

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

Volume 85, March 2018



## **“Flashes of Memory”**

**New Exhibition on Photography during the Holocaust** (pp. 4-5)

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**International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018** (pp. 2-7)

Published by:



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Production: **Ahva Printing Press Company Ltd.**


Design: **Stephanie Et Ruti Design**


This magazine was published with the assistance of The Azrieli Group. 

ISSN 0793-7199

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Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education 

and The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany 

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■ **On the cover:** Light table featured in Yad Vashem's new exhibition, "Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust" (see pp. 4-5)



■ On 21 January 2018, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev participated in a special Israeli Government Cabinet Meeting dedicated to Holocaust commemoration in the presence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other ministers. Shalev presented the ministers with an overview of the current status of Holocaust commemoration in Israel and around the world. Shalev voiced concern that coupled with strong public interest in Shoah-related themes, terminology and imagery, there are indications of growing distortion and misuse of such content for purposes not tied to or even conflicting with accurate Holocaust memory. This has recently been evidenced, for example, in several European countries, including Poland (see p. 22). Such worrisome trends, as well as the widespread anticipation that Yad Vashem will lead the fight for truthful remembrance, underscore its responsibilities and opportunities as the World Holocaust Remembrance Center.

Shalev's appearance commenced the myriad events and commemorative activities in Israel, throughout the world and online, including social media, through which Yad Vashem marked the UN-sanctioned International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day).

On 25 January, Yad Vashem hosted its annual event for members of the international diplomatic corps in Israel. Addressing ambassadors and representatives from dozens of countries, Israel's President H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin said, "We are meeting here, in this synagogue, which is a memorial to the many houses of prayer and the rich spiritual world that went up in flames." Avner Shalev spoke



# Yad Vashem Marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel, Abroad and Online



■ Israeli President Reuven Rivlin (left) addressed foreign diplomats gathered in Yad Vashem's Synagogue for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

**“We are convinced that the primary effective response to ideologies of hatred and destruction is honest, fact-based education, inspired by a firm commitment to the truth and basic human decency.”**

Avner Shalev

about Holocaust survivor and author Aharon Appelfeld, who had recently passed away. “Sadly, ideologies of hatred and destruction, of various kinds and directions, persist, even thrive, in our world today,” he said. “At Yad Vashem we are convinced that the primary effective response to such evil ideologies is honest, fact-based education, inspired by a firm commitment to the truth and basic human decency.”

Director of the e-Learning Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Naama Shik then addressed the audience on the topic “From Old to New: Antisemitism – Contemporary Challenges.” The lecture was based on the content of the new MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) created by Yad Vashem's International School entitled “Antisemitism: From Its Origins to the Present” (see p. 7). The diplomats also toured the newly inaugurated exhibition, “Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust” (see pp. 4-5).

The following day, a **memorial ceremony commemorating the Italian Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust** took place at Yad Vashem. The event was conducted in coordination with the Italian Embassy and in the presence of the Italian Ambassador to Israel.

Yad Vashem historians, researchers and educators participated in various events and ceremonies around the world marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat delivered remarks at the **European Parliament's annual events in Brussels and Paris** marking the publishing of a biography of Jewish underground leader and

partisan commander Abba Kovner. Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer was present at an **event hosted by the Swedish Parliament**. The **OSCE Antisemitism Conference** in Rome, Italy, under the auspices of the OSCE and the Italian Ministry of Education and with the participation of the heads of the World Jewish Congress and European Jewish Congress, was attended by Chairman of Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Prof. Dina Porat and Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett. Eliad Moreh Rosenberg, Curator and Director of Yad Vashem's Art Department, spoke at a **joint event with the Government of Liechtenstein and the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein** in the Municipal Museum Building in Vaduz, Liechtenstein (see p. 30).

In addition, over 50 **Yad Vashem ready2print exhibitions** were displayed around the world in locations such as England, Ireland, the US, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Serbia, Slovenia, Latvia, Russia, Croatia, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Italy, Guatemala, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. The ready2print format allows for organizations and government institutions to purchase and print locally a range of exhibitions on various Holocaust-related subjects.

## Online Commemoration

■ **Yad Vashem uploaded a mini-site marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, featuring a variety of resources for the public to view, share and engage in, including online exhibitions, educational resources and the “IRemember Wall.”** This annual social media campaign is a unique and meaningful opportunity for the public to participate in a commemorative activity to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. By joining the IRemember Wall, the participant's Facebook profile is randomly linked to the name of a Holocaust victim from Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names. Thousands of individuals have already participated in this commemorative event in years past. “Thank you for the opportunity to share a remembrance of the sweet little girl who was only five or six when she was murdered,” wrote Faith Horton Stilts. “We need to remember individuals who were loved and cruelly murdered on this day.

I will never forget her face.” “By doing this I honor my grandparents Rakhmil Baider and Chaya Baider (Portnaya) from Dzhurin Vinnitsa region [Ukraine],” said Zoya Tsetsorin. “We should never forget.”

Additionally, the mini-site dedicated a complete section of **informative resources about the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau**, which took place on 27 January 1945.



## New Exhibition

# “Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust”



■ The new “Flashes of Memory” exhibition features a range of original newspaper clippings, posters, photos and Holocaust-era cameras

### ■ “The photograph: It cannot say what it lets us see.”

Roland Barthes

Many different parties created visual documentation during WWII. For the Nazi German regime, visual media played a crucial role in propaganda as a means of expression and a tool for manipulating and mobilizing the masses. This kind of documentation attested to Nazi ideology, and how German leaders sought to mold their image in the public eye. The Allied armies, who understood the propaganda value of photographing the camps they liberated, documented the scenes revealed to them, bringing in official photographers and encouraging soldiers to document the Nazi horrors as evidence for future war crimes trials and in an effort to re-educate the German population.

However, for Jews, photography was a component in the struggle for their very survival, as well as a manifestation of underground activity that testified to a desire to document and transmit information on the tragedy befalling their people. “Since I had a camera in my official position, I could commemorate the entire tragic period that passed through the Łódź ghetto,” said Jewish photographer Henryk Ross. “I did this with the understanding that



■ Łódź ghetto photographer Mendel Grossman in his laboratory in the ghetto. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

should I be caught, I and my family would be tortured and murdered.”

Many of the images created during WWII have become collective symbols of the Holocaust. Photographs and films served as evidence in the Nuremberg Trials and later in trials of Nazi German war criminals. The Eichmann trial at the beginning of the 1960s and its extensive exposure in the media aroused great interest in the visualization of the Holocaust. Since the mid-1980s, visual documentation has become an inseparable part of Holocaust research and the historical discussion of this period. A large



■ Exhibition curator Vivian Uria guides President Rivlin through the exhibition, accompanied by Avner Shalev

variety of documentaries, exhibitions and educational programs on the Holocaust are created and inspired by visual materials and rely heavily upon them.

On 24 January, a new exhibition, entitled “Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust,” opened at Yad Vashem to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Displayed throughout this exhibition are some 1,500 photographs and 13 films created during the Holocaust by Nazi Germany, the Jews in the ghettos and the Allied liberators, as well as original newspaper clippings, albums,



# locaust”



Visual documentation has become an inseparable part of Holocaust research and the historical discussion of this period

Leah Goldstein



diaries, and a number of original cameras from the period.

The opening ceremony was held in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, a few meters from the Exhibitions Pavilion, where “Flashes of Memory” is displayed. “This outstanding and special exhibition invites us to see things from a different angle and an altered viewpoint,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. He pointed out the widespread taking, sharing and manipulation of photographs by today’s younger generation, and invited them to view the photographs from the

“Although photography pretends to reflect reality as it is, it is in fact an interpretation of it, for elements such as worldview, values and moral perception influence the choice of the photographed object and the manner in which it is presented.”

Vivian Uria

“The exhibition demands from the viewer what is demanded from historians – to understand the context.”

Dr. Daniel Uziel

wartime period in light of this phenomenon. “We have become accustomed to being continually exposed to visual media,” said Shalev. “We have all turned into active participants in creating and consuming it. Photographed scenes are streamed and networked, filling our visual world. This is the perspective by which I view the photographs displayed in this unique exhibition. The more I look at them, the stronger I feel that this exhibition presents the members of the ‘selfie’ generation with an exclusive experience, different from that undergone by observers from earlier generations. The photographs enable a quiet and deep observation. It is not enough to ‘understand’ these photographs on the cognitive plane. One can and must feel them.”

Dr. Daniel Uziel, Head of Yad Vashem’s Photo Section and Historical Advisor of the exhibition, concurred: “The exhibition is directed, first and foremost, at the intellect, and not at the heart,”

he said. “It demands from the viewer what is demanded from historians – to understand the context.”

Therefore, in addition to the exhibits themselves, “Flashes of Memory” provides the visitor with a critical examination of documentation through the camera lens, focusing on the circumstances of the photograph and the personal orientation of the photographer.

“The act of photography is the beginning of the process, never the end,” summarized Director of the Museums Division Vivian Uria, curator of the exhibition. “The camera, with its manipulative power, has tremendous impact and far-reaching influence. Although photography pretends to reflect reality as it is, it is in fact an interpretation of it, for elements such as worldview, values and moral perception influence the choice of the photographed object and the manner in which it is presented. As far as visual documentation is used as a historical document, its use requires reference to the details of the facts. Above all, this exhibition emphasizes images taken by Jewish photographers. Unlike the two other sources, these express compassion and empathy, and identify most directly with the victims of the Holocaust.”

*“Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust” is generously supported by Sadia and Simy Cohen.*

# Educational Activities Enhance Holocaust Remembrance Worldwide



■ Several members of staff at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies took part in various educational activities in Israel and abroad for International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018.

■ European Department Director Richelle Budd Caplan traveled to Dubrovnik, Croatia to take part in the **fifteenth annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day conference of the Croatian Education and Teacher-Training Agency (ETTA)**. Budd Caplan addressed the participants and led two workshops, in which she presented "Besá: A Code of Honor," a Yad

**Vashem educators presented Yad Vashem's material, tools and methodology to students in schools across the entire area**



Vashem educational resource about Albanian Righteous Among the Nations, which has recently been translated into Croatian.

Department Deputy Director Dr. Noa Mkayton delivered the keynote address at a **conference of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in Lausanne, Switzerland**. Over 250 experts applied to lead workshops at this conference, one of the largest on Holocaust education in Europe in 2018.

Dr. Birte Hewera, Coordinator for the Southern Eastern European Countries, attended **official commemorative events in Malta** at the invitation of the Maltese President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society. "Visits like this help fortify our ties, and we hope to follow up on them and ultimately welcome Maltese educators to Yad Vashem," said Hewera.

Following up on an earlier productive visit by French-Speaking Countries Section Head Arièle Nahmias, **the educational authorities in Bordeaux, France arranged a working visit** by Nahmias and Myriam Matalon of the German-Speaking Countries Section. They carried out a comprehensive work plan, presenting Yad Vashem's material, tools and methodology to students in schools across the entire area.

Noa Sigal, Coordinator for the FSU Countries (pictured, left), traveled to Latvia to conduct a **pre-seminar for candidates for Yad Vashem's upcoming Latvian educators seminar**. Due to the high demand, Sigal also worked with teachers who have applied to participate in future seminars.

The vast majority of applicants have no personal connection to the Holocaust or to the Jewish people, making this competition all the more meaningful in its reach and scope

and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Peru, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Slovenia. The vast majority of applicants have no personal connection to the Holocaust or to the Jewish people, making this competition all the more meaningful in its reach and scope. Monetary prizes were awarded for the top three posters, from Brazil, Israel and Russia respectively.

The display was mounted across the world to mark International Holocaust Remembrance



■ **On 27 January 2018, the third cycle of the "Keeping the Memory Alive" Poster Design Competition was unveiled.** First piloted in 2012, "Keeping the Memory Alive" is a biennial joint project of the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme and the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem.

This year's designated theme, "Our Shared Responsibility," was promoted using social media and via UN Information Centers. An international judging panel then selected twelve designs (pictured below) out of more than 150 posters submitted from Austria, Bosnia

Day, with an accompanying online lesson plan created by Yad Vashem's pedagogical experts. Beyond 27 January, as in previous cycles, the posters will be used for teaching and learning about the Holocaust and for ceremonial purposes, adding to the collection of relevant and accessible resources that engage young students in today's classrooms.

*The "Keeping the Memory Alive" poster competition is generously sponsored by the Asper Foundation, Canada, and endorsed by IHRA.*



# Education

## “Antisemitism: From Its Origins to the Present” Free Online Course Features Experts from Around the World

Dafna Dolinko, Dima Kolotilenko and Yossi Kugler

■ Antisemitism is most commonly defined as a hatred of Jews, and the wide range of acts, rhetoric, thoughts and sentiments this hatred evokes. Yet for a word that is so commonly used, its boundaries and expressions often come into scholarly, political and public debate.

On 15 January, enrollment opened for a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) created by Yad Vashem, entitled “Antisemitism: From Its Origins to the Present.” Scheduled to launch on 19 March on the UK FutureLearn digital



The course navigates more than 2,000 years of history, attempting to answer many of the major questions surrounding the evolution and nature of antisemitism

education platform, the course navigates more than 2,000 years of history, attempting to answer many of the major questions surrounding the evolution and nature of antisemitism, including: What are the origins of antisemitism? How has it changed throughout history? How has it served a range of cultures, societies and ideologies? How have major historical events affected its development? What is it about antisemitism that enabled it to become the driving force behind one of the worst atrocities of our times – the Holocaust? What happened to antisemitism after the Holocaust? And how do Israel and Zionism fit into the story of antisemitism?

“Holocaust education and the study of antisemitism... have become interlinked. Effective educational activity about the one involves and requires knowledge regarding the other.”

Dr. Naama Shik

“Holocaust education and the study of antisemitism, particularly its contemporary forms, have become – in many contexts and for many purposes – interlinked,” explains Dr. Naama Shik, Director of the e-Learning Department at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies. “Effective educational activity about the one involves and requires knowledge regarding the other. In 2015, Yad Vashem developed its first MOOC, titled: ‘The Holocaust: An Introduction.’ Dedicated solely to the topic of the Holocaust, the course has attracted over 90,000 learners thus far. Our new MOOC moves to the wider subject of antisemitism throughout the ages, providing its learners with tools to better understand and identify this phenomenon, both in the past and in the present.”

The new six-week course is based on short video lectures presented by fifty leading researchers and public figures from Yad Vashem and from around the world: historians, sociologists, linguists, philosophers and political scientists, as well as policy makers and religious leaders. The first half deals with the evolution of antisemitism until the Holocaust, beginning with the Greco-Roman Age, and continuing through the Middle Ages and modernity. The second half looks at antisemitism in the world today, focusing mainly on antisemitism on the far-right and far-left political spectrums, as well as in the Arab and Islamic world, showing the perseverance of old antisemitic tropes and the emergence of new ones, namely Holocaust denial and anti-Zionism.



Short video lectures are presented by fifty leading researchers and public figures from Yad Vashem and around the world: historians, sociologists, linguists, philosophers and political scientists, as well as policy makers and religious leaders

For more information on “Antisemitism: From Its Origins Until the Present”:  
[www.yadvashem.org/education/online-courses](http://www.yadvashem.org/education/online-courses)  
or [www.futurelearn.com/course](http://www.futurelearn.com/course)

Yad Vashem’s MOOC on antisemitism was developed in part thanks to the generosity of the Philigence Foundation (Geneva).

The authors work in the e-Learning Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

## Graduate Spotlight

Every year, over 300,000 students and educators in Israel and around the world attend hundreds of educational activities, in a dozen languages, at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Featured here is one of the School's graduates, and what he has achieved since:



## Shalom Koronge Kenya



■ **Shalom Koronge attended the first-ever Young Christian Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem in June 2016.** The seminar was generously sponsored by Museum of the Bible, which made it possible for young religious leaders from all over the world to participate. Koronge came to learn what had transpired during the Holocaust and the reasons behind it, and also to gain skills into addressing antisemitism in his home country of Kenya.

Koronge works as the Africa Youth Director with the Africa-Israel Initiative, whose headquarters is located in his home city of Nairobi. As part of a passionate team, he educates and sensitizes university students as well as youth in the area about the historical and current affairs of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. They also encourage young adults to pursue academic, business and artistic ventures with Israel.



■ Graduate *Shalom Koronge*

“The detailed and holistic presentations during the seminar made me passionate about putting more effort into teaching the Holocaust and being more strategic about it,” says Koronge. “The understanding that even apathy can result in the destruction of communities inspired me to be deliberate about teaching and sensitizing my fellow youth in Kenya. I also gained friends from different countries who attended the seminar, and we share ideas on how to reach young people in our countries. Although almost two years have passed, we still actively keep in touch.”

Immediately after attending the seminar, Koronge pioneered the Nairobi-Jerusalem

Summit, whose key aims include teaching about the Holocaust. The four-day summit took place in November 2016 in Nairobi, and was attended by over 1,000 delegates. One of the main speakers was Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem; the Deputy Governor of Nairobi, Israel's Deputy Ambassador to Kenya and other ambassadors and dignitaries were in attendance. The Nairobi-Jerusalem Summit has since become an annual event.

Koronge's future plans include targeting all Kenyan universities, church youth, and youth “in the marketplace” through empowerment programs such as the Kenya-Israel Young Ambassadors Network. “We foresee these programs gradually extending to all African countries,” says Koronge. “All these plans are efforts of love. When we love, we build communities. When we hate, we destroy communities. I choose to love.”

## EHRI: New Online Course on the Use of Primary Sources

**Dafna Dolinko and Sandra Rosenfeld-Katz**

■ **When writing the history of the Holocaust, a variety of primary sources are available, generated by victims, survivors, perpetrators, liberators and other eyewitnesses.** Each of these source types presents its own set of considerations and challenges that must be understood and used in their correct context.

As part of its mission to support the Holocaust research community, in April 2017 the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) launched an online course, entitled “‘It Must All be Recorded Without a Single Fact Left Out’: The Holocaust through the Perspective of Primary Sources.” Developed by Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, the course features original documents and interviews with leading scholars – such as Yehuda Bauer, Lawrence Langer, Christopher Browning and Samuel Kassow – and introduces various primary sources essential for Holocaust research, discussing their critical examination and application.

Aimed at the university graduate level, the course is comprised of an introduction and six lessons, focusing on the following source types: photographs, diaries, bureaucratic documents, letters and testimonies. The course also includes forums, which encourage and support academic

By different source and its generation. In the following video Prof. Bauer speaks about different subjects different documents that will be the questions featured should address when using them and how to use them.



exchange between the participants as well as with the colleagues at the International School, who guide the course and answer any potential questions by participants.

The course was created with the advice and support of staff of Yad Vashem's Archives Division and International Institute for Holocaust Research, as well as other partners in the EHRI project, such as the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam. It ran twice in 2017, bringing together historians, educators, researchers, archivists, psychologists and genealogists from over 15 countries, who quickly hailed its excellent content and delivery.

“Given how so many of us – from graduate students to experienced academics – tend to move into our specializations, it was a great



opportunity to peek inside some of the niches in which others have been doing such fascinating work,” wrote Prof. Steven Gorelick of Hunter College, NY. “This field is changing quickly and, while some of the larger, macro-conclusions about the events (especially from the perpetrator's perspective) seem fairly well established, newly appreciated and discovered survivor and victim primary sources are keeping the field incredibly fresh and vital. This course is definitely worth exploring.”

Four more sessions have already been scheduled during the coming 18 months, with each session limited to 12 students.

*For more information about this and other online educational courses: [www.ehri-project.eu](http://www.ehri-project.eu); [international.school@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:international.school@yadvashem.org.il)*

*The authors work in the e-Learning Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



# "Generation to Generation": Teenagers Learn from Holocaust Survivors

Rabbi Moshe Cohn

■ *"Their story will no longer be a ten-year saga/ It will become a story of a lifetime/ For them/ And for us/ And maybe/ Being a survivor/ Will no longer mean years of being a victim/ Instead/ Being a survivor/ Will mean a lifetime of strength."*

From the journal of Fruma Zlatapolsky, participant in the "Generation to Generation" program, Chicago

Those people who managed to outlive the Holocaust are much more than survivors. They wear many hats, including those of parents, spouses, grandparents, thinkers, activists, musicians, writers and upstanding members of the Jewish community. Being a survivor is a part of their identity, but not the entirety of who they are.

Yad Vashem, in conjunction with the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, recently created a new program pairing Holocaust survivors with teenagers studying in Jewish high schools. Currently a pilot program in Chicago,

**"Their fight for life was not in vain, and as a teenager in the twenty-first century, I will make sure that my actions echo their bravery and courage."**

Rochel Kaltmann

"Generation to Generation" affords Jewish youth an opportunity to get to know these survivors as complex, yet approachable, human beings.

Some 70 students from five Jewish high schools in the Chicago area are currently

participating in the program, along with survivors Naomi Jacobson (originally from Czechoslovakia), Steve Katz (Germany), Izzy Starck, Vera Burstein, Agnes Schwartz and Margot Kirsch (Hungary), Eva Ozarowski (Poland) and Chaya Small (Lithuania and Shanghai). It was launched in November 2017 with a series of visits from Yad Vashem educational staff in order to train school staff and survivors in conducting inter-generational conversations, and will conclude in May 2018 with a series of community-wide events with the participation of both the students and the survivors.

Over the course of seven months, in settings outside of school, small groups of students meet monthly with a survivor to talk, think, question and discover the wisdom that comes from living a life full of challenges and opportunities. Guided by their schoolteachers, they record these conversations in special diaries, and will create a form of documentary – film, written or audio – about their experiences at the program's conclusion. "Holocaust survivors, who have had extraordinary life experiences, can inspire young adults and provide them with valuable information at a time when they are making valuable and important life decisions," explains Ephraim Kaye, Director of the International Seminars and Jewish World Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. "We aim to create meaningful and lasting inter-generational relationships that will allow our next generation of leaders to learn from and be challenged by Jewish people who not only survived hell on earth, but ultimately thrived and went on to lead meaningful and productive lives."

"I will never know the full extent of the past generations' anguish but I promise to keep their memory alive," wrote student Rochel Kaltmann. "Their fight for life was not in vain, and as



■ Holocaust survivor Naomi Jacobson with students from the Lubavitch Girls High School in Chicago

a teenager in the twenty-first century I will make sure that my actions echo their bravery and courage."

The survivors were equally enthusiastic about their newfound connections with the younger generation. "I asked each one to tell me about themselves, and they did," recalled Chaya Small. "I told them that I grew up in Shanghai, which was a safe haven for us. I did not go through the horrors of a camp nor do I have a number. I also showed them a one-minute clip of a movie; the scene is a Chanukah party attended by [Righteous Among the Nations] Chiune Sugihara, which influenced him when it came to giving [life-saving immigration] visas in Vilna... The students felt at home and there was a camaraderie between all of us. Thank you for this opportunity to reach out to the young people with their enthusiasm to want to know more."

"We hope this program will empower and encourage our young people to connect to the values of resilience, determination, stamina, motivation and tradition that characterize our survivors," concluded Ephraim Kaye. "These values are as important and essential today as they were to the survivors who emerged from the ravages of the Shoah."

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

## Holocaust Education: Time, Place and Relevance Tenth International Conference on Holocaust Education: 25-28 June 2018

■ Educators worldwide face a number of challenges: universalization of the Holocaust, inaccurate comparisons and parallels outside of the context of the historical event, and the daunting task of creating relevancy for students in the twenty-first century. In addition, a resurgence of antisemitism must be confronted in communities and classrooms. Time, and the ever-increasing lack of witnesses to the historical event, only make the urgency of teaching the topic more acute.

Inspired by important feedback from its graduates, the International School for

Holocaust Studies will hold its tenth International Conference on Holocaust Education at the start of the summer vacation. The conference will provide an opportunity for hundreds of educators from dozens of countries to study with experts in the field, learn the most updated pedagogical tools and digital resources, hear about contemporary research, and engage with colleagues from around the world.

*For more information and to register for the conference: [www.yadvashem.org/education](http://www.yadvashem.org/education) or [international.conference@yadvashem.org](mailto:international.conference@yadvashem.org)*



# Dilemmas and Sacrifices

## Yad Vashem Symposium Highlights Jewish Rescuers During the Holocaust

Leah Goldstein

■ In 1941, Yoshko Indig (Josef Itai), a former *madrich* (leader) in the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, set out with a group of orphaned Jewish children from Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia on a four-year-long rescue journey. The journey took the group occupied Yugoslavia, Italy and into neutral Switzerland, until they finally reached the shores of *Eretz Israel* at the end of the war. Along the way, Indig was aided by at least two other Jewish rescuers, Aron Menczer and Goffredo Pacifici. All three of them risked their lives to save the children.

The story of Yoshko Indig and the children was highlighted by Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Director of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, at a recent Yad Vashem symposium on Jewish rescuers during the Shoah.



Despite the extreme circumstances and breaking down of normal life behaviors during the Holocaust, many Jews like Indig offered help – food, shelter, guidance and support – to their fellow Jews. Those receiving assistance were often members of their immediate and larger families or communities; however, sometimes they were also people they had never met before, with whom they had been thrown together in the crucible of the Shoah.

For decades, Yad Vashem has dealt with the phenomenon of Jewish rescuers within the larger context of Jewish solidarity and mutual aid in its varied research, educational and commemorative efforts. On 11 December 2017, the topic was brought to the fore through a range of addresses and testimonies from historians, survivors and others in the presence of a packed audience in Yad Vashem's Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall.



"Despite the terrible choices and moral dilemmas faced by Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust, one thing is clear: they took the difficult path while others could not."

Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto

In his opening remarks, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev called the topic "fascinating and significant," and pointed out that the multitude of stories of Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust took place under different circumstances with varying experiences, albeit sharing some common themes. Knesset Member Merav Michaeli, who recalled how her grandfather Israel Kasztner helped arrange the rescue of some 1,600 Hungarian Jews through negotiations with Nazi Germany, praised the efforts by Yad Vashem and others to bring the issue of Jews rescuing Jews into the public arena. Survivor Haim Roet, Chairman of the Israel-based Committee to Recognize the Heroism of Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust, agreed, emphasizing the need to raise awareness of the topic in Israel and worldwide, and encouraging further studies and expanding educational activities that will "shine a light" on this important topic.

Dr. Nidam-Orvieto pointed out the varying elements in rescue attempts – the geographical location of the rescue attempt, the time period in which it took place, and the motivation of

the rescuers (religious, ideological, resistance); and the differences between individual and group efforts, sometimes involving non-Jewish partners. She also highlighted the difficult dilemmas often faced by the rescuers, such as leaving behind family members; placing at risk some Jews in the effort to save others; and cooperating with the enemy in order to secure the safety of fellow Jews. Senior Historian at the International Research Institute and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang illustrated some of these themes in his presentation of Jewish rescue in Poland. How much the Jews knew about the real intentions of the Germans, as well as the knowledge of collective punishment, often influenced their decisions with regards to rescuing their fellow Jews. Dr. Silberklang shared heart-breaking testimonies of those forced to choose who, from their own families, should be saved, and who had to be left to die. In one case, a group of



For decades, Yad Vashem has dealt with the phenomenon of Jewish rescuers within the larger context of Jewish solidarity and mutual aid

children rescued the adults caring for them and paid the ultimate price. He also emphasized that the Jews were human beings in an impossible situation, and hence no story is unblemished. "We often call these people heroes, but they were not always angels," he said.



# Research

## A Driving Force in Holocaust Memory: Eberhard Jäckel (1929-2017)

Dr. David Silberklang

Gur helped forge documents, enabling thousands of Hungarian Jews to escape deportation to the death camps

Historian Dr. Jeannine Frenk gave a thought-provoking presentation of the highly successful rescue work carried out by the Jewish Defense Committee (Comité de Défense des Juifs; CDJ) in Belgium, together with members of the Left Poalei Zion (LPZ) political party. Due to their diligence in disseminating information and instructions on survival to Jews across the country, as well as taking care of all the needs of Jewish children and adults in hiding, the CDJ managed to save the lives of some 5,000 Jewish adults and 3,000 Jewish children during the Holocaust.

Holocaust survivor David Gur offered a captivating first-person testimony of Jewish rescue during the Holocaust. A member of the Hashomer Hatzair youth group in Hungary, Gur helped forge documents, enabling thousands of Hungarian Jews to escape deportation to the death camps. The Zionist Jewish youth groups working underground also established and supplied over 50 children's homes in Budapest under the auspices of the International Red Cross, saving thousands more Jewish lives.

The seminar concluded with the screening of a short version of *Wilfrid Israel: The Rescuer from Berlin*, enabling the audience to discover the story of the Jewish businessman who helped set up the *Kindertransport* operation.

"In a reality that demanded each individual Jew to concentrate on the rescue of himself and his immediate family, we find Jews who decided to endanger themselves in order to save others," concluded Nidam-Orvieto. "Despite the terrible choices and moral dilemmas faced by Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust, one thing is clear: they took the difficult path while others could not. Among other themes, we encounter stories of extreme courage, and humble people who didn't realize that they were heroes. This important topic calls for more research."

■ One of the most important German historians of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, Prof. Eberhard Jäckel, passed away in August 2017 at the age of 88. The new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (45:2) is dedicated to his memory and opens with articles by Profs. Ian Kershaw and Otto Dov Kulka on his contribution to the field.



■ Prof. Eberhard Jäckel

Early in his career, Jäckel had been a prominent proponent of the "intentionalist" school of interpretation of Hitler and Nazi Germany, insisting that Hitler was central to the policies pursued by the regime and that his racial "antisemitic" ideology was at the heart of his and the Nazi regime's policy-making. As Kershaw points out, Jäckel's insistence on taking Hitler's

"If the German public today is better informed about the Holocaust than it was earlier, and for that reason is in a better position to reject modern forms of racial hatred and racial discrimination, then that has something to do with this sustained public educational work by Eberhard Jäckel."

Prof. Ian Kershaw

*Weltanschauung* (worldview) seriously as the basis for Hitler's policy-making is now widely accepted by historians.

Jäckel's ideas were deeply grounded in extensive empirical research, and he was not afraid to reach analytical conclusions that ran counter to commonly held scholarly positions, as

both Kershaw and Kulka highlight in their articles. Both point to Jäckel's seminal contribution to understanding Hitler, Nazi Germany and the development of the "Final Solution."

Jäckel was also a driving force for preserving the memory of the Holocaust in Germany and not letting it be relegated to distant history. He made a very important contribution to the *Historikerstreit* (Historians' Dispute) in Germany

He was not afraid to reach analytical conclusions that ran counter to commonly held scholarly positions

in 1986, was a consultant and an engaged collaborator on important TV films and series, such as *Hitler: eine Bilanz* (Hitler: Taking Stock), and played a key role in the consultations on the establishment of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin. As Kershaw says in his article: "If the German public today is better informed about the Holocaust than it was earlier, and for that reason is in a better position to reject modern forms of racial hatred and racial discrimination, then that has something to do with this sustained public educational work by Eberhard Jäckel."

Both Kulka and Kershaw also highlight Jäckel's remarkable openness and interest in the work of younger scholars such as themselves early in their careers. Jäckel was a past contributor to *Yad Vashem Studies* and to other Yad Vashem publications, a participant in conferences, and someone whom Yad Vashem saw as a friend. He will be sorely missed.

*This publication of this volume was made possible through the generous support of Samson Charity Foundation, based in Switzerland, and The Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture (Germany).*

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



# Unenviable Choices

## How did Jewish Families in the German-Occupied USSR Cope with the Holocaust?

■ **What were the challenges faced by Jewish families in the USSR both during and immediately after the Holocaust?** Should relatives stay together or split up in order to survive? How did different members of the household cope with their changing roles? In what ways did separated families in different countries or even continents continue to communicate with each other as the German occupation progressed?



■ Mirilashvili Center Director Dr. Arkadi Zeltser

On 20 November 2017, leading scholars from Israel, the US, Germany and Canada convened at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research for an innovative international conference entitled: "The Jewish Family in the Soviet Union: Under German Occupation and in the Soviet Rear." The conference, conducted by the Institute's Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, comprised in-depth presentations and discussions regarding Jewish family units during the Holocaust, and the hardships they faced under German occupation and in the Russian heartlands.

Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Research Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, stated in his opening remarks that for a long time, the focus of Holocaust research was on German anti-Jewish ideology and the "Final Solution," with the "grassroots" level being mainly ignored. In recent years, however, the actions, reactions and dilemmas of the victims, perpetrators and bystanders have taken more of a center stage, and included in this is, naturally, the family unit. Prof. Dalia Ofer (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) expanded on this idea, pointing out that over the past two decades the focus on gender issues, family and children can help

researchers understand better not only how Jews were killed during the Holocaust, but also how they tried to live during the Nazi persecution and deportations.

The conference featured lecturers who addressed many aspects of Jewish family life in parts of the German-occupied USSR. In the sphere of children, Yad Vashem Researcher and Coordinator of the Center for Research of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union Shlomit Shulhani presented the captivating topic of the fate of descendants of mixed marriages in the Soviet territories. Shulhani pointed out that while in Western Europe such children were sometimes

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**Prof. Dalia Ofer**

initially spared the fate of their Jewish parents, in the territories of the occupied Soviet Union they were often in greater danger, considered by the Germans inferior from the outset as Slavic or as those who had "caught the Bolshevik disease." While most did not survive, there were some individual cases in which non-Jewish family members displayed unusual bravery in sheltering their half-Jewish relatives, or local administrations were willing to turn a blind eye to their identity. In the end, however, as in the cases of so many Jewish men and women forced to choose their own lives over other members of their family, many non-Jewish relatives who did not extend such help suffered tremendous grief and shame for decades after liberation, with their illuminating testimonies only recently coming to light.



■ Concentration of the Jews of Lubny and the surrounding area before their murder, 16 October 1941. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

The presentation of Prof. Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto), "I Go Away from My Mother's Grave," concentrated on Jewish orphans in the Soviet Union. Through her painstaking research of wartime Yiddish poetry created by Jewish orphans during WWII, Prof. Shternshis illustrated how orphans became a major symbol of the devastation of the war in the USSR, and how the poems written by them were "adapted" and "secularized" by the Soviet regime in order to generate support for the fight against German fascism (Nazism). Meanwhile, independent scholar Dr. Inna Gerasimova touched upon the challenges of hiding and smuggling infants across the front lines, and the horrifically heavy prices paid by family members when young adults chose to join partisan units.

Women's issues were well represented at the symposium, with the absorbing topic of *agunot* – women who did not know the fate of their missing husbands, and were therefore forbidden under Jewish law to remarry – tackled by Pessia Farsi (Tel Aviv University). The creative and unceasing efforts of leading rabbis, such as Rabbi Shlomo David Kahane and his pupil





## Jewish orphans became a major symbol of the devastation of the war in the USSR, and the poems written by them were “adapted” and “secularized” by the Soviet regime in order to generate support for the fight against German fascism (Nazism)

Rabbi Yitzhak Huberman, in finding halachic solutions to their serious plight illustrates just one of the many family-related conundrums facing the Jewish family in the aftermath of the war. Dr. Lea Prais of the Yad Vashem’s International Research Institute described the “heroic” efforts of Jewish women to defy Nazi orders forbidding childbirth in certain Lithuanian ghettos – so-called “sterilized families” – and efforts by the Jewish leadership to disseminate information to adults on how to avoid future pregnancies.

In her multifaceted lecture, Prof. Natalia Aleksium (Touro College, NY) outlined the dilemmas faced by Jewish families in Eastern Galicia, including the question of whether to try to survive alone or as a family unit. Through first-person accounts, Prof. Aleksium related instances of family networks helping orphaned children, as well as cases of “surrogate families” created while on the run or in hiding, which provided emotional support and often increased chances of survival. Prof. Atina Grossmann (The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, NY) presented various gender-related issues, such as the attempts of Jewish men to join the Polish Anders Army and thus be given a chance to evacuate themselves from Soviet territories; and the struggles by Jewish women to continue to provide for their dependent kin while breaking conventions by working outside the home. Through the wartime experiences of the Beck family, Dr. Zeev Levin (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) also raised questions

of risk versus responsibility in saving extended family members, as well as discussing the efforts made by some survivors to bring the remains of family members for reburial in Israel after decades of Soviet rule.

The sending of packages as a means of family contact and mutual relief was presented by Prof. Eliyana R. Adler (Pennsylvania State University). In the course of her research on other topics, Prof. Adler noticed the phenomenon of packages repeatedly mentioned in testimonies, as a method by which family members who had been separated during the war endeavored to pass along news and send life-saving items to one another. Interestingly, in the beginning of WWII, packages were sent from German-occupied Poland to Polish Jewish refugees in the Soviet Union, yet this was a short-lived phenomenon and had ceased even before Germany invaded the USSR. Jews in the Soviet rear and later those liberated from the Gulag began to receive packages from further abroad, such as *Eretz Israel* and the US. While the contents of the packages were not always useful in practice (for example, dollars sent from America were practically useless in the Soviet interior), the joy of receiving such packages, as well as encrypted messages regarding relatives

## “Surrogate families,” created while on the run or in hiding, provided emotional support and often increased chances of survival

abroad, knew no bounds for families, as they struggled to maintain their own family units in the ravages of the Nazi-occupied Soviet Union.

“For the first time, the subject of the Soviet Jewish family during the Holocaust took center stage,” concluded Director of the Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union Dr. Arkadi Zeltser. “The conference tackled the heart-wrenching decisions faced by Jews in the Soviet territories during the Holocaust. There were no ‘correct choices,’ only unenviable ones.”

*The Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union is supported by Laura and Michael Mirilashvili.*

Leah Goldstein

## International Research Book Prize 2017: Prof. David Cesarani z”l

■ The Yad Vashem 2017 International Book Prize for Holocaust Research was awarded posthumously on 27 December to Prof. David Cesarani, for his book *Final Solution: The Fate of the Jews 1933–1949* (Macmillan, 2016).

The ceremony at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research was moderated by Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, and held in the presence of International Institute Head and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies Prof. Dan Michman, International Institute Director Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, and Dawn Cesarani, who accepted the prize on her late husband’s behalf.

“David Cesarani’s *Final Solution* is a magisterial work of history that chronicles the fate of Europe’s Jews,” read Prof. Michman from the judges’ considerations. “The persecution of the Jews, as Cesarani saw it, was not always the Nazis’ central preoccupation, nor was it inevitable. He showed how, in German-occupied countries, it unfolded erratically, often due to local initiatives. For Cesarani, war was critical to the Jewish fate. Military failure denied the Germans opportunities to expel Jews to a distant



■ Left to right: Prof. Dina Porat, Dawn Cesarani, Prof. Dan Michman

territory and created a crisis of resources that led to the starvation of the ghettos and intensified anti-Jewish measures.”

In his keynote lecture entitled “Synthesis, Insights and Fractured Myths: An Up-to-Date History of the Holocaust,” Yad Vashem Libraries Director Dr. Robert Rozett presented the main themes in Prof. Cesarani’s volume and new perspectives presented in the book. For example, “shunning both idealization and demonization,” Prof. Cesarani strove “to present a complex and more human picture of Jewish behavior in the vortex of the Shoah.” In Dr. Rozett’s words, the book highlighted “the great effort to live with normalcy in a very abnormal situation.”

# Across Mountains, Land and Sea



## Postwar Immigration and Dilemmas for Holocaust Survivors

■ *“When we look at the issues of the immediate period after the Holocaust, we see a kind of ‘bridge’ between the terror of the wartime years and the attempts by survivors to rebuild their lives. This brief and intense period informs us a great deal on how survivors recreated and shaped their personal identities and sense of community.”*

Survivors in the immediate aftermath of the Shoah were anything but passive agents in their future plans

So stated Dr. Sharon Kangisser-Cohen, Director of the Eli and Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Its Aftermath at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research, at the opening of a fascinating half-day symposium entitled “Postwar Immigration and Its Dilemmas.”

Recalling the stance of the Center’s previous Director, Dr. Ze’ev Mankowitz z”l, Dr. Kangisser-Cohen reiterated that, contrary to some popular beliefs, survivors in the immediate aftermath of the Shoah were anything but passive agents in



■ Dr. Simone Gigliotti: Survivors were “empowered activists” in search of home and homeland

their future plans. It was vital that the “victims” felt a sense of agency, purpose and power in determining their own destinies. Even in the case of children, who one may suppose were even less able to take control of their future, one can still see a strong sense of identity and choice, despite the fact that, ultimately, many

of the decisions concerning their fate were made by adults.

The symposium featured two leading researchers in the field: Dr. Simone Gigliotti of the Royal Holloway University in London, and Dr. Marcos Silber of Haifa University. Dr. Gigliotti focused her address on the making of *The Illegals*, one of the earliest films to depict the “Bericha” escape route by survivors through Europe towards *Eretz Israel* in 1947-1948. Although the main parts were played by actors, prolific writer and director Meyer Levin managed to film, “in real time and in real places,” the tortuous route taken by many refugees across mountains, land and sea, in

Many adopted the narratives that played a central role in the target country's development: family ties, socio-economic struggles, patriotism, favoritism and compassion



■ Dr. Marcos Silber: “Undesirables” often found themselves on the edges of society

order to reach Israeli shores. Although the film never won the acclaim Levin and others believed it should have (due to historic events of the time and competition from other films aimed at raising funds for the refugee survivors), the film certainly goes down in history as depicting survivors as “empowered activists” in search of home and homeland.



■ *“The Bericha” – an elderly man sits in an improvised sleeping quarter in an unknown location. Yad Vashem Photo Archive*

Dr. Silber’s lecture focused on migrations of survivors from Poland to Israel, and in some cases back again, in light of the postwar “nation-building” in both countries. By painstakingly examining applications by Jewish survivors (and sometimes their non-Jewish spouses) to leave or enter either country, Dr. Silber expertly revealed how many adopted the narratives that played a central role in that particular country’s development: family ties, socio-economic struggles, patriotism, favoritism and compassion (in the latter case, especially for women). The determination of the survivors to reach their desired destination was particularly evident

in the often creative solutions employed by rejected applicants (for example, tourist visas). As “undesirables,” these survivors often found themselves on the edges of society, desperately trying to scratch out a livelihood and life in their newfound home.

*The symposium was supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.*



## Fellows Corner: Luca Fenoglio

■ Within the framework of the PhD fellowship program at the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Dr. Luca Fenoglio spent three months at Yad Vashem the end of 2017. He concentrated his research on the relief and rescue activities carried out by the Jewish committee of Boulevard Dubouchage in Nice, popularly known as the Dubouchage Committee, during the ten months of the Italian occupation of southeastern France between November 1942 and September 1943.



Dr. Fenoglio (a fellow at the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Leicester University) focused on the nature of the collaboration between the Dubouchage Committee and the Italian occupation authorities in interning foreign Jews in compulsory residences in the French interior – a measure that, while shielding foreign Jews from Nazi-French arrest, was nonetheless meant to neutralize the danger they supposedly posed to the Italian occupation army. “At Yad Vashem I was able to access the personal archives of Joseph Fischer-Ariel, a key figure in the Jewish underground in France during the war,” recalls Dr. Fenoglio. “This enabled me to study the reports about the situation of foreign Jewish refugees in the Italian zone that Fischer exchanged with other Jewish personalities involved in relief and rescue activities in France during the Holocaust, which in turn provided insights into the activities of the Dubouchage Committee.” Dr. Fenoglio also found the postwar testimony of Wolf Toronczyk, a former member of the Dubouchage Committee. Dr. Fenoglio presented his major findings to date in the Danek Gertner Yad Vashem Research Scholarship Annual Lecture on 6 November 2017. There, Dr. Fenoglio also posed some tentative conclusions about the complex dynamic of rescue through collaboration that characterized the Dubouchage Committee’s action throughout the ten months of the Italian occupation.

“By collaborating in the evacuation of foreign Jews from the coast decreed by the Italian occupation authorities, largely powerless Jewish refugees like Toronczyk were able to regain agency and thus take advantage of their ‘special’ relationship with the Italian authorities, not only to improve the life conditions of their co-religionists who were sent to compulsory residence, but also to effectively work against French and even Italian measures that threatened many others with arrest and deportation.”

# “If I Could, I Would Save Them All”

## New Exhibition on Diplomats Honored as Righteous Among the Nations

Irena Steinfeldt

■ “They were queuing up outside the embassies, pleading for help... What could we do? There was nothing in our books of instructions telling us how we could save people of other nationalities...”

This is how Per Anger, a Swedish career diplomat who served with Raoul Wallenberg in Hungary in 1944, described the dilemma he and other diplomats faced during the Holocaust.

As Nazi Germany intensified its anti-Jewish policy, increasing numbers of Jews across Europe were driven to flee or seek ways to emigrate. Long lines of desperate people formed in front of foreign consulates, but the free world was reluctant to permit entry of the many refugees. Most diplomats went on with their professional routine; only very few felt that extraordinary times required extraordinary action and that there was a moral obligation to protect the

Long lines of desperate people formed in front of foreign consulates, but the free world was reluctant to permit entry of the many refugees

persecuted Jews, who were of a different nationality and different religion; only a small number chose to defy their superiors and, if necessary, suffer the consequences.

At the request of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yad Vashem’s Museums Division recently produced a traveling exhibition focusing on diplomats who have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Set against the backdrop of the Shoah and the attitude of world leaders to the persecuted Jewish populations across Europe and North Africa, the exhibition tells the stories of these envoys, and the challenges they faced, enriched with quotes from the Righteous and the Jews they attempted to save.

Another story featured in the exhibition is that of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Lithuania in 1940 who saw the desperate Jews who had gathered in front of his offices,

and decided to award transit visas to people who clearly did not fall within the strict rules Japan had set for foreigners. “This is so horrible. The entire world is closed to us, and the storms waging over Europe are arriving here,” wrote Rabbi Eliezer Yehuda Finkel, Head of the Mir yeshiva, about the situation of the Jews who attempted to flee eastwards. Among the people Sugihara saved were a group of students from Mir, including Zerach Warhaftig, later to become Minister of Religion of the State of Israel.



Four years after Sugihara had enabled more than 2,000 Jews to escape, at another end of Europe, Selahattin Ülkümen, the Turkish Consul-General on the island of Rhodes, saw the preparations for the deportation of the island’s 1,700 Jews. Courageously facing the Germans, Ülkümen saved 42 Jews, some of them by falsely claiming that they were Turkish citizens and therefore eligible for his protection. Ülkümen wrote to one of the Jews he saved: “If I could, I would save them all. But unfortunately, that is beyond my competence.”

“Beyond Duty” opened on 5 February 2018 at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem, in the presence of Israeli Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Benjamin Netanyahu, Director-General of the Israel Foreign Ministry Yuval Rotem, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and Nina Admoni (née Wertans), a Holocaust survivor saved by Righteous Among the Nations Chiune Sugihara. At the opening, a monument dedicated to diplomats recognized as Righteous Among the Nations was unveiled. The exhibition, which has been produced in more than ten languages so far, will be displayed in some 70 diplomatic representations worldwide.

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

# “I Have Hope that God Has

## Diaries of a Mother and Daughter Chronicle a Jewish Family’s Survival



■ Top to bottom: Herman and Dutz Grinberg (Rosika’s brothers), Rosika, Armand (Nini) and Gertrude (Trude) Dankner, and the daughter of their neighbor Minuța Goldstein, Bacău, Romania, 1937. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

■ **“It is hard for me to explain that moment at night when we... were ordered to get dressed, pack everything and get outside within fifteen minutes. Fifteen minutes for all that? We just threw what we could into bags before the soldiers forced us out... We have been put into a terribly overcrowded car, with 60-70 people. The heat is oppressive, the overcrowding is infuriating, and noisy outbursts can be heard in every car. I am trying to stand next to the door’s threshold to breathe through the slit. It’s hard to explain such inhuman cruelty.”**

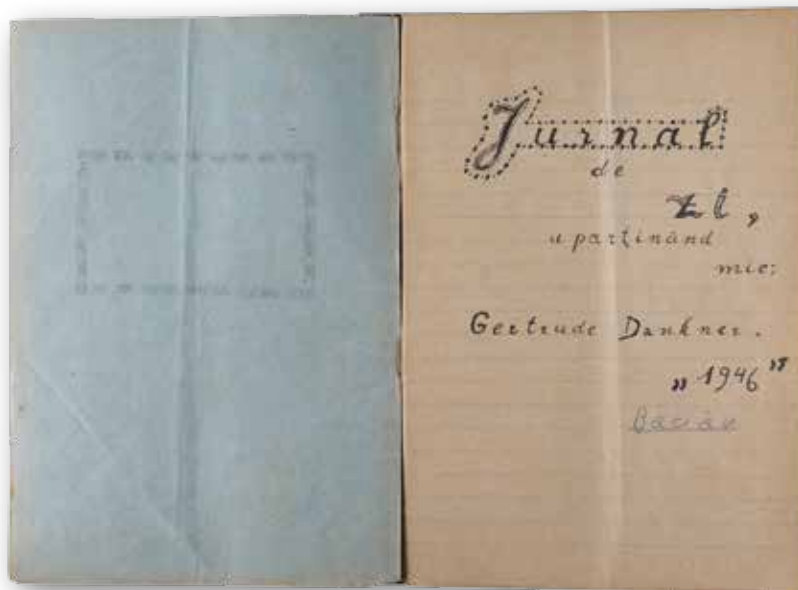
From the diary of Rosika Dankner,  
28 June 1942

So began the agonizing journey of the Dankner family, as revealed in the diaries of Rosika and her daughter Trude (Gertrude), which were recently donated to Yad Vashem as part of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign. The diaries reveal the story of a Jewish family’s survival in the inferno of Transnistria, providing a unique look at the stories of a mother and daughter:

a concerned woman who feels the pain of her family, and a young girl who did not get to experience a proper childhood.

On 5 July 1941, Romanian and German troops entered the city of Czernowitz (Bukovina), and the bloody persecution of the area’s Jews began. The Dankners – Leo,

including the Dankners, were saved from being deported for the time being, but the lull would not last long. Despite his efforts, the mayor could not stop the deportations from resuming, and the city soon became devoid of Jews. The Dankners were aboard the last transport from Czernowitz to Transnistria, on 28 June 1942.



■ The cover of Trude’s diary

Trude wrote in her diary about her family’s tribulations, demonstrating awareness of the hardships and worrying about the grim conditions in the camp

his wife Rosika, their 16-year-old son Armand (Nini), ten-year-old daughter Trude, and Rosika’s younger brother Dutz Grinberg – were among some 50,000 of the city’s Jews uprooted from their homes and forced to move to the ghetto. The deportations to Transnistria began within four days. After some 6,000 Jews had been deported, Czernowitz Mayor Traian Popovici managed to delay the deportations temporarily, by arguing that they would hurt the city’s economy. Fifteen thousand Jews,

The Dankners spent a month on the shore of the Bug River, in a concentration camp within a quarry near the city of Ladyzhin. Hunger plagued them, and the family’s distress drove Nini to look for food anywhere. Trude wrote in her diary about her family’s tribulations, demonstrating awareness of the hardships and worrying about the grim conditions in the camp. Yet with her gentle spirit, she also saw other things. “The days are hot and we bathe in the river every morning. It is an amazing and beautiful sight... If I were a tourist, I could enjoy the place. Truth be told, our fate is sealed. We have sold things, money has run out, and winter is coming... Illnesses are breaking out, and no one will escape their fate. Nevertheless, I have hope that God has not forgotten us and will show us the way out of here.”

A month later, the Dankners were transferred to a farm near the village of Kirsanovka. Work on the farm was seasonal, and the Jews were due to return to the concentration camp when it was over. Leo knew that returning to the quarry would



# Not Forgotten Us”

Ilona Angert



■ Trude (kneeling to the right of her first grade teacher), Czeranowitz, 1938. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

“Even the physical liberation still hasn’t freed my low spirits.”

Rosika Dankner, 19 March 1944

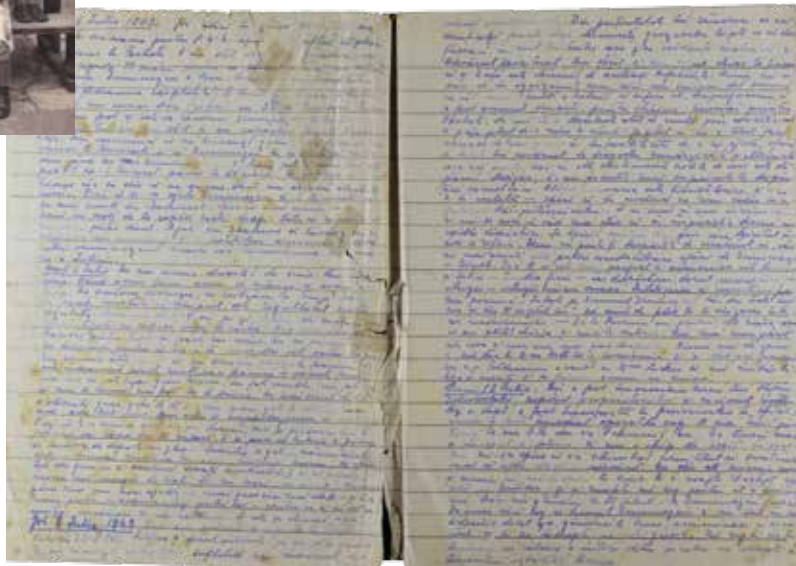
mean a death sentence for his family, so when the day of expulsion came, they found a hiding place on the farm. At nightfall, they made their way to the nearby town of Dzhurin. They got lucky again; this time, thanks to Rosika’s great resourcefulness and command of the German language, they managed to rent an apartment outside the ghetto. The men were taken to work in the town and its environs, while Rosika and Trude stayed in Dzhurin and attempted to obtain foodstuffs and maintain a home.

How does a family survive when everything of value has run out and there is nothing left with which to buy food? Sometimes help comes from unexpected sources. In her diary, Rosika repeatedly mentioned an “angel.” “Our good angel is going to visit you soon,” she wrote to her relatives in Bucharest. “I ask you, out of the goodness of your hearts, to aid us as much as you can.” Only after the war did Rosika discover that the “angel” who was the messenger of the Jews in Dzhurin to their relatives in Bucharest was actually an SS officer. The sums of money that he relayed, without taking any for himself, helped the Dankners survive the cold and the hunger until liberation.

On 19 March 1944, Rosika wrote in her diary, “At 7:30 p.m. yesterday, the Red Army entered

Dzhurin... All of the Jews rejoiced. Free at last. We can be human beings again. What a heavy burden we’ve borne on our shoulders these years. Even the physical liberation still hasn’t freed my low spirits.”

In April 1944, the Dankners began their way back to Czeranowitz. Yet the return home did not put an end



■ A page from Rosika’s diary, 5 July 1943

to the family’s suffering. In her diary, Trude described an inability to rebuild her life after the war, and tension within the family. “Yesterday afternoon I had a fight with Nini. Everyone is right, and only I am always wrong... I cried. Why didn’t they bury me in Dzhurin? They could have been happier. I tell myself that I’m actually the cause of the family’s misfortune. I have brought nothing but trouble ever since I was born... I still live in the hope that one day, the sun will rise on me, too.”

In an attempt to flee the communist regime in Czeranowitz, Rosika asked relatives in Bucharest to help get them authorization to immigrate to Eretz Israel. While waiting, another blow struck the family: On 11 March 1945, Rosika’s younger brother Dutzu passed away after a protracted battle with tuberculosis, at the age of 25. His death devastated Rosika. “Who will comfort me? I still hoped that Dutzu would recover. I love him so much... Who will understand the magnitude of this loss?” she wrote.

In December 1947, Leo, Rosika, Nini and Trude left Romania for Eretz Israel. After internment in Cyprus by the British, they finally reached Israeli shores during the first lull in the War of Independence. Trude never had any children. To her dying day, she regarded Yair and Eitan, her brother Nini’s sons, as her children. Yair Dankner, Nini’s son, donated his aunt’s and grandmother’s diaries to Yad Vashem. In addition to the diaries,

Yair donated two of his grandmother Rosika’s family treasures: her brother Dutzu’s curls, and a small wooden car, which she had received as a birthday present from Nini in Transnistria.

Yad Vashem runs the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign in cooperation with the “Landmarks” Program at the Israel Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage and with the support of the Israel Ministry of Education; Dora Zitno (Argentina); The Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture (Germany); and Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands.

Since it was launched over six years ago, the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign has collected 241,000 original Holocaust-era items from 10,800 members of the public, including 139,000 documents, 93,000 photographs, 4,400 artifacts, 653 artworks and 185 films. Yad Vashem representatives gather the items at the houses of survivors or their family members, and at central collection centers around Israel. For more information: 972-2-6443888; collect@yadvashem.org.il

The author works in the Collection and Registration Section, Archives Division.

# Page of Testimony Leads to Miraculous Reunion

Deborah Berman

■ The last time 102-year-old Holocaust survivor Eliahu Pietruszka saw his family was in Warsaw at the beginning of WWII. Until recently, he had believed that his entire family had been murdered during the Holocaust. But in November 2017, Eliahu met for the first time with his newly discovered nephew Alexandre, the son of a brother who, unbeknownst to him, had also survived. The emotional and unexpected meeting took place thanks to information on Pages of Testimony recorded on Yad Vashem's online Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Eliahu Pietruszka fled eastward in 1939 as the Germans invaded Poland. He left behind his parents, David and Paula, and his twin brothers Wolf (Vovek) and Zelig (Zenek), eight years his junior. Eliahu later discovered that his mother, father and at least one of his twin brothers, Zelig, were deported from the Warsaw ghetto and murdered in an extermination camp. In 1940, Wolf successfully sent a letter to Eliahu from the Russian front. However, despite many attempts to correspond, Eliahu never received acknowledgment of his reply. Unsure of his brother's fate, Eliahu assumed that his brother Wolf was killed in a labor camp in Siberia. After liberation, Eliahu married and in 1949 immigrated to Israel to build a new life for himself, believing that he was the sole survivor of his family.

However, in late 2017 Eliahu's grandson, Prof. Shakhbar Smorodinsky, received an e-mail from Hagit Weinstein-Mikanovsky, an Israeli now living in Canada, who was conducting research on her mother's family. While seeking information about her relatives David and Paula Pietruszka, she found Pages of Testimony in the Yad Vashem Names Database, submitted in 2005 by a man named Wolf Pietruszka, for his parents David and Paula Pietruszka and his brothers Zelig and Eliahu. Weinstein-Mikanovsky located Shakhbar, Eliahu's grandson, and contacted him, inquiring about his family. Prof. Smorodinsky consulted with his mother, Nechama, and realized that this was indeed her family. They unsuccessfully tried to contact Wolf Pietruszka in Russia but reached his son Alexandre, who told them that Wolf did indeed survive the Holocaust, settling in the remote town of Magnitogorsk, but that he had passed away in 2011.

After an emotional conversation on Skype, Alexandre arrived in Israel for a miraculous first-



■ 102-year-old Eliahu Pietruszka (center) reunited with his nephew Alexandre (left), cousin Prof. Nechama Smorodinsky and other family members

## Alexandre recounted how his father Wolf always thought that he was alone in the world

time meeting with his uncle Eliahu Pietruszka and his cousin Prof. Nechama Smorodinsky, Eliahu's daughter. During their meeting, the two were overwhelmed by the family resemblances and exchanged greetings in Russian, a language Eliahu had not spoken in decades. "You are a copy of your father," said Eliahu, "I haven't slept in two nights waiting for you."

Alexandre was moved to tears when he saw a prewar family photograph, saying that it was the first time that he had seen a photograph of his grandparents. Alexandre recounted how his father Wolf always thought that he was alone in the world and, like Eliahu, believed that no one from his family survived the war. In response, Eliahu told him: "You are no longer alone. You now have family in Israel. It is truly a miracle. I never thought that this would happen. It makes me so happy that at least one remnant remains from my brother – his son. After so many years I have been granted the privilege to meet him."

"Reunions like this are rare, but only happen due to survivors and their descendants taking the time to submit information to Yad Vashem regarding family members and acquaintances who were murdered during the Shoah," said Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. "While we have managed to collect the names of over 4,700,000 individual victims of the Holocaust, more than a million names are still missing. I urge the public today to check whether their beloved relatives and friends

## During their meeting, the two were overwhelmed by the family resemblances and exchanged greetings in Russian, a language Eliahu had not spoken in decades

are commemorated in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, and to complete Pages of Testimonies in memory of those who are not yet recorded – so that no victim will ever be forgotten."



## Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names – Now in French

■ On 10 January, in advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem launched its Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names in French. The Names Database, currently containing the names of more than 4,700,000 Jewish men, women and children murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices during the Holocaust, is a unique and ongoing endeavor by Yad Vashem to ensure that every Shoah victim is remembered.

“The Germans sought not only to annihilate the Jews, they also aimed to wipe the Jewish people and culture from the collective memory,” stated Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “For decades now, Yad Vashem has been on a vital mission to gather the names of the six million Holocaust victims, rescuing their identities from the abyss of anonymity. Yad Vashem harnesses the most advanced technology and knowledge in the service of memory, which enhances the collection of Shoah victims' names as well as the accessibility of Holocaust-related information for a global audience. It is a race against time, and we are working tirelessly to uncover the remaining names in order to ensure that their memories, and their legacies, live on.”

The gathering of the six million Shoah victims' names for the Names Database is part of Yad Vashem's central mission to ensure that each Jewish man, woman and child murdered during the Holocaust is remembered. Yad Vashem created the Names Database in order to make the identity of every Holocaust victim accessible to the entire world, and as an effort to reconstruct their individual life stories. The source of close to half the total number of names is from Pages of Testimony, while the remainder were gleaned from archival lists and documents. Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project partners with Jewish communities and organizations around the world, urgently encouraging families and individuals to check the Database for the names of Shoah victims known to them, and assisting them to complete the historical record through the submission of Pages of Testimony, photographs, and other personal documentation about the victims.

“The Holocaust didn't happen in one place,” explains Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram. “It happened all over Europe and North Africa to Jews from various backgrounds and nationalities, so it is important



that the Names Database be accessible in as many languages as possible. With the new Database in French, we hope to reach even wider audiences, in order to continue our work and collect as many names of victims as we can.”

The Names Database is now available in six languages: English, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, German and French. The French Names Database, accessible from the Yad Vashem website in French, was launched at an event in Paris held in cooperation with the French Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah (Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah), marking the completion of a decade-long project collecting names of Holocaust victims from the area of Greater Hungary during World War II (see p. 29).

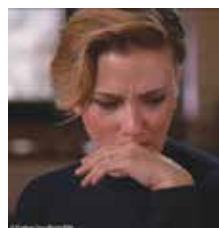
## Actor Scarlett Johansson Learns Tragic Fate of Family Thanks to Names Database

■ In an October 2017 episode of the PBS program “Finding Your Roots,” actor Scarlett Johansson was moved to tears when she learned that her great-great uncle and his family had met their deaths in the Warsaw ghetto. For the first time, Johansson discovered the fate of Mosze Szlamberg, her maternal great-grandfather's brother, and his children thanks to information on a Page of Testimony.

The Page of Testimony was submitted to Yad Vashem in 1956 by Miriam Margalit, Mosze's daughter, who survived the Shoah. According to the biographical information on the Page, Szlamberg, who was born in Poland in 1880, was originally from Grojec, near Warsaw, and

was married to Dvora (née Zilbershtein) Szlamberg. The couple had ten children – Zlata, aged 15, and Mendil, aged 17, when they were murdered in the Warsaw ghetto – who are also commemorated on Mosze's Page of Testimony. Separate Pages of Testimony were submitted for five additional Szlamberg children: Eliyahu (b. 1902), Simcha (b.1908), Israel (b. 1910), Malka (b. 1913) and David (b. 1918).

There are two listings from Polish archival



sources about an additional child, Avraham, who reached Uzbekistan and was recorded as having survived the Holocaust in Stettin in 1947. There are no details regarding his current whereabouts. There are also no details regarding the additional child or their mother Dvora Szlamberg.

While Johansson's great-grandfather Saul worked as a grocer in New York City, his brother, Mosze, was a merchant in Warsaw. “It's crazy to imagine Saul selling bananas on Ludlow Street, and how different it would have been for Mosze in America at that time,” stated an emotional Johansson. “[This discovery] makes me feel more deeply connected to that side of myself, that side of my family. I didn't expect that.”

# “‘I Left Everyone at Home’:

Yona Kobo

■ Rivka-Regina Folkenflick:  
“Give my regards to everyone”



■ Tuvia Grin:  
“Be healthy and strong”

■ **“I left everyone at home, Mother and Father, in the ghetto, everyone. I feel terrible for leaving them in the thieving hands of Hitler’s robbers.”**

Tuvia Grin wrote the above in Yiddish on a postcard that he sent from Balakhna, Russia to his sister Hava in *Eretz Israel*. That was the last sign of life from Tuvia, who fled the Panevėžys ghetto and was killed with the partisans. The circumstances of his death are unknown.

Over the decades, Yad Vashem has collected thousands of personal letters like that of Tuvia Grin, which reveal the hardships of Jews surviving day-by-day during the Holocaust, the difficulty in obtaining information about the relatives to whom they had to say goodbye, and their concern for their fate. The letters tell of crucial decisions that some had to make to survive during the Holocaust, including parents who were forced to part from their beloved children. Despite this, many of the letters contain optimistic messages and hopes for reunion.

Ten of these missives are featured in the third in the series of online exhibitions about last letters sent during the Shoah: “‘I Left Everyone at Home’: Last Letters from 1943” –

recently uploaded to the Yad Vashem website. The authors, all of whom were murdered in the Holocaust, wrote in a multitude of languages: German, Dutch, Yiddish, Ladino, French and Polish. These online exhibitions provide rare documentation of the stories of Holocaust victims through their manuscripts, photos, Pages of Testimony that were filled out in their memory, and excerpts of testimony from family members who survived.

Another story in the exhibition is that of the Sides family from Greece: Elie and Sarina Sides and their daughters, Lora and Rita. Lora and her husband Robert Sarfati lived in Athens. Elie Sides sent his last letter from the Baron Hirsch ghetto in Thessaloniki, describing the terrible conditions there and expressing hope that they would meet again. Elie and the deported Jews of Thessaloniki were told that they were going to settle in Krakow, Poland, but they did not know their true destination. In the letter, Elie asked his son-in-law for addresses of people whom Robert knew in Krakow and for recommendations for the family, so that he would have them when they reached Krakow.

“And you, my dear ones, always love each other,” Elie wrote Lora and Robert in April 1943

Over the decades, Yad Vashem has collected thousands of personal letters, which reveal the hardships of Jews surviving day-by-day during the Holocaust, the difficulty in obtaining information about their relatives, and their concern for their fate

before he, his wife Sarina and their daughter Rita were deported to Auschwitz. “Robert, you will replace us, as needed, for Lora. Be there for her in our stead. She only has you now. We can say with pride that we are leaving her with Robert, and that says it all... Accept our blessings until we can hug you very soon.” Lora, Robert, their son Peter and daughter Klelia survived. Elie Sides’s original letter was donated to Yad Vashem by his granddaughter, Klelia Nahmia, who lives in Athens today.



# Last Letters from 1943”



■ The Joschkowitz family, whose story is also featured in the new exhibition, on a trip in Germany, 1930s. Yad Vashem Photo Archive



■ Rosette Bomblat: "I hope that things will not become worse"

The exhibition also features the heartrending story of Rivka-Regina Folkenflick, the daughter of Moshe and Chana from the town of Borszczów in Poland. After the German occupation in the summer of 1941, the family was imprisoned in the Borszczów ghetto together with the rest of the city's Jews. In September 1942, they fled the ghetto and went into hiding with Ukrainian acquaintances. They found refuge for 11-year-old Rivka with a childless Polish family in Bilcze

Elie Sides sent his last letter from the Baron Hirsch ghetto in Thessaloniki, describing the terrible conditions there and expressing hope that they would meet again

Złote, hoping that at least she would survive, and they arranged forged Christian identity papers for her. "If you stay alive," the family promised them, "you can have her back."

Some time later, Moshe, Chana and their seven-year-old son David, Rivka's brother, were caught by Ukrainians and sent to the Lisowce camp. They managed to escape from there too, and they moved to another hiding place. Rivka however, was informed upon and caught by Ukrainian policemen. Moshe and Chana tried to free Rivka through bribery, but Rivka was

shot to death on 28 June 1943, five days before her twelfth birthday. Two weeks before she was murdered, Rivka wrote her parents, "Mother, don't be upset that I'm writing so little, the man didn't have time to wait."

The author is a researcher and online exhibition coordinator in the Digital Department, Communications Division.

## Last Letters 1941 and 1942 Now Available in Five Languages

■ In addition to "I Left Everyone at Home" – Last Letters from 1943," Yad Vashem recently uploaded "We Shall Meet Again," featuring last letters sent in 1941 and 1942, in three new languages: French, Spanish and German. Already available in English and Hebrew as two separate exhibitions, "We Shall Meet Again" displays a selection of the last messages received by relatives of Holocaust victims caught in the inferno of Europe during the early years of the war.

The letters displayed were sent from Austria, Belarus, France, Germany, Latvia, the

Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and Yugoslavia, and were written in a variety of languages, including Yiddish, German, Polish, Russian, French and Hebrew. Some letters were sent to destinations outside Europe, and thus survived.

Each letter and postcard reveals the last remaining fragment – physical, personal and unique – of the victims: their handwriting. Relatives donated these precious mementos to Yad Vashem to preserve for perpetuity, together with photographs of their loved ones.

## The Polish "Holocaust Law" – A Major Blow to Holocaust Research and Remembrance

Prof. Havi Dreifuss

■ The recent amendment passed by the Polish parliament and approved by the Polish president to Poland's National Institute of Remembrance Law, constitutes a major blow to Holocaust research and remembrance. The original law was first enacted with a view to promote research and documentation of crimes that were committed in and against Poland by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, from the outbreak of WWII (1 September 1939) until the end of Soviet rule in Poland (December 1989). The current addendum, however, is rooted in the significant and distressing changes taking place in Poland in relation to the patterns of Holocaust remembrance and commemoration. The problematic amendment criminalizes any public statement that, "contrary to historical facts," refers to the responsibility or partial responsibility of the Polish nation or the Polish State for crimes committed during the Holocaust.

No doubt, Poland was subjected to a draconian German occupation regime during the war. The extermination camps that were built on Polish soil were unquestionably established and operated by Nazi Germany, and not by any Polish authority. It bears emphasizing that as early as 2006 Yad Vashem took action alongside the Polish authorities to ensure that the name of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp as officially registered in UNESCO documents states specifically and unequivocally that it was a German concentration and death camp. Yet it is equally indisputable that apart from German genocidal policy against the Jews, there were instances where Poles, from all walks of life, were accomplices to the murder and persecution of Jews. Blackmailers (*szmalcowniki*); murders of Jews by ordinary citizens, members of the Polish underground and the Polish police; the murder of the Jews of the town of Jedwabne by their non-Jewish neighbors; and the postwar (1946) Kielce pogrom are all important and well-documented parts of the history of the Holocaust in Poland. Along with remarkable cases of noble sacrifice by Poles who were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem on behalf of the Jewish people, there were also cases of betrayal and murder of Jews by Poles.

The present amendment aims to "revise" history, while censoring broad swathes of it through legislation. This constitutes a clear and dangerous attempt to intimidate educators, guides on trips to Poland, journalists and politicians, and to prevent them from relating



■ Prof. Havi Dreifuss speaking at a symposium marking the launch of her book *We Polish Jews?, Yad Vashem, January 2010*

freely to these important parts of Polish and Jewish history during the Holocaust. The amendment's technical exemption of researchers and artists from punishment is in no way reassuring, not only because lectures to the public, opinion pieces and the like are

**It is indisputable that there were instances where Poles, from all walks of life, were accomplices to the murder and persecution of Jews**

liable to be interpreted by the authorities as deviating from the framework of legitimate academic endeavor. The creation of a menacing public atmosphere will mean that students and researchers, particularly in Poland with its notable scholarly community, will be afraid to explore and discuss documentation openly and in depth, and to write groundbreaking studies in the field. The appropriate avenue for combatting distorted representations of history must not be through criminalizing problematic and even false declarations, but rather by encouraging research and strengthening appropriate educational and informational activities.

During the thirty years since the end of Communist rule in Poland, Poland has

contributed tremendously to Holocaust research and documentation. Polish researchers have been at the forefront of analyzing the complex and difficult reality in which Jews and Poles found themselves under the Nazi regime, and are consistently extending the world of knowledge in this field. Their findings, as well as the publications of members of the international community of researchers, presents a complex and dismal picture of the fate of Polish Jewry during the Holocaust. This fate stemmed primarily from the murderous ideology of Nazi Germany and the ways in which the Nazis chose to implement that ideology, but it was also shaped by the reality that evolved in occupied Poland, of which Poles were a part.

In light of the fruitful and long-standing cooperation between Polish and Israeli institutions, spearheaded by Yad Vashem, in Holocaust education, research, culture and commemoration, and based upon its deep appreciation of its Polish colleagues, Yad Vashem can only hope that the Constitutional Court of Poland, to which the current law has been referred for reconsideration, will fundamentally change its wording. Poland is an important part of the Western academic and cultural community, and as such, Yad Vashem calls upon its government to support Poland's commitment to the freedom of research, publications and public debate.

*The author is the Director of the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland, International Institute for Holocaust Research.*



## The Yad Vashem Film Club

■ During the first season of the “Yad Vashem Film Club,” inaugurated in 2017 by Yad Vashem’s Commemoration and Community Relations Division and Visual Center, five monthly cinematic events were held for the public. Between March and July, some 1,200 people saw some of the finest Israeli and foreign dramatic films in Yad Vashem’s Edmond J. Safra Auditorium, after hearing a short historical lecture or meeting the films’ directors.

At the beginning of the first season, two events were held with renowned Israeli directors who discussed their work with the audience: *Kapo in Jerusalem*, directed by Uri Barbash, and *Past Life* by Avi Neshet (pictured). “It’s always surprising and exciting to see a full house, and when people sit in the first or second row in a theater like this one, I feel like thanking them personally,” said Neshet. “I can’t think of a more appropriate venue than Yad Vashem for a screening of *Past Life*.”

## Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

Other films screened during the first season were *Aftermath* (Wladyslaw Pasikowski: Poland), winner of the 2013 Yad Vashem Avner Shalev Chairman’s Award for Holocaust-related film, and *When Day Breaks* (Goran Paskaljevic: Serbia). *Aftermath* focuses on a case of the direct involvement of Poles in the murder of Jews during WWII, and Pasikowski suffered death threats when his film was released in his native Poland. *When Day Breaks*, a rare glimpse into the Holocaust in the former Yugoslavia, illustrates the complex relationship between memory and identity. The last film screened during the first season of the Film Club was *The Counterfeiters* (Stefan Ruzowitzky: Austria), which received an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 2008.

In addition to the Film Club, the Visual Center helped organize some 30 public screenings during 2017 in various settings, including teacher-training seminars, commemoration events, film festivals and academic conferences in Israel and abroad.



In light of the success of its first season, the second season of the Yad Vashem Film Club will open in March 2018 in Jerusalem and at the Yad Vashem branch in Givatayim. Amichai Greenberg’s film *The Testament* will open the season on 7 March in Jerusalem and on 11 March in Givatayim. Additional offerings in 2018 include *1945*, directed by Hungarian Ferenc Török, winner of the 2017 Yad Vashem Avner Shalev Chairman’s Award.

*Liat Benhabib is Director of the Visual Center, and Mimi Ash is responsible for the Center’s film acquisitions and research.*

## Serbian Archivists and Librarians Attend Tailor-Made Seminar James Joseph McIntosh

■ In December 2017, Yad Vashem hosted a seminar for a group of archivists and librarians from Serbia. All English-speakers, the seminar delegation counted several high-ranking members, including directors of municipal archives and libraries in Serbia.

This seminar – the first of its kind – was held jointly by Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, Archives Division and Libraries. After an address by Ambassador of Serbia to Israel H.E. Mr. Milutin Stanojević, the participants enjoyed behind-the-scenes views of the work of the Archives and Libraries, and familiarized themselves with Yad Vashem’s research into the history of the Shoah. Participants also received a “ready2print” version of the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition, “Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible?” which Yad Vashem’s Serbian partner, the educational



■ Holocaust survivor Lily Gombush (left) with Sara Pecanac of the Yad Vashem Archives

network Terraforming, translated especially for the seminar.

“Seminars like this are very important for promoting professional exchanges and dialogue, networking across borders, sharing documentation, and conducting joint projects,” said Serbian-born Sara Pecanac of the Yad Vashem Archives. Indeed, the participating archivists and librarians, most of whom had never visited Israel before, appreciated

the chance to meet new contacts and learn about each other’s work. Several of them did not wait for the seminar to end before beginning exploring potential projects and follow-up activities. “I would like to undertake more projects along the lines of how Jewish women and children suffered during WWII, the rescue of children, and the fate of child survivors and their rescuers,” said Jasmina Tutunovic Trifunov, Curator of the Museum for Genocide Victims in Belgrade.

“The seminar gave me a more comprehensive view of the Shoah,” added Petar Djurdjev, Director of the Novi Sad Historical Archives. “I look forward to further cooperation between Yad Vashem and our archives, especially regarding data exchange and research, as well as joint lectures and conferences.”

*The author works in the European Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Behind-the-Scenes Tours for Diplomats

■ On 4 December 2017, Yad Vashem hosted a group of ambassadors, diplomats and cultural and press attachés from over a dozen countries. The event, held jointly with Israel’s Government Press Office, provided a rare opportunity for members of the diplomatic community to tour the Museum Complex at Yad Vashem and venture behind the scenes for a look at the important work of the Yad Vashem Archives.

Embassy staffers often come to Yad Vashem together with visiting foreign delegations, but do not have the opportunity to learn more about Yad Vashem’s abundant activities in a variety of fields. In addition to hearing an in-depth examination

of official visits to Yad Vashem, the participants enjoyed a question-and-answer session with Director of the Communications Division and Spokesperson Iris Rosenberg, members of the Division’s International Media Section, and Director of the Reference and Information Department in the Archives Division Lital Beer.

The day ended with a visit to the Children’s Memorial, where the group paid their respects to the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the German Nazis and their collaborators.

■ On 26 December, some 50 military attachés and their partners from Europe and the US

serving in Israel came to Yad Vashem for a daylong symposium, organized by the Commemoration and Community Relations Division in conjunction with the International School for Holocaust Studies. The participants heard presentations regarding the challenges of Holocaust education and commemoration, as well as on the Righteous Among the Nations endeavor, and took a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum. This is the second year that military attachés have participated in a tailor-made symposium at Yad Vashem, and in light of the participants’ enthusiastic reception, plans are already underway to make it an annual event.

During October 2017–January 2018, Yad Vashem conducted 281 guided tours for close to 3,700 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors, mayors and governors. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **US Vice President Michael R. Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence** (third and second from left) visited Yad Vashem on 23 January. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his wife Sara Netanyahu, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau accompanied the Vice President throughout the visit.

Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang guided the Vice President and Second Lady through the Holocaust History Museum. The Vice President also participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, rekindling the Eternal Flame.

Signing the Yad Vashem Guestbook, the Vice President wrote: "Here at Yad Vashem we mourn for the six million Jewish martyrs of the Holocaust, and we draw inspiration from the faith and resilience that rose from such times. Standing in this place, we say with all the people of Israel – Never Again."



■ **Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide** visited Yad Vashem on 7 January.



■ **Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 1 November. The Prime Minister toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial. At the conclusion of his visit, Prime Minister Turnbull described visiting Yad Vashem as "one of the most moving experiences that anyone can have."



■ **Foreign Minister of Japan Taro Kono** (right) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 25 December by Yad Vashem Libraries Director Dr. Robert Rozett.



■ **Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Meleşcanu** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 23 October.



■ **Governor-General of New Zealand Dame Patsy Reddy** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 30 October. Visibly stirred at the end of her visit, Dame Reddy wrote in the Yad Vashem Guest Book, "We must always remember them and swear to prevent any further degradation and annihilation of human rights. A wonderful and profoundly moving experience."



■ **Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin** visited Yad Vashem on 26 November.



■ **Foreign Minister of Ecuador Maria Fernanda Espinosa** toured Yad Vashem on 22 November.



■ **Dutch Foreign Minister Halbe Zijlstra** (right) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 10 January by Nannie Beekman of the Righteous Among the Nations Department.





## NEW BENEFACTORS

### Maurice Falk and Rebecca Steindecker – Keeping the Memory Alive

■ Prime Minister of Moldova Pavel Filip (center, left) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 9 November, including a recreation of Leszno Street in the Warsaw ghetto. He was guided through the Museum by Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names.



■ Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu (center) toured Yad Vashem on 17 October, accompanied by Israel Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman (right) and guided by Aharon Shneyer of the Archives Division.



■ Foreign Minister of Malta Carmelo Abela toured Yad Vashem on 21 December.



■ Maurice Falk and his sister Rebecca Steindecker have recently joined Yad Vashem's dedicated circle of esteemed Benefactors. Their gift, which endows the Path of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, leading down from the Cattle Car-Memorial to the Deportees to the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, is dedicated in loving memory of their beloved parents, Anne and Isidore Falk z"l, and their dear brother, Michael David Falk z"l.

Isidore Falk immigrated to the United States during WWI after his family was forced to flee from Russian pogroms. The one recollection he shared from this painful period in his life was that during their flight, they were hidden each night along their journey by kind farmers who gave them food and shelter. They never slept in the same place twice. While there is no way his children will ever know the identity of these people, Rebecca and Maurice's generous gift is a way to recognize their actions, and thank them for their kindness and generosity.

"The Path of the Righteous is a most fitting choice for this honor," says Rebecca. "Our parents would be so proud to be associated with this prestigious designation and with the people whose names are etched on the Wall of Honor in the Garden of the Righteous. The



Righteous Among the Nations were brave people who saved Jewish lives without regard to their own safety. I was moved to recently take part in a ceremony honoring Righteous people who saved my husband's cousin during the war in Amsterdam. We thank Yad Vashem for enabling us to be a part of this very significant program. It is an honor to participate in your work."

"We believe that it is the challenge of our generation to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive," adds Maurice. "In recognition of the extraordinary efforts of Yad Vashem to keep the tragic events of the Shoah from fading into history, we hope that our gift will encourage this vital institution to continue in its valiant efforts to ensure that 'Never Again' will be a part of our world going forward."

### Sima Conrad z"l – Bequeathing Support for Holocaust Education



■ For all of her adult life, Sima Conrad z"l strongly supported the work and mission of Yad Vashem.

Sima's mother, Clara Scharf Goldberg, was born in Cluj, Romania in 1926. In the spring of 1944, Clara was deported to Auschwitz with her entire family. Her parents and two younger siblings were murdered within an hour of arrival. Clara and two of her sisters survived as forced laborers in the Stutthof and Elbing labor camps. After the war, Clara made her way to *Eretz Israel*, arriving in 1947. There she met her husband, Zygmunt Goldberg.

Born in Poland, Zygmunt had fled east during the war and served in the Red Army before immigrating to *Eretz Israel*. Members of his family were interned in various camps, eventually making their way to the US or Australia. Zygmunt and Clara were married and settled in Hadera, Israel, where their two

children, Yehoshua (Josh) and Sima, were born in 1948 and 1951, respectively. Zygmunt served with distinction in the Haganah and, once the State of Israel was established, in the IDF.

In 1957, Zygmunt and Clara immigrated to the US (Los Angeles) to join the rest of their family. The couple worked hard to build a happy life, supported by their successful business in painting and property management. Josh married Sharon and continues to live in Los Angeles. Sima married the actor Michael Conrad (star of the 1980s TV show *Hill Street Blues*), surviving him after his premature death from cancer. She also dabbled in acting, and was involved in various organizations in her hometown of Malibu. She fought metastatic cancer bravely for almost ten years before sadly succumbing to the disease in 2015.

It was Sima's wish to honor her parents and her family at Yad Vashem, recognizing the outstanding work of the institution, supporting efforts to educate soldiers of the IDF (of which her father was a proud veteran), and helping to inform the world about the dangers of prejudice, stereotyping and genocide.

# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ The **American Society for Yad Vashem** held its 2017 Annual Tribute Dinner on 12 November at The Pierre Hotel in New York City. **Tony Orlando** served as MC for the evening. Entertainment icon **Haim Saban** spoke about Yad Vashem's work with IDF soldiers and officers and, together with Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance **Sheldon** and **Miriam Adelson**, helped encourage attendees to donate to these crucial educational programs.

The theme of this year's dinner, "Carry the Torch," spoke to the importance of Holocaust education and keeping the next generation involved and committed to Holocaust remembrance. The four honorees, **Robert H. Book**, **Amy A. Book**, **Abbi Halpern** and **Barry L. Levine**, exemplify what it means to be committed to this mission. Robert and Amy Book received the Yad Vashem Leadership Award, which Robert accepted on behalf of his family. Abbi Halpern and Barry Levine received the Yad Vashem Young Leadership Award. Yad Vashem Benefactor **Edward Mosberg** presented his grandson, Barry Levine, with his award, while American Society Treasurer **David Halpern** presented his daughter-in-law, Abbi Halpern, with hers. Barry and Abbi, former co-chairs of the Young Leadership Associates (YLA), were introduced by YLA Founding Chair **Caroline Massel**. Over 100 members of the younger generation attended the dinner. In keeping with

the multigenerational theme of the night, Yad Vashem Trustee **Marvin Zborowski** presided over the traditional "Hamotzi" blessing of the bread, alongside his two sons **Ziggy** and **Mark**.



■ *Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson*



■ *Left to right: Ron Meier, Edward Mosberg, Barry Levine, Abbi Halpern, David Halpern, Leonard Wilf, Caroline Massel*



■ *Left to right, back row: Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, American Society Executive Director Ron Meier, American Society Chairman Leonard Wilf, Robert Book, Amy Book, Scott Book. Front row: Samantha Santiago, Douglas Book, Sharon Book, Neil Book*



■ *Haim Saban speaking about IDF educational programs at Yad Vashem*



■ *Jay Schottenstein presenting the Yad Vashem Leadership Award to Robert and Amy Book*

■ On 8 October, **Julie** and **Reuben Kopel** (back, center) participated a Twinning Ceremony at Yad Vashem to mark the bat mitzvah of their daughter **Hallie**. Following the screening of an inspirational movie of the family's story, Hallie addressed the audience – 120 family members and friends, including Hallie's grandmother **Betty Pantirer Schwartz** (back, second from right), daughter of Yad Vashem Guardian **Murray Pantirer z"l**.



■ On 8 October, **Michelle Kahane Taragin** and **Bruce Taragin** (left), along with many members of their family, visited Yad Vashem to celebrate the bar mitzvah of their son **Solomon** (Solly). Following a tour of Yad Vashem and Solly's Twinning Ceremony, the group of over 100 family members and friends enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the Yad Vashem sukkah.



■ On 31 October, **Harold Masor** (center) and his son **Elliot** (right) visited the Holocaust History Museum and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).





■ On 1 January, comedian **Jerry Seinfeld** visited Yad Vashem together with his wife **Jessica**, children and friends. Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, the group visited the Yad Vashem Synagogue for a presentation by International Relations Division Deputy Managing Director **Sara Granitza**. Mr. Seinfeld also signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book.



■ On 6 November, Governor of Missouri **Eric Greitens** (fifth from right) and the Republican Jewish Coalition visited Yad Vashem, accompanied by Board Member of the American Society for Yad Vashem **Fred Zeidman** (left) and Yad Vashem Builders **Edward** and **Elissa Czuker** (center). The group toured the Holocaust History Museum and held a special ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ On 12 November, the Detroit Federation Business Group visited Yad Vashem. The group was given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives and a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, followed by a visit to the Memorial Cave, where **Alan Zekelman** (fourth from left) shared his family's story.



■ The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) visited Yad Vashem on 30 November. The group toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, and concluded their visit with a ceremony in the Synagogue, where previously unknown information from the Yad Vashem Archives about three of the participants' families was shared with the group the first time.



■ Yad Vashem Pillar **Jack Pechter** (second from left), **Billy Himmelrich** (third from right) and Yad Vashem Builder **Benjamin Warren** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem on 7 December. After walking through the Family Plaza with **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left), the group toured the International School for Holocaust Studies with Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and School Director **Dr. Eyal Kaminka** (right).



■ **Kevin Ryan** (second from left) and his family visited Yad Vashem on 27 December. Following a visit to the Archives with **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), the group toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ On 27 December, **Michelle** (third from left) and **Alan Kaplan** (right) visited Yad Vashem with their family. Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, a Twinning Ceremony was conducted to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Dylan**. Also present were proud grandparents **Allan** and **Shari Luck** (left), and **Ed** (center) and **Carol Kaplan** (third from right).



■ **Arie** and **Jana Schottenstein** (fifth and fourth from right) visited Yad Vashem on 28 December. Following a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, and a trip to the Family Plaza accompanied by Director of Yad Vashem's US Desk **Michael Fisher** (left), the group toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ The Schoenfeld family visited Yad Vashem on 28 December to celebrate the bat mitzvah of their daughter **Halyn**. Following a visit to the Holocaust History Museum, a special Twinning Ceremony was conducted in the Synagogue.



# Friends Worldwide

■ **Paul Sherzer** visited Yad Vashem with his two sons and other family members on 28 December for a tour of the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Ronnie Potter** (fifth from left) visited the Holocaust History Museum on 29 December along with members of her family and friends.



■ The Jaffe-Berkowitz family visited Yad Vashem on 25 December. After a special unveiling of the Blonder Family plaque in the Memorial Cave, the family held a Twinning Ceremony to mark the bar mitzvah of **Andrew Jaffe-Berkowitz**.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of American Society National Vice Chair, Yad Vashem Benefactor and dear friend, **Fanya Gottesfeld Heller**.



A Holocaust survivor, Fanya was also an accomplished author and generous philanthropist who dedicated her life to championing Holocaust education, commemoration and remembrance for future generations. Fanya was also an ardent supporter of the State of Israel. May her extended family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Trustee **Lillian Steinberg**.



Lillian was a survivor of Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen, and the sole survivor of her family after her liberation in April 1945. After the war, she worked in Prague for the *Va'ad Hatzala* (Rescue Committee), helping Jewish survivors get visas to other countries. Together with her beloved husband Milton, Lillian built a manufacturing business with another survivor family.

Yad Vashem extends its condolences to Milton, their daughters Susan and Arlene, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and the entire Steinberg family. May her memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its dear friend, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Sam Boymel**.



Sam was born in Turzysk, Poland in May 1925. At a young age, he witnessed the massacre of his entire family and was forced to flee his home to live in the freezing outdoors for a total of five years. He largely credits his survival to a family friend named "Petro," who was later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. Following his later involvement with the partisans and Russian forces, he met his loving wife Rachel z"l. After welcoming their first child, they found their way onto a ship journeying to America. With hard work and determination, the Boymel family developed a group of successful nursing homes. This allowed them to make several generous donations to Jewish and Israeli causes, as well as continuously supporting Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem extends its condolences to Sam's children Steve (Carol) Boymel, Patsy (Barry) Kohn, Faye (Harold) Sosna, his twelve grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing.

## UK

■ On 25 October, **Joshua and Alisa Swidler** (second and third from right) visited the Children's Memorial and Holocaust History Museum with their children. Their daughter **Ava** (third from left) participated in a bat mitzvah Twinning Ceremony, during which she undertook to preserve the memory of **Eva Kozower z"l**, a child victim of the Holocaust.



## AUSTRALIA

■ On 13 October, **Atida and Michael Naphtali** (second and third from left) visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial with their daughter **Collette O'Hagan** (left), grandson **Josh O'Hagan** (second from right) and son **David Naphtali** (right).



■ On 26 October, **Bernie and Minna Stang** met with Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department **Irena Steinfeldt**, and visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial.





■ On 2 November, **Orli and David Gonski** (left) and **Michael and Catherine Livingstone** (right) participated in a wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum as part of the NSW AICC ANZAC Trade Mission Delegation.



■ On 29 October, Trustees of the Erdi Foundation – **Philip Zajac, Gavin Dunhill, Jeffrey Pinch, Lisa Pinch** and **Ricky Jeffs** – toured the Holocaust History Museum.



## AUSTRIA

■ International Holocaust Remembrance Day was marked by the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** in the Old Town Hall in Linz, Austria. The event was attended by more than 130 guests, among them the Mayor of Linz **Mag. Klaus Luger**. The Keynote Speaker was actor and former Vice-President of the Austrian PEN-Club **Miguel Herz-Kestranek** – author of dozens of publications. In his address, Austrian Friends Chairman **Günther Schuster** stressed: “Our responsibility for keeping the memory of seemingly bygone events is not taken for granted. Remembering is necessary, to counteract a repetition of history in our days.”



## FRANCE

■ On 10 January 2018, Yad Vashem and the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah held a joint event to mark the culmination of a decade-long project: collecting the names of Holocaust victims of in the territories of “Greater Hungary.” This project has enabled the identification of about 80 percent of Hungary’s Holocaust victims.

The event was held at the German Historical Institute in Paris in the presence of survivors, members of the Jewish community, Yad Vashem’s friends in France and Chair of the **French Friends of Yad Vashem Pierre-François Veil**.



*Speakers at the event included, from left: Director of the German Historical Institute **Prof. Thomas Maissen**, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**, Fondation Board Member **Serge Klarsfeld**, Director of Yad Vashem’s French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**, Israeli Ambassador to France **H.E. Mrs. Aliza Bin Noun**, Director of Yad Vashem’s Hall of Names **Dr. Alexander Avram**, Hungarian survivor and Yad Vashem Trustee **Nicolas Roth**, Fondation Director **Philippe Allouche**, as well as Historian, Emeritus Research Director at the National Center for Scientific Research and Member of the Fondation’s Board of Directors **Annette Wiewiorka** (not pictured).*

## SINGAPORE

■ On 8 November, the second Annual Yad Vashem Dinner in Asia was held in Singapore, attended by some 100 people. The keynote speaker was **Pastor Chris Edmonds** (pictured) from Maryville, Tennessee. Pastor Edmonds enthralled the audience with the story of his father Master Sergeant **Roddie Edmonds**, who was awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations for saving the 200 Jewish US soldiers under his command in a POW camp in Germany.



## GERMANY

■ In November 2017, **Kai Diekmann**, former *Bild* Publishing Director was elected by the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany** as its new Chairman. Diekmann succeeds **Prof. Dr. Jürgen**



**Rüttgers**, who served as Chairman of the Society for the past two years and is now Chairman of the Quaritorium of the German Society.

A close friend and steadfast supporter of Yad Vashem, over the years Diekmann has worked on various projects and initiatives. Most recently, he partnered with Yad Vashem in running media seminars for influential German journalists on the Mount of Remembrance, and initiated the Yad Vashem exhibition “Art from the Holocaust: 100 Works from the Yad Vashem Collection,” displayed at the German Historical Museum in Berlin in early 2016.

■ On 24 October, Yad Vashem and the German Friends Society held an event in honor of three newly recognized Righteous Among the Nations. At the event, a Yad Vashem traveling exhibition telling the story and promoting the legacy of the Righteous was also opened. The event garnered much media attention, not least because members of the Hummel family, who were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, hid today’s President of the Jewish community of Munich and Upper Bavaria **Charlotte Knobloch** for three years when she was a young girl.



# Friends Worldwide

■ On 12 January, former German President **Joachim Gauck** opened an exhibition on the Righteous Among the Nations at the Georg-Mendheim Oberstufenzentrum in Oranienburg. The event was attended by the students from school, and included a discussion about the relevance of the Holocaust to the youth of today, and what contribution the next generation can make to ensure that the unprecedented atrocities of the Third Reich are never repeated.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

■ On 30 January, Curator and Director of Yad Vashem's Art Department **Eliad Moreh Rosenberg** (fourth from right) spoke at a joint event with the Government of Liechtenstein and the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein** in the Municipal Museum Building in Vaduz, Liechtenstein.



## MEXICO

■ Participants of the Legacy and Memory-Yad Vashem-Mexico 2017 Mission to Spain included (left to right) **Isaac Jajati, Flor Cojab, Linda Hop, Zion Memun, Teresa Cohen Bissu, Shulamit Serur, Raquel Jajati, Oshra Michan, Sofia Hop, Carlos Michan, Beatriz Masliah, Perla Hazan, Jaime Braverman, Mauricio Hazan, Eduardo Michan, Cynthia Serur, David Serur, Salah Serur de Azar and Jennie Serur.**



**30 friends worldwide**

## ARGENTINA

■ President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina **Dr. Ricardo Lorenzetti** (third from left) visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Mara Perre de Lorenzetti** (second from left). They were joined by President of the DAIA (Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations) **Ariel Cohen Sabban** (fourth from left), Vice President of the Museum of the Holocaust of Buenos Aires **Gustavo Sakkal** (fourth from right), **León Cohen, Simón Levinson** and **Juan Manuel Olima.**



## SPAIN

■ On 30 January, a ceremony took place in Madrid at which **Samuel Bengio** (second from right) was appointed as President of the **Spanish Association for Yad Vashem**. The event took place at the home of Samuel and his wife **Beatrice Misrahi-Bengio** (right), and was attended by Director General of Yad Vashem **Dorit Novak** (second from left), Director of Yad Vashem's Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left), outgoing Spanish Association President **Isaac Querub**, Ambassador of Israel in Spain **H.E. Mr. Daniel Kutner**, President of WIZO Spain **Astrid Misrahi**, distinguished personalities from the Jewish and non-Jewish communities in Madrid, friends of the Spanish Association and the Mayor of Alcobendas in Madrid **Ignacio García de Vinuesa.**



■ On 9 January, Spanish Association President **Samuel Bengio** (third from right) visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Beatrice** (second from left). The couple met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev, Dorit Novak**, Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and **Perla Hazan.**



■ **David Hatchwell** (right) visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Natalia** (third from left) and a group of friends.



## MIAMI SPANISH-SPEAKERS

■ **Jennifer Kanhazi-Bloch** and **Bruno Bloch** were joined by members of their family to mark their son **Stephan's** bar mitzvah at Yad Vashem.



## VENEZUELA

■ **Alemie** and **Miguel Plitman** (right) were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem, where they unveiled a plaque in honor of Miguel's parents in the Square of Hope.





■ **Shirley and Roberto Slimak** (left) were joined by **Perla Hazan** and members of their family as they unveiled a plaque in honor of their parents, Holocaust survivors, in the Administration and Research Building at Yad Vashem.



## Christian Desk with ICEJ and The Museum of the Bible

■ International Christian organization Friends of Israel (FOI) has supported the Jewish people (and later on the State of Israel) since 1938. Their support of Yad Vashem includes sending pastors and leaders to Christian Leadership Seminars. In October 2017 FOI President **Jim Showers** (left) visited Yad Vashem and unveiled a special plaque together with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ A sizeable international Christian community makes its home in Israel, and especially in Jerusalem. Many of these local leaders head large international organizations with headquarters in Israel. In January 2018, to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a number of these leaders were invited to a special day of learning at Yad Vashem.



## 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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# 2018 Mission: A Multigenerational Journey | 2-9 July 2018

■ In recent years, Yad Vashem has successfully hosted two meaningful missions to Europe and Israel, together with friends and partners from around the globe.

The upcoming "Generation to Generation" international mission, tailor-made for participants of varying ages, will explore the history of the vibrant Jewish life in prewar Austria before learning of its destruction; and join in the celebrations in Israel as the country marks its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Accompanied by Holocaust survivors, Yad Vashem professional guides and scholar-in-residence Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina

## GENERATION TO GENERATION

Yad Vashem International Mission | July 2018



Porat, the mission will be a memorable and exciting experience. Join us as we become familiar with Yad Vashem's state-of-the-art tools in Holocaust commemoration and education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as the challenges and innovations of the modern State of Israel.

As in previous missions, the group dynamics are sure to create a very special bond between

the participants, transforming you into part of the greater Yad Vashem family.

Preparations for the mission are underway. With more than half of the places already filled, we invite you to register now, in order not to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

For information and registration:  
[www.yadvashem.org/2018](http://www.yadvashem.org/2018)

## The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

### *Denunciation and Rescue: Dutch Society and the Holocaust*

Pinchas Bar-Efrat

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ This book examines the attitude of the Dutch authorities toward the Jews during the Nazi occupation, particularly that of the directors of the various government ministries, as well as the ministers of the government-in-exile and Dutch society in general. After probing thousands of files of postwar trials of war criminals in the Netherlands, the author discusses the *modus operandi* of these war criminals and their motives for denouncing Jews. The book also surveys the activities of the Dutch police and, in contrast, the important actions of the Dutch resistance and the individuals who concealed Jews, assisted them in obtaining false papers, or provided them with ration cards and money.

### *I Am Writing These Words to You: The Original Diaries, Będzin 1943*

Chajka Klinger | Editor: Avihu Ronen

In association with Moreshet

NIS 74 / NIS 56



■ After she joined Hashomer Hatzair and became a major activist in the Jewish Fighting Organization (ŻOB) in Będzin, Chajka Klinger was chosen by her comrades to document their history. "Condemned to live," she fulfilled her obligation to them by writing her diaries in hiding in 1943. The notebooks provide a window into the activities of the Jewish youth movements in Poland, and convey vastly important information about the ŻOB in Będzin and in Warsaw, the relationships between the underground organizations and the Judenrat, the response of the Jewish public to the extermination, and the underground leader Mordechai Anielewicz. They are also a primary source of information about the battles in the ghettos.

■  
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### *Yad Vashem Studies: Volume 45:2*

Editor: David Silberklang

NIS 80 / NIS 60



■ This issue includes articles by Ian Kershaw and Otto Dov Kulka on the late Eberhard Jäckel's contribution to Holocaust scholarship (see p. 11), as well as five research articles and five reviews. Four articles address the Holocaust in Poland: Frank Grelka on German civilian-run forced-labor camps in the Chelm region; Idit Gil on Jewish forced labor in the Radom District; Daniel Uziel on early wartime German media reporting about Jews; and Rachel Feldhay Brenner on the antisemitic beliefs and vigorous rescue efforts of Zofia Kossak-Szczucka. Boaz Cohen looks at the research infrastructure created by Holocaust survivor historians after the war.

### *Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust*

Head Curator: Vivian Uria | Historical Advisor: Daniel Uziel

NIS 188 / NIS 169



■ Visual documentation is a major factor in shaping historical awareness of the Holocaust. Photography played a crucial role in Nazi propaganda, which was employed by the German leaders to mold their image in the public eye and manipulate the masses. For the Jews in the ghettos, however, it served as a tool in their struggle to survive, and manifested their underground activity and their desire to record the events. The Allies, who understood the importance of documenting the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis, brought official photographers to the liberated camps.

This catalogue of "Flashes of Memory" – the new exhibition on photography during the Holocaust that opened at the end of January at Yad Vashem (pp. 4-5) – presents a critical examination of this special documentation, focusing on the circumstances and the worldview of the photographer.

To order these and other Yad Vashem publications:  
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