion to their tasks are indispensable. Their performance and your support enable us to persevere and prevail.

Shalom,

Avner Shalev
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate
Dear Friends,

As Jews, we are a people of memory. Our memories reach back through antiquity, creating a foundation that renders us inextricably linked to the history of our people. Throughout the ages, the commandment to remember – Zachor – has been central to the survival of the Jews. During our millennia of life in exile, it is our ability to remember that has contributed to the continuity of the Jewish people through wanderings, persecution, destruction and renewal. When we remember, we are connected to those who came before us, whose voices echo in our souls and form the basis for our moral and ethical consciousness. As Jews, we form links in the ancient chain of generations; we are part of a story that began long before us and will continue long after we are gone.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, remembrance has taken on new meaning. The tragic events of the Shoah dramatically altered the course of Jewish history. In the special Torah portion, read on the Sabbath before the Holiday of Purim, we read, "Zachor, Al Tischkach – Remember, do not forget." What is the point of this apparent repetition? How is "remembering" different from "not forgetting"? According to the Midrash in Sifrei, Zachor – “remember” refers to active steps that a person takes to remind others of what has occurred, while “Al Tischkach – do not forget” refers to an internal accounting that happens inside a person’s mind or heart.

As a survivor of the Holocaust, I perpetually live in a state of "Al Tischkach" – of not forgetting. How could I forget the faces of my parents, the many members of my extended family who were cruelly murdered in cold blood, randomly punished for the sole crime of being born Jewish. However, to fulfill the commandment of Zachor, active remembering, I have made it part of my mission to tell my story over and over again. Together with many of my fellow survivors, I have chosen to take proactive steps to make sure that the implications of the Holocaust remain ingrained in the consciousness of the Jewish people and all of humanity.

As time passes, and the events of the Shoah grow further away to form a chapter in the history of the Jewish people, the importance of commemoration grows ever more imperative. It is the next generations who must now bear the responsibility for the future of remembering the Shoah.

Yad Vashem works tirelessly to ensure that the torch of remembrance is painstakingly transmitted from generation to generation. It seeks to educate about the events of one of the darkest periods of humanity in order to understand the future consequences of our actions today, and tell the stories of the victims and the survivors – in order to keep their memories alive and remind humanity that the Jewish people will endure and continue to bring light to the world.

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council
Highlights of
Yad Vashem’s Activities in 2018

Holocaust Education

• 349,000 Israeli students, soldiers and security force members attended educational programs
• 48,800 worldwide participants in online courses
• 10,000 US teachers received training in “Echoes and Reflections” multimedia program
• 350 educators from 50 countries participated in the 10th International Conference for Holocaust Educators
• 1,268 day-seminars at Yad Vashem for 19,950 Israeli educators
• 83 training days for 2,300 educators throughout Israel
• 78 long-term seminars for 1,800 educators from abroad and 55 short seminars for 1,300 overseas participants

Research and Publications

• 24 fellowships and awards granted to scholars
• 24 international research workshops and symposia
• 30 new publications
• 8th annual International Holocaust Research Book Prize

Artifacts and Artwork

• New exhibition "They Say There is a Land: Longings for Eretz Israel during the Holocaust" opened in the Auditorium Exhibitions Hall
• 830 new artifacts; 32,500 total
• 380 new works of art; 12,000 total

Righteous Among the Nations

• 387 individuals recognized as Righteous Among the Nations; 27,360 total
Visits and Commemorative Events
• 1,010,000 visitors
• 850 world leaders, dignitaries and official visitors
• 215 memorial services
• 85 events

Internet Activity
• 5 million visits to the website in 8 languages
• 24 million video views on YouTube channels in 8 languages since their launch
• 12,000 new Facebook members; 174,000 total
• 17,000 new followers on Twitter; 51,400 total
• 10,000 new followers on Instagram; 27,000 total

Collections
• 6 million new pages of documentation added to the Archives; 210 million pages total
• 450,000 pages of documentation digitized
• 4,800,000 million names now in the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names
• 22,000 Holocaust-era items donated for safekeeping by 1,000 individuals
• 10,000 photographs added to the Photo Archive; 500,000 images total
• 1,200 new Holocaust survivor testimonies filmed; 131,000 video, audio and written testimonies total
• 24,000 public inquiries for archival information answered
• 170,000 publications in 60 languages now in the Library
• 650 Holocaust-related films acquired; 8,800 total
• 11,970 films now searchable in the online Film Catalogue
• 13th annual Award for Artistic Achievement in a Holocaust-related Film
The International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem serves as the world center for Holocaust education, offering students and educators from around the globe the opportunity to learn how to study and teach about the Holocaust in meaningful and relevant ways. The International School creates engaging educational materials and innovative online teaching tools, as well as teacher-training and customized programs appropriate for varying age groups and cultures. The School's graduates emerge as dedicated educational professionals, committed to disseminating Yad Vashem's unique pedagogical methodology throughout the world.

349,000 students and security force members attended educational programs
In the summer of 2018, Yad Vashem’s 10th International Educators’ Conference provided participants with three meaningful days of discussion and debate on the current challenges of teaching and learning about the Holocaust. 360 participants attended from 50 countries, including Albania, China, Turkey and Venezuela. Whether veteran Holocaust educator or new to the field, the common denominator expressed by many was genuine enthusiasm for the issues at hand. The conference placed its central focus on the various challenges of Holocaust education faced today around the world. Many presenters from across the globe brought their own local and cultural perspectives to the discussion, enlightening other participants as to respective complexities in engaging today’s students, and preserving memory in an age when there will be no more Holocaust survivors left to tell their stories. To mark 70 years since the founding of the State of Israel, Holocaust survivors shared their memories with the conference participants of their return to life in the fledgling State of Israel following the horrors of the Holocaust, and of how they rebuilt their families, their communities and themselves.

“This has been an outstanding journey of discovery and sharing, listening and conversation. I go home a different person, with different questions and thoughts to reflect upon.”

Conference Participant

133 seminars for educators from abroad
During 2018, more than 350 schools across Israel successfully integrated the national Holocaust education program, created by Yad Vashem in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Education. Launched in 2014, the curriculum offers Israeli educators practical assistance and professional guidelines on how to gear Holocaust education materials towards specific student age groups.

Educators from many of the participating schools expressed their gratitude for guidance on how to contend with the complex subject of the Holocaust in ways that best match their students’ emotional and cognitive levels.
In April 2018, a day seminar was held at Yad Vashem for the IDF General Staff Forum, headed by IDF Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot. During the seminar, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented the Chief-of-Staff with *Kolchem Shamati* (I Heard Your Voices), a special anthology to be used in discussions between commanders and their soldiers on the topic of Holocaust remembrance. Initiated by the IDF’s Education and Youth Corps in cooperation with Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, *Kolchem Shamati* enables the participants to listen to the voices and examine the words of both victims and survivors. The anthology includes a range of texts that enable a dialogue centered on ethics and values, and raises relevant questions for IDF soldiers today, such as, What memory is engraved in your mind? Where did you first encounter the story of the Holocaust? and How do these voices echo into the future? The texts are combined with musical performances of poems written by famous authors such as Chaim Nahman Bialik, Hannah Szenes and Leonard Cohen, which accompany the different topics of discourse.
The IDF Chief-of-Staff’s 2018 Prize in the field of education was awarded to Yad Vashem’s new Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Educational Center at the IDF training campus in the Negev. Opened a year ago, the Center comprises a special interactive space on the topic of "The Human Image in the Shadow of Death," and allows experts from Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies to develop and implement educational programs as an inherent part of IDF training activities. Dealing with the story of the Holocaust as a pivotal event in the history of the Jewish people, alongside examining values such as Jewish identity, mutual responsibility, heroism and connection to the Land of Israel, forms the basis for the Center’s cooperative endeavors. Professional staff from Yad Vashem present not only historical knowledge, but also dilemmas and dialogues on Jewish and universal values. Close to 35,000 soldiers, some of them coming directly from the field, have already visited the Center, enabling the next generations of soldiers and commanders to commit to passing on the torch of remembrance.
Former participants in the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators have taken inspiration from what they have learned, going on to create dynamic and meaningful Holocaust programming throughout Australia. Christopher Bradbury, a history teacher at King’s School in Parramatta, Sydney, NSW, developed a HSC (Higher School Certificate) Modern History European Study Tour, which transforms student learning and understanding on the Holocaust. The tour provides 11th-grade students with unique learning opportunities by visiting significant authentic historical sites, buildings and museums, such as the Warsaw ancient Jewish cemetery, Auschwitz, Terezin, Oscar Schindler’s Factory in Krakow, Berlin’s Typography of Terror and the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. Concerned about rising expressions of antisemitism in Australia, especially at universities, Natalie Baker, a teacher from Melbourne, worked with Melbourne’s Holocaust survivor community to create an educational unit that will illustrate the relevance of the Holocaust to Australian students, and teach them about the events of the period through a local lens.
In October 2018, Yad Vashem partnered with the Israeli embassy in Athens to coordinate a study day on the Mount of Remembrance for a delegation of Greek Orthodox clergy, as well as staff members from the Inter-orthodox Centre of the Church of Greece. The day began with a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum, followed by meetings with Yad Vashem staff to process and discuss their reactions to what they learned. Participants also heard from a Yad Vashem expert on the Righteous Among the Nations, who spoke about Greek Orthodox clergymen who took risks to save their Jewish compatriots. A highlight of the day was the meeting with Moshe Ha-Elion, a Holocaust survivor from Thessaloniki, who related his life story to the group in Greek. The delegation concluded the day’s activities with a session to discuss possible future projects related to the Holocaust and Jewish life in Greece.
Interactive Timeline of the Holocaust Bolsters Holocaust Curriculum for US Education

Created by the ADL, USC Shoah Foundation and Yad Vashem, the "Echoes & Reflections" professional development program builds educators’ confidence to teach the Holocaust, empowering them to question the past and impact the future. In 2018, several new initiatives were introduced to improve and strengthen the success of the existing program. A new interactive "Timeline of the Holocaust," including photographs, short films, historical texts and new testimonies, was introduced, which will serve as a valuable resource in examining Holocaust history. In addition to its summer seminar for US educators, Yad Vashem also facilitated the first-ever "Echoes & Reflections Educational Journey through Poland," providing the power of location-based learning for 20 American educators. Participants credited the journey with giving them new insights, and inspiring them to teach the Holocaust first and foremost as a human story.

"I feel my own understanding of the history has grown, but more importantly, my realization... of how much was lost. Thank you for helping me move from having sympathy for the victims to empathy."
Meghan Hale, Echoes & Reflections, Educational Journey through Poland Participant

10,000 US educators trained in "Echoes and Reflections" Program
A new Russian-language learning environment addresses evacuation and escape in the German-occupied Soviet territories. Designed for students and members of the public in both formal and informal educational settings, "As the Heart Demands" includes methodological guides for teachers, as well as accompanying lesson plans featuring rescue attempts by both Jews and non-Jews, an outline of interreligious relations, and a comprehensive view of the difficulties of survival during the Holocaust in the Soviet sphere. Distributed in the form of high-resolution PDF files, "As the Heart Demands" is intended for local production. Since its launch in 2018, the mobile environment has been used in some 60 settings in various countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova and Israel.
The International School for Holocaust Studies recently launched a new digital resource to serve teachers in Jewish high schools across the English-speaking world. The resource, aimed at both formal and informal Jewish educational networks, aims at creating meaningful discussions in the classroom focusing on Holocaust memory and commemoration. User-friendly lesson plans utilize Holocaust-related materials and resources, such as testimonies, posters, letters, photographs and diaries, to encourage individual and group dialogues, as well as a number of creative activities to keep youth engaged in the topic. As a springboard for discussions, for example, one lesson plan is centered on prayer and faith during the Holocaust, while another concentrates on Israel as a home to Jewish child survivors. Other topics developed cover the use of personal artifacts in Holocaust education, and inspiring stories of Righteous Among the Nations. All of these examples help students comprehend the multicultural and unique identities of the Jewish individuals and communities destroyed during the Holocaust.

"It is very important for me to show personal history through the eyes of the victims, to use sources created by Jews, to show prewar Jewish life and to bring the topic closer to the students."

Jewish Educator
Educational Agreements Reached with all German States

In 2018, Yad Vashem concluded agreements with the educational authorities in all 16 Lander (states) in the Federal Republic of Germany. The agreements, signed by top-ranking dignitaries from each Lander, will promote cooperative efforts with Yad Vashem to further Holocaust education and commemoration across Germany, including tailor-made seminars for German teachers and professionals from a wide range of fields on the Mount of Remembrance.
First Leadership Seminar Brings German Youth to Israel

In February 2018, the International School for Holocaust Studies hosted its first Youth Leadership Seminar for students from the Munich area. The goal of the program was to bring together Gymnasium (high school) students, who are active in their home communities and schools, for a weeklong seminar at Yad Vashem to learn about Jewish history, the Shoah, and issues related to contemporary Israel. After two preparatory meetings in Munich, the students arrived in Israel, where they participated in lectures, workshops and tours of the Yad Vashem campus – exploring a range of Holocaust-related topics in depth. In addition, the students met with their Israeli peers to discover and learn about Israeli society and culture: students from the "Negev" Preparatory Acadmey in south Tel Aviv; and the Israeli Scout Movement which works with Israeli youth including children of asylum seekers and migrant workers. Upon returning to Munich, the participants held study and discussion evenings at their schools and with their respective youth movements, and published articles in their local and school newspapers about their experiences.

"Today was such a meaningful day. Perhaps the most significant thing was when I considered the magnitude of all we had seen, and thought of how much more there was still to see and learn about here at Yad Vashem."

Participant in Masa Youth Program

In the image:

- A group of students sitting together on the grass, engaged in conversation.

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Survivors' Memories Inspire High-School Musicians

A unique project entitled "Musical Memory" was conducted this year in cooperation with The Yellow Submarine, a renowned Jerusalem music center. High-school music students met with Holocaust survivors, learning about lullabies and poems and songs from both their childhood and also, those representing their liberation and initial impressions of the Land of Israel. Within the framework of the project that lasted four months, the students learned about the Holocaust while creating new melodies for the songs the survivors had chosen. The project culminated with a series of performances for some 1,000 students. A gala performance was held with the participation of the survivors and their families on 27 January 2019, marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"Memory through the Lens" Unique Intergenerational Program

During 2018, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, in cooperation with the ORT educational network, ran a meaningful intergenerational program entitled "Memory Through the Lens." The 150 students who participated in the program documented in writing their meetings with Holocaust survivors who live in their area of residence, and photographed the survivors in their homes. Despite the difficult accounts they heard, the students emerged enriched and moved by the resilience and courage of the inspiring men and women they met.
E-Learning

Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies stands at the forefront of educational technology, providing innovative digital materials for a global audience. The School offers educators advanced online pedagogical tools to teach about the Holocaust in their classrooms in a meaningful and relevant way, as well as user-friendly online programs on a range of topics for society at large.

Popular Online Course Traces History of Antisemitism

Antisemitism is most commonly defined as a hatred of Jews, as well as the wide range of acts, rhetoric, thoughts and sentiments this hatred evokes. Yet for a word that is so commonly used, its boundaries and expressions often come into scholarly, political and public debate. In the shadow of rising antisemitism worldwide, enrollment continued during 2018 for a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) created by Yad Vashem, entitled "Antisemitism: From Its Origins to the Present." The course offers video lectures presented by 50 leading researchers and public figures from Yad Vashem and around the world. Over 12,000 participants from some 150 countries worldwide, including the US, UK, Israel, Germany, Poland, India, Rwanda, Japan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and South Africa registered for the popular course, which appears on the UK FutureLearn digital education platform. Offering an in-depth and historically accurate account of an age-old phenomenon of enmity that continues to threaten all civil society, the course was received with great acclaim. An additional run is scheduled to begin in April 2019.

"An extremely interesting, thought-provoking journey during which I learned a lot about the roots of antisemitism, its history and in general...this type of hate crime is virtually impossible to wipe out."

Susan Morris, Participant in Online Course on Antisemitism
“Witnesses and Education” is a series of testimony films in which Holocaust survivors recount their life stories at the locations in which the events transpired. The survivors are accompanied on this journey by trained professionals from the International School for Holocaust Studies, with insightful dialogues alongside outlines of the broader historical events that frame each survivor’s story. The series, comprised of dozens of films available in up to 15 languages, has enjoyed great popularity, with tens of thousands of educators, students and public officials around the world already viewing the films. During 2018, Yad Vashem added three new films to the series in an effort to contend with the challenging reality of a world in which the survivor generation is rapidly dwindling. With the knowledge that these witnesses will never be replaced, these films allow the construction of a different type of memory, offering viewers the opportunity to connect to the survivors and their personal stories, and to listen to the personal and universal messages they have bequeathed to the generations to come.
During 2018, over one million people visited Yad Vashem on Jerusalem's Mount of Remembrance to learn about the cataclysmic events of the Holocaust, commemorate the victims, and pay tribute to the survivors. Forty percent of these visitors received guided tours of the campus, including heads of state, participants in more than 850 official visits, and delegations from a variety of cultures and nationalities. In addition, Yad Vashem held dozens of events in conjunction with Holocaust survivor and next-generation organizations, as well as over 200 memorial services.
REMEMBRANCE
Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2018
Highlights of 2018
Official Visits
Diplomatic Corps Gathers for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Yad Vashem hosted its annual event for the International Diplomatic Corps in Israel marking the UN-sanctioned International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from over 50 countries were greeted by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Israel’s Minister of Education Naftali Bennett. Shalev called on the gathered diplomats not to fall victim to Holocaust distortion, but rather to join in efforts to ensure that truthful memory continues to inspire and motivate the world. Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner delivered a lecture on the topic "Jews Rescuing Jews: Stories from Yad Vashem's Archives," which was also broadcast live via Yad Vashem’s Facebook page. In addition, a panel dialogue entitled "Jewish Rescue and Solidarity in a Disintegrating World" was held with the participation of two Holocaust survivors – Haim Roet, who was rescued by Jews and non-Jews in the Dutch resistance, and Fanny Ben-Ami, who was involved in saving both Jews and non-Jews through her activities with the French resistance, eventually leading 28 Jewish children to safety in Switzerland.
Multigenerational Event Brings Youth and Survivors Together

On 29 November 2018, marking 71 years since the approval of the UN Partition Plan, Yad Vashem organized its first-ever multigenerational event for Holocaust survivors and high school students. The 850 participants attended workshops entitled "The Holocaust and Me" led by members of the Second, Third and Fourth Generations; went on guided tours of Yad Vashem’s exhibitions; listened to lectures and Holocaust survivors’ testimony; and watched performances of "If This is Man" by the Khan Theater in Jerusalem and "The Final Victory" by the Orna Porat Theater for Children and Youth. "The Final Victory" describes the incredible survival story of Dr. Felix Zandman z”l. The audience had the opportunity to meet Felix’s widow Ruta Zandman and members of the Puchalski family who rescued Felix. The concluding session included a lecture from Prof. Hanna Yablonka about the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State of Israel. After her lecture, a panel discussion was held between three Holocaust survivors whose work has contributed to Israel in different ways over the years: historian and former Yad Vashem Chairman Dr. Yitzhak Arad; children’s author Bat-Sheva Dagan; and actor and director Shmuel (Shmulik) Atzmon.
Nazi ideology sought to break down Jewish society and lose sight of the humanity, vitality and solidarity so central to Jewish life throughout history. However, during the Shoah, Jews not only preserved their unity, but they also expressed their willingness to help Jewish people beyond their own families. The stories of women who worked selflessly and tirelessly to save fellow Jews during the Holocaust were recounted at a recent seminar on the topic of female Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust. MK Merav Michaeli spoke about the importance of understanding that the division of Jews as victims and non-Jews as rescuers is simply wrong, and the importance to stress that the Jews were there alongside their sisters and brothers in every way possible. Haim Roet, Chairman of the Israeli Committee to Honor the Heroism of Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust, addressed the historic lack of public awareness of the phenomenon of Jewish rescuers during the Shoah. Yad Vashem's Naama Galil and Dr. Yohai Cohen gave fascinating overviews of a number of Jewish female rescuers during the Shoah, including those who paid for their selfless actions with their own lives.

"The Jewish people did not break down nor did they lose their humanity in response to the difficult situations in which they found themselves. One of the things that characterized the human and communal dimension was preserving their unity with those around them."

Avner Shalev, Yad Vashem Chairman
In July 1943, a concert was held in secret in the Kovno ghetto – marking the anniversaries of the deaths of the leader of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl, and the celebrated Hebrew and Yiddish poet, Chaim Nahman Bialik. The concert program brought together the various educational and cultural groups that operated in the ghetto at the time, and presented uplifting and inspiring content that supported Zionism and solidarity. Seventy-five years later almost to the day, this concert was re-enacted in its entirety at a moving event held at Yad Vashem’s Jewish Fighters and Partisans Monument. Under the direction of Israeli scholar Rami Neuderfer, who discovered a detailed program of the concert, and in cooperation with Israel's Ministry for Social Equality, the concert was performed by the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra alongside the Ankor Choir, and featured several popular Israeli singers, including Karolina, Yonatan Razel and Ofir Ben Shitrit. In between the songs, the riveting story of the underground concert was retold through testimonies, photographs, artifacts and videos from Yad Vashem's collections.
In July 2018, one hundred of Yad Vashem’s friends and supporters – aged 16 to 97 – took part in its third biennial International Mission. Led by Yad Vashem guides, the group began their journey in Vienna, where they learned about the history of the city’s Jewish residents, the birth of modern Zionism, and the destruction of the community during the Holocaust. The final day in Austria was spent at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp complex, where some Holocaust survivors on the Mission were incarcerated during the war. In Israel, the group experienced Shabbat in Jerusalem with Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Rabbi Benji Levin and Yair Stern, all of whom have strong ties to the establishment of the State of Israel. In addition to behind-the-scenes tours of Yad Vashem’s activities and

"It was especially significant for Mission members to celebrate Israel’s accomplishments after leaving Vienna. It really brought us full circle."

Adina Burian, Chair - 2018 Generation to Generation Mission
collections, the participants visited a number of poignant sites across the country. At the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Educational Center at the IDF training campus in the Negev, the group learned how teams from Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies develop and carry out educational programs as an inherent part of IDF training activities. The Mission ended with a ceremony in the presence of the President of the State of Israel H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin, who stressed the importance of Yad Vashem and Holocaust remembrance in shaping and strengthening Jewish identity and continuity.

"I realized it is up to me and my generation to share these first-hand encounters... to carry on the legacy and stories of the Holocaust. Yad Vashem makes this possible."

Dana Rogozinski, 2018 Generation to Generation Mission Participant
One of Yad Vashem’s goals is to infuse a sense of pride in the shared heritage of Jewish individuals, through a myriad of remembrance and educational activities aimed at strengthening Jewish continuity and creating memory with meaning for future generations. One such activity is its Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program, a unique way for Jewish children coming of age to mark this special occasion in their lives. The program connects Jewish boys and girls to their past by bonding them with the memory of a child who was murdered during the Holocaust. The celebrant often shares something with the child being remembered – a birthday, a name, or a place of origin. Recently, Yad Vashem expanded this project to include youth from all over the world who are marking this special milestone in their hometowns. As time passes, remembering those who were murdered in the Holocaust as individuals and not just numbers becomes ever more vital, in order to engage the next generation in carrying the memory forward.

"The twinning of my bat mitzvah to Viki Adler has been a privilege and underlines how important it is to remember not only the history of the Holocaust but also those individual and family stories that tragically make that history."

Victoria Caplin, in The Jewish Chronicle
A range of activities were offered in 2018 as part of Yad Vashem’s efforts to engage the public in cultural and educational enrichment events throughout the calendar year.

Courses for the Israeli Public

Yad Vashem continues to develop its adult enrichment courses, offering Israelis the opportunity to learn from experts and enhance their knowledge on subjects related to the Holocaust and its commemoration. During 2018, Yad Vashem facilitated several high-level courses providing rich and relevant content pertaining to the history of the Holocaust. The courses, which were held throughout Israel were open to the general public, including, specialized courses for senior citizens. In addition, Yad Vashem continued to offer a course for public service employees, entitled: “The Holocaust: Between History and Memory,” which received accreditation from Israel’s Ministry of Finance. Yad Vashem also offered a unique course introducing the fascinating world of Jewish genealogy entitled "From Roots to Trees," facilitated cooperatively with the Central Zionist Archives.
In May 2018, Yad Vashem held a seminar about the ancient Jewish communities of Greece, highlighting their unique language and culture as well as the rich Ladino heritage. Entitled "Longings in Ladino" the seminar was comprised of intensive study days at Yad Vashem, as well as a six-day trip to Greece. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the history of Jewish life in Greece and in the surrounding Balkan and Mediterranean region. The seminar presented an account of the military battles in Greece during World War II as well as the calamitous fate of the Jews of these areas during the Holocaust.

"Thank you for providing us with a program filled with fascinating materials, which allowed us to encounter the rare and special people who helped make this journey so meaningful."

Ruti Dvorak, Participant in the "Longings in Ladino" Seminar
During 2018, audiences enjoyed a second season of the Yad Vashem Film Club. The Film Club brings outstanding Holocaust-related feature films to the Israeli public – in Jerusalem, Givatayim and Haifa – free of charge, with opening remarks by academics, film directors and critics. The season opened with a screening of *The Testament* (Israel, 2017) – the story of Yoel, a religious Holocaust scholar who discovers information that poses an existential threat to his personal identity – and a discussion with screenwriter and director Amichai Greenberg. Film critic Yael Shuv spoke before the screening of Pawel Pawlikowski’s *Ida* (Poland, 2013), which deals with the revelation of truths that challenge the identity of the film’s hero, a young nun with a connection to the Jewish people. The final film screened was Hungarian director’s Ferenc Török’s *1945*, winner of the 2017 Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award for a Holocaust-Related Film. *1945* tells the story of two Jews returning to a small Hungarian village after the war and of the crisis that this return engenders among the villagers.
COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Yad Vashem’s unique collections of original artifacts and artworks belonging to Holocaust victims and survivors provide the cornerstone for the displays in the Museums Complex – the Holocaust History Museum, the Museum of Holocaust Art and the Synagogue – as well as its temporary and traveling exhibitions. These authentic items are essential tools that help convey the narrative of the Holocaust in a broad, historical context through individual and personal stories from the period.

New Exhibition: "They Say There Is a Land"

Marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, Yad Vashem opened a moving new exhibition in its Auditorium Exhibitions Hall entitled, "They Say There is a Land: Longings for Eretz Israel during the Holocaust." The exhibition depicts how Jews yearned for Eretz Israel in the years 1933-1948— from the rise of the Nazi party to power in Germany, through the outbreak of World War II and the destruction of European Jewry, and until the end of the war and the establishment of the State of Israel. While there was a continuous limited Jewish presence in Eretz Israel before the war, most Jews expressed their affinity to the Land in prayer, philosophy, poem and song, in life-cycle events and on Jewish holidays, but not in any political or active manner. As the situation of the Jews in Europe and North Africa grew worse, however, artworks, artifacts, diaries, letters and testimonies gave expression to the growing feelings and yearnings of Jews for their historic homeland. The exhibition opens a window to their inner world in the shadow of the Shoah, during its unimaginable horrors, and afterwards in the DP camps in Europe and the internment camps in Cyprus.
During 2018, Yad Vashem exhibitions were displayed in 31 countries around the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, the United States and Canada. The museum-quality exhibitions are designed to promote dialogue about the Holocaust and are suitable for display in schools, synagogues, churches, universities and community centers. Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem traveling exhibitions were shown around the world, including in the United States, Latin America and Europe. The “Beyond Duty” exhibition, prepared by Yad Vashem for Israel’s Foreign Ministry, which showcases diplomats who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, was on display in the General Assembly of the United Nations, the UN offices in Geneva, and at the Foreign Ministry in Paris, with the participation of Israel’s President H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin and the French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

"Thank you so much for making this exhibition available to us. It was a very important part of our community remembering the Shoah and reflecting on its significance."

Dr. Daniel Ostendorff,
LeTourneau University, USA
THE ARTIFACTS COLLECTION

Yad Vashem’s Artifacts Collection is comprised of over 32,500 items connected to the devastating events of the Holocaust era. Since Yad Vashem’s establishment, gathering genuine artifacts has been part of the process of commemorating the destruction of European and North African Jewry. The many personal effects in the collection disclose the individual stories of people, families and, at times, entire communities.

Rabbinic Dynasty's Torah Pointer Survives the Holocaust

A gold-plated Torah pointer, originally belonging to the Grand Rabbi Nachum Friedman, the founder of the Shtefanesht Hasidic dynasty in Romania, was donated to Yad Vashem during 2018. The Grand Rabbi built a magnificent study hall with elaborate Judaica items in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, the finest of which was a gold crown studded with diamonds. Following the death of Rabbi Avraham Mattisyahu Friedman, the last Grand Rabbi of the dynasty, a relative came from Vienna to claim her inheritance. While traveling home, she was forced to sell some of the items including the priceless Torah crown and a goldplated Torah pointer inlaid with precious stones, to a wealthy member of the community, Leon Goldstein, in order to pay off Romanian customs officials. On the eve of war in 1939, Goldstein made sure that the precious artifacts were hidden. Tragically, Leon Goldstein was murdered in 1941 on one of the “death trains” that left Iași. His wife Chana and two children survived the Holocaust, and recently Leon’s son Shimon Gonen (Goldstein) and his grandson Zvi Leibovich decided to donate the precious Torah pointer to Yad Vashem.
Yad Vashem’s Art Collection, the largest and most wide-ranging collection of its kind in the world, includes some 12,000 pieces, most of which were created during the Holocaust. These works, which attest to the spirit of the individual under the harshest of circumstances, represent a living testimony of Jews during the Holocaust while expressing an awesome creative power. The artists who produced them, in ghettos, in camps and in hiding, used their tools as instruments of expression and defiance during the most cataclysmic period in their lives in order to leave a trace of their existence for posterity.

Finding Life Through Art: A Drawing by Pinchas Shaar

This year, Yad Vashem added a rare piece, created by Holocaust survivor Pinchas Shaar, to its Art Collection. The painting, entitled *Where To?*, depicts a man sitting with his back against a wall, bent over on his belongings, wearing a flat cap and coat. His facial features disappear like smudges of paint. The figure of the survivor who endured the devastation finds himself alone with no idea where to go. Every gesture of his body signals fatigue, sorrow, despondency and powerlessness. Born in 1917 in Lodz, Poland, Pinchas Shaar (né Szwarc), developed his artistic talents with artist Jankel Adler, who was a relative. Shaar went on to study drawing with the avant-garde artist Władysław Strzemiński. The outbreak of WWII interrupted Shaar’s art studies and ultimately he was interned in the Lodz ghetto. In 1945, Shaar was liberated by Russian forces. His parents and his brothers also survived, but his sister and her son were murdered in Auschwitz. Physically and mentally exhausted, Shaar contracted pneumonia and was hospitalized in a sanatorium in Gauting, near Munich, where a kind UNRRA worker provided him with painting materials. The act of drawing *Where To?* signaled the beginning of his rehabilitation and helped bring him back to life.
YAD VASHHEM ONLINE

With comprehensive websites in Hebrew, English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Farsi and Arabic, Yad Vashem is constantly striving to meet the ever-growing demand for reliable and accurate Holocaust-related information. In addition, its dynamic presence in social media - 174,000 members on Facebook, and a growing audience on Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram - offers an unprecedented opportunity for rapidly communicating ideas, sharing relevant content, and engaging with and connecting to a broad and diverse public who can immediately share the information with thousands more.

Russian Website Gets Upgrade

In 2018, the Yad Vashem website in Russian, originally launched in 2010, was rebuilt on a new platform, ensuring its responsiveness in all mobile devices and that it meets international accessibility standards. In addition, the historical content on the site was expanded and it acquired a new graphic design, thus enhancing the overall user experience. To ensure maximum outreach, Yad Vashem also opened a new Russian-language Twitter Channel and Instagram account.
This year Yad Vashem partnered with Facebook to promote Yad Vashem’s "IRemember Wall" – a project created to encourage Holocaust remembrance in the digital sphere. Running the week of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the "IRemember Wall" randomly matched thousands of participants with one of the Jewish men, women and children recorded in Yad Vashem’s Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, containing close to 4,800,000 victims' names. The name of the commemorated victim could then be shared via the participant’s account on a number of social media platforms. Facebook Israel helped publicize this unique commemorative activity by calling on Facebook users to join in and promoting it on its platforms. In total, some 17,800 people participated in this special project to commemorate a Shoah victim.

"Thank you Yad Vashem for these individual stories. They are heartbreaking, but it is hard to comprehend the sheer number of people who died, so by telling us about individual families and persons and what each went through, you bring them close to us, like lost family members... we will not forget."

Posted on Instagram
A new online exhibition was launched online with the theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018: "70 Years of Remembering and Building: Holocaust Survivors and the State of Israel." The exhibition features the portraits and short stories of 40 survivors, including the late Ruth Bondy, former Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and his brother Naphtali Lau-Lavie, former Israeli Chief Justice Aaron Barak, and Yad Vashem volunteer Rena Quint, who still passionately delivers testimony regarding her remarkable experiences during the Shoah. The exhibition outlines the struggle of the survivors to come to Israel, rebuild their lives, and become active partners in the most important communal endeavor of the Jewish people in the 20th century – the establishment and development of the State of Israel.
Marking 80 years since the Kristallnacht pogrom, Yad Vashem uploaded a new online exhibition entitled "It Came from Within..." Using photographs, documents, personal letters, Pages of Testimony, films, testimony excerpts, artifacts and works of art from Yad Vashem's collections, the exhibition depicts the brutal blow suffered by the Jews during Kristallnacht: the physical violence, the humiliation, the property damage, the synagogue desecration and destruction, and the horrifying sight of holy books and Torah scrolls in flames. During the pogrom, 91 Jews were murdered, more than 1,400 synagogues across Germany and Austria were torched, and Jewish-owned shops and businesses were plundered and destroyed. In addition, the Jews were forced to pay “compensation” for the damage that had been caused, and approximately 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. This exhibition brings personal accounts of what happened that night – a story that dry statistics cannot possibly relay in full. Some of the stories displayed are being told for the first time online.
Since Yad Vashem first embarked upon the worldwide project to recognize non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, more than 27,000 individuals have been granted the title of Righteous Among the Nations. The honor is a unique and unprecedented attempt by the Jewish people to pay tribute to people who stood by their side at a time of persecution and great tragedy.

Italian Righteous Gino Bartali Conferred with Commemorative Israeli Citizenship

In May 2018, as part of the events leading up to the Giro d'Italia Big Start, Yad Vashem hosted participants of the Israel Cycling Academy and leadership of the Giro d'Italia. Cyclists from the Giro d'Italia participated in a Memorial Ride through Yad Vashem's campus, concluding in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, where a short ceremony was held posthumously conferring Commemorative Israeli Citizenship on Righteous Among the Nations Gino Bartali. Born in Florence in 1914, Gino Bartali was a champion road cyclist who won the Italian Giro d'Italia multistage race three times and the Tour de France twice. Owing to his remarkable accomplishments in sports, he became a popular and widely admired national hero. During World War II, Bartali was known to cover large distances with his bicycle seemingly for
training purposes, but he used the opportunity to transfer forged documents from one place to another, thus assisting Jews in need of refuge. He also distributed forged documents produced by the Assisi network, another rescue operation initiated by clergy in that town. Yad Vashem posthumously recognized the former Giro d’Italia champion Gino Bartali as Righteous Among the Nations in 2013 for his courageous actions in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust.
The Yad Vashem Archives house the most comprehensive collection of Holocaust-era documentation – both written and oral – in the world. A large portion of the archival collections are now accessible to the public, helping to expose the wealth of information gathered by Yad Vashem to an ever-growing worldwide audience. Recent agreements facilitating the sharing of information with various international archives have further propelled the growth of the Archives’ holdings, which now include some 210 million pages of documentation.

6 million pages of documentation added
DOCUMENTATION
In June 2018, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz signed an agreement ensuring document exchange and access between Yad Vashem, the Austrian State Archives and the Mauthausen Memorial. The agreement allows Yad Vashem to continue its work in securing documentation regarding the fate of Austrian Jewry from Archives in Vienna and throughout Austria. It also allows for scanning personal documentation regarding victims of the Holocaust despite increased legal limitations in Europe regarding access to personal documentation in recent years. During his visit to the Mount of Remembrance, Chancellor Kurz, accompanied by Austrian Minister of Education Heinz Fassmann, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, and Mauthausen survivor Viktor Klein, also announced that the Republic of Austria will contribute to the establishment of the new Shoah Heritage Collections Center at Yad Vashem, providing additional storage and preservation labs for Holocaust-era artifacts, artworks and documentation.

210 million pages of documentation housed in the Archives
In June 2018, a seminar was held focusing on the topic of accessibility of Holocaust documentation worldwide, within the framework of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project. Some 120 participants, including experts from various archival institutions in Israel, attended the seminar, which was coordinated cooperatively with the Association of Israeli Archivists. The participants attended lectures that addressed how to maximize archival efforts and outlined methodologies for combining fragmented collections. An additional seminar was held in December 2018 for Estonian professionals working in libraries and archives. The seminar aimed at providing an overview of Yad Vashem's work and bolstering further cooperation between the Estonian participants and their counterparts at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, in an effort to promote Holocaust awareness activities, research and remembrance in Estonia. The seminar provided participants with relevant tools and techniques to navigate the complex topic of the Holocaust, and encouraged them to conduct Holocaust-related public events and educational programming.
Two journals chronicling the activities of "Chalet Bernardina," the wartime children's home in Chardonne, Switzerland, were recently donated to Yad Vashem as part of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign. The journals belonged to Susanne Taïeb-Levy (née Marburger), a staff member in the home, who helped look after the dozens of Jewish children living there – mostly refugees from France and Germany – in the spirit of the Jewish scouting movement of which she was a dedicated member. Paper cutouts and other additions were glued inside the journals, which had not been opened for many years, and had to be treated in the Archives' Paper Conservation Laboratory. One such document was a farewell letter from Léo Cohn, one of the wartime leaders of the French Jewish Scouts, who was murdered in the Holocaust. Susanne's son Rémy Taïeb, donated the journals, together with a photo album from the children's home.

"I was afraid of what would happen to my mom's journals after she died. For that reason, I decided they ought to be kept at Yad Vashem, for this generation and for posterity."

Remy Taïeb, son of Holocaust survivor Susanne Taïeb-Levy
In December 2018, Shoah survivor Bob Rubin, who escaped with his family from Germany to England just days before the outbreak of WWII, donated a suitcase that was used by his sister Daisy during her journey on the Kindertransport in 1939. The suitcase, containing dozens of original documents and photographs detailing the life and escape of the family from Nazi-controlled Germany, were donated as part of Yad Vashem's "Gathering the Fragments" campaign, which aims to collect personal items from the Holocaust era. Daisy's parents Samson and Ettel were both born in Poland. They lived in Austria for many years before moving to Berlin in 1932. Following the November 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom, and in light of the increasing antisemitic climate, they began looking for ways to leave Germany. Ultimately, they obtained permission to send Daisy on a Kindertransport in June 1939. The family received visas and escaped to England in August 1939. With the exception of one of Ettel's brothers who had moved to Eretz Israel, their entire extended family was murdered in the Holocaust. Daisy, who passed away in 2011, first stayed in Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld's hostel for Jewish refugee girls in Sunderland, before uniting with her family in London. A total of 27 girls stayed at the hostel throughout the war, and many of their descendants who now live in Israel attended the event at Yad Vashem during which the suitcase, as well as the precious documents recording the experiences of one Jewish family during the Holocaust, was entrusted to Yad Vashem to preserve for generations to come.
In November 2018, the Yad Vashem Archives hosted an innovative seminar dealing with the challenges involved in collecting, preserving, accessing and using testimonies of Holocaust survivors in the digital age. Participants from Israel and abroad gathered to tackle a variety of related issues, including a definition of Holocaust testimony; the connection between the testimonies of survivors, rescuers and eyewitnesses; and the ethics of the use and presentation of testimonies in the various media for different goals, such as research, commemoration and education. The five-day seminar, which was organized within the framework of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project, featured a working meeting of the directors of institutions that hold some of the largest collections of testimonies of Holocaust survivors – Yad Vashem, the USC Shoah Foundation in California, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, the Fortunoff Collection at Yale University, the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, and the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arloisen – as well as managers of smaller, local collections. Holocaust survivors addressed conference participants about their motivation to testify, emphasizing their complex feelings regarding the fact that their testimonies are now in the public domain.
In February 2018, in the wake of the new Polish law that makes saying that Poles were involved in crimes against Jews during WWII a penal crime, the Yad Vashem Archives received a message from Sima Farkash, describing how her uncle, Holocaust survivor Yosef Kornblit, had been restless and was hoping to talk to Yad Vashem about his family’s fate during the Holocaust. A meeting at Yosef’s home to film his testimony was scheduled right away. Yosef was born in Toporow, near Mielec, Poland in 1926, the youngest of six children. In his testimony, Yosef described the complex relations between Jews and Poles during the Holocaust – including the taunts he suffered from his non-Jewish neighbors. In 1941, the Kornblits were deported to the Biesiadki camp near Mielec, where they were forced to perform hard labor. In the summer of 1942, after more than six months of dire conditions at the camp, the family decided to escape to the nearby forest. Yosef and his sister Rosa managed to survive, but his parents and other siblings did not. For the last two months of the war, Yosef and Rosa stayed alone in the forest with nowhere to hide, exposed to the elements. A Polish acquaintance named Durek helped them obtain food.

"My heartfelt thanks to you for sending a team to interview my uncle Yosef. He felt a tangible sense of relief. The events of the war have been seared into his soul, and he only mentions them to a restricted group of family members."

Sima Farkash, Niece of Holocaust Survivor Yosef Kornblit
The Other Michael Zaibel - Pages of Testimony Lead to Family Reunion

Recently, Michael Zaibel of Moshav Ashalim in southern Israel received a handwritten letter and some photographs from a man with exactly the same name living in Belarus. He immediately recognized the people in the photos as his father’s brother and his children. That marked the beginning of his discovery of a close family line thought to have been totally destroyed during the Holocaust. On the eve of WWII, Israel and Rachel Zaibel lived in Daugaspils, Latvia. Their son Grisha had immigrated to Argentina and their daughter Chana to America, while their two other sons, Shalom and Lova, remained in Latvia. Throughout the years, Grisha tried to obtain information about the fate of his family in Europe. After immigrating to Israel, his son Michael filled out Pages of Testimony for his lost family members, and attached photographs his father had given him. Almost two decades later, Lova’s grandson, also named Michael Zaibel, living in Belarus, discovered these Pages of Testimony and reached out to his cousin in Israel. It took many years, but finally Michael Zaibel of Belarus found Michael Zaibel of Israel, and were reunited.

"I always thought that their chance of survival was impossible – even more so than any of my other relatives whom we knew had been murdered. Yet the unbelievable has happened. Now after hearing from my uncles’ descendants, I can happily say they survived."

Michael Zaibel, Israel
New Interface Offers Improved Accessibility to Photo Archive

As part of efforts to maximize accessibility to Yad Vashem's archival collections, Yad Vashem's online photo archive is now available in a new interface that offers faster reaction time and expanded search results, and is fully accessible on cellphones and other wireless devices. The photo archive houses the largest collection of Holocaust-related photographs in the world – to date some 500,000 images. These photographs, of people, places and events, are of immense historical, educational and commemorative value.
F I L M S

Yad Vashem’s Visual Center – the world center for Holocaust-related films – acquires films of all genres and in all languages concerning Jewish life between the two world wars, the Holocaust period, postwar antisemitism, genocide and other associated topics. Among the many works attained in 2018 are local and foreign feature films, award-winning documentaries, television programs, short films and amateur movies.

"Black Honey" Wins 2018 Avner Shalev Award

The winner of this year’s Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award for a Holocaust-related film was Black Honey: The Life and and Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever, a documentary film by renowned Israeli director Uri Barbash. The jury for this year’s Jewish Experience competition at the 35th Jerusalem International Film Festival included Susan Engel, Executive Producer of Recanati-Kaplan 92Y Talks in New York; Prof. Dan Michman, Head of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies; and director and screenwriter Amichai Greenberg.

The jury praised Black Honey for "introducing us to Avraham Sutzkever, the most prominent Yiddish poet of the twentieth century. Barbash draws a portrait of Sutzkever the man and the artist, stressing not only the centrality of the Holocaust in Sutzkever’s work, but also the latter’s lifelong commitment to Yiddish poetry, even in Israel, where he did not receive the recognition he deserved."
One of the Visual Center’s highlights during 2018 was the acquisition of Dutch-Israeli filmmaker Willy Lindwer’s 25 films on the Holocaust, among them the Emmy Award-winning *The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank* (1988). The film highlights women survivors who knew Anne Frank before the war, or were interned with her in Westerbork, Auschwitz or Bergen Belsen, and the horrors they endured together. In addition, during 2018 two films by veteran Israeli documentarist David Perlov, restored in recent years by the Visual Center in conjunction with the Perlov family, were screened at film festivals and academic conferences throughout Europe and the US: *Memories of the Eichmann Trial* (Israel, 1979/2011), focuses on inter-generational responses to the Eichmann Trial; while *In Search of Ladino* (Israel, 1981), features rare interviews with Greek-Jewish survivors. International demand for additional screenings continues to grow.

"I devoted years to this project out of a profound sense of duty. Many thanks to Yad Vashem for the tremendous work they do commemorating the victims of the Holocaust."

Dutch-Israeli filmmaker, Willy Lindwer
The Yad Vashem Library seeks to collect all material written about the Holocaust and to make it available to the reading public. To date, the Library contains some 170,000 titles in 60 languages of published Holocaust-related material – a wealth of information about the Shoah as well as humanity’s attempt to grapple with one of the most traumatic events in human history.

In 2018, Yad Vashem’s Libraries Department continued focusing on the heart of its mission, to collect publications and films about the Holocaust and related subjects. Perhaps signifying a new trend, nearly 30 percent of the material added to the Library during 2018 was in digital format, substantially more than in years past. Owing to the growth of digital material, during 2018 the online Library catalogue was transferred to a new Internet platform. This platform allows for a more intuitive searching of the Library’s holdings, enabling users to explore the catalogue by author, language, year of publication or topic.
More than 170,000 titles in the Library
Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research was established a quarter of a century ago in order to broaden and intensify scholarly study of the Holocaust. By encouraging, supporting and advancing Holocaust research, the International Institute fosters cooperative projects among academic institutions and encourages young scholars in their studies. Its projects help lay the foundations for additional research of the cataclysmic events that took place during the Shoah.
The topic of Jewish leadership in the wartime ghettos implies a more multifaceted understanding of the phenomenon than the Judenräte or Jewish police activities. Jewish life in the ghettos embraced many sides of communal life, including formal and semi-formal groups. In November 2018, leading specialists from Switzerland, Lithuania, the US and Israel convened at Yad Vashem for a conference on the topic of Jewish leadership in the Lithuanian ghettos. At the conference, held by the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research, scholars discussed the characteristics of Jewish leadership activities and dilemmas that arose in the ghettos – including the intellectual leadership. In his keynote lecture, Prof. Christoph Dieckmann (University of Bern) contextualized the topic in the framework of the relations of German and Lithuanian administrations on the one side and the Jewish leadership of the ghettos on the other. Dr. Yitzhak Arad, a leading historian of the Holocaust of the Jews in the USSR and former ghetto prisoner and Jewish partisan, spoke about the difficult moral dilemmas people had to face in everyday life, and how the position of the ghetto leadership influenced "ordinary" inmates of the ghetto.

"The presentations ran a wide gamut of thematic focuses and methodological approaches, showcasing our generation’s eagerness to ask new, important questions about the Holocaust. I learned a great deal from hearing about and discussing the exciting work of my peers, and receiving critical feedback on my own work."

Samuel Finkelman, University of Pennsylvania, USA
Researchers from around the world gathered in December 2018 for Yad Vashem’s biennial international research conference entitled, "The Time Dimension During and Regarding the Holocaust: In Real Time and in Retrospect." The conference dealt with many aspects of time keeping during the Shoah, including the frenzy of Nazi action and their saturation of the calendar with key National-Socialist dates, usually centered on Hitler and his perceived achievements. In contrast, due to their lack of control over linear time, Jews, even those removed from religion, began to show an even closer attachment to their own calendar. Once in hiding, on the run, in the camps or in the ghettos, many Jews created calendars and recorded events, despite the restrictions and dangers involved. Upon liberation, survivors often described themselves as being "reborn" – some would even celebrate birthdays dating from their release from Nazi enslavement – and life was rapidly renewed. Time was, once again, under their own control, and they were determined to make use of every minute.
The Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research in Memory of Benny and Tilly Joffe z"l was awarded to two recipients this year: Dr. Daniel Reiser (Herzog College and Safed Academic College) for Rabbi Kalonymus Klamish Shapira: Sermons from the Years of Rage; and Dr. Ion Popa (University of Manchester) for The Romanian Orthodox Church and the Holocaust. The Book Prize Committee called Reiser's book "a major contribution to both Holocaust scholarship and the history of Jewish thought... it makes the reading of the text very different and far more poignant... it undoubtedly represents the final word regarding this text." The Romanian Orthodox Church and the Holocaust was described as "a truly exceptional addition to the literature in English on the Holocaust in Romania, one of the most eloquent examples of the dynamics between religion and politics in East-Central Europe in the period of World War II and its aftermath... the book is not only innovative and well written, but it will also greatly contribute to several domains in Holocaust historiography."
In December 2018, a symposium organized by the International Research Institute’s Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland was held marking the launch of the book Warsaw Ghetto - the End, by Prof. Havi Dreifuss, published by Yad Vashem. The book tells the story of the mass of Jews who lived and died in the Warsaw ghetto from April 1942 to June 1943. Dreifuss describes the life of the Jews prior to the mass deportations to Treblinka in the summer of 1942, examines the chaos of the deportations, and discusses the personal and public patterns of recovery and the decline of the ghetto’s Jews. Based on hundreds of sources, the book portrays the Polish Jews’ conscious awareness of their environment, exposes a glimpse of the realities of life in Poland, and casts light on several of the factors that directly and indirectly influenced their lives – and ultimately their deaths. Prof. Dreifuss addressed the symposium and spoke about the dilemmas that accompanied her research and her motives for taking on this project.

"We are grateful to Yad Vashem’s International Institute for providing a forum that has facilitated these important achievements, along with the participants, whose expertise made the symposium such an important success."

Prof. William E. Seidelman MD, University of Toronto
Searching for relatives and friends after the war was a first impulse for most of the survivors. In December 2018, the International Institute for Holocaust Research's Diana and Eli Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust, held a two-day international workshop entitled "Searching for Each Other: Survivors' Attempts in the Postwar Period to Locate Missing Relatives and Friends." The speakers gave a wide overview of the topic, including the establishment of formal tracing bureaus, as well as survivor-led initiatives and the creation of local and regional informal networks in the effort to spread and receive news of survivors in the chaos of the early postwar period. The workshop also addressed the modern-day challenges Yad Vashem faces in locating information on survivors – researchers are often stymied by changes of birthdates, locations and even variations of names for survivors and victims. In rare situations, such investigations have led to reunions between siblings, cousins and more distant relatives after decades of separation. Although in many instances survivors received information that their loved ones had died, many at the workshop spoke of the survivors' continued hope to find someone alive.
In the framework of the online "Untold Stories" research project, which deals with mass murder sites of the Jews in the former Soviet Union, efforts in 2018 progressed with research on 150 murder sites, with a focus on the region of Bessarabia. At the beginning of the war between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in June 1941, a wave of pogroms in the area of Bessarabia (today Moldova) organized by nationalist forces broke out, in which many local Jews were murdered. These pogroms took place in nearly 40 locations throughout Bessarabia – part of the history of the Holocaust that is almost unknown. Based on archival material and oral documentation collected, research work relating to 24 communities where the Jews of Bessarabia were murdered was completed. Research efforts continue to explore additional murder sites in other areas in the former Soviet Union.

"Yad Vashem's resources, its people and its environment are of invaluable importance for conducting research on the Holocaust."

Prof. Rika Benveniste, University of Thessaly, Greece
One of the main goals of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research is to promote innovative and groundbreaking research in Israel and around the world, among other avenues through international doctoral research workshops that allow young scholars to present and discuss their research in an academic setting. In October 2018, a joint doctoral workshop was held in cooperation with Yad Vashem and the University of Venice (Univrsit’a Ca’Foscari Venezia) and the University of Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa Italy, with the participation of nine Israeli and Italian PhD candidates and young scholars. The students presented their research topics and discussed them with their colleagues and senior researchers. For some of the students, this was the first time they presented their findings and received useful feedback on their work and methodology. In addition, the meeting contributed to the integration of young scholars into the research community that the International Institute for Holocaust Research has been cultivating for many years.
For decades, Holocaust survivor Rabbi Yehoshua Eibeshitz, a leading Holocaust researcher has given testimonies about the Koźminek ghetto, his wanderings between small towns in Poland during WWII, and his time in a forced labor camp in Schwenningen, in the prison of the Łódź ghetto and in the Hasag Warta camp in Częstochowa. Now 102 years old, Rabbi Eibeshitz has made telling what happened to the Jewish people his vocation. A self-educated historian and Orthodox Jew, his is a unique voice in Holocaust research – by choosing to focus on what had previously been considered marginal. During 2018, with the assistance of Holocaust scholar Esther Farbstein, Rabbi Eibeshitz was invited to share his insights with Yad Vashem scholars in a series of talks organized by the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. One aspect of his unique contribution to the field of Holocaust research was his focus on the religious communities, a subject about which he has written extensively. During his career as a historian, Rabbi Eibeshitz also contributed significantly to what was at the time a largely unchartered area of Holocaust research – Jewish women during the Shoah.
How many words did the Jews have for “bread” and “hunger” during the Holocaust? How many different expressions did they coin to describe their dreams and hopes? As early as December 1945, Yisrael Kaplan, an established historian and literary essayist, circulated a questionnaire among survivors on ethnographic-linguistic topics in an endeavor to provide insight into the inner lives of the Jews in Nazi-controlled Europe.

This volume is a unique collection of poems, jokes, popular expressions, proverbs, slogans, common curses, secret codes and more devised by Jews in the camps and ghettos as a way of coping with the harsh reality. The terms and sayings reflect the Jews’ attitudes toward the Nazi oppressors and their collaborators, and demonstrate the resilience of the Jewish spirit against all odds.
Lwow under the Swastika: The Destruction of the Jewish Community through the Eyes of a Polish Writer

Shortly after the German Army occupied Lwow in the summer of 1941, Tadeusz Zaderecki began documenting the increasing persecution of local Jews. As a non-Jew, albeit with close ties to the Jewish community, Zaderecki was able to move freely in the streets, to witness, to listen to the reports of others, and to document the Holocaust in Lwow from the beginning to the end.

Unwelcome Memory: Holocaust Monuments in the Soviet Union

In Unwelcome Memory, Dr. Arkadi Zeltser examines the connection between the memory of the Holocaust in the USSR and the ethnic identity of Soviet Jews, and describes the grassroots activities of thousands of Jews, banded together in more than 700 separate groups, to memorialize their loved ones murdered by the Nazis. Hundreds of the monuments that they managed to establish included clear ethnic-religious inscriptions in Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian, as well as Jewish symbols.
Everlasting Memory
The New Shoah Heritage Campus at Yad Vashem

Since its establishment in 1953, Yad Vashem has striven to collect all relevant names, items and sources of information that can help enlighten the world about the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. Today, Yad Vashem houses the world’s largest and most comprehensive Holocaust-era related collections. These collections are growing every year thanks in large part to Yad Vashem’s "Gathering the Fragments" campaign, which aims to collect Holocaust-related items from the public – private documentation, precious artworks and personal artifacts – as well as the individual stories that lie behind each one. Yad Vashem is committed to safeguarding these historic treasures under the highest archival standards in order to offer access to researchers, educators and members of the public who visit Yad Vashem from around the world.
In light of this, as well as recent enhancements in preservation and storage technologies, a decision was made to build the new Shoah Heritage Campus at Yad Vashem. The central component of the new Campus is the Shoah Heritage Collections Center, which will include state-of-the-art preservation and storage facilities for artworks, artifacts and archival materials. The Center will streamline the process of receiving, preserving and cataloguing items collected by Yad Vashem, with the express goal of making them accessible to the public. In addition to the Center, the Shoah Heritage Campus will feature a newly renovated auditorium, the Family and Children's Exhibition Gallery, and a curatorial center. By conserving these precious items – that are of great importance not just to the Jewish people, but also to humanity as a whole – and revealing them to the public, they will act as the voice of the victims and the survivors, and serve as an everlasting memory for coming generations.
Public Representatives 2018

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Dr. Moshe Kantor  Chancellor of the Council
Dr. Yitzhak Arad  Vice-Chairman of the Council

Dov Gilboa  Chairman of the Finance Committee
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Justice Jacob Türkel  Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations
Prof. Dina Porat  Chairman of the Academic Committee
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Jacob Danon  Chairman of the Human Resources Committee

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Vera H. Golovensky*  Adv. Shoshana Weinshall
Moshe Ha-Elion  Dudi Zilbershlag

* outgoing  **incoming
# Senior Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position / Division</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avner Shalev</td>
<td>Chairman of the Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorit Novak</td>
<td>Director General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Alexander Avram</td>
<td>Director, Hall of Names</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaya Ben Yehuda</td>
<td>Managing Director, International Relations Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Granitza*</td>
<td>Deputy Managing Director, International Relations Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ella Florsheim</td>
<td>Editor-in-Chief, Yad Vashem Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Haim Gertner</td>
<td>Director, Archives Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elinor Kroitoru, Adv.</td>
<td>Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yossi Gevir</td>
<td>Director, Governmental and External Affairs Department</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Assistant to the Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gadi Giladi</td>
<td>Director, Maintenance Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Eyal Kaminka</td>
<td>Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director, International School for Holocaust Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calanit Ben Haim</td>
<td>Deputy Director, International School for Holocaust Studies</td>
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<td>Shulamit Imber</td>
<td>Pedagogical Director, International School for Holocaust Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inbal Kivity Ben-Dov</td>
<td>Director, Commemoration and Community Relations Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orly Nir</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Commemoration and Community Relations Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Lieber</td>
<td>Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irit Agmon</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Information Technology Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaniv Oren</td>
<td>Director, Friends of Yad Vashem in Israel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* outgoing  **incoming
Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto
Lilach Shtadler
Director, International Institute for Holocaust Research
Deputy Director, International Institute for Holocaust Research

Iris Rosenberg
Yifat Bachrach-Ron *
Lilach Tamir-Itach**
Spokesperson and Director, Communications Division
Deputy Director, Communications Division

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Director, Libraries Department

Dr. David Silberklang
Senior Historian, International Institute for Holocaust Research Editor-in-Chief,
Yad Vashem Studies

Ayala Cohen
Director, Human Resources and Administration Division

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Dr. Joel Zisenwine**
Director, Righteous Among the Nations Department

Vivian Uria
Hedva Nachmias*
Yifat Bachrach-Ron **
Director, Museums Division
Deputy Director, Museums Division

Elisha Weinberger
Chief Financial Officer

Prof. Yehuda Bauer
Academic Advisor

Prof. Dan Michman
Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Incumbent of the
John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies

Prof. Dina Porat
Chief Historian

* outgoing  ** incoming
Directors, International Relations Division

Searle Brajtman, English Language Desk
Michael Fisher,* US Desk
Jeremy Weiss,** US Desk

Miry Gross, French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk

Perla Hazan, Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk

Dr. Susanna Kokkonen,* Christian Friends of Yad Vashem and Scandinavia Desk
Sara (Sari) Granitza,** Christian Friends of Yad Vashem

Arik Rav-On, German-Speaking Countries and German Swiss Desk

Adv. Arie Zuckerman, Diaspora Affairs Desk and Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate

* outgoing   **incoming
Financial Highlights 2018

Implementation of 2018 Budget

Revenues

Government of Israel: 38%
Funds & Donations: 49%
Department Activities: 10%
Rent & Other: 3%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government of Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Activities</td>
<td>18,589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent and Other Income</td>
<td>5,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds &amp; Donations</td>
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<td><strong>191,425 NIS</strong></td>
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<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>NIS (000)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>50,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>34,958</td>
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<td>Remembrance</td>
<td>24,211</td>
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<td>Technological Infrastructure</td>
<td>14,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Construction</td>
<td>25,905</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>191,425 NIS</strong></td>
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</table>
Yad Vashem Societies and Friends Worldwide

Yad Vashem is deeply grateful for the dedicated work and fundraising efforts of its Friends Societies across every continent of the globe. The activities, events and awareness-raising endeavors of our partners are crucial to our shared mission of spreading Holocaust remembrance and education worldwide.

American Society for Yad Vashem
Chairman: Leonard Wilf
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Swiss Friends of Yad Vashem
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Fax: +41.22.736 28 25
Invest in Your Heritage – Join Yad Vashem’s Legacy Circle

Let your estate plans ensure that the memory of the Shoah is passed on to future generations. By including Yad Vashem in your estate plans, you guarantee a future that confronts denial and indifference. To learn more about legacy giving please visit: www.yadvashem.org/legacy or e-mail: international.relations@yadvashem.org.il
"We are pleased to welcome this year’s new benefactors, who have joined us in our steadfast support of Yad Vashem. Their dedicated partnership demonstrates the true importance of the continuation of Yad Vashem's sacred mission of Holocaust remembrance, education, research and documentation. In times of growing Holocaust denial, antisemitism and general uncertainty in the world, Yad Vashem’s commitment to the moral and ethical values necessary to maintaining a civil society has never been more critical. Keeping this urgent mission in mind, we encourage others to join the circle of Yad Vashem supporters."

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson

New Pillars

Holocaust Education Program in Memory of Dr. Samuel Pisar z”l

In honor of Yad Vashem’s dear friend Dr. Samuel Pisar z”l, the International School for Holocaust Studies will run three to five professional Holocaust Education Training Seminars annually, reaching populations deemed most critically in need of Holocaust education training. The program is generously supported by Yad Vashem Pillars the Pisar family, honoring the legacy of Samuel Pisar z”l, who deeply understood the importance of teaching the Holocaust as a means of shaping a better future for all of humanity. Samuel Pisar was ten years old when Hitler and Stalin invaded his hometown of Bialystok. The Germans murdered his parents and younger sister, Frieda. Samuel was sent to a number of concentration camps, and was finally liberated from Dachau by US forces at the age of 16. Taken in by relatives after the war, Samuel studied in Paris, later graduating from the University of Melbourne and earning doctorates from Harvard and the Sorbonne. Over the decades, Dr. Samuel Pisar, a renowned international human rights lawyer, remained dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and education. He founded the French Society for Yad Vashem, and took an active part in events and conferences, including the Kaddish concert at Yad Vashem on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem.
New Benefactors

Steven Baral

Steven Baral has made it his life's mission to honor the memory of his family members who were murdered in the Holocaust, as well as pay tribute to those who survived. During the war, his father Martin was interned in the Krakow ghetto with his siblings and parents. With help from three brave Christians – Tadeusz Pankiewicz, Bronka Porwitova and Ilonka Nemes – who were later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, Martin, his mother Franka and three of his cousins managed to escape and reach Hungary. After the war, they received a "certificate" from the British authorities, allowing them to immigrate to Eretz Israel. Martin's father Samuel, who had been sent to the Plaszow concentration camp, was one of over 1,200 Jews rescued by Righteous Among the Nations Oskar Schindler. After liberation, the whole family was reunited. They later moved to Australia, where Steven was born. Steven has been active in Seattle's Holocaust Center for Humanity for the last twenty years. He currently serves as its Vice President. “Yad Vashem is the sole legitimate repository of Jewish memory and Jewish history,” he says. "It has educated and inspired me. My family's name has been placed in the heart of Yad Vashem, and for this I feel extremely honored.”

Amy and Robert Book

Amy and Robert (Bob) Book recently joined the honored circle of Yad Vashem Benefactors. Inspired by Bob's personal relationship with Holocaust survivors Joe Kushner, Sam Halpern and Larry Orbach z"l, the Books recently dedicated the Northern Garden of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in honor of their son Douglas Bradley Book and in memory of Sam Halpern. Amy and Bob are outstanding leaders and are tremendously committed to Holocaust remembrance and education, as well as the State of Israel. Their philanthropy also extends to other organizations in the US and Israel, including Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF), “Brothers for Life” and Chabad Victims of Terror. Bob is the Chairman of Book Capital Enterprises, LLC, and Jet Support Services Inc. and Amy is a retired teacher, committed to furthering the broad education of future generations. The couple has three children, Neil, Scott and Doug, and four grandchildren, Sidney, Brody, Chloe and Sadie.
Esther (Dita) Kohn-Cohen and Salomon Cohen Levy z"l

Salomon Cohen Levy was born in Jerusalem but at the age of three immigrated with his parents to Venezuela. There he met Esther (Dita) Kohn-Cohen. Over the years, they had six children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After studying civil engineering, Salomon founded the successful Sambil construction. Throughout his life, he diligently supported the State of Israel. An economist and art patron, Dita is active in the Venezuelan Jewish community. She is loved and respected for her simplicity, kindness, talent, generosity and sense of humor. Only three of Dita’s aunts and her grandfather survived the Holocaust. Dita is committed to the Shoah remembrance and, together with her sister Marianne Kohn-Beker z"l and other members of the Jewish community, interviewed survivors living in Venezuela and published their testimonies and stories in three volumes entitled From Exile to Life. Dita and Salomon’s daughters Fanny and Thalma are also devoted supporters of Shoah remembrance. Long-time philanthropists, Dita and Salomon contributed to the endowment of Yad Vashem’s Holocaust History Museum. Their dedication to living a life of giving has been a source of inspiration, to the Jewish communities in Venezuela and Israel, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Maks and Rochelle Etingin

During WWII, Maks Etingin, his brother and their parents were forced into the ghetto in their hometown of Vilna, where they lived in crowded and oppressive conditions. They escaped the ghetto shortly before it was liquidated, aided by Boleslaw Boratynski, who was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 1992. Mr. Boratynski hid the Etingin family in a small pit in his backyard for ten months, until liberation. After moving to Sweden with his family, Maks immigrated to the US in 1947 on a student visa. In 1953, he met Rochelle – a fifth generation Israeli who had come to New York to study fashion. Rochelle sadly lost her brother in the Sinai conflict. The Etingin family feels a very special connection with Yad Vashem as it commemorates the terrible hardships that eventually brought Maks to the US. The Etingins established a special memorial panorama at Yad Vashem to honor Mr. Boratynski for saving the lives of their family during the Holocaust. Three generations of the Etingin family met Boratynski’s widow and granddaughter at Yad Vashem for an emotional reunion. The Etingin family recently became Yad Vashem Benefactors through their generous donation for the Shoah Heritage Campus.
Harry Krakowski

During the transformative Yad Vashem 2018 Generation to Generation Mission, Harry Krakowski pledged to join the distinguished group of Yad Vashem Benefactors. This donation is in memory of his parents Ellis and Israel Krakowski, grandparents Yehoshua and Sarah Krakowski, and aunt Renya who survived the Holocaust. It is also made in memory of his grandparents, Hersz Leib and Lea Krakowski and their children Uszer, Dora, Nekha, Miriam Mania, and Ichazkel, who were murdered in the Shoah in addition to the 1.5 million children who were murdered in the Shoah. Israel and Ellis Krakowski were both founding members of the American Society for Yad Vashem, and served as American Society Executive Board Members until they passed away a few years ago. Ellis also served as President of the American Society's Events Committee for over 25 years. Their leadership and commitment to Holocaust commemoration served as a model for other members of the Society. Today, Harry Krakowski manages and operates several hotels, and is President of the Skyline Hotel. He also is involved in real estate in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. His daughters Rachel, Sarah, Sophie and Leah are all active members of the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Young Leadership Associates (YLA) – continuing the family's tradition of keeping Holocaust remembrance and education relevant for generations to come.

The Saban Family

Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies cooperates closely with the IDF Education Corps to produce programs and day seminars, which are attended by some 70,000 soldiers every year, new recruits and veteran officers alike. These visits strengthen the soldiers’ sense of personal commitment to defend the Jewish state in order to ensure the continued existence and growth of the Jewish people. Haim and Cheryl Saban generously support Yad Vashem's IDF seminars both on the Mount of Remembrance and at army bases and training centers throughout Israel. Born in Egypt, Haim Saban, Chairman and CEO of Saban Capital Group, immigrated to Israel and France before moving to Los Angeles in 1983. Haim and Cheryl launched the Saban Family Foundation in 1999 to support various medical, children's and educational programs. Among these programs are the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, the Soroka Children's Hospital in Israel and the Friends of the IDF. Mr. Saban has pointed out that while military service is both a necessity and a rite of passage for young Israeli men and women, it is also one of the most important stages in their social and moral development and is thus delighted to be supporting Yad Vashem's vital efforts in this field.
Miriam and Egon Sonnenschein

Egon Sonnenschein lost 17 family members in the Shoah, and knows what it means to be dispossessed. After moving from country to country during and after the war, he finally immigrated from Israel to South Africa, where he met Miriam. The couple had four children and now have 12 grandchildren. Sadly, their daughter Vivienne passed away. In South Africa, Egon founded Nettex, which grew to become the largest Raschel Warp knitting factory south of the equator. In 1983, the family immigrated to Sydney, and established a successful textile business. Egon and Miriam Sonnenschein are actively involved with the Sydney Jewish Museum, where Egon tells his story as a Holocaust survivor and Miriam guides. Together, they offer students guidance for a happy and successful life: they must never forget the atrocities committed during the Holocaust, many survivors endured long-lasting damage, and they should not be bystanders, nor ever give up hope. The Sonnenscheins are committed to Israel and the Jewish community, representing the Sydney Jewish Museum as major philanthropists in the JCA “50 years list.” In addition to being generous donors to Israel, they support many other institutions and needy causes in their community.

David and Ellie Werber and Martin and Bracha Werber

New Yad Vashem Benefactors David and Ellie Werber and Martin and Bracha Werber, of New York, recently pledged their generous support of the Jewish World Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies in memory of their parents, Millie and Jack Werber z”l, Michael and Rosa Preis z”l (Ellie's parents), and Moshe and Leah Gottfried z”l (Bracha's parents), all of whom were Holocaust survivors. Martin and David's father Jack Werber was sent to Buchenwald at the beginning of the war, ironically, supposedly for being both a communist and a capitalist at the same time. In 1944, 600 children arrived at the camp, and Jack, who belonged to the camp underground, endeavored to save them. In his book *Saving Children*, Jack described his five and a half years in Buchenwald, during which time he learned of the murder of his wife and daughter and how his mission to save the children in Buchenwald restored his motivation to live. Jack survived the Holocaust and married Millie, who was born in Radom, and survived the work camp in the city's ghetto, Auschwitz and a death march. The two immigrated to the United States, where they had two sons, David and Martin. Millie's story was beautifully retold in her book *Two Rings*. 
PATRONS OF THE MOUNT OF REMEMBRANCE
Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson, USA
The Estate of Bernard Aptaker z”l, USA

VISIONARIES
Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, France
The Joseph Gottdenker Family, Canada
Franz Karl Hess z”l, Switzerland
The Estate of Fred Hillman z”l, USA
Dana & Yossie Hollander, Israel
Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Kantor, Russia
Maxi Librati, France
Miles S. Nadal and Family, Canada
The Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation, Canada

PILLARS
Anonymous, Switzerland
Anonymous, UK
Anonymous, USA
Stephanie & David J. z”l Azrieli and The Azrieli Foundation, Canada-Israel
Sady & Simy Cohen and Family, Venezuela
The Crown Family, USA
Leslie & Anna Dan, Canada
Gale & Ira Drukier, USA
European Jewish Fund, Luxembourg
David z”l & Sara Marysia Feuerstein, Chile
The Genesis Philanthropy Group, Russia
The Danek Gertner Foundation, Austria
Dr. Max z”l & Gianna Glassman, Canada
Eva & Arie Halpern z”l, USA
Gladys & Sam z”l Halpern, USA
Sharon & David Halpern, USA
Keren Hayesod in honor of John & Pauline Gandel AC, Australia
Ruth z”l & David z”l, Mindy & Ira Mitzner and Families, USA
The Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Foundation, Germany
Marilyn & Jack H. Pechter and Family, USA

David z”l & Fela Shapell Family, USA
Beth & Leonard Wilf, USA
Elizabeth & Joseph z”l Wilf Family, USA
Judith & Harry Wilf z”l Family, USA
Ariel y Vicky Picker e Hijos Alan, Uri y Tali, México
The Pisar Family in memory of Dr. Samuel Pisar, France
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1. On the cover: Holocaust survivor Elka Abramovitz, prior to lighting a torch during the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony at Yad Vashem

2. Holocaust survivor Rena Quint sharing her story at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies

3. Audience members at the Kovno Ghetto Memorial Concert at Yad Vashem, among them Holocaust survivors Daniel (Dani) Chanoch and Prof. Zvi Garfunkel

4. Archival documents and photographs donated to Yad Vashem as part of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign

5. Holocaust survivor Rabbi Yehoshua Eibeshitz pictured with Prof. Dan Michman, Head of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent, John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies
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