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The Visit of US President Donald J. Trump

(pp. 2-3)



Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2017

(pp. 4-7)

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■ **On the cover:** The personal album of Ester Goldstein, a replica of which was presented to President Trump during his visit to Yad Vashem. Inset, top: Dedication and photo in the album of Ester's friend Bella Lassore, written in September 1942, one month before Ester was deported to Riga (see pp. 2-3). Inset, bottom: Holocaust survivor Elka Abramovitz, one of the six Torchlighters at the Official Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day, with her granddaughter Noam Aviram (see pp. 4-5)

"Only when we remember the darkness can we prevent it from ever repeating."

President Donald J. Trump

■ President of the United States Donald J. Trump visited Yad Vashem on 23 May 2017 as part of a 25-hour trip to Israel. Accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, the President was greeted by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, and joined by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara Netanyahu, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and a delegation of senior American officials during this historic visit.

While the President's visit to Israel was brief, he chose to commemorate the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust by participating in a memorial ceremony in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance. During the ceremony, the President rekindled the eternal flame and laid a wreath on a slab under which ashes from extermination camps are buried.

President Trump's decisive and memorable remarks as he emerged from the Hall of Remembrance expressed deep identification with the cause and need for Holocaust remembrance: "Only when we remember the families who were torn apart from everyone they loved, who suffered that terrible darkness and evil; who had endured the unbearable horror of the Holocaust, only then can we prevent this agony from ever repeating."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Shalev presented the President with a symbolic memento of his visit to Yad Vashem: a replica of a Holocaust-era personal album that belonged to Ester Goldstein,

"Don't Forget Me":



■ President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump with Holocaust survivor Margot Herschenbaum

The Visit of US President Donald J. Trump



■ US President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump lay a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance. Standing behind them, taking part in the ceremony, are President Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner, as well as Prime Minister Netanyahu, Sara Netanyahu, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Avner Shalev



■ Avner Shalev presents a copy of the diary of child Holocaust victim Ester Goldstein to President Trump

a 16-year old Jewish girl from Berlin who was murdered by the Nazis in 1942 in Latvia (see below). Shalev explained to President Trump that the gift was significant both as testimony to the unique individual identity of one of the six million Holocaust victims, and as an indication of how Yad Vashem tirelessly gathers, preserves and makes accessible tens of millions of documents and tens of thousands of artifacts related to the Shoah.

Ester's sister Margot Herschenbaum, the sole

survivor of her immediate family, attended the event, and was honored to be greeted personally by the President and First Lady. "Throughout the years, it was so hard for me to leaf through the album and read all the dedications – it filled me with sadness and longing," said Herschenbaum before the ceremony. "When I heard that Yad Vashem was intending to give President Trump a replica of my sister Ester's album, I was so moved. I always wanted people to know what

happened to her and the rest of my family, and that is why I gave the album to Yad Vashem for eternal safekeeping." Also present at the event was Chair of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Colette Avital, and entrepreneur, philanthropist and close friend of Yad Vashem Yossie Hollander.

"The importance of the ceremony at Yad Vashem, and the worldwide attention the Presidential visit gained, lie in their potential to focus public awareness on the vital Jewish and universal values and relevance of Holocaust remembrance, on the essential battle for human morality inspired by the legacy of the victims and the survivors, and on Yad Vashem's centrality in that battle," said Shalev after the visit. "With the support and encouragement of our dedicated friends around the world, we shall continue to utilize appropriate occasions – such as today's Presidential visit – as opportunities to highlight and enhance our crucial efforts."

Ester Goldstein's Personal Album

■ **The personal album of Ester Goldstein is one of hundreds of thousands of items preserved for posterity in the Yad Vashem Archives.**

Ester Goldstein was born in 1926 in Joachimstrasse, Berlin to Blima and David Goldstein, who moved to Germany from Poland two years before she was born. She had a sister, Margot, and a brother, Heinz (Haim). In 1938, in the shadow of the increasing Nazi persecution of Jews, the family unsuccessfully attempted to flee Germany.

The album is comprised of messages of hope and everlasting friendship inscribed by Ester's family and friends. Some of the pages are embellished with optimistic and innocent illustrations, while others include photographs

of those dearest to her. The dedications in the album express familial devotion and steadfast connection to Judaism. The first entry is from 1937, when Ester was eleven years old, and the final one is dated September 16, 1942, about a month before Ester was deported to Riga (Latvia) and murdered.

After liberation, Ester's cousin David Werner returned to the Goldstein family home in Berlin, where a neighbor gave him a box of papers she had kept safe throughout the war. Among the papers was the album, which he gave to Ester's sister Margot, who had been sent to Australia in 1939 as part of the *Kindertransport* rescue effort. The sole survivor of her immediate family, Margot

Herschenbaum donated Ester's precious album to Yad Vashem in 2006.

This personal album is one of several included in an online exhibition entitled "Don't Forget Me," accessible on Yad Vashem's website in four languages: English, Hebrew, Spanish and German. "Don't forget me" was a dedication written in the album by Ester's classmate Sonja Strenger, who was deported to Auschwitz in 1943.

Approximately 1.5 million Jewish children were murdered in the Holocaust, most of whom left behind almost no trace – a handful of photographs and some personal belongings. This precious album offers insight into the life of a young girl that was cut brutally short.

Highlights of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2017

The Pages of Testimony gathered by Yad Vashem paint the portraits of millions of Jews, each of whom had a name and an identity. Every victim was an entire world. Every person carried the story of a past – the legacy of a community, of experiences, of the spirit of a family and of a future never realized. “It is not that six million Jews were murdered. Rather there were six million murders, and in each case one Jew was murdered,” said Abel Jacob Herzberg, a Dutch Jewish survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, who sought to underscore the unique characteristics and shared humanity of every one of those victims. They were human beings – with names, dreams and loves – who found themselves persecuted, frequently standing in terrible loneliness on the edge of the abyss. Restoring the victims’ identities by documenting, remembering, researching and educating not only commemorates the world that was lost, but also makes a substantial contribution to shaping a new and better world.

In the pages to follow are highlights from the events, programs and projects initiated by Yad Vashem throughout Israel that reflected the central theme of this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day: “Restoring Their Identities: The Fate of the Individual during the Holocaust.”

■ Some 2,600 people – including Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and guests from around the world – attended the **State Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day** on the evening of Sunday 23 April. At the ceremony, President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the audience, and six survivors – Elka Abramovitz, Moshe Ha-Elion, Moshe Jakubowitz, Moshe Porat, Max Privler and Jeannine Sebbane-Bouhanna – lit six torches, representing the six million Holocaust victims. Esther Miron spoke on behalf of the survivors, recounting her harrowing experiences during the Shoah. The Chief Rabbi of Israel led the memorial prayers, and singer Roni Dalumi and actor Adir Miller presented the artistic portions of the evening.

■ Following a two-minute siren, **120 wreaths were laid** on the morning of Monday 24 April at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths



and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations. Other Holocaust Remembrance Day events included **“Unto Every Person There is a Name”** – public names-reading ceremonies in the Hall of Remembrance and at Israel’s Knesset (Parliament) building – and the **Main Memorial Ceremony** in the Hall of Remembrance.

■ For the first time, **the opening ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day was broadcast live on Facebook as well as on Yad Vashem’s English and Hebrew YouTube channels.**

Yad Vashem also launched its **annual mini-site** marking the day, with a variety of related online resources for the public, including the stories and videos of the torchlighters, educational resources, names for name-reading ceremonies, online exhibitions and “Snapshots of Memory” – images of the Yad Vashem campus throughout the day. All of Yad Vashem’s social media channels were updated in real time, reflecting the wide-ranging events taking place on the Mount of Remembrance.

■ For the third year in a row, thousands of visitors to the Mount of Remembrance

went **“Behind-the-Scenes,”** gaining a greater understanding of the everyday undertakings at Yad Vashem. At a number of stations throughout the campus, Yad Vashem experts presented their work in the education, technology, collection, preservation and commemoration fields, including artworks, artifacts and documents from the Yad Vashem Collections not usually on public display.

■ In the lead-up to Holocaust Remembrance Day, a number of **educational activities** were held at Yad Vashem and throughout Israel (see pp. 6-7).

■ Cultural activities included the **public screening of *Past Life*** in the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, at which Director Avi Neshet addressed the audience. This was the second in a series of monthly screenings of Holocaust-related films for the general public, in the framework of the new “Yad Vashem Film Club.”

A few days before Holocaust Remembrance Day, a **special screening of *The Zookeeper’s Wife*** (Director: Niki Caro, 2017) was held at Cinema City in Gilolet, near Tel Aviv, jointly sponsored by United King Films and Yad Vashem’s Visual Center. The screening took place in the presence

"My story is that of brave people: Jews who rescued their Jewish brethren, and Poles who remained human and risked their lives to save others."

Ze'ev Ratner

Leah Goldstein



of the Polish Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mr. Jacek Chodorowicz; Moshe Tirosh, one of the hundreds of Jews hidden by Righteous Among the Nations Jan and Antonina Zabinski in their Warsaw Zoo during WWII, accompanied by 18 members of his family; and two of the film's main actors, Shira Haas and Efrat Dor. Also present were Holocaust survivors and their families, many from Poland, guides who work in Poland, and Yad Vashem staff who instruct them. Director of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt addressed the packed auditorium at this unique event, which was moderated by Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib.

■ In addition, as part of **commemorative activities around the world**, the monumental *Memories of the Eichmann Trial* (Director: David Perlov, 1979/2011), restored by the Visual Center, was screened at Yale University (USA) and Bremen University (Germany) during symposia dedicated to the use of film as a historical resource. In both of these prestigious institutions,

Youth Movement Ceremony: "Jews Rescuing Jews"

■ The traditional Youth Movement Ceremony, which took place towards the end of Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Valley of the Communities in the presence of the Director of Israel's Ministry of Education Shmuel Aboav, was held this year under the banner "Jews Rescuing Jews."

At first glance, it may seem that the rescue of Jews by other Jews during the Holocaust should not receive a special emphasis, because they appear to be only natural, routine acts. However, the cases of rescue by Jews – of which there were many instances – were not self-evident. The Holocaust challenged established social norms, values and relationships. It led to a weakening of the bonds of solidarity within Jewish society. In a reality in which each individual Jew was subject to persecution and the threat of destruction, the instinctual drive for physical survival became dominant. However, even in such conditions, many Jews risked their lives to save other Jews – family members and complete strangers – both on an organizational and an individual level, assisting with smuggling and hiding Jews, obtaining false documentation, establishing welfare societies and even negotiating with the Nazis. More than once, they forfeited their own chance to escape in order to help their fellow Jews.

Lighting the Torch of Remembrance at the ceremony was Jeannine Weiss, a Holocaust survivor from France who risked her life bringing Jewish children into hiding in the south of

the country during WWII. Addressing the 370 representatives of youth movements in Israel was survivor Ze'ev Ratner, who survived in Lvov largely due to the help of his father's Jewish friend, "Miller." Miller worked as a janitor in the local cinema in which the Gestapo set up headquarters, and at great risk, he smuggled Ratner's family out of the ghetto, and hid them along with seven other Jews in a small room above the German commander's apartment. He later helped Ze'ev take refuge with Polish families until the end of the war. "My story is that of brave people: Jews who rescued their Jewish



brethren, and Poles who remained human and risked their lives to save others," said Ratner. "How Miller was able to hide and help us I'll never know, but it is clear I wouldn't be standing here today if not for his resourcefulness and initiative to save his Jewish brothers."

the film was enthusiastically received by the large audiences present.

■ The winner of this year's **national competition to design the official poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day** was Tamar Odaya Bodner, a third-year undergraduate student in the Department of Graphic Design at Emunah College in Jerusalem. The poster hints at the face of a young boy – who is in fact Tamar's grandfather, Yoseph Yishaya Bodner. One of the many printed numbers in the poster is the one

that was tattooed by the Nazis on the forearm of her grandmother, Miriam Bodner. The judges' panel, headed by Israel Prize Laureate in the field of design David Tartakover, noted that "the shadowy figure behind the numbers is a reminder of our duty to remember the Holocaust victims as human beings, with individual and distinct identities. This meaningful image represents the complexity of Holocaust remembrance." A lesson plan based on the poster was distributed to schools across Israel.

Using the Arts to Bolster Holocaust

■ **“Art, and perhaps only art, is a safeguard against the banal, the routine and the irrelevant – and, if I should go so far, a safeguard against oversimplification.”**

Aharon Appelfeld

An in-depth conversation about the Holocaust should and must include art. The intimacy that art brings has the capability to facilitate trans-generational discussions about a topic as unsettling as the Holocaust.

This year, as in previous years, the International School for Holocaust Studies coordinated diverse informal educational activities for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Yad Vashem’s educational philosophy focuses on the stories of individual human beings, and students at Yad Vashem studied the world of Jewish people’s lives before the war, their identities, and the legacy they sought to bequeath. They attended workshops on the annual theme “Restoring Their Identities: The Fate of the Individual During the Holocaust,” and throughout the process they pondered how to portray the topic artistically, educationally and in a thought-provoking way. This culminated in poignant, interesting and original artwork, which will serve to educate and inspire others of their generation.

■ Students of the Graphic Design Department of the Neri Bloomfield School of Design and Education in Haifa designed **different formats of artworks, including films, books, postcards and pictures.** Every piece brought a personal touch that added new layers in dealing with the annual theme.

Two outstanding works were *Silence*, a short film by Yoav Ofer and Einav Sharon, which depicts the process of breaking the silence of Holocaust survivors (the film is based on the testimony of Ofer’s grandfather); and *Identity Loss*, by Hagar Messer and Ofri Fortis, which displays the faces of camp inmates one behind the other on transparent pages, offering a chance to identify individual victims from the multitudes of those murdered during the Shoah. All of the works went on display in the International School for Holocaust Studies on Holocaust Remembrance Day 2017, and serve as a basis for educational activities.

■ Displayed on the walls of the Family Square at the entrance to Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies were **photographs**



■ **Music, photography, art projects and lectures brought Jewish youth closer to the memory and meanings of the Holocaust**

of Holocaust survivors, along with written excerpts from interviews conducted by the students of the ORT Israel network. Tenth-through twelfth-grade students at ORT schools across the country took the photographs after participating in the study of Holocaust history and moral dilemmas, and obtaining proficiency in photography.

The artworks on display were the culmination of a process that included visiting survivors in their homes and retirement communities, and interviewing them in depth about their lives during WWII and the feelings and insights they felt in its aftermath. “It’s amazing to see the process the students went through during this project,” said a teacher from one of the participating schools. “Meeting the Holocaust survivors and establishing a personal connection with them impressed upon the students the importance of perceiving goodness,

heroism and trust in life and, most importantly, understanding that it is both conceivable and necessary to speak with Holocaust survivors as much as possible.”

■ Eleventh-grade students at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance met with eight Holocaust survivors for several months and heard about their childhood memories, the hardships they experienced during the Holocaust, and the challenge of rebuilding their lives afterwards. During these meetings, the survivors chose two **songs from their childhood memories**, and the students set them to music. These songs were then performed for over 1,000 students, who also attended educational workshops, at which they heard the stories of each of the survivors and discussed the responsibility of future generations to remember.

The survivors, members of their families, relatives of the students, and additional invited

Education

Holocaust Remembrance Day Programming for Security Forces

guests came to the **Musical Memory** gala performance on 27 April in Yad Vashem's Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall. Survivor Sarah Leicht chose a song from the Yom Kippur liturgy that she remembered her father, a cantor, singing in their local synagogue. "This is the greatest gift I've ever received," Leicht said. "Wrapped in a large *tallit*, my father would stand next to the Holy Ark where the Torah scroll is kept, and I sat in the first row. While he sang the song in his wondrous voice, he would occasionally glance at me to see if I was listening. I learned this song and will never forget it for the rest of my life."

■ For the fourth year in a row, some 600 Masa participants visited the International School on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day. A **specially prepared program for the youth** working and studying in Israel integrated workshops and Holocaust survivor testimony. At the end of the program, the participants attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony. The next day, an additional 400 Masa students took part in a range of activities at Yad Vashem: watching and discussing the movie *Denial*; discussing art and remembrance with artist Michel Kichka; meeting

Meeting the Holocaust survivors and establishing a personal connection with them impressed upon the students the importance of perceiving goodness, heroism and trust in life

Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research, to discuss what is still unknown about the Holocaust; and hearing Holocaust survivors give their testimony. The various programs took place in English, Russian, French, Spanish and German.

"Being in Israel on Holocaust Remembrance Day is a special experience," said one of the participants. "Visiting Yad Vashem on this particular day challenged me with questions about shaping remembrance that are so relevant to my generation."

Chief-of-Staff Delegation Visits Poland

Nitza Shabtai Melamed

■ *"Countless members of our people took their last steps through the gate at the front of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, and today we cross this gate together, shoulder to shoulder, looking towards the future, but not shutting our eyes to the memory of the past. We will look to the heavens to which our brethren cried out and make them a promise: Our people will not be led to death through another gate again."*

So remarked IDF Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot at the conclusion of his visit to Poland in the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2017. Speaking resolutely, eloquently and emphasizing every word, the Chief-of-Staff spoke straight from the heart, touching thousands of participants in the 2017 March of the Living.

The International School for Holocaust Studies led the preparations for this unique delegation, as well as the guiding in Poland, as part of several Holocaust Remembrance Day events at Yad Vashem and elsewhere for the IDF and security forces.

An entourage of senior officers accompanied the Chief-of-Staff's delegation to Poland, as well as the commanders of elite IDF units. Bereaved families were also present, as well as wounded and disabled IDF veterans, including Lt. Ahiya Klein, who lost his eyesight in an explosion in Gaza and was supported by a guide dog; and the parents of missing IDF

Visit of US and Israeli Army Chiefs

■ **On 9 May, US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford (right) and his wife Ellyn visited Yad Vashem.** They were greeted by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, and accompanied by IDF Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot (left) and his wife Hanna. The guests were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Yad Vashem Libraries Director Dr. Robert Rozett, and took part in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, at which Gen. Dunford relit the eternal flame and the two army chiefs laid wreaths in memory of the six million Holocaust victims.



soldier Lt. Hadar Goldin, who read a letter that Hadar had written on a visit to Poland when he was in high school.

Holocaust survivor Mickey Goldman Gilad joined the trip and gave testimony at Birkenau, in the presence of an IDF delegation of 200 commanders and officers led by the commanders of the Israel Air Force Flight Academy. The Chief-of-Staff gave Goldman a pair of symbolic pilot's wings and promoted him to the rank of Major at a poignant ceremony on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day in Kraków.

In addition to visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Chief of Staff's delegation toured the Kraków ghetto and the historical Jewish quarter, where they learned about the centuries-old rich and diverse world of the Kraków Jewish community and its spiritual and cultural treasures, which are considered part of the Jewish cultural heritage to this day.

The author is the Head of the Section for IDF and Security Forces Delegations to Poland, IDF and Security Forces Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.



The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program



Training Hundreds of Australian Teachers in Holocaust Education

■ Since its launch in 2008, the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators has become Yad Vashem's flagship example of best practice in professional training, mentoring and support in Holocaust education. The brainchild of longstanding Yad Vashem Benefactors John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel (see below), the groundbreaking program was created in view of the then-lack of formal training for Australian teachers on Holocaust-related issues, as well as a troubling persistence of documented antisemitic incidents across the country. The presence of a large and renowned Holocaust survivor community was another factor in the exclusive challenge in formulating such an endeavor for the multicultural and largely tolerant Australian society.

From the outset, the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program aimed to provide expert educational programming to teachers across Australia, while raising general awareness of the Holocaust, its history and universal messages of human rights.

"The Gandel Program remains one of our most unique models, in both practice and rates of ongoing graduate engagement," says Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. "As of 2016/17, some 200 teachers across Australia have participated in the program, which continues to influence thousands of indirect beneficiaries, including their students and peers."



■ Dr. Ephraim Zuroff conducting a class for Australian educators attending a seminar at Yad Vashem

"I now realize that behind the facts, there is a human story."

George Davis, New South Wales

High-Level Participants from Across Australia

■ Potential participants undergo a rigorous interview process, with only a handpicked number approved to take part. Applications for the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program have risen concurrently with its reputation – currently five times as many applications are

received than available places. Teachers from all Australian States and Territories and surrounding islands apply to the program annually. A wide spectrum of representation from state-funded, private and faith schools indicates the extent to which Australian educators seek comprehensive training on the Holocaust.

Follow-Up Programs

■ The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program is exceptional due to the inbuilt focus on mentoring and networking elements. In addition to completing an online training course in advance of the main seminar in Jerusalem, participants undertake to design and implement a comprehensive Holocaust

John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel

■ Yad Vashem Benefactors John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel are steadfast supporters of Holocaust education. From an early age, their parents instilled in them the importance of charitable giving – a legacy they continue to cherish and fulfill to this very day, and pass on to their children and grandchildren.



■ Pauline and John Gandel AC

one of the most successful businessmen in Australia. In line with the family's benevolent ethos, the Gandel Charitable Trust, today known as Gandel Philanthropy, was formed in 1978. One of Australia's largest independent family philanthropic funds, Gandel Philanthropy has formed relationships with many charitable organizations, supporting a number of initiatives that are proactive, innovative and sustainable, and that promote significant positive social change.

In 2005, the couple endowed the Heroes' Promenade on the Yad Vashem campus. However, it was their conviction about the importance of

Holocaust education across Australian society that led to the establishment of The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in 2008.

"The most appropriate place for a teacher to learn how best to deliver the meanings of the Holocaust is Yad Vashem," says John Gandel AC. "We wish all the past participants [of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators] great success in teaching their students the lessons of survival, humanity and courage, and we look forward to having many more teachers taking part in this program in the future."

“After this program, I will be able to teach this topic in a way that will honor the victims.”

James Trible, Western Australia

education project on their return, and receive one-on-one ongoing mentoring from Yad Vashem’s experts to that effect. These education projects ensure direct and hands-on involvement of students, helping them analyze, conceptualize and better understand the meanings of the Holocaust as they apply to the world today.

A follow-up seminar in Australia is held annually by Yad Vashem staff. Ongoing networking is a central tenet of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program model – with integrated opportunities to interact and exchange knowledge with fellow Australian alumni of previous years, both online and in a physical capacity via meetings, seminars and conferences.

In addition, graduates often seize the opportunity afforded by the presence of the visiting Yad Vashem expert to arrange lectures and training within their respective schools and communities, as well as to facilitate high-level networking meetings to raise awareness. As such, the impact of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program continues to be disseminated beyond the classroom.

The Results Speak for Themselves

■ In 2016, a professional evaluation of the entire program was undertaken, surveying some 140 graduates of all cohorts. The extremely encouraging results proved most valuable in appraising the progress of the program, as well as providing scope for professional improvement.

Close to 90% of respondents said the program “absolutely impacted on them personally,” and 97% of the participants were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the program.

“These graduates, and their schools and their students, inspire us to do more,” says Ephraim Kaye, Director of the Jewish World and International Seminars Department at the International School, who directs the program at Yad Vashem. “When we learn of their successes in teaching the Holocaust, and help them cope with their challenges, we understand that not only have we passed on the tools to help them teach, but we are also truly helping them shape a better future.”

Graduate Spotlight

Every year, over 300,000 students and educators from Israel and around the world attend hundreds of educational activities, in a dozen languages, at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Featured here are two of the School’s graduates who participated in the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, and what they have achieved since:

■ **Christopher Bradbury, a history teacher at King’s School in Parramatta, Sydney, NSW, completed the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators in January 2016.** “It was important for me to attend the program so I could develop my content knowledge of the Holocaust and understand the pedagogical and ethical implications of interdisciplinary Holocaust education,” he says. “The program had a profound impact on me as an educator and encouraged me to be a self-directed learner: I began to transfer my previous learning to new contexts, and master new concepts, principles and skills.”

The program inspired Bradbury to develop an HSC (Higher School Certificate) Modern History European Study Tour, which would transform student learning and understanding of the Holocaust. The tour provides Year 11 students with unique learning opportunities by visiting significant authentic historical sites, buildings and museums, such as the Warsaw ancient Jewish cemetery, Auschwitz, Terezin, Oscar Schindler’s Factory in Krakow, Berlin’s Typographic of Terror and the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. “The experience allowed my students to appreciate better that the history of the Holocaust is about the reality of people, communities and humanity,” Bradbury explains. “They were constantly asking questions and trying to understand how such an event could have happened. The tour really brought history to life. I’ve led a number of history tours in my time at King’s, but this was the most satisfying professionally. What I learned in Israel helped me guide student learning better than ever before.”

■ **Natalie Baker, a teacher from Melbourne, Victoria, participated in the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program five years ago, and is concerned about rising expressions of antisemitism in Australia, especially at universities.** Assisted by Melbourne’s Holocaust survivor community, she is creating

Christopher Bradbury and Natalie Baker



Australia

an educational unit for the upcoming school year that will illustrate the relevance of the Holocaust to Australian students, and teach them about the events of the period through a local lens.

One personality the students will investigate is the late Masha Zeleznikow, owner of the iconic Café Scherhazade in the Melbourne neighborhood of St. Kilda. They will research Masha’s life growing up in Poland, her experiences in Russia during the Shoah,



■ Australian Yad Vashem seminar graduates Natalie Baker and Christopher Bradbury

and her immigration to Australia in 1951. “By looking at Masha’s prewar life, they will see the human cost of the Holocaust, and by looking at her postwar life they will recognise the contributions that migrants such as Masha make to Australian culture,” explains Baker. Alternately, students can choose to research Abe Goldberg, another Melbourne survivor who also opened a prominent restaurant for European arrivals in the 1950s. They can also explore the life of Kitia Altman, who famously challenged David Irving about Holocaust denial on live television in 1993.

“Ultimately, by teaching students about the positive cultural influences that migrants bring to our country, framed around their Holocaust experiences and their subsequent choice to come to Australia, I hope they will learn to respect and appreciate different cultural and religious backgrounds,” adds Baker. “What could be a more important lesson than that?”

New Holocaust Educational Center Inaugurated at the IDF Training Campus in the Negev

■ On 27 April, the Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Educational Center in Cooperation with Yad Vashem was dedicated at the IDF training campus in the Negev. The Center comprises an interactive display on the topic “The Human Image in the Shadow of Death,” as well as a year-round active commemoration space. The establishment of the Center allows



© Photo courtesy: IDF Spokesperson

teams from Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies to develop and carry out educational programs as an inherent part of IDF training activities, with respect to the preparation and as part of the service of the individual soldiers. The Center, the fruit of cooperative endeavors and long-standing dialogue between educators at Yad Vashem and the Chief Educational Officer and Head of the Training Campus Colonel Avi Motolla, aims to deal with the subject of the Shoah in a comprehensive and enduring manner, with an emphasis on professional guiding by Yad Vashem staff and the development of the values of the officers. Dealing with the story of the Holocaust as a pivotal event in the history of the Jewish people, alongside examining values such as Jewish identity, mutual responsibility, heroism and attachment to the Land of Israel,

forms the basis for cooperative educational endeavors. This combination will allow the next generations of soldiers and commanders to commit to passing on the torch of remembrance.

“The Educational Center was established in cooperation with Yad Vashem in order to specialize the educational work of the IDF on the topic of the Shoah, and to provide it with deeper levels of study,” said Yad Vashem Chairman, Brigadier General (ret.) Avner Shalev. “The Center will be a platform for the discussion of authority and ethics arising from Holocaust commemoration, which will in turn bring to the fore the many meanings that can be taken from Holocaust remembrance vis-à-vis the identity of IDF soldiers as Israelis, Jews and human beings.”

The new Center is supported through the generosity of Sadia and Simmy Cohen, and the Graham and Rhona Beck Foundation, Israel.

News from the Virtual School: Don't Look Back: New Film about Rabbi Yisha'ayahu Seidenfeld

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies recently produced a new testimony film geared for the ultra-Orthodox sector as part of the “Witnesses and Education” project. *Don't Look Back: The Story of Rabbi Yisha'ayahu Seidenfeld* tells the narrative of the Jews of Hungary before, during and after the Holocaust from an Orthodox viewpoint.

Yisha'ayahu Seidenfeld was born in Bodrogheresztur, Hungary in 1930. The film tells his life's story: the deportation of the family to Szeged and Terezin; his family's fate; his postwar immigration to *Eretz Israel*; his IDF service; and the large part of his life that was



■ Rabbi Yisha'ayahu Seidenfeld in the Jewish cemetery in his birthplace of Bodrogheresztur, Hungary

dedicated to education in Canada. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah 5762 (2001), Rabbi Seidenfeld fulfilled his dream and moved back to Israel.

Aviya Salomon-Hovav

The aim of “Witnesses and Education” is to create testimonial films that will eventually replace direct meetings with the survivors themselves. For this reason, this film and the others in the series were filmed at locations where the subjects lived during their childhood, at the places where they endured the horrors of the Holocaust, and where they began the process of rehabilitation and rebuilding their lives. The International School for Holocaust Studies has integrated the project's films into diverse curricula in Israel and overseas.

The author is Head of the Video and Digital Content Section, e-Learning Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Exhibition on Women in the Holocaust Displayed in Bologna

■ In honor of International Women's Day in March 2017, the Emilia-Romagna Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) in Bologna, Italy hosted “Spots of Light,” a Yad Vashem exhibition about women during the Holocaust now available in ready2print format. The International School's Yiftach Ashkenazy traveled to Italy for the exhibition's debut, which was attended by some 100 outstanding students, teachers and local politicians, including RLA President, The Hon. Simonetta Saliera.

Using poignant first-person narratives, “Spots of Light” gives voice to individual women's everyday experiences during the Holocaust, and the often-insurmountable hardships they faced. The exhibition covers



© Photo courtesy: RedazioneAssembleeER#

a variety of diverse themes in the lives of the narrators, including motherhood, friendship, love and women's resistance. Many of Yad Vashem's traveling exhibitions have been translated into a number of languages, and “Spots of Light,” along with three others, is available in Italian.

So far, “Spots of Light” has attracted a large number of spectators from across the region and elicited positive feedback and commendation, notably from Italian Minister of Education, Universities and Research Valeria Fedeli. The unique exhibition's encouraging reception has exceeded the coordinators' expectations, and numerous additional venues throughout Emilia-Romagna have booked it through the end of 2017.

For information on all “ready2print” exhibitions: +972-2-6443250; traveling.exhibitions@yadvashem.org.il

Yad Vashem's representative attended the exhibition opening thanks to the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation and the ICHEIC Program.

Spanish Educators and Leaders Attend Tailor-made Seminars

Eliana Rapp Badihi

■ In early 2017, the International School for Holocaust Studies held two seminars for Latin-American teachers who work at either Jewish or other public or private educational institutions. Participants hailed from across Central and South America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Most of the participants teach at the middle- and high-school level, with a few from primary schools, as well as school principals, functionaries from ministries of education and a museum director.

Each ten-day seminar included historical lectures, pedagogical workshops (in the seminar for Jewish education, these workshops emphasized Jewish identity), meetings with Holocaust survivors and lectures about Israel today. A memorable topic debated amongst the participants was Holocaust remembrance today and in the future. In both seminars, Yad Vashem's new Spanish-language online learning platform (see below) was introduced, which was much appreciated by all the participants.

"I am speechless regarding what I have experienced, learned and shared," said Ruth Tuchschnajder from Argentina. "I will take



home with me many new ideas and emotions, in addition to new friends, knowledge, cultural awareness, and ways to confront these difficult subjects."

The seminars for educators from Latin America were made possible with the support of Claims Conference and the Adelson Family Foundation.

■ From 23 April - 2 May, the International School for Holocaust Studies held a seminar for Spanish-speaking community leaders from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico and Miami. This leadership seminar, held cooperation with Director of the Spain, Portugal and Miami-Spanish Speakers Desk in

Yad Vashem's International Relations Division Perla Hazan, has taken place annually at Yad Vashem since 2006. The 21 participants attended historical lectures and pedagogical workshops, and took part in ceremonies marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, Israel's Remembrance Day for fallen IDF soldiers and terror victims, and Independence Day. They also met with Holocaust



survivor Moshe Ha-Elion from Salonika, Greece, one of this year's honored Torchlighters.

At the conclusion of this unique seminar, the group voiced their recommitment to transmitting the meanings of the Holocaust to future generations.

The author is Head of Spanish and Portuguese Educational Programing in the Jewish World and International Seminars Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Online Learning Platform Launched in Guatemala

■ In March 2017, a new Spanish-language online Holocaust learning platform was launched by Yad Vashem in Guatemala, in cooperation with the local Jewish community. The platform was written by Yad Vashem experts following the signing of an agreement between the Guatemalan Ministry of Education, the Guatemalan Jewish Community and Yad Vashem. It is aimed at teachers, and includes ready-made lesson plans with worksheets for students, PowerPoint presentations, video clips, testimonies, photos and other pedagogical materials. The nine chapters focus on topics such as Jewish life before the Shoah, Nazi ideology, anti-Jewish policies, ghettos and camps, the "Final Solution," Righteous Among the Nations, and liberation and the return to life.

Among the 200 guests present at the launch were: Guatemalan Education Secretary Dr. Oscar Hugo López; President of the Jewish Community of Guatemala Yehudi Sabbagh; Israel's Ambassador to Guatemala H.E. Mr. Moshe Bachar; Director of Holocaust Studies for the Guatemalan Jewish Community Rebeca de Sabbagh; Educational Coordinator for Spanish and Portuguese Speakers at the International School for Holocaust Studies Haya Feldman Glus;



members of the Jewish community; and teachers of various schools and education centers across Guatemala.

Following the launch of the new platform, Feldman Glus conducted two days of educational workshops for some 150 Guatemalan public school teachers, in which she explained Yad Vashem's unique educational philosophy and trained them to use the materials now at their disposal. Guides and teachers from the Jewish community were also given an opportunity to hear firsthand about its rich multimedia content. During the evening, Holocaust survivors and their families were particularly moved to see

how their testimonies were included in the platform. The teachers showed great interest in the Internet platform, not only regarding the historical precision of the information and sound pedagogical approach to teaching its content, but also as an extremely user-friendly tool.

"The work done by Haya and her team exceeded all expectations," said Edna Portales of the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. "We thank Yad Vashem for its warm assistance and professionalism, as well as its close accompaniment throughout the building of this extraordinary platform."

Some of the participants in the workshops have already found opportunities to pass on what they have learned. In April, Juan Antonio Merida, Educational Coordinator at the Guatemalan Holocaust Museum, presented the platform to some 200 teachers in a town far away from the capital. "Following the launch, we felt obligated to include this important tool in our teacher-training programs," Merida explained. "It is a most effective way to teach about the Holocaust, and we are so grateful to Yad Vashem for creating it."

The new online learning platform in Guatemala was generously supported by the Soref-Breslauer Texas Foundation.

German Journalists Learn More About the Holocaust



■ Young German journalists tour the Holocaust History Museum

■ During the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem hosted a group of young, up-and-coming journalists from Germany for a weeklong educational seminar, co-chaired by former *Bild* Publishing Director Kai Diekmann and Editor-in-Chief of *Tagesspiegel* Stephan-Andreas Cassdorff.

The concept of media seminars at Yad Vashem was born almost a decade ago. Previous seminars have included journalists from Poland, Great Britain, Canada, Spain and France. These tailor-made programs provide Yad Vashem with a valuable opportunity to connect with journalists from around the world and expose them to the multifaceted aspects of Yad Vashem's activities in Israel and abroad, which in turn can reach vast audiences. Last year's German media



■ Kai Diekmann (right) and Stephan-Andreas Cassdorff lay a wreath at Yad Vashem on Holocaust Remembrance Day

seminar also resulted in an agreement between Yad Vashem and the Educational Ministry of the German state of Berlin. This year's seminar for promising German journalists was the first in a series due to take place in the coming years.

The journalists heard lectures by leading Holocaust historians and experts, and took behind-the-scenes tours of the vast archives and collection of artifacts housed at Yad Vashem, where they learned about the extensive lengths Yad Vashem goes to investigate and uncover the personal stories of the victims of the Holocaust. In addition, they were given an in-depth tour of the Holocaust History Museum and heard firsthand testimony from a Holocaust survivor – for some this was the first time they had ever met a survivor in person. The participants also

attended Remembrance Day ceremonies and events at Yad Vashem – which had a deep impact on them.

Sabine Schicketanz, Editor-in-Chief of the *Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten*, tweeted: "Thank you for intense, challenging, mind-opening, heart-wrenching encounters." "The seminar changed my focus," said Jessica Balleer of the German weekly *Dei Zeit*. "I have learned that the trend of using Holocaust-related terms in the wider arena blurs the remembrance of Holocaust. We need to be careful what comparisons we make today and which narrative we use." Stefanie Witte, a reporter for a regional paper in the north of Germany, wrote that she learned more about the Holocaust that took place outside of Germany, the impact it has had on the survivors and their descendants since the war, and the vital work of Yad Vashem in gathering information about every individual victim. "What I discovered in Yad Vashem will always be on my mind," she concluded.

"I also plan on doing some pieces about topics that have directly to do with the seminar – for example about how the Third Generation handles the past – both in Israel and in Germany."

Educational seminars at Yad Vashem for members of the media are generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.

School Graduates Enrich Knowledge Across Europe

■ Graduate seminars in Europe have proven themselves an important form of follow-up activity, affording teachers from across the continent the opportunity to enrich their knowledge and familiarity with relevant historical sites. During the first few months of 2017, the International School for Holocaust Studies coordinated four professional development programs for seminar graduates in cooperation with partner institutions in Europe.

A group of Dutch graduates studied how to teach their students about the actions of victims, bystanders and perpetrators at Villa ten Hompel in Münster, Germany. During WWII, the villa served as the headquarters of the Nazi Order Police. In the 1990s, it became a memorial to crimes committed by the police and the public administrators during the war, and a new permanent exhibition was recently opened on its premises. Participants remarked that they found it particularly rewarding to learn about how postwar German society has dealt with the aftermath of the Holocaust at a memorial site in Germany itself.

A group of Portuguese graduates expanded their knowledge of the Nazi euthanasia program

at Hartheim Castle, Austria. After the *Anschluss* (the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in March 1938), the Nazi regime converted the castle from an institute for the disabled into a killing center as part of the euthanasia program. The contemporary site now serves as an educational and memorial center.

A joint British-Danish contingent of graduates learned about the Theresienstadt ghetto at the Terezin Memorial in the Czech Republic. The expert lecturers broached numerous topics that were particularly salient to the locale, such as the persecution of Jews in central Europe and everyday life in the ghettos.

Graduates from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy studied attempts by Jews to flee to Switzerland at the Jewish Museum of Hohenems, Austria. The museum's permanent exhibition documents three centuries of Jewish life in Hohenems and its environs, from the founding of the community to its destruction in the Holocaust. The participants valued the opportunity to see the escape routes to the Swiss border firsthand and to learn how to use the newest Yad Vashem educational resources.



■ European teachers learn about attempts by Jews to flee to Switzerland during the war

"The national and international networks of Yad Vashem seminar graduates continue to grow," remarked Richelle Budd Caplan, Director of the International School's European Department. "This type of programming does a great deal to foster cooperation among the participating educators, who in turn can bring their enriched knowledge back to colleagues and students alike in their home countries."

These graduate seminars were supported by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Seminars for European Jewish Educators Yoni Berrous

■ In the first quarter of 2017, Yad Vashem hosted three seminars for European Jewish educators and students. In January, 25 students at Paideia – the European Institute for Jewish Studies – participated in a weeklong seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies to learn about the Shoah and antisemitism. In February, David Uzan, Principal of the Jewish School of Aquiba in Strasbourg, France, and 27 of his staff members spent a week at Yad Vashem in order to acquire skills in teaching the Holocaust within the specific context of Jewish education. In parallel, and for the first time, 24 educators working in informal Jewish education in the UK came to Yad Vashem to hear about new tools for Holocaust education. This seminar, organized with the assistance of Helen Kon from Yad Vashem UK-Foundation,

gathered educators from across the spectrum and from all the major Jewish streams: Orthodox, Masorti (Conservative) and Reform. The group included heads of Jewish education from synagogues, universities, youth movements and cultural centers, as well as informal educators at Jewish schools.

“These seminars endeavor to answer the many requests Yad Vashem receives from all kinds of organizations in Jewish communities,” says Ephraim Kaye, Director of the Jewish World and International Seminars Department at the International School. “Most Jewish children in Europe do not go to Jewish schools. This is why working at different levels within the community is paramount in bringing about meaningful Holocaust education. We are planning to meet seminar graduates in



■ Jewish educators tour the Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem

Europe during the remainder of 2017 in order to further strengthen Holocaust education in their communities.”

The author is Head of European Jewish Planning in the Jewish World and International Seminars Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Expanding Holocaust Education in Bulgaria

■ In March 2017, Richelle Budd Caplan, European Department Director at the International School for Holocaust Studies, traveled to Bulgaria as part of a delegation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In addition to speaking with Yad Vashem seminar graduates on Bulgaria’s national Holocaust Remembrance Day, she met with numerous high-ranking officials, including Foreign Minister Rudi Naidenov; former president Rosen Plevneliev; Secretary General of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church Metropolitan Melnik Guerassim; and President of the Shalom-Organization of the Jews of Bulgaria Dr. Alex Oskar. Among other topics, they discussed potentially coordinating a pan-European conference in Bulgaria for Yad Vashem seminar graduates in 2018.



Budd Caplan’s trip followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September 2016 between then-Bulgarian Education and Science Minister Meglena Kuneva and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. While Yad Vashem has worked together with

the Bulgarian Education Ministry to organize seminars for Bulgarian educators in the past, the MOU formalized their ties and officially entitles seminar graduates to apply for continuing education credits.

“Not only would the planned graduate conference in 2018 facilitate continued regular cooperation between Yad Vashem and Bulgaria, but it also would coincide with Sofia’s presidency of the Council of the European Union,” said Budd Caplan. “We hope that the conference will allow our dedicated teachers to showcase the follow-up projects that they have worked on in their schools since studying at Yad Vashem.”

The next seminar for Bulgarian educators is due to take place in the early fall of 2017.

Seminar for New Zealand Educators Stephanie McMahon-Kaye

■ In January 2017, the International School for Holocaust Studies held its third seminar for educators from New Zealand, in cooperation with the New Zealand Holocaust Center in Wellington.

This seminar built upon the two previous seminars, with Rick Sahar of the New Zealand Holocaust Center, and the Center’s new Educational Director, Chris Harris, conducting a pre-seminar for the participants in New Zealand before they came to Jerusalem.

The 17-day seminar was comprised of academic lectures and pedagogical modeling of lessons on ghettos, cultural resistance, the “Final Solution” and Righteous Among the Nations. Lecture topics covered antisemitism

through the ages, prewar Holocaust literature, and current antisemitism in the Arab world. Herb Keinon of *The Jerusalem Post* lectured on “The Problems Facing Israel Today.” Participants also enjoyed tours of significant cultural and religious sites across the country.

“The participants are well-versed in their own disciplines, and were seeking to learn more about the Holocaust and appropriate pedagogy,” explained Ephraim Kaye, Director of the Jewish World and International Seminars Department at the International School. “They asked insightful questions and spoke about the differences in approaches to Holocaust education here and back home. The presence of Rick Sahar and Chris Harris was an important

addition in that together with them, participants were able to process and reflect on what they had learned both during the seminar as well as back at the hotel.”

“We all had a background on the subject, but the information we learned here has created a much richer picture,” commented one participant. Another called the seminar “life changing... Learning about the Holocaust means we can all think about how we should respond to events today, and the part we want to play in our own history.”

The author is Head of the International Seminars in English Section in the Jewish World and International Seminars Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

New French Website Launched in Paris



■ Mayor of the Fourth District of Paris Christophe Girard at the launch of the new Yad Vashem website in French

■ In March 2017, Yad Vashem launched its website in French. Joining Yad Vashem's seven other websites in English, Hebrew, German, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi and Russian, the new website provides reliable information and knowledge about the Holocaust to the French-speaking community around the world. It includes a 50-chapter narrative of the Holocaust, accompanied by hundreds of photos, video testimonies, archival footage, documents,

personal letters and artifacts, with a special focus on France, Belgium and North Africa; online exhibitions, such as “43 rue Vieille du Temple” (see below), exploring particular topics in an informative and experiential context; stories of Righteous Among the Nations; educational materials and teaching units; and information about visiting Yad Vashem, including a focus on the Museum Complex featuring the Holocaust History Museum and the Museum of Holocaust

Art. The new website also contains a French-language database comprising all the wartime transports of Jews from across France to various concentration and death camps in Eastern Europe, with video testimonies of some of the few survivors.

The launch took place a few days before the 75th anniversary of the very first deportation of Jews from France to Auschwitz. The train departed Le Bourget with 1,112 Jews on 27 March

43 rue Vieille du Temple

■ “They had no other family. We were their only family.”

Jeannine Bouhanna (née Sebbane)

In 2016, while conducting research for a new exhibition for Yad Vashem's recently launched French website, Yad Vashem Internet Department staff came across a collection of letters in the Archives written by seemingly unrelated individuals but all addressed to the same person. After painstaking analysis, they were able to recover the identities of the writers and document the fate of each family member. Their stories are featured in a new online exhibition entitled “43 rue Vieille du Temple” – the common address three Jewish families once shared.

In 1942, the fourth district of Paris (Le Marais) was a busy Jewish neighborhood, comprising mainly Eastern European immigrants. Most of the families in the area, including the Polakiewicz and the Zonszajns, who lived in the same building as the Sebbanes at 43 rue Vieille du Temple, were arrested on July 1942



in the infamous “Rafle du Vel d'Hiv” – the massive roundup of over 13,000 Jews of Paris. Those arrested were confined in the “Vélodrome d'Hiver” (Winter Stadium) for five days in untenable conditions, before their transfer to transit camps and eventual deportation to their deaths. The Sebbane family was lucky enough not to be on the arrest list, probably due to their Algerian-French origins. Many of their neighbors entrusted the Sebbanes with the keys to their apartments, and wrote to the Sebbanes describing their ordeal and asking for help.



■ George, Eli and Jeannine Sebbane before the war

Sura Zonszajn was deported on 3 August 1942 with the Polakiewicz to Auschwitz. Her children, Jackie Zonszajn, aged ten, and Liliane Zonszajn, aged three, were left behind in the

Sarit Bruno

1942. The fate of these Jewish men, women and children was similar to that of millions of European and North African Jews deported as part of the murderous Nazi ideology.

The launch was held in the historic building of the fourth Paris district city hall, in the presence of the Mayor of the Fourth District Christophe Girard, President of the French Friends of Yad Vashem Pierre-François Veil, and with the participation of renowned Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld and Holocaust survivors. Serge Klarsfeld described the website as “a wealth of information for anyone searching for a list, a name, a place of birth, arrest details, convoy routes or the life journey of a survivor.” Mayor Girard stated: “Yad Vashem’s French website allows us to ensure that no person can ever claim that he or she didn’t know.”

The French website was launched together with Yad Vashem’s YouTube channel in French, which so far contains over 180 videos, including survivor testimonies and documentary footage.

The French Website was created with the support of the S.N.C.F. – the French National Railways Corporation.

Pithiviers detention camp. In his final letter to the Sebbane family, Jackie describes his ordeal, providing a rare written testimony by one of the children deported from France: “We are in a very sad situation... Mother and other friends have been sent to an unknown destination. We are sleeping on straw. I am still with my little sister [Liliane]...”

The Sebbanes spent the rest of the war moving from place to place and hiding in the south of France. All members of the Polakiewicz and Zonszajn families were murdered in the Holocaust. The Sebbane family survived except for Maurice Sebbane, Rahma Sebbane’s oldest son, who was deported from Drancy to the Sobibor death camp. Survivor Jeannine Bouhanna-Sebbane, Maurice’s sister, was one of the honored Torchlighters at the State Opening Ceremony of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2017 at Yad Vashem.

The author is Deputy Director of the Internet Department, Communications Division.

New Online Exhibition: “On the Edge of a Volcano”: Last Letters from the Holocaust: 1942”

■ **“No one knows better than we do that... we live as if on the edge of a volcano.”**

Shalom-Shachna Broin-Kahane, a Hebrew-language teacher at the Jewish high school in Rzeszów, southeastern Poland, wrote these words in 1942 in what would be his final letter from the Zbaraż ghetto to his relatives in the US. Shalom and his wife Chana were murdered during the liquidation of the ghetto. Their daughter Esther-Hadassah survived in hiding in Tarnopol.

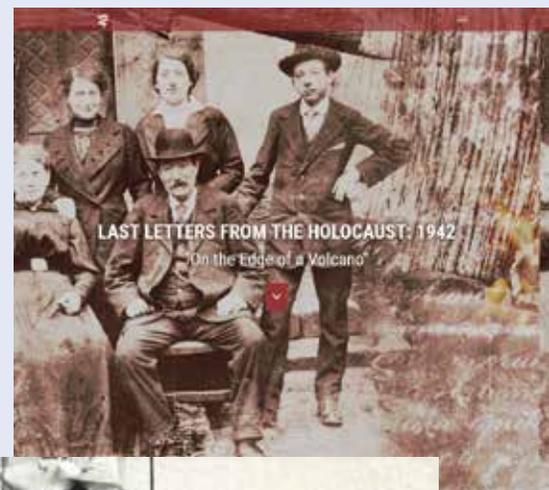
The ten letters included in Yad Vashem’s latest online exhibition in a series about last letters were sent from Belarus, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine, and were written in a variety of languages: Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Polish, Russian and Yiddish. Five of these precious missives were written by parents to their children, whom they never saw again. Relatives of the murdered Jews

donated the correspondence to Yad Vashem for perpetuity, together with photographs of their loved ones.

As in many other of Yad Vashem’s online exhibitions, “On the Edge of the Volcano” makes use of Yad Vashem’s archives and collections of photographs, artifacts and artwork. In order to enhance the experiential aspect of this exhibition, voiceovers have been added to certain letters. Every treasured letter and postcard, however, reveals the last remaining fragment – physical, personal and unique – of the victims: their handwriting.



■ Some of the letters and family photos from the new online exhibition “On the Edge of a Volcano”



Shelter and Betrayal

New Book on the Fate of Jews Seeking Refuge in the Wartime Polish Countryside

■ On 15 March 2017, the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research held a symposium marking the publication of the new Yad Vashem book, *Such a Beautiful Sunny Day*, by Prof. Barbara Engelking, Director of the Polish Center for Holocaust Research in Warsaw. This groundbreaking study follows in the footsteps of Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross (whose 2016 Annual Lecture in Memory of Prof. David Bankier on: "Making History": My Intellectual Journey into the Hidden Polish

Past" was published in the *Search and Research: Lectures and Papers* series) and Prof. Jan Grabowski (whose book *Hunt for the Jews* was recently published in Hebrew by Yad Vashem). Over the past two decades, these pioneering Polish researchers

have revealed the documented complicity of many Polish citizens in the murder of their Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust. Prof. Engelking's book sheds further light on a hitherto undocumented aspect of the Holocaust in Poland: Jews seeking refuge in the Polish countryside during the years 1942-1945 – a story of shelter and betrayal.

Prof. Havi Dreifuss, Director of the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland, opened the symposium by explaining that the book was first published in Polish six years ago and is now, with Yad Vashem's assistance, available to the global research community. Prof. Dreifuss called the book "breathtaking... although the content is many times unbearable." Until now, she explained, the Holocaust in Poland has been mainly associated with the ghettos and with the "anonymous mass murders" in death camps, especially Auschwitz-Birkenau. "*Such a Beautiful Sunny Day* reminds us that the Holocaust was not just about the destruction of Jewish communities, but was also a story of individual Jews seeking refuge, often in the countryside, and often among people they knew. Most importantly, through testimonies



■ Left to right: Dr. David Silberklang, Prof. Barbara Engelking, Prof. Havi Dreifuss and Prof. Yehuda Bauer at the symposium

"Through testimonies and diaries, Prof. Engelking is determined to give a voice both to the survivors and to those who were murdered."

Prof. Havi Dreifuss

and diaries, Prof. Engelking is determined to give a voice both to the survivors and to those who were murdered."

Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett expanded upon the topic of "intimate murder," wherein the victims know their persecutors, and vice-versa. He provided an array of examples in history and across wartime Europe – including France, Germany, Hungary and Lithuania – in which people not only turned against their former classmates, teachers, neighbors and colleagues, but did so with unprecedented cruelty and barbarism. "The section of Engelking's book entitled 'The Doomed' reads like a litany of betrayal," he said. "Intimate murder is even harder to comprehend than anonymous killings."

"We will never know exactly what led rural Poles to denounce and murder Jews seeking refuge in their area," noted Prof. Engelking. "In the book I surmise that it was a mixture of external factors, for example wartime demoralization and social pressure, as well as internal factors, such as greed, hatred, antisemitism and the fear of collective punishment by the Germans. Of course, one needs to look at each incident on a case-by-case basis, but all of these elements can be found in rural Poland. Thus, those Poles who did offer shelter to the persecuted Jews did so in an atmosphere laden with anti-Jewish sentiment and fear of reprisal."

"One of the great achievements of this book is its multidisciplinary nature," said Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer. "Engelking not only employs a sound historical narrative, but she also integrates elements of social psychology... The local populations didn't view the Jews as Poles, but something else, a danger to Polish society. This, together with other factors, such as the volatile economic and political situation in Europe in the 1920s and '30s, as well as deep-rooted Christian antisemitism, may be what led to their willing participation in the murder of the Jews in their vicinity."

Dr. Laurence Weinbaum, Director General of the World Jewish Congress Israel, called

Leah Goldstein

Prof. Engelking “one of the great pioneers of Shoah research in Poland.” Using a vast array of testimony and court records, the book, he claimed, is “a monument to the nameless victims.” He noted, too, that the book echoes Prof. Grabowski’s supplement to the three previously defined groups of people during the Holocaust – victims, persecutors and bystanders – a fourth group: “enablers and facilitators,” who viewed the Jews as no less than a commodity to be traded, and murdered, at will.

"Engelking's book reads like a litany of betrayal. Intimate murder is even harder to comprehend than anonymous killings."

Dr. Robert Rozett

The event ended with an incisive roundtable discussion moderated by Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. Prof. Engelking, Prof. Dreifuss and Prof. Yehuda Bauer took part in the discussion, which focused on a number of related topics, including: the motives of local Poles to denounce and murder Jews who sought refuge in rural areas; the differences in experience of the Jews in the cities and the countryside, as well as in different regions of Poland; the attitude towards the Jews by varying populations; the role of public officials, such as the “Blue Police,” in the betrayal of Jews; and the manner in which the Jewish refugees viewed the events and players at different stages of the war. The discussion concluded with a look at the “anti-liberalistic” trends in many – albeit democratic – countries worldwide, including Poland, and the hope that honest, sincere and comprehensive research such as that carried out by Prof. Engelking and her colleagues will continue to provide a clear and more balanced understanding of the events of the Holocaust in years to come.

The Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland is supported by the Aaron Gutwirth Fund and the Danek Gertner, Yad Vashem Scholarship.

Rewriting History?

Polish Attitudes Towards Jews During the Holocaust

Dr. David Silberklang

■ **On 24 March 1944, German police, assisted by Polish police, murdered Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their six young children, together with the eight Jews the Ulmas had been hiding for many months on their farm in Markowa. They had been betrayed by local Poles.**

Markowa is a small town in southern Poland, whose prewar population included ethnic Poles, Poles with a German background, and a small Jewish minority (some 120 out of 4,000 residents). Many Jews in this area fled the liquidation operations in their towns and villages during the summer and fall of 1942, and sought aid and shelter with local Poles. Some paid dearly for their protection.

The Ulmas, however, paid the ultimate price for their heroic attempt to rescue Jewish people. It is clear why Polish officials on the local and national level would want to honor the Ulmas. Markowa has boasted a plaque in their memory since 2004, and a museum in their name, dedicated to them and other Poles in the area who rescued Jews during WWII, was opened there in March 2016.

However, in the wake of the Ulmas’ betrayal, some local Poles who were hiding Jews murdered their helpless wards and left their bodies in the fields, while others continued to protect the people whom they were hiding. What story does this museum tell?

In their article in the new volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* (45:1), “Distorting and Rewriting the History of the Holocaust in Poland: The Case of the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews During World War II in Markowa,” Prof. Jan Grabowski and Prof. Dariusz Libionka demonstrate that the Ulma Family Museum presents an extreme distortion of history. While the museum portrays local Poles as collectively heroic in their efforts to help Jews, it omits unpleasant facts, such as the denunciation or murder of fugitive Jews by local Poles; and invents or greatly exaggerates facts, such as of the supposed role of the local Catholic Church in rescue, or the number of Jews rescued by Poles in this area. The authors show that the historians who planned the Ulma Family Museum rely on historical records only “if the records support their pre-determined vision of the past,” but “withhold and obfuscate the historical record if it

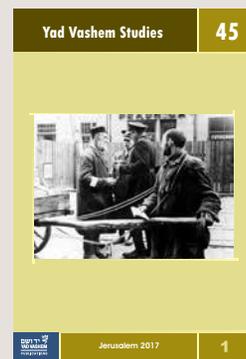
does not conform to that vision.” This rewriting of history is reflected in proposed new national legislation in Poland that would make saying that Polish people harmed Jews during the Holocaust a felony punishable by up to three years in prison.

Whereas the museum gives one example of a Pole behaving dishonorably, it fails to mention that the large majority of Jews in the Markowa area who fled murder operations and sought aid and shelter among their neighbors were murdered by these same neighbors or denounced to the Germans. Profs. Grabowski and Libionka relate many such cases with extensive substantiation. They cite multiple sources, including trial records, which are kept in the archive of the IPN (Institute of National Memory) – whose leaders and historians are responsible for writing the museum’s narrative.

Contrary to the museum’s presentation, Jews and their Polish rescuers needed to fear their Polish neighbors more than the Germans who were stationed miles away. In Markowa as well as in the neighboring villages, local people, including Polish village officials, such as policemen and firefighters, murdered Jews and repossessed their property and belongings. An article in the Polish underground bulletin *Wiesci* in December 1943, ignored by the museum, states: “One of the most tragic parts of the German occupation of Poland is the Jewish question. We all condemn the perverted murders committed by Germans on the Jews. But we gloss over these eager village elders and firefighters, who catch the Jews and deliver them to the hands of the butchers.”

This publication of this volume was made possible through the generous support of Samson Charity Foundation (Switzerland) and Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von wissenschaft und kultur.

The author is Senior Historian in the International Institute for Holocaust Research, and Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies.



Symposium Marks Release of New Book about Jewish Police in the Kovno Ghetto

Dr. Arkadi Zeltser

■ On 16 February 2017, the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research held a symposium marking the launch of the Hebrew version of *The Clandestine History of the Kovno Jewish Ghetto Police* (Yad Vashem, 2016). This unique journal, which was compiled and edited by groups of Jewish policemen in Kovno, elaborately describes events in Kovno from the creation of the ghetto in August 1941 to the spring of 1944. In addition to attesting to numerous unknown facts and reflecting how the closest body to the Judenrat elite in the ghetto evaluated the events, this document also contains a great many critical declarations about life in the ghetto, including the actions of the Jewish police itself.

Prof. Dalia Ofer of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem edited the book, writing an analytical

preface and footnotes prior to the journal's publication. At the launch she answered a number of questions, and suggested that the knowledge of the tragic fate of the journal's authors influences the way the events from that time are perceived today. Additionally, she discussed the extent to which texts written by people who served in official capacities in the ghetto, including the Jewish police, influenced the historiography of the Kovno ghetto in its entirety. Prof. Ofer also explained what made the journal from the Kovno ghetto unique, and why publishing it was especially significant for understanding the Holocaust in Eastern Europe in general, and for the study of the Holocaust in Lithuania in particular.

The book launch was dedicated to the memory of Prof. Dov Levin z"l, an Israeli historian and former prisoner of the Kovno ghetto and partisan, who for many years

researched various aspects of the Holocaust in Lithuania. Prof. Levin's contribution to the historiography of the Holocaust was presented by Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat.

The Research Institute's Dr. Lea Prais discussed the activity of the Jewish police in the Vilna ghetto that provided a greater understanding of the uniqueness of their cohorts in Kovno. Rami Neudorfer, a PhD candidate from Tel Aviv University who is researching of the Kovno ghetto, provided an overview of the history of the journal of the Kovno ghetto police.

The author is Director of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Treating the Remains of Jewish Victims of Nazi Medical Experiments

Prof. Dan Michman

■ On 14 May, a group of distinguished experts convened at Yad Vashem for a unique scholarly meeting regarding how the remains of Jewish victims of Nazi medical experiments should be treated. This topic is part of the broad issue of medical ethics in the wake of Nazi medicine, an issue tackled in an international conference entitled "Medicine in the Holocaust and Beyond," which was convened a week before in Akko by the Western Galilee Academic College in conjunction with Yad Vashem and Bar-Ilan University, among other relevant institutions.

Human Heredity and Eugenics, a center that knowingly received and stored specimens from the bodies of murdered victims of Dr. Josef Mengele's infamous experiments on twins at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The campus of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute is now part of the Free University of Berlin, and the principle occupant of its Dahlem campus. In the aftermath of this discovery, further investigations led to additional breakthroughs and findings, and the Max Planck Society, the successor of the wartime Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute, acknowledged the role it played in the criminal activities of the Third Reich during the Holocaust.

However, other than questioning the workers who discovered the human remains – mainly skeletal parts – at the Dahlem site, no further investigations were carried out. Following a petition by Prof. Götz Aly and Prof. William E. Seidelman MD, two of the leading historians of the role of medicine in Nazi Germany, the Free University of Berlin undertook further excavations and investigations of the origins of additional remains discovered at Dahlem, headed by internationally noted anthropology expert Prof. Susan Pollock.

Prof. Aly had contacted Prof. Seidelman after discovering the existence of the brain specimens from victims of Nazi 'euthanasia' in the collections of the Max-Planck Institute for Brain Research. For the past 30 years, Prof. Seidelman has explored the exploitation of the bodies of the victims of Nazi terror

by German and Austrian institutes during, and for decades after, the war. He turned to Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, which readily organized this important event.

The meeting at Yad Vashem aimed at discussing these findings, as well as how such future discoveries should be managed. Scholars discussed a range of topics, including the history and discovery of human remains of Nazi victims; ethical transgressions on the bodies of victims of Nazi terror by German and Austrian universities and research institutes; the careers of Dr. Josef Mengele and Dr. Otmar von Verschuer – a longtime mentor of Mengele and principal sponsor of Mengele's Auschwitz studies on twins; and caring for the remains of the dead in Jewish tradition.

"The recommended guidelines emanating from this important meeting will provide a roadmap that can ensure that future discovered remains will be accorded appropriate scientific examination to determine the provenance of the remains," said Prof. Seidelman, who moderated the proceedings. "However, it is equally vital that we ensure a proper burial and memorial for all the victims."

The scholarly meeting was made possible in part through the generosity of the Zuckerman family of Livingston, NJ, and other anonymous donors, and was held with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

The author is Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies.



■ Nazi flags flying on the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics, 1930s. Credit: Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

The idea for the meeting was crystallized following the discovery of human body parts during an excavation at the former site of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology,

The Long-Lost Powder Compact



Marisa Fine and Iris Bar-Nir Cohen

■ Last year, Tina Rosenstein and her husband Marcel Wieder toured Yad Vashem with their two sons, Eric and Sean, in honor of Sean's bar mitzvah. However, due to a recent extraordinary discovery by staff in Yad Vashem's Artifacts Department, the family recently learned that a small silver powder compact that once belonged to Tina's grandparents is on display in the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum. They eagerly returned to Israel from their hometown in Canada to view this special Holocaust-era treasure for the very first time.

The extraordinary story began with Tina's maternal grandparents, Jacob and Tania Stopnicki, who were incarcerated in the Lodz ghetto. In 1941, Jacob gave Tania the powder compact as a gift, for which he traded his daily ration of bread. Against all odds, Jacob was also able to save Tania and their infant daughter Krysia by hiding them in a bunker while the ghetto was

After Yad Vashem researchers began to investigate, they started to unravel the mysterious details behind the compact and its owners



■ Jacob Stopnicki with his daughter Krysia in the Lodz ghetto

being liquidated until the ghetto was liberated in January 1945. Krysia was one of the few children who were born in the Lodz ghetto and miraculously survived. Sadly, Tania passed away a year after the ghetto was liberated.



■ Powder compact given by Jacob Stopnicki to his wife Tania in the Lodz ghetto

The powder compact was donated to the Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection by a surviving family acquaintance of Stopnicki. After Yad Vashem researchers began to investigate, they started to unravel the mysterious details behind the compact and its owners. On the compact is a portrait of a Jewish man behind barbed wire, etched by Jewish artist Max Prinz. Researchers were able to determine that this portrait was based on a photograph taken by Lodz ghetto photographer Mendel Grossman of his father, Shmuel Grossman. On the back of the compact is engraved, "Lodz Ghetto 1941." Shmuel Grossman and Max Prinz were murdered in the Holocaust.

The researchers worked tirelessly to try to find more information about the owners of the compact and their family members. To complicate matters further, they discovered various documents in several archives pertaining to no less than three people named Jacob Stopnicki in the Lodz ghetto. After much cross-referencing and examination, they found several photographs of Jacob and Tania Stopnicki taken by another Lodz ghetto photographer, Henryk



■ Yad Vashem Artifacts Department Director Michael Tal shows Tina Rosenstein her grandparents' powder compact as it is displayed in the Holocaust History Museum

"I tried to imagine what my grandfather felt like giving such a beautiful present to his wife under such horrific conditions."

Tina Rosenstein

Ross, during the war. Much to their amazement, they also found living descendants of the couple living in Canada – among them Krysia herself, her daughter Tina, who was named for her grandmother, and her son Jeffrey.

Before entering the museum, an emotional Tina faceted with her mother, Krysia, who lives in Montreal, and wished she could have made the journey to see the compact. "I was truly overwhelmed with emotion holding my grandfather's powder compact for the first time. I will always remember my grandfather as a generous and loving man," she said. "Holding the compact, I tried to imagine what he felt like giving such a beautiful present to his wife under such horrific conditions."

Tina continued, "I still can't believe the bond I now have with Yad Vashem – part of our family's history is literally on display to share with the millions of visitors that come here every year. I told my teenage boys that I hope that when they grow up they bring their children to see the powder compact displayed in the Lodz ghetto exhibit, and that they never forget their personal connection to Yad Vashem."

Iris Bar-Nir Cohen is Associate Curator in the Artifacts Department, Museums Division.

Three from One Street

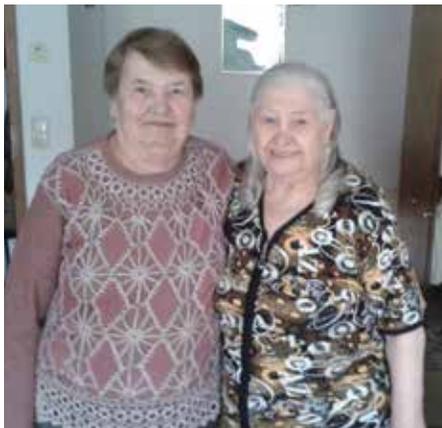


Childhood Friends Reunite Thanks to Pages of Testimony

Olga Litwak

■ **Stories about family reunifications are both rare and poignant.** When they do transpire, it is generally because searches of Pages of Testimony unearth names of relatives or acquaintances. Yet until now, it was unheard of for a street name to reconnect two childhood friends after almost 50 years of separation.

Nevertheless, this is precisely what recently occurred thanks to Alexander Konovalchuk, a dedicated volunteer for Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project assisting immigrants from the Former Soviet Union. His goal is to meet anyone who can attest to the names of Jews murdered during the Holocaust, and the street involved in this story came up in a surprising way.



■ *Sima Kivelevitch (left) reunited with her childhood friend Sima Berenshteyn*



"The fact that I succeeded in reuniting survivors means so

much to me, on top of my important work of commemorating the victims. It warms my heart to give these elderly ladies joy."

Names Recovery Project volunteer Alexander Konovalchuk

Konovalchuk is from Odessa, Ukraine and currently lives in Ulm, Germany. In 2012, while listening to a radio program, he learned about the Names Recovery Project and the importance of recovering the names of the murdered Jews, especially in areas of the FSU. In 2014, Konovalchuk signed up to help Holocaust survivors complete Pages of Testimony. The first survivor he assisted was Sima Berenshteyn, who currently lives in Ulm, but in 1941 lived in

Odessa at 44 Gospitalnaya Street. During the war, Berenshteyn's family and others would take cover during bombardments in a ground-floor apartment in their building. They assigned chores to those present, and Berenshteyn always had to clean the floor of the apartment where they all hid. One day, 14-year-old Berenshteyn suddenly got angry and refused to do her work, running back up to her own apartment. Having no other choice, her grandmother Brucha, her mother Yenta and her sister also left the apartment and went back upstairs. Later that day, the ground-floor apartment was bombed, and the 15 Jews taking cover inside were killed. The stubborn and rebellious girl had saved her family's lives.

Surprisingly, Konovalchuk himself had also lived on Gospitalnaya Street, at number 23. After completing the Pages of Testimony, survivor and volunteer went their separate ways. A while later, however, Konovalchuk went to interview Sima Kivelevitch, his neighbor from Odessa who had previously lived at 21 Gospitalnaya Street. Kivelevitch currently lives in the city of Heidelberg, some 200 kilometers from Ulm. Konovalchuk traveled to see her, completed Pages of Testimony with his old neighbor and, following up on the common street, told her Berenshteyn's story.

Kivelevitch not only remembered Berenshteyn, who had been her childhood friend, but also remembered the tragic explosion

at the building facing her home. Both girls were evacuated, returning to Odessa after it was liberated. However, when Berenshteyn moved to a different neighborhood in the 1970s, contact was severed and the friends had not seen each other since.

Thanks to Konovalchuk and through the Names Recovery Project in Germany, the friends were reunited in the spring of 2016. "It was such a wonderful meeting, both Simas embraced each other, cried, and spoke as if they had never been separated," recalled Konovalchuk. "Of course, they asked each other dozens of questions about relatives and acquaintances. The fact that I succeeded in reuniting survivors means so much to me, on top of my important work of commemorating the victims. It warms my heart to give these elderly ladies joy – and I know they still keep in touch today."

"I never thought we would see each other again," said an emotional Sima Kivelevitch at the meeting. "It is like going back to my childhood. I feel young and happy once again."

The author is the Coordinator of the Names Recovery Project in the Hall of Names, Archives Division.

Fill Out Pages of Testimony Today

■ **The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, available on the Yad Vashem website in English, Hebrew, Russian Spanish and German, is a one-of-a kind resource that today commemorates the names of some 4,700,000 Holocaust victims.** The public is invited to search records, submit new Pages of Testimony, and add photos and personal documents.

Assistance in filling out Pages of Testimony in Israel is available at: +972 2 644 3808. For assistance in other parts of the world, please contact: names.proj@yadvashem.org.il

Joining Forces

Combined Rescue Attempts by Jewish and Non-Jewish Religious Leaders During the Shoah

Irena Steinfeldt

■ On 30 September 1943 – *Rosh Hashanah* – Rabbi Moshe Pesach of the Jewish community of Volos, Greece went to the offices of Greek Orthodox Archbishop Joakim Alexopoulos. The Rabbi told the Archbishop that the Germans had ordered him to report with a list of all the Jews of Volos the next day, and entreated him to ascertain the Germans' intentions. The Archbishop contacted the German honorary consul, who hinted that Jews would do well to leave the city at once. The Archbishop then wrote a letter to the village leaders, members of the underground and clergy, and asked them to render the fleeing Jews whatever aid they could.

Thanks to this cooperation, the majority of Volos Jewry scattered to the hillside. Before leaving, many went to the Archbishop and entrusted their valuables to him. Some 130 Jews who stayed in Volos were arrested during the night of 24–25 March 1944, but most of the 900-strong community was saved. When the survivors returned after liberation, the Archbishop issued a statement calling on all his parishioners to return their possessions.

The rescue efforts, which began thanks to the Rabbi and the Archbishop's cooperation, kept going until the end of the German occupation, saving hundreds, if not thousands, of Jewish lives

This is one example of Jewish and non-Jewish religious leaders cooperating on numerous occasions during WWII in order to save Jewish lives. Rabbi Nathan Cassuto of the Jewish community of Florence, Italy also took action to aid the community and the numerous refugees who came to the city. The Rabbi rode his bicycle from house to house,



■ Rabbi Moshe Pesach

Tragically, the Rabbi, who helped smuggle many children to safety, failed to save his own daughter

implored the Jews to hide in remote villages and monasteries outside the city. But when he contacted Archbishop Elia Dalla Costa, a unique cooperative relationship between the two community leaders began. Archbishop Dalla Costa also brought his ecclesiastical subordinates and monasteries into the rescue network. Father Cipriano Ricotti testified that the Archbishop had given him a dispatch for the monasteries, "many of which might not have opened their gates, were it not for the letter." In late 1943, an informer led to the arrest of many members of the rescue committee. Rabbi Cassuto was sent to Auschwitz, and the other Jewish members of the network went underground. Despite the danger, the clergy and nuns took full responsibility to continue the activity. The rescue efforts in Florence, which began thanks to the Rabbi and the Archbishop's cooperation, kept going until the end of the German occupation,

and hundreds, if not thousands, of Jewish lives were saved thanks to them.

Rabbi Elie Bloch of Alsace was in Poitiers, France when the war broke out, and began taking action to aid the camp internees and the numerous refugees who came to the region. There he met Father Jean Fleury, the priest of the Roma camp in Poitiers. When the deportations began in the summer of 1942, they and other Jewish activists began taking joint action to



■ Archbishop Joakim Alexopoulos

smuggle Jewish children out of the camps and into hiding places. After Rabbi Bloch was arrested in February 1943, Father Fleury visited him in the camp and got the keys to his desk in order to remove incriminating documents. Tragically, the Rabbi, who helped smuggle many children to safety, failed to save his own daughter, and on 17 December 1943, Elie and Georgette Bloch and their little girl Miriam were deported to Auschwitz and murdered. As in the case of the Florentine network, the priest continued the rescue operations after his Jewish partners fled or were arrested. When Yad Vashem recognized Father Fleury as Righteous Among the Nations, Rabbi Elie Bloch's father, Rabbi Yosef Bloch, wrote "Father Fleury was a loyal friend to our son... Where the Rabbi was unable to take action to save poor persecuted or interned Jews, it was Father Fleury who took his place."

The author is the Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department.

Bankier Memorial Lecture on the Catholic Church and the Holocaust

■ **The Annual Event in Memory of Prof. David Bankier z"l, former Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, was held on 23 February 2017.** The event commenced with the annual lecture, which this year was delivered by Dr. Suzanne Brown-Fleming (pictured), Director of the Visiting Scholar Programs of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Dr. Brown-Fleming is one of the leading scholars on the Roman Catholic Church and the Holocaust, most specifically on relations between the Vatican and Germany during the papacies of Pius XI and Pius XII, covering the years prior to and through the



Holocaust, as well as its immediate aftermath. The elucidating lecture, entitled "Vatican Responses to Antisemitism, 1933," raised

fruitful questions and answers. In the afternoon, Dr. Brown-Fleming met with doctoral students in Israel working on Holocaust-related research, discussing her methodological approach using a document concerning the Vatican vis-à-vis Nazi antisemitism. Two PhD candidates, Rebekka Grossmann and Eliezer Schilt, also presented their research projects – "Imperialist Dreams and Domesticated Exoticism: The Orient in the Nazi German Mind" and "The Jewish Initiative in the Jewish-Christian Dialogue in Postwar France," respectively – after which there was a lively discussion between the participants.

The event took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Joint Symposium with USHMM

■ **The International Institute for Holocaust Research and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) held their first collaborative symposium in February 2017.** Israeli scholars who received the Phyllis Greenberg Heideman and Richard D. Heideman fellowships at the USHMM's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies met with past fellows of the Yad Vashem's Research Institute. During the symposium, past fellows of the Mandel Center presented their current research projects and discussed important issues concerning Israeli historiography. The



keynote address at the symposium, entitled "Mothers and Daughters in the Holocaust," was presented by Sara R. Horowitz, Professor

of Comparative Literature at York University and 2009 Fellow of the Mandel Center. The next joint event will be a workshop dealing with documenting the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Poland. The workshop is scheduled to take place at Yad Vashem in September, in conjunction with the Research Institute's Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

The symposium took place with the generous support of Phyllis Greenberg Heideman and Richard D. Heideman, and the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Prof. Yaffa Eliach z"l Honored at Yad Vashem



■ **On 20 February 2017, a ceremony was held at Yad Vashem marking the transfer of the Professor Yaffa Eliach Shtetl Collection to its Archives.** The collection, one of the largest private Holocaust-related collections of its kind, consists of recorded testimonies, transcripts, diaries, authentic memoirs and original documents in English, Hebrew, Polish, German, Russian and Yiddish; individual photographs and photo albums; and articles

the late Professor composed regarding the history of Eastern European Jews in general, and about Eishyshok, her native town in Lithuania, in particular. The world-renowned Holocaust scholar and survivor, who passed away in November 2016 at the age of 79, also published several books about the Holocaust.

The event, which was held in the presence of her family members, Holocaust survivors, students and colleagues alike, celebrated Prof. Eliach's life's work as one of the leading pioneers in Holocaust research, documentation and commemoration. Many in attendance at the event reflected on the special influence Prof. Eliach had on the Jewish world.

"She had a huge impact on so many people's lives," said Rabbi Dr. David Eliach, Prof. Eliach's widower (pictured, speaking to the audience). "Through Yaffa's research, millions of people have been given the opportunity to connect with the victims of the Shoah and to relate to their inner humanity. She understood that it is vital to learn about the Holocaust through survivor

testimony and the personal stories of the victims; not to view the Jews of Europe as the target of the Nazis and their accomplices, but rather to remember their lives before the war. Her legacy will continue for years to come, and the song of her life continues even in her absence."

Her vast collection, held in more than 500 archival containers, is cataloged in the Yad Vashem Archives as an independent archival division. "This important collection is one of the first 'micro-history projects' on the Holocaust," explained Yad Vashem's Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner. "The more than 6,000 photographs in the collection provide a visual testimony of the existence of the town of Eishyshok, where over 90 percent of one town's population was murdered during the Holocaust. We are extremely grateful to the Eliach family for bringing Yaffa's collection to Yad Vashem, where it can be properly preserved and made available to both researchers and the greater public."

Agreement with Russia to Locate Missing Archival Records

■ **The State of Israel and the Russian Federation recently signed a first-of-a-kind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), enabling unprecedented archival cooperation between the two countries.** The MOU provides for the exchange of copied documentation, meetings between experts, mutual assistance in expanding access to archival documentation and the establishment of joint projects. The agreement was signed in the presence of Ruti Avramovitz, Deputy to the Chief Archivist of the Israel State Archives; Dr. Haim Gertner, Director

of the Yad Vashem Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation; H.E. Mr. Gary Koren, Israel's Ambassador to Russia; and Dr. Andrei Artizov, Head of the Federal Archival Agency of Russia (Rosarkhiv).

The first cooperative project between the two countries will be with Yad Vashem, and will deal with locating and publicizing previously unknown Holocaust-era documentation in Russian archives. In order to promote the project, the Yad Vashem Archives will organize a conference during the coming year, with the participation of the heads

of the Rosarkhiv as well as leading archive directors in the Russian Federation.

"This groundbreaking agreement allows us to work again in Russia after a long hiatus," said Dr. Gertner. "The agreement will enable us to identify, together with our colleagues in Russia, archived and unknown Holocaust records. We hope that the project will help us advance the mission of recovering many of the 1,300,000 missing names of Holocaust victims, mostly from Eastern Europe."

IHRA Conference and Workshop on Mass Killing Sites

■ **In March 2017, some 80 people from 18 countries participated in a conference and workshop, entitled "As Mass Murder Began: Identifying and Remembering the Killing Sites of Summer-Fall 1941."** The conference, held at the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum in Vilnius, Lithuania, was sponsored by IHRA (the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance), following a similar one held in Kraków in January 2014.

Although IHRA itself does not do the work of identifying or marking sites, it is uniquely positioned to act as a facilitator and provide a neutral, international platform to bring interested parties together. The aim of the recent conference was to discuss identifying, marking and commemorating Holocaust mass killing sites. In addition to three major lectures, there were brief presentations and workshop discussions, as well as a lively "marketplace" where participants presented their own unique projects.

The conference's geographical focus was on the Baltic States, Belarus, Ukraine and Romania. As such, in addition to Yad Vashem Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang, a member of the Steering Committee for IHRA's five-year Killing Sites Project, and Dr. Lea Prais, Head of "The Untold Stories," Yad Vashem's online killing sites project, Dr. Arkadi Zeltser, Director of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union in the International Institute for Holocaust Research, also attended the conference.

Participants addressed a wide range of challenges, such as dealing with sites on private land, ensuring the implementation of existing laws, and how to best support related educational programs.

Several recommendations emerged from the workshops, among them: developing a joint database of all mass killing sites; applying and using various state-of-the-art technologies that make information about the mass extermination



sites of Jews accessible at the sites; ensuring that memorial plaques at the sites include information about both the victims and the perpetrators; and facilitating the inclusion of mass killing sites in the narrative of local communities. In addition, it was noted that Holocaust remembrance should take place on the international, national and local levels, and therefore international projects related to Holocaust remembrance sites could serve to encourage local communities to take responsibility, and unofficial initiatives to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust should be promoted and supported.

Improved Access at Yad Vashem for People with Disabilities

■ **Yad Vashem considers it of utmost importance to provide high-quality, professional and reliable service to all its visitors on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem as well as on its website, and in particular to people with disabilities.**

Most of the locations on the campus, including the Museum Complex, the Hall of Remembrance, Warsaw Ghetto Square and the Visitors' Center, are already accessible to the mobility-challenged. Wheelchairs and portable folding chairs are available free of charge, as well as audio aids.

Yad Vashem also provides optical aids such as magnifying glasses for the visually impaired. People with disabilities may enter the campus



without waiting in line and are permitted to bring service animals.

Yad Vashem is continuing to improve the accessibility of the buildings and services for

people with disabilities, such as by making events and ceremonies at Yad Vashem more accessible; positioning signs indicating wheelchair-accessible options; designating handicapped parking spots; placing audio aid systems at every service desk on the campus; installing magnifying screens and voice output in the Reading Room of the Archives and Library; lowering the service stands in the Visual Center and the group desk; and installing elevators across the Yad Vashem campus.

Furthermore, Yad Vashem is continuing to integrate people with disabilities into its daily endeavors.

For more information, contact Lital Harel in the Visitors' Department, Museums Division: +972-2-644-3819, accessibility@yadvashem.org.il

News

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During February–May 2017, Yad Vashem conducted 284 guided tours for more than 3,400 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors, mayors, religious leaders, and personalities from the legal, financial and entertainment sectors. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **President of the Federal Republic of Germany H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier** visited Yad Vashem on 5 May. Accompanied by his wife Elke Büdenbender and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, the President viewed the Museum of Holocaust Art and the Children’s Memorial, and took a behind-the-scenes tour of Yad Vashem’s Archives. Following a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, President Steinmeier signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book. “We Germans have incurred inconceivable guilt,” he said. “At this place, memory becomes pain, mourning and shame. Acknowledging the responsibility for what happened, we firmly stand at Israel’s side working for a common future.” The President’s visit followed the visit of German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel on 25 April, as well as recent visits by the German Education, Justice and Agricultural Ministers.



■ **Zambian President H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 28 February. The President and his entourage were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Nannie Beekman of the Righteous Among the Nations Department.



■ The day after he took part in the official ceremonies at Yad Vashem marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, **Austrian Chancellor H.E. Mr. Christian Kern** toured the Holocaust History Museum and took part in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Names.



■ On 14 March, **Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanić** toured Yad Vashem together with his wife and son, Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Igor Crnadak, and other senior members of government.



■ **Romanian Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Sorin Mihai Grindeanu** toured Yad Vashem on 4 May. This followed a visit by the Speaker of the Romanian Parliament Liviu Dragnea on 6 March.



■ On 15 May, **Ukrainian Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Groysman** and his wife Olena toured the Holocaust History Museum and took part in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Names.



■ **Prime Minister of Belgium H.E. Mr. Charles Michel** visited Yad Vashem on 7 February. “We come out of the Museum understanding the need to commemorate the Shoah and the horror of the industrialization of murder,” the Prime Minister remarked at the end of his visit. “Democracy, tolerance and respect are values that should always guide us.”



■ **President of the Slovak Republic H.E. Mr. Andrej Kiska** visited Yad Vashem on 29 March. The President toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, visited the Children’s Memorial, and signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book. “We should speak again and again about our history, about the most important values that we treasure – solidarity, humanity, empathy and love. We should never allow our past to be our children’s future.”



■ **Also among our honored visitors:** Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Galbur (1 March); Estonian Foreign Minister Sven Mikser (8 March); Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano (15 March); Danish Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen (17 May); Costa Rican Foreign Minister Manuel González Sanz (18 May); Ethiopian Minister of Culture and Tourism Dr. Hirut Woldemariam (6 February); Latvian Defense Minister Raimonds Bergmainis (6 March); the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby (3 May); Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo (5 March); Speaker of the British Parliament John Bercow (13 February); President of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim (16 February); and President of CNN Worldwide Jeff Zucker (6 March).

Holocaust Museum Houston Honors Yad Vashem and Avner Shalev

■ On 23 May, Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) celebrated its 22nd Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award Dinner at the Marriott Marquis, Houston. The evening honored Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, and its Chairman Avner Shalev for leading a comprehensive program to meaningfully teach and commemorate the Holocaust in the 21st century. Accepting the award on behalf of Yad Vashem and Avner Shalev were Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak and Shalev's granddaughter Dr. Ruth Tsuria.

In a recorded address, Shalev pointed out the mutual goals of Yad Vashem and HMH. "Yad Vashem is a complex that has all the elements needed to ensure a meaningful and professional approach to Holocaust remembrance... together we will strive to carry out our very important missions both in our respective countries as well as worldwide."

Holocaust Museum Houston created the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award in 1994 in cooperation with the Johnson family. In 1938, as a young congressman, Johnson stretched the limits of his authority to provide

sanctuary in the US for threatened European Jews. The award recognizes either a single righteous act or a lifetime of morally courageous behavior. Previous recipients have included Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel *z"l*; murdered Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl; former US Secretary of State Colin Powell; filmmaker Steven Spielberg; and US President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The recognition Yad Vashem received better informed the dinner's participants regarding Yad Vashem's wide range of activities and served as a source of great pride to Yad Vashem's donors participating in the dinner. Yad Vashem appreciates the support of longstanding friend and Builder Benjamin Warren, who will soon assume the chairmanship of HMH, and who was the driving force behind Yad Vashem receiving this honor and the establishment of the \$100,000 Avner Shalev scholarship fund to send educators to Yad Vashem's international seminars.

The dinner was co-chaired by Yad Vashem Benefactor Ira Mitzner and friend of Yad Vashem Fred Zeidman, along with their families, and also attended by Managing Director of Yad Vashem's

International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda. The keynote address was provided by former US Senator Joe Lieberman, whose wife Hadassah is the daughter of Holocaust survivors.

"The LBJ Moral Courage Awards Dinner is particularly special this year as we honor the mother ship of Holocaust remembrance, and its innovative chairman," said HMH Chair Gary Markowitz. In his address, Fred Zeidman said: "If Yad Vashem is the mother of remembrance, Avner Shalev is its father." Ira Mitzner also joined in the praise of the Yad Vashem Chairman's work: "Avner Shalev is a luminary who safeguards the history and the lessons of the Holocaust for our generation and for generations to come."



■ Left to right: Dr. Ruth Tsuria, Ira Mitzner, Dorit Novak, Fred Zeidman

Yad Vashem Visionaries: Miles and Kelly Nadal

■ New Yad Vashem Visionary Miles S. Nadal is the Founder of MDC Partners Inc., an advertising and marketing holding company based in New York, acting as its Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since 1986 and President since 2007.

As Mr. Nadal's business successes have grown, he and his wife Kelly have taken on an increasingly larger role in support of important community and charitable organizations, becoming significant supporters of organizations in the areas of health care, education and children's welfare in Canada, Israel, the US and around the world. Although his upbringing was modest, Mr. Nadal's late parents, Irwin and Renee *z"l*, instilled in him a strong Jewish identity and the importance



of charitable giving, which he and Kelly have passed on to their four daughters: Sarah, Samantha, Olivia and Julia. For each of their bat mitzvahs, the girls set up charitable funds in lieu of gifts. Kelly, Olivia and Julia have volunteered all over the world, helping underprivileged populations.

In November 2016, the couple visited Yad Vashem and immediately expressed their desire to support Holocaust remembrance and education, stressing the importance of Holocaust commemoration for generations to come. In early May 2017, Miles and Kelly Nadal were recognized as Yad Vashem Visionaries, unveiling their Entrance Arch in the Yad Vashem Entrance Plaza in honor of his family. During the ceremony, Miles pointed out that he and Kelly were privileged to become part of the Yad Vashem family, and that thanks to Yad Vashem they were able to broaden the understanding of the history of the Jewish people, while ensuring its secure future.

New Benefactors: Mireille and Harvey Katz

■ Yad Vashem warmly welcomes Mireille and Harvey Katz into its honored community of dedicated and generous Benefactors.

Harvey – then Chaim – Katz was born in 1931 into a comfortable, middle-class Jewish family in Vilna. Following the German invasion, Chaim's mother Berta and sister Rose were murdered in nearby Ponary, and his father and uncle were burned to death by Germans and Lithuanian collaborators. Having secured a false identity with a non-Jewish name, Chaim avoided deportation until September 1943, when he escaped a cattle car destined for Sobibor.

Arrested the next day, Chaim was processed under his false identity: he entered Auschwitz as a 12-year-old "non-Jewish criminal," thus avoiding selections. However, this did not enable him to avoid the horrors of Auschwitz or the other camps in which he was incarcerated.

After liberation, as part of a program to bring orphaned Jewish children out of Germany, Chaim was fostered by a family in St Louis. Chaim became Harvey, and after completing his engineering studies became a skilled, respected and successful businessman. He and his wife Mireille have three children and seven



grandchildren, and are longtime supporters of Yad Vashem's mission of Holocaust education and commemoration.

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ On 2 February 2017, the **American Society for Yad Vashem** hosted its Annual Young Leadership Associates (YLA) Gala at the Prince George Ballroom in New York City. The event was chaired by **Michelle and Elliot Pines**, **Erica and Michael Distenfeld**, **Avi Felberbaum**, **Sam Gordon**, **Alexandra Lebovits**, **Jessica and Andrew Mauk**, **Michael Shmuely** and **Rachel Shnay**. Over 400 young leaders came out in support of the IDF seminars run by Yad Vashem.



■ Left to right: **Josh Gelnick**, **Daniella Pomeranc**, American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf**, **Rachel Shnay**, **Michael Shmuely**, **Abbi Halpern**, **Barry Levine**

■ On 6 March, **Evelyn and Isaac Marcushamer** opened their home in Aventura, Florida to **Dr. Haim Gertner**, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation, who spoke on the topic “Does the Holocaust Matter Anymore?” **Marvin Zborowski**, brother of American Society founder **Eli Zborowski z”l**, also addressed the 50 guests about his experience in the Shoah.



■ Back row, left to right: American Society Chief Development Officer **Eillene Leistner**, Director of the Yad Vashem US Desk **Michael Fisher**, American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier**, **Dr. Haim Gertner**, **Evelyn and Isaac Marcushamer**. Front row: **Celina Zborowski**, **Marvin Zborowski**

■ On 9 March, **Gail and Colin Halpern** hosted a private reception for over 100 guests at the Frenchman’s Creek Beach and Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for **Dr. Haim Gertner**, who spoke about the Yad Vashem “Gathering the Fragments” campaign.



■ Left to right: **Chris Morton**, **Michael Fisher**, **Dr. Haim Gertner**, **Leonard Wilf**, **Eillene Leistner**, **Gail and Colin Halpern**, **Dr. Ron Meier**, American Society Executive Board member **Mark Moskowitz**

■ On 19 March, the American Society’s Education Department held its 19th annual **Barbara Gutfreund Arfa Professional Development Conference**, organized by American Society Education Director **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom**. **Mary Eisenhower**, granddaughter of US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was the keynote speaker, and Yad Vashem Senior Historian **Dr. David Silberklang** was the guest speaker. The conference was attended by some 150 educators from the Tri-State area.



■ Left to right: **Mary Eisenhower**, American Society Executive Board member and Education Committee Chair **Caroline Massel**, **Dr. David Silberklang**

■ On 24 March, the American Society Young Leadership Associates (YLA) hosted its annual spring Shabbat dinner in New York City. Over 90 guests enjoyed the elegant evening, which featured a presentation by Holocaust survivor **Edward Mosberg**, grandfather of YLA co-chair **Barry Levine**. The evening was co-chaired by **Charlene Lerner** and **Elliot Pines**.



■ Left to right: **Abbi Halpern**, **Elliot Pines**, **Edward Mosberg**, **Charlene Lerner**, **Barry Levine**

■ On 27 April, **Eillene Leistner** represented Yad Vashem at a ceremony at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, posthumously recognizing **Mihael and Ema Rozanc** and their daughter **Elizabeta Rozanc Horvath** as Righteous Among the Nations. **Frank Horvath**, **Elizabeta Rozanc Horvath**’s son, accepted the medal and certificate on behalf of his late mother and grandparents.



■ Left to right: **Frank Horvath**, Israel Deputy Consul General **Itay Milner**, **Eillene Leistner**

■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 7 March, **Ellis Woodward** (right) took a meaningful tour of the Holocaust History Museum as well as the temporary exhibition “Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust.”



■ A mission from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, headed by the Federation's President and CEO **Lee Wunsch** (right), toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and Exhibitions Pavilion on 3 March. At the ceremony held for the delegation, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) recognized Lee's upcoming retirement, his career in the service of the Jewish community and the Federation's support of Yad Vashem.



■ On 22 March, **Gerald Barad** (left) and **Cindy Barad Elias** (second from right), children of Holocaust survivors and Yad Vashem Benefactors **Ulo z"l** and **Etta Barad**, brought their family to visit the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 23 March, President of the David Berg Foundation **Michele Cohn Tocci** (left), joined by the Foundation's Senior Program Officer **Abby Kaufthal** (center), was hosted by **Michael Fisher**. Michele and Abby also toured the Holocaust Art Museum with Curator and Art Department Director **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg** (right) and held a series of meetings with senior professionals, including Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**.



■ More than 20 legal professionals from Miami's Jewish community paid a visit to Yad Vashem on 31 March during a trip to Israel with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Attorneys' Division. Among them was **Isaac Marcushamer**, who hosted a well-attended parlor meeting for the **American Society for Yad Vashem** at his home in February.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Jan and Rick Cohen** (left) brought their daughter and son-in-law **Rachel and Dan Kanter** (right) on a visit to Yad Vashem on 2 April. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and heard a presentation by **Dr. Na'ama Shik**, Director of the e-Learning Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies, which they generously support.



■ **Debbie Margolis** and her husband **Jeff** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 2 April with friends from the Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County, California. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Yad Vashem Archives.



■ On 7 April, **David and Meredith Kaplan** visited Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Nick**. Nick participated in a twinning ceremony, during which he pledged to remember **Aaron Jacob Akker z"l**, a young boy murdered during the Holocaust.



■ On 12 April, three generations of the Halpern family visited Yad Vashem to unveil a memorial plaque. Holocaust survivor **Gladys Halpern** dedicated the plaque to her late mother **Sara Landau z"l**, who also survived the Shoah, and her father **Ephraim Landau z"l**, who was murdered by the Nazis. The Halperns toured the campus, accompanied by **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and **Michael Fisher**.



■ During her visit to Yad Vashem on 18 April, Chair of the American Society Education Committee **Caroline Massel** (second from left) was joined by her father **Harvey Arfa**, her husband **Morris Massel** and their three children. In addition to the Holocaust History Museum, the family toured the Valley of Communities with **Michael Fisher** and met with **Dorit Novak** and Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies **Dr. Eyal Kaminka**.



Friends Worldwide

■ The Bernstein family marked the bat mitzvah of **Hallie Packin Bernstein** at the Yad Vashem Synagogue on 13 April, accompanied by **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. Hallie pledged in her twinning ceremony to remember **Helene Bernstein z"l**, a girl who was murdered in the Shoah.



■ On 18 April, the Maidenbaum family, who generously support Names Recovery Project activities in Poland, paid a visit to Yad Vashem to unveil their family plaque in the Memorial Cave. **Iris and Shalom Maidenbaum** (center) dedicated the plaque to the members of the Just and Wilner families who were brutally murdered by the Nazis in Poland.



■ A group of over 30 eighth-grade students from Meyer Academy in Miami, Florida was hosted at Yad Vashem on 3 May. The students, who had collected pennies for Yad Vashem over the course of three years, participated in an emotional candle-lighting ceremony commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. As part of the ceremony, the students shared their journey of studying the Holocaust, including meeting with 11 survivors in the Florida area. They presented **Michael Fisher** with their donation to Yad Vashem.



■ On 27 April, **Mark, Rose and Sonia Moskowitz** (center) attended the opening of the new Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Educational Center at the IDF training campus in the Negev (see p. 10), accompanied by **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and senior staff of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Also in attendance were the Base Commander, IDF Chief Education Officer and the Commander of the Technology and Logistic Corps.



■ On 26 April, **Shmuel and Talya Toledano Davidowitz, Harry Karten** and their family marked the bar mitzvah of **Netanel Davidowitz**, in which Netanel read the Torah in the Yad Vashem Synagogue. In a moving twinning ceremony held at the Partisans Panaroma, Netanel pledged to remember **Moshe Davidovits z"l**, a young boy murdered in the Shoah.



■ The Philadelphia Men's Mission visited Yad Vashem on 9 March. The group toured the Holocaust History Museum and the temporary exhibition "Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust." The delegation also laid wreaths in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Michele and Martin Greenberg** visited Yad Vashem on 30 April.



■ **Joe and Loren Groveman** toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum on 30 April during their first trip to Israel.



■ The Michigan Social Progress Mission visited the Holocaust History Museum on 9 May. The delegation included executives and directors of leading cultural institutions and philanthropic foundations from Michigan.



FSU

■ On 2 April, **Lev Lantzman** (second from left) of the Moscow City Duma and Deputy Chairman on Organizational Work and International Cooperation visited Yad Vashem together with **Alla Selivanova** (second from right) of the Moscow City Duma and Director of Special and International Projects. They met with Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Adv. Arie Zuckerman** (left) and **Dr. Aharon Shneyer** (right) of the Archives Division.



Christian Desk with ICEJ and The Museum of the Bible

■ Thirty Christian Leaders from a variety of nations and denominations gathered at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies during the especially meaningful week of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Christian Leadership Seminar was made possible by the generous support of **The Museum of the Bible, Washington DC** and the **International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ)** Germany and USA branches. The participants met with a Holocaust survivor and were guests at the special ceremonies taking place at Yad Vashem, and also visited prominent sites around Israel, including the grave of Righteous Among the Nations **Oscar Schindler** in Jerusalem.



■ In May 2017, the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem** hosted its first special study tour for friends and supporters mainly from the US. The group toured biblical and historic sites, and learned how Holocaust remembrance and education remains relevant today. During a tour of Yad Vashem, the group gave a generous donation to enable Yad Vashem to continue its essential endeavors.



UK

■ On 2 February, **Yad Vashem-UK Foundation** hosted a Gala Dinner at the St. John's Wood Synagogue in London. The event was chaired by Foundation Chairman **Simon Bentley** (standing). **Mona Golabek**, the Los Angeles-based concert pianist and star of the one-woman show "The Pianist of Willesden Lane," related to a captivated audience how her mother fled the Nazis in 1938 at the age of 14 on the *Kindertransport* to London. **Dr. Ruth Bergman**, Director of Hewlett Packard Labs in Israel, explained how digital techniques are revolutionizing the way Holocaust memories can be preserved.



■ On 5 April, **Daniel Levy** and his son **Ralph** visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ On 7 May, **David Lander** (left), Trustee of Yad Vashem-UK Foundation, and **Shelly Lander** (second from right) were joined by their friends **Daniel** and **Nikki Garcia** on a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and a "behind-the-scenes" visit to the Archives led by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



SOUTH AFRICA

■ On 12 April, **Barry Sundelson** (center) his son **Judd** (second from left), **Steven Nathan** (second from right), his son **Isacco** (right) and **Ben Mendelowitz** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial.



■ On 20 April, **Warren Schewitz** and his sons **Adam** and **Daniel** visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. Adam then participated in a bar mitzvah twinning ceremony in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, during which he undertook to preserve the memory of **Adam Rzczynski z"l**, a child victim of the Holocaust.



GERMANY

■ On 15 May, **Peter Biermann**, a financial director of Samson Charity Foundation, visited Yad Vashem with his family. This was a first visit for his wife **Anneke** and son **Nietz**. The Samson Charity Foundation is a Benefactor and a long-term partner of Yad Vashem, annually contributing to the Yad Vashem Archives, the International Institute for Holocaust Research and other projects.



Friends Worldwide

AUSTRALIA

■ On 6 February, Australian entrepreneur, philanthropist and humanitarian **Harold Mitchell AC** visited the Holocaust Art Museum, accompanied by his friend **Nadia Taylor**.



■ During their visit on 2 April, **Roy and Viv Wainer** visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ **Tony Goldschlager, Joel Gerschman, Sharonne Slonim** and families visited the Holocaust History Museum. **Gilad Gerschman** participated in a bar mitzvah twinning ceremony in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, during which he undertook to preserve the memory of **Heinrich Eisenstadt z"l**, a child who was murdered during the Holocaust.



■ On 4 April, **Jodi and Steven Sher** and their extended family toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial followed by moving bar/bat mitzvah twinning ceremony in the Yad Vashem Synagogue.



AUSTRIA

■ On 20 March, the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** held their annual General Assembly in the Ballroom of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna. Before 350 members and distinguished guests, Austrian Chancellor **Christian Kern** and Vice Chancellor **Dr. Reinhold Mitterlehner** emphasized the obligation to keep the memory of the victims of the Shoah alive and to prevent such atrocities from happening again.



COSTA RICA

■ **Silvia and Samuel Aizenman** (third and fourth from right), were joined by a group of friends as well as Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) and **Moshe Hazan** (fifth from right) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



MEXICO

■ **Vicky and Ariel Picker** (center, left and right of the plaque) visited Yad Vashem in April to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Uri** (second from left). They were joined by former Israeli minister **Yossi Peled** and members of their family, as well Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. A plaque was unveiled in their honor at the Builders Terrace.

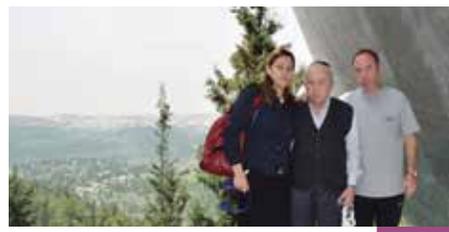


■ **Miguel Schwarz** (seventh from right) joined a Delegation of the Technological Institute of Monterrey during their visit to Yad Vashem.



ARGENTINA

■ **Gladys Kelmer** (left) visited Yad Vashem with her father and brother.



PANAMA

■ **Joel Abbo** (left) joined a delegation from Panama during their visit to Yad Vashem.



SPAIN

■ **Luis Joaquin Ramirez** (center) was joined by **Abraham Haim** (left) and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (right) during his visit to Yad Vashem.



VENEZUELA

■ **Simy** (center) and **Sadia Cohen** (right) visited Yad Vashem in April to unveil a plaque in their honor at the Benefactors Wall. They were joined

by Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem **Rabbi Shlomo Amar**, former Speaker and Member of the Knesset **Dalia Itzik** and members of their family, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left), Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. **Sadia Cohen**, who strongly values and identifies with the State of Israel and the Jewish people, supported the establishment of the Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Educational Center at the IDF training campus in the Negev (see p. 10).



■ **Dalia** and **Sharon**, granddaughters of Yad Vashem Builders **Raquel** and **Jacobo Szkolnik**, visited Yad Vashem with a group of friends.



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

All of the activities, projects and events which you have just read about are made possible thanks to the generous support of our donors. In these difficult times, when there is a worrying rise in antisemitism and Holocaust denial around the world, Yad Vashem is doubling its efforts to commemorate the Holocaust, disseminate its universal implications and strengthen Jewish continuity. Yad Vashem is deeply grateful for your generosity in supporting its vital work and welcomes both new friends and established supporters as partners in our shared mission.

■ To make tax-deductible donations:

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■ Donations may also be sent to:

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Tel: +972-2-6443420
Email:
international.relations@yadvashem.org.il

■ For information on societies
in other countries, please visit:
www.yadvashem.org

Donate online: www.yadvashem.org

Friends Worldwide

Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day 2017

USA

■ On 24 April, **Robert Koenig** (left) and **Mark Koenig** (second from right) were joined by their friend **Phillip Goldstein** (second from left) on a tour of the Holocaust History Museum after attending the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony held at Yad Vashem.



■ Joined by Yad Vashem's International Division American Desk Director **Michael Fisher** (second from right), **Marty** (right) and **Debbie Vine** (center) attended the State Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day on 23 April.



■ On 23 April 2017, Teva Pharmaceutical Board Members **Eileen** (center) and **Jerry** (left) **Lieberman** joined thousands of other guests at Yad Vashem on the evening of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Before the State Opening Ceremony opening began, they met with **Michael Fisher** (right).



■ **Mindy Mitzner** (left) and **Linda Freedman Block** (right) came to Yad Vashem on 23 April to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day. They attended the State Opening Ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.



■ **Harry** (left) and **Jonathan Karten** (right), the son and grandson of Jewish partisan and Holocaust survivor **Isidore Karten z"l**, were hosted at Yad Vashem by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (second from left) and **Michael Fisher** (second from right) on 23 April. They attended the State Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Harry recited *Kaddish* the following day at the Main Memorial Ceremony held in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ On 23 April, eight members of the Moskowitz family attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, where they were joined by Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak** (right) and **Michael Fisher** (third from right). The following day, the family toured the campus.



■ **Murry Zborowski**, son of Holocaust survivor and founder of the **American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski z"l**, visited Yad Vashem on 24 April. Murry laid a wreath at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony on behalf of the Yad Vashem Second Generation Leadership.



■ Representing the American Society for Yad Vashem, **Mark Moskowitz** participated in the annual wreath-laying ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day on 24 April, together with his niece **Deena Hikri**.



Christian Desk with ICEJ and The Museum of the Bible

■ **International Christian Embassy Jerusalem** (ICEJ) International Director **Rev. Juha Ketola** (right) and ICEJ Norway Director **Dag Juliussen** (left) laid a wreath during the official Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, in which ICEJ President **Dr. Jürgen Bühler** and ICEJ National Director for Finland **Kari Niemi** also participated. ICEJ generously supports many of Yad Vashem's activities in the Christian world.



FSU

■ Yad Vashem Trustee **Dmitry Smetanitch** (second from left) was a guest at the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, together with **Ron Knyazhevsky** (left), hosted by Special Advisor to the Chairman of Yad Vashem Directorate **Adv. Arie Zuckerman** (second from right) and Development and Projects Officer **Dina Maslova** (right).



■ Former President of Euro-Asian Jewish Congress **Vadim Shulman** (left) was a guest at the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, together with Former Head of the Liaison Bureau Lishkat Hakesher "Nativ" **Naomi Ben Ami** (second from left). They were accompanied by **Adv. Arie Zuckerman** (second from right) and Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (right).



VENEZUELA

■ **Milka** (second from right) and **Raymundo Botbol** (right) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, joined by **Mariela Graschninsky** (left) and **Aaron Cabuli** (second from left).



GERMANY

■ Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" **Dr. Andreas Eberhardt** (second from right) was a guest at the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony. He met with Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** (left), **Adv. Arie Zuckerman** (second from left) and Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ **Torsten** (center) and **Ulrike Michel** (left) were guests at the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony in Yad Vashem, where they were joined by Director of the German-Speaking Countries and German Swiss Desk **Arik Rav On** (right). Later they visited Yad Vashem Archives, meeting with **Dr. Haim Gertner**, and bringing with them artifacts belonging to the family during the Shoah. With the resources of Yad Vashem at their disposal, they were able to explore their family history further.



COSTA RICA

■ **Marcelo Burman** (left) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony with Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (right).



ISRAEL

■ Belgrade-born survivor **Yosef Zamboki** and his wife **Ruti** lit the memorial flame during the Main Memorial Ceremony in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.



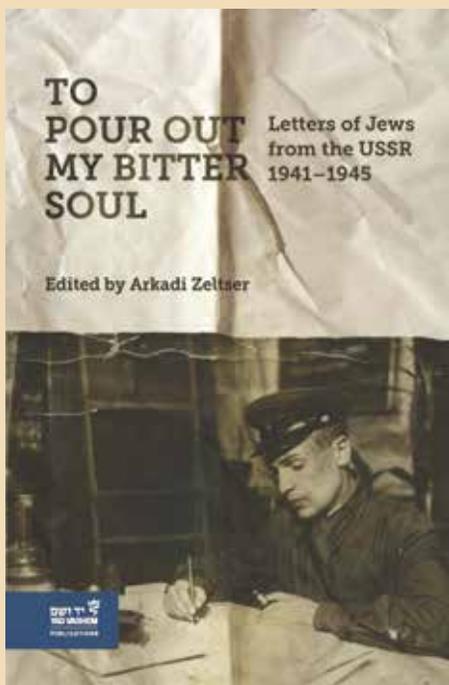
■ **Shifra** and **Yakov Wengrowsky** attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left).



■ **Damian** and **Rivka Mitelberg** (second and third from left) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony with **Perla Hazan** (third from right) and a group of friends, **Vanessa Kronenfeld** (left) and **Hellen** and **Isack Einhorne** (right).



The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications



To Pour Out My Bitter Soul: Letters of Jews from the USSR, 1941-1945

Edited by Arkadi Zeltser

NIS 148 NIS 108

■ *"I don't know how to begin this letter, but I have to write it or else my heart feels as if it will burst from pain. It is precisely to you that I have to write. Perhaps because I feel my own pain and tears in your words."*

For many Soviet Jews during WWII, including those who personally experienced the Holocaust, those who served in the Red Army and those who found themselves in the Soviet rear, questions of identity and belonging became increasingly important. These questions arose not only due to the growing awareness of the Nazi policy of annihilating the Jews, but also as a result of the increase in grassroots antisemitism on Soviet territory.

The 100 letters presented in this unique book, edited by the Director of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, provide a unique insight into the multifaceted Jewish life on the soil of the Soviet Union during the war years. Written between 1941 and 1945, these letters open a window into the world of Soviet Jewish thoughts and feelings. The authors differed from each other in terms of their education, their prewar experience, and their wartime fate. Nevertheless, all of them felt the urgent need to share their thoughts with others. For some of these writers, this collection brings to light the last thoughts they were able to share with their loved ones before they died.

Search and Research: Lectures and Papers, Volume 26 'Making History': My Intellectual Journey into the Hidden Polish Past

Jan Tomasz Gross

NIS 36 NIS 27



■ Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross published a series of critical studies on the attitudes of Polish society towards Polish Jews during and after the Holocaust, among them the path-breaking *Neighbors*, which initiated heated debates in Poland. In this essay, Gross examines the development of his scholarly path and explains what drove him to choose the topics of his studies.

Could the US Government Have Rescued European Jewry?

Yehuda Bauer

NIS 36 NIS 27



■ In this paper, Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer explores whether the West, and specifically the US, could have prevented the genocide of the Jews during WWII. By attempting to interpret differently the already accepted facts, Prof. Bauer deals with the events of the 1930s, the period between 1939 and the end of 1941, and the period between the entry of the United States into the war and the war's end in Europe in May 1945.

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