

Yad Vashem Jerusalem

Volume 86, June 2018

New Exhibition
**“They Say
There Is a Land”**
(pp. 4-5)

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2018

(pp. 6-9)



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■ **On the cover:** Nahum Bendel, *Longing for the Land of Israel*, Cyprus, 1948. Yad Vashem Art Collection. On display in the new exhibition “They Say There Is a Land” (see pp. 4-5).

Gathering the Fragments

Ilona Angert

■ **“Dear Mother and Father... we’re all right. When the war is over, we will be together again.”**

Claire (Clary) Friedberg wrote this line to her parents on 10 October 1944. At the time, seven-year-old Clary and her little sister Ollie were being hidden in Rotterdam, saving them from the clutches of the Nazi occupiers in the Netherlands.

The story began on a cold and rainy evening a year earlier, when the two girls took a train together with Pauw Woudenberg, a young resistance fighter, to the Duchene residence. One day, a yellow star was placed on the threshold of the Duchenes’ home – one of the neighbors had found out that the girls were Jewish. The Dutch resistance members began in vain to look for a new hideout for the sisters: In the third year of the German occupation of the Netherlands, most of the citizens were afraid of the Nazi terror and would not consent to endangering themselves by hiding Jewish children. Driven to desperation by the search, Pauw turned to his sister Nel, who did not hesitate. “What choice do I have? How can I let two little girls die?” she said.

Nel treated the girls with warmth and love; they felt safe in her home. She made sure that the girls always remembered that the war would end, and they would be reunited with their parents, Rudolf and Sofia. Every chance she got, Nel reminded Clary to write to her mother and father. Pauw, Nel’s brother, knew where the girls’ parents were hiding, and served as a messenger between them. This connection, and the knowledge that their daughters were in good hands, was a comfort to Rudolf and Sofia, and somewhat alleviated the pain of the difficult decision to separate from their children.

In Clary and Ollie Friedberg’s drawings, the sun is shining, colorful flowers bloom, and their father comes back home to a warm welcome. It is hard to believe that they were drawn during the darkest time in the sisters’ lives, one of constant masquerade and deceit. Clary and Ollie had to learn to hide their religion and real identities, to keep quiet, not to fight with each other – and to pray for a miracle every time the danger grew more tangible. The drawings, which are filled with *joie de vivre*, do not reveal the pain and hardship they felt at saying goodbye to their parents; but the letters that they included with their drawings hint at the longing to share their

Letters from Their Children in Hiding



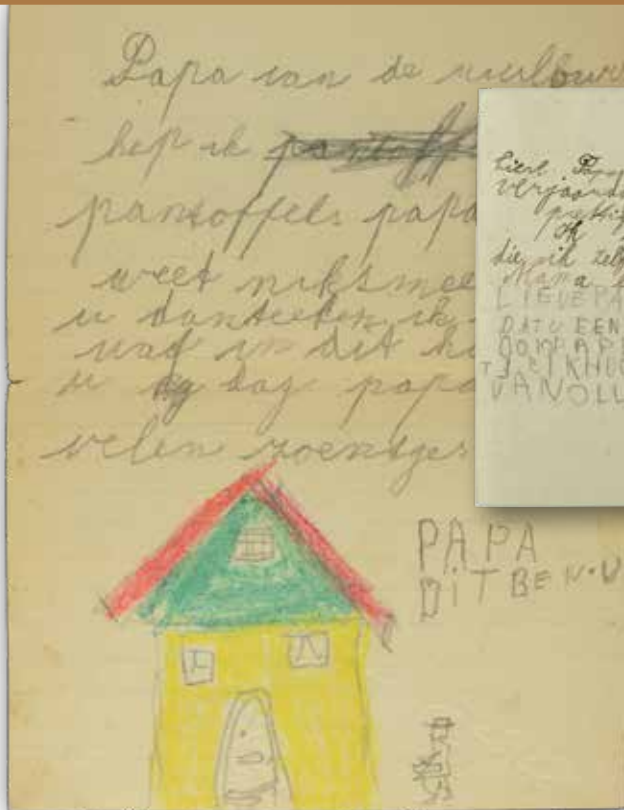
■ Clary and Ollie Friedberg, before the war.
Yad Vashem Archives

small everyday moments of happiness with their mother and father.

Clary and Ollie were aware of the danger they faced. The SS and the Dutch gendarmes conducted raids on civilians' houses in search of Jews in hiding. A camouflaged closet in the living room served as Clary and Ollie's hiding place during such raids.

It is hard to believe that the pictures were drawn during the darkest time in the sisters' lives

During the winter of 1944, the Netherlands experienced great hunger. The siege laid by the Germans on the northern part of the country isolated it from the liberated south and disrupted the region's food supply. Every day, Nel took Clary and Ollie to the soup kitchen, where they served soup made of beets, sugar and lentils. However, Nel knew that the soup alone would not be enough for the children. For that reason, she traveled great distances on her bike to distant villages in order to acquire additional food in exchange for Clary and Ollie's old clothes. On 3 May 1945, she traveled to a particularly remote village and returned, utterly exhausted,



■ Drawing and birthday card made by Clary and Ollie Friedberg for their parents while in hiding.
Yad Vashem Archives

a day later. When she came home, she immediately fell asleep. Suddenly Clary and Ollie burst into her room, shouting, "The war's over!"

After liberation, the family reunited and moved to Canada. In 1978, Nel Woudenberg was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. "I often think of my mother and 'Tante Nel [Aunt Nel]' and how brave they were," said Claire Baum (née Friedberg). "With courage, modesty and sacrifice, they saved us and future generations. Their lights will shine forever."

However, the story did not end there. A few years later, Claire received a phone call from a woman who had moved into the house that had served as one of the hideouts of her parents. The woman had found a package of drawings and letters in her basement, and had looked for Claire for many years. She mailed her the package. In light of his family's longstanding connection with Yad Vashem, on a recent visit to Israel Claire's son Jeff donated the package to Yad Vashem within the framework of the

"Gathering the Fragments" campaign. "While other museums were interested in receiving the drawings and letters, my family felt that these precious mementos should be donated to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem," said Jeff Baum. "There they will be preserved for generations, and our story will continue to be told."

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 the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign began seven years ago, 10,800 people have donated some 241,000 items, including 139,000 documents, 93,000 photographs, 4,400 artifacts, 653 works of art and 185 original films. Representatives of Yad Vashem visit Holocaust survivors or their family members in their homes, in addition to holding collection days in centers closest to their place of residence in order to gather Holocaust-era personal items. To schedule a meeting in Israel: +972-2-644-3888 or collect@yadvashem.org.il

The author is a researcher for the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign in the Archives Division.

“They Say There Is a Land”

Longings for Eretz Israel during the Holocaust

■ For 2,000 years, since the majority of the Jewish people was exiled from their homeland, Jews prayed for their return to Zion – Eretz Israel, the Land of Israel. For most, however, Eretz Israel was only an idea, a dream. While there was a continuous, albeit limited, Jewish presence in the Land of Israel, for most Jews their affinity to Eretz Israel was expressed in prayer, philosophy, poem and song, in life-cycle events and on Jewish holidays – but not in any political or active manner.

Marking seventy years since the establishment of the State of Israel, Yad Vashem recently opened a new exhibition, “They Say There Is a Land: Longings for Eretz Israel during the Holocaust.” The exhibition tells how Jews yearned for Eretz Israel during and immediately following the Shoah in the years 1933–1948 – from the rise of the Nazi party to power in Germany, through the outbreak of WWII and the destruction of European Jewry, and until the end of the war and the establishment of the State of Israel.

Artworks, artifacts, diaries, letters and testimonies collected over the years at Yad Vashem give expression to the experiences, feelings and yearnings of those who created them, and open a window to their inner world in the shadow of the terrible events. This written and visual documentation also tells the story of the longings for Eretz Israel during the Holocaust.

Beginning at the end of the nineteenth century and between the two world wars of the twentieth century – and against the background of the growth of modern nationalism and the Enlightenment movement, secularization and emancipation alongside the intensification of political antisemitism – a fierce struggle in the Jewish world centered on the future of the Jewish people. One of the answers was practical political Zionism, which placed as its goal the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Eretz Israel.

The Zionist movement established a foothold from the first Zionist Congress in 1897 up to the 1930s. Although numerically it was a small movement, and notwithstanding the strong resistance of other ideologies, its influence was noticeable among wide circles of Jews worldwide.

In his poem, “They Say There Is a Land,” which was written in 1923 and from which the exhibition takes its name, celebrated Hebrew poet Shaul Tchernichovsky brings up existential questions that characterized the Jewish people’s struggle with its future as well as the forces of dream versus reality, and hope versus despair.

On the eve of the Holocaust, building continued in Eretz Israel: new settlements were established, and agriculture and industry were developed. Varied news reaching the Diaspora from Eretz Israel described the nature of the Land and its landscape; “the New Jew”; and especially the youth that were growing up

“I'm standing at the end of the ship and looking back at the Land of the Jews that has once more become fruitful under Jewish hands.”

From an essay by Hana Gottesman (aged 12), Berlin, 1936

there. Despite the limits placed by the British Mandatory authority, there was a noticeable increase in the number of immigrants. Jews readied themselves for *Aliya* at training farms in the Diaspora, and tried to immigrate to Eretz Israel despite the difficulties, even illegally. Eretz Israel was increasingly perceived as a possible solution for the Jewish people, as a place for building a future home, and as the hoped-for protection from the present harsh reality.



■ Top: Hana Gottesman, Berlin, 1920s.
Bottom: The essay Hana wrote about an imaginary visit to Eretz Israel, for which she won a trip to the Holy Land in 1936.
Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection

“I see a sign that soon we will meet each other face-to-face in our Land, our Homeland, Eretz Israel,” wrote ten-year-old Eliezer Rudnik in 1937 in Hebrew in a letter he sent to his aunts who had already immigrated to Eretz Israel. Eliezer and his parents, Aryeh and Sarah Rudnik, the only Jews living in the village of Kosmaczow (now Ukraine), were shot in 1942 in a killing pit after the German occupation.

The Shoah completely changed reality. Eretz Israel was never so far away from the Jews as it was during the Holocaust, although their hearts’ desires for the Land only strengthened. During this period, Jews experienced the breakdown and destruction of the entire fabric of life for both the individual and the community. They were forced out of life-cycle events and society, and subjected to humiliating and impossible living conditions – and all this before the onset of their physical extermination. Yet diaries, letters and other papers documenting the period testify that even during those terrible times, in the midst of the struggle for life that focused on the here and now, Eretz Israel held a firm place in the hearts and thoughts of the Jews.

The Land of Israel and its typical landscapes are seen in the drawings of Jacob Otto Pins, who

The Shoah completely changed reality. Eretz Israel was never so far away from the Jews as it was during the Holocaust, although their hearts' desires for the Land only strengthened

Vivian Uria



■ Visitors at the new exhibition "They Say There Is a Land"

had immigrated to Eretz Israel from Höxter, Germany. His notebook of drawings was sent to Otto's mother and sister Ilse, who looked after it carefully through all the camps in which they were interned in Riga, Latvia. Rina Schwartz met them in Auschwitz, and was so impressed by the splendid drawings that she asked to keep them for a night. In the morning when she went to return the notebook, Rina discovered that Ilse and her mother had been murdered during

the night. Rina kept the notebook throughout her life until she donated it to Yad Vashem. The notebook, now preserved in Yad Vashem's Art Collection, is included in the exhibition.

Also displayed is a quote from a letter written by Baruch Milch to his cousin in Eretz Israel while in hiding in Poland. "I am writing this letter to you as one who has been condemned to death before my execution, since this is my situation right now... The Jews need freedom... Only in

[Mandatory] Palestine will they be granted independence... Do not be silent; work day and night until you achieve this goal."

With the end of the war and liberation, Zionist activity reached the height of its fulfilment, with the *She'erit Hapleitah* (last remnants of the Jewish people in Europe) grasping Eretz Israel as the practical solution for the rehabilitation of the Jewish people after the Holocaust. At the same time, a new "post-catastrophe" Jewish national identity took shape in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Europe and the detention camps in Cyprus. On the title page of the Talmud tractate created by Rabbis Samuel Abba Snieg and Samuel Jakob Rose in 1946 for Jewish refugees in Germany, an illustration was chosen that depicted a landscape of Eretz Israel with the background of a shining sun framed by two palm trees. The title of the illustration reads: "From slavery to redemption, from darkness to great light."

"They Say There Is a Land" is supported by Simy and Sadia Cohen (Venezuela) and Philip and Rose Friedman (USA). The exhibition opened on 29 May in Yad Vashem's Auditorium Exhibitions Hall. The catalogue for the exhibition is available from the Yad Vashem online store: www.yadvashem.org

The author is Director of the Museums Division and Curator of the new exhibition, "They Say There Is a Land."

Survivors' Stories Featured in the Exhibition

■ A member of the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, **Esther Dublin** (née Junia Lieberman) held secret meetings of the movement in her and her mother's small apartment in the Łódź ghetto. She was also active in the Front of Wilderness Generation, and wrote a composition for their wall-mounted newspaper, entitled "Lilith [Nocturnal]." "Wouldn't it be great to contemplate a state where... only justice prevails," she wrote. "A country where the [Jewish] people are not subjugated, but imbued with awareness. And so, with common songs, work and dreams about Eretz Israel, we passed the winter."

Moshe Fromin from Rowne, Poland, spent a year at the Cyprus detention camps before finally reaching Eretz Israel in 1948. A number of items from the camps loaned by Fromin to Yad Vashem are displayed in the exhibition, including a Gordonia youth movement pin; a



■ Illegal immigrants on the deck of the *Pan York* on the day they arrived in Israel, August 14, 1948. Center, far right (with the hat), Holocaust survivor Yaacov (Jacki) Handeli. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

textbook for learning Hebrew; and a sculpture of a gun created by Yitzhak Lerner (the real gun saved Lerner's life during the Holocaust).

After surviving Auschwitz and a death march **Yaacov (Jacki) Handeli**, from Salonika

in Greece, immigrated to Eretz Israel after the war with the Machal group of volunteers from abroad. He donated to Yad Vashem the iconic photograph of illegal Jewish immigrants on the deck of the *Pan York* on the day they arrived in Israel, 14 August 1948 – in which he appears (center, right, wearing a hat).

Elina Karniel (née Landau), one of the "Tehran Children" who arrived in Eretz Israel in 1943, was given an illustrated map of their journey from Warsaw via Siberia, Uzbekistan and Tehran by her older brother Emil for her tenth birthday. "Only in the camp in Tehran did they start to teach us songs, mostly in Hebrew," recalled Karniel. "Then we started to hear that there was a land of our own, that there we would find rest from all of these wanderings... it was like a fairytale." Emil was killed during Israel's War of Independence.

Highlights of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018



■ Snapshots of the activities held during Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018

“During the first post-Shoah years, we lived lives of despair. However, the cup of our despair now contains drops of comfort... It’s no wonder that everything that’s happened here is so dear to us, is in our hearts and our souls. Perhaps only those who feel the great pain of the past can fathom what we have accomplished here, what we have been privileged to attain.”

Holocaust survivor Leyb Rochman

Following WWII, most Holocaust survivors chose to concentrate on rebuilding their lives, with many of them doing so in Eretz Israel, which they viewed as home. The annals of the Holocaust survivors who made *Aliya* to Israel are apparently unparalleled in the history of human migrations. Only very rarely has a group of newly arrived immigrants integrated so successfully into their new society, and become such active partners in shaping its

face and character. From the day they reached the Land of Israel, the survivors took on two simultaneous missions: shaping and preserving the memory of the Shoah on the one hand, and constructive social action on the other.

In the pages to follow are highlights from the events, programs and projects initiated by Yad Vashem throughout Israel that reflected the central theme of this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day: “70 Years of Remembering and Building: Holocaust Survivors and the State of Israel.”

■ Some 2,500 people – Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and guests from around the world – attended the **State Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day** on the evening of Wednesday 11 April. At the ceremony, President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu addressed the audience, and six survivors – Shmuel Bogler, Thea Friedman, Yissachar Dov Goldstein, Mirjam Lapid, Abba Naor and Raul Teitelbaum – lit six torches, representing the six million Holocaust victims. Zipora Nahir spoke on behalf of the survivors, recounting her harrowing experiences during the Shoah. The Chief Rabbis of Israel led the memorial prayers, and singers Meshi Kleinstein and Amir Dadon presented the artistic portions of the evening.

■ Following a two-minute silence, **120 wreaths were laid** on the morning of Thursday 12 April at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations. Other traditional annual events included “**Unto Every Person There is a Name**” – public names-reading ceremonies in the Hall of Remembrance and at Israel’s Knesset (parliament)

"Yad Vashem's commitment to Holocaust education and documentation will guarantee that we never forget those who were lost."

US astronaut Drew Feustel

Leah Goldstein



building – and the **Main Memorial Ceremony** in the Hall of Remembrance.

■ For the fourth year in a row, thousands of visitors to the Mount of Remembrance went “**Behind-the-Scenes**,” gaining a greater understanding of the everyday undertakings of Yad Vashem. At a number of stations throughout the campus, Yad Vashem experts presented their work in the educational, technological and commemorative fields, including artworks, artifacts and documents from the Yad Vashem Collections not usually on public display.

■ In the lead-up to Holocaust Remembrance Day, a number of **educational activities** were held at Yad Vashem and throughout Israel (see p. 9). In addition, hundreds of members of the public attended **screenings of 1945**, winner of the 2017 Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award for Holocaust-related film – both in

A Message of Holocaust Remembrance from Space

■ US astronaut Andrew “Drew” Feustel commemorated Israel’s Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day with a video message sent from the International Space Station. Feustel flew to space on 21 March 2018, carrying a facsimile copy of Petr Ginz’s “Moon Landscape” from Yad Vashem’s Art Collection, the very same drawing the first Israeli astronaut, the late Col. Ilan Ramon, took with him on his doomed mission aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* in 2003.

Before his latest space mission, Feustel was presented with a replica of “Moon Landscape” on 1 February 2018 – coincidentally the date of what could have been the ninetieth birthday of its artist, Jewish Czech teenager Petr Ginz, and the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Ramon. Similar to Ramon, Feustel expressed his desire to take the Holocaust-era artifact with him in order to commemorate “Petr and all the victims of the Holocaust.”

“When Drew told me that he wished to take a copy of ‘Moon Landscape’ into space, I could not help but think of Ilan’s connection,” said Ramon’s widow Rona, who accepted the replica from Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev before transferring it to Feustel. “Petr’s story touched Ilan’s heart. Petr was a child who loved science fiction and dreamed of traveling to space even while imprisoned in the Terezin ghetto. Ilan felt that his journey was fulfilling Petr’s dream from so many years ago, and even though Petr was murdered in the furnaces of Auschwitz, the mere fact that his drawing made

it to space is testimony to the triumph of his spirit. I cannot thank Drew enough for this tremendous gesture – both for the memory of the Holocaust and for the way in which both he and Ilan sought to perpetuate it.”

In his message from the International Space Station, Feustel mentioned Petr Ginz’s sister, Holocaust survivor Chava Pressburger, who lives in Israel today and who donated the original drawing by her brother to Yad Vashem. “I want



■ US astronaut Andrew “Drew” Feustel orbiting the Earth holding a facsimile copy of Petr Ginz’s “Moon Landscape”

her to know that the memory of her beloved brother will live on in the hearts and minds of people around the world forever,” said Feustel. “May the memories of Petr Ginz, astronaut Ilan Ramon and the six million victims of the Holocaust always remain in our thoughts. Yad Vashem’s commitment to Holocaust education and documentation will guarantee that we never forget those who were lost.”

the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall as part of a series of monthly public screenings of the “Yad Vashem Film Club,” as well as at various Cinematheques around Israel.

■ The winner of this year’s **national competition to design the official poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day** was Bat-El Atar, a student in the Department of Graphic Design at Emunah College in Jerusalem. Atar chose to connect

the Jewish residents of *Eretz Israel* before the establishment of the state (the *Yishuv*) with the Holocaust survivors who immigrated to the country after the war through the ultimate symbol of the State of Israel: the Star of David. In her design, the Star is cut into two halves – yellow for the survivors and blue for the *Yishuv* – that yearn to reunite and form one whole symbol. A lesson plan based on the poster was distributed to schools across Israel.

Holocaust Remembrance Day Online

Dana Porath

■ A variety of online activities and initiatives marking Holocaust Remembrance Day were made available to the public by Yad Vashem, reaching tens of thousands of people worldwide.

Mini-sites on its English, Hebrew, French, Spanish and German websites were continuously updated with resources, images and video clips. In addition, the online **Torchlighter Film Archive**, featuring the stories of all of the survivors honored over the years to light the six torches at the official state ceremony opening Holocaust Remembrance Day, was relaunched, and is now responsive on all mobile devices, allowing searches by year and by country.

The official state ceremony was broadcast live, with simultaneous translation in English, Hebrew and French, via Yad Vashem's **YouTube channels**, and received over 30,000 video views. There was also a live broadcast with simultaneous



■ Images from Yad Vashem's website and social media platforms reached thousands of people worldwide during Holocaust Remembrance Day.

translation to English of the ceremony on Yad Vashem's **Facebook page**, with 26,000 video views. Visitors from all over the world, including the United States, Sri Lanka, Scotland, India, the Netherlands, Brazil, Austria, German, Spain and Serbia, watched the broadcast and many left moving comments. The **Facebook Live** broadcast of the siren in Warsaw Ghetto Square



on the morning of Holocaust Remembrance Day counted some 10,000 video views.

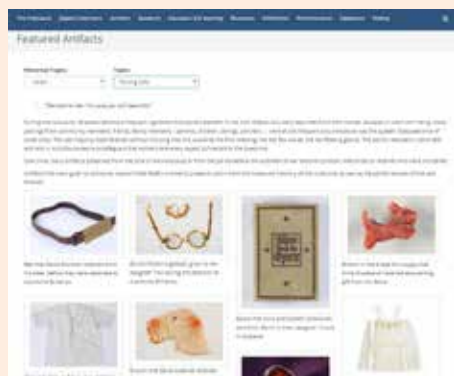
A **new online exhibition** was launched in line with this year's theme: "70 Years of Remembering and Building: Holocaust Survivors and the State of Israel." The exhibition features the portraits and short stories of 40 survivors, including celebrated author Ruth Bondy, former Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and his brother Naphtali Lau-Lavie, former Israeli Chief Justice Aaron Barak, and Yad Vashem volunteer and Rena Quint, who passionately delivers testimony regarding her experiences during the Shoah. A video trailer of the exhibition that was shared on Yad Vashem's Facebook page has registered over 80,000 views to date.

New Online: "Featured Artifacts" Iris Bar-Nir

■ The Yad Vashem website contains a wide range of pieces from the Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection, which today numbers more than 30,000 items. The artifacts tell the fate of their owners, Holocaust victims and survivors – people with names and faces.

Staff at the Artifacts Department in Yad Vashem's Museums Division work tirelessly to document the stories behind the artifacts, and these stories are regularly uploaded to the Yad Vashem website in the framework of virtual exhibitions and other sections, such as "Today in Holocaust History" and "New in the Artifacts Collection." The publication of these stories allows visitors to the website worldwide to learn about the events of the Holocaust through the artifacts preserved at Yad Vashem.

Lately, a new section has been added to the website – "Featured Artifacts" – which assembles many of these items, and the stories behind them, in one place. The section, initiated by the Communications Division's Digital Department, and built together with the Artifacts Department, gives a picture of the large range of pieces that make up the Artifacts Collection, and allows searches and filters by historical key words – such as ghettos, camps,



resistance and rescue – as well as other topics, such as children, holidays, clothes, and music.

The subject of "Women," for example, displays many items telling how women and young girls experienced and coped with the terrible events. These artifacts give testimony to the unique struggle for survival of women during the Holocaust. "Parting Gifts" brings together artifacts that were exchanged during final goodbyes. These artifacts contain both memories of loved ones and the pain of parting from them, and for those who survived, a symbol of remembrance for those who were murdered.

The author is Associate Curator in the Artifacts Department, Museums Division.

French and German websites

■ Three new blog posts have recently been added to the **website in French**: a focus on the new exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Shoah"; an interview with French Holocaust survivor Berthe Bedehi; and an overview of the different events and emotions experienced by a first-time visitor to the Yad Vashem campus on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The Online Video Testimonies Resource Center was recently launched on the **website in German**. This valuable resource aggregates over 120 video testimonies that have already been integrated into relevant contexts throughout the website, and allows the public to access them in a single location by topic.

Updates, general information and timely web content is continuously shared in Yad Vashem's social media channels in both French and German.

The author is Director of the Digital Department, Communications Division.

Educational Activities Boost Intergenerational Remembrance



Miri Bar, Merav Janou and Rinat Maagan-Ginovker

■ Approximately 1,000 participants in the Jewish Agency's "Masa" work-study programs for Jewish youth from abroad, as well as cadets from the Nachson pre-military academy, participated in various educational activities over Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018. On the evening of 11 April, participants met with Holocaust survivors, attended a workshop that encouraged discussion and debate on modern memory of the Holocaust, and then attended the official State Opening Ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square. The following day, they took part in unique activities related to that theme.



■ Holocaust survivor Yaacov Gurivitz with Masa participants at Yad Vashem

Focusing on "70 years of Remembering and Building: Holocaust Survivors and the State of Israel," Yad Vashem's official annual theme, participants took part in a workshop entitled "The Return to Life, Holocaust Survivors: From Liberation to Rehabilitation"; toured the campus to learn about how the different memorials reflect the patchwork of Holocaust memory in Israel; and sat in a panel with three Holocaust survivors, who shared their experiences of the Shoah, as well as their own return to life after the war. The day ended with a moving memorial service in the Hall of Remembrance. "Today was such a meaningful day," said one participant. "Perhaps the most significant thing was when I considered the magnitude of all we had seen, and thought of how much more there was still to see and learn about here at Yad Vashem."

Masa participants from the FSU took part in the program at Yad Vashem with the support of the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

■ Once again, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies and the Visual Communications Department at the Neri Bloomfield School of Design and Education in Haifa worked together to create "Postcards 4.0," a project meant to inspire contemporary discourse by young artists about the Holocaust and its meanings for posterity.

Both institutions have been cooperating on the joint "Postcards" project for over a decade – so named for the series of postcards designed by the students in the spirit of the chosen annual theme of Holocaust Remembrance Day. For the third year running, this year students created



■ Sham booklet created by students by students at the Bloomfield School of Design and Education

their artwork in different formats, including films, books, postcards and pictures. Every project brought a personal touch and new layers to the chosen theme.

Two projects won first place: the film *Halb Yiddish* (Lior Yeframov and Dana Zur) and a pamphlet named *Sham* (Mazal Reiblet and Adva Zalah). *Halb Yiddish* stars Genya Yeframov, a Holocaust survivor who experienced the war in the Yiddish language. In the course of her life, she did not find anyone with whom she shared her native tongue, so she has trouble speaking it nowadays. When she tries to tell her story of surviving the Holocaust in Yiddish, she mixes languages without noticing.

While working on *Sham*, the students noted that many texts about the Holocaust use the word *sham* (there) to describe it. The use of the word *sham* creates a feeling that the Holocaust is in the air, not concrete, as if it did not happen on earth, whereas every *sham* actually is concrete,

with characters, a location and time behind it. "We decided to focus on six familiar poems about the Holocaust that prominently feature the word *sham* and refrain from mentioning the place," explained Reiblet and Zalah. "For every *sham* in each poem, we gave as much historical information as possible about the story behind the location."

■ "Musical Memory" is a unique joint project for young people and Holocaust survivors who live in the same community, bringing the voice of the survivors through a contemporary prism of music. This year, the project took place in



■ Young participants in the "Musical Memory" project perform at the Rishon Lezion community center

two community centers – in Jerusalem and in Rishon Lezion in central Israel.

The young participants attended a number of meetings, some of them at Yad Vashem and some in their communities, where they studied major topics in the history of the Holocaust. They were also introduced to Holocaust survivors from Europe and North Africa, and learned about the rich cultural world of the Jewish people before the Holocaust – including the songs the survivors remembered from their youth. The survivors' stories and songs were then adapted into original musical pieces performed by the youth in community concerts as part of the programming for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The authors work in the Educational Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Kolchem Shamati

New Anthology Creates Discussion Forums on Holocaust Memory in the IDF

Leah Goldstein

■ On 9 April, in the week leading up to Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018, a daylong seminar was held at Yad Vashem for the IDF General Staff Forum, headed by IDF Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen Gadi Eizenkot. During the seminar, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented the Chief-of-Staff with *Kolchem Shamati* (I Heard Your Voices), a special anthology to be used in discussions between commanders and their soldiers on the topic of Holocaust remembrance. The anthology was initiated by the IDF's Education and Youth Corps in cooperation with Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

Kolchem Shamati includes a range of texts and songs that enable a dialogue centered on ethics and values, and raise relevant questions for IDF soldiers today, such as: What memory is engraved in your mind? Where did you first encounter the story of the Holocaust? Which of the texts in the anthology impact you directly? And how do these voices echo into the future?

Kolchem Shamati enables the participants to listen to the voices and examine the words of both victims and survivors. This unique anthology presents texts written in the midst of the Holocaust – entreaties to remember, the destruction, the human spirit, the return to life, and appeals to



■ Avner Shalev presenting the *Kolchem Shamati* anthology to IDF Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot

the generations to come – writings that open a window to understanding how Jews experienced and understood the events at the time, when they did not know what the future held for them. The texts are combined with musical performances (accessible online by scanning a QR code included in the anthology) of poems written by famous authors such as Hayim Nahman Bialik, Hannah Szenes and Leonard Cohen, which accompany the different topics of discourse. Listening to the music and reading the texts in groups creates a connection between the participants, enabling a meaningful dialogue on Holocaust memory.

“In recent years we have witnessed a new phenomenon, in which many sections of Israeli society, including the IDF, are seeking to discover

their own involvement in designing Holocaust memory,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “*Kolchem Shamati* contains a tapestry of voices, combining both written sources and Holocaust art with the legacy of the victims and the survivors. When participants come into contact with the story of the individual during the Holocaust, it is possible to create a connection to the past from which we can fill our present and future with content and meaning.”

“The Passover *Haggada* is based on the fundamental Jewish value ‘*vehigadta levincha* [and you should tell your child],’” explained IDF Chief Education Officer Brig. Gen. Yehuda (Zvika) Fairaizen. “The responsibility for transmitting the information is from parent to child, and instigates a process of building memory that is seared in both the private and collective consciousness. *Kolchem Shamati* enables our officers and soldiers to discuss and internalize these eternal Jewish values that survived the Holocaust and were central to the rebirth of the Jewish State of Israel.”

The Kolchem Shamati anthology was generously supported by the American Society for Yad Vashem and its donors, through a special campaign to further Yad Vashem's work with the IDF.

The Asper Foundation: Twenty Years of Friendship and Support

■ On 7 June, a ceremony was held marking the renewal of a twenty-year commitment to, and continuation of, the partnership between Yad Vashem and The Asper Foundation of Winnipeg, Canada.

The Asper International Holocaust Studies Program at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies was the initiative of renowned philanthropists Israel and Ruth (Babs) Asper z"l. The Asper Program was conceived in 2002 to educate the wider public about the events of the Holocaust through various multilevel educational initiatives. Developed in partnership with Yad Vashem's educational experts, the mandate of the Asper Program incorporates comprehensive professional development programs, support for Yad Vashem's international educational conferences and expert international engagement, among other



■ Left to right: Canadian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Ms. Deborah A. Lyons, Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, Asper Foundation Executive Director Moses Levy, Asper Foundation President and Trustee Gail Asper, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, International Relations Division Managing Director Shaya Ben Yehuda

facets. Tens of thousands of beneficiaries from over 70 countries have been impacted since the program's inception.

The tribute ceremony took place in the Yad Vashem Synagogue in the presence of members of The Asper Foundation, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Director General Dorit Novak and Ambassador of Canada to Israel H.E. Ms. Deborah A. Lyons. In appreciation for their continuous support, Yad Vashem presented The Asper Foundation with the “Key to Yad Vashem.”

“We are delighted that our friends and partners, David, Gail and Leonard Asper, have decided to perpetuate their bond with Yad Vashem, which is so deeply important and dear to all of us here,” said Shalev. “Twenty years of unabated support is a rare indication of steadfast commitment to the principle and practice of meaningful remembrance, and we are honored to be marking their unwavering commitment to Yad Vashem today.”

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 she has achieved since:

■ **Valerija Turk-Presečki teaches at the Gimnazija Daruvar, a comprehensive high school in Daruvar, Croatia.** A history teacher for eighteen years, she is currently studying towards her doctorate in Croatian history, with a specialization in the interwar Croatian Jewish community and the Holocaust. Her experiences with Yad Vashem and other Holocaust-related educational organizations have played a significant role in her ongoing professional development.

In July 2014, Turk-Presečki participated in a seminar for Croatian educators at Yad Vashem, which she found momentous, both professionally and personally. "As a teacher, it was a true inspiration to listen and participate in lectures and workshops that were primarily oriented towards an individual approach, which I felt is the right way to work with students on the sensitive topics we have to deal with in history class," said Turk-Presečki. "I was particularly impressed with the lectures about the roots of antisemitism, and about Holocaust-era art, poems and music."

When the school year began that fall, Turk-Presečki organized an optional weekly class about the Holocaust for interested students.



■ Graduate Valerija Turk-Presečki

during WWII, applying a contemporary approach that focused less on war brutalities and more on analyzing individual people's personal stories and testimonies," said Turk-Presečki.

The class has continued annually to this day, with the students learning to read historical documents and testimonies in order to analyze four categories of people during the Holocaust: victims, perpetrators, bystanders and rescuers. Besides her extracurricular class, Turk-Presečki has regularly led workshops organized by the Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency about Holocaust education in national and regional programs.

Additionally, she regularly takes her students on field trips to the Jasenovac Memorial, the site

Approximately 30 students between the ages of 15-18 participated the first time, exceeding her expectations for an extracurricular elective. "My objectives were to familiarize the students with the plight of Jewish people

Valerija Turk-Presečki Croatia



James Joseph McIntosh

of the largest concentration camp in Croatia, where the Croatian fascist Ustaše movement murdered thousands of Serbs, Jews, Roma and Croatian dissidents during the war. "I want them to gain as much insight as possible

The students learn to read historical documents and testimonies in order to analyze four categories of people during the Holocaust: victims, perpetrators, bystanders and rescuers

and to ensure they learn the importance of commemorating victims," she concludes. "I strongly encourage discussion about the value of human life and about personal choices – in wartime and beyond."

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

Educational Seminars Across Europe

■ **In the spring of 2018, several experts from the International School for Holocaust Studies traveled to Europe to work with educators, attend memorial ceremonies and bolster ties with partners across the continent.**

In **Budapest, Hungary**, Yiftach Meiri held a seminar for a group of British Yad Vashem graduates affiliated with the Holocaust Educational Trust. This seminar provided the participants with the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of prewar Jewish life in Hungary, study historical narratives and cultures of remembrance, visit the Budapest Holocaust Memorial Center, and meet Hungarian seminar graduates. Meiri and the seminar coordinators guided the participants through Holocaust-related sites in Budapest and delivered educational lectures and workshops.

European Department Director Richelle Budd Caplan traveled to **Skopje and Bitola, Macedonia**,

to represent Yad Vashem at commemorative ceremonies for the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the Macedonian Jewish community. Thousands of people from Macedonia and abroad attended the ceremonies, including the highest-ranking members of the political echelons of Macedonia and Bulgaria. In addition to meeting local officials and partners, Budd Caplan visited the recently opened Holocaust Memorial Center in Skopje.

While Noa Sigal conducted educational activities in partnership with the **Moldovan Ministry of Education**, Dr. Birte Hewera traveled to **Italy** to work with longstanding partners and conduct educational activities for some 220 university students and teachers at the University of Florence. She also lectured to some 200 educators at a conference in Milan with Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Director of Yad

Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. In honor of International Women's Day, the programming during the conference in Milan focused on women's experiences during the Holocaust. Following months of talks, Yad Vashem signed a joint declaration of intent with the government of the region of Lombardy and its longstanding partner Figli della Shoah.

Dr. Naama Shik, Director of the International School's e-Learning Department, worked with local partners in **Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia**. In addition to her educational activities in Belgrade and Novi Sad, Dr. Shik delivered a lecture at the Sarajevo Museum of Literature and Performing Arts. Although Yad Vashem has organized training activities for Bosnian educators for many years, this was the first time that a representative of Yad Vashem had worked with partners in the city of Sarajevo.

Extending Holocaust Education in Germany

■ In May 2018, Yad Vashem signed joint declarations of intent with the educational authorities in three German Länder (Federal States). Under German law, Länder are vested with extensive powers to set their own educational policy. Following months of contacts



■ Clockwise, from top left: Minister President of Brandenburg Dr. Dietmar Woidke, European Department Director Richelle Budd Caplan, Brandenburg Education Secretary Dr. Thomas Drescher, Yad Vashem's Director of Governmental and External Affairs Yossi Gevir

and negotiations, the educational authorities of Brandenburg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland agreed to cooperate with Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies to train future cohorts of German teachers. Yad Vashem has now signed cooperation agreements with almost all of the 16 German states. High-ranking officials from these states visited Yad Vashem in May, where they signed the agreements. Earlier in April, officials from these and other states joined some 60 participants at the Partner Meeting of the International School's European Department in Berlin.

A few months earlier, Yad Vashem hosted the first Youth Leadership Seminar for high school students from the Munich area. The goal of the program was to bring together students who are active in their home communities and schools for a weeklong seminar at the International School to learn about Jewish history, the Shoah, and issues of modern Israel. After two preparatory meetings in Munich, 25 hand-picked students participated in lectures, workshops and tours of the Yad Vashem Museum Complex and campus – exploring a range of Holocaust-related topics in



■ Students from Munich tour Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art

depth. In addition to visiting Yad Vashem, the students met with their Israeli peers, as a way to experience and learn about Israeli society and culture. Upon returning to Munich, the participants held study and discussion evenings at their schools and with their youth movements, and published articles in their local and school newspapers about their experiences.

The Youth Leadership seminar took place with the generous support of the Habermann family, and in partnership with the Bavarian Ministry of Education.

First Teacher-Training Course for Educators from Maghar

Eithan Wijler



■ For years, the International School for Holocaust Studies has held teacher-training courses for educators from across Israel. This

year, for the first time, a course was held in the village of Maghar in the northern Galilee region of the country, most of whose residents are Druze, with a minority of Christians and Muslims. The seminar was conducted in cooperation with the Supervisor of History Studies in the Druze Sector, Jihan Farhud.

The course aimed to present the subject of the Holocaust to the teachers, deepen their historical knowledge of the subject, and provide them with educational and pedagogical tools that will help them pass on this knowledge to Arabic-speaking students. In one meeting, for example, participants underwent a workshop

on *The Auschwitz Album*, part of a new Yad Vashem educational program in Arabic. The culmination of the course was held one Friday in March, when the Galilee educators came for a tour and study day at Yad Vashem – most of them for the first time. “I would like to thank Yad Vashem for the chance to learn about the Holocaust in such a fascinating, enriching and meaningful way,” said one of the participants at the end of the course. “The knowledge and tools we have acquired will help all of us to teach this important topic to our students.”

The author is Northern Region Coordinator in the Department for Teacher-Training in Israel, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Pan-European Graduate Seminar in Bulgaria

■ Under the auspices of the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the European Union, Yad Vashem coordinated a pan-European graduate seminar in May 2018. This marked the third time that Yad Vashem cooperated with the alternating presidency of the EU Council to organize seminars for graduates from across Europe.

The seminar participants convened in Sofia to discuss regional cooperation, devise practical strategies, and address challenges in Holocaust education, promoting human rights, and countering antisemitic hate crimes. Bulgarian

Deputy Foreign Minister Georg Georgiev, who visited Yad Vashem in March, addressed the participants in the opening session.

Richelle Budd Caplan, Director of the European Department of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, led a three-person delegation from the International School at the seminar. In her capacity as a member of the Israeli delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), she has worked closely with Bulgarian officials in their country's process of accession to observer status. During the seminar proceedings, Yad Vashem's

delegation showcased its new free online course on the history and current manifestations of antisemitism, and demonstrated how to use recently developed classroom resources to teach about the subject. The Bulgarian translation of the ready2print exhibition “Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible?” Yad Vashem's first educational resource in that language, debuted at this graduate seminar as well.

European Department activities are generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation, ICHEIC, the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In Search of Ladino

Restoration of Iconic Film Breathes New Life into Judeo-Spanish Culture

Mimi Ash

■ Some 525 years after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, the Spanish government recently officially recognized Ladino as a Spanish language, in an attempt to preserve the language also known as “Judeo-Spanish.”

Ladino was one of the main tools used to create, disseminate and uphold the culture of Sephardic Jews for generations. Ladino was used in daily conversation, in commerce, in prayer and in Torah study. It was the language of poetry, song and culture, serving to coalesce different ethnic groups of Jews throughout the Ottoman Empire: in the Balkans, in what was known as “Asia Minor,” throughout Europe, North Africa, the Land of Israel and other Mediterranean countries. UNESCO has recognized Ladino as a language in danger of extinction, and the number of Ladino speakers today is not known. The Knesset passed the “Law for the National Authority of Ladino Culture” in 1995, in order to cultivate and maintain the Ladino heritage. In recent years, there has been a rise in interest in Ladino throughout the academic world.

In light of these developments, in 2017 David Perlov’s *In Search of Ladino* (1981, the Israel Film Service) was restored by his daughter, filmmaker Yael Perlov, together with Liat Benhabib, Director of the Yad Vashem Visual Center. “My father was always part of the reality he described, as well as being outside of it as a witness,” says Yael Perlov. “All of his films deal with Israeli identity: rich and diverse, although somewhat lost within the Zionist melting pot.”

Israel Prizewinner David Perlov was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1930, and grew up in Sao Paulo. After arriving in Israel in 1958, he created short documentary films, including *In Jerusalem* (1963), a milestone in Israeli documentary filmmaking. While serving as one of the founders of the Film Department at Tel Aviv University, Perlov began shooting his monumental personal and political cinematic work, *Diary*, beginning with the Yom Kippur War, and continuing for 30 years. Other important documentaries by Perlov are *In Thy Blood Live* (1962), the first Israeli documentary about the Holocaust produced by the Israel Film Service, and *Memories of the Eichmann Trial* (1979), produced by the Israel Broadcasting Authority and restored by Yad Vashem’s Visual Center in 2011.



■ From David Perlov’s *In Search of Ladino*

David Perlov chose to linger with the stories of the Greek survivors at a time when mainstream Israeli society was not particularly interested in stories of Holocaust survivors from the Balkans or North Africa

In Search of Ladino was meant to be the first in a trilogy about Jewish languages: Ladino, Hebrew and Yiddish. However, the other two films were never made. The film looks directly into the faces of its protagonists, while listening to their language, poetry and music. Although it is a film about a language that is disappearing, *In Search of Ladino* is not an elegy, but is full of optimism.

For Benhabib, as the daughter of a Sephardic family with roots in Rhodes, among other places, the forgotten story of this community and the documentation of the texture of life, which is its legacy, is “always magical. *In Search of Ladino* was completed in 1981, four years before Lanzmann’s *Shoah*,” she recalls. “For the first time in film, Perlov documented eyewitness testimonies of Greek survivors, placing them at the center of the frame.”

In the middle of the film, Perlov declares, “We stopped and listened to testimonies. We had to.” Perlov chose to linger with the stories of the Greek survivors at a time when mainstream Israeli society was not particularly interested in stories of Holocaust survivors from the Balkans or North Africa.

“Perlov’s films deal with the ways in which memory determines our consciousness and defines our identity,” continues Benhabib. “His point of view is always one of self-reflection. He tells a story of what happened ‘then and there,’ while trying to look at the ‘here and now.’ In this way, Perlov’s films about the Holocaust, as early as they are, belong to a genre referred to as ‘third generation.’ What defines such films is that they are about identity and memory.” Adds Yael Perlov, “We can only hope that the founding of the Academy for Ladino in Spain under the auspices of the Spanish government will heighten this interest, and breathe new life into Ladino culture.”

In Search of Ladino had its pre-premiere showing on 11 March 2018 at Yad Vashem in front of a packed audience in the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, in the presence of Yael Perlov and Liat Benhabib, and with a moving performance by Judeo-Spanish singer Kohava Levy. The film was also screened on 14 March at the Thessaloniki International Documentary Film Festival, on 16 March at the Israeli Film Festival in Paris, and on 25 May at a premiere at the Docaviv International Documentary Film Festival in Tel Aviv.

The author is Film Acquisitions and Research Coordinator, Visual Center.

From Rescued to Rescuer

Holocaust Survivor Takes Part in Two Rescue Missions

Leah Goldstein

■ For almost three years until the end of the WWII, Harry Klausner was hidden with his sister Ruth at the home of Oepke Haitsma and Jitske Haitsma-Tiesma in Zeist, near Utrecht in the Netherlands. The Haitsmas' children could not bring home friends, lest the existence of the secret guests be revealed, and Harry and Ruth were not allowed to play outside. With neither books nor toys, all Harry could do was look out of the attic window at the Allied planes passing over the houses on their way to bomb Germany. "As I watched the airplanes flying over," Harry recalled many years later, "I became captivated by the aircrafts, and decided that I would become a pilot."

The child whose life had been saved by the courageous Dutch couple during the Holocaust now became the rescuer of others

After liberation, Rosa Klausner, who had been hidden in Utrecht, reunited with her children and they immigrated to Israel. Harry changed his name to Arie Oz, and fulfilled his childhood dream by enlisting in the Israel Air Force and becoming a pilot.

When Oz's son had his bar mitzvah, he invited the Haitsmas to attend the celebration,

and together with his mother turned to Yad Vashem to have his rescuers' heroic wartime acts formally documented. On 30 May 1976, Yad Vashem recognized Oepke Haitsma and his wife, Jitske Haitsma-Tiesma, as Righteous Among the Nations, and a tree was planted in their honor on the Mount of Remembrance in June of that year.

A month later, on 4 July 1976, during Operation Thunderbolt (later named Operation Yonatan), Oz flew one of the Israeli C-130 aircrafts to Entebbe in the now-famous hostage rescue mission carried out by commandos of the Israel Defense Forces. The child whose life had been saved by the courageous Dutch couple during the Holocaust now became the rescuer of others – and his story was still not complete.

In May 1991, Oz flew an El Al Boeing 747 during Operation Solomon, a covert Israeli operation to airlift Ethiopian Jews to Israel, when 35 Israeli aircraft brought 14,325 Ethiopian Jews to Israel within 36 hours. Arie Oz was recently honored to participate in the seminar for senior IDF staff at Yad Vashem to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day (see p. 10).



■ Survivor Arie Oz in his Israeli Air Force pilot uniform. Yad Vashem Archives

"This story of rescue – both of the survivor and by the survivor – is a truly wonderful example of how one good deed can lead to many more," said Irena Steinfeldt, Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department at Yad Vashem. "Recently we honored another couple as Righteous Among the Nations, Henri and Emilie Lamberty from Belgium, who



■ Jacqueline Lamberty receiving the certificate and medal of honor on behalf of her late parents, Righteous Among the Nations Henri and Emilie Lamberty, from Righteous Commission Delegation member Jacky Offen

saved a five-year-old Jewish boy, Georges Gutelman, during the Shoah. Many decades later, Georges himself provided the Israeli authorities with planes from his own airline company to rescue thousands of Ethiopian Jews stranded in Sudan. These stories are so moving and inspirational."

New Director of Righteous Among the Nations Department

■ At the beginning of June, Dr. Joel Zisenwine was appointed the new Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department at Yad Vashem, replacing Irena Steinfeldt, who held the position for over ten years until retirement.

Before joining Yad Vashem, Steinfeldt worked with French filmmaker Claude Lanzmann on the documentary *Shoah*. She joined Yad Vashem in 1994, working at the International School for Holocaust Studies, where she developed educational materials, coordinated seminars for educators from abroad, lectured on Holocaust education and

participated in international workshops and conferences. From 2001 to 2007 she served as Executive Assistant of the Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. In March 2007, she was appointed Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department, where she was responsible for the research of rescue cases, the coordination of the work of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, and the Department's outreach programs, including the creation of an online database of the Righteous Among the Nations which was launched in 2009.

Dr. Zisenwine has worked at Yad Vashem in many capacities, first as a guide and course creator at the International School for Holocaust Studies, and from 2008 as Director of the Deportations Database research project at the International Institute for Holocaust Research (see pp. 16-17). "Like many other areas of Holocaust research and commemorations, we are in a race against time," he explains. "There is no doubt that our main challenge is to record and commemorate the actions of as many rescuers as possible, for as long as survivors, or their families, are able to provide us with testimony."

“A Champion of Life”

Commemorative Israeli Citizenship Conferred Upon Italian Righteous Gino Bartali

Leah Goldstein



■ Israel Cycling Academy cyclists participating in the Giro championship ending their Memorial Ride through Yad Vashem in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations

■ On 2 May 2018, as part of the events leading up to the Giro d'Italia Cycling Race's "Big Start," Yad Vashem hosted participants of the Israel Cycling Academy and leadership of the Giro d'Italia at an event posthumously bestowing Commemorative Citizenship of the State of Israel on Righteous Among the Nations Gino Bartali.

Cyclists from the Giro d'Italia participated in a Memorial Ride through Yad Vashem's campus, concluding in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations. There, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented the certificate of Commemorative Citizenship to Gioia Bartali, granddaughter of Gino Bartali, in the presence of Italian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Gianluigi Benedetti and Honorary President of Giro d'Italia Big Start Sylvan Adams. Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt moderated the event.

Born in Florence in 1914, Gino Bartali was a champion road cyclist who won the Giro d'Italia multistage race three times (in 1936, 1937 and 1946) and the Tour de France twice (in 1938 and 1948). Owing to his remarkable accomplishments in sports, he became a popular and widely admired national hero.

According to Gino's son, Andrea Bartali, Archbishop Elia Angelo Dalla Costa (recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 2012) had performed the marriage ceremony of his parents and maintained a close relationship with his father, a devout Catholic. Following the German occupation of Italy in September 1943,

Bartali, who was a courier for the resistance, came to play a role in the rescue of Jews within the framework of the network initiated by Rabbi Nathan Cassuto

Bartali, who was a courier for the resistance, came to play a role in the rescue of Jews within the framework of the network initiated by Rabbi Nathan Cassuto, who was later joined by Dalla Costa.

Bartali was known to cover large distances with his bicycle for training purposes, and transferred counterfeit documents from one place to another, sometimes across great distances. He also distributed forged documents produced by the Assisi network, another rescue operation initiated by clergy in that town.

A number of Holocaust survivors, including Giulia Baquis, Shlomo Goldenberg-Paz, and Goldenberg-Paz's cousin Aurelio Klein, gave testimony to Yad Vashem regarding Bartali's wartime rescue efforts. After the war, however, Bartali refused to speak of his underground work during the German occupation, and many of his courageous endeavors remain unknown. Nevertheless, Sara Corcos, who worked for the CDEC (Jewish Contemporary Documentation

Center) in Milan, told her niece, Shoshana Evron, daughter of Rabbi Cassuto, that she had met Gino Bartali after the war. He emphatically refused to be interviewed, saying that he had been motivated by his conscience and therefore did not want to have his activity documented. Only when Corcos told him that she was related to the family of Rabbi Cassuto did a deeply moved Bartali agree to speak, on condition that she would not record him. In the conversation that followed, Bartali told Corcos about the forged documents and about his role in distributing them.

In 2013, Yad Vashem posthumously recognized Gino Bartali as Righteous Among the Nations for his courageous actions in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. His name is engraved on the Wall



■ Avner Shalev presenting Gioia Bartali with a certificate of Commemorative Citizenship of the State of Israel for her late grandfather, Righteous Among the Nations Gino Bartali

of Honor in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations on the Mount of Remembrance.

At the 2018 ceremony, Avner Shalev recalled Gino Bartali's motivation to "do the right thing even against the majority," making the story "so relevant to us today. We will continue to be inspired by his story and remember it for generations to come."

Sylvan Adams called Bartali "the greatest cyclist of his era, but he was an even greater human being. The entire Giro this year is dedicated to the memory of Gino Bartali – an Italian hero, a hero of the Jewish people, and a hero of mankind."

Gioia Bartali, who had lost her father earlier this year, said she was standing in Yad Vashem today "as Gino's granddaughter, bringing testimony of his heroic actions... My grandfather was a great champion of sport," she stated, "but today he will be remembered as a champion of life."

“Transports to Extinction”

A Decade of Research into Deportations during WWII

■ In August 1941, some fifty Jewish young women were arrested in Klodawa, located in the area of Wartheland (a region in western Poland that was annexed to the German Reich), and were deported on a train made of cattle cars. They spent two days traveling approximately 100 kilometers to the Grüntal labor camp. Upon arrival, the women spent nearly two years performing forced agricultural labor. They were later transferred to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

On 2 March 1943, the medical staff and patients of the Jewish hospital in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, were put on a transport that left the Westerbork transit camp. According to eyewitness testimony from a survivor of the Sobibor extermination camp, upon arrival they were led directly to the gas chambers and murdered.

On 23 July 1944, some six weeks after the Allies landed on the shores of France and the military defeat of Nazi Germany seemed likely, several ships left the Mediterranean islands of Rhodes and Kos with Jewish islanders aboard. Along the way, one of the ships docked in Kalymnos, where, according to the testimony of one of the deportees, a single Jewish woman was brought aboard, and then the ship resumed its course for Athens. Afterwards, the deportees went on to Auschwitz-Birkenau by train.

These three cases are taken from Yad Vashem's online research project “Transports to Extinction: Shoah (Holocaust) Deportations Database.” Together, they present the implementation of the Nazi policy between 1939-1945 to deport and exterminate millions of European Jews, including the sick and infirm, as well as the sole Jewish inhabitants of various places. Without the ability to ship millions of Jews from across the continent to the extermination camps, particularly by means of Europe's widespread railroads and network of rail track, but also by way of other forms of transportation, it probably would not have been possible to carry out the extermination at its scale and pace.

Over the years, several studies of the Nazi deportation mechanisms have been conducted, mostly with a restricted scope that focuses on the deportation of Jews from a particular city or country as part of research on the Holocaust



■ Jews assemble at the train station in Hanau, Germany, awaiting deportation, 30 May 1942. Yad Vashem Archives

at the regional or national level. Since 2007, the International Institute for Holocaust Research has been conducting a large-scale and comprehensive study of the transports that departed from locations throughout Nazi-occupied Europe. The research presents a wider picture: The transports were a

The combination of many documents helps provide a broad overview of the transports, while shedding light on the terrifying experience of the individual

pan-European phenomenon. They were organized locations throughout the continent, including in major cities in Western Europe, and even from islands in the Mediterranean Sea – places that the general public does not always identify with the Holocaust in Europe. Often in full view, groups of Jews were marched or sent on their way to the local train stations. Trains and other transports packed with Jews traveled to the extermination camps via the European rail network. As mentioned above, the Germans used various means of transportation, such as the boats that transferred the Jews of Rhodes and Kos to Athens.

Reliance on various kinds of documentation – lists, testimonies, diaries, and more – enables researchers to attempt to reconstruct this key phase of the Holocaust. The combination of many documents helps provide a broad overview of the transports, while shedding light on the terrifying experience of the individual. Various types of documentation provided information also about the stages that preceded the actual deportation – concentrating the Jews, confiscating their property, etc. – as well as the identities of the figures involved in organizing the transport on the local level.

Over the past decade, wide-ranging descriptions of over 1,200 Holocaust-era deportations have been uploaded to the Database, most of them from places of origin in Western and Central Europe. The descriptions refer to deportations that departed from the greater German Reich (Germany within its old borders, Austria, and the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia), Luxembourg, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Greece (including the Aegean Islands). Similar to other projects conducted by the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, the presentation of the information in three languages on the Yad Vashem website has made the research accessible to a global audience.

Two years ago, a new phase of the research began with the study of the deportations from countries in Eastern Europe. This constitutes

Dr. Joel Zisenwine

a substantial challenge due to the difficulty in locating primary sources, as well as the violent character of the Nazi occupation in these regions, which sometimes has posed an impediment to identifying transports. To date, the details of approximately 100 deportations from the Wartheland have been uploaded to the Deportations Database. Some of the deportations involved moving Jews from towns and villages to ghettos established in the territory starting in the fall and winter of 1939, whereas others sent Jews to the Generalgouvernement, as part of the demographic policy that aimed to expel the territory's Jewish and Polish population and resettle it with ethnic Germans. At a later stage, in December 1941, the Jews of the Wartheland, including those living in the Lodz ghetto, began to be deported to the Chelmino extermination camp. In some cases, transports left relatively



small areas as early as the first months of the occupation. That has made it possible to track the gradually exacerbated circumstances and ultimate destruction of the Jewish civilization that had existed for centuries in rural areas and small cities.

Over the next few years, Yad Vashem intends to continue its in-depth research into transports that departed from other areas of Poland and other countries, such as Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The addition of transports from these regions will provide a more comprehensive picture of Holocaust-era deportations.

The Holocaust Deportations Database Project is made possible through the generous support of the Claims Conference, the Samson Foundation, the Estate of Isaac Jacques Cohen of France, Survivor from Salonika, and the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF).

The author is the former Director of the Holocaust Deportations Database Project, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Prof. Bankier Annual Memorial Program: The Phenomenon of “Bystanders”



■ Studying “bystander society” is essential to understanding the Holocaust. On 26 February 2018, at Yad Vashem’s annual program in memory of former Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Prof. David Bankier z”l, Prof. Mary Fulbrook (University College London) delivered a lecture on the topic, entitled “Bystanders to Nazi Violence? The Transformation of German Society in the 1930s.”

How was it possible to rally the masses to take part in deeds that can be defined as acts of perpetration?

One of the questions that interests Prof. Fulbrook is how German society became a bystander society in such a short amount of time. How was it possible to rally the masses to take part in deeds that can be defined as “acts of perpetration?” She proposed rethinking the concept of who a “perpetrator” is; historians and researchers are accustomed to attributing this term only to murderers standing over the killing pits, but the term actually includes additional circles of people who took part in operating the systems of repression and persecution, such as forced labor, camps, and more.

Prof. Fulbrook’s research seeks to examine the changes undergone by German society from 1933-1939. She emphasized that the foundation to understanding this does not lie in antisemitism as an exclusive or central factor, but that the academic community must examine additional

features, such as structural changes that apply in the short term and the ensuing changes in individuals’ everyday lives, exemplified by Prof. Bankier’s important research into public opinion. In her research, she has also made use of personal material in order to investigate changes that applied in relation to feelings toward Jews. The factor of time is vital, and the variable context of state-sponsored violence indubitably facilitated a change in individuals’ reactions to contemporaneous events. In this context, Prof. Fulbrook touched on the issue of the roots of passivity and being a bystander, roots that include indifference and inaction.

During the second half of the day, Prof. Fulbrook moderated a workshop for doctoral candidates. She began with a methodological

Prof. Fulbrook touched on the issue of the roots of passivity and being a bystander, roots that include indifference and inaction

discussion of some of the documents she presented, and then two Israeli doctoral candidates, Ruth Landau and Tehila Darmon Malka, presented their research and received feedback from the visiting lecturer and the rest of the fellows who participated in the workshop.

Once again, this year’s annual program elicited great interest from participating researchers, fellows and members of the public.

The Right to Claim

Jewish Successor Organizations in the Aftermath of the Shoah

Leah Goldstein

■ In 1947, the American administration established so-called “successor” organizations to institute proceedings in the American and British occupation zones in Germany for the restitution of heirless property from murdered persons as well as from dissolved organizations persecuted on racial grounds under the Nazi regime. Scholarly work on successor organizations is in its infancy. Recently, the Diana and Eli Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research organized a symposium on the topic, which aimed to encourage additional research and discussion on this key issue of the early postwar period.



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■ Jakob Altmaier with Chancellor Konrad Adenauer at the signing of the reparations agreement between Israel and Germany.

The scholars who presented during this symposium are examining the work of these successor organizations and their impact on history and memory. Prof. Daniel Siemens (Newcastle University, UK) is researching the organizational history of the United Restitution Organisation (URO) from its beginnings in London in the late 1940s to its closure in the first decade of the twenty-first century. The goal of the URO, a Jewish legal aid organization, was to enforce (and actually also create) legal rights for ex-German Jewish victims of Nazi terror who lived outside Germany. Within only a decade after its inception, the URO grew into the biggest NGO of its kind, with 29 bureaus in 15 countries, some of them located in South America, South Africa, Shanghai and in Australia. According to its own statements, the URO employed at times more than 1,200 members of staff, helping more than 250,000



people in about 370,000 cases by the end of the 1960s. It is not yet known how many legal cases the URO looked after overall, yet Prof. Siemens estimates that the URO helped its applicants claim a remarkable total of more than 700 million dollars by 1969. Jewish refugees living in Israel received one-third of this amount, a considerable sum that certainly helped many “yekkes” make a living in Israel.

The role of émigré/migrant lawyers as carriers of new legal tools, lobbying strategies and intellectual styles in the prewar and postwar context was examined by Prof. Annette

Prof. Siemens estimates that the URO helped its applicants claim a remarkable total of more than 700 million dollars by 1969

Weinke (Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany). Although the work of Jewish groups and individuals soon became marginalized, partially because of the rapidly declining vitality of postwar legal internationalism, Prof. Weinke argued that their engagement nevertheless remained crucial for the renovation of international humanitarian law under the auspices of the United Nations. By framing certain international problems in the language of international law and human rights, they fostered the rapid transformation and modernization of international humanitarianism.

Prof. Jose Brunner (Tel Aviv University) expertly outlined the development of the the

Israeli “Disabled by Nazi Persecution Law – 1957,” which entitled Holocaust survivors to compensation for health damages inflicted by Nazi persecution. However, instead of detailing in a straightforward manner who was entitled to compensation, the first paragraph of the law refers in vague terms to a letter that became part of an agreement reached by Germany and Israel in Luxembourg in September 1952. Prof. Brunner claims that rather than compensating Israeli Holocaust survivors for health damages inflicted by National Socialist persecution, the law in fact compensates Israeli Holocaust survivors for the denial of their right to claim such compensation from Germany. Israel denied its citizens this right in the above-mentioned letter, which Foreign Minister Sharett submitted to Germany. “By tying the right to compensation in Israel to a right that Holocaust survivors could have claimed in Germany, German legal decisions became decisive for compensation claims made in Israel,” explained Prof. Brunner.

“Besides providing scholars with materials through which to reconstruct the organizational and institutional history of these organizations, important archival collections include many personal files, which reveal the social history of the survivors as well of their lives before persecution,” summarized Dr. Sharon Kangisser-Cohen, Director of the Zborowski Center. “In addition, studying these organizations can also reveal the dynamics and mechanics of restitution in the immediate postwar period, and compare it to practices and systems operating today and even within other contexts of contemporary genocide.”

The symposium was supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Myths and Facts: New Research on the Holocaust in Poland

Dr. David Silberklang

■ *“The children are in a state of true panic.”*

Polish kitchen worker Anna Górska, on the grenade attack on the Jewish orphanage in Rabka, 12 August 1945

“A country that does not remember its heroes and does not honor them is without honor.”

President Andrzej Duda, commemorating anti-Communist Polish underground fighters, 1 March 2017

These two quotations reference the same Polish people – the anti-Communist freedom fighters, some of whom were also murderers of Holocaust survivors. They also serve as bookends to the article by Karolina Panz on the murder of Jewish Holocaust survivors in the Zakopane region of southern Poland by honored Polish heroes in the first postwar years. Panz’s article is one of six – four research and two review – articles on the Holocaust in Poland highlighted in the new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (46:1).

Four of the articles address local attitudes toward Jews from the early war period through the war and the “Final Solution,” and into the first postwar years in Poland. Together these articles paint a grim picture that also fits the larger context of local attitudes in various other countries and regions in Europe. Two articles address myths regarding specific figures: the large numbers and widespread impact of the “Diamant Network,” a group of Jewish Gestapo informers in Kraków, is covered by Alicja Jarkowska-

Natkaniec; while Panz details the heroism of the Polish Underground AK and postwar anti-Communist freedom fighter Józef Kuraś, known as “Ogień,” and his armed underground units. Both myths turn out to be skewed and inaccurate. Whereas Polish underground sources fed a popular belief that lent the Diamant Network mythic numbers, arms and influence in harming the local Polish underground, in fact it was a weak, loose group of no more than twenty people with little effect. In contrast, ethnic Polish informers in the same area who might have harmed the Polish underground numbered in the many hundreds. And whereas Józef Kuraś might have been a national hero as a freedom fighter in the wartime AK and the postwar anti-Communist resistance, it turns out that he was also a mass murderer of Jewish survivors, including children in orphanages in southern Poland.

Many Jews felt betrayed by their Polish neighbors and compatriots from early in the German occupation. Monika Rice details how the “honeymoon” at the beginning of the war was quickly replaced by the much starker reality of Polish indifference, growing hostility and satisfaction at the process of the elimination of Jews from the Polish landscape, or even willful participation in that elimination. Add to all the above the aversion and hostility that isolated survivors, permeated their daily lives and enabled and legitimized violence in postwar Radom –

as detailed by Anna Cichopek-Gajraj on Lukasz Krzyżanowski’s book – and in many other places, and Polish attitudes toward Jews in wartime and postwar Poland emerge as often hostile and violent.

Two articles examine other aspects of the Holocaust in Poland: Eliyana R. Adler and Natalia Aleksiu discuss Jews’ decision-making in 1939 regarding fleeing to the USSR, in which family relations played a central role; and Stephan Lehnstaedt writes a review of two overviews of the German Generalgouvernement in Poland by Dariusz Libionka and Martin Winstone.

The articles in this issue grapple with difficult, fundamental issues from the Holocaust. And with regard to local attitudes toward Jews in Poland and elsewhere, they suggest that perhaps the concepts of “remembering” and “honor” require further consideration.

The publication of this volume was made possible through the generous support of 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.



The Jewish Underground Press in Warsaw Volume One: May 1940-January 1941

■ *Brothers and sisters! From behind the ghetto walls, we call to you: Have courage!*

Fascism is fighting its final battle, each [day] its demise draws closer! [...] Let us create an atmosphere of brotherhood, integrity, and justice – a warm, friendly environment [...] This we know: Man can only obtain these things in a regime that is just – this is the only regime that can restore humanity to the human race.

Iton Hatenua, December 1940-January 1941

The Jewish underground press in Warsaw under the Nazi occupation was a tangible expression of the momentum of the political-underground enterprise. Almost all of the dozens of newspapers and pamphlets written in Yiddish, Polish, and Hebrew that were circulated in secret among the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto were produced by a wide range of political organizations and youth movements – communist, socialist and Zionist, such as the Bund, Hashomer Hatzair, Dror-Hechalutz and Betar.

The different underground newspapers dealt with major issues of communal and ideological significance. They presented descriptions of life in the ghetto; attitudes towards the Judenrat and its institutions; analyses of the nature of the war; and the Land of Israel and the future of the Jewish nation. They also addressed practical concerns of ghetto life such as welfare and mutual assistance, and publicized news of the fate of the Jews as it trickled in through the ghetto walls. The differences in outlooks and ideological positions reflected in these papers were essentially the continuation of the prewar political platforms of each group, adapted to echo the new circumstances.

The translation of *The Jewish Underground Press in Warsaw*, first published in Hebrew by Yad Vashem in six volumes between the years 1979-1997, and now introduced to the English reader, reveals an astonishing breadth of historical knowledge. This first volume deals with

the period from May 1940-January 1941.

In the midst of all the distress, famine and death, the editors of the youth movements found a place to write essays on Marxist-Zionist Ber Borochov; to mark memorial days in honor of Hebrew/Yiddish authors Hayim Nahman Bialik and Mendele Mocher Sforim; to present a historical survey of the history of the ghetto over the centuries; and to plan for the future of the Jews after the war. The writings presented here are relevant not only to the specific time period, but also encompass topics that go way beyond their timeframe and remain fresh and relevant today.

The Jewish Underground Press in Warsaw: Hebrew Edition Editor: Joseph Kermish ז"ל; English Edition Editor: Tikva Fatal-Knaani.



Leah Goldstein

To order these and other Yad Vashem publications: Tel. 972-2-6443511, Fax 972-2-6443509, publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il
Or purchase through our online store: www.yadvashem.org

Giving Testimony as a Vocation

Holocaust Researchers Meet Rabbi Yehoshua Eibshitz Marta Marzańska Mishani

■ Towards the end of November 1941, during the days of the *Aktion* in the Koźminek ghetto in the Wartheland when the Nazis murdered most of the Jewish population in gas vans, Avigdor Boym, a member of the ghetto's Judenrat, said to Yehoshua Eibshitz: "I knew this would happen... Don't forget to tell about these things, so that people will know what happened in our town."

"There were no good or bad people. The Holocaust either turned you into a beast or into a human being."

Rabbi Yehoshua Eibshitz

For decades, Rabbi Yehoshua Eibshitz, a leading Orthodox Holocaust researcher and a Holocaust survivor, has kept his promise, and has given testimonies about the Koźminek ghetto, his wanderings between small towns in Poland during WWII, and his incarceration in a forced labor camp in Schwenningen, in the prison of the Łódź ghetto and in the Hasag Warta camp in Częstochowa. Now 102 years old, Rabbi Eibshitz has made telling what happened to the Jewish people his vocation. A self-educated historian, his is a unique voice in Holocaust research – by choosing to focus on what had previously been considered marginal.

In recent months, with the assistance of Holocaust scholar Esther Farbstein, Rabbi Eibshitz was invited to share his insights and testimonies the scholars of Yad Vashem in a series of talks organized by the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. One aspect of his unique contribution to the field of Holocaust research was his focus on the religious communities, a subject about which he has written extensively. During the first meeting in the series, Rabbi Eibshitz spoke to Farbstein and Prof. Havi Dreifuss, Director of the Polish Research Center, about his acquaintance with Rabbi Meir Shapiro from Yeshivat Hachmei Lublin, Warsaw ghetto rabbi Shimon Huberband, and the author Yechiel Feiner (Ka-Tzetnik). He



■ Rabbi Yehoshua Eibshitz: "We are a people of memory."

told of an argument with his cousin, YIVO Chief Archivist Isaiah Trunk, and the fact that, when he came to search for material at Yad Vashem some decades ago, he found no "sparks of light," nothing that would tell a positive story of Jewish faith, or of Judaism in general. When asked what the young scholars should focus

During his career as a historian, Rabbi Eibshitz also contributed significantly to what was at the time a largely uncharted area of Holocaust research – Jewish women during the Shoah

on nowadays, he replied, "Jewish life before the war." "There were no good or bad people. The Holocaust either turned you into a beast or into a human being," Rabbi Eibshitz told Prof. Nathan Cohen in one of the powerful moments of the second meeting, devoted to that very topic.

During his career as a historian, Rabbi Eibshitz also contributed significantly to what was at the time a largely uncharted area of Holocaust research – Jewish women during the Shoah. During the third meeting, he told Prof. Dalia Ofer that the idea to deal with the topic came to him after hearing his wife's stories and following a meeting with a Holocaust

survivor, who told him one afternoon, in a train station coffee shop, about the torture she went through as a teenage girl in Auschwitz. After this meeting, Rabbi Eibshitz decided to collect and publish the testimonies of women during the Holocaust. The result of this enterprise was his seven-volume work *The Woman in the Holocaust* (Heb., 1987) one of the first works on the subject in the Holocaust historiography.

The final meeting with Rabbi Eibshitz took place in May 2018. "There was never a static situation. Things changed in each place from one day to another, from hour to hour; from month to month," Rabbi Eibshitz explained to Yad Vashem Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang, as they talked about the small towns in Poland during the WWII. When asked about the significance of Judaism during the Holocaust, he replied: "It was permitted to eat bread [on Passover], and even to make a blessing over it. It was permitted! 'You shall live by them! [the commandment to choose life over most prohibitions]' But people woke up [and kept the prohibition of eating bread on Passover]. It was a revolt! If that isn't a revolt, what is?!"

Finally, when asked for advice for young researchers, Rabbi Eibshitz concluded: "The message is that we must remember, we must never forget. We are a people of memory, we exist for memory's sake; we are commanded to remember."

The series of meetings with Rabbi Yehoshua Eibshitz were generously supported by the Aharon Gutwirth Fund and Danek Gertner Yad Vashem Scholarship.

The author is a researcher and Coordinator of the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

During February–June 2018, Yad Vashem conducted 280 guided tours for more than 4,200 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors, mayors, NGO officials, law enforcement chiefs and sports and media personalities. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ On 10 June, **Austrian Chancellor H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz** toured the Mount of Remembrance, accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. Following a behind-the-scenes tour of Yad Vashem's Archives, a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, and a visit to the Children's Memorial, Chancellor Kurz and Chairman Shalev signed an Agreement of Principle in Janusz Korczak Square, ensuring document exchange and access between Yad Vashem and the Austrian State Archives and Mauthausen Memorial.



"We Austrians know that we are responsible for our own history," said the Chancellor. "It is our duty and obligation to ensure that the Shoah will never happen again and that my generation and succeeding generations will never forget these horrific crimes." Chancellor Kurz also announced that the Republic of Austria will contribute to the establishment of the new Shoah Heritage Collections Center at Yad Vashem, providing additional storage and preservation labs for Holocaust-era artifacts, artwork and documentation in the Yad Vashem Collections.

Chairman Shalev presented the Chancellor with a facsimile copy of 99 works of art depicting scenes from the Bible created by Holocaust victim Carol Deutsch for his infant daughter Ingrid in Nazi-occupied Antwerp in 1941.

In the presence of the Chancellor, **Austrian Minister of Education Heinz Faßmann** signed an extension to an educational agreement between Yad Vashem and the Austrian Ministry of Education, which will allow hundreds of Austrian teachers to visit Yad Vashem for yearly educational seminars.

The Chancellor and his entourage completed their visit in Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities.

■ During his tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 21 March, **Bulgarian President H.E. Mr. Rumen Georgiev Radev** (right) presented Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt (left) with four photos of Bulgarian Righteous Among the Nations.



■ On 26 March, **French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian** visited Yad Vashem.



■ On 27 February, **Brazilian Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes** visited the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations to view the plaques dedicated to Brazilian Righteous diplomats Aracy De Carvalho and Luiz Martins de Souza Dantas.



■ **Tanzanian Foreign Minister Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga** took in the panoramic view at the end of the Holocaust History Museum on 10 May.



■ On 17 May, **President of Panama H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Varela** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Romanian Prime Minister H.E. Ms. Viorica Dancila** (left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 25 April by Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram (right).



■ **Senegalese Foreign Minister Sidiki Kaba** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 28 March.



■ **Foreign Minister of Guatemala Sandra Erica Jovel Polanco** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 13 May.



Online Course on Antisemitism Featured at Global Forum

■ Yad Vashem's new free online course "Antisemitism: From Its Origins Until the Present," which was launched on the UK's FutureLearn digital platform in March 2018, was recently highlighted at this year's Sixth Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism. The 1,000 delegates from around the world were able to view highlights from the course, which was shown on a continuous loop throughout the three-day meeting, and hear more about its content from Dr. Naama Shik, Director of the e-Learning Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, and Shani Lourie, Head of the International School's Pedagogy Section. Lourie spoke about helping teachers understand why addressing antisemitism



■ Participants at the Global Forum on Antisemitism hear about Yad Vashem's new online course, *Antisemitism: From Its Origins Until the Present*



is so important today, and Dr. Shik showed how through a well-thought-out internet course, many thousands of people can be reached, especially in places around the world where Yad Vashem does not or cannot have a physical presence.

The list of illustrious speakers at the Forum, which took place in Jerusalem's International Convention Center, included Jewish leaders from Israel, Europe and the United States. In addition, Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious leaders addressed the full plenary, as did the President of Bulgaria, and the actor Mayim Bialik.

The program also included "breakout sessions" on a number of subjects, at which Yad Vashem was well represented. Director of Governmental and External Affairs Yossi Gevir was a panelist in the session about IHRA and the working definition of antisemitism. Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat chaired the session dealing with the conference on

antisemitism held recently in Vienna. Chairing the session on countering antisemitism through e-learning was Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Department Dr. Robert Rozett. Each of the presenters pointed out that they were responding to a need to tackle antisemitism that was "churning from below."

For more information on "Antisemitism: From Its Origins Until the Present":
www.yadvashem.org/education/online-courses
 or www.futurelearn.com/courses

The educational program, "Antisemitism: From Its Origins Until the Present" and its accompanying online course are generously supported in part by the Philigence Foundation, chaired by David Wollach (Switzerland).

NEW BENEFACTORS

Honoring Their Parents: The Werber Family



■ Bracha, Martin and David Werber

■ In a recent moving ceremony, new Yad Vashem Benefactors David and Ellie Werber, and Martin and Bracha Werber, both of New York, pledged their generous support of the Jewish World Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Martin and David's father Jack Werber was sent to Buchenwald, supposedly for being a

"communist," at the beginning of the war. His wife and daughter were murdered during his incarceration in the camp, and in his book, *Saving Children*, Jack describes how he lost his motivation to live when he learned about their murder. Shortly afterwards, 600 children arrived at the camp and Jack, who belonged to the camp's underground, joined forces to save the children.

Jack survived the Holocaust and married Millie. Born in Radom, Millie had survived the city's ghetto, Auschwitz, and a death march. Millie and Jack immigrated to the United States, where they had two sons, David and Martin. Millie's story was beautifully told in her book *Two Rings*. In 2017, the Werber family envisioned helping to secure Holocaust knowledge for future generations by supporting the Jewish World Department, in memory of their parents, Millie and Jack Werber z"l, Michael and Rosa

Preis z"l (Ellie's parents), and Moshe and Leah Gottfried z"l (Bracha's parents), all of whom were Holocaust survivors.

"For our family, the first commandment of the Shoah is to remember. The second is to take action," said Martin Werber at the April 2018 dedication ceremony. "We must follow up on our understanding of the lessons of the Holocaust and act upon them. I am grateful for all that my parents gave me, and for my children, who embody the values and traditions we instilled in them... Remembering is important, but it is only the first step. We need to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people and the transmittal of our values, culture and traditions to future generations. We hope that with our contribution, Yad Vashem will continue to educate the next generations of Jews in the Diaspora, enriching their lives and helping the Jewish people grow and thrive."

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ On 22 February 2018, the **American Society for Yad Vashem** hosted its Young Leadership Associates (YLA) Annual Winter Gala at the Prince George Ballroom in New York City, with over 300 young leaders supporting Yad Vashem's Names Recovery Project. The event was chaired by **Gracy Accad, Anna and Rachel Aschendorf, Lital Berger, Alicia Chetrit, Zachary Cohen, Jonathan Fine, Rachel Gelnick, Hunter and Max Janoff, Lara Meyer, Alex Levine, Olivia Oshry and Halle Wilf.**

Top, left to right: Jonathan Fine, **Michael Shmuely, Avi Felberbaum, Olivia Oshry, Alicia Chetrit, Mikella Goldman, Rachel Aschendorf, Gracy Accad.** Bottom, left to right: Young Leadership and Communications Coordinator **Jill Goltzer, YLA Co-Chair Rachel Shnay, Halle Wilf**



■ On 8 March, American Society leaders **Josh and Goldie Hertz** (right), granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, hosted an event in their New York City home entitled "Speaking With Your Children About the Holocaust." Speakers included scholar and Holocaust education consultant **Jane Robins Denny** (center) and the American Society's Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom** (second from left). Also present was American Society Executive Board Member **Caroline Massel** (left).



■ On 14 March, the American Society hosted an event at Palm Beach Synagogue, attended by over 60 members of the community. Director of Yad Vashem Libraries Department **Dr. Robert Rozett** (second from right) spoke on "The Battle for the Memory of the Shoah: Recent Legislation in Poland and its Context." Also present at the event were (left to right): American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier**, Director of the International Relations Division's American Desk **Michael Fisher**, American Society Chief Development Officer **Eillene Leistner**, and American Society Chair **Leonard Wilf.**



■ On 22 February, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Phil Friedman** (center) and his friends **Alla Straks** and **Aleksander Smulker** visited the Jerusalem Garden at Yad Vashem.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Melinda Goldrich** (fourth from right) visited Yad Vashem on 2 May, accompanied by several supporters of the Giro d'Italia bike race, and commemorated Righteous Among the Nations **Gino Bartali** (see p.15). Afterwards, they visited the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 18 March, the Education Department of the American Society held its 20th annual Barbara Gutfreund Arfa Professional Development Conference, organized by Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom. Dr. Michael Bornstein** and **Debbie Bornstein Holinstat** were the keynote speakers. **Dr. Robert Rozett**, Director of Yad Vashem Libraries Department (left) was the guest speaker. The conference was attended by over 190 educators from the tristate area, as well as American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier** (center) and American Society Executive Board Member **Caroline Massel** (right).



■ To mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, the American Society for Yad Vashem and Congregation Sherith Israel co-sponsored the traveling exhibition "Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible?" The exhibition attracted a large contingent of San Francisco community members as well as public and parochial school students. Present at the event were (left to right): American Society West Coast Director of Institutional Advancement **Bill Bernstein**, American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier**, American Society Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom**, Sherith Israel Education Director **Nancy Gomes Sheftel**, and Cantor **David Frommer.**



Friends Worldwide

■ On 6 May, Yad Vashem Builder **Sam Shamie** (right) visited Yad Vashem's new exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust" and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with Director of the International Relations Division's American Desk **Michael Fisher** (left).



■ The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) Grand-Momentum trip took a meaningful tour of the Holocaust History Museum, the Synagogue and the Children's Memorial on 4 May.



■ Sixty African asylum seekers visited Yad Vashem's Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations, Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 25 April.



■ On 23 April, **Ike Fisher** (left) and friends participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ On 2 February, **Ethan Alter** (center) participated a meaningful Bar Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony in the Synagogue, attended by over 60 friends and family members. The Alter family then participated in a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ On 4 April, Yad Vashem Builder **Andy Groveman** (left) and family members **Jenny Novick** (second from left), **Brittany Belz** (second from right) and **Erik Belz** (right) visited the "Flashes of Memory" exhibition, the Museum of Holocaust Art and the Hall of Remembrance.



■ On 26 March, **Leah Etingin** (second from right) and friends visited Yad Vashem. After meeting with **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), the group took a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, the "Flashes of Memory" exhibition and the Children's Memorial.



■ Yad Vashem hosted over 850 participants from the Miami Jewish Federation's mission on 18 April, including a meaningful ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square.



■ Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 22 February, **Alan Kirzner** (left) and friends visited Yad Vashem's "Flashes of Memory" exhibition and Children's Memorial.



■ On 9 April, **Seth Abrams** (seated, center) participated in a Bar Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony in the Museum of Holocaust Art, led by **Michael Fisher** (standing), together with members of the Nevas/Abrams family.



■ After the meaningful Bar Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony of **Nosson Oirich** (center) on 8 April, the Oirich family toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Noah Baruch** (front, right) and **Max Glaubach** (front, left) participated in an impactful Bar Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony on 4 April. Following the ceremony, the Glaubach and Baruch families took a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ Following the Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony of **Leah Shapiro** (center) on 2 April, the Shapiro family toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 18 March, **Mathew Goodman** (third from left) and **Emily Goodman** (third from right) participated in Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremonies with three generations of their family in attendance. Earlier in the day, the Goodman family participated in a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ After **Daniel Klapper** (center) partook in a Bar Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony on 1 April, he and his family participated in a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ Following their tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Visual Center on 7 June, the Slavin family participated in a meaningful Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony for their daughter **Wesley** (second from left) in the Yad Vashem Synagogue.



■ On 29 March, family and friends of **Giselle Weiss** (center) took part in a meaningful Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony in the Synagogue. Earlier in the day, the group of over 60 people toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of **Sam Bloch z"l**.



Sam was born in 1924 in Iwie, Poland (now Belarus). During the war, his family was forced into the Jewish ghetto and his father was murdered by the *Einsatzgruppen*. Sam, his mother and his younger brother escaped from the ghetto in 1942 and went to hide with Christian farmers. They later joined the Bielski family camp in the Naliboki forest.

After the war, Sam and his family found their way to the Bergen-Belsen DP camp, where he was the youngest member of the camp's Jewish Committee. It was here that Sam met Lilly Czaban. Sam and Lilly were wed at the camp in 1949, and later immigrated to the US.

Sam worked for the World Zionist Organization for over 50 years. He was a founding member of the American Society for Yad Vashem and the American Friends of the IDF; a founder of Beit Hatfutsot; and President of both the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations and the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. He was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award.

Sam is survived by his wife, brother, two daughters, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. May his memory be blessed.

CANADA

■ On 2 April, **Johnny** and **Jacob Torkin** participated in a Bar Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony at the Carol Deutsch exhibit in the Museum of Holocaust Art. International Relations Division Deputy Managing Director **Sari Granitza** presented them with the certificates marking the event.



■ Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 15 March, Yad Vashem Guardians **William** and **Linda Hechter** and family visited the recently opened exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust," which includes photos from the Nuremberg Trial album, a gift of the Hechter family.



■ Hosted by International Relations Department Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left), Yad Vashem Visionary **Miles Nadal** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum and "Flashes of Memory" exhibition on 8 March, along with his friend and long-time business partner **Stephen M. Pustil** (center).



Friends Worldwide

■ On 17 April, Yad Vashem donor **Hartley Hershenhorn** (right) and his sister **Barbara** (second from right) toured the Holocaust History Museum and the “Flashes of Memory” exhibition.



■ Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 16 March, Yad Vashem Sponsor **Sarah Friedman** (center) and her family unveiled a plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies in honor of the family’s support of seminars for Canadian educators.



AUSTRALIA

■ On 11 March, CEO of Gandel Philanthropy **Vedran Drakulic** (second from left) and Gandel Philanthropy representative in Israel **Avi Armoni** (second from right) visited the site of the future Shoah Heritage Collections Center as well as the new exhibition “Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust.”



■ On 27 April, the Square Peg Investors’ Mission, led by **Paul Bassat**, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children’s Memorial, and laid a wreath at a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Toni and Derek Simons** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children’s Memorial with extended family and friends on 22 April. Their twins, **Zoe and Guy** (third and fourth from left), as well as five other children, participated in a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony in Yad Vashem’s Synagogue, during which they each undertook to preserve the memory of a specific child victim of the Holocaust.



■ On 1 April, **Morry Fraid** (third from left), **Inna Friedman** (second from right) and their extended family visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children’s Memorial, followed by a plaque unveiling on the Australian Wall of the Memorial Cave. During her Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, Morry’s daughter **Nina** undertook to preserve the memory of **Pnina Vurms**, a child victim of the Holocaust.



■ **Margaret and Laurence Kresner** and extended family visited the Holocaust History Museum on 8 April, followed by a moving ceremony unveiling a plaque on the Australian Wall of the Memorial Cave. During a Twinning Ceremony to mark his bar mitzvah, their grandson **Josh** (right) took it upon himself to preserve the memory of Margaret’s first cousin **Pavewek Domb**.



■ On 16 April, **Chanan and Shelly Mowszowski** (left) visited the Holocaust History Museum and the “Flashes of Memory” exhibition, and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives by Archives Division Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**.



SOUTH AFRICA

■ Accompanied by his wife, children and mother, **Mike Flax** (third from left) visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Children’s Memorial on 19 March.



■ On 24 April, **Jonathan and Natanya Jawno** (left) participated in a behind-the-scenes visit of the Archives led by Archives Division Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** (right), followed by a tour of the Holocaust History Museum.



GERMANY

■ On 27 March, representatives of the Future, Remembrance and Responsibility Foundation, team leader **Sonja Begalke**, Project Manager **Mechthild Schmidt** and auditor **Manuel Kowalewski** arrived at Yad Vashem to discuss the implementation of the new YVNG technology project. In addition to their meetings, the group also visited the Yad Vashem Archives together with Archives Division Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** (second from right) and Deputy Director of the Archives Division **Elinor Kroitoru** (right).



■ Co-Director of the Future, Remembrance and Responsibility Foundation **Dr. Moritz Kilger** (center, left) visited Yad Vashem with Foundation Trustee and Claims Conference representative **Ruediger Mahlo** (center, right). Together they took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives.



UK

■ On 5 January, **Strive Masiyiwa** (left) visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives, hosted by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



ARGENTINA

■ In April 2018, **Norma Pinto** visited the Holocaust History Museum.



MEXICO

■ Yad Vashem supporters **Elvira** and **León Harari** (right) participated in the 2018 Latin American, Spain and Miami Leadership Seminar. During their visit, in a ceremony with Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left), they unveiled a plaque in their and their children's honor in the Administration and Research Building, and were presented with the Yad Vashem Key.



■ On 2 April 2018, **Cynthia** and **Moises Araf** (second and third from left) were joined by members of their family to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **David** (third from right).



VENEZUELA

■ In April 2018, a ceremony was held in Yad Vashem in honor of Yad Vashem Pillars **Simy** and **Sadia Cohen**, at which a plaque was unveiled in their honor at the entrance to the new "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust" exhibition, which they generously supported. They were joined by their daughter **Cota** and their granddaughter **Simita**, as well Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**, Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan**, and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



SPAIN

■ In March 2018, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Esther Koplowitz** (bottom, right) visited Yad Vashem together with her daughters **Esther** (top, third from right) and **Carmen Koplowitz Alcocer** (not pictured), her son-in-law, grandchildren and a group of friends.



Friends Worldwide

LATIN AMERICA, SPAIN AND MIAMI

■ While participating in the 2018 Latin American, Spain and Miami Leadership Seminar, **Alelie** and **Miguel Plitman** (center) were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (right) and Communications Division Director **Iris Rosenberg** (left) to unveil a plaque in their honor on the Builders Wall.



■ Attending the 2018 Latin American, Spain and Miami Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem were: (back row, left to right) **Samuel Bengio** (Spain), **Miguel Plitman** (Venezuela-Miami), **María Marta Peona** (Argentina), **Abraham Keselman** (Argentina), **Eva Lijtszain** (Mexico), **Nina Medrez** (Mexico), **José Chisikovksy** (Mexico), **Isidoro and Vicky Attie** (Mexico), **Teresa Mochon** and **Isaac Ashkenazi** (Mexico), **Raquel Turquie** and **Adir Ilitzki** (Mexico), **Moshe Hazan**, **León Harari** (Mexico); (second row, left to right) **Haya Feldman**, **Beatrice Misrahi Bengio** (Spain), **Alelie Plitman** (Venezuela-Miami), **Abraham** and **Lucy Zetune** (Mexico), **Beatriz** and **Roberto Wolff** (Miami), **Perla Hazan**, **Valeria Aisenberg Socolsky** and **Adrian Socolsky** (Miami), **Graciela Toucedo** and **Jorge Lage** (Argentina-Miami), **Abraham Mintz** (Mexico), **Joshua Mintz** (Mexico-Miami), **Elvira Dayan Harari** (Mexico) and **Eliana Rapp**.



Christian Desk with ICEJ and The Museum of the Bible

■ Holocaust survivor and author **Luna Kaufman** (left), **Terrie Jenkins** (center) and **Debbie Buckner** (right) helped Yad Vashem at the annual National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Conference in Nashville, TN, where a Yad Vashem booth was erected and a special event in honor of the State of Israel's 70th anniversary took place.



■ To recognize their consistent and heartfelt support of Yad Vashem's educational activities, a symbolic key of Yad Vashem was presented to Pastor **Mark** and **Terrie Jenkins** (second and third from left) in the presence of other Christian leaders and friends, as well as Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (left), the Christian Friends' **Shavit Aharoni-Simons** (second from right) and International Relations Division Deputy Director **Sari Granitza** (right).



■ The International Christian Leadership Seminars at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies bring together leaders of various national and denominational backgrounds to study the Holocaust and related issues in depth. This year's participants found the seminar enlightening and helpful in their efforts to convey the messages of Holocaust remembrance worldwide.



■ At the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ)'s annual International Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** gave a presentation and expressed appreciation to some of Yad Vashem's key Christian donors for their support, including ICEJ Germany National Director **Gottfried Buehler** (left) and ICEJ Norway National Director **Dag Juliussen** (right).



■ Managing Director of Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) was invited to address some special ICEJ Germany events. He also met with key leaders, including members of the local parliament, as well as Representative of Israel in Baden-Württemberg **Maren Steege** (center), and Head of the Special Antisemitism Task Force in the State of Baden-Württemberg **Dr. Michael Blume** (right).



■ Singer and actor **Pat Boone** (left) came on a special visit to honor Israel's 70th anniversary together with hundreds of Evangelical Christians and Jewish friends. He visited the Yad Vashem Archives with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), who displayed Mr. Boone's original lyrics of "Exodus," which he had previously donated to Yad Vashem.



Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018

USA

■ Accompanied by Director of the International Relations Division's American Desk **Michael Fisher** (bottom, left), Yad Vashem Benefactor **Mark Moskowitz** (top, second from left) and his family toured Yad Vashem's newly opened exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust." The Moskowitz family ended the day by participating in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, accompanied by Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak** (center).



■ Co-Chair of the Young Leadership Associates (YLA) of the **American Society for Yad Vashem Rachel Shnay** (center) participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony with Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev** (right) and International Relations Division's Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ After a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial, the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh's special mission of the board of Classrooms Without Borders participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony.



■ **Iris** (second from left) and **Shalom Maidenbaum** (top left) visited Yad Vashem and participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, accompanied by the International Relations Division's American Desk Donor Affairs Liaison **Debbie Efraim** (left).



■ **Harvey Arfa** (center) and **Janis Altman** (left) participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, accompanied by Director of the International Relations Division's American Desk **Michael Fisher** (right).



■ **Suzanne** and **Lenny Goldschein** (center) participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, accompanied by **Michael Fisher** (right) and **Debbie Efraim** (left).



■ **Jack** and **Marilyn Belz** (left) and **Andy** and **Jan Groveman** (center) participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day Main Memorial Ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, accompanied by **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



CANADA

■ Yad Vashem Benefactor and long-term supporter **Gianna Glassman** (right), together with her sister **Vivian Chaplick**, laid a wreath on Holocaust Remembrance Day on behalf of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem**. They also visited the Holocaust History Museum and the new exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust."



AUSTRALIA

■ Holocaust survivor **Nina Bassat AM** laid a wreath on behalf of the Australian Foundation for Yad Vashem Ltd. on Holocaust Remembrance Day. She and her husband **Robert** also visited the Yad Vashem Archives and the new exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust."



Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018

■ On Holocaust Remembrance Day, **Kay Ronec** (right) and her sister **Margot Gorski** laid a wreath on behalf of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** and toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial.



UK

■ **Simon and Esther Bentley** attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony. The following day, they laid a wreath on behalf of the **Yad Vashem UK Foundation** and then toured the new exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust."



■ Accompanied by two of their daughters, **Strive and Tsitsi Masiyiwa** attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony. Strive and Tsitsi, originally from Zimbabwe, also laid a wreath on behalf of **Southern African Friends of Yad Vashem**. Strive subsequently visited the new exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust," and Tsitsi and their daughters toured the Holocaust History Museum, Children's Memorial and Artifacts Collection.



FRANCE

■ Welcomed by Director of the International Relations Division's French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**, a high-level delegation of Yad Vashem friends from France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Israel participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies at Yad Vashem. Within the delegation were: **Beate Klarsfeld, Guy and Beatrice Halpern Boukris, Patricia and Willy Fazel, Jean-Pierre Levy and family (France); Joe and Claire Tugendhaft (Switzerland); and Jaap and Anne Wertheim (the Netherlands)**. Also included in the group were several mayors whose municipalities are part of the "Cities and Villages In Honor of the Righteous Among The Nations of France" network, accompanied by members of the **French Friends of Yad Vashem**, including French Friends President **Pierre-François Veil**, Vice President **François Guggenheim** and Secretary General **Jean-Pierre Gauzi**.



■ **Thierry Librati** laid a wreath on behalf of his father, Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Visionary **Maxi Librati**.



GERMANY

■ Newly elected Chairman of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany Kai Diekmann** laid the wreath on behalf of the Society on Holocaust Remembrance Day.



VENEZUELA

■ **Simy and Sadia Cohen** (right) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony with their daughter **Cota** and granddaughter **Simita** (left). Also attending the ceremony were participants of the 2018 Latin American, Spain, and Miami Leadership Seminar from Argentina, Miami, Mexico and Spain, including the Chairpersons of the **Spanish Association for Yad Vashem Samuel Bengio** and the **Mexican Association for Yad Vashem Eva Lijtszain**.



LIECHTENSTEIN

■ On Holocaust Remembrance Day, a delegation of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein** laid a wreath, toured the campus and visited the newly unveiled plaque in honor of the long-time friendship of the Society with Yad Vashem.



SWITZERLAND

Samuel Wennek (right) and his son **Benjamin** attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony, and laid a wreath on behalf of **Swiss Friends of 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.

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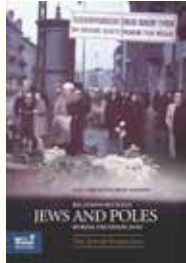
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The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

Relations Between Jews and Poles during the Holocaust: The Jewish Perspective

Havi Dreifuss (Ben-Sasson)

174 NIS 128 NIS



■ Did the Jews of Poland consider their land of birth a partner in the German persecution, or did they view Poland as yet another victim of the murderous Nazi intent? When and why did the prevalent sense of brotherhood that existed at the start of the war end, only to be replaced by harsh feelings of alienation and animosity? What did the Jews write about their Polish neighbors, and in what way did the Jews' social standing influence their perception of their surroundings? How did the German policy

influence the relations that were formed between the Poles and the Jews in occupied Poland?

In this book, Prof. Havi Dreifuss (Ben Sasson) traces the changes in how the Polish Jews perceived their environment. The extensive documentary material upon which Prof. Dreifuss based her research – dozens of diaries and hundreds of documents from archives in Israel and abroad – portray the Polish Jews' conscious awareness of their environment, expose a glimpse of the realities of life in Poland, and cast light on several of the factors that directly and indirectly influenced their lives – and ultimately their deaths.

Hiding, Sheltering, and Borrowing Identities: Avenues of Rescue during the Holocaust

Edited by Dan Michman

174 NIS 128 NIS



■ During the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, the focus of research was directed at the actions of the murderers and at resistance. That situation changed gradually during the 1960s and 1970s, when the rescue of Jews, a major aspect of Holocaust history, started to attract the attention of scholars. Still, the focus was mostly on governments and organizations. The initiation of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations program drew public attention to the acts of individual rescuers in areas under Nazi control. Yet

even today, many aspects of the rescue activities, especially the aspects of Jewish initiatives and individual experiences, deserve more attention.

The International Institute for Holocaust Research's eighteenth biannual conference, titled "Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowing Identities as Avenues of Rescue during the Holocaust," brought together a large number of international scholars to discuss new approaches and the current state of research on the topic. This volume, based on a selection of papers presented at the conference, aims to provide an overview of the multifaceted landscape of academic studies on the rescuers and the rescued.

Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine

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While There's Life... Poems from the Mittelsteine Labor Camp 1944-1945

Ruth Minsky Sender

88 NIS 66 NIS



■ The poems in this collection were written by Riva Minska (Ruth Minsky Sender) during her incarceration as prisoner #55082 in the Nazi slave labor camp in Mittelsteine, Germany. She wrote them in little notebooks while hiding in her bunk. Every Sunday, she would read these moving verses aloud to the fifty other women in the room. They were her critical and faithful audience. She endeavored to depict scenes from their lives – their anguish, their pain and their

longings – to give everyone a little courage and the will to continue. As her mother, Nacha Minska, used to say: "While there's life, there's hope." This was how they spent their Sundays, and anyone who had a bit of talent did their best to bring a little happiness into their tragic lives.

The End of 1942: A Turning Point in World War II and in the Comprehension of the Final Solution?

Edited by Dina Porat and Dan Michman in cooperation with Haim Saadoun

174 NIS 128 NIS



■ During the second half of 1942, several events signaled a shift on the fronts of World War II. The failed German summer offensive on the Eastern Front led to the encirclement of the Sixth Army in Stalingrad. In Northern Africa, Operation Torch marked the prelude to the defeat of the German Africa Corps. Since 1941, information had begun to trickle out about the German mass murder program in the occupied territories. The first counteroffensives of the Red Army had led to an initial understanding of the scope of the killings, but additional reliable sources like the Riegner Telegram provided important details and indicated the shift to the industrial extermination of the "Final Solution." As a result, the Allies and Jewish organizations published their first official statements that addressed the German murder operations.

The Allies' position and their response to the growing evidence of genocidal action remains a matter of debate among historians. Could the leaders of the Allied nations have understood the magnitude of the "Final Solution" sooner? Were they in a situation that would have allowed them to invest more resources to rescue its Jewish victims? This volume includes selected articles by contributing researchers at the International Research Institute's nineteenth biannual international conference, providing new insights and answers into the developments that unfolded during this critical phase of the war.

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