Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, is the leading authority in Holocaust education, remembrance, documentation and research. It stands at the forefront of unceasing efforts to impart the events of the Shoah period, to safeguard the memory of its victims, and to convey the legacy of its survivors. In an ever-changing world, Yad Vashem remains dedicated to grappling effectively with the ongoing challenges of keeping the memory of the Holocaust relevant today and for future generations.
Indeed, in every field of our endeavors, new frontiers of activity were explored and developed, and existing formats were updated and enhanced. This includes the nurturing of meaningful ties with loyal, supportive friends around the world, who have shown remarkable interest, identification and generosity towards Yad Vashem during a particularly difficult period.

Following the conclusion of 2020, I retired from the Chairmanship of the Yad Vashem Directorate. Thus, this is the last Annual Report relating to a year of Yad Vashem operations that I was privileged to plan and implement. When I assumed the Chairmanship in 1993, no one could have imagined the extent and nature of the dramatically changed reality that we face 27 years later – in the world at large, in the context of Shoah remembrance, and of course at Yad Vashem. During my years at the helm I have sought to cultivate proactive, constructive and ethical remembrance of the Holocaust – that horrifying, unprecedented and eternally relevant event that has affected so much of our consciousness and civilization. I have done so only with the steadfast support and assistance of beloved survivors and their families, my outstanding colleagues at Yad Vashem, and our cherished partners around the world. I express my deep appreciation to them all.

Our community of remembrance has been consistently motivated by the strong conviction that the meanings of the Holocaust are profoundly significant not only for the Jewish people, but also for humanity as a whole. It is both legitimate and empowering to relate to these varied meanings that are not contradictory, but rather complementary. I believe that this crucial insight will – and must – continue to guide and inspire the leadership of Yad Vashem into the future.

Wishing you all the very best,
Shalom!

Avner Shalev | Outgoing Chairman, Yad Vashem Directorate
From the Chairman of the Council

Shalom,

One of my earliest experiences in the Holocaust took place in autumn of 1942. As a five-year-old boy, I remember being gripped with fear as the Jews of my hometown of Piotrkow, Poland were gathered at the Umschlagplatz, the assembly point for deportation, next to the Great Synagogue. Though my view was obscured, there in the middle of it all, I caught sight of my father, the Rabbi of Piotrkow, with his impressive beard, surrounded by the Jews of the town. Suddenly, the head of the Gestapo began to beat my father with all his might. It was clear to everyone why the German had beaten him. The Nazis had ordered the Jews to shave off their beards and sidelocks, but my father had defied their order. I watched as he mustered all his strength, despite his great physical pain, to avoid falling at the German officer's feet. Father knew that if he fell, the spirit of the Jews in our town would break, and he was determined to prevent that. He remained loyal to his faith and values, never once forfeiting his role as an authentic Jewish leader.

When I recall my own experiences during the devastating years of the Shoah, it is clear to me that the pain of the cruel beatings, bitter cold, gnawing starvation and unending loneliness – was surpassed only by the humiliation we were forced to undergo. To this day, it cannot be fathomed how the Nazis could have sunk to the depths of depravity that allowed them to taunt, torment and degrade us. They saw us not as people, but rather as subhumans who deserved to be murdered simply because we were Jews.

In April, we celebrated the Holiday of Passover, referred to by our sages as "Z'man Herutainu – The Hour of our Freedom," marking the redemption of the Jewish people from hundreds of years of cruel and demeaning mistreatment at the hands of the Egyptians. The festival celebrates the moment when we were transformed from a dispirited, loosely-tied group of downtrodden slaves into a proud, independent and emancipated people, henceforth free to steer our own destiny.

The global pandemic that has gripped the world this past year has overshadowed so many of our activities, both personal and professional. Now, as we seek to re-emerge from this period of challenge and restrictions, we aim to rebuild and heal ourselves, as well as our surrounding environments. This is precisely the time to find inspiration for today and tomorrow from the annals of our past.

I am thus convinced that Holocaust remembrance is now more vital than ever. The meanings to be gained from studying this darkest episode in Jewish history can serve as a beacon for all people who seek to build kind, just and moral societies. Yad Vashem's unceasing efforts to accurately record and recount the true stories of the Shoah's heroes illustrate the crucial importance of remembrance as gateway to constructive and meaningful living.

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau | Chairman, Yad Vashem Council
Highlights of Yad Vashem’s Activities in 2020

Holocaust Education
- 110,000 students attended educational programs
- 68,000 teachers and opinion-shapers participated in educational activities
- 64,300 soldiers and security force members participated in educational programs
- 24,000 worldwide participants in online courses
- 426 seminars, 66 training days and 19 international seminars

Research and Publications
- 19 fellowships and awards granted to scholars
- 22 international research workshops and symposia
- 25 new publications
- 10th annual International Holocaust Research Book Prize

Artifacts and Artwork
- 965 new artifacts; 42,900 total
- 564 new works of art; 12,670 total

Righteous Among the Nations
- 200 individuals recognized as Righteous Among the Nations; 27,800 total

Visits and Commemorative Events
- 70,500 participants in 466 online lectures for the general public
- 190,000 visitors (during limited operating days)
- 71 events and memorial services
Internet Activity
- 6.1 million visits to the website in 8 languages
- 53.6 million video views on YouTube channels in 8 languages since their launch
- 21,500 new Facebook members; 209,000 total
- 13,500 new followers on Twitter; 94,000 total
- 27,000 new followers on Instagram; 82,000 total

Collections
- 2.7 million new pages of documentation added to the Archives; 220 million pages total
- 250,000 pages of documentation digitized
- 4,850,000 names now in the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names
- 16,000 Holocaust-era items donated for safekeeping
- 10,000 photographs added to the Photo Archive; 520,000 total
- 282 new Holocaust survivor testimonies filmed; 133,000 video, audio and written testimonies total
- 11,000 public inquiries for archival information answered
- 4,200 new publications in the Library; 179,000 publications in 69 languages total
- 9,500 Holocaust-related films in the Visual Center
- 12,840 films now searchable in the online Film Catalogue
- 15th 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 instruction, enabling students and educators from around the globe to learn how to study and teach about the Holocaust in meaningful and relevant ways. This year, the International School adapted creatively to the COVID-19 restrictions, and offered training programs, lectures, panel discussions, interviews with survivors, virtual tours and other forms of innovative online content via various platforms in some 15 languages, directly reaching hundreds of thousands of participants. The School's graduates emerge as dedicated educational professionals, committed to dispersing Yad Vashem's unique pedagogical methodology throughout the world.
International Learning Community Provides Ongoing Support to Graduates

During 2020, an international learning community for English-speaking Yad Vashem graduates was established. This community enjoyed a special online lecture series held during the summer, which focused on topics such as the representation of the Holocaust in various countries and early forms of Holocaust documentation. The series also included five film screenings with accompanying short lectures, followed by discussions. In addition, special programs for graduates speaking other languages were developed. A series of online lessons took place in the lead-up to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and a virtual tour of the Holocaust History Museum, especially for graduates from Spain, Portugal and Latin America, was held, as well as a highly successful four-day virtual seminar for teachers from Macedonia.

68,000 teachers and opinion-shapers participated in educational activities
Online Activities for Gandel Program Educators in Australia

The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators is a long-term professional-development initiative centered on training a cadre of expert Holocaust educators active throughout Australia, and forming an active and organized network committed to teaching about the Holocaust and its implications. During 2020, two online conferences gave participants the opportunity to receive further training and present their educational projects. The Gandel Foundation, which supports the program, was awarded the title of "Bolder Philanthropy 2020," a prestigious recognition by Philanthropy Australia, for its work in the field of Holocaust remembrance.
Meeting the Challenge: Teacher Training in Israel during the Global Pandemic

Adapting to constraints on physical gatherings, for the first time the International School for Holocaust Studies conducted a comprehensive distance-learning course for Israeli educators, comprising three major seminars held during school holidays. In addition, two courses were provided for literature and history teachers on the subject of “Holocaust Symbols in Israeli Society,” which inspired the teachers and encouraged interdisciplinary collaborations. Marking the November Pogrom (Kristallnacht) the School also held a special program throughout Israel, with a virtual tour in conjunction with Google Earth, of synagogues that were destroyed during Kristallnacht. Each synagogue landmark appeared on the map as it exists today, together with images of the building before the events of November 1938.
New Animated Film Tells the Story of Holocaust Survivor Aharon Barak

A new animated film produced by the International School tells the story of Holocaust survivor Aharon Barak, who went on to serve as President of the Supreme Court of Israel. The film, created specifically for fifth- and sixth-grade schoolchildren, incorporates both the geographical and chronological contexts of the Holocaust, allowing this age group to more easily distinguish between distances of time and place. An accompanying lesson plan enables educators to conduct productive conversations with pupils to help them navigate through their knowledge and emotions regarding this sensitive subject.
The International School for Holocaust Studies partnered with the Berlin-based Anne Frank Center in a project specifically geared towards elementary schoolteachers. A short film was produced in German about the life of Holocaust survivor Zvi Aviram, focusing on his childhood in Berlin during the 1930s through liberation. The film is the centerpiece of a teaching unit for younger age groups that was presented together with general pedagogical guidelines. Due to high demand, the activity was offered three times between June and September 2020.
"Echoes & Reflections": Unique Lesson Plan on Prewar Jewish Life

In January 2021, the multimedia program for US educators "Echoes & Reflections" launched a brand new lesson plan on prewar Jewish life. In this unique lesson, students investigate Jewish traditions and culture before the Holocaust. At its center are six teenagers from different countries and walks of life, expressing their experiences, hopes and dreams in their own words through diary entries and other primary and secondary source material. This glimpse into their worlds allows students to see them as individuals, creating empathy and deepening understanding of the diversity of prewar Jewish life. Supplemental videos, including "Glimpses of Jewish Life Before the Holocaust" – part of Yad Vashem's Holocaust Education Video Toolbox – survivor testimonies and texts provide additional information.
New Online Learning Environment in English and Russian

During 2020, a new learning environment entitled "War and the Holocaust: Questions about the Past and the Future" was uploaded to the Yad Vashem websites in Russian and English. The environment is an online version of Yad Vashem’s "Center for Major Questions Arising from the Holocaust," a multimedia facility located at Yad Vashem, and introduces a variety of viewpoints on the moral, historical, theological and philosophical questions connected to the Holocaust. The statements presented by historians and scientists, writers and actors, philosophers and religious leaders from Israel, Russia and the United States are an important educational platform for detailed discussion based on different opinions and perceptions. The learning environment is designed for independent study as well as group work for schools, youth groups, students and the adult public.
First Online Conference for Russian-speaking Educators

In January 2021, an online international conference for Russian-speaking educators was held, entitled "The Meanings of the Holocaust in a Changing World." The event was attended by Yad Vashem graduates: teachers, museum staff, academics and informal education professionals from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Moldova, the United States and Israel. World-renowned scholars, participants and facilitators from the International School discussed a range of questions, such as the educator's place in the digital age, empathizing with Holocaust victims despite distance learning, and pedagogical and moral boundaries for teaching the Holocaust in an era of advanced technology.
Hybrid Program for Jewish Students from Abroad

Every year, participants in Masa, a program for Jewish students from abroad who come to work and study in Israel, take part in Yad Vashem’s Holocaust Remembrance Day activities. This year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the International School conducted sessions via Zoom to 4,400 participants in English, Russian, French and Spanish. The students learned about rescue by Jews during the Holocaust – the central theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2020 – watched a testimonial film from the "Witnesses and Education" project, and joined in a discussion of last letters sent by Holocaust victims. The long-standing collaboration between Masa and Yad Vashem allowed for joint and creative thinking regarding the adaptation of content to the participants.

"The best parts of the program were when we took an active role. It helped me understand the reality in which they lived and gave me an opportunity to experience some of their emotions."

Sharon P., Student participant in educational program
New Agreements with Universities Encourage Advanced Holocaust Education

In September 2020, a cooperative agreement was signed between Yad Vashem and the University of Notre Dame and its global network, including the University of Notre Dame at Tantur, located in Jerusalem. The agreement underscores Yad Vashem's endeavors to increase and encourage advanced Holocaust education and research across the world. An additional agreement, commemorating the 82nd anniversary of the November Pogroms of 1938, also known as Kristallnacht, was signed between Yad Vashem and the University of Cologne. This historic understanding, the third of its kind with a German university, will bolster effective Holocaust education in Germany.
Online Training for Guides Offers New Learning Opportunities

During 2020, various training courses for Yad Vashem guides that began in the form of frontal meetings on the Mount of Remembrance had to adapt to the new restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and evolved into online training sessions. In July 2020, an English-speaking instructors' course was held with participants speaking a wide range of languages, including English, Russian, German, French, Spanish and Hungarian. The training course for guides in Poland, which opened in November 2019, continued into 2020, with monthly meetings. The online format opened up new opportunities for the course by allowing renowned historians from around the world, including Prof. Christopher Browning (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), to lecture. An additional course for ultra-Orthodox guides opened for the first time in February 2020.

"Thank you very much for your guiding during our virtual tour of the museum. The tour was enriching and interesting, and it added a great deal to our knowledge on the topics covered. I am so glad we managed to "visit" Yad Vashem - even during Corona times."

Robert L., Participant in virtual tour
Educational Efforts Reach Out to IDF Bases Across Israel

Almost immediately after the outbreak of COVID-19 in Israel, the IDF was identified as one of the target groups with significant potential to implement new activities even under the restrictive circumstances. The International School worked to conduct value-based educational activities in order to instill Holocaust remembrance among IDF units, in accordance with the training stage and level of the participants and aimed at providing relevant content for all units, with maximum flexibility and consideration of their schedules. This included the development of new educational materials and workshops on various topics, which were conducted on army bases throughout the country. Starting in the week leading up to Holocaust Remembrance Day 2020, Yad Vashem educators began traveling extensively to army bases across Israel to educate thousands of soldiers who were not able to attend programming at the Yad Vashem campus.
During 2020, the *Kolchem Shamati* (I Have Heard Your Voices) anthology was widely used to commemorate the Holocaust on many IDF bases around Israel – reaching tens of thousands of soldiers during the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day and beyond. The special award-winning anthology, to be used in discussions between commanders and their soldiers on the topic of Holocaust remembrance, enables the participants to listen to the voices and examine the words of both victims and survivors. The anthology, initiated by the IDF’s Education and Youth Corps, in cooperation with Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, includes a range of primary sources accompanied by poems and songs that enable a dialogue centered on ethics and values, and raise relevant questions for IDF soldiers today. The activities for the soldiers were held outdoors, according to Ministry of Health instructions, which nevertheless allowed for meaningful impact and thought-provoking discussions.
Construction Continues on New Education Center in the Negev

During 2020, progress continued on the construction of the new Yad Vashem Education Center for Holocaust Remembrance on the Ariel Sharon IDF Training Campus in the Negev. By the end of the year, despite restrictions due to COVID-19, the majority of the exhibits had been prepared and constructed. With this exciting project now close to completion, the premises are scheduled to be open and operational by International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022.
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. During the global pandemic, Yad Vashem continued to provide access to high quality virtual activities to meet the demand dictated by quarantines and travel restrictions.
New Learning Environment Sheds Light on Prewar Eastern-European Communities

A new interactive learning environment on the subject of the Eastern-European shtetl before the Holocaust was uploaded to Yad Vashem's website in English and Hebrew. The environment includes an animated film about the topic; an interactive presentation centered on the Gambin shtetl as an example; an interview with Israeli Yiddish expert Prof. Avraham Nowerszttern; a lesson plan on the topic of *yizkor* memorial books; and an academic article on the representation of the shtetl in Jewish art.
Free Online Course on Poetry and the Holocaust

Yad Vashem has become internationally recognized as a world leader in creating and implementing online courses on different Holocaust-related topics. The courses offer learners new ways to engage with the history and events and the Holocaust, at their own pace and at location of their choosing. The latest to join the canon, one of several released this past year, is "Poetry and the Holocaust," available for free on the FutureLearn platform. Launched in late 2020, the course takes a comprehensive look into Holocaust history through a literary prism, using poems written during and after the Shoah to learn about and reflect on the experiences of the authors and those around them. Poets and authors featured throughout the course include Dan Pagis, Primo Levi, Wisława Szymborska, Avremek Koplowicz and Peter Kest.

"It was a very thought provoking course, containing just the right blend of the historical, literary and social components. I remain humbled by the enormity of the Holocaust."

Paul S., Online course participant
During 2020, "On the Holocaust: A Yad Vashem Podcast" was launched in Hebrew and English. The unique podcasts feature historians and experts from Yad Vashem who present innovative perspectives on the Holocaust, exploring topics such as Emanuel Ringelbum and the Warsaw ghetto secret archive; the Allies and the Holocaust; women in Auschwitz; Jews saving Jews; the perpetrators of the Holocaust; post-Holocaust revenge; the Wehrmacht; Operation Reinhard; and Yad Vashem's Hall of Names.
Expanding Hebrew-language Online Learning

During 2020, two new courses were offered on the Campus IL online platform. "The Fate of Jewish Communities during the Holocaust" traces the lives of members of large Jewish communities in Yugoslavia, Greece and North Africa, and includes conversations with leading researchers, archival materials, documents, testimonies and maps to provide an in-depth view of life in these communities and how they coped during the Holocaust. In "Antisemitism: From Its Origins to the Present," fifty leading scholars from Israel and the world – historians, sociologists, political scientists, linguists and well-known public figures – take learners on a fascinating journey that reviews the development of antisemitism throughout history, from the ancient world to the present day. The course was originally released in English and is available on the Coursera and FutureLearn online platforms.

"The rich resources in the course and the greater resources available at Yad Vashem provide so much to explore and so much for us to use in our own teaching practices."

Haydn Blackey, Online course participant
קולוס סמואלי
לא זכאי לשרוד זוג

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 | EDUCATION
During 2020, while most of the world remained under lockdown due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Yad Vashem held a wide range of commemorative and educational activities to enable audiences around the world to learn about the cataclysmic events of the Holocaust, commemorate the victims, and pay tribute to the survivors.

90,000 visitors (during limited operating days)
Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2020
Highlights of 2020
Official Visits

“It was so touching to visit Yad Vashem today. Any person who leaves this place without shedding a tear is one who has a heart of stone.”

Thoufeek Lakirya, United Arab Emirates
Memorial Ceremonies in the Wake of COVID-19

Every year, dozens of memorial events are held at Yad Vashem in cooperation with survivor organizations of various communities. This year, due to COVID-19 and the ban on public gatherings, the existence of these events was in jeopardy. However, Yad Vashem found creative, safe and effective ways to maintain the tradition of remembrance and to conduct impressive and memorable online events in partnership with next generations. This allowed many members of the organizations to continue to hold their annual memorial services, during which they pay tribute to landsmen who were murdered in the Holocaust, and also the opportunity to keep in touch with members of their extended community. In addition, the online format facilitated greater public participation in the events.
In January 2021, Yad Vashem held its annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day event for foreign diplomats in Israel – this year online. After opening remarks from the President of the State of Israel H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin, Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, and Chief of State Protocol at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Gil Haskel, Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research, gave a lecture entitled "The Paths from Mass Shootings to the 'Final Solution.'" The participants then viewed the filmed testimony of Holocaust survivor Max Privler, who was one of the torchlighters during Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day 2017. The event, which was attended by 90 diplomats, was also broadcast on Facebook Live.
"Designing Memory" 2020: Winning Poster and Official Postal Stamp

The winner of the annual national competition to design the official poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day was Rotem Shrir, aged 24, of Modiin in central Israel. The poster, on the theme of rescue by Jews during the Holocaust, features an emotive charcoal drawing of two pairs of feet sharing one pair of shoes, portraying the Jewish people’s common fate during the Holocaust. The image of their feet triggers associations with the death marches, and the white background recalls the snowy expanses the prisoners trod during their tortured journeys. The Israel Post’s Philatelic Service created an official stamp based on the winning poster to be distributed for collectors in Israel and abroad, with an accompanying envelope and explanatory leaflet.
A diverse range of activities was offered in 2020 as part of Yad Vashem’s efforts to engage the public in cultural and informative enrichment events throughout the calendar year.

The virtual tour of Yad Vashem was outstanding. It was incredibly informative and moving. Thank you for utilizing your passions and talents to share such an important part of our history.

Laura Baily
Virtual tour participant
During 2020, a series of Zoom lectures was launched as people in Israel – and around the world – stayed sheltered behind closed doors. Topics connected to the Holocaust Remembrance Day central theme included the terrible dilemmas faced by Jewish rescuers and their charges, as well as the pressure of the developments during the war as they raced against the clock to save as many Jewish lives as possible. More general Holocaust-based presentations covered a range of topics, such as the origins and trends of antisemitism; an outline of Yad Vashem’s names recovery efforts; the facts and politics of the liberation of Auschwitz; revenge after the Holocaust; “Operation Reinhard”; the fate of Jewish women during the Shoah; the escape to the forests; and elderly survivors in the wake of the Holocaust.

A new series of online lectures was also launched, in several languages, affording the public the opportunity to hear from renowned Yad Vashem experts, historians and researchers on various compelling and timely topics, including a panel discussion on medical ethics and the Holocaust, theological responses to the Holocaust, the ramifications of the opening of the Vatican archives, and a special discussion...
with Henry Foner to mark International Father's Day. Foner, a Kindertransport Holocaust survivor, received many postcards from his father during the war years.

For the Hebrew-speaking public, a number of free Zoom and prerecorded lectures centering on Israel's public holidays – Passover, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Independence Day and Lag B'Omer – attracted thousands of private individuals, public offices and corporations. The series continues as a weekly endeavor, with hundreds of Israelis viewing each lecture.

“Yad Vashem’s lectures are a powerful way of ensuring that the survivors of the Holocaust will never be forgotten.”

Asher S., Online lecture participant
Examining the Holocaust from New Vantage Points

In November 2020, two special series of online interviews in Hebrew took place for the general public.

"The Holocaust and Law" examined the connection between historical and legal issues, as well as questions relating to moral dilemmas. The series reviewed Holocaust trials held in Israel and their impact on the historical, legal and cultural discourse in Israeli society, as well as on shaping Holocaust consciousness in Israel and around the world. Among the prestigious lecturers were judges and historians, including Justice Elyakim Rubinstein, Justice Dalia Dorner, Holocaust survivor Michael (Mickey) Goldman, Dr. Rivka Brut and Adv. Arie Barnea.

"The Holocaust and Mental Health" series dealt with the involvement of psychiatrists in Germany in the realization of Nazi ideology; the psychiatric system in the State of Israel and its treatment of Holocaust survivors; and the psychological analysis of the second generation of Holocaust survivors. The series included interviews with Holocaust survivor Prof. Shlomo Breznitz as well as professionals in the field.
Enrichment 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 2020, Yad Vashem facilitated several high-level courses providing rich and relevant content pertaining to the history of the Holocaust. The courses, which were held online and were open to the general public, included "From Roots to Trees," introducing the fascinating world of Jewish genealogy. This unique course was facilitated cooperatively with the Central Zionist Archives. In addition, Yad Vashem offers a course for public service employees, entitled "The Holocaust: Between History and Memory."
In December 2020, the Israeli public was invited to an online event to mark 10 Tevet, a general Hebrew calendar memorial date for those whose date of death is unknown, including many Holocaust victims. The event featured a lecture, entitled "Questions of the Holocaust," by Rabbi Oury Cherki, Chairman of Brit Olam – International Volunteering and Development. In addition to the lecture, songs and melodies from the Holocaust period and the moving stories behind them were presented by Klezmer musicians. In light of restrictions due to the Coronavirus, the International School for Holocaust Studies created special online activities to mark the day including workshops, virtual tours and survivor testimonies. The events were attended by more than 2,000 students from middle and high schools, national service volunteers, members of youth movements and pre-military preparatory programs.
In December 2020, Yad Vashem held a special online symposium dedicated to the annual theme: "Jewish Rescue during the Holocaust." While this key topic has been widely researched and taught in a range of programs and activities held by Yad Vashem over the years, the focus of the symposium was on efforts by Jews to save their fellow Jews in the territories of the USSR, where they faced immediate and total annihilation. Hundreds of participants watching from around the globe were reminded of the importance of documenting both the physical and spiritual resistance of Jews to their Nazi persecutors and their accomplices – as well as the wide variety of efforts made by Jews to assist their persecuted brethren in a range of places, times and situations. Despite being victims themselves, they helped people both familiar and unfamiliar to them, and were sometimes aided by diplomats, members of the Christian clergy and other non-Jews who were courageous enough to take this kind of action against such a formidable enemy.
A Bar or Bat Mitzvah signifies the moment a Jewish child accepts his or her place in the fabric of the Jewish people. This landmark occasion is an opportunity for families to come together, celebrate and embrace their Jewish heritage. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the way Jewish lifecycle events are being marked has changed, and Yad Vashem has in turn adapted its successful Twinning Program to offer easy access to this unique initiative from home. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah is twinned with a Jewish child victim, who did not have a chance to mark his or her own coming of age, and with whom they share something with the child celebrating – a birthday, a name, or a place of origin. The online option of this unique project has become an increasingly popular alternative as the world continues to grapple with COVID-19.

My son, Aron, was paired with Aron Gotlib from Poland who was born in 1933. I don't want Aron Gotlib's name and beautiful face to be just be consigned to history. On 'my' Aron's Bar Mitzvah, we will celebrate on his behalf, too.

Adam Wells, on Twitter
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.
Conservation During COVID-19

In order to protect the Holocaust-era items on display at Yad Vashem during the lockdown period, urgent preparations were made to conserve the Yad Vashem Artifacts and Art Collections – invaluable assets of Jewish heritage – the museological spaces and the various exhibits. For this purpose, a special emergency team was appointed to address the issue, including visiting the collections warehouses to receive new items and to review preservation and climate conditions. The emergency team drafted and implemented an action plan in accordance with emergency procedures issued by ICOM (International Council of Museums). Items were taken out from display – in the Holocaust History Museum, the "Gathering the Fragments" exhibit in the foyer of the Archives and Library Building, and the rotating display case in the Visitors Center – and placed in storage. Other display cases were sealed against dust, and larger artifacts covered to protect them.
"SHOAH: How Was It Humanly Possible?"
Displayed in Taiwan

In January 2021, the exhibition "SHOAH: How Was It Humanly Possible?" opened at the Guangzhou City Historical Museum in Taiwan. The exhibition, presented in Chinese and English, reviews the main events between the years 1933-1945, and the story of the fate of the Jewish people during this dark period. The opening of the exhibition was attended by the Deputy Secretary General of the City, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Southern Taiwan, cultural figures, academics and the media. The exhibition was originally produced in the ready2print format and has been exhibited throughout the country, offering exposure to the subject in a region where knowledge about the Holocaust is relatively limited. During 2020, demand increased for Yad Vashem’s easy to print, museum-quality exhibitions that are designed to promote dialogue about the Holocaust, impart its universal meanings, and foster a connection to the relevance of the murder of six million Jews during the Shoah to daily life in the 21st century.
Since Yad Vashem’s establishment, gathering genuine artifacts has been part of the process of commemorating the destruction of European and North African Jewry during the Shoah. Yad Vashem’s Artifacts Collection now comprises almost 42,900 items. The many personal effects in the collection disclose the individual stories of people, families and, at times, entire communities forever lost to the Jewish nation.
Spotlight on Conservation: 
The “Swedish Ambulance” at Yad Vashem

During the spring of 1945, thirty-six white buses, some of which had been converted into Swedish Red Cross ambulances, set off for Germany to carry out a unique "exchange" of prisoners with foreign citizenship for Germans living in the Land of Israel. Over 20,000 inmates – mostly women, and among them several thousand Jews – were transported out of Germany by these convoys for rehabilitation in Sweden, accompanied by doctors and nurses, as well as a large team of volunteers.

Twenty-five years ago, one of the original ambulances was donated to Yad Vashem, and over time it has undergone a number of restoration projects. Unfortunately, due to prolonged exposure to the rain and sun, the physical condition of the ambulance once again significantly deteriorated. Recently, a comprehensive and professional conservation project was conducted on the exterior part of the Swedish ambulance. Future plans include housing it in a climate-controlled structure that will protect it from weather damage and also allow visitors to view original artifacts and photographs connected to this unique rescue story inside the ambulance itself.
Yad Vashem’s Art Collection, the largest and most wide-ranging collection of its kind in the world, includes some 12,670 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 who demonstrated 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.
Esther Lurie Collection Donated to Yad Vashem

In March 2020, a collection containing more than 400 works of art by Holocaust survivor Esther Lurie and accompanying archival materials was donated to Yad Vashem. Lurie studied set design in Brussels and painting at the Royal Academy of Arts in Antwerp. In 1934 she immigrated to the Land of Israel with her parents, and in 1938 she won the Dizengoff Prize for Painting. In 1939, she went back to study in Belgium and then she traveled to visit relatives in Latvia and Lithuania, where she became trapped with the outbreak of the war. Following the German occupation, in June 1941, while living with her sister in Kovno (Kaunas), she was deported to the ghetto. There she first painted landscapes and portraits at the behest of the Germans, but also secretly engaged in documenting daily life in the ghetto. The Judenrat (Jewish Council) encouraged her to continue documenting the ghetto’s true reality. After liberation Esther went to Italy, and from there returned to Israel, in July 1945.
With comprehensive websites in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish, German, 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 – 209,000 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.
Online Engagement Grows Exponentially During 2020

Throughout 2020, Yad Vashem intensified its outreach efforts using all its social media platforms – on Twitter in five languages, on Facebook in Hebrew and English, and on Instagram – which resulted in greatly increased engagement with audiences around the world. Many thousands of people the world over joined in its educational and commemorative activities throughout the year, and were welcomed into a community of meaningful remembrance.
"Survivors: Faces of Life After the Holocaust"
Featured on Twitter

"Survivors: Faces of Life after the Holocaust," is a cooperative project between Yad Vashem and award-winning portrait photographer Martin Schoeller. The commemorative venture presents images of 75 Holocaust survivors from Israel, to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. German-born Schoeller photographs all his subjects – whether public figures or anonymous individuals – in the same way, using special lighting and photographing in extreme close-up. The result in this case is compelling portraits that capture the weathered faces of Jewish men and women who lived through the atrocities of the Holocaust. Accompanying the portraits are messages from the survivors for the generations to come.

The portraits were shared on Yad Vashem's Twitter account every day for 75 days beginning on VE Day in May 2020, marking 75 years since the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.
Online Exhibitions Offer Adapted Content in a Variety of Languages

The Yad Vashem website offers enriching and in-depth content in eight languages to address the growing global demand from people who have expressed an interest in learning about the Holocaust and its relevance today. During 2020, many online exhibitions were uploaded to the website in a variety of languages, including: in German, an exhibition about women couriers during the Holocaust and an exhibition marking the Jewish new year; in French, an exhibition about postwar children's homes; and in Spanish, an exhibition examining the Shoah of Sephardic Jewry.
Through its vast array of online material, projects and campaigns, Yad Vashem endeavored to bring to public attention the multifaceted and complex stories of Jewish people who took it upon themselves, despite their own persecution, to lend a hand to their fellow Jews. A new online exhibition was launched during 2020, entitled "Rescue by Jews: 'One for All,'" which features eleven stories of Jews saving Jews from Belarus, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, France, Croatia and Romania. The stories are taken from documents, testimonies, photographs and artifacts housed in the Yad Vashem Archives and Collections. Many of the stories are being told for the very first time, illustrating how the content brought forth in these exhibitions is vital to ongoing efforts to disseminate Holocaust remembrance and awareness worldwide.
New Online Exhibition: "My Lost Childhood"

After the war’s end, the enormity of the tragedy that had befallen the Jewish people gradually unfolded. Among the six million victims of the Holocaust were some 1.5 million Jewish children. Survivors, including tens of thousands of children, were scattered all over Europe. The children were found in the liberated camps, Christian homes, monasteries and convents, as well as wandering the streets and forests. They were gathered and placed in children’s homes in an endeavor to rehabilitate them, return them to their people and religion, and to restore their childhood and youth after the horrors they had endured. Most eventually immigrated to the Land of Israel, while others were reunited with relatives in the United States, Latin America, Canada, the UK and other destinations.

In January 2021, a new online exhibition entitled "My Lost Childhood: Children's Homes for Holocaust Survivors" was launched on the Yad Vashem website. The exhibition tells the story of seven children’s homes established after the war for child Holocaust survivors in Poland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Germany and France. The smiling faces in the photographs displayed inspire joy and hope, but also mask profound depths of pain, trauma and grief.
IRemember Wall Goes Viral

This year’s IRemember Wall, a unique online commemorative project run by Yad Vashem to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, was available in English, Hebrew, French, Spanish, German and Russian. Each participant who joined the wall was randomly linked to one of the names in Yad Vashem’s Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names, which today includes the identities of 4,850,000 Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust. Participants could also choose additional names of Holocaust victims from the Names Database to commemorate on the Wall. Those who joined were encouraged to share the stories on their social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. For the second consecutive year, Yad Vashem partnered with Facebook in order to encourage global awareness and outreach of this meaningful project, thereby reaching a vast international audience.

"Thank you for giving me a place to acknowledge the individuals and not just the statistics."

Catherine Fisher, on Facebook
Remembering from Home: International Virtual Names-Reading Ceremony

To mark Holocaust Remembrance Day 2020, when public gatherings were banned in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, Yad Vashem invited individuals to participate in an international campaign to record themselves reciting the names of Holocaust victims, and share the video on social media using the hashtags #RememberingFromHome and #ShoahNames. The campaign encouraged people of all ages, from all walks of life and from all corners of the world, to join this global name-reading initiative and thereby help restore the identities of the millions of Holocaust victims – men, women and children. The videos were collected from all over the world and uploaded onto the Yad Vashem website on Holocaust Remembrance Day as an online global names-reading ceremony.
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 27,800 individuals have been granted the esteemed title of Righteous Among the Nations. The honor is a unique and unprecedented attempt by the Jewish people to pay tribute to the men and women who bravely stood by their side at a time of persecution and great tragedy.
In June 1942, the situation of the Jews in the Netherlands was so dire that Menashe Dunkelgrin persuaded his entire family to flee the Netherlands. This was exceedingly dangerous, since the river crossings were guarded by the German army. Menashe's son asked his good friend, Marchesini Pacifico, who worked at the Italian embassy in The Hague, to help the family escape to Belgium. Pacifico agreed, and heroically made numerous trips in a vehicle with diplomatic markings across the border, delivering the Dunkelgrin family members to safety. The risk was especially great because Pacifico did not have the status of a diplomat even though he was traveling in a diplomatic vehicle. Out of the fifteen family members he smuggled across the border, four were caught and sent via Drancy to their deaths at Auschwitz. All the rest managed to get to Switzerland and survive. During 2020, Marchesini Pacifico was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.
The most comprehensive collection of Holocaust-era documentation in the world – some 220 million pages – is housed in the Yad Vashem Archives. Efforts to make the wealth of information gathered by Yad Vashem accessible to an ever-growing global audience remains a priority, as the demand for readily available resources rises. The Archives also continue to develop relationships with international institutions, resulting in the sharing of information and further propelling the growth of the Archives' holdings.
During 2020, Yad Vashem improved access to the information on its Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names by linking multiple name records pointing to the same victim in a proactive and systematic way. In many cases, various records relate to the same person and, if they can be grouped together, it is then possible to tell a more complete story of their life and fate. However, the systematic grouping of such records into one "personal file" is complex, and involves methodological and technical challenges. Yad Vashem has begun to create "personal files" or "clusters" that bind together several name records related to one person. Shortly after the start of the COVID-19 shutdown, Yad Vashem launched a unique crowd-sourcing project. Visitors to the Names Database can now select a family name and first name and conduct a search in order to identify new potential clusters of documents pertaining to one individual. They can then suggest these clusters to Yad Vashem experts for approval.
Archival Agreement with Romania Enriches Collections

In December 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and Yad Vashem regarding original documentation relevant to the prewar period and the Holocaust preserved in the Diplomatic Archives of the Romanian Foreign Ministry in Bucharest. Among the items covered by the memorandum is the archival fond of the Romanian Consulate General in Berlin, which was seized by the Germans in August 1944, captured by Allied troops, held in France and then given back to Germany, and only returned back to Romania at the end of 1990s. The 200 boxes of documents refer mainly to the situation of Romanian citizens of Jewish origin in Germany and occupied France between 1930 and 1944. They include names and photos, perhaps the last for many of these Romanian Jews.
Reference and Information Services Go Remote

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the closing of Yad Vashem's on-site reading rooms, the Yad Vashem Archives offered reference and information services to the public online. During 2020, hundreds of Zoom sessions were conducted with families and individuals from all over the world who had contacted the Archives with requests for information about their families during the Holocaust period. Finding out about the fate of family members during the Holocaust can be a difficult and harrowing experience for survivors and their families. At a time when in-person contact between the archivists and the public was impossible, conveying this information in a virtual, face-to-face conversation, in which the archivist explains the findings in a sensitive and empathetic way, is of vital importance. The Zoom sessions also enabled family members from all corners of the world to connect in one session, turning it into a special type of intergenerational reunion.

“The discoveries that you revealed to us moved me to tears. To hear what actually happened is no ordinary matter after the long silences we grew up with... you helped us close circles that would maybe never have been closed.”

Varda Peper, USA
Gathering the Fragments: Survival Story Documented in Wartime Diary

In the fall of 1942, eight-year-old Pnina Greenbaum was smuggled out from the Novi Korczyn ghetto a few days before it was liquidated. She lived in Warsaw with the Kasparks, a Polish family, for about three years under the false identity of Elizabeth Ozniak. Pnina prayed in church and was even praised by the pastor for her devotion – yet, secretly, in private, she maintained her identity as a Jew, as her mother had instructed her to do. During this time, she also kept a dairy: She wrote in notebooks wrapped in newspaper, documenting her personal experiences in Warsaw as well as news reports on events and developments in the city and around the world. After liberation, Pnina immigrated to the Land of Israel in 1946. "The Survival Story," compiled from the notebooks Pnina kept from the age of 9 to 16, along with a rare photograph of her from 1944, was donated to Yad Vashem by her son Zeev.

"It was important for me to turn the letter over to Yad Vashem for safekeeping so it wouldn’t get lost after my death... this way my parents’ amazing story will be told for generations.

Helen Lazar, Israel
"Citizens History" – users' involvement in the archival work:
By public involvement – the story becomes "My story"
Review: Monitoring Publics' input
“DE-professionalism” or new archival professions: Community manager, clusters expert, etc.
Involving the crowd – costs
Which technology to use?
Involving youngsters: Challenges and

Examining the Changing Relationship Between the Archivist and the User Audiences

In November 2020, 40 experts from Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Romania, UK, Canada, USA, Australia, India and Israel participated in a virtual Yad Vashem-EVZ international workshop on the connection between the archives and the various user audiences. The workshop was held in light of the fact that online accessibility has actually changed the fabric of the relationship between archivists, scholarly researchers, family researchers and the general public. The participants - archivists, reference specialists, cataloguing and technology experts, researchers, and digital humanities experts – gathered to discuss the changing role of the archivist/reference expert in interaction with the user, as more and more collections are made available online. During the workshop, they discussed the dynamic between open access to information and services provided remotely and the benefits and challenges they bring - while using Holocaust documentation as a test case. These questions became more pertinent during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many archives were closed to the public and their services were provided only remotely. The workshop also attempted to define expertise in an age where large amounts and sometimes all source material and information is accessible online, and how this actuality influences changes in methodology and tools.
Survivor Testimonies Recorded by Family Members

The video testimonies of Holocaust survivors are a key element in preserving the memory of the Holocaust and passing it on to future generations, scholars and educators, as they focus on the personal dimension of life in the shadow of the horrors of the Holocaust. Testimony is also important to the survivors themselves: It allows them to deal with their past and the difficult experiences they carried with them for many years.

During 2020, the Yad Vashem Archives integrated the Zoom platform into its documentation activity, making it possible to continue collecting the testimony of Holocaust survivors despite the health restrictions limiting access to witnesses. Yad Vashem called on family members to take part in filming testimonies of the survivors. To assist the public in this process, Yad Vashem prepared instructions with helpful tips to guide family members through conducting the interview, as well as a tutorial with technical and logistic details to ensure the best quality of filming.
Yad Vashem's Visual Center serves as the world's primary repository of Holocaust-related films of all genres. Among the many works are those concerning Jewish life between the two World Wars, the Holocaust period, postwar antisemitism, genocide, and other associated topics. The Visual Center continues to serve as a vital resource for filmmakers, researchers and the general public worldwide.
Winner of the 2020 Avner Shalev Award: 
*Golda Maria*

The 2020 Avner Shalev Award for Artistic Achievement in a Holocaust-Related Film was awarded to Patrick and Hugo Sobelman for their film *Golda Maria* (France, 2020). The annual award was presented at the Jerusalem Cinematheque’s 37th International Jerusalem Film Festival, conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Golda Maria* is a minimalistic presentation of the testimony of a survivor from France. It constitutes an intergenerational film about the transmission of personal history, since the woman after whom the film was named first told her story to her grandson, film producer Patrick Sobelman, in the 1990s. The story of the real-life Golda Maria gradually unfolds as her willingness to speak increases; she recounts her experiences during the Holocaust as a married woman of forty and the mother of two children.

“*The film “Golda Maria” showcases the survivor’s story, while extending the boundaries of the home movie, the memoir and the video diary, ensuring that voices such as Golda Maria’s will not only be preserved, but also heard by future generations.*

Remarks by the Prize Committee
Online Film Club Reaches New Audiences

During 2020, audiences enjoyed a fourth season of the Yad Vashem Film Club, this year held online due to the ongoing pandemic. The Film Club brings outstanding Holocaust-related feature films to the Israeli public – free of charge, with opening remarks by academics, film directors and critics. The season opened with a screening of The Mover (Latvia, 2018). The film tells the story of Latvian Righteous Among the Nations Yannis Lipka and his wife Johanna. Yannis was a weaver who worked during the war for the German Air Force as the person in charge of transporting Jews, and took advantage of his position to save dozens of people. He and Johanna sheltered Jews on their farm and hid them in the basement of their house. Their brave actions during the Nazi occupation put their whole family in great danger. Yannis and his wife Johanna Lipka, considered national heroes in Latvia, were recognized in 1966 by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.
With over 179,000 titles in 69 languages, the Yad Vashem Library is the most comprehensive collection of published material about the Holocaust. The books on its shelves and in its carefully monitored storage facilities range from research volumes to poetry, and from Holocaust-era Nazi publications to survivor memoirs. Dedicated Library staff keep a keen eye out for new publications relating to the Shoah and its aftermath that are released around the world, and thus maintain the Library’s name as the ultimate resource in Holocaust-related publications.
Over the years, Holocaust researchers, academics and other interested parties from Israel and around the world have built unique and valuable book collections for themselves. Each collection reflected their area of research and interest, the discipline in which they operated, and the geographical areas and the languages in which they were engaged. During 2020, the Yad Vashem Library received more than 1,600 books from a number of Holocaust researchers, including the collection of the late Noah Flug, economist and diplomat, and one of the founders of the Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Survivors in Israel; the collection of Prof. Dina Porat, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem, Prof. (Emerita) in the Department of Jewish History, Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry and the Chair of Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University; the collection of Sheldon Schreter, former director of the WUJS Institute and former director of the Israel Diaspora Institute at Tel Aviv University; and the collection of the late Prof. Hanna Papanek, an American anthropologist and feminist, and researcher at Harvard University, Boston University, the University of California-Berkley and the University of Indonesia.
Lecture Series on Literature and the Shaping of Memory

During 2020, Yad Vashem held a series of online interviews for the general public entitled "Writing Literature, Shaping Memory." The Hebrew-language series dealt with selections of fascinating works in the vast body of Holocaust literature written from WWII to the present day. The interviewees were prominent writers, scholars and cultural figures. Playwright, director and author Joshua Sobol spoke on the trilogy "Ghetto," "Man" and "In the Basement"; historian and author Dr. Lior Alperovich discussed the Holocaust in the writings and character of Aharon Appelfeld; writer Alon Hilu looked at Our Holocaust by Amir Gutfreund; and philosopher Dr. Shimon Azoulay lectured on the writing of Jean Emery.
RESEARCH

Yad Vashem's world-renowned International Institute for Holocaust Research stands at the forefront of scholarly study of the Holocaust era. Through groundbreaking research initiatives, the Research Institute helps lay the foundations for thorough investigation and analysis of the catastrophic events that took place during the Shoah. It strives to develop innovative research projects, strengthen cooperative relationships with other like-minded bodies, nurture young academics, and create an atmosphere that fosters comprehensive scholarly discourse.
The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic created a pressing need for an alternative to traditional research forums, at which the Institute’s fellows and other guest scholars present their ongoing scholarly investigations and discuss them with their Israeli colleagues. The new "Zoom in to Research" series provided a unique opportunity to widen the scope of the previous forums. Guest speakers who had not yet been hosted in Jerusalem allowed for an increasingly broad range of topics to be explored, while scholars from all over the world, including those who live and work in areas where networks of Holocaust researchers are not always available, were able to view the presentations and contribute to the lively discussions. The series will continue in the coming years in an effort to strengthen further this new international virtual research community, enriching academic discourse with outstanding lectures and discussions – regardless of geographical limitations.
Jewish Press in Germany Series Offers insights in Real-Time

During 2020, the Institute's Center for Research on the Holocaust in Germany worked on the publication of two new Hebrew-language new volumes as part of a series dedicated to the Jewish press in Nazi Germany. Each volume includes translations of articles from Jewish newspapers, as well as an academic article that accompanies the archival materials. The publications – numbers 8 and 9 in the series – focus on two very different areas: Jewish Scholarly Journals in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939 (edited by Dr. Kerstin von der Krone) is dedicated to newspapers centered on academic Jewish studies in Germany and addresses issues of exclusion the community faced – socially and politically, theologically and philosophically; and Rebuilding Across the Sea. Aufbau: The Journal of American Immigrants from Germany and Their Immigration and Adjustment Problems, 1938-1941 (edited by Dr. Rivka Elkin) looks at the unique immigrant and absorption challenges faced by German Jewish refugees in the United States during the second half of 1938 until October 1941, when emigration from Germany was forbidden.
Polish Jewry at the outbreak of World War II was vibrant, vital and diverse: Hasidic and Litvak; strictly religious and secularized; Zionist, Agudist, Bundist and Yiddishist; rural and urban; multilingual individuals and communities in a majority Polish yet multiethnic state, captured in a storm of violence and murder. In what ways did the varied lives and affiliations of prewar Polish Jews impact their reactions to their terrible experiences in the Shoah? How did their fate unfold in the ten occupation regions created by the Germans in Poland? How did their neighbors react to the Jews’ suffering and plight, and how did this impact their ultimate fate? These questions and more are at the heart of research on the Holocaust in Poland. Furthermore, understanding the Holocaust in Poland is essential to understanding the Holocaust in general, as well as Jewish, Polish and human history. Yet, to date no book has attempted to address these questions across all of Poland. Six scholars from four countries have taken on the challenge to co-author *The History of the Holocaust in Poland*, perhaps the most complex and challenging volume in Yad Vashem’s Comprehensive History of the Holocaust series. The publication is scheduled to be released in 2023.
The 2020 summer workshop of the International Institute for Holocaust Research was dedicated to "Egodocuments of Jewish Functionaries During the Shoah." The term "egodocument" relates to personal documents in which the "I" voice is dominant, such as personal letters, diaries, memoirs and autobiographies. In recent decades, this type of document has been utilized increasingly by historians in general, and by Holocaust historians in particular, because it allows for a better understanding of the state of mind, perceptions and motivations of the historical actors.

The goal of this summer workshop was to learn more about how Jewish functionaries during the Shoah – heads and members of Jewish councils, policemen in Jewish "Order Services" and so-called "Kapos" in camps, who were all presented extremely negatively in initial postwar testimonies and publications – perceived and justified their modes of action. Scholars from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, the US and Israel presented and analyzed the voices of a variety of such functionaries such as Prof. David Cohen, Chairman of the Amsterdam Jewish Council (pictured above), as expressed in diaries, reports, testimonies, postwar accounts and documentary films.
What frameworks existed to assist Holocaust survivors in rebuilding their lives emotionally? How did organizations and communities relate to the Shoah in general and to survivors in particular, and did that influence their level of functionality? How did wartime experiences, family status, age and gender affect their ability to overcome their traumas? In September 2020, the Diana and Eli Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust at the Research Institute hosted an international workshop together with the American University of Paris' George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, that discussed these very issues. Entitled “Overcoming the Darkness? Holocaust Survivors' Emotional and Social Journeys in the Early Postwar Period,” the workshop was conducted with 15 presenters from all over the world. Participants have been invited to submit their research articles for a volume to be published during 2023.
In February 2020, a group of scholars from various countries, including Israel, the US, France, Germany and Poland, gathered in Paris to discuss their research on letters from the Holocaust. The four-day scholarly workshop, entitled “Writing to Let You Know...,” took place in collaboration with the Mémorial de la Shoah. Research on different types of documents was presented and discussed: letters from Auschwitz to family members in their home countries; missives from children hiding in convents to their parents; and correspondence to various authorities, such as German and Austrian Jews reaching out to the German Red Cross, and Jews writing to the Fascist authorities in Italy. The workshop demonstrated the importance of letters as "egodocuments" (personal documents in which the "I" voice is dominant) and their significance in revealing the inner world of individuals and communities that are not found in other forms of documentation.

"Participating in this workshop was a unique opportunity for me personally to share a work in progress with my peers."

Dr. Daniela Ozacky Stern, Bar-Ilan University and Western Galilee College
New Biographies Bolster Online Research Project

The online research project "Jews in the Red Army, 1941–1945" now includes 555 stories of Soviet Jews who were engaged in the armed struggle against the Nazis. The biographies, uploaded to the Yad Vashem website, tell about their prewar experiences, their years during the war and, for those who survived the war, their life afterwards.

After the German invasion of the USSR, a number of young Jewish students volunteered to fight the enemy, interrupting their studies. One of these was Mikhail Gefter, who would become a prominent Soviet historian, thinker and dissident, grappling with the subject of the Holocaust in the years of Gorbachev’s perestroika.

During the war, a group of students from Moscow were sent to dig anti-tank trenches in Smolensk Oblast, as part of a semi-military unit. They were soon encircled by German forces, and many of them were killed, but Mikhail Gefter, along with some others, was able to escape. Shortly thereafter, he enrolled as a foot soldier in the Red Army. In 1942, Gefter took part in heavy fighting near Rzhev, where he was severely wounded and then honorably discharged. He was awarded the Order of Glory, 3rd Class. His mother and cousin were murdered in the Holocaust in Simferopol, where he had grown up. He would later emphasize: "I belong to the 'lucky' butchered generation. Most of its members fell in 1941 and 1942."
"Search and Research" Series

The "Search and Research" series was conceived two decades ago to serve as a publication venue for studies that are longer than journal articles but shorter than full publications. In this series, more than thirty studies have been published to date, ranging from lectures delivered at Yad Vashem to detailed studies, some of them written by scholars who received a fellowship at the Research Institute. In 2020, a study titled *Germans, Italians, and Jews: The Police Forces of Occupied Italy, 1943-1945* joined the series. Written by former fellow Prof. Amedeo Osti Guerazzi of the Rome-based "Fondazione Museo della Shoah" and the University of Padua, the study analyzes the methods of persecution of the Jews utilized by the German police in Italy during the Nazi occupation. It demonstrates that without the help of the Italian police, and without the support of the leadership of the Italian Social Republic, the Germans would never have been able to implement the number of arrests and deportations that took place between 1943 and 1945.
The 2020 annual Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research in memory of Benny and Tilly Joffe z”l was awarded to Johannes-Dieter Steinert for his 2018 book *Holocaust und Zwangsarbeit: Erinnerungen jüdischer Kinder 1938–1945* (Holocaust and Forced Labor: Memories of Jewish Children 1938–1945), and to Dr. Alan Rosen for his 2019 book *The Holocaust’s Jewish Calendars: Keeping Time Sacred, Making Time Holy*. The judges remarked that Steinert’s study was innovative, in that it draws attention to the topic of the fate of tens of thousands of Jewish children who became forced laborers of the Third Reich, and provides a multidimensional picture of the life experiences of these children. Rosen’s book examines how the Jews in the ghettos, in the camps, and in hiding places managed to know when Jewish holidays fell. The judges commented that the book demonstrates that keeping calendars also served as a coping mechanism in response to persecution by grounding the Jews in the rhythms of the calendar and enabling them to maintain observance of Judaism.
Part of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem Publications disseminates innovative Holocaust-related research that influences Shoah remembrance and academic investigations. Each year, Yad Vashem Publications releases dozens of new titles in a variety of genres and languages, including research, archival materials and memoirs.
Yad Vashem Studies - Groundbreaking Articles for Scholarly Discourse

Yad Vashem Studies is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal on the Shoah featuring trailblazing and thought-provoking articles about the Holocaust by leading researchers and around the world. Published since 1957 in English and Hebrew editions – twice annually since 2007 – Yad Vashem Studies consistently features groundbreaking articles and serves as a forum for multidisciplinary scholarly discourse. Due to the impact of the Coronavirus, only one issue of the journal was published in 2020 (volume 48: 1-2). This volume contained five research articles, four book reviews and one "in memoriam" article. In response to the closing of archives and libraries, the journal was made accessible to the wider public free of charge.
"Silent Voices: Short Documents from the Holocaust"

"Silent Voices: Short Documents from the Holocaust" is a series of brief notes and writings, some of which had been stowed on shelves in archives and were known only to scholars. Seeking to give voice to many of the unheard victims of the Holocaust, these texts are now available in an annotated English edition. So That You Know, by Elisheva (Elka) Rubinstein, is the first volume of this series. Written in the form of letters to relatives, Rubinstein poignantly describes the suffering and systematic eradication of the Jews in Lwów during the Holocaust. I Saw No Chance of Surviving, So I Began to Write, the second volume in this series, presents Zofia Brzezińska’s account of the events of the Holocaust in Warsaw. Fearing for her life and for those of her loved ones, she felt obligated to write a testimony: “Everything I experienced myself... was only part of a greater, general tragedy. I wanted to recount it as a witness, regardless of what would happen to us.”
Standing Up to Evil, a fascinating memoir by Peretz Révész, provides an invaluable account of the author’s valiant rescue efforts during the Holocaust in Hungary as well as another perspective on the “Kasztner Affair” and the contacts with SS officials and German counterintelligence. Born in 1916 in Slovakia, Révész became a Zionist youth movement leader in 1941 and engaged in smuggling youth movement members to Hungary. Upon illegally crossing the Hungarian border, he contacted activist Joel Brand, whom he assisted in establishing the Relief and Rescue Committee, and participated in smuggling Jews from Poland in 1943. After Germany invaded Hungary on 3 March 1944, Révész assumed a leadership role in the local Zionist underground and undertook several more rescue operations. Following the Soviet occupation of Hungary, he continued his activities, including attending to the children and sending them to Eretz Israel. In May 1949, he, too, immigrated to Israel with his family.
Construction Continues on the Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus

Yad Vashem houses the largest amounts of Holocaust-related art, artifacts and archival documentation in the world. These ever-growing collections are an inseparable part of the legacy of the Holocaust victims and survivors, and an inherent component of the history of the Shoah. As they expand from year to year, and as international museum standards evolve, so does Yad Vashem’s urgent need for increased and upgraded storage and preservation facilities.

To answer this need, Yad Vashem has begun construction of the new Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus, which will comprise the new David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center, including the Wolfson Gallery, the Joseph Wilf Curatorial Center, the renovated David and Ruth Mitzner Auditorium and its temporary exhibitions lobby; the Family and Children’s Exhibition Gallery; the Entrance Gallery; the Legacy Sculpture Garden; and the Legacy Plaza. This landmark endeavor is made possible thanks to the generous support of Yad Vashem’s Friends worldwide.

During 2020 and the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, work on the expansive Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus continued. Excavation works for the David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center are close to completion, after which the Center’s foundations will begin to be laid.
A comprehensive project to renovate the Yad Vashem Entrance Gate was completed during 2020. The plans included the creation of a new separate driving lane for vehicles exiting Yad Vashem through the Gate, as well as the refurbishment of the massive iron artwork created by the artist Roman Alter in 1974.
Public Representatives 2020

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau
Dr. Moshe Kantor
Dr. Yitzhak Arad, z”l
Dov Gilboa
Joseph Horowitz
Justice Jacob Türkel
Prof. Dina Porat
Zvika Yochman
Jacob Danon
*Passed away May 2021

Chairman of the Council
Chancellor of the Council
Vice-Chairman of the Council
Chairman of the Finance Committee
Chairman of the Comptrolling Committee
Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations
Chairman of the Academic Committee
Chairman of the Building Committee
Chairman of the Human Resources Committee

Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate 2020

Shmuel Aboav *
Yossi Ahimeir
Daniel Atar
Mordechai Benita**
Dr. David Breakstone
Abraham Duvdevani
Erez Eshel
Dr. Semion Goldin**
Prof. Boleslaw (Bolek) Goldman*
Menachem Granit**
Moshe Ha-Elion
Adv. Shlomit Kasirer
Noam Katz (interim appointment)**
Yehiel Leket*
Adv. Tamar Peled Amir
Ronen Plot**
Rabbi Shai Piron (interim appointment)**
Ms. Tahel Shadmon**
Avner Shalev
Baruch Shub, z”l (passed away December 2020)
Dalit Stauber
Dr. Zehava Tanne
Dr. Laurence Weinbaum
Adv. Shoshana Weinshall
Dudi Zilbershlag

*Outgoing  |  ** Incoming
## Senior Staff

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Division</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avner Shalev</td>
<td>Chairman of the Directorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorit Novak</td>
<td>Director General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Alexander Avram</td>
<td>Director, Hall of Names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lital Beer</td>
<td>Director, Libraries Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaya Ben Yehuda</td>
<td>Managing Director, International Relations Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yael Ribner</td>
<td>Deputy Managing Director, International Relations Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ella Florsheim</td>
<td>Editor-in-Chief, Yad Vashem Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Haim Gertner</td>
<td>Director, Archives Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zohar Neumann, Adv.</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Archives Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yossi Gevir</td>
<td>Director, Governmental and External Affairs Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadi Giladi</td>
<td>Director, Maintenance Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Eyal Kaminka</td>
<td>Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calanit Ben Haim</td>
<td>Director, International School for Holocaust Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shulamit Imber</td>
<td>Deputy Director, International School for Holocaust Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sharon Kangisser-Cohen</td>
<td>Editor-in-Chief, <em>Yad Vashem Studies</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov</td>
<td>Director, Commemoration and Community Relations Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orly Nir</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Commemoration and Community Relations Division</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto</td>
<td>Director, International Institute for Holocaust Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilach Shhtadler</td>
<td>Deputy Director, International Institute for Holocaust Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Rosenberg</td>
<td>Spokesperson and Director, Communications Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilach Tamir-Itach</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Communications Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directors, International Relations Division

Searle Brajtman  English Language Desk
Sara (Sari) Granitza  Christian Friends of Yad Vashem
Miry Gross  French-Speaking Countries, Benelux, Greece, Italian and Scandinavian Desk
Perla Hazan  Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk
Ruth Ur  German-Speaking Countries Desk
Jeremy Weiss  US Desk
Adv. Arie Zuckerman  Diaspora Affairs Desk and Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate
Financial Highlights 2020 | Implementation of 2020 Budget

**REVENUES**

- **Government of Israel**: 36%
- **Funds & Donations**: 59%
- **Department Activities**: 4%
- **Rent & Other Income**: 1%

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>NIS (000)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government of Israel</td>
<td>56,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Activities</td>
<td>6,810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent and Other Income</td>
<td>688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds &amp; Donations</td>
<td>91,322</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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EXPENDITURES

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<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>29,768</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remembrance</td>
<td>17,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technological Infrastructure</td>
<td>15,015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>14,511</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>11,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Development</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>20,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>154,914</strong> NIS</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
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Executive Director: Stanley H. Stone
Chief Development Officer: Amy Cooper
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American Society for Yad Vashem – Western Region
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Christian Friends of Yad Vashem
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Email. mark@cfyv.us

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Australian Friends of Yad Vashem
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Fax: +41 23 235 82 82
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Asociación Yad Vashem de México
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México

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Fax: +44 20 8359 1201
office@yadvashem.org.uk
www.yadvashem.org.uk

Venezuelan Association for Yad Vashem
President: Tomas Osers
Caracas-Venezuela-1060
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 e-mail:

international.relations@yadvashem.org.il
In June 2020, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi jointly signed an agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Israel, renewing for an additional ten years Germany’s previous decade-long commitment to support the archival and educational activities of Yad Vashem. The renewal will commence in 2022 and remain in effect till 2031.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev was present for the signing of this agreement, which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem together with Israel’s Ambassador to Germany H.E. Mr. Jeremy Issacharof and German Ambassador to Israel H.E. Dr. Susanne Wasum-Rainer.

"Germany has a special responsibility to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive," remarked Foreign Minister. "This is why I consider the signing of this agreement an important step in ensuring Germany’s commitment to the work of Yad Vashem. The Coronavirus epidemic has shown us that preserving memory and making it accessible to the public digitally must be increased. Additionally, Germany pledges to support the establishment of the new [Moshal Shoah Legacy] Campus at Yad Vashem."

"It is the perpetual responsibility of Germany’s government and people to support accurate and meaningful Holocaust remembrance," stated Kai Diekmann, Chairman of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany. "The messages of the Holocaust remain relevant to society today, and must be passed on from generation to generation to bear witness – even once survivors are no longer in our midst."
Reflecting on a year of unprecedented challenges and opportunities, it is clear that the work of Yad Vashem is even more vital in preserving Holocaust commemoration and education as a priority. I am pleased to welcome Yad Vashem’s newest core supporters to the Circle of Friends, who are dedicated to supporting this institution and will carry on the legacy of Holocaust remembrance that Sheldon z”l and I began together.”

Dr. Miriam Adelson
Patron of the Mount of Remembrance
The David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation

The David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation has been a longstanding partner of Yad Vashem for many decades, and it is Yad Vashem's distinct privilege to recognize them as Yad Vashem Torchbearers. The Shapell Family has been active members of the American Society for Yad Vashem, supporting important developments at Yad Vashem, including the establishment of the Visitors Center and the David and Fela Shapell Family Shoah and Heroism Study Center for Youth in the International School for Holocaust Studies.

In 2013, the Shapell family, together with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and International Relations Division Managing Director Shaya Ben Yehuda, discussed a vision of Yad Vashem's future that included a new home for the conservation and preservation of its invaluable Holocaust-era collections. Since this initial vision, the project grew and expanded into a landmark endeavor with the Shapell Family at its helm, thus conceiving the David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center.

As Holocaust survivors, David z”l, originally from Wolbrom, Poland, and Fela z”l, originally from Oswiecim, Poland, were acutely aware of the urgent need to protect the memory of the Shoah. Indeed, this has been a driving force of the family’s longstanding philanthropic relationship with Yad Vashem: to ensure the meaningful history of the Holocaust, the everlasting memory of its victims and the legacy of its survivors. This mission is so integral to the family’s values, its message is engraved in stone above the Visitors Center with the biblical words: “Has the like of this happened in your days or in the days of your fathers? Tell your children about it, and let your children tell theirs, and their children the next generation” (I Joel, 2-3).

In all of their endeavors, the Shapell Family has kept the mission of Holocaust education and remembrance, as well as Jewish continuity and commitment, clearly in focus. The David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation has supported other Jewish and Holocaust-related institutions in the US and Israel, as well as initiatives geared towards the strengthening of Jewish identity and Jewish continuity. David passed away in 2015, and his wife Fela in February 2021. Their children carry on the family’s sacred legacy. Their exceptional partnership stands as a testament to their years of dedication and support, their commitment to Yad Vashem, and their shared vision of the future of Holocaust remembrance.
Stanley and Bea Tollman

Yad Vashem Benefactors Stanley and Bea Tollman recently doubled their previous commitment to Yad Vashem. Although Stanley’s father and much of his family left Lithuania for South Africa well before the outbreak of World War II, his grandparents and wider family remained there and were murdered by the Germans and local collaborators. The idea that a whole family – indeed, an entire Jewish community – could be destroyed, continued to trouble Stanley.

From their first visit to Yad Vashem in the early 1970s, Stanley and Bea have watched Yad Vashem develop into the internationally renowned World Holocaust Remembrance Center it has become today. With groundbreaking research, unparalleled collections and multidimensional educational activities in Israel and abroad, the Tollmans recognize Yad Vashem’s global impact.

“The Holocaust is an eternal reminder of the evils of antisemitism, and it is our constant duty to confront this deeply troubling phenomenon head on,” says Stanley. "I literally had to fight my way through the Catholic boarding school I attended, yet still today, and despite periodic lulls, the latest incarnations of antisemitism are again on the rise. We see surveys showing how many young people don’t even know what happened during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem is at the forefront of the fight against hatred and antisemitism – if we don’t step up now and support Holocaust remembrance and education, who will?"

"I believe that if a cause that is worthy of a donation of a million dollars is in need of an additional million dollars of funding, and one can afford to support it, then one should," Tollman added. Yad Vashem is deeply grateful to Stanley and Bea Tollman for their ongoing generosity and worthy example, and is honored to recognize them as Yad Vashem Pillars.
Hannie Biwott

Hannie Biwott (née ter Laare) was born in February 1943 in Amsterdam. In August 1943, Hannie and her mother were saved from deportation when a neighbor risked his life and argued with the soldiers that there were no Jews in the building. The exhausted soldiers crossed Hannie and her mother’s names off the list, declaring them dead.

During 1944, Hannie’s mother would sneak out of Amsterdam despite the curfew and without her yellow star and her pass marked with a "J" – an act strictly forbidden to Jews and punishable by death. She traded in all she possessed and begged for a little milk to keep Hannie alive. By doing so they survived the following harsh months until liberation.

In 1957, Hannie’s family immigrated to Australia. In 1965, as a qualified secondary school teacher, Hannie resigned from teaching in Australia and, forgoing her dream of immigrating to Israel, followed her Kenyan husband and moved to Kenya, where she started a new life. During the 54 years she lived in Africa, teaching and running a perfumery business and bringing up her two mixed-race children, Hannie encountered both full acceptance from a variety of Kenyans, as well as racism, tribalism, intolerance and rejection from others, inside and outside of the country. With her children and her grandchildren clearly on the road to success, Hannie is dedicating the remainder of her life, in Israel, to educating others to lead a life of tolerance with an understanding of other races and religions. She intends to continue bringing a group of Kenyan teachers twice a year to Israel, not as pilgrims, but to learn about the Land of Israel, its people, its achievements, its culture, its history and its religion.

Hannie recently decided to generously support the academic journal of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem Studies. This ongoing philanthropic gesture will ensure that Yad Vashem is able to keep publishing historical and wide-ranging Holocaust-based research. In her own words, Hannie says: "I wish to support Yad Vashem's mission partly to remember the past, and partly in the hope that with time it will bring this message to the world: Intolerance leads to injustice, the consequences of which cannot be foreseen."
Naftali Deutsch

Naftali “Tuli” Deutsch was born in 1931, in Kimyat, Ruthenia (then Czechoslovakia), one of nine siblings.

In 1944, on the last day of Passover, all of the Jews of Kimyat were ordered to pack a bag and report to the synagogue. From there, they were then taken to the Nagyszőllős ghetto, and two weeks later deported to Auschwitz. Upon arrival at Auschwitz, Tuli was separated from his parents and siblings and sent to a labor camp. He later learned that his father was murdered in the gas chambers. Two of Tuli’s brothers were taken into the Hungarian army. They were not given weapons, but rather they were forced to work in the kitchens and dig ditches.

At the age of twelve, Tuli was sent to Mauthausen, where he was incarcerated in one of its sub-camps, Guzen II. Most of the inmates in Guzen II were German political prisoners and Spanish Catholics. Tuli was assigned to work in the kitchen.

After liberation, Tuli made his way to Italy, and then immigrated to Eretz Yisrael to serve as a volunteer in the Israeli army in 1948. In 1956, he immigrated to the United States, becoming a successful businessman and philanthropist in California.

Naftali Deutsch published his memoirs, *A Holocaust Survivor: In the Footsteps of His Past*, which tells the story of his miraculous survival in five concentration camps as a teenage boy. The book was later translated into Hebrew by Yad Vashem Publications. Yad Vashem welcomes Naftali (Tuli) Deutsch to its Circle of Friends.
Honoring Gilbert and Beverly Held z”l

Gilbert Held z”l was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1943, to Selma and Milton Held. He graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering from Widener University and pursued additional degrees including an MSEE degree from New York University and MSTM and MBA degrees from American University. He served in Vietnam and retired from the United States Army with the rank of a colonel. Gilbert authored more than 100 books and articles on data communications and networking.

Beverly Jane Held z”l was born in 1945 to Dr. Abraham I. Schwartz and Rose Kobrovsky Schwartz in Reading, Pennsylvania. An only child, she majored in English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania and received a Masters degree in Education from Georgia College. Initially a librarian, her love of teaching led her to spend more than 20 years in middle-school education.

Gilbert and Beverly were married for fifty years. Their passion for education, Judaism and the State of Israel only grew stronger as time passed. Preserving the memory of the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust and educating the world about the Shoah was vital to them.

The Held family has donated a Benefactors Gift to Yad Vashem in loving memory of their parents Gilbert and Beverly Held. Yad Vashem is grateful for this generous donation, and conveys its deepest appreciation to their children Jonathan Held (Lisa) and Jessica Rome (David), and four grandchildren: Jacob and Benjamin Held, and Sadie and Nora Rome.
Nicole Ligeti

Charles Moshe Ligeti was born in Clug, Romania in 1928 to Erno, a poet and a writer, and Margaret, an opera singer. In 1945, three days before the war ended, Charles survived an execution by the Hungarian militia that killed his parents. Following his recovery, Charles was deployed to a DP camp in Germany. In 1950, he immigrated to the United States, and lived in New York before moving to Los Angeles in 1952. There he established the Charles Ligeti Jewelry and Anjess Diamond Companies, which thrived and benefitted many employees.

Charles deeply believed in the Jewish concepts of tzedakah (charitable giving), tzedek (justice) and chesed (lovingkindness), and treating everyone with compassion. He was an inspiration in his fight for social justice, especially through his support of the missions of organizations such as Yad Vashem, the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federation in Los Angeles, and the World Jewish Congress, to combat racism and antisemitism in the world. Charles Ligeti passed away in Los Angeles in 2015.

Charles and Nicole Karsenty-Ligeti were married for over 25 years. The couple enjoyed a life filled with travel and a profound engagement in socially just causes. This dedication has been passed on to their family members, who are proud to be part of Charles’ legacy and hope to continue his visions and beliefs including at Yad Vashem, where his story will join the global narrative at the new Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus.
Dora and David z’l Yisrael

David Yisrael z’l was born in Yasina, Czechoslovakia. From the age of ten, he suffered Nazi persecution; almost all of his family was murdered in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp. David, his father and one of his brothers were the only survivors of the Holocaust. Between 1947 and 1955 he lived in Israel, where he fought in the War of Independence.

During a trip to Venezuela, David met Dora, who was born in Besarabia; at the age of two she moved to Peru with her family and then to Venezuela. After marrying, they remained in the country, where they raised a beautiful family – their four children, Goldy, William, Milton and Jacobo, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. David became a successful businessman and was active in Jewish community life as a member of the Board of Directors of the Israelite Union of Caracas, founder of the Yavne School, and President of the Society of Friends of the University of Bar Ilan among other positions, always with Dora at his side.

David’s greatest passion was to remember and honor the victims of the Shoah, which is why he founded the Venezuelan Association for Yad Vashem, which he chaired until he was no longer able. He initiated many important events, such as the annual commemoration of the November Pogroms – Kristallnacht (“Night of Broken Glass”) – and the publication of the magazine Zajor/Remember, caring for and promoting the continuity of the Holocaust memory in future generations, "so that the Jewish tragedy is never forgotten."

During his last years, he emphasized the fight against Holocaust denial and attempts to trivialize the events of the Shoah.
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Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. z”l Adelson, USA
The Estate of Bernard Aptaker z”l, USA

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Carmel and Edo Josef
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Wilf Family Foundation, USA
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Sharon & David Halpern, USA
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Diana & Eli Zborowski z”l, USA

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Anonymous, Israel
Anonymous, Spain
Anonymous, USA
Anonymous, USA-Israel
The Ted Arison Family Foundation, Israel
The Estate of Joseph & Vivette Baharlia z”l, France
David Berg z”l, USA
The Estate of Bonya & Moshe Borushek z”l, Israel
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Ford Foundation, USA
Abraham Franck z”l Trust
Claire Friedlander z”l, USA
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Ivonne & Samuel Geller z”l, Mexico
Arie, Dor, Eitan y Yair Geller-Leizorek, México
David & Malke Gorodzinsky, Mexico
Jona Goldrich z”l and Family, USA
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, USA
The Gutwirth Family Fund, Israel
Helene and Joseph Habermann z”l and Family, Germany
In Honor of Eugenia & Jakub Halbreich, Brazil
Gustavo & Thereza Halbreich, Brazil
Dayenu Ltd, Gail & Colin Halpern, USA
Jonathan Held, USA
Fanya Gottesfeld Heller z”l, Beth & Ben Heller, Dr. Jacqueline Heller, USA
Doris y Justino Hirschhorn y Familia, México
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International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Israel
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Henry & Rose Landschaft z”l, Germany
Nicole Ligeti, USA
The Lowy Family, Australia
Phyllis & William Mack and Family, USA
Salomon & Ruth Marcuschamer, Mexico
Max z”l & Atara Mazin, Spain
Nira y Jaime Meir z”l, Venezuela
Michael & Laura Mirilashvili, Israel
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