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"Tell Your Children"

Wartime Diary Charts Development of Hidden Baby (pp. 16-17)

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■ **On the cover:** The inner binding of the diary marking the development of the infant **Abraham Packter**, with the caption, "Wim [Abraham's false identity], February 20, 1943" (see pp. 16-17)

Leah Goldstein

■ During this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel, Yad Vashem held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Shoah Heritage Campus. The moving event was attended by former head of the Jewish Agency Natan Sharansky, Ambassadors of Germany and Austria to Israel, Shoah Heritage Campus supporters, representatives of Friends of Yad Vashem worldwide and Holocaust survivors.

The new Campus, to be built at Yad Vashem on Jerusalem's Mount of Remembrance, will include the Shoah Heritage Collections Center; the Joseph Wilf Curatorial Center; the Heritage Gallery for display of treasures from its collections; and the renovated Auditorium, including a main hall and the Family and Children's Exhibition Gallery.

The central component of the new Campus is the Shoah Heritage Collections Center, with state-of-the-art intake, conservation and storage facilities for Yad Vashem's unrivaled collections of Holocaust-era artworks, artifacts and archival materials. Situated in a strategically prominent, highly visible location – opposite the Hall of Remembrance, one of the most frequently visited sites of Yad Vashem – the Shoah Heritage Collections Center will comprise four subterranean levels covering a total area of 5,880 square meters (63,300 square feet).

During the ceremony, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev called the items in Yad Vashem's collections – including 210 million pages of documentation, 34,000 personal artifacts and close to 12,000 original artworks – "the building blocks of truthful Shoah remembrance... the human memories that allow us to pass on the stories of their creators and owners for future generations."

Natan Sharansky cited Viktor Frankl's seminal work *Man's Search for Meaning*, and the importance of giving significance to one's life even as one faces certain death. The experiences of people under such regimes as Nazi Europe and the communist Soviet Union, as he himself recalled, are vital not only for those living their lives at the time, but also for those living in the future, in order to learn how best to advance humanity. "The State of Israel, Yad Vashem and Yad Vashem's Friends guarantee that the memory of the Shoah will live on for generations to come."

Breaking Ground for the New Shoah Heritage Campus



■ Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev displaying the Scroll of Dedication with Jane Wilf, Kai Diekmann and other Shoah Heritage Campus supporters



■ The Scroll of Dedication being buried in the ground at the site of the new Shoah Heritage Campus by Third Generation representatives Jonah Burian, Zachary Habif and Andy Shapell

Speaking on behalf of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Jane Wilf described Yad Vashem as “the epicenter for Holocaust remembrance, for the Jewish People, Israel and all of humanity... The Shoah Heritage Campus and all of its components constitute an integral thread in the fabric of Yad Vashem’s vital work. Through these very components,

we are faced with the profound challenge of ensuring the preservation of Yad Vashem’s collections for posterity, their accessibility to the public, and the transmission of the memory of the victims and survivors of the Shoah to future generations.”

Speaking on behalf of Yad Vashem Friends Societies in Europe, Kai Diekmann, Chairman

of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany, called the occasion a “humble moment, full of responsibility.” Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, he stated, “is a place that not only collects all the memories, it also treasures and disseminates them for all of humanity to see and learn. Here, on the Mount of Remembrance, we have partnered with Yad Vashem to build a new home for all of the pieces of the history of



“The State of Israel, Yad Vashem and Yad Vashem’s friends guarantee that the memory of the Shoah will live on for generations to come.”

Natan Sharansky

the Holocaust, bringing them together under one roof to serve as everlasting proof to the atrocities of the Shoah. This is the place that not only holds them together, but also restores the voices of the victims. This campus will serve as home to the dreams that were never dreamt; the hopes that never came true; the wishes that will never be fulfilled.”

Following the moving ceremony – which included a performance by the Sheba children’s choir – stakeholders signed two copies of a Scroll of Dedication. One was kept in Yad Vashem and the other was buried under the spot where the Shoah Heritage Campus will be built.

“Love Her Like a Mother”

Last Letters from the Holocaust: 1944



■ Carmen Sorias as a toddler, with her parents, Claire-Clara and Moïse-Moshe, Milan, Italy, 1940
Yad Vashem Archives



■ Giuseppe-Yosef Sorias
Yad Vashem, Hall of Names

■ *“The writer of this letter is a distraught mother who is being taken away with her family to an unknown destination... I am sending you an adoption document for my little daughter, in which I give her up for her own good. In this way, perhaps she will be saved and they won’t take her. I have no other choice... I beg of you, love her like a mother, so that she feels my absence less keenly. Don’t tell her where I am.”*

Isabella-Bella Fodor from Cluj (Kolozsvár) wrote these heartrending words to the Szomors, a Christian family looking after her eight-year-old daughter Gita in Nagyvárad. Isabella also signed a declaration waiving her parental rights to Gita, and agreeing to her adoption by the Szomors. In the declaration, Isabella requested that Gita convert to Christianity and receive a Catholic education. At the end of May 1944, the Jews of the Cluj ghetto, including Isabella and her mother Emilia, began to be deported to Auschwitz. Isabella and Emilia were murdered in the death camp. Gita’s father, Chaim Fodor, was drafted to the Hungarian Army labor battalions and did not return. Gita survived.

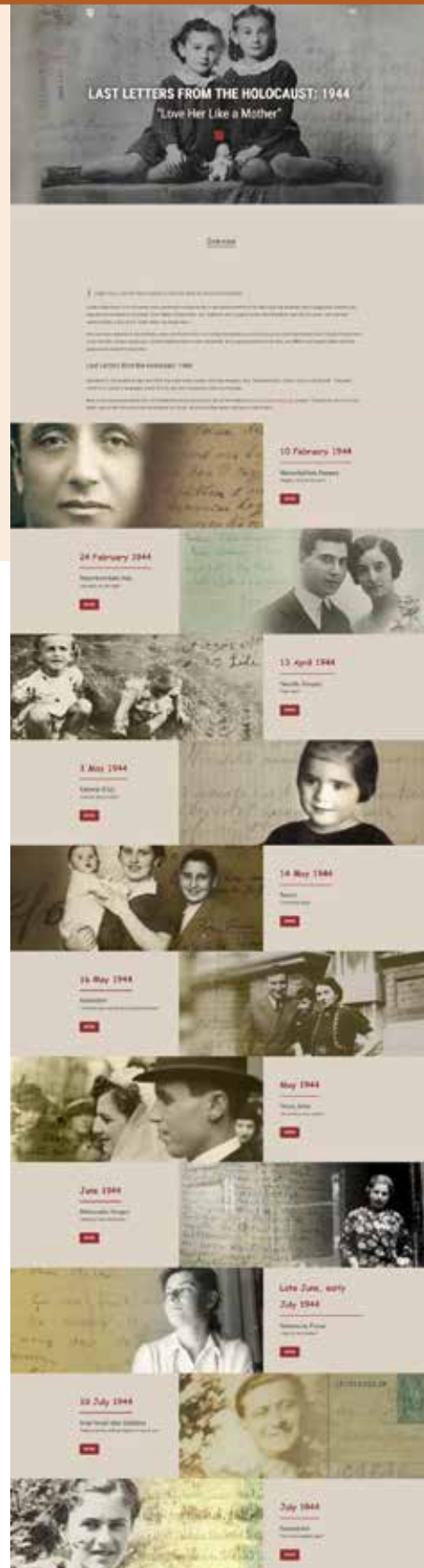
Isabella’s letter is one of 13 last letters from the Holocaust, housed in the Yad Vashem Archives, that have gone on display in the fourth and final installment in the series of online exhibitions showcasing last letters from Jewish men, women and children murdered in

the Holocaust. Most of the letters were donated to Yad Vashem as part of the national “Gathering the Fragments” campaign. They were sent from Ukraine, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, the Czech Republic, France and Russia to relatives and friends from homes, hiding

Written in a variety of languages – Italian, German, Dutch, Hungarian, French and Russian – these missives are sometimes the sole evidence that the person existed

places, ghettos, jails and camps. Written in a variety of languages – Italian, German, Dutch, Hungarian, French and Russian – these missives are sometimes the sole evidence that the person existed, and they make it possible to tell the stories of individuals in the Holocaust and give its victims a name, a face and a memory.

After Italy surrendered to the Allies in September 1943, the Germans occupied most of Italian territory, including Milan, and began nonstop hunts for Jews. Every Jew they caught



Mon cher Moïse

Ça me fait un drôle d'effet de te savoir là. Si tu veux, essaye de nous voir demain matin, si tu n'as rien d'autre à nous dire.

Ce que je pense de la situation, c'est que des gens comme toi, qui ont des idées pour améliorer les choses, ça ne va pas rester longtemps. Tu es un homme riche et d'après le chef de la maison, tu es un homme qui veut faire quelque chose de bien. Mais pour moi, ce n'est plus ça va. Ça va plus pour eux que pour toi. Tu fais absolument rien pour eux.

Où ne m'a rien dit pour la lettre, j'ai su par le chef de famille. Ça ne m'intéresse plus d'essayer de me ramener dans des gosses. Je n'ai reçu aucune visite ni livre de prières. Contrairement à ce que j'ai écrit, l'enquête que je fais de Marie-Anne semble s'être bien passée. Brevitairement interdit pour les gosses, on m'a fait une scène étonnante à cause du bémol. Il y a 3 jours, moi je pensais

■ "Until we meet again?" Last letter written by underground activist Marianne Cohn from prison in Annemasse to fellow activist Emmanuel Racine.

was arrested, regardless of citizenship or record of service to the Italian state. In April 1944, this happened to Claire-Clara Sorias (née Arditti) of Milan, who had Turkish citizenship, and her two-year-old son Giuseppe-Yosef. "My thoughts are with you," Claire wrote to her husband Moïse-Moshe and her five-year-old daughter Carmen from the jail in Milan where she was incarcerated with Giuseppe. "Please Moïsin, don't worry about us. We have everything we need... We will see each other soon." Moïse did all he could to have his wife and son released. A few weeks after Claire was arrested, so was Moïse. Claire and Giuseppe were deported to Auschwitz in October 1944, and Moïse was

"Please Moïsin, don't worry about us. We have everything we need... We will see each other soon."

Claire-Clara Sorias, April 1944

deported there two months later. All three were murdered. Carmen survived in hiding in Italy.

The exhibition also features the story of 10-year-old Jacob Hijman and his parents Philip and Duifje Marcus from Amsterdam. After the occupation of the Netherlands and

Yona Kobo



■ Drawing created by Jacob Hijman Marcus while living in hiding in Amsterdam with his aunt, Rosa Matteman
Yad Vashem Archives | Courtesy of Leni Marcus-Davidson

the first deportations of Dutch Jews to the east, Philip and Duifje obtained false papers. Their son Jacob was sent into hiding with his maternal aunt Rosa-Roosje Matteman. Jacob would write letters to his grandparents from his refuge. "I hope you have great fun on Uncle Koos's birthday," he wrote in one. "Oma and Opa, I send both of you good wishes on the occasion of the birthday of your only son. Please congratulate him for me. Lots of kisses and regards, JHM [Jacob Hijman Marcus]."

On 8 June 1944, Jacob and Rosa were caught and sent to the Westerbork concentration camp, and then to the Terezin ghetto. In Terezin, Rosa was put to work sorting metals, a job that spared her from deportation. When Jacob's name appeared on the list of people slated for deportation from the ghetto, Rosa decided to go with him and switched her name with someone else on the same list. On 23 October, Rosa and Jacob were deported to Auschwitz. Jacob was murdered in the gas chambers on arrival, and Rosa passed the selection and survived until the camp was liberated. Two months later, in March 1945, she died of food poisoning. Jacob's parents and grandparents survived.

The author is a researcher and Online Exhibition Coordinator, Digital Department, Communications Division.

Highlights of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2019

■ During World War II, the Jews in the German-occupied territories had to struggle, both as individuals and collectively, for their very existence and for the survival of their family members and fellow Jews. Across occupied Europe, Jews attempted to join in the armed struggle against the German Nazis and their accomplices, including by enlisting as partisan fighters and establishing Jewish underground groups. They also risked their lives in frequent acts of solidarity and aid for their persecuted brethren. The struggle for physical survival under the terror of Nazi German rule entailed hiding and escaping, smuggling food, administering

aid and social welfare, and providing medical care. Jews in underground movements all over Europe attempted to organize a wide range of rescue efforts, in order to save as many other Jews as possible.

All the while, they persisted in their struggle to preserve their Jewish identity, culture and religion. Jews in the ghettos initiated clandestine educational activities, published underground newspapers, and conducted extensive and varied political activities. Observant Jews fought for communal survival, whether by gathering in *minyanim* (prayer quorums), or by adhering, even symbolically, to the rhythm and highlights of the

Jewish calendar, even in concentration camps. Jewish music continued to be played in concerts organized by culture committees in the ghettos or in the forests, with musical instruments taken on the run. Drawings, songs and stories were created and hidden away for posterity. Thus, they sought to remember the past, feel the pain of the present, and dream of the future.

Pictured 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: "The War Within the War: The Struggle of the Jews to Survive during the Holocaust."



■ 120 wreaths were laid at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations.



■ Six survivors – Yehuda Mimon, Sara Shapira, Menachem Haberman, Fanny Ben-Ami, Shaul Lubovits and Bela Eizenman – lit six torches, representing the six million Holocaust victims, at the State Ceremony opening the Holocaust Remembrance Day events.



■ For the fifth year in a row, visitors to the Mount of Remembrance went "Behind-the-Scenes," gaining a greater understanding of the everyday undertakings of Yad Vashem in the spheres of collections, technology and remembrance.

Across occupied Europe, Jews attempted to join in the armed struggle against the German Nazis and their accomplices, including by enlisting as partisan fighters and establishing Jewish underground groups. They also risked their lives in frequent acts of solidarity and aid for their persecuted brethren

Leah Goldstein



■ 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. Over 75,000 people worldwide viewed the live broadcast of the ceremony via Yad Vashem's Facebook page, website and YouTube channels.



■ The winner of this year's national competition to design the **official poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day** was Itamar Magid, 25, of Tel Aviv, the grandson of Holocaust survivor Moshe Magid. The poster features three paper boats, representing various types of documentation: writing, painting and music. The reflection of the boats in the water creates both a Yellow Star and a Star of David, attempting to convey a sense of the past, as well as belonging to the future. The paper boats sail on quiet waters,

which, for many years, were tempestuous. They carry memories from a distant place, painful and sad, but face a better future – of hope and dreams. A lesson plan based on the poster was distributed to schools across Israel.



■ Hundreds of people took part in the "Unto Every Person There is a Name" **public names-reading ceremonies** in the Hall of Remembrance and at Israel's Knesset (parliament) building – and the **Main Memorial Ceremony** in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ In the late afternoon of Holocaust Remembrance Day, some 300 members of various youth movements from all over Israel came to Yad Vashem to participate in the **Youth Movement Ceremony** in the Valley of the Communities. Before the ceremony, the participants took a meaningful tour across the campus and discussed the topic of Holocaust-era dilemmas.

Educational Activities Boost Intergenerational Remembrance



■ During the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem held a series of performances by “Musical Memory,” a unique project by and for young people. The show was based on original creations performed by students studying singing and music after meeting with Holocaust survivors and hearing their unique stories.



■ Thousands of students in the Jewish Agency’s “Masa” work-study programs for Jewish youth from abroad met with Holocaust survivors, took part in workshops on modern memory of the Holocaust, and toured monuments around the campus to learn about spiritual and physical resistance.



■ Postcards 4.0 aims to foster contemporary dialogue by young artists about the Holocaust and its significance for today. One work was “Between Two Identities,” which features the names of Jewish children printed on fabric, describing their indelible pasts and birth identities. Christian names are embroidered over their real names, “knitting” a cover story and thereby saving them. The product thus expresses the reality of coping with a secret identity during the Shoah.



■ “Memory through the Lens,” an exhibition of photographs and memories of Holocaust survivors by students in the ORT Israel school network, went on display in Yad Vashem’s Family Square. The exhibition was a hub of learning activity for numerous educational groups visiting Yad Vashem on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Graduate Spotlight

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

■ In February 2019, Paraguay held its first international seminar on Holocaust education, entitled "Educating to Remember." The seminar was organized by the Paraguayan Ministry of Education's Department for Human Rights for 250



■ *Yad Vashem Graduate Gloria Urizar de Martinez*

teachers and Ministry of Education staff. It was held for two days in the capital Asunción and for two more in the central city of Ciudad del Este.

One of the participants in the seminar was Haya Feldman Glus, Educational Coordinator of Spanish and Portuguese Programming at the International School for Holocaust Studies' Jewish World and International Seminars Department. Feldman lectured and led workshops about the International School's educational philosophy. Additionally, she held work meetings with Deputy Minister of Education Fernando Griffith in order to promote Yad Vashem's ties with the Paraguayan Ministry of Education.

Feldman took the opportunity to meet with many Latin American graduates of Yad Vashem's seminars, including Gloria Urizar de Martinez, who came to the Mount of Remembrance in January 2017. Urizar has been the vice principal and

academic coordinator of the Colegio Internacional de Asunción for 13 years. The school, which will celebrate its centennial in 2020, is characterized by its acceptance of students from diverse cultures and religions. Some 1,600 students currently attend.

"Before the seminar I was familiar with the subject of the Holocaust, especially through movies that I had seen, but then I realized that I knew so little," explained Urizar. "The seminar helped me look at various details that often go unnoticed by us, such as different signs and clues about antisemitism, especially among young people and sometimes even among educators, which are due to ignorance regarding the Holocaust. After the seminar, I developed a heightened sensitivity about the subject; I now also have the tools to respond to displays of antisemitism and feel a responsibility to educate my students about the topic."

When she returned from Israel, Urizar conducted a training session for her school's teachers. With the help of the educational film *May Your Memory Be Love: The Story of Ovadia Baruch*, she emphasized Yad Vashem's methodology for teaching about the Holocaust, which is based on personal stories in the chronological timeline of before, during and after the Holocaust. Later, Urizar organized a visit to the Jewish Museum of Paraguay with her history students. The museum then invited Urizar to serve as moderator for a discussion at

Gloria Urizar de Martinez Paraguay



the screening of the film *The Final Solution*.

Urizar is currently working together with Paola Franco, a fellow Yad Vashem graduate, on an interdisciplinary project for twelfth-graders. The project, entitled "Teaching to Respect Life: The Holocaust – A Genocide that Must Not Recur," was launched in April 2019. Groups of students chose a topic to research and develop through different subjects – literature, language arts, history, art and more – with the help of a supervising teacher. At the project's launch, the son of Holocaust survivors shared his parents' story with the students. The project will be completed in October when the students present their work to a review committee. Urizar has been meticulously checking every group in order to ensure that they follow Yad Vashem's methodology. "At first I was a little afraid of this powerful subject. Now I want to know more and more," said one of the participating students.

In January 2019, after the Paraguayan Congress passed a law on Holocaust education, Urizar joined the educational team of the Paraguayan Ministry of Education to develop a national curriculum for Holocaust education. "I am glad to be able to contribute the knowledge I gained at Yad Vashem," concluded Urizar. "I hope to develop projects with university students who are mature enough to handle topics that are so significant in life – seriously and responsibly."

Seminar for German-Speaking Journalists Simmy Allen

■ During the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem's Communications Division and the International School for Holocaust Studies co-hosted a group of journalists from Germany and Austria. Throughout the week, the group met with key experts and scholars in an effort to learn more about the Holocaust and to better acquaint themselves with the important work of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center. Participants heard lectures on various topics, such as contemporary antisemitism, the evolution of Holocaust research over the years, Yad Vashem's pedagogical approach to Holocaust education, and Holocaust remembrance. The journalists also went behind-the-scenes in the Archives and Museums Divisions, and spoke with Holocaust survivor Naftali Fuerst.

"Yad Vashem's media seminars allow participants to take a break from their ongoing journalistic coverage and to learn in more depth, and from a closer vantage point, about different

aspects of Holocaust remembrance, as well as the challenges faced by those who work to commemorate it," said Iris Rosenberg, Spokesperson and Director of the Communications Division at Yad Vashem. "During the seminar, questions are raised and discussions are developed with the professional staff at Yad Vashem, which contribute to the enrichment of the participants from both the professional and the personal perspective."

Spearheaded by former BILD Publishing Director Kai Diekmann, Chairman of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany, the seminar was the fifth of its kind to host editors-in-chief from major German newspapers as well as up-and-coming German-speaking journalists. Since 2016, Yad Vashem has hosted some 50 journalists for media seminars such as this.

For the first time, seminar participants included journalists from Austria, as well as broadcast media outlets. "The seminar made me reflect about so many topics – representation, the



truth of images, and of course the big question – how can we keep the memory alive?" said Jana Wagner, who works for Radio Bremen. Veteran television journalist Elisabeth Möst of BR-TV called the seminar "one of the professional highlights of my career. I realize that every single victim needs his or her name connected with their story. I now understand the mission of Yad Vashem. I feel a responsibility to tell their stories, and to join the fight against antisemitism."

The seminar for German-speaking journalists was supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.

Tackling Holocaust Education in the 21st Century

■ From 26–28 May 2019, Gandel Philanthropy and Yad Vashem held the inaugural Gandel Holocaust Education Conference in Melbourne, Australia, for graduates of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, which trains Australian educators from across the continent in effective and relevant Holocaust teaching.

Plans for this groundbreaking conference began almost a year earlier, following a trip by Yad Vashem Pillars John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel AC to Yad Vashem's International Educators' Conference in June 2018. There, the Gandels agreed to initiate the Program's first graduate conference in Australia. "We have 287 Gandel Program graduates from across Australia since 2010," explains Ephraim Kaye, Director of the Jewish World and International Seminars Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. "In total, 157 of them were able to attend. The participants were delighted to reconnect with fellow graduates, and got to know other teachers from the Program who live in their vicinity. This allowed for excellent networking opportunities, as well as hearing about issues – and solutions – for teaching the Holocaust in the multicultural, 21st-century Australian classroom."



■ Ana de Leon, Holocaust survivor from Sydney, shared her emotional story of survival

Dignitaries at the opening included Holocaust survivors; Australian Federal and State politicians Mark Dreyfus, Josh Burns and David Southwick; Israel's Ambassador to Australia H.E. Mr. Mark Sofer; Head of the Culture and Press Section at the German Embassy in Australia Susanne Koerber; US Consul General Michael Kleine; German Honorary Consul Michael Pearce; Chair of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission

Moana Weir; commissioners from the Victorian Multicultural Commission; Jewish community leaders; and local government representatives.

In his official opening address, the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Daniel Andrews, expressed his government's support and endorsement for Holocaust education. In his speech, John Gandel AC reminded the audience "It is not just the duty of the Jewish people, but of all of us, as citizens of the world, to ensure that this work of educating – and remembering – the Holocaust continues... teachers have the power to show their students that they can – they must – be 'upstanders' in their lives, never bystanders. Gandel Philanthropy and all our partners will continue working with



■ Israeli Ambassador Mark Sofer honored the late Johannes and Tjerke Wagenaar as Righteous Among the Nations, sharing the recognition with their descendants

Yad Vashem to further develop this program, expand teachers' connections and reach even more students with the lessons and legacies of the Holocaust."

The three-day conference included lectures from leading historians in the field, diplomats and representatives from Holocaust-related institutions – including Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet; Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Eyal Kaminka; Yad Vashem Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang; and President of the Australian Friends of Yad Vashem Joey Borensztajn.

Gandel Program graduate (2014) Stacey Moros gave a moving address on how the Program enhanced her teaching of the Holocaust, and her student Jess Elton spoke about the relevance of the Holocaust to the younger generation. Educational workshops were held

by Yad Vashem staff as well as Gandel Program graduates on a range of topics, including the use of digital resources in a world without survivors; teaching about the perpetrators; and modern-day antisemitism. Yad Vashem International Relations Division Managing Director Shaya Ben Yehuda thanked John and Pauline Gandel



■ John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel AC with their granddaughter Jacqui Liberman

"Teachers have the power to show their students that they can – they must – be 'upstanders' in their lives, never bystanders."

John Gandel AC

for their vision and initiative in establishing the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program and their ongoing generous partnership, and stressed the importance of the participants taking leadership roles in their communities in order to combat Holocaust denial and distortion, as well as the ever-present threat of global antisemitism.

The conference featured a ceremony marking the recognition of the late Johannes and Tjerke Wagenaar (the Netherlands) as Righteous Among the Nations – with their Australian granddaughter Michelle Matthews receiving the medal and certificate in their honor from Ambassador Sofer; and a private screening of *The Paper Brigade* – a film exploring cultural resistance in Vilna during the Holocaust and its aftermath – was followed by a fascinating question-and-answer session with director Diane Perelsztajn.

Gandel Graduate Conference Marks Ten Years of Activity

Leah Goldstein



■ How can we be more effective Holocaust educators? Roundtable discussions at the Gandel Graduate Conference, Melbourne, 2019

One of the most moving and inspiring parts of the conference was a unique gathering of 12 Holocaust survivors, who came together to address the educators in a series of personalized workshops on the last day of the conference. In intimate settings they shared their individual and family stories of survival, and of their “return to life” journeys after arriving in Australia in the aftermath of WWII.

A special panel discussion with Sue Hampel OAM, (Australian Centre for Jewish Studies), Dr. Avril Alba (Sydney University), Dr. Donna-Lee Frieze (Deakin University), Australian Human Rights Commissioner Edward Santow and Dr. David Silberklang tackled the pertinent questions of the relationship between the Holocaust and genocide in general, including aspects of human rights. The conference concluded with roundtable discussions at which Yad Vashem representatives encouraged participants to impart their impressions, requests and ideas for more effective Holocaust education in the 21st century.

At the conclusion of the Conference, John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel AC announced

The seminar allowed for excellent networking opportunities, as well as hearing about issues – and solutions – for teaching the Holocaust in the multicultural, 21st-century Australian classroom

the establishment of the Gandel Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education – another important initiative aimed at rewarding teaching excellence and further empowering the educators who are passionate about teaching the Holocaust and keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive. The inaugural recipients are Nicole Scott and Kristine Wolfe from Alkira College in Victoria,

and Anthony Quinn from Somerville House in Queensland.

In a special video message broadcast at the conference, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev called the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program “one of Yad Vashem’s flagship educational programs...This program has inspired many educators like yourselves to teach the Holocaust to future generations so that this very dark yet important chapter of our shared history is not forgotten,” he said. “It is a testament to you, Pauline and John, that so many graduates have come here today to reunite with colleagues and continue this vital work. You are truly ensuring a better tomorrow through *Tikkun Olam* – mending the world.”

The inaugural Gandel Holocaust Education Conference was jointly organized by Gandel Philanthropy, Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies and the Australian Foundation for Yad Vashem, with additional support from the Raoul Wallenberg Unit of B’nai B’rith, Courage to Care (VIC), and the German and Israeli embassies in Canberra.

The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators is made possible primarily thanks to the support of John Gandel AC and Pauline Gandel AC.

Calendar from a Destroyed Community

Naftali Deutsch



■ The calendar contained 27 advertisements for local businesses, as well as “important milestones in human history.”

■ The Yad Vashem Library recently obtained a small, humble booklet – a Hebrew calendar published in 1938 by the Orthodox community of the city of Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. The calendar was printed on simple paper with a basic design. It was clearly issued for everyday use by the local community.

After closer examination, however, the calendar turned out to be a trove of historical, political, religious and cultural information. The Jewish community of Bratislava (also known in German as Pressburg and in Hungarian as Pozsony) was referenced as early as 1251. The status and fate of the city’s Jews changed many times throughout history. The community’s glory peaked in the 1930s: some 15,000 Jews were living in the city, which had a total population of 120,000 – mostly Hungarians, Germans and Slovaks. The vibrant community had integrated well with the general public, and numerous institutions were active there, including a famous, large yeshiva.

Yet the complex political situation is palpable in the pages of the calendar: Czechoslovakia was founded in 1918 with a considerable amount of

territory from Hungary (including Bratislava), and a large Hungarian-speaking population – including many Jews. The community’s leaders wished to express their loyalty to the new state, including through this calendar. For example, among the “important milestones in human

The calendar was clearly issued for everyday use, but it turned out to be a trove of historical, political, religious and cultural information

history” listed in the calendar, from the creation of the world 5,698 years earlier until the 20th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, there is mention of the 88th birthday of Thomas Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, together with the biblical patriarchs of the Jewish people, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and great rabbis such as Rashi, Maimonides and the Vilna Gaon.

A conspicuous and politically interesting feature is the total absence of the Hungarian language, even though a considerable portion of the city’s Jews were Hungarian-speakers. Twenty-seven advertisements for local businesses appear in the calendar, 25 of them in German and two in Slovak. One of them references a prayer book with a Slovak translation by a Reform rabbi from the nearby city of Nitra. Was there really demand for this kind of prayer book, or was this another sign of loyalty? And how did a Reform publication show up in something printed by the Orthodox community, which was known for its conservatism in the spirit of the Hatam Sofer, a famous rabbi who settled there? Perhaps this, too, was a sign of the sensitive political situation.

The calendar also includes a phonetic transliteration of the Mourner’s *Kaddish* prayer. This indicates that even in the Orthodox community, there were contemporaries who needed help reading the prayer in the holy tongue. What is especially interesting is the fact that the transliteration is for a colloquial Ashkenazic pronunciation that was used only in an area of southern Slovakia and central Hungary. This pronunciation was different from the official Ashkenazic pronunciation and is very rarely seen in print. Almost no one in modern times prays using this pronunciation, apart from a limited number of elderly people in those regions, and it will likely vanish soon.

Several other features of the calendar deserve closer study: a detailed list of the community’s institutions, a catalogue of Torah lessons in the city, an article in Hebrew about religious life customs, the text of certain prayers, and a “Bar Mitzvah table,” which helped readers find the weekly Torah portion for their family’s Bar Mitzvah ceremonies based on date of birth.

This unique calendar makes it possible to peek into the life of a bustling community and describes the complex situation of the Jewish community of Bratislava in its last good year, shortly before its total destruction. It is essentially a final picture of a community with a long history and its own special customs – that no longer exists.

The author works in the Libraries Department.

80 Years On

Personal Artifacts from the *Kindertransport*

Noa Or



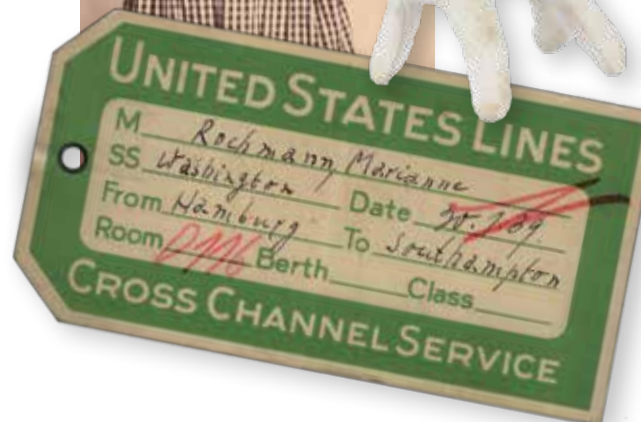
■ Anna Nussbaum, 1942, her autograph book, and the puppy pin her father bought her before her journey to the UK

Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection | Courtesy of Chana Gross, Ein Hashofet, Israel



■ Marion Rochmann in Berlin in the 1930s, her luggage tag, and the puppy doll she brought with her from her family home

Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection | Courtesy of Carol Eini (Roth), Kiryat Motzkin, Israel



■ Over 10,000 Jewish children and youth were sent from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to England as part of the *Kindertransport* rescue operation from December 1938 until the outbreak of World War II in September 1939. The *Kristallnacht* pogrom in November 1938 marked an escalation of discriminatory policies against the Jews in Germany and Austria, and their subsequent accelerated emigration and search for a safe haven. The children of the *Kindertransport* were sent to a foreign country without their parents and without knowing the language, and were transferred to foster families or children's homes run by local Jewish communities. The children never imagined that they would not see their parents again; most were murdered in the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection contains a variety of items that the children of the *Kindertransport* took with them on their journeys to the UK. Some symbolize the home that once was and is no longer, others the sad moment of separation from their family left behind. The stories of two girls sent on the *Kindertransport* are now being exhibited in the display cabinet of Yad Vashem's Visitors Center.

Dog-shaped pin

■ Anna Nussbaum, 10, from Vienna, was sent to Ireland as part of the *Kindertransport*. There she joined Clara, her older sister, who had arrived there a short while beforehand.

"My father took me to the train," Anna recalled. "My mother could not stand another separation, and she cried all the time that I, her second daughter, was also going. When we got to the train station, Gestapo soldiers came and checked the suitcases to see that we had not taken anything superfluous to my needs. I started to cry. I didn't want to get on the train. So my father went to one of the stalls where he bought me the pin... That's how he convinced me to get on the train."

In Anna's autograph book, her father Oskar wrote: "Flowers wither, but the love of a father always blooms. Vienna, 9 January 1939."

Anna stayed with an Irish family for a year. From there, she went to a Jewish youth *hachshara* training camp, to prepare for immigration to Eretz Israel.

The reddish puppy pin is Anna's last gift from her father. She never saw her parents again; they were deported from Austria and murdered.

Puppy Doll

■ Marion Rochmann, 14, from Berlin, the only child of Carl and Elsa, was sent on the *Kindertransport* to London, where she stayed with family friends. Her parents were deported from Berlin in 1942 to their deaths. The puppy doll is one of the only items left from Marion's childhood home.

"I am sure we will meet again next year."

Marion Rochmann, 1939

In 1939, during her stay in England, Marion wrote "A Song for Mother": "For the first time in my life, I cannot give you anything personally [for your birthday]. Don't be too sad – it will all pass. I'm sure you realize how much hope and good cheer I wish you during your present sorrow. I am sure we will meet again next year; perhaps we could go to the [New York] Metropolitan Museum."

The author works in the Artifacts Department, Museums Division.

“New on Display”

Museum Presents Lives and Creations of Artists during the Shoah

Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg



■ *“Every day brings with it its quota of new difficulties. If it were not for the ecstasy and spiritual elevation that overflow when I hold a paintbrush, I would be unable to do anything.”*

Thus wrote Shaya Blonder in his diary in 1943. Blonder was a Jewish painter from Poland living in an isolated hut in the woods in southern France. Using the false identity of André Blondel, Shaya worked as a lumberjack, performing grueling physical labor in order to survive. A few months ago, Yad Vashem received 22 of his drawings and sketches, donated by his daughter H el ene Blondel, who lives in Paris. The artworks made it possible to follow Blondel’s life story and his stylistic development in WWII-era France until liberation. Nine of his works are part of a “New on Display” exhibit in the Museum of Holocaust Art.

The exhibit, which opened during the lead-up to Holocaust Remembrance Day 2019, presents the public with paintings and drawings acquired by Yad Vashem in recent years. The pieces on display were drawn by artists from different countries – France, Romania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Poland and even Tunisia – in various circumstances: in ghettos, in camps or in hiding. They represent a wide range of environments and styles.

Fascinating narratives are revealed throughout the diverse works, and can be read in the accompanying texts. For example, visitors can learn about the daily life of Maximilian Feuerring in a POW camp in Germany, where he concealed his Jewish identity; they can discover the outset of designer Dan Reisinger’s artistic path as a child in occupied Yugoslavia; and they can contemplate the artwork that Henri Epstein left behind in a village in France after he was arrested and deported to Auschwitz.

The display includes works by artists who were already accomplished when the war broke out, such as Blondel, Feuerring, Karel Fleischmann and Petr Kien, along with those by younger artists, like Peter Klein, Mordechai Allouche, Henri Kichka, Samy Briss or Dan Reisinger, who actually took their first steps in art during this period.

For the experienced artists as well as the beginners, drawing was a means of self-expression and documentation in times of pain and crisis, and it served diverse functions. With expressive and quickly drawn lines, Karel Fleischmann captured the grim hunger in the Terezin ghetto with his compassionate sketches. For Henri Kichka, who drew Disney’s seven dwarfs from “Snow White” before he was sent to Auschwitz, art made it possible

to escape to the realm of the imagination in a time of anxiety and persecution. The colorful sketches reveal Kichka’s attraction to cartoon characters, an admiration he passed on to his son, the cartoonist Michel Kichka, who was born after the war. In other cases, drawing was also a way to make a living: The young Mordechai Allouche drew vivid postcards in Tunisia in order to help support his family.

One piece in particular was obtained almost a decade ago, but required a complex conservation process in order to be exhibited

Many of the pieces acquired by Yad Vashem arrived in poor condition due to the circumstances in which they were created and stored. It took a considerable amount of care to preserve the paintings and the drawings, and then prepare them for display. One piece in particular was obtained almost a decade ago, but required a complex conservation process in order to be

For the experienced artists as well as the beginners, drawing was a means of self-expression and documentation in times of pain and crisis



■ *Franz Petr Kien (1919-1944), Portrait of Jan Burka, Prague, 1940*

Yad Vashem Art Collection | Bequest of Friedel Stern

exhibited: a double-sided painting created in Prague in 1940 by Petr Kien before he was deported to Terezin. One side of the oil painting commemorates the artist's wife, Ilse Stránský. Ilse and Petr were deported from Terezin to Auschwitz together with their parents, where they were murdered. The other side depicts

Jan Burka, Kien's student in Prague. Burka, who dreamed of being a painter, considered Kien a spiritual father, and they developed a friendship that continued after they were imprisoned together in the Terezin ghetto. Burka survived and made his dream of becoming an artist come true, while actively commemorating Petr Kien



■ *Holocaust survivor Mordechai Allouche with his artwork at the opening of the "New on Display" exhibit in the Holocaust Art Museum*

and his friends from Terezin. It was thanks to Jan Burka that Yad Vashem was able to acquire this precious piece, which can now be admired in the Museum of Holocaust Art.

"The Nazis invested not only in the systematic murder of the Jewish people, but also in erasing the memory, culture and heritage of the victims," said Museums Division Director Vivian Uria at the opening of the new display. "The 12,000 artworks in Yad Vashem's Art Collection – most of which were created during the Holocaust in ghettos, in hiding, and in concentration, labor and death camps, under life-threatening conditions – relate to the fate of individuals, families and communities in the Holocaust, and express the spirit of humanity.

"We are at a crossroads where the generation of survivors is disappearing and the tools of commemorating memory are changing dramatically. The historical and educational importance of Yad Vashem's Collections is therefore growing. We would like to thank the survivors and their families for depositing their precious works for eternal safekeeping at Yad Vashem. We promise to fulfill our moral obligation to the Jewish people and humanity to preserve them and display them to large audiences in Israel and around the world."

"New on Display" is made possible thanks to the artists and their families who entrusted Yad Vashem with their artworks, and to the Friends of Yad Vashem in Israel and worldwide, whose generosity made it possible to enrich the Art Collection with these meaningful works.

The author is Curator and Director of the Art Department, Museums Division.

“Tell Your Children”

Wartime Diary Charts Development of Hidden Baby



■ Page from the diary with a photograph of Abraham and his “stepmother” Maria (Rie) Pakker

■ During the Holocaust, when families were broken up against their will and children were put in the custody of non-Jewish families and institutions, many parents were prevented from celebrating the family holidays with their children. Abraham Pakker’s family was one of them.

Abraham was born in 1942 in Enschede, the Netherlands, to Elias and Betty Pakker (née Gerstnër). When the deportations of Jews to the east began in the summer of 1942, Elias and Betty decided to go into hiding and to send their children, seven-week-old Abraham and his sister Lea, to live under false identities with Christian families. Elias owned a farm equipment shop, and one of his customers from the neighboring city of Almelo, Mr. Paus, offered to find refuge

for Abraham and Lea. Lea was taken in by the Paus family, and Abraham was sent to Maria (Rie) and Frans Pakker, a different, childless family from the same town. They raised Abraham as their son under the name Wim.

Maria Pakker understood the sorrow of Abraham’s family, and decided to keep a diary from the moment she received the Jewish

Maria Pakker understood the sorrow of Abraham’s family, and decided to keep a diary from the moment she received the Jewish infant

infant. There she described and documented how the precious baby boy was developing. Frans, a photography enthusiast, took pictures of Abraham and placed them in the diary. The photographs included a few pictures of Abraham

It is easy to see the profound connection and intense love Avraham still feels for his rescuers

Baruch Karlin

(Wim) outside; next to one picture, the word “Troost!” (Consolation!) is written in bold.

Abraham stayed with his rescuers from November 1942 until May 1945, when he was reunited with his sister and parents. In 1944, the Pakkers’ first biological son was born, which made it slightly easier to say goodbye to Abraham, the first son they had raised. Abraham and his family remained in contact with his adoptive parents after the war. Maria passed away at a young age in 1953, whereas Frans lived until 2007. Both were posthumously recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 2009.

While in hiding, Abraham’s father Elias wrote the Passover Haggadah from memory, including the biblical commandment for parents to “Tell Your Children”

When Abraham asked Frans how they had dared take in a Jewish baby at a time when the people around them knew that they had no children, he answered that it had been clear to them that they had to do it, and they had not worried about the consequences. For Abraham, Maria and Frans were his stepparents; it is easy to see the profound connection and intense love he still feels for his rescuers. As far as Abraham is concerned, he was privileged to have had two sets of parents.

Abraham recently gave his precious diary to Yad Vashem for safekeeping, together with a notebook containing biblical texts his father had written, through its nationwide “Gathering the Fragments” campaign. Before the war, Abraham’s family had led a religiously traditional lifestyle, and going into hiding made it difficult to maintain a Jewish way of life. In order to keep the spark going, Elias wrote the Book of Esther as well as the Passover Haggadah, with the biblical commandment for parents to “Tell

Your Children,” written in the notebook. It is clear that much was written from memory; the texts contain numerous inaccuracies. Despite all the danger and hardships, however, Abraham is comforted that he managed to fulfill his father’s dreams, as is said every year at the Passover Seder: “Next year in Jerusalem.”

Since the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign began eight years ago, 12,300 people have donated some 280,000 items, including 162,000 documents, 105,000 photographs, 4,802 artifacts, 748 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

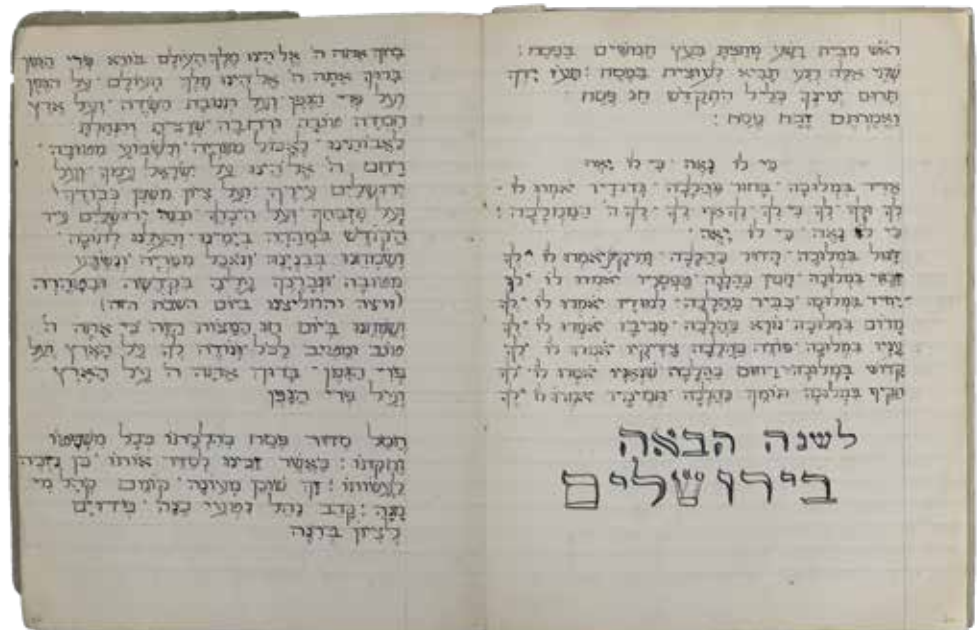
Yad Vashem runs the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign with the support of Israel’s Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage.

The author is the Head of the Collection and Registration Section, Archives Division.



■ Abraham and Lea Pakter, c.1947, the Netherlands
Yad Vashem Archives

■ From the Passover Haggadah written in hiding by Elias Pakter: “Next year in Jerusalem” is written in bold



Extraordinary Requests for

Sara Berkowitz

■ **“What can I do as a descendant of perpetrators to ensure that the names of these victims are not forgotten?”**

Requests to fill out Pages of Testimony and thus commemorate Holocaust victims are the essence of Yad Vashem’s Names Recovery Project, and are dealt with on a daily basis. It is usually a surviving family member who asks to memorialize the names of their beloved ones so brutally murdered by the Nazi Germans or

their deaths in concentration camps. Her aunt, Ruth Burberg, verified that as a child she had spent time at the Jewish estate and that the place had been renamed “Ochsenberg.” Ruth also verified that the previous owners had been “relocated” to the Warsaw ghetto.

With the verifying documents and information in hand, she then turned to Yad Vashem in order to fill out Pages of Testimony for each of the Wedya family victims – stating on each Page that she, the submitter, is the granddaughter of the perpetrator.

“Mechthild could not correct the past, but she was willing to face and acknowledge painful facts relating to the part her grandfather played with regard to the Wedya family, and try to take some positive act in memory of the victims,” says Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. “Because of her, their names and story will now be commemorated for posterity.”



■ **Righteous Among the Nations Katerina Sikorska**
Yad Vashem Archives

Some of the names on the list had never been submitted to Yad Vashem before, while others provided important supplemental information to victims already commemorated

The second extraordinary request received by Yad Vashem came from Ira (Iryna) Korpan, the granddaughter of Righteous Among the Nations Katerina Sikorska, who had been murdered by the Nazis after having been found “guilty” of hiding Jews during the war.

“Recently, I was perusing YouTube and found out that you are collecting the names of people who perished in the Holocaust,” wrote Korpan in an e-mail to the Names Recovery Project team. “I shared this information with my father, who is 90 years old now, and he recalled the names of Jews who once lived and prospered in his town of Podhajce, Poland (now Ukraine). I prepared the list and would like to share this valuable information with you.”

Over 70 years after the end of WWII, they both desired to take the same positive action: ensuring that the victims whose names they knew would never be forgotten.

The Wedya family (Jozefa, Wieslaw Jerzy and Zdzislaw Lech) were Jewish landowners who lived on an estate in Jankow, part of Kalisz County in Poland. In October 1939, their estate was confiscated by the Germans and they were sent to the Warsaw ghetto.

From October 1939 until January 1945, the estate was in the hands of a Nazi named Paul Burberg. Almost 80 years after the Wedya family had been exiled from their home and met their untimely deaths, Burberg’s granddaughter, Mechthild Wagenhoff from Frankfurt, Germany, sent a request to Yad Vashem to fill out Pages of Testimony to commemorate the Jewish victims whose estate her grandfather had taken over.

Wagenhoff was investigating her family history when she found out about her grandfather’s role in WWII. With the help of the Kalisz County Municipality and Archives, she discovered the Wedya family’s names and understood that after they were sent to the Warsaw ghetto, two of the three were sent to



■ **Page of Testimony for Jozefa Wedya (née Staszewski) filled in by Mechthild Wagenhoff**

their collaborators. At other times, the submitter is a member of that Jewish community, or someone who has researched information about a particular place or event, so that the identities of the victims may be recovered.

However, it is most unusual when the request comes from a non-Jew, and even rarer when that person is actually the descendant of someone who saved – or helped murder – Jewish people during the Shoah.

Two such requests were received by Yad Vashem in recent months – each coming from a unique but diametrically opposed personal history connected to the Holocaust: one was a granddaughter of a Righteous Among the Nations, while the other was also a granddaughter, but of a Nazi perpetrator.

Remembrance



■ *Wedya family estate, Jankow, Poland, 1943*
Yad Vashem Archives

The list prepared by Korpan consisted of 43 Holocaust victims, and she readily agreed that her father Roman be named the submitter of the Pages of Testimony in their memory. Some of the names on the list had never been submitted to Yad Vashem before, while others provided important supplemental information to victims already commemorated in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names.

Together with the Pages of Testimony, Korpan also sent a picture of her grandmother Katrina, which she asked Yad Vashem to add to her profile in the Righteous Among the Nations Database.

"In line with her grandmother Katrina's honorable deeds, Ira and her father Roman continue to do good in this world, memorializing victims of their town, Podhajce," says Dr. Avram.

Mechthild could not correct the past, but she was willing to try to take some positive act in memory of the victims."

Dr. Alexander Avram

"These are victims whose names might otherwise have been left unknown and lost forever. We urge anyone, from any background, to contact Yad Vashem if they know of names of victims. Over a million Jewish men, women and children who have yet to be identified will remain anonymous unless people who once knew them come forward to say they once lived."

For more information on filling out Pages of Testimony or donating other sources containing names of Holocaust victims, please contact: names.proj@yadvashem.org.il

The Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project is generously supported by Dana and Yossie Hollander. Yad Vashem's names collection efforts are also supported by: Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, France; the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; Swiss Banks Settlement; Genesis Philanthropy Group; the Noaber Foundation; the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism; the Nadav Foundation; Swiss Friends of Yad Vashem; the Zanker Foundation, the Maror Foundation; Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands; Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria; and Anonymous, Switzerland.

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

■ Dr. Winson Chu is an Associate Professor of Modern Central European History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His research interests are Germany and Poland, and he has spent well over a decade in both countries. He is currently working on the history of German-Polish-Jewish relations in the twentieth century by using the Polish city of Lodz as an example.

Lodz was annexed to the German Reich in November 1939 and renamed Litzmannstadt in April 1940. Of the 233,000 Jews living there when the war broke out, some 160,000 remained by the time the ghetto was established in the northern part of the city at the beginning of 1940. Dr. Chu was recently a fellow at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, where he examined the role of the *Kriminalpolizei* (Kripo, criminal police) in the Lodz ghetto.

“While recent research on the Lodz ghetto has focused on racial and economic policies that involved top-level SS and Gestapo leaders, the criminal police played a more day-to-day – and hence pervasive – role in oppressing Jews in the ghetto,” Dr. Chu explains. “The Kripo is historically understudied, but for many Jews in Lodz, they were the face of German persecution. They played a major part in their lives as they

sought to plunder whatever valuables the Jews had left.”

The examination of criminal police investigations of suicide and of smuggling has revealed the frequent crossings between the ghetto and “Aryan” sides, even after the Lodz ghetto was supposedly sealed in April 1940. “Jewish contacts with Poles and *Volksdeutsche* were both remnants from prewar social life and new relationships that resulted from wartime necessities and practices,” explains Dr. Chu. “Yet my research suggests, too, that these ties could have worked against the Jews: Most of the junior criminal policemen were recruited locally, and their intimate knowledge of their Jewish neighbors often had brutal consequences.”

Dr. Chu’s research covers a range of related topics: the large number of local German-speaking Poles who joined the Kripo; the need to see the occupied city as a coherent whole rather than as separate German, Polish and Jewish sections; the different motivations and methods used for suicide and how these were interpreted by Jewish sources as well as by German police officials; and cultural and gender-related aspects – all of which greatly enhances the picture of Jewish life, and death, in the Lodz ghetto.



“My research on this topic could not have been complete without using Yad Vashem’s large amount of Jewish testimonies, both written and video, on how the Kripo oppressed them,” Dr. Chu remarked. “I was especially fortunate to find additional testimony regarding one particular Polish-German policeman who was infamous in the Lodz ghetto but about whom we know very little. Finally, I am especially grateful to the many scholars affiliated with the International Institute for Holocaust Research who have helped me think through my research and enrich it in fruitful ways.”

Annual Lecture in Memory of Prof. David Bankier

Prof. Dan Michman

■ The 2019 Annual Lecture in Memory of Prof. David Bankier, the former Head of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research, was given by Prof. Wulf Kansteiner of Aarhus University. Prof. Kansteiner, a prolific scholar, focuses his research on memory and historiography, especially of National Socialism and the Holocaust. He stands out as a scholar whose interest is in narrative and vocabulary analysis.

In his lecture, entitled “A Contest of Numbers and Persuasion: Prof. Timothy Snyder’s *Bloodlands* and Holocaust Historiography,” Prof. Kansteiner claimed that Prof. Snyder invented a new historical location in Eastern Europe – the “bloodlands” – where the crimes of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union overlapped and caused civilian suffering on an unprecedented scale. Prof. Kansteiner further explained that Prof. Snyder emphasizes the historical relevance of the “bloodlands” by subtly downgrading the symbolic significance of other catastrophes, most prominently that of the Holocaust.

For that purpose, *Bloodlands* engages in a great deal of confusing symbolic arithmetic. On the one hand, Prof. Snyder emphasizes that one can never have precise knowledge of the large

numbers of victims killed by Stalin and Hitler. On the other, he is very concerned about an accurate victim count of the Soviet and Nazi regimes, and repeatedly presents surprisingly precise figures for different mass killings. However, one famous number is conspicuously absent from *Bloodlands*. Prof. Snyder never mentions, let alone argues about, the number six million, which has assumed great historical and memorial significance over the decades. In contrast, he seeks to establish a new, higher symbolic benchmark, claiming: “Fourteen million people were deliberately murdered by two regimes over twelve years” in the “bloodlands.” In the end, the Holocaust is numerically absorbed into an event more than twice its size and, presumably, also of greater symbolic significance. Prof. Snyder engages in similar deconstructive efforts concerning the status of Jews as the Nazis’ primary genocidal target, and of Auschwitz as a central Holocaust location.

Prof. Kansteiner’s thought-provoking lecture, to be published in Yad Vashem’s *Search and Research* series, initiated an animated discussion. In the second part of the event, Prof. Kansteiner conducted a doctoral student workshop, which focused in a similar mode on Raul Hilberg’s *The Destruction of the European Jews*. During

this session, two young Israeli scholars, Tamir Hod and Yaron Nir Freisager, presented their research and discussed their topics with Prof. Kansteiner and with their peers.

The Annual Lecture and the Workshop in Memory of Prof. David Bankier were supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

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

Clarification

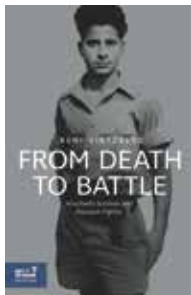
■ The opening sentence of the article in the February 2019 issue of *Yad Vashem Jerusalem* on the subject of “The Ethical Use of Jewish Human Remains from WWII” is incorrect. The principal authors of the October 2018 paper in the journal *Surgery* were Mr. Andrew Yee and Prof. Susan Mackinnon of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of Washington University of St. Louis, Mo., USA. Yee and Mackinnon’s pioneering work contributed to the development of the “Vienna Protocol.” Prof. Seidelman was one of a number of co-authors of the *Surgery* paper.

New Publications

Beni Virtzberg: *From Death to Battle - Auschwitz Survivor and Palmach Fighter*

Dr. Ella Florsheim

■ On 18 March, the launch of the English-language version of Beni Virtzberg's *From Death to Battle: Auschwitz Survivor and Palmach Fighter* took place at Yad Vashem.



First published in Hebrew in 1967, *From Death to Battle* was "exceptional at a time when survivors, particularly the younger ones, rarely recounted their harrowing tales," writes the book's Academic Editor Dr. Bella Gutterman in her introduction.

Virtzberg's story sheds light on the experiences of those Jewish children who did not survive and were thus unable to tell their story. It expands our knowledge of the Jewish family during the Holocaust and provides a rare eyewitness testimony of a young boy's life in the extermination camp at Auschwitz, including a vivid and detailed description of Dr. Josef Mengele and his practices.

Beni Virtzberg survived the camps and the rootlessness that followed, encountered the Jewish Brigade and, in 1945, immigrated to Eretz Israel. There, he went through a healing process, which mainly involved the creation of a new Israeli identity, absorption into kibbutz life, recruitment into the Palmach (an elite underground fighting force) and active participation in Israel's War of Independence, during which some of his brothers-in-arms and fellow survivors lost their lives.

The writer's tragic death, about a year after the initial publication of the book in Hebrew, is linked to the relatively modest response it received at the time. Following the Six-Day War, Israeli society was prepared to accept courageous fighters, but still found it difficult to listen to survivors. Virtzberg was compelled to cope with the bitter frustration of the book's lack of commercial success. It was a disappointment that led to emotional torment and a renewed descent into the past that his book had resurrected.

The republication of the book, after more than 50 years, represents a sort of "repayment of a debt" to a survivor who, early on, dared to

write about and cope with his past, but did not receive the recognition he deserved.

In the eulogy at his funeral, the Chief Rabbi of Be'er Sheva, his hometown in Israel, said: "Eichmann killed him 25 years ago. But we only received the body today." The publication of a new edition of the book closes the circle and marks a late acknowledgment of the very important and sensitive legacy of Holocaust survivors.

At the book launch, a panel of researchers, including Israeli psychologist and writer Prof. Amia Lieblich and historian and scholar Prof. Hanna Yablonka, discussed the book and Virtzberg's life story at length within the context of the topic of survivors' writings, and the interaction between Israeli society and the survivors who came to Israel to rebuild their lives. Dalia Virtzberg, the daughter of Beni Virtzberg, gave a moving address about her father.

The symposium was organized by the Diana and Eli Zborowski Center for Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

The author is Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications.

Yad Vashem Studies: Halakha and the Holocaust

■ What Halakhic (Jewish law) issues did observant Jews face during and after the Holocaust? What changes in Halakhic understandings and rulings were engendered by the Holocaust? In the new volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* (47:1), three articles focus on a variety of Halakhic matters during and immediately after the Holocaust, and one thing that clearly emerges from these articles is the major challenge that the Holocaust posed for traditional Halakha and Halakhic practice and rulings. Each article brings a fresh perspective to the questions they investigate, based on new research and innovative analysis.

Dr. Moshe Tarshansky discusses the well-known writings of Rabbi Ephraim Oshry from Kovno, especially the rabbinical opinions Rabbi Oshry presents from the period of the Shoah. Dr. Tarshansky shows that although a part of Rabbi Oshry's writing is grounded in the historical record of the period, and some of the rabbinical opinions may have been given during the Holocaust as he presented them, these writings and opinions do not necessarily correspond to the historical record. This is because Rabbi Oshry was not writing history, but giving rabbinical opinions that reflected the situation. Sometimes Rabbi Oshry offered opinions to queries that were never asked, but could have

been asked. Sometimes he molded a particular event in a certain way in order to discuss an aspect of Jewish law and render an opinion. Dr. Tarshansky shows that Rabbi Oshry's method has many precedents in Rabbinic writings.

Dr. David Deutsch uses diaries, testimonies, memoirs and memorial books to explore religious observance during the unfolding Holocaust from the individual perspective. He looks not at what rabbis said or wrote, but rather at what people did, and he finds that people became more flexible in their observance as circumstances deteriorated, improvising while trying to hold on to their spirituality. Religious acts, he shows, often had less meaning as religious practices than those that contributed to a strategy of survival by asserting human agency. During the Holocaust, because of the need of individuals to adapt to the extreme situation, Halakhic rulings became decentralized and more innovative.

Dr. Tehila Darmon Malka examines one of the most painful issues in Jewish law that was especially distressing after the Holocaust, *Agunot* – women whose husbands were missing, but who could not remarry until the death of their husbands was verified. Of course, given the nature of the Holocaust, there were often great difficulties proving definitively that someone had died. Dr. Darmon Malka shows that rabbis

who themselves were survivors were much more sensitive to this situation than their colleagues who had not gone through the Shoah, and they did all they could to allow women in such circumstances to rebuild their lives through new marriages. She demonstrates that these rabbis' intimate knowledge of the Shoah engendered their Halakhic flexibility. In highlighting Halakhic adaptability and even creativity during and after the Shoah, all three articles also point to the fact that for Halakha, the Holocaust was an unprecedented event.

The author is Senior Historian, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

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Or purchase through our online store:
www.yadvashem.org



Dr. Robert Rozett

During February–May 2019, Yad Vashem conducted guided tours for some 4,100 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors, mayors and NGO officials, in addition to 24,000 other visitors who took guided tours of the campus. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **The Federal President of the Republic of Austria H.E. Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen** visited Yad Vashem on 4 February 2019. The President toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, in the presence of Israel’s President H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev.

“Yad Vashem is a powerful place of commemoration and reflection,” wrote President Van der Bellen in the Yad Vashem Guest Book. “It is a warning and a reminder of the fragility of democracy, and of the values we so often take for granted. Austria recognizes its shared responsibility for the unspeakable atrocity of the Holocaust and our special obligation to ensure that ‘never forget’ becomes ‘never again.’”



■ On 10 March, **Prime Minister of Cape Verde H.E. Mr. José Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva** (second from left) toured the “Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust” exhibition.



■ On 21 March, **US Secretary of State Michael R (Mike) Pompeo** visited Yad Vashem, where he toured the “Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust” exhibition and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance. At the end of his visit Secretary Pompeo wrote in the Yad Vashem Guest Book: “I am humbled to be at Yad Vashem, the hallowed place dedicated to keeping sure the memory of the Holocaust.”



■ **Czech Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Andrej Babis** and his wife **Monika Babisova** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Hall of Names on 20 February.



■ **President of Montenegro H.E. Mr. Milo Djukanovic** and his wife **Lidija** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 27 March.



■ On 28 February, **President of the Republic of Liberia H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah** toured the Holocaust History Museum and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Samoan Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi** visited Yad Vashem on 4 March, and toured the Holocaust History Museum.

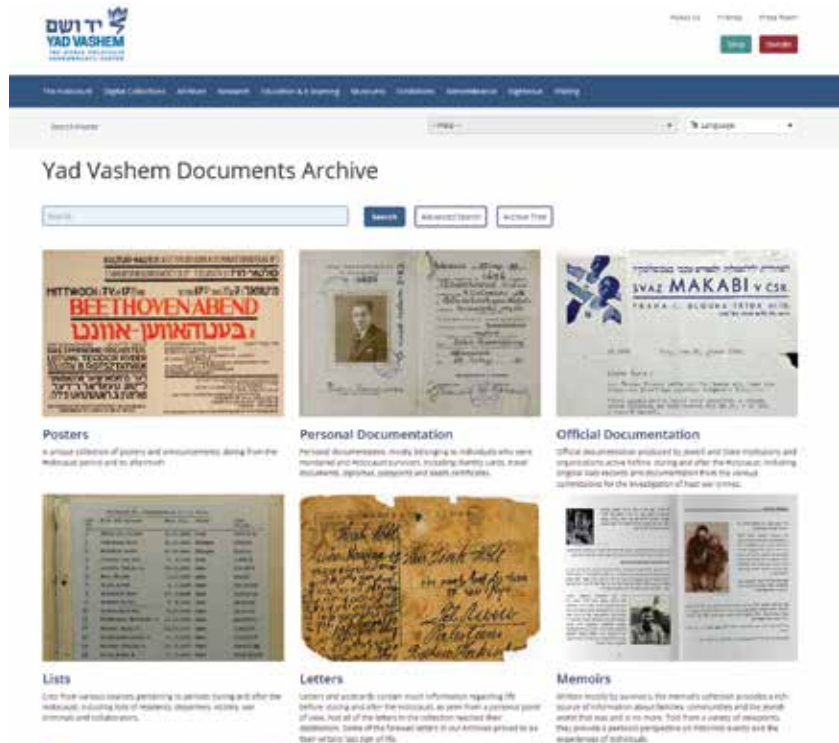


Advanced New Interface for Archival Documents Database

■ The Yad Vashem Archives currently contain more than 210 million pages of Holocaust-related documents. These documents include letters, diaries, personal and official documents, testimony, lists, and legal documentation. In recent years, Yad Vashem embarked on an intensive mission to digitize all of the documents in its collection. This important process will take many years, but to date some three million pages of documents have been made accessible on Yad Vashem's website, making it easier for historians, researchers and the public at large to use them.

At the end of March 2019, Yad Vashem's Information Technology Division, together with the Archives Division, completed developing a new system to display archival documents online. Like the innovative interfaces of other Yad Vashem collections, scanned pages of documentation from over 100 archival divisions can now be viewed on the new interface. A map of all of the Archives' collections allows a search for documents within. These include many of the Archives' older original collections, as well as a majority of the 153,000 documents received so far through Yad Vashem's national "Gathering the Fragments" campaign.

With faster and more effective searches that meet today's standards of accessibility, the new interface allows users to perform simple follow-up



searches by using keywords and relevant terms. Users can also view the scanned documents on a combined page with all available information about the content of every document in Hebrew

and English. Finally, the new interface makes it possible to share links to every document in the database.

Arolsen Archive Now Online in Partnership with Yad Vashem

■ On 21 May, the Arolsen Archives: International Center on Nazi Persecution (formerly the International Tracing Service, ITS) uploaded their new online archive in partnership with Yad Vashem. The archive contains a comprehensive collection of documents from WWII-era concentration camps, including prisoner cards and death notices. The more than 13 million documents featuring information on over

2.2 million persecuted people (mostly non-Jews) of the Nazi regime are part of the UNESCO's World Documentary Heritage. The joint project utilizes Yad Vashem's state-of-the-art technology for fast data management and extended place and name search. The result is an easily accessible, user-friendly online archive.

"For nearly half a century, Yad Vashem has been working closely with the Arolsen Archives.

Already in the 1950s, Yad Vashem scanned a copy of the documentation from the then International Tracing Service, in order to have better access to information about the fate of the Jewish victims," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "The current partnership with Arolsen Archives leverages Yad Vashem's technical and professional capabilities with Arolsen Archives assets in order to enhance Holocaust research and study."

Recent Visual Center Acquisitions: The Willy Lindwer Collection

■ The Visual Center's Online Film Database currently includes 12,000 films. A recent highlight was the acquisition of all of Dutch-Israeli filmmaker Willy Lindwer's 25 documentary films on the Holocaust, among them the International Emmy Award-winning *The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank* (1988), in which



Anne Frank's closest friends who were with her in Bergen Belsen recount the trials and tribulations they endured together, as they revisit the sites of what turned out to be Anne's last journey.

Another outstanding work in the collection is *Child in Two Worlds* (1993), which brings to the screen heart-wrenching stories of Jewish children saved by non-Jews during the Holocaust. In the same year, the film received the prestigious Golden Calf award presented annually at the Netherlands Film Festival.

Lindwer was nominated for a second International Emmy for *Simon Wiesenthal: Freedom is Not a Gift from Heaven* (1994), the first television biopic of the famous Nazi hunter.

Goodbye Holland (2004) caused shock waves when it shattered the myth of the universal goodness of the Dutch during WWII, by documenting Dutch indifference to and collaboration with the Nazis. Ultimately, 78 percent of Dutch Jewry was annihilated during the Holocaust. In 2005, *Goodbye Holland* was nominated for Israel's "Oscar" – the Ophir Prize.

"It means a lot to me that my Holocaust films are available for viewing on the Mount of Remembrance," said Lindwer. "I devoted years to this project out of a profound sense of duty. Many thanks to Yad Vashem for the tremendous work they do commemorating the victims of the Holocaust."

Design Prize for "Flashes of Memory" Exhibition



■ Israel's Design Mill Studio was recently awarded the 2019 Israeli Design Award for Yad Vashem's exhibition "Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust." On display in the Exhibitions Pavilion, "Flashes of Memory" presents a critical view of visual documentation during the Holocaust through the camera lens.

"By using visuals from the world of photography – the light table, the walls that conceptualize the Leica camera, and the combination of the window of the Exhibitions Pavilion in the exhibit as a camera lens – designer Yossi Karni created a space that precisely expresses the concept of the exhibition, which casts a spotlight on the conditions of Holocaust-era photography and the worldview of the person taking the pictures – Germans, Jews and the Allied liberators – while addressing the different and unique viewpoint of Jewish photographers in the ghettos," said Vivian Uria, Exhibition Curator and Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division.

Over 100,000 people have visited the exhibition to date. A traveling version is set to go on display at the Houston Holocaust Museum in the US next year, as well as in Germany.

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

Auschwitz Exhibition in New York Features Yad Vashem Artifacts

■ "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away." is an exhibition conceived of by Musealia and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and curated by an international panel of experts that presents the history of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp and the substantial role it played in the murder of Jews during the Holocaust.

The exhibition, which debuted in Madrid, was one of the most successful in Europe in 2018. It has now moved to the United States and opened in the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The exhibition features hundreds of original artifacts from the extermination camp, along with photographs and documents attesting to the hell that reigned there. A large percentage of the artifacts on display are of unknown ownership, and they are evidence of the 1.3 million mostly Jewish people who were sent to the extermination camp and did not come back. Thanks to the unique inquiries carried out by staff at Yad Vashem's Artifacts Department, the exhibition also showcases personal items that have been identified as having belonged to Jews who were there. The rare artifacts from Yad

Vashem's Artifacts Collection include the dress of Gaby Klipper, a seven-year-old girl deported to Auschwitz with her mother and brother, where they were murdered; a slip that Esther Zoldan secretly bought for food rations, and the story of her survival of the camp and a death march; and a *tallit* (prayer shawl) belonging to Salomon Krieser, a native of the village of Oświęcim near the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, who was living in Belgium with his wife and two daughters when the war broke out. Shortly before he was deported to the camp, Krieser sent his *tallit* to his two daughters, who were living in France under false identities. He was murdered in Auschwitz, but his daughters survived and kept the garment as a precious memento from the father they never saw again.

"In addition to its value as historical testimony to the events of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection is a mosaic of personal memories of the victims," says Vivian Uria, Director of the Museums Division. "The artifacts tell the life stories of these people from a personal perspective, and give them back their humanity, their faces and their names. These are the anonymous witnesses that reveal the annals

Iris Bar-Nir



■ Tallit belonging to Salomon Krieser who was murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau

of the Shoah through their individual experiences, and thus create a collective memory. That is why it is so important to showcase these artifacts and the stories behind them in exhibitions displayed in Israel and around the world."

"Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away." is scheduled to go on display in twelve more cities across the US and Europe.

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

Friends Worldwide

Holocaust Remembrance Day 2019

USA

■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Mark Moskowitz** (second from left) accompanied his mother, Holocaust survivor **Rose Moskowitz** (fourth from left), at the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony, along with Yad Vashem Pillar **Steven Baral** (left) and his son **Avidan** (third from right), Young Leadership Associates (YLA) member **Jonah Burian** (fourth from right), Executive Director of the **American Society for Yad Vashem Dr. Ron Meier** (second from right) and US Desk Donor Liaison **Debbie Efraim** (right).



■ Accompanied by **Dr. Ron Meier** (left) and **Debbie Efraim** (right), Yad Vashem Builder **Rella Feldman** (fourth from right) participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony at Yad Vashem along with various members of her family.



■ **Jane Wilf** (left) participated in the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Shoah Heritage Campus (see pp. 2-3) with Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**, **Dr. Ron Meier** and **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



CANADA

■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Gianna Glassman** (left) and her niece **Maria Chaplick** laid the memorial wreath during Holocaust Remembrance Day.



■ **Riva** and **Jerry Kirsh** attended Yad Vashem's Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies. They also visited the Memorial Cave and viewed the plaque honoring Riva's father **Rubin Schneider z"l**, who saved his family and others during the war.



UKRAINE

■ At the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony, Yad Vashem Builder **Boris Lozhkin** (left) and his wife **Nadia Shalomova** (center) were greeted by Special Advisor to the Chairman of Yad Vashem **Arie Zuckerman** (right).



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, Switzerland, Sweden and Israel participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies at Yad Vashem. The delegation included **Joe** and **Claire Tugendhaft**, **Ilana Fayon**, **Bernard Emsellem** of the SNCF, **Harry** and **Eva Pommert**, and the children of **Maxi Librati z"l** **Patricia** and **Willy Fazel** and **Thierry Librati**, who paid tribute to their father, a Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Visionary who recently passed away (see p. 29). Also included in the group was a French mayoral delegation whose municipalities are part of the "Cities and Villages in Honor of The Righteous Among the Nations of France" network, headed by Mayor of Saint-Amand-Montrond **Thierry Vinçon** and accompanied by Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the **French Friends of Yad Vashem Pierre-Francois Veil** and **Francois Gugenheim**. The group also visited the "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust" exhibition and attended the recitation of Holocaust victims' names in the Hall of Remembrance. During the Main Memorial Ceremony, Pierre-Francois Veil and Thierry Librati recited the mourners' *Kaddish* prayer.



■ During Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem broke ground for its new Shoah Heritage Campus (see pp. 2-3). **Bernard Emsellem**, representing the SNCF French railway company, signed the Scroll of Dedication and Chairman of the French Friends for Yad Vashem **Pierre-François Veil** took part in its burial on the site where the new Campus will be built.



Holocaust Remembrance Day 2019

GERMANY

■ Chairman of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany Kai Diekmann** (left) and German Society Co-Vice Chairman **Stefan Casdorff** (right) laid a wreath on Holocaust Remembrance Day.



■ Yad Vashem welcomed members of the directorates of major German enterprises who recently committed their contribution and support to the building of the Shoah Heritage Collections Center. They visited Yad Vashem on Holocaust Remembrance Day, toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum and the “Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust” exhibition, and signed the Scroll of Dedication during the Shoah Heritage Campus groundbreaking ceremony (see pp. 2-3).



■ **Dr. Andreas Eberhardt**, CEO of the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ), and Advisor to the CEO **Luisa Maria Schweizer** (left) participated in Holocaust Remembrance Day events. They met with Special Advisor to the Chairman of Yad Vashem **Arie Zuckerman** and Resource Development Coordinator **Dina Maslova** (right).



AUSTRIA

■ Austrian Member of Parliament **Martin Engelberg** visited Yad Vashem on the Holocaust Remembrance Day and laid a wreath on behalf of the Republic of Austria.



LIECHTENSTEIN

■ Honorary President of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein Evelyne Bermann** (left) and Liechtenstein Society board member **Yael Teitler** (right) laid a wreath on Holocaust Remembrance Day.



ISRAEL

■ **Jenny Wengrowsky Samet** (center), **Ahuva Wengrowsky Topolsky** (right) and **Raquel Wengrowsky Singer** (second from right) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony, joined by Director of the International Relations Division’s Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and **Moshe Hazan**.



SPANISH SPEAKERS

■ Among the guests who attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony were members of the 2019 Spanish-Speaking Leadership Seminar from Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Panama, Portugal, Mexico and Spain.



SPAIN

■ **Marcela and Lorenzo Goldberg** attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony together with their sons **Daniel, Sergio** and **Mark**. They were joined by Director of the International Relations Division’s Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan**.



BRAZIL

■ **The Kehilat Shalom group from Sao Paulo** were joined by Director of the International Relations Division’s Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony.



Friends Worldwide

USA

■ Yad Vashem warmly welcomes newly appointed Director of the US Desk of its International Relations Division, **Jeremy Weiss**.

Jeremy was born in the United States and raised in Israel. He served in the IDF Special Forces and in the Prime Minister's Office in senior positions, and then entered the private business sector. There, he led Israeli and American technology startups in the domain of medical devices, environmental and water purification, and financial and technical innovation. Jeremy holds an Executive MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.



■ On 22 April, **Ilan Weiner** commemorated his Bar Mitzvah, together with his parents **Ariel** and **Josh**, with a Twinning Ceremony at the Yad Vashem Synagogue.



■ On 12 May, **Nancy Powell** and **Paul Kirschner** (center) visited Yad Vashem for the first time, together with Yad Vashem Benefactor **Steven Baral** (left). They were accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ On 21 February, 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 400 young leaders supporting Yad Vashem. The theme was #WeAreStillHere. The Gala was chaired by **Jonathan Fine**, **Rachel Krakowski** and **Elizabeth Savetsky**. Pictured: YLA Co-Chairs **Josh Gelnick** and **Rachel Shnay**, American Society Chairman **Lenny Wilf**, American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier**, American Society Chief Development Officer **Eillene Leistner**, American Society YLA Coordinator **Jill Goltzer**, and many other YLA and senior board members.



■ Curator and Director of the Art Department in the Museums Division **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg** spent a week in Los Angeles, Calif., meeting with local friends of Yad Vashem and revealing the work of artists and their stories from the Holocaust. Pictured: Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg with host of "The J Report" **Brad Pomerance**.



■ Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** spent a week in Seattle, Wash., meeting with friends of Yad Vashem to share the importance of the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign and collecting Holocaust-era items.



■ On 2 February, Third Generation members and American Society leaders **Adam** and **Daniella Pfefer** hosted a parlor meeting in their Teaneck, N.J. home on the theme "Children's Lives During the Holocaust." The program featured the "No Child's Play" exhibition from Yad Vashem as well as remarks and a discussion led by American Society Director of Education **Marlene W. Yahalom, PhD**.



■ On 24 March, the American Society for Yad Vashem held its 21st annual Barbara Gutfreund Arfa Professional Development Conference on Holocaust Education, organized by American Society Director of Education **Marlene W. Yahalom, PhD** (center). This year's theme was "Survival, Courage and Resistance," and the keynote speakers were Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies **Dr. Eyal Kaminka** (left) and Holocaust Educator at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas HS in Parkland, Fla. **Ivy D. Schamis**. The conference was attended by over 190 educators from the tri-state area, as well as American Society Board Member **Caroline Arfa Massel** (right).



■ On 12 March, **Andrew** and **Syd Hersh** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial with their daughters **Sadie** and **Molly**. Their visit concluded with meeting a researcher in the Yad Vashem Archives regarding Andrew's family history.



Friends Worldwide

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Guardian **Dr. Abraham (Abe) Franck**, at the age of 100 on 17 January 2019.



Abe was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1918. A longtime educator at the University of Minnesota, Abe was involved with development of the first computing system in the United States. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of Hebrew Language and Literature Studies, and in the later years of his life, he studied and loved to speak Hebrew.

His passion for music led to the establishment of the Abraham Franck String Quartet at the University of New Mexico. In addition, he established his own string quartet in the Twin Cities, in which he played the violin.

Dr. Franck supported Yad Vashem through his love of Israel and music, generously supporting many projects focusing on music composition and performance during the Holocaust, especially the “Kaddish Concert” by Noam Sheriff and the publication of *Voices in the Dark: Music from the Camps and Ghettos in Poland*.

Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Abe’s nephews Fred Evangel and Theodore Frank and their families. May his memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the loss of **Rita Spiegel**, daughter of Yad Vashem Benefactors Abraham and Edita Spiegel z”l.



Rita was a representative of the American Society for Yad Vashem on the West Coast, and was active with Yad Vashem for many years. The Children’s Memorial at Yad Vashem was built with the generous support of Abraham and Edita in memory of their son Uziel z”l, who was murdered in Auschwitz at age two-and-a-half. Rita helped Yad Vashem uphold the legacy of her parents by maintaining the Children’s Memorial. She also represented her family in 2017 when they were honored at the Los Angeles “Salute to Hollywood” Gala of the American Society for Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt condolences to Rita’s brother Thomas and her children Ron and Barak. May her memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the loss of Yad Vashem Guardian **Etta Barad**, widow of Ulo Barad z”l.



A Holocaust survivor from Chelm, Poland, Etta, together with her husband Ulo, were founders and longtime supporters of the American Society for Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to their children Gerald and Cindy Barad Elias. May her memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the loss of Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Friend **David Feuerstein**.



David was a prisoner in Auschwitz when he was sent as part of a forced labor brigade to dig through the remains of the destroyed Warsaw ghetto following the Uprising. He then escaped and joined the Polish Underground, and thus survived the war. Since then, David dedicated his life to Holocaust remembrance and to Yad Vashem.

After liberation, David and his devoted wife Sara Marysia rebuilt their lives in South America, where they raised two daughters. In addition to being one of the founders of the American Society for Yad Vashem, David became a well-known businessman in Chile and across North and South America, working towards a brighter future while placing special emphasis on remembering the past.

Considering Yad Vashem his second home in his beloved Jerusalem, David marked his 90th birthday at Yad Vashem during a special reception at the “Mashiv Haruach” concert in Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities, of which he and his wife were Benefactors.

David’s legacy of Holocaust remembrance, of building vibrant Jewish life and of strengthening Israel and the Jewish people continues to leave a lasting impression on those whose lives he touched.

Yad Vashem expresses its deepest condolences to Sara Marysia Feuerstein, their daughters Elena (Puppi) Feuerstein Gaon and Susy Horn, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing.

GERMANY

■ On 13 February, the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ) visited Yad Vashem. Left to right: Special Advisor to the Chairman of Yad Vashem **Arie Zuckerman**, EVZ Chairman of the Board of Directors **Dr. Michael Jansen**, Chairman of Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**, EVZ Chairman of the Board of Trustees **Dr. Harald Braun**, EVZ CEO **Dr. Andreas Eberhardt**, Director of Yad Vashem’s Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Helene Habermann**.



Helene, widow of Josef z”l, was born in 1928 in Silesia, a long-awaited child. She lost all of her family in the Shoah, with the exception of one cousin. Helene was a very positive person with a great deal of inner strength, despite the horrors that she endured during the Holocaust.

She was determined, caring and supportive of many causes, including helping other survivors rebuild their lives after the Holocaust.

Education was very important for the Habermann family, especially after their experiences during the Shoah. This prompted them to endow the Education Gateway for Learning and Reflection to Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, in loving memory of Josef’s parents, Tauba and Abraham Habermann z”l, and Helene’s parents, Sara and Yehuda Kornfeld z”l, and all their family members murdered during the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Helene’s children Harry, Roman and Sonja and their extended families. May her memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and longtime supporter **Miriam Gertler**.

Miriam (née Goldberg) was born in Pulawy (Poland) in 1931. She survived the Holocaust, while almost the entire families of Miriam and Moritz z"l, whom she married in 1945, were murdered in the Shoah.

Miriam and Moritz moved to Frankfurt, Germany, where the family pursued a successful career in real estate. At the same time, they dedicated themselves to rebuilding their family, supporting the State of Israel and contributing to the preservation of Holocaust remembrance, placing special emphasis on the programs and initiatives of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Miriam and Moritz's children Idessa (Emanuel) Trink Gertler and Zachariasz (Zak) Gertler, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May her memory be a blessing.



AUSTRALIA

■ Following a behind-the-scenes tour of the Artifacts Collection, a tour of the Holocaust Art Museum and a lecture on antisemitism, **Vera Boyarsky** (second from left), accompanied by her son **Andrew** (left), his wife **Taryn** (second from right) and their three daughters, **Kayla**, **Ava** and **Mia**, unveiled their Benefactor plaque on the Museum Partners' Wall along with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**. The unveiling was followed by a Benefactor Ceremony and Bat Mitzvah Twinning Ceremony for Kayla in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, in the presence of Chairman of the Jewish Agency **Isaac Herzog** and Yad Vashem senior management.



FRANCE

■ Yad Vashem mourns the loss of French Holocaust survivor, businessman, and Yad Vashem Visionary **Maxi Librati**, who passed away at the age of 94.

Maxi was detained in 1943 in Lyon, France and sent to the Drancy internment camp. He was then deported to Auschwitz and, following the *selektion* process, was sent to the Warsaw ghetto. In the ghetto, he was forced to collect remaining valuables and assets of former Jewish residents. Following his time there, he survived a death march from Warsaw, ending up in Dachau. He was eventually liberated by the US army.

After the war, Maxi returned to France and settled in Paris. He built a successful career in the clothing manufacturing industry, consistently maintaining his dedication to imparting the legacy of the Holocaust to the younger generations. Over the years, he was instrumental in organizing and participating in youth trips to Poland, and actively sponsored many commemorative events at Yad Vashem and in France.

Among his many acts of support for Yad Vashem, Maxi endowed the gallery displaying the "Final Solution" in the Holocaust History Museum, the Garden Dedicated to the Children Without a Childhood next to the International School for Holocaust Studies, Janusz Korczak Square, and the Panorama Dedicated to the Touitou Family, who were murdered during the Shoah.

In 2008, Yad Vashem published Maxi's inspiring and unique life story, *145922*, in Hebrew and French. The book displays Maxi's ability to grapple with the unexpected, to take life as it comes, and to accept the bad along with the good. Maxi grew enthusiastic and passionate with every new idea and project, which kept him eternally young.

His legacy brims with messages of life and continues to leave a lasting impression on those whose lives he touched.

Yad Vashem expresses its deepest condolences to Maxi's children Thierry Librati and Patricia and Willy Fazel, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing.



ISRAEL

■ Yad Vashem welcomes **Israella Artzi** to her new position as Chairperson of the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Israel**.

Israella is married to Ran Artzi and they have two daughters. For over 20 years, Israella held senior positions at Israel's Discount Bank, worked in a law firm specializing in banking and real estate, and acted as a volunteer consultant to nonprofit organizations.

In the framework of her role at Yad Vashem, Israella will help expand the circle of Friends of Yad Vashem in Israel, who generously support its activities in Holocaust education, research, documentation and commemoration. In this context it should be noted that the Artzi couple themselves support the Bar/Bat Mitzvah project for Israeli youth implemented by the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Holocaust survivor and dear friend **Haim Koren** at the age of 95.

Haim's life story was tied to the bitter fate of the Jews of Czernowitz during the Holocaust. His family members, who were deported to the Bershad ghetto in Transnistria, died of starvation and illness in 1941.

Haim enlisted in the Red Army, fighting fiercely against the Nazi enemy. After the war, he was arrested by the Soviet regime and imprisoned in a Siberian concentration camp solely due to his desire to immigrate to Israel. His wife Sheva waited for him with unwavering hope that he would return home safely. After his release, the couple moved to Israel.

Haim's love of people and concern for others, imbued in him as a child, were his guiding principles in his adult life. He believed wholeheartedly that Yad Vashem should continue to work vigorously to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten, and that the torch of remembrance will be passed to future generations by educating about the Holocaust and its implications for the future based on accurate historical facts. To this end, Haim entrusted his estate to Yad Vashem. May his memory be a blessing.



Friends Worldwide

SPANISH SPEAKERS

■ From 30 April to 9 May, the 2019 Spanish-Speaking Leadership Seminar was held at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. Attending the seminar were (left to right, back row): **Yechezkel Chalevsky**, **Raquel Berkowitz**, **Marcio Pitliuk** (Brazil), **David Djemal** (Panama), **Enrique Benitez Palma** (Spain), **Juan Galek** (Mexico), **Dania Galek de Zyman** (Mexico), **Dafna Chocron** (Spain), **Sara Galek** (Mexico), **Rebeca Krinsky** (Mexico), **Denise Levy de Tredler** (Brazil), **Jorge Tredler** (Brazil), **Anabella Jaroslavsky** (Venezuela), **Ana Marlene Starec** (Brazil), **Nelly Starec** (Brazil), **Moisés Murciano Sultan** (Spain), **Mordejay Guanich** (Spain), **Merav Hilu** and **Eliana Rapp**; (left to right, front row): **Natalia Katz**, **Moshe Hazan**, **Gabriel Moron** (Argentina), **Gladys Peregal de Moron** (Argentina), **Esteban Lantos** (Argentina), **Perla Hazan**, **Joseph Essebag Amselem** (Spain), **José Salama Benatar** (Spain), **Lola Khon Krakower** (Panama), **Rebeca Escapa** (Mexico), **Clara Israel** (Spain), **Haya Feldman** and **Zulema Drucaroff**.



COSTA RICA

■ **Samuel** and **Silvia Aizenman** (second and third from right) were joined by a group of friends, as well Director of the International Relations Division's Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and **Moshe Hazan**, during their visit to Yad Vashem.



SPAIN

■ Members and friends of the **Spanish Association for Yad Vashem**, headed by Spanish Association President **Samuel Bengio** (left), participated in a daylong seminar at Yad Vashem, as well as an emotional ceremony in the Garden of the Righteous among the Nations. They were joined by Ambassador of Spain to Israel H.E. **Mr. Manuel Gomez Acebo** (second from left), Director of the International Relations Division's Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and **Moshe Hazan**.



MEXICO

■ **Emily** and **Eduardo Birman** (fifth and seventh from right) were joined at Yad Vashem by family and friends to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Alan** (eighth from right). They also unveiled a plaque at the Memorial Cave in memory of **Yuri Birman Chernitzk z"l**, who was murdered in the Holocaust.



VENEZUELA

■ **Dora Yisrael** and **Goldy Yisrael-Greenfeld** (left) were joined by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** during their visit to Yad Vashem.



MIAMI SPANISH SPEAKERS

■ **Eva** and **José Rimsky** (right) were joined by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** at the unveiling of the plaque in the Memorial Cave in memory of Eva's parents, Holocaust survivors **Klara Sternbach Virag** and **Bernardo Fodor Marvan z"l**.



SWITZERLAND

■ At the Holocaust Remembrance Day Official Opening Ceremony, Yad Vashem Trustee **Dmitry Smetanitch** (right) was greeted by Special Advisor to the Chairman of Yad Vashem **Arie Zuckerman**.



Christian Desk with ICEJ

■ Yad Vashem warmly welcomes newly appointed Director of the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem** in its International Relations Division, **Sara (Sari) Granitza**.



Born in Jerusalem and raised both in Israel and the US, Sari worked in Israel's thriving hi-tech industry for ten years before joining the Ministry of Foreign Relations under Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's current Prime Minister.

In 2003, Sari began her 15-year career as Deputy Director of the International Relations Division at Yad Vashem. Sari was responsible for every aspect of Yad Vashem's Leadership Missions, as well as for the events and visits of Yad Vashem's global supporters, including many Christian leaders. Sari continues to present lectures on the Holocaust both at Yad Vashem and internationally.

■ **Sari Granitza** (left) attended the AIPAC Christian Outreach Dinner in Washington, D.C. in March, where she met former Canadian Prime Minister, **The Right Honorable Stephen Harper PC** (right).



■ **Sari Granitza** (right) and Christian Friends staff member **Shavit Aharoni-Simons** (left) attended the NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) “Proclaim 19” Conference in Anaheim, CA, in March, where the Christian Friends staffed a booth. This annual conference is attended by many important Christian leaders and media figures. Museum of the Bible Partnership Relations Officer **Cary Summers** (center) also attended the conference.



■ In April, the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem held a weeklong International Christian Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies. Attending the seminar were 29 leaders from 13 countries. The seminar was sponsored by ICEJ Germany, **Gottfried Bühler**, and an anonymous donor from the USA (transferred via ICEJ USA). Among the speakers were **Rev. Malcolm Hedding** (middle, fifth from right) and **Rev. Mark Jenkins** (back, right).



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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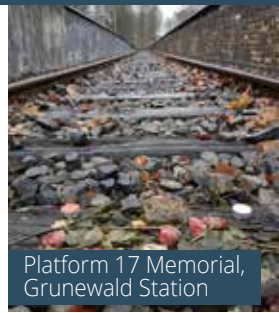


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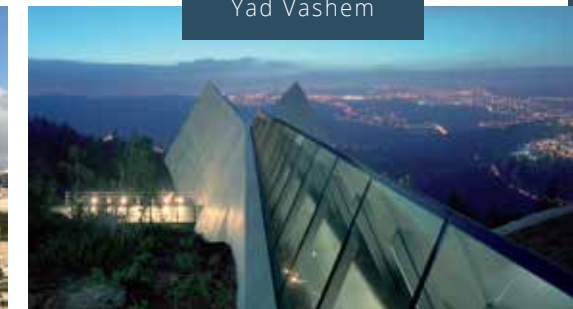
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SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 29 - JULY 6, 2020

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