

# YAD VASHEM

Vol. 97, Winter 2022

JERUSALEM



## "Children in the Ghetto"

Interactive Online Learning Space for Elementary School Students ([16-19](#))

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Opening scene from  
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Illustration: Liz Elsby



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# KEEPING MEMORY RELEVANT

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

Leah Goldstein



Chosen by the United Nations in 2005 to serve as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp in 1945. As in years past, Yad Vashem actively marked the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust through a range of events, both in-person and online.

■ Days before 27 January 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a [resolution condemning Holocaust denial and distortion](#). The vote was passed 80 years to the day since the notorious [Wannsee Conference](#), at which the Nazi leadership composed what would later be known as

the "[Final Solution](#)." "Holocaust distortion is so dangerous because, quite plainly, it misrepresents essential facts of history in order to legitimize past and present misdeeds," said Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan. "The Holocaust carries substantial relevance for many vital

contemporary issues; denying and distorting its uniqueness and unprecedented aspects is not only detrimental to the memory of the Holocaust but also to that of other atrocities and genocides." ■ On 27 January, Yad Vashem held its [Annual Symposium for](#)

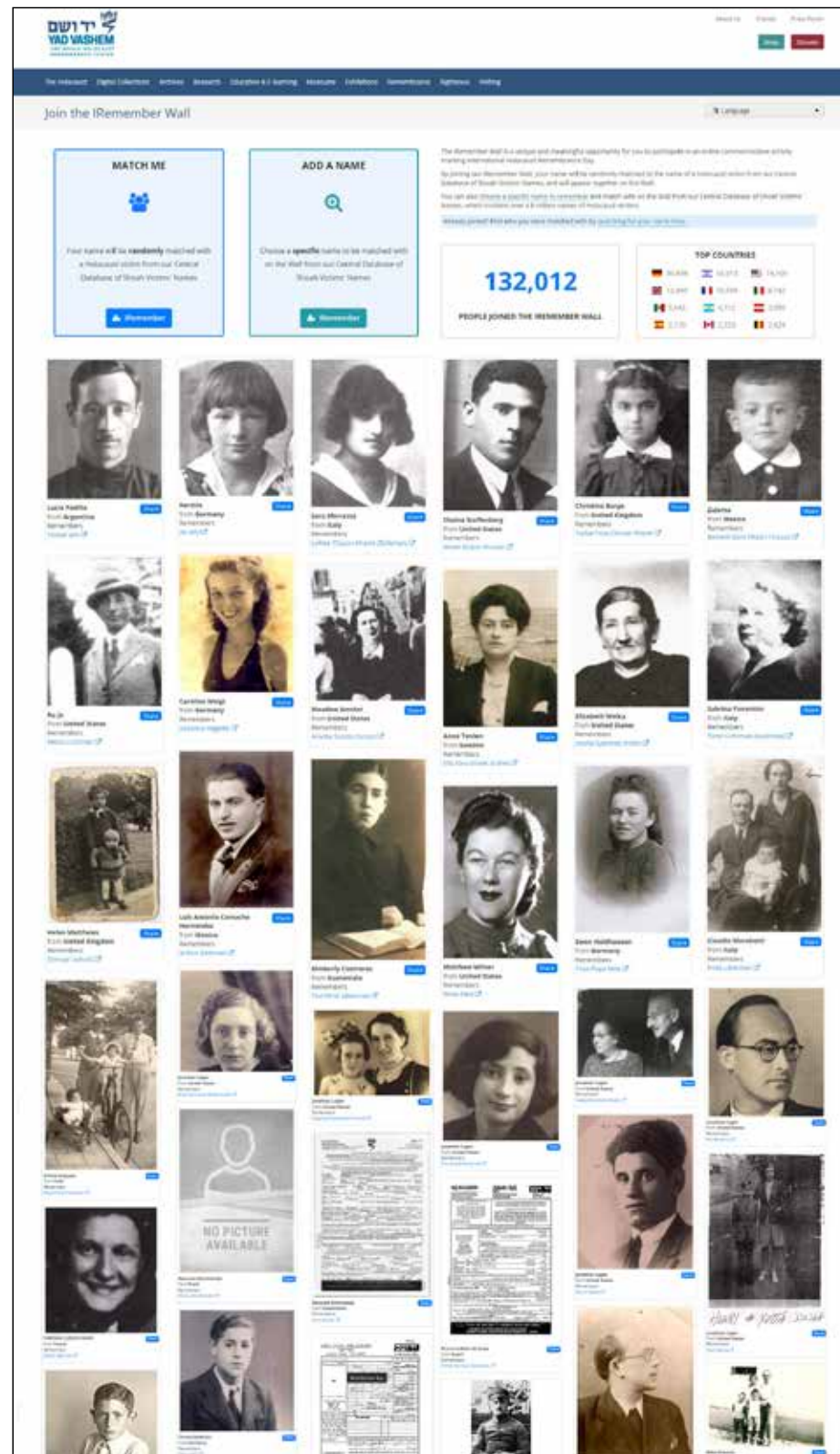
Yad Vashem's  
IRemember Wall



Seventy-seven years later, the Holocaust still haunts us. Today, as the world continues to battle expressions of hatred, antisemitism and xenophobia, the significance and lessons of the Holocaust are particularly relevant

Dani Dayan

[the International Diplomatic Corps Serving in Israel](#), with the participation of Dani Dayan, Israel's President H.E. Mr. Isaac Herzog and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice H.E. Mr. Gideon Sa'ar. Held online due to inclement weather conditions, the 55 ambassadors attending the event heard a lecture on "Holocaust Memory in



Challenging Times" and viewed several items in Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection that will be eventually housed in the new [David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center](#) currently being constructed on the [Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus](#). The event concluded with the testimony of *Kindertransport* survivor Henry Foner, author of the moving anthology "[Postcards to a Little Boy](#)."

■ Yad Vashem created a [mini-site](#) marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, featuring a variety of online resources for the public to view, share and engage in, including [exhibitions](#), [educational resources](#) and its landmark [IRemember Wall](#). This annual online commemorative project, in which more than 140,000 people participated this year, links to one of the 4,800,000 Jews murdered in the Holocaust currently registered in [Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names](#). The participant's name then appears on the IRemember Wall – available in six languages – together with the name of the victim of the Holocaust. The user can also choose a specific name of a family member or anyone else from the Names Database with whom they wish to be matched – and then share their matches on their own social media platform.

As in previous years, Facebook used its platform and resources in order to encourage global awareness and outreach of this meaningful project. "This project creates opportunities for people all over the world to remember the victims of the Holocaust in their own language," explained Iris Rosenberg, Director of Yad Vashem's Communications Division. "By partnering together with Facebook International, we were able to reach a wider international audience, which is crucial in keeping the memory of the Jewish victims alive and the meanings of the Holocaust relevant to current social and political issues."

Indeed, many messages were sent on [Yad Vashem's Facebook page](#). Leen Massei from Antwerp wrote about Khaia Sara Noiman, her "adopted victim of the Shoah... she absolutely 'fits' because she was born in the same month and year as my mother. That makes it even more special to me." Silvia Barlassina, an Italian high-school educator thanked Yad Vashem "for providing teachers with this important task to give students; my three classes were involved... everyone had the task to remember one person and to defend their memory and the future of Jewish people... I was moved when I heard one of my



Holocaust survivors join Israeli Ambassador to the UN H.E. Mr. Gilad Erdan and Second Generation member Albert Bourla, recipient of the Genesis Prize, for the passing of the resolution condemning Holocaust denial and distortion.



Local community leader Yaacov Baruch guides dignitaries through Yad Vashem's "Shoah" exhibition on display in the Shaar Hashamayim synagogue in Indonesia

Muslim students reading aloud the life of the person she was linked to." "My mother is German," mentioned Brenda Hiller from the UK. "She lost Jewish friends while still at school. She used to swap sandwiches with one friend... these scars last forever."

■ Dozens of **Yad Vashem's ready2print exhibitions** were displayed in community centers and institutions around the world, including locations in the United States, Canada, Uruguay, Brazil,

Great Britain, France, Spain, Germany, Russia, Rwanda, India and the Ivory Coast. In Indonesia, the opening of the exhibition "Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible" at the new Holocaust Museum in the Shaar Hashamayim (Gates of Heaven) synagogue was attended by 100 honored guests, including Germany's Ambassador to Indonesia H.E. Ms. Ina Lepel. "Yad Vashem seeks out partners who share our commitment to accurate, fact-based, value-oriented Holocaust remembrance

and education," said Director of the International Relations and Projects Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies' Richelle Budd-Caplan over video link at the opening event. "I hope that we shall develop joint programming, learn together and teach together."

■ Members of Yad Vashem's senior staff, historians and educators, including Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan, participated in

various **events, lectures and ceremonies around the globe** marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. These included events in which Yad Vashem partnered with other organizations to educate the public around the globe on Holocaust remembrance: "[How to Talk about Auschwitz in 2022: Holocaust Commemoration Through Cinema](#)," with the European Union Delegation in Israel; the [#DontBeABystander](#) social media initiative to publicize the actions of the [Righteous Among the Nations](#) with the Claims Conference; and a special online commemorative program supported by the Association of Gulf Jewish Communities. Dayan also participated in a number of [podcasts](#) on the

topics of Holocaust denial and distortion, antisemitism, and the politicization of the Holocaust in today's fractured world.

■ On 23 January, Dr. Sharon Kangisser Cohen, Director of the Diana and Eli Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, gave an **online lecture to a group of international students** on child Holocaust survivors and their emotional journeys in the postwar period. The special lecture marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day was part of a course on Investigating Components of the Holocaust run by Prof. Robert Elliott Allinson at Soka University of America.

■ Yad Vashem's [Visual Center](#) held **two film screenings** to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The first took place on 20 January at the Jerusalem Theater. After opening remarks from EU Ambassador Dimitar Tzantchev and Chairman Dayan, the audience saw Israeli filmmaker Maya Sarfaty's award-winning documentary *Love it Was Not*, a moving and thought-provoking film telling the incredible and complicated "love" story of Helena Citron, a young Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Austrian SS officer Franz Wunsch. After the screening, an expert panel – including the director, Citron's niece Miki Marin, Prof. Ilan Avisar of Tel Aviv University's Steve Tisch School of Film and Television and Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib – discussed some of the issues raised by the film, including ways to keep Holocaust remembrance alive and relevant through cinema. On 27 January, the Visual Center coordinated a shared online screening of *Memories of the Eichmann Trial*, David Perlov's landmark film that was restored by the Visual Center and Perlov family in cooperation with Kan11, the Israel Broadcasting Corporation. The screening was held for three Jewish film festivals – Warsaw, Berlin and Budapest – and was followed by a Zoom discussion with Yael Perlov and Liat Benhabib.



Panel discussion of the film *Love it Was Not* moderated by Liat Benhabib (right)

# FORGING A NEW FUTURE

## THE DR. MIRIAM AND SHELDON G. ADELSON EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Leah Goldstein

Marking one year since the passing of loyal friend and Patron of the Mount of Remembrance [Sheldon G. Adelson](#), Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, has launched the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Educational Leadership Academy.



Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan presenting Dr. Miriam Adelson with the Yad Vashem Key on the occasion of the opening of the new Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Educational Leadership Academy

Holocaust education around the world has been transformed over the last two decades thanks to the Adelson Family Foundation Educational Program, which has directly influenced millions of learners by professionally training students, teachers, principals, government officials, policymakers, journalists, clergy, artists, military leaders and a myriad of interested parties.

— ” —

**In times of growing Holocaust distortion, antisemitism and general uncertainty in the world, Yad Vashem’s commitment to the moral and ethical values necessary to maintaining a civil society has never been more critical**

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson

**>> FORGING A NEW FUTURE**  
 THE DR. MIRIAM AND SHELDON G. ADELSON  
 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Dr. Miriam Adelson:  
 Yad Vashem equips  
 teachers to spot and  
 call out antisemitism  
 before it spreads



Tens of thousands of Yad Vashem graduates from six continents have become "multipliers," placing learning and teaching about the Holocaust at the center of their respective educational agendas. The program has enabled close collaborative relationships to be created with ministries of education, state institutions and municipal legislatures, universities and education authorities, historical sites and civil society organizations.

Despite this incredible achievement, today Yad Vashem graduates navigate an educational

system wherein surveys indicate serious deficiencies of the basic awareness and knowledge of the Holocaust among individuals and groups around the globe; and when antisemitism as well as Holocaust distortion and trivialization have gained shocking traction in the public sphere in both the physical and digital realms. As humanity recedes further from the events of the Shoah and its survivor witnesses sadly dwindle, there is a clear and urgent need for intensive Holocaust education and remembrance activities worldwide. Moreover, indications

highlight the positive effects of meaningful Holocaust education on individuals in today's fractured world.

In light of all of these facts, on 5 January 2022 Yad Vashem inaugurated the new Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Educational Leadership Academy on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, in the presence of Dr. Miriam Adelson, former Chairman of the Jewish Agency Natan Sharansky, Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan, Holocaust survivors and other esteemed guests.



**My visit to Yad Vashem extended my network, my ideas. It changed the way I interact with the topic**

Tali Nates, South Africa

Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance, Dr. Miriam Adelson and her beloved late husband Sheldon G. Adelson are shining examples of true dedication to Holocaust education for the sake of a better future. Two years ago, on the occasion of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, Sheldon Adelson remarked: "My wife Miriam and I, a Sabra and a Diaspora Jew, are completely united in our commitment to supporting in the sphere of Yad Vashem... at some point, the Holocaust will no longer be a living memory. Its stories of horror and heroism will be relegated to books, files and video testimonials. Miriam and I trust Yad Vashem to find ways to preserve Holocaust education as a priority... we feel a measure of satisfaction that some justice is being done."

The Adelson Academy will spearhead efforts to enhance effective, accurate and meaningful global Holocaust education programs. Given the continuing relevance of the Holocaust to

current societal polarization, the Academy will further concentrate on creating more in-depth initiatives, in the classroom, lecture halls and online sphere. It will also reach out to official visitors to the Mount of Remembrance, in order to foster new international partnerships and cooperative agreements.

Two years of working under unprecedented conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic has provided Yad Vashem with a unique opportunity to delve into how best to empower its graduates based around the world who are seeking mentorship and direction. During the pandemic, staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies heard from hundreds of them regularly, all keen to organize programming, online and in-person, to amplify their activism and reach in the sphere of Holocaust education. The Adelson Academy seeks to provide a platform for this, too.



Turkish  
 educators  
 in Yad  
 Vashem's  
 Learning  
 Center

>> **FORGING A NEW FUTURE**  
 THE DR. MIRIAM AND SHELDON G. ADELSON  
 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Academy will focus much of its activities and programs, both at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and online, on widening the scope of Yad Vashem seminar graduates – "ambassadors" of Holocaust education around the world – and forging closer and more productive networking between the most effective amongst them. Yad Vashem's "ambassadors" are diverse in both scope and range. They include a teacher from India, who following participation in a Yad Vashem seminar, returned home and facilitated agreements between Yad Vashem and the Indian Ministry of Education to ensure comprehensive curricular Holocaust education; a school principal from France who,

“  
**The Yad Vashem seminar made me question my role as an educator, the challenges and limitations of our curriculum, and above all, the whole meaning and purpose of education**  
 Suman Kumar, India

having participated in a tailored program, sent all her educators to Yad Vashem and completely redesigned the Holocaust education curriculum in the school, invoking the interdisciplinary models of the International School for Holocaust Studies and also encouraging

the students to reach out to local survivors; and a lecturer from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who, having completed one of Yad Vashem's online courses, reached out to Yad Vashem to arrange a series of Holocaust Education seminars at his university.



Rwandan educators on a guided tour through the Holocaust History Museum



Yad Vashem's International Seminars feature a variety of educational tools, including survivor testimony (pictured, Yehudit Kleinman)

There are thousands of such stories, testament to the proven models of Adelson Educational Program activities and the desire of Yad Vashem graduates to continue to impact their communities with what they have learned, in order to reach not only the youth of today, but also the next generations.

"For me, Yad Vashem has always represented connection – a connection with the half of my family who perished in the Holocaust, and a place where I can find answers for the pieces missing in the narrative puzzle that I heard over the years," said Dr. Miriam Adelson at the opening

event. "Sheldon and I saw manifold value to the International School for Holocaust Studies. This School teaches foreign educators about the Holocaust, so that they might teach it in turn when they return home. At a time of spiraling antisemitism globally, these teachers are equipped to spot and call out this unique evil before it spreads. Their training helps makes the Jewish catastrophe a firm fact in the international consciousness, a fact beyond denial – in the hope that the world which turned a blind eye during WWII will not do so again, and will ensure that such events never recur."

“  
**Due to the seminar for Chinese Educators, very generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation, a whole generation of students from China, Macau, Malaysia and other places in East Asia are becoming familiar with the Holocaust**  
 Glenn Timmermans, Macau



# "CHILDREN IN THE GHETTO"

INTERACTIVE ONLINE LEARNING SPACE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Liraz Lachmanovich

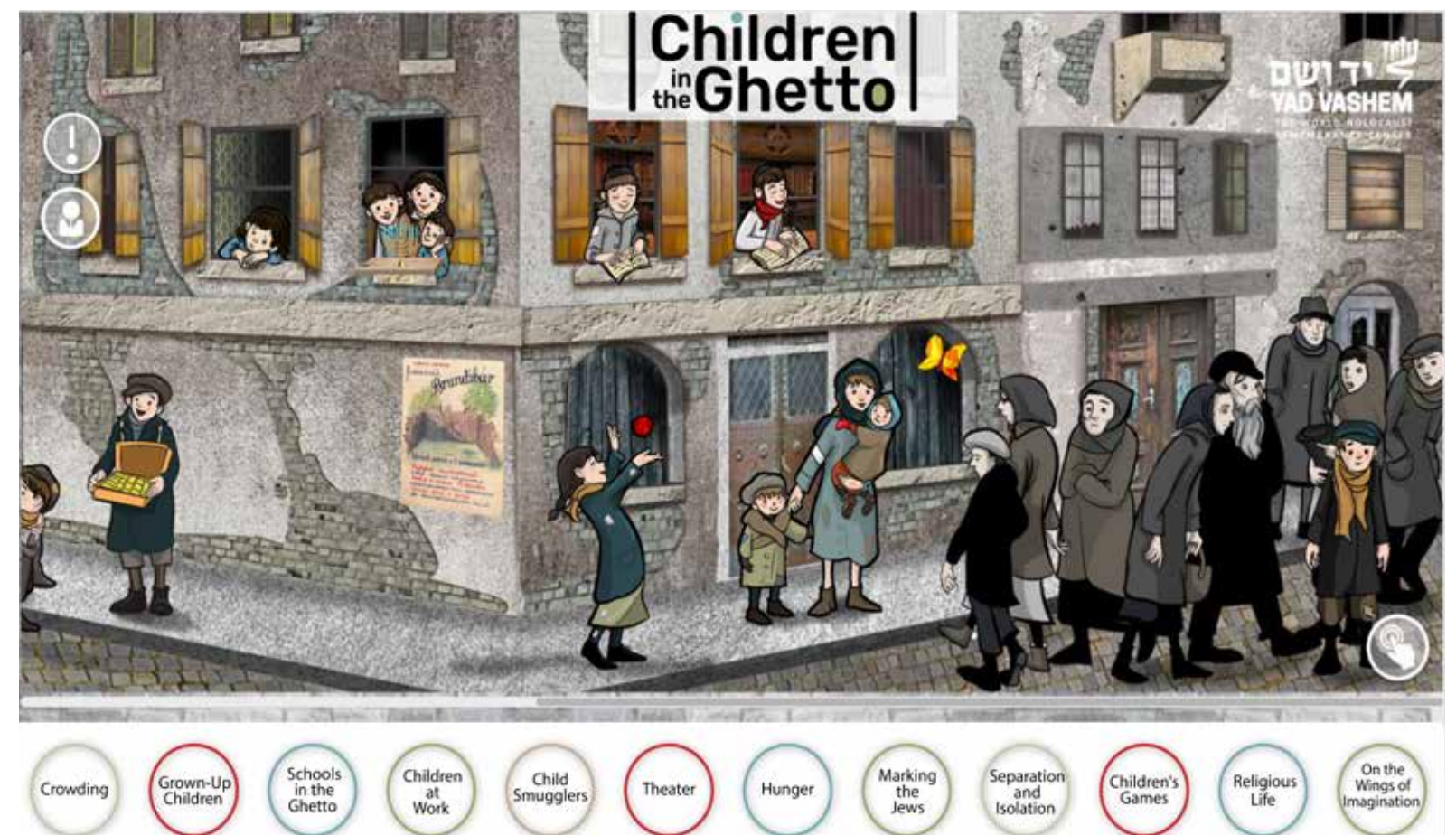
For the past year, staff of the International School's e-Learning Department has been redeveloping the "Children in the Ghetto" online learning space, which deals with the lives, challenges and interpersonal relationships of Jewish children incarcerated in ghettos during the Holocaust.

The events of the Holocaust are difficult, sometimes inconceivable, and can engender traumas and fears even in an adult, not least in children. On the other hand, for children growing up in Israel, the Holocaust is ever-present in their lives; it is part of the collective Israeli memory, and they are exposed to it from an early age in public discourse, in the media, at special events, and more.

As a result, Israeli children are sometimes exposed at an early stage to Holocaust content that is not at all appropriate for their cognitive and emotional level. Such exposure, and often in an uncontrolled and unmediated manner by an adult close to them, can create emotional suffering, a sense of distance and judgment, and even lead to a lack of understanding of the subject. On the other hand, postponing the

teaching of the Holocaust to later ages is also not recommended and can lead to an inability to digest the amount of facts and moral challenges inherent in the topic.

In order to address and meet these challenges, the International School for Holocaust Studies has developed a teaching method for studying the subject of the Holocaust for young ages. The method adapts the subject teaching to the emotional and



## >> "CHILDREN IN THE GHETTO" INTERACTIVE ONLINE LEARNING SPACE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The space exposes the young students to the subject of the Holocaust in a way that creates in them empathy and awareness of human distress and challenges



cognitive level of primary-school children, and is based on several guiding principles. Two of them, perhaps the most important among them, are not to expose children to all the events of the Holocaust, but rather to focus on perspectives that reflect positive coping methods and interactions between groups of people during that difficult period; and a focus mainly on family and community circles. These principles allow for an engagement in a human framework familiar to students, for which they can develop empathy. The discussion on the subject presents basic dilemmas faced by individuals and families during the Holocaust and in times of crisis.

Intended for fourth- to sixth-grade students, "Children in the Ghetto" is based on the guiding principles

of Yad Vashem's unique pedagogic and age-appropriate concept for teaching the Holocaust, and describes life during the Holocaust, from the perspective of the children who lived in the ghetto. The space presents this complex experience, in an interactive manner, with the aim of exposing the young students to the subject of the Holocaust in a way that suits them and creates in them empathy and awareness of human distress and challenges.

The space presents a random street in the ghetto, through which children can get to know and learn about various topics about the Holocaust

and Jewish life in the ghettos. The illustration is not a reconstruction of a street in a specific ghetto, as the Nazis established more than a thousand ghettos that were often very different from each other and hence the life of the Jews in them. Instead, the illustrations on the street are a symbolic representation of the ghetto space and incorporate motifs from different ghettos. The end result is an illustration based on historical photographs, containing authentic representative details from various ghettos.

The space includes various topics through which the child can

learn about the lives of children in the ghettos, about difficulties they had to deal with such as hunger and overcrowding, their relationships with parents and siblings, manifestations of courage, and their desire to continue to create and learn despite the difficulties. Each subject - such as religious life, work and hunger - is represented by an icon on the street, and the child can choose a random topic to study, or go in order, subject by subject. Within

each topic, the children encounter a variety of materials from relevant disciplines - short historical texts, explanations of concepts, excerpts from written testimony, video testimonies, photographs of the period, poetry excerpts, paintings, and more. Of course, all the materials are adapted to the level of the older elementary-school students, and allow them to deal with them in a true but protected manner, in accordance with Yad Vashem's educational principles.

The learning process, which is undergone through interactive and playful activities and the use of different disciplines, opens a window for many students to whom frontal learning methods are less effective.

*The author is Head of the Online Projects Section in the e-Learning Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

**Hunger in the Ghetto | Opening**

The Nazi greatly restricted food supplies to the ghetto, which created food shortages and hunger. In many ghettos people received food vouchers, which they could use for basic foods such as bread or potatoes. But the rations they received were small, too small to satisfy their hunger. Those who had money could buy food on the black market, but most residents of the ghetto were poor and had to search for food on a daily basis.

Girls in a public kitchen, Warsaw Ghetto, Poland

Theater

Click on the highlighted words for explanation

# "ANTISEMITISM? DOESN'T EXIST HERE. OR DOES IT?"

NEW EDUCATIONAL KIT  
FOR GERMAN TEACHERS ON  
CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM

Julian Tsapir

In countries that have witnessed increased antisemitic expressions in recent years, teachers have been looking for tools to engage students on the topic of antisemitism – past and present - in their classrooms. Yad Vashem has now developed new material on the issue for German schools.



>> "ANTISEMITISM? DOESN'T EXIST HERE. OR DOES IT?"  
NEW EDUCATIONAL KIT FOR GERMAN TEACHERS ON  
CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM



Statistically, most students encounter antisemitism not in the role of perpetrators, nor as victims, but rather as passive witnesses to antisemitic behavior.

What can one do in such situations? As a teacher? As a student? Why is it so important to react, and what reactions are recommended?

Dr. Noa Mkyaton

Yad Vashem has recently developed a new educational kit on contemporary antisemitism to be used in Germany. Entitled "Antisemitismus? Gibt's hier nicht. Oder etwa doch?" ("Antisemitism? Doesn't Exist Here. Or Does It?"), the kit offers a thorough guideline for teachers to critically engage their students with the issue of antisemitism based on the newest standards of pedagogy in the field. A booklet provides teachers with background information on the many forms of antisemitism over the ages, as well as several tools to engage students with the topic in the classroom. The material carefully avoids visualizations, since educators in Germany are aware of the reproduction of antisemitic tropes in the physical and digital

worlds, focusing instead on Jewish perspectives of antisemitism.

"Contemporary antisemitism is still mostly dealt with as a reaction to certain antisemitic events that occurred at a specific school," says Dr. Noa Mkyaton, Director of the Overseas Development and Training Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. "Teachers need help in tackling this challenge. The new material we have developed allows them to introduce this topic in their daily work."

At the center of the educational kit are 13 cards with different cases of contemporary antisemitism, taken from real-life incidents as told by Jewish people who experienced them. After reading the cards, the teacher encourages students to

discuss the cases, and reflect on their perceptions of them as well as on the impact antisemitism had on the people involved in the incidents. In this way, the learners are made aware of the hurtful and devastating effect of antisemitism in the everyday life of those being targeted. Finally, students are helped to develop an awareness of their own options for action when

encountering antisemitism, both in the public sphere and on an interpersonal level.

"We hope this material will be a constructive tool for teachers in Germany, who are struggling to deal with antisemitism in their own environment," concludes Dr. Mkyaton. "We are planning to increase the number of training seminars focusing on this topic,

in order to ensure that German students become more sympathetic with the victims of this hate crime, and are armed to deal with such incidents in an appropriate and effective manner."

"Antisemitismus? Gibt's hier nicht. Oder etwa doch?" was developed in cooperation with the Competence Center for

Prevention and Empowerment, which operates under the auspices of the Central Welfare Office of Jews in Germany (ZWST).

*The author is Educational Coordinator at the German-speaking Countries Desk in the Overseas Development and Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



Walking through the gallery in Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum on the rise of antisemitism in Europe before WWII

# BEYOND THE MAIN PERPETRATORS

## NON-GERMAN CAMPS FOR JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Prof. Dan Michman



Leo Kok (1923-1945),  
**Boulevard des Misères,**  
 Westerbork Camp, 1944  
 Yad Vashem Art Collection,  
 Gift of Kitty Nijstad-de Wijze,  
 Netherlands

The phenomenon of camps used by governments to forcibly incarcerate civilians – its own citizens, aliens or natives in occupied countries – did not begin with Nazi Germany; rather, it is a notable trend of modern centralized states that began to evolve at the end of the nineteenth century. The use of this tool of oppression and terror expanded and accelerated under the totalitarian states from the 1920s, and in Nazi Germany it reached an unprecedented extent. The number of camps of all kinds – "reeducation" camps, transit camps, forced labor camps, and concentration and extermination camps – established already before but especially during WWII numbered more than 40,000. During the Third Reich period, the term concentration camp – KL, or often KZ – turned itself into an effective threat used by the authorities.

In 1980, Yad Vashem convened its fourth international scholarly conference, dedicating it to the Nazi concentration camps in general. Since then, research on camps has developed enormously, especially following the downfall of Communism in Eastern Europe, and the emergence of younger generations of scholars with a fresh perspective, who integrate novel historical methodologies into research on Nazism and the Holocaust. There is now a comprehensive encyclopedia of Nazi camps, as well as sociological, psychological, architectural and archeological studies and more

that provide multiple insights into that field of study. However, the subject of concentration, internment, forced labor and transit camps for Jews – as well as camps in which Jews were incarcerated together with other groups – which were run by non-German authorities, either in countries occupied by Germany or in allied and satellite countries, remains under-researched and has not yet been approached in a comprehensive mode. Therefore, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research decided to dedicate its latest international conference to this

topic. Scholars from Canada, the US, Italy, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Ireland and Israel actively participated in the [conference](#), which was held in early December 2021, via Zoom, with an audience of more than 300 attending the various sessions.

Cutting-edge research presented at the conference threw light on camps in southeastern Europe in general, and in Serbia and Croatia in particular; in France and Italy; in North Africa (especially in Libya and Tunisia); in Denmark, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary – and even in neutral



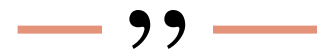
Men producing straw baskets at the slave labor camp in Jasenovac, Yugoslavia  
Yad Vashem Archives

Turkey and in the Philippines occupied by Nazi-ally Japan. One presentation also dealt with the internment of "Gypsies" (the term used for Sinti and Roma) by Vichy France. The lectures revealed extremely varying attitudes of authorities in the different camps towards the prisoners and the broad array of conditions in them – stretching from relatively reasonable ones (for example, pictures from Dutch labor camps were shown in which inmates, who were later deported and murdered, carried out their labor wearing suits and ties), to horrendous (as in the Giado concentration camp in Libya), and murderous (such as

in Jasenovac, Croatia). On the other hand, sometimes camps turned out to be a temporary haven from immediate deportation, because those in the camps were kept, for instance, to carry out labor deemed necessary for the authorities. One presentation showed how Allied aerial photos can help in setting right the historical record and refute denial and distortions regarding the Jasenovac camp being promoted by extremists in Croatia today: These photographs geo-locate many of the mass graves created by murder and genocide committed by the Ustaša in and in the vicinity of that camp, and corroborate atrocities described

in survivor testimonies. Another presentation emphasized the interaction between camps and their surroundings, i.e., that they were not as isolated as was once thought. An interesting aspect brought up for discussion was the material element of barracks, a central component of the camps' establishment: wooden barracks that could be swiftly constructed that served various purposes (army, storage and more) and were especially significant in the world of the camps.

The conference was concluded by Prof. (Emeritus) Alan Kramer of Trinity College, Dublin, an



**The anti-Jewish campaign unleashed by Nazi Germany was so successful due to the fact that this campaign was carried out not only by Germans and Austrians, but by many others**

Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto

expert on concentration camps, who succeeded in colligating the broad array of presentations into a deeper comprehensive insight into this phenomenon. "This conference was much more than the accumulation of facts," Prof. Kramer stated. "It has also substantially advanced the scholarly debate over the interpretation of the past." At the beginning of the conference, the participants were asked to consider the connection between ideology and modern, centralized states. Prof. Kramer suggested that the presentations "enabled us to compare and contrast the various regimes that operated camps for Jews during WWII... [and thus] to examine the degree to which each state was integrated into the Nazi program of genocide, and to what extent states acted autonomously."

"The multifaceted character of the topic, the novel insights, the new information presenting the most up-to-date research, and

the collegial atmosphere at the conference were a vital contribution to the general understanding of the Shoah," concluded Director of the Research Institute Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto. "Awareness of the broad scope of camps is vital in understanding that the anti-Jewish campaign unleashed by Nazi

Germany was – unfortunately – so successful due to the fact that this campaign was carried out not only by Germans and Austrians, but also by many others beyond the main perpetrators."

The conference was held with the generous support of the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences and the Gutwirth Family Fund.

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



A kindergarden in the labor camp in Sereď, Slovakia  
Yad Vashem Archives

# TWO COMMUNITIES, ONE TRAGEDY

THE YAD VASHEM INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH  
BOOK PRIZE 2021

Leah Goldstein

In mid-December 2021, Yad Vashem awarded the prestigious International Book Prize for Holocaust Research, in memory of Benny and Tilly Joffe z"l, to Prof. Eliyana R. Adler of Pennsylvania State University for her publication *Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union* (Harvard University Press, 2020), and to Dr. Leon Saltiel of the University of Macedonia for his book *The Holocaust in Thessaloniki: Reactions to the Anti-Jewish Persecution, 1942-1943* (Routledge, 2020).

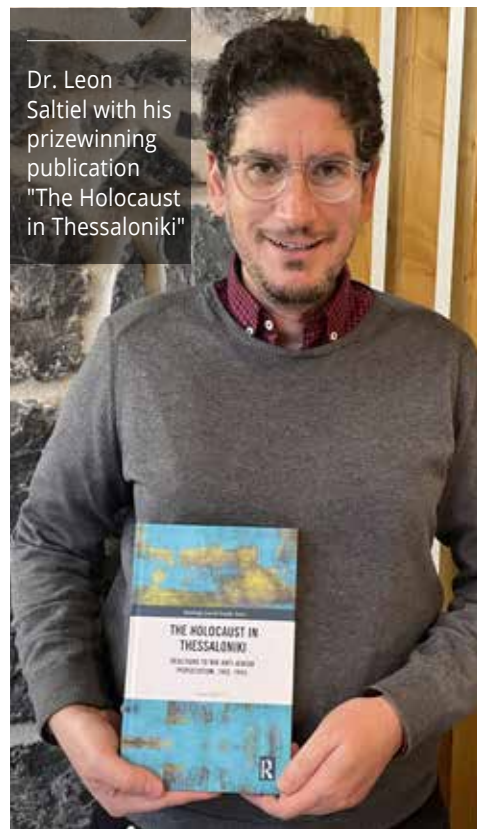
Jews who escaped  
from Poland to  
Russia, baking matzot  
for Passover, 1943  
Yad Vashem Archives

The Book Prize was initiated to encourage groundbreaking research related to the Holocaust period. The winners are selected by an international panel of judges presided by the Head of the Research Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies Prof. Dan Michman. Other judges serving on the panel this year included Prof. (Emeritus) Konrad Kwiet (Sydney Jewish Museum, Australia) and Dr. Susanne Heim (Institute for Contemporary History, Germany), together with Yad Vashem Senior Academic Advisor Prof. Dina Porat and Research Institute Director Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto.





Prof. Eliyana Adler with her prizewinning publication "Survival on the Margin"



Dr. Leon Saltiel with his prizewinning publication "The Holocaust in Thessaloniki"

— ” —

**Both books show that we are talking about one event, one phenomenon, one tragedy with many manifestations, united by the diabolical design of Nazi Germany to exterminate the entire Jewish community**  
Dani Dayan

The event was held on the Zoom online platform in English in the presence of award donors Brian and Lee Joffe and their family, and included greetings from Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan and remarks from Brian Joffe, as well as an overview of their publications from each of the prizewinning authors.

Dedicated to the complex subject of the Polish refugees who survived the Holocaust in the Soviet interior, Prof. Adler's book takes a detailed look at the process through which Polish Jews found themselves in the USSR and which probably saved many of their lives. "The book makes a significant contribution to Holocaust research by presenting a comprehensive and moving picture of the fate of those who

survived at the Soviet margins from their point of view," Prof. Michman explained. "It is the first book to provide an in-depth study of how Polish-Jewish refugees survived the war in the Soviet Union, and tells their story from a personal perspective."

"As a result of their decision to flee to the Soviet interior, which was often made in haste and always without foresight, the majority of Polish-Jewish survivors of the war essentially disappeared from both history and memory," stated Prof. Adler in her presentation. "By the time they returned and were reintegrated into what remained of Polish-Jewish society, their own stories of survival were marginalized by those of the Holocaust. What would it have looked like to include their



The ruined cemetery in Saloniki, Greece, 1945  
Yad Vashem Archives

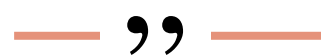
experiences in our historical and memorial projects? What would it mean to expand the compass of survival to include this group?"

Dr. Saltiel's book makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the Holocaust in Thessaloniki in particular and in Greece more broadly. The

book examines the attitudes and behaviors of authorities – the Church, the courts, the local university, professional associations and the Red Cross representative – as well as the Jews themselves both locally in Thessaloniki and in Athens. "After the methodological introduction,

Saltiel opens the narrative with a description of the destruction of the Jewish cemetery," commented Prof. Michman. "This was an expression of dehumanizing the dead in general, but was more symbolically an act of erasing the memory of Jewish presence in a central site in the city."





The past is the present, and its continued memory is the future, too

Brian Joffe

"This book is a result of ten years of research stemming from a personal project to understand what happened in my native town of Thessaloniki during WWII, especially regarding its numerous and historic Jewish community," explained Dr. Saltiel. "I wanted to investigate how the city's primary institutions reacted as the drama of the Jews was unfolding. The results were not at all encouraging. While there was accurate reporting of the events and analysis of the tragic consequences, the usual stance was one of silence. Their moral compass was rather disoriented; other myopic interests were put ahead as a priority."

Dani Dayan thanked the Joffe family for making this prize possible, and for their multifaceted friendship with Yad Vashem. "The two books are different, and yet hold a common theme," stated Dayan. "One deals with an Ashkenazic population, the other

with a Sephardic one; one looks at the fate of survivors, the other with a community that was totally decimated during the Shoah – but both show that we are talking about one event, one phenomenon, one tragedy with many manifestations, united by the diabolical design of Nazi Germany to exterminate the entire Jewish community."

In their presentations, the two prizewinners thanked Yad Vashem for the central role it played in the development of their academic studies. "A year of research at Yad Vashem was critical for this project," said Prof. Adler. "This makes it particularly meaningful for me to receive this prize." "Yad Vashem was crucial in my research," commented Dr. Saltiel, who was a doctoral scholarship recipient in 2012. "During the two weeks I spent at the campus in Jerusalem, taking advantage of its vast library and archival resources, I also had the unique opportunity

to seek advice from and discuss the main arguments of my thesis [on which the book is based] with Profs. Michman and [Yad Vashem Senior Academic Advisor Dina] Porat, as well as [Yad Vashem Senior Historian] Dr. David Silberklang, all of which motivated me to continue my research."

"The Yad Vashem Book Prize makes current the events of the past," expressed donor Brian Joffe. "New information and factual stories continue to breathe life and hope in to the tragedy of the past. It renews the reasons for the establishment of Yad Vashem... The past is the present, and its continued memory is the future, too. I thank the writers for bringing Yad Vashem and what it stands for to life."

# NEW BENEFACTORS: BRIAN AND LEE JOFFE

Brian Joffe was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1947. In 1976, he married Lee and together they have two sons and four grandchildren.

A chartered accountant by training, though a serial entrepreneur and an avid photographer by inclination, Brian has been recognized by numerous institutions for his expertise and significant contribution to South African business. He founded the multinational businesses Bidvest and Bidcorp, and currently serves as Chief Executive of Long4Life and Non-Executive Director of Bid Corporation Limited.

Brian has received honorary doctorates from the University of South Africa and the University of Witwatersrand. He believes his success is largely due to the people with whom he has surrounded himself.

Ardent Zionists, Brian and Lee recently moved to Tel Aviv, and have been making their mark on philanthropy in Israel. In 2018, the



couple endowed the prominent Warsaw Ghetto Square Balcony at Yad Vashem. In the same year, they began their dedication of the Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research in memory of Brian's parents, Benny and Tilly Joffe z"l. This prestigious Book Prize is a major incentive for scholarship in this field. Brian

and Lee recently extended their existing seven-year endowment of the Book Prize by an additional eighteen years.

Yad Vashem expresses its deep appreciation to Brian and Lee Joffe for their ongoing partnership in its effort to disseminate truthful and factual-based research on the Holocaust.



Forged ID card in the name of Johann Agelides, issued for Isaac Angel when he was living under an assumed identity in Athens in 1943-1944  
Yad Vashem Archives

# "REMEMBER YOUR NEW NAME"

JEWS WHO SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST USING FALSE IDENTITIES

Yona Kobo

A new online exhibition displays stories of Jews who survived under assumed identities all over Europe: In eastern Europe – Poland, Lithuania, Hungary and Ukraine; in central and western Europe – Germany, France and the Netherlands; and in southern Europe and the Balkans – Italy, Greece and Croatia.



**I often used to wake the children in the middle of the night, to check if they remembered their new names even when half asleep. I would repeat over and over again that no one could know that we were Jewish**

Branda Pluczenik-Schor

Originally from Krakow, Branda Pluczenik-Schor survived the Holocaust living under a false identity in Budapest together with her husband and daughters. Branda's parents were murdered. The story of the Pluczenik-Schor family is just one of the many stories presented in a new online exhibition, entitled ["Remember Your New Name: Surviving the Holocaust Under a False Identity."](#)

Throughout the Holocaust period, in the shadow of persecution at the hands of the Nazi regime, many Jews tried to save themselves and their families using forged papers that provided them with false identities.

These were, in the main, Jews who were fluent and accurate in the range of dialects, culture and customs of the area in which they were trying to survive. Sometimes they chose names close to their original one, and occasionally they acquired already existing identities. They had to practice their new

names and background stories until they were perfect, and in particular, to conceal their terror and pain.

The Jews with assumed identities took refuge on the "Aryan side," in basements and in attics, in labor camps, on agricultural estates and in factories that labored for the German war effort. Some remained in their places of birth, and others stole across foreign borders where they presented themselves as refugees or seeking work.

One of the narratives in the exhibition tells the tragic tale of Ida Krayz (Pinkert). Her young son Welwele was murdered together with his grandmother in Babi Yar in September 1941. Ida wandered alone, brokenhearted, between villages and towns under an assumed Ukrainian identity. She was in perpetual danger of being discovered and turned over to the Germans. Once she posed as a doctor; another time as a seamstress. "My bedding was the field and the forest," she related in her testimony, "and my sustenance consisted of

sorrow and lice." On one occasion, she was caught and sent to a camp where she received a document testifying to her status as a POW by the name of Lidia Wladimirowna Tyszczenko. She joined the partisans, and managed to cross enemy lines into the Soviet Union. Her husband was killed fighting in the Red Army.

For many, living under assumed identities was a daily battle for survival in a hostile environment, requiring resourcefulness and the ability to adjust to constantly shifting circumstances. They lived in perpetual fear of all people and places, and made every effort to make themselves invisible. Mistakes were not an option. They memorized the Christian prayers, and were forced to renounce their religion and mother tongue. They often changed their hair color, in an effort to erase all signs of their "Jewish" appearance.

In many cases, they were helped by non-Jews, some of whom were paid for their services. There were those who took advantage of their situation and blackmailed them. Some offered assistance without knowing they were Jewish, while others knew they were Jews and helped them anyway for no monetary gain and at risk to their own lives (many were eventually recognized by Yad Vashem as [Righteous Among the Nations](#)).

Jews under assumed identities were also helped by members of Jewish underground movements,

who worked tirelessly on behalf of their brethren, finding them hiding places and food, and equipping them with forged documents, including ID cards, birth certificates, food coupons and travel permits. The owners of assumed identities did not always make it until liberation, and often certain family members were discovered and murdered, while others survived.

One example of this is the heartbreaking story of Isaac and Ida (née Yacoel) Angel and their two sons, Raymond and Eric. Hailing from Thessaloniki, the family spent the war years living under assumed identities in a number of locations across Athens. Ida and nine-year-old Eric were arrested after an informant betrayed them to the Gestapo. After Ida was brutally tortured, they were sent to the Haidari transit camp, and from there deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in April 1944. Eric was murdered on arrival; Ida survived and was eventually liberated in Bergen-Belsen. After she recuperated, she returned to Greece, where she was reunited with Isaac and Raymond.

**Jews under assumed identities lived in perpetual fear of all people and places, and made every effort to make themselves invisible**



Welwele-Walentin Krayz, Ukraine, 1939. Welwele was murdered at Babi Yar in September 1941. Yad Vashem Archives

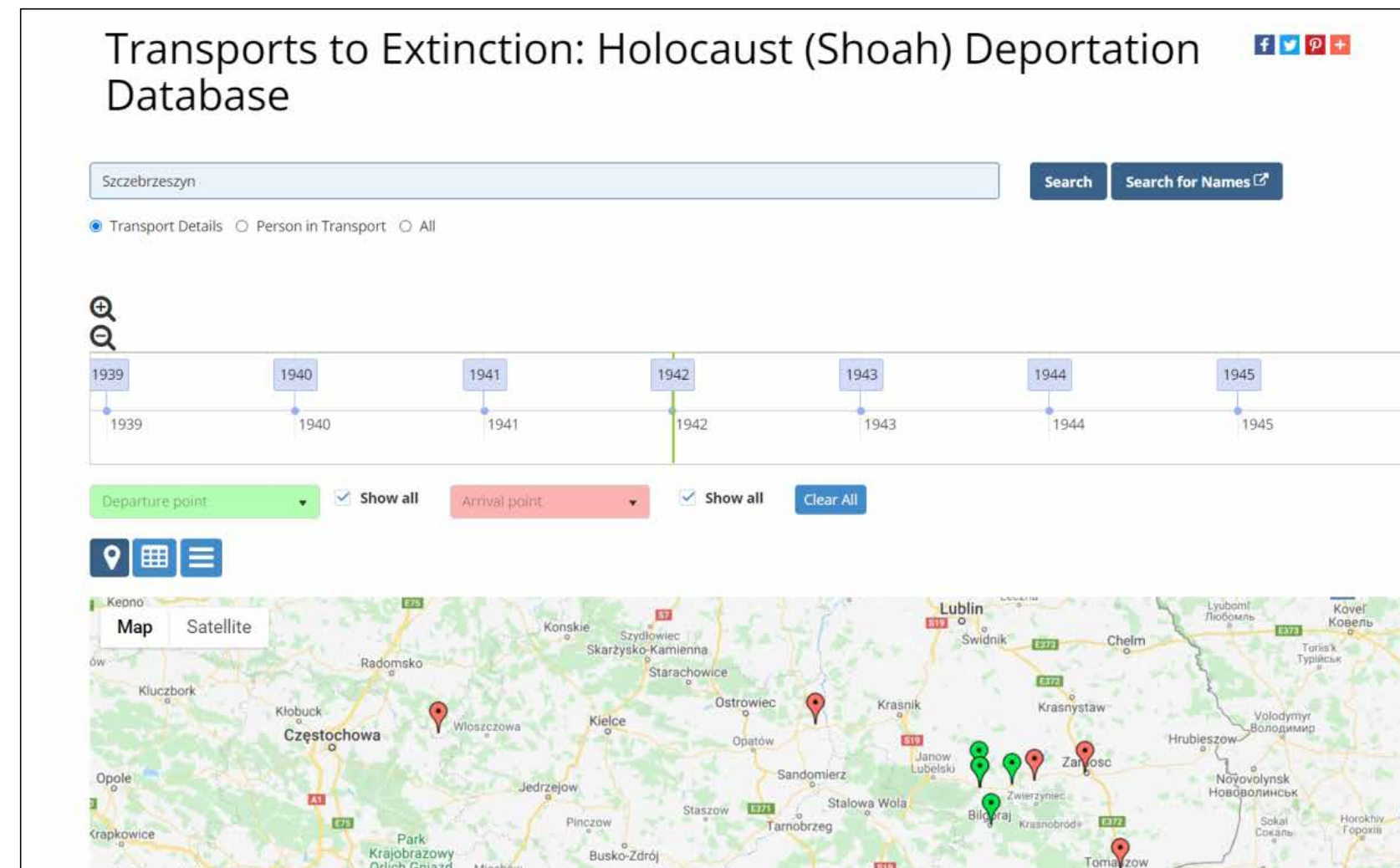
All the stories in the exhibition are based on documents from the Yad Vashem Archives, and material from Yad Vashem's various databases and

collections: personal documents, testimonies, photographs, Pages of Testimony, artworks and more. The forged documents were donated to Yad Vashem by survivors and their families, and bring to light incredible stories of survival under unimaginable conditions, through an astonishing display of sheer determination, creativity, resourcefulness, courage and sacrifice.

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

# EXPANDING RESEARCH FOR THE SAKE OF REMEMBRANCE

DEPORTATIONS OF JEWS FROM  
SMALLER COMMUNITIES IN  
OCCUPIED POLAND



**While Yad Vashem has been relatively successful in amalgamating evidence of the murders of Jews hailing from larger towns and cities at the hands of Nazi Germany and its collaborators, the fate of many smaller communities is relatively unknown, and in many cases has not been subject of thorough research.**

According to a census carried out in Poland in 1921, the Jewish community of the village of Babice in southeast Poland had only eighteen Jewish inhabitants. Based on [Pages of Testimony](#) painstakingly collected over half a century by Yad Vashem, the names of a few of its inhabitants have been traced: a local merchant named Shmuel Feif, Yosef Tintenfisch, the Volf family, the Szweczer family, and the Rogal family. According to

# DEPORTATIONS: THE CENTRAL THEME FOR HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

>> EXPANDING RESEARCH FOR THE SAKE OF REMEMBRANCE

DEPORTATIONS OF JEWS FROM SMALLER COMMUNITIES IN OCCUPIED POLANDING FALSE IDENTITIES

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The aim of our project is not only scholarly – it is also commemorative. We aim to retrieve the deportees' names, to make their voices heard

Dr. Cornelia Shati-Geissler

the testimony of Avraham Holer, who lived in a neighboring village, in the summer of 1942, following the massacre in Józefów, Jews from the villages in the vicinity, among them those in Babice located some 19 kilometers southwest, were given two weeks to move to Józefów. There they were murdered outside the town together with the remaining local Jews. From the tiny community of Babice, only Israel Volach (Volf), his aunt Sarah Tintenfish, and a woman by the name of Niche are known to have survived the Holocaust.

Investigations of deportations from villages where only a few Jewish families had lived, such as Babice, pose particular challenges. Lack of systematic documentation makes it especially challenging to identify individual transports, and the precise numbers of deportees, the exact route of the journey, or even the accurate date cannot always be reconstructed.

In recent months, Yad Vashem's "Transports to Extinction," a project of the International Institute for

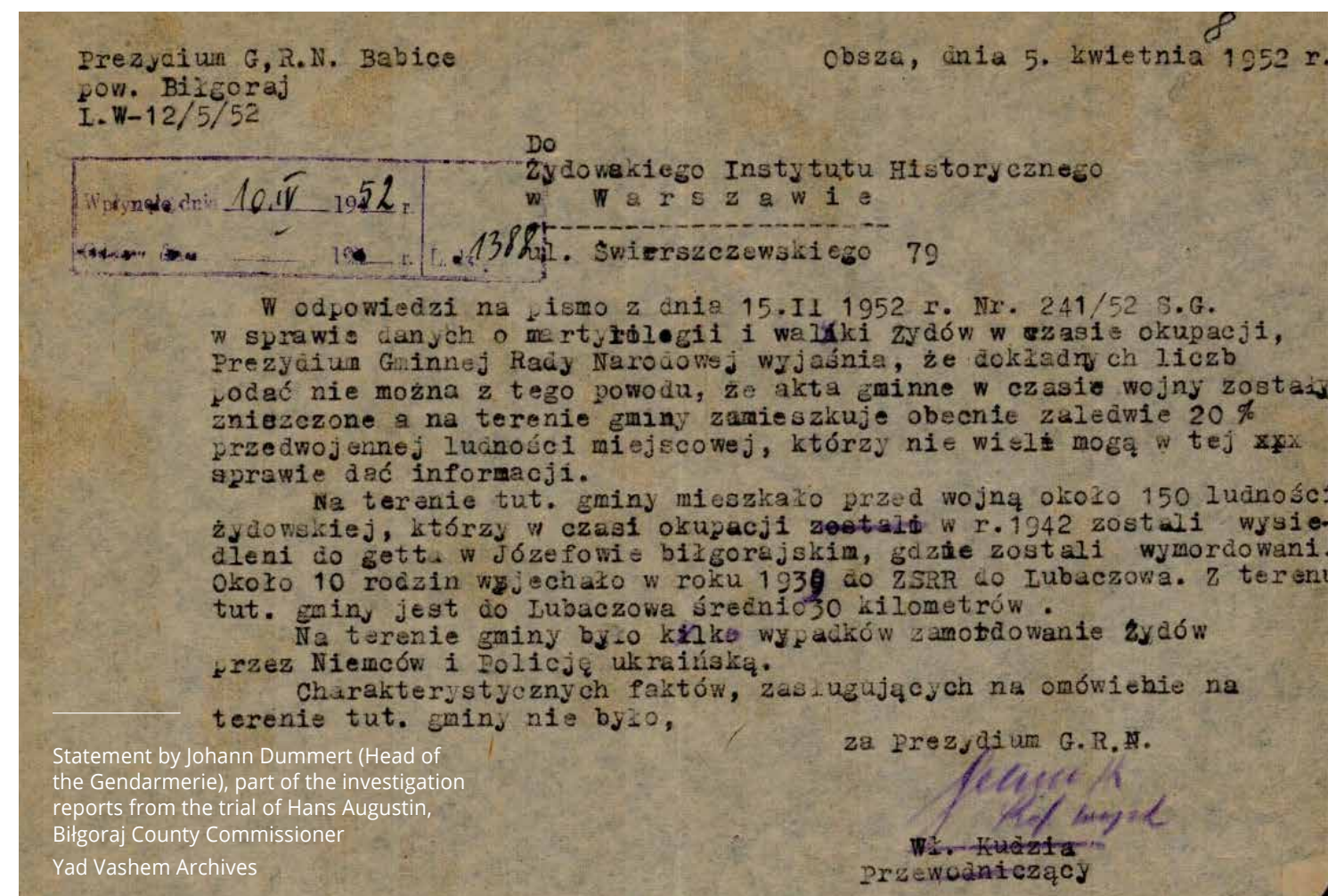
Holocaust Research, has been researching the fates of many such Jewish communities in towns and villages of the Biłgoraj County, in the Lublin District of German-occupied Poland (General Government).

In investigating the final transport from Szczepieszyn, for example, researchers employed testimonies of local Polish witnesses collected by the District Commission Investigating Nazi Crimes in Lublin, as well as investigation reports collected for the trial of Hans Augustin, the Biłgoraj county commissioner. Among these was the testimony of the head of the local gendarmerie, who participated in the events. These sources come from the Yad Vashem Archives, as well as from other collections worldwide, such as the Jewish Historical Institute archive in Warsaw.

In the early morning of 21 October 1942, German policemen surrounded the small town and, together with local gendarmes, began to deport its Jewish inhabitants. A

total of 934 Jewish men, women and children were sent to the Bełżec extermination camp. Devorah Fleisher, a local who survived by hiding in the area, recalled: "Quite early in the morning, we heard shooting. I barely made it into Isrulke Germanovitch's house. There was nobody left there except for his little four-year-old daughter, Ruchele, who, in the turmoil, had been left behind. I took her to me and calmed her down, and together, quickly, we got into an attic cupboard. There, we found her mother... We lay there a whole day in great fear. We heard the houses being demolished. The murderers were running around searching every hole... Shooting could be heard from all sides, mixed with the cries of parents, the wailing of children. You could go mad listening to it."

Everyone who was discovered was led to the town square. From there, the deportees were marched out of the town, beaten with rifle butts and shot at along the way. They were taken to the village of Brody Małe, about 2.5 kilometers south, where they were held on a factory site, in the cold and rain. The next morning, they were marched to the local train station. On 22 October, at around 12 noon, they were forced into freight cars, though about four hours passed before the train started to move. They travelled south, some 60 kilometers, to Bełżec, from where no one returned



alive. There are no known accounts of this transport and no known survivors. In Szczepieszyn, the slaughter continued alongside the deportation and beyond.

"The aim of our project is not only scholarly – it is also commemorative," says "Transports to Extinction" Project Director Dr. Cornelia Shati-Geissler. "We aim to retrieve the deportees' names, to make their voices heard. However, the limits of research

define those of commemoration. We strive to expand these limits with each new place we embark upon. The project's [online database](#), where each researched transport is available to the public, is organized geographically as well as chronologically, and can be employed as a tool to comprehensibly chart the destruction of Jewish communities by means of deportations."

"Transports to Extinction,"

the online research project on deportations during the Holocaust, is made possible through the generous support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; the estate of Isaac Jacques Cohen z'/ of France, survivor from Thessaloniki; SNCF - Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français; the Samson Foundation; and Canadian donors through the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

# "A RARE COURAGE AND CONCERN"

FRENCH RAILROAD WORKER WHO  
RESCUED JEWS FROM DEPORTATION

Leah Goldstein

In September 1942, members of the local underground movement, including some 25 French railway workers, participated in a rescue mission during which they saved dozens of Jews destined for deportation. Among the participants in the rescue attempt was Marcel Hoffman.



Holocaust survivor Oscar Jacques Stulzaft at his barmitzva  
Yad Vashem Archives

>> A RARE COURAGE AND CONCERN  
FRENCH RAILROAD WORKER WHO RESCUED JEWS FROM DEPORTATION

Prior to the mission, extensive arrests had been made of Jewish families from the north of France and the Lille area (close to the border with Belgium) with the aim of transferring them to the concentration and extermination camps through the Malines transit camp. On 11 September, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, a group of Jews were arrested and brought to the Fives-Lille train station.

Among the Jews brought to the station were members of the Stulzaft family – father Berick and his wife Helene, who sold fare at traveling markets and lived in Lille with their children Jean, aged 22 months, and six-month-old Oscar. They were loaded onto a train that was about to leave for Malines.

Hoffman managed to mislead the guards by presenting them with his ID card of supposedly German origin. With the help of his friends, he first smuggled the two Stulzaft children off the train, followed by Helene and another Jew, a Mr. Koenigsman. The family members were initially hidden in the Hoffman family home. (According to existing knowledge, Berick also survived the Holocaust.)

When the Hoffman family home was bombed, baby Oscar

was injured. Hoffman brought him to the local hospital, where he underwent several surgeries. During a visit by the boy's mother, it turned out that the nurse at the hospital was about to call the Gestapo to inform them of the Jewish child. With determined resourcefulness, Hoffman immediately took the boy and his mother to a different hiding place, thus saving the Jewish family again.

Later, the family was hidden with friends close to the train station in Tourcoing, near the border with Belgium. Oscar was given a fictitious identity as Jacques Morel. In February 1944, the family moved to another hiding place in Lille, where they stayed until liberation in September 1944. Additionally, in 1946, Marcel Hoffman traveled to Germany from where he brought back more family members, Sonia Brett and her daughter, who had survived the extermination camps.

The friendship between the families continued after the war.

"Paying heed to my patriotism and humanitarianism, I snuck into the group and, regardless of the danger, I used cunning methods to help save some 40 children and adults from the deportation," Marcel Hoffman said in his testimony, which is housed at Yad Vashem. "The devoted members of the underground gathered these people together, and hosted them for the duration of the German occupation."

Recently, close to 80 years after these events, Yad Vashem recognized Marcel Hoffman as Righteous Among the Nations. "This story presents a unique rescue case in which certain workers of a railway company, which was actively involved in transferring Jews from their places of residence to the extermination camps, chose not to cooperate and instead to carry

**Hoffman managed to mislead the guards by presenting them with his ID card of supposedly German origin**



Righteous Among the Nations Marcel Hoffman, 1946  
Yad Vashem Archives

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**Paying heed to my patriotism and humanitarianism, I snuck into the group and, regardless of the danger, I used cunning methods to help save some 40 children and adults from the deportation**

Marcel Hoffman

out a daring rescue operation," says Dr. Joel Zisenwein, Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department at Yad Vashem. "Marcel Hoffman displayed a rare

courage and concern among the company's employees – and therefore deserves praise and recognition from the Jewish people".

# "MAYBE YOU'LL NEED THIS SOMEDAY"

Michael Tal

During the Holocaust period, those who were deported from their homes, escaped, or went into hiding often underwent heart-wrenching parting moments from parents, children, siblings, partners, relatives and friends. Most had no idea that this would be the last time they would see each other, that these would be the last words they exchanged, or that what their eyes beheld would be their last glimpse of one other. Objects exchanged during those last moments later became laden with significance, imbued with the memory of a beloved figure who never came back, alongside the poignant recollection of that last farewell.

As Israel nears Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022, the following items connected to parting from loved ones in the shadow of deportation are currently being shown in the temporary display case in Yad Vashem's Visitors Center.

## PARTING GIFTS IN THE SHADOW OF DEPORTATION

### VERA FÜRST'S WRISTWATCH, YUGOSLAVIA

In the wake of the German occupation, Aleksander and Vera Fürst, both doctors from Yugoslavia, left home with their two daughters, Katarina and Miriam, and moved to Hungary.

In 1942, Aleksander was sent to Oradea to work, and some two years later, his daughters were notified that he had committed suicide following his receipt of a directive to move into the ghetto. "When [mother] learned that father was dead, for three days she spoke with me about us taking our lives together," recalled Katerina. "She put terrible pressure on me, but I wanted to live so much, I was twenty... So she said: 'You're right, you will get through this war, but I

don't have the strength.'" A short time later, Hungarian gendarmes entered the Fürst family home and ordered Vera, Katarina and Miriam to prepare for deportation. Vera left the room.

"I asked her [Vera], 'Why are you not getting dressed?'" Katerina related. "'I'm not coming with you,' she answered. I realized that something had happened. 'What did you take? What have you done?' I asked her, and she replied: 'Nothing, nothing.'"

Vera swiftly removed the ring from her finger, took the watch off her wrist and gave them both to her daughter. It later transpired that she had devised a plan to take her own life if she was ever ordered to leave her home. She died a short time later.

Both girls evaded deportation thanks to a friend of their father, a Hungarian police officer, and they fled to their aunt in Budapest. They survived in one of the safe houses in the city.

Katarina safeguarded the ring and wristwatch that Vera had given her before she died, as a last and precious memento of her mother.



— ” —

**You will get through  
this war, but I no longer  
have the strength**

Vera Fürst



# DEPORTATIONS: THE CENTRAL THEME FOR HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

>> "MAYBE YOU'LL NEED THIS SOMEDAY"  
PARTING GIFTS IN THE SHADOW OF DEPORTATION



Aleksander Fürst with his daughters Katarina and Miriam.  
Novi Vrbas, Yugoslavia  
Yad Vashem Archives

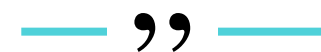


David Schulman, postwar  
Yad Vashem Archives



Fania Schulman.  
Lodz, Poland,  
1930s  
Yad Vashem  
Archives

BELT FROM FANIA  
SCHULMAN'S  
BEITAR  
UNIFORM,  
LODZ



**The belt gave me the strength and the  
will to continue to live**

David Schulman

In January 1944, the Schulman family – David, his three sisters and their mother – were deported from the Lodz ghetto to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp. Shortly before the deportation, David's eldest sister Fania gave him the belt from her Beitar youth movement uniform, saying, "Maybe you'll need it someday."

After two months at Auschwitz, David was sent to various labor camps, and towards the end of the war he was forced on a death march. He was shot while trying to escape, but a fellow prisoner who was a doctor treated him and saved his life. "The belt gave me the strength and the will to live," recalled David. "I hoped to return it to my family, and this desire spurred me to hide it in different places – to tie it to my legs, to

put it inside my shirt, even to bury it."

David was the sole survivor of his family, and therefore wasn't able to realize his wish to return the belt to Fania. It remained as a last memento of David's beloved family, none of whom David ever saw again.

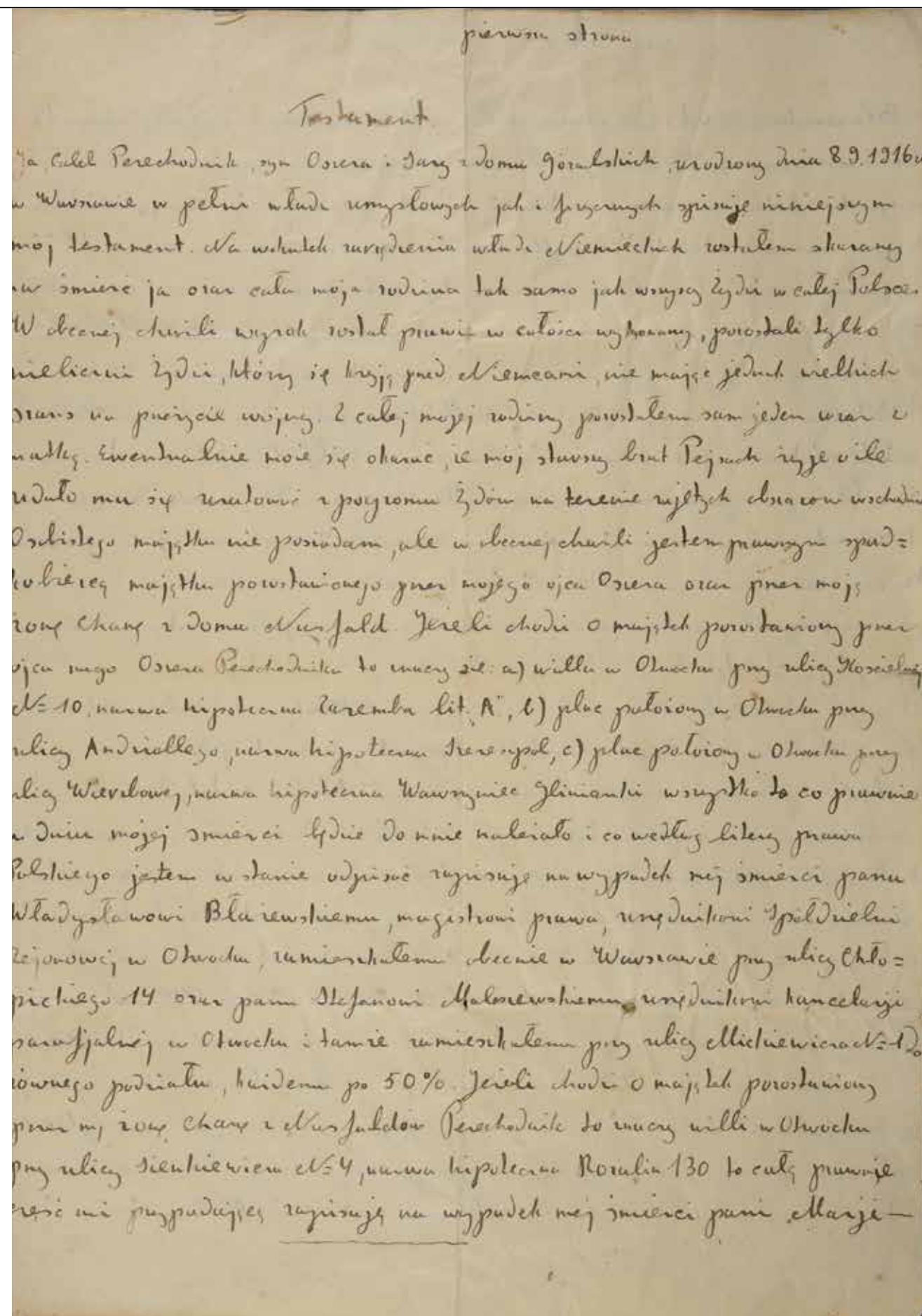
*The author is Curator and Director of the Artifacts Department, Museums Division.*

## FULFILLING

HIS WILL THE LAST  
TESTAMENT  
OF CALEK  
PERECHODNIK

Ofer Lifshitz

A comprehensive collection of documents and photographs was recently donated to Yad Vashem through its "[Gathering the Fragments](#)" project – supplementing the chronicle and unique diary written by Holocaust victim Bezalel (Calek) Perechodnik already housed at the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem. At the heart of the recently received collection stands the original copy of Perechodnik's will, an important link in his story: In it, he asked to have his diary published, and revealing the very existence of the diary.



From the will of  
Calek Perechodnik,  
1944  
Yad Vashem  
Archives

”

Warsaw, 7 May 1943

**I am Calek Perechodnik, an engineer of agronomy, a Jew of average intelligence... This is not a literary work; I have neither the ability nor the ambition to attempt one. It is not a history of Polish Jewry. It is a memoir of a Jew and his family. To be exact, this is a confession about my lifetime, a sincere and true confession. Alas, I don't believe in divine absolution, and as far as others are concerned, only my wife could – although she shouldn't – absolve me. However, she is no longer among the living... Please consider this memoir to be my deathbed confession. I harbor no illusions. I know that sooner or later I will share the fate of all the Jews of Poland**

Calek Perechodnik

The Perechodniks were a wealthy Jewish family from Otwock, a small town near Warsaw, Poland. The father of the family, Oszer, established and ran a successful millinery factory. His sons, Pesach and Calek, were trained as engineers at the University of Toulouse in France. In 1938 Calek married Ana-Chana (Anka) (née Nusfeld), whose family owned the local Oaza Cinema. Their only daughter Athalie (Otuszka) was born in 1940. After the German occupation, Calek initially refused to join the [Judenrat](#) apparatus. Later, in order to avoid deportation to a

labor camp, he joined the [Jewish police](#) in the ghetto. Calek organized a hiding place for his two-year-old daughter, but delayed moving her there. According to the messages he received, he believed his family would be protected by his position.

The chronicle, diary and will are rare documents that reflect the tragedy of the Jewish individual during the Holocaust: 26-year-old Calek considered himself responsible for the deaths of his wife and daughter, a loss he claimed to have taken place “as a result of German barbarity, and, to a considerable extent, on account

of my recklessness.” During the *Aktion* of August 1942, Anka and Otuszka, as well as Calek's sister Rachel Frojnd (née Perechodnik) were deported to Treblinka, where they were murdered.

In December 1942, Calek went into hiding with his parents. Their hideout was located in the Polish quarters of Warsaw, outside of the ghetto. Oszer Perechodnik, whose appearance matched the stereotyped “Aryan” features, lived openly under a false identity in order to provide for his wife Sarah and son Calek (Calek's older brother Pesach had fled to the USSR). Oszer



Calek, Anka and Otuszka  
Perechodnik, c. 1941  
Yad Vashem Archives

was captured and murdered in September 1943. Sarah and Calek remained in hiding in Warsaw, but were both killed during the German suppression of the Polish uprising, in October 1944, shortly before liberation. The exact circumstances

of their deaths are still unknown.

The chronicle presents Calek's account of life in the Otwock ghetto and its liquidation. It was written in hindsight, from his hiding place in Warsaw, between May and August 1943, and entrusted to a Polish

lawyer who assisted the family. Calek subsequently resumed his writing and kept a diary, in which, during the following year, he documented his life in hiding on an ongoing basis. Shortly before his death, he gave the diary to a Polish woman who had worked in the family home before the war, together with his will. The will survived her journey to the labor camps in Germany and back to Poland, and thus came into the hands of Calek's older brother Pesach, the only member of the immediate family who survived the war. It was Pesach who, upon this discovery, took steps to trace and retrieve Calek's accounts of his experiences, and, as early as the 1940s, undertook the task of fulfilling his brother's legacy and having them published as a book. The book was finally published in Israel and abroad during the 1990s, bearing the title *The Sad Task of Documentation: A Diary in Hiding* (in Hebrew) or *Am I a Murderer? Testament of a Jewish Ghetto Policeman* (in English).

If the chronicle is a monument to Anka and Otuszka Perechodnik – sealed symbolically on 19 August, the anniversary of their deportation – the will, documents and photographs recently added to this collection

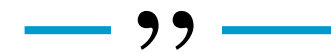


Bezalal (Calek)  
Perechodnik making  
kiddush, 1937  
Yad Vashem Archives

If the chronicle is a monument to Anka and Otuska Perechodnik, the will, documents and photographs recently added to the collection constitute this monument's foundations

constitute this monument's foundations. They place the collection within context: the documentation of the prewar life and the last wishes of a young Jew who felt his chances of survival diminishing. Asher Reshef (the son of Pesach Perhodnik), who donated the will and the supplements to the family collection to Yad Vashem, expressed his gratitude that "all the documents are now together. I knew where everything was: Calek's diary and his will. My father was a practical person: Having the diary published was crucial to him. He really wanted us to know [what happened there]. As far as I am concerned, this is my history."

Since the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign began over a decade ago, 14,850 people have donated some 338,600 items, including 198,500 documents, more than 129,100 photographs, 5,885 artifacts, 800 works of art and some 210 original films. The donated items undergo a careful process of registration, restoration and preservation, and are gradually made accessible to the public online.



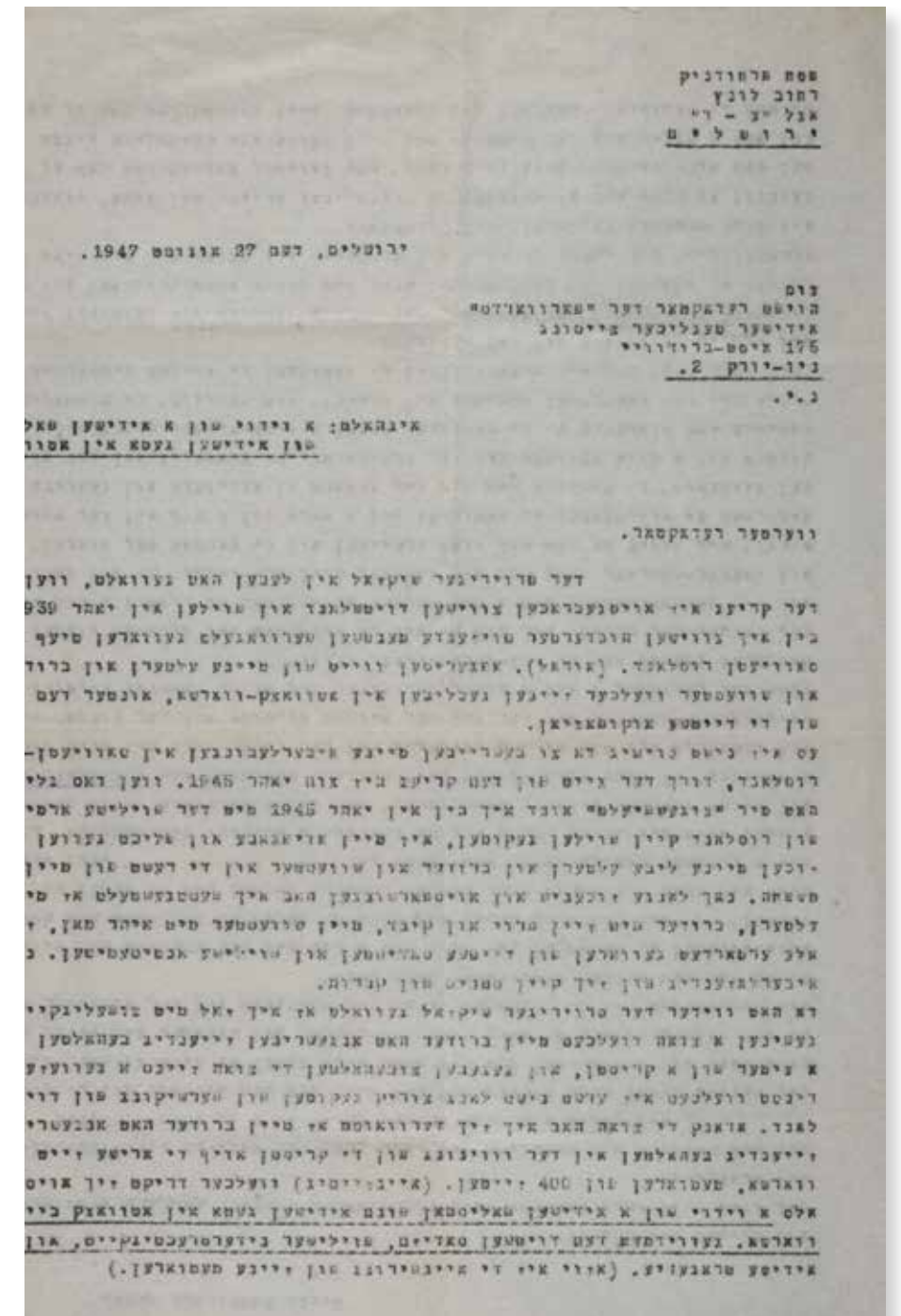
Having the diary published was crucial to my father. He really wanted us to know [what happened there]. As far as I am concerned, this is my history

Asher Reshef

Even during the pandemic, representatives of Yad Vashem continue visiting Holocaust survivors or their family members in their homes in accordance with Health Ministry directives, in order to gather Holocaust-era personal items. For more information: +972-2-644-3888 or [collect@yadvashem.org.il](mailto: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 a researcher in the Collections and Registration Section, Archives Division.*



Pesach Perechodnik's correspondence with the prominent Yiddish-language daily *Forverts* (1947) in an attempt to have Calek's diary published  
Yad Vashem Archives

# DORIT NOVAK RETIRES AS YAD VASHEM DIRECTOR-GENERAL



Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan presenting a parting gift to outgoing Director General Dorit Novak

On 1 December 2021, Dorit Novak stepped down from her position as Yad Vashem Director-General, after nine years in the role and five years previous to that as Director of Yad Vashem's [International School for Holocaust Studies](#).

The new Director-General is Brig. Gen. (res.) Tzvika Fayirizen, former head of the IDF's Education Corps.

At a moving tribute to Novak held in Yad Vashem's Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall on the Mount of Remembrance, Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan lamented the fact that he did not merit to work with her for longer than a few months, but reminded those present of her "neshama yetera [additional soul] ... not just in her management capacity, but in all she did and with all she

came into contact at Yad Vashem. She came here in order to serve a purpose larger than anyone of us."

Former Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev called Novak "a true friend," with whom he worked for eight years in a "harmonious partnership." "We were fortunate that Dorit came to her position through the International School... she came from a natural and deep

understanding of what our goals were, and where we needed to go. Yad Vashem's educational endeavors stand at the center of its efforts, and we learned, together, how to advance important issues... While the COVID-19 pandemic brought tremendous complications the world over, Dorit steered through this period with extraordinary intelligence and consideration, both to the institution as well as to all those who work here."

Speaking on behalf of all the survivors who have made Yad Vashem their second home, including her own mother, Berthe Badihi thanked Novak for always greeting them warmly, and helping to increase the number of students who passed through its doors. "This is an extremely important goal, and we feel a sense of calm knowing that the Shoah will never become just another aspect in history."

# INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR ART DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ELIAD MOREH ROSENBERG

Leah Goldstein

In November 2021, Art Department Director and Curator in Yad Vashem's Museums Division Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg received the Lifetime Achievement Award, in the category of "European Cultural Manager 2021," for the [European Cultural Brands Awards](#).

Moreh-Rosenberg was first nominated for this award in 2017, following the hugely successful exhibition "[Art from the Holocaust](#)" displayed at the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin, which she curated.

"The mission of the Art Department, and Yad Vashem in general, is to collect, preserve, research and exhibit items from the Holocaust period, including artworks created during the time of the Holocaust," stated Moreh-

Rosenberg. "Yad Vashem's [Art Collection](#), which is the largest of its kind in the world, tells the amazing story of men, women and children facing German Nazi persecution, brutality and ultimate murder who produced art at great risk to their lives in order to ensure that humanity would know about them, their hopes and their dreams, as well as their fellow Jews. I hope that this recognition will give wider exposure to the memory of these artists and the



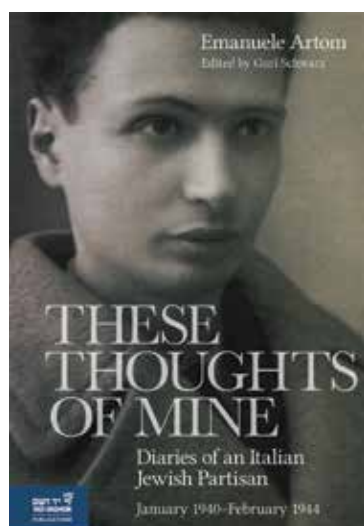
Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg receiving her prize in the European Cultural Brands Awards

incredible works they produced – which testify to the power of the human spirit to brave the most difficult circumstances, and as such constitute a true source of inspiration for all of us today."

As part of the events surrounding the awards ceremony, Moreh-Rosenberg met with the Mayor of Dresden together with other recipients, and participated in a local ceremony marking the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the November Pogrom (*Kristallnacht*) in the presence of local Jewish community leaders, across from the new synagogue in the city.

# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH: PUBLICATIONS

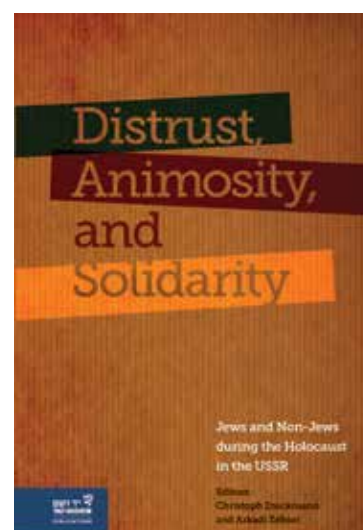
>> To order these and other Yad Vashem publications, please contact the Publications Department:  
Tel. 972-2-6443511 | [publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il)  
Or purchase through our online store: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)



**These Thoughts of Mine:  
Diaries of an Italian Jewish Partisan  
January 1940-February 1944**  
Emanuele Artom  
Editor: Guri Schwarz  
NIS 91 NIS 68

Emanuele Artom, an Italian Jewish intellectual, joined the resistance in 1943 after experiencing racial persecution. The first part of his diary is a rich source of information about cultural life in Turin, the development of racial persecution, the Allied bombings, and life between the fall of Mussolini and the beginning of the German occupation. The second part

offers an unmediated representation of the hardships of partisan life, the divisions within the anti-Fascist front, social conflicts and gender dynamics, as well as the tensions between local populations and the fighters. Emanuele Artom died in the spring of 1944 after enduring atrocious torture at the hands of Fascist and Nazi tormentors.



**Distrust, Animosity, and Solidarity:  
Jews and Non-Jews during the  
Holocaust in the USSR**  
Editors: Christoph Dieckmann and  
Arkadi Zeltser  
NIS 169 NIS 127

Interethnic relations in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe during the Holocaust is a topic at the center of intense scholarly and public discussion. In this collection of essays, a broad range of leading researchers examine various aspects of this multifaceted issue from diverse perspectives. The authors' insightful analyses of the relations among the Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians, Poles and Jews shed light on prewar views regarding stereotypes of the Jews, as well as the impact of German and Romanian occupation policies during WWII. What emerges is a complex mosaic of the attitudes of the Jews and the non-Jews toward each other.



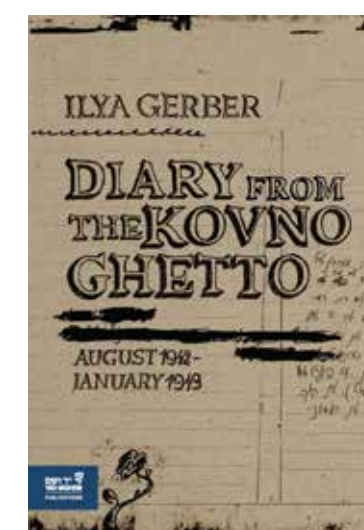
**Longing Overcomes Us: The  
Finkelsztejn Family Correspondence  
New York-Warsaw, 1939-1941**  
Editor: Ewa Koźmińska-Frejłak  
In collaboration with Polish Center  
for Holocaust Research  
NIS 156 NIS 117

In 1939, Chaim Finkelsztejn left his wife and daughters in Warsaw to travel to the Zionist Congress in Geneva, but after Poland was invaded, his return home became impossible. In exile, Finkelsztejn tried to organize aid to the Jewish community in Poland and to secure visas for his family, but these efforts were denied him when the US joined the war. Filled with affection, longing, memories and anxiety, his correspondence with his family provides insight into the increasing isolation, suffering and despair of the Jews under Nazi rule.



**The Cold Shower of a New Life:  
The Postwar Diaries of  
a Child Survivor | Vol. 4  
July 10, 1946 - October 21, 1946**  
Yehuda Bacon | Editors: Sharon  
Kangisser Cohen and Dorota Julia Nowak  
NIS 104 NIS 78

Born in Czechoslovakia, Yehuda Bacon survived Theresienstadt and Auschwitz-Birkenau, as well as two death marches. After liberation, Bacon began to keep a diary, writing more than 240 notebooks over the past seven decades. Through a mosaic of words and drawings, he recounts his past, contemplates his present, and imagines his future. In this fourth volume, Bacon moves to Jerusalem against the backdrop of the violent and tense political reality, embarking on studies at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design.



**Diary from the Kovno Ghetto:  
August 1942-January 1943**  
Ilya Gerber | Editor: Lea Prais  
NIS 91 NIS 68

Ilya Gerber was seventeen when the Kovno ghetto was sealed off in 1941. Ilya kept a diary, however only the third notebook remained. In his diary, Ilya describes daily ghetto life and depicts the lives and personal relationships of his family members and close group of friends, including romantic feelings, conflicting emotions and attitudes toward the challenging circumstances. His diary reveals his love of music, books, art, and poetry, and also sheds light on previously unknown facets of Jewish society. Ilya Gerber was tragically shot and killed on 28 April 1945, during a march from the Dachau concentration camp to Wolfsrathausen in Germany.



## RECENT VISITS OCTOBER 2021-JANUARY 2022

In November 2021, Dani Dayan [traveled to the United States](#) for his inaugural visit as Chairman of Yad Vashem. There, he met **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** and Governor of New Jersey Phil Murphy, as well as friends and supporters of Yad Vashem, including members of the American Society for Yad Vashem and Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor Edward Mosberg. Additionally, Chairman Dayan convened with colleagues from leading Holocaust remembrance organizations and institutions in Washington, DC and

New York, as well as members of local Jewish communities.

On 7 December, a **delegation of ambassadors to the UN** visited Yad Vashem, accompanied by Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Gilad Erdan. The delegation, consisting of ambassadors from Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ecuador, Hungary, Nauru, Palau, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Uruguay and Zambia, toured the Holocaust History Museum, took part in a ceremony in

the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial.

In a separate visit in November, **US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield** was accompanied on a tour of Yad Vashem by Ambassador Gilad Erdan.

On 2 December, **US Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Thomas Nides** visited Yad Vashem with his son Max. During his [visit](#), Ambassador Nides toured the Holocaust

History Museum, participated in a moving ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, walked through the Children's Memorial and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives. After the tour, Ambassador Nides lit a 19th-century Hannukiah that was hidden during the Shoah, and sat with Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan and Senior Historian Dr. Robert Rozett, to discuss the timely topics of Holocaust denial and antisemitism. "There is a reason I came here on my first official visit as the US Ambassador," he wrote in the Yad Vashem Guestbook. "It is for the grandmothers and the grandfathers; the mothers and fathers; the little boys and little girls; the teachers; for all of us we say one thing, please God, may it never happen again."





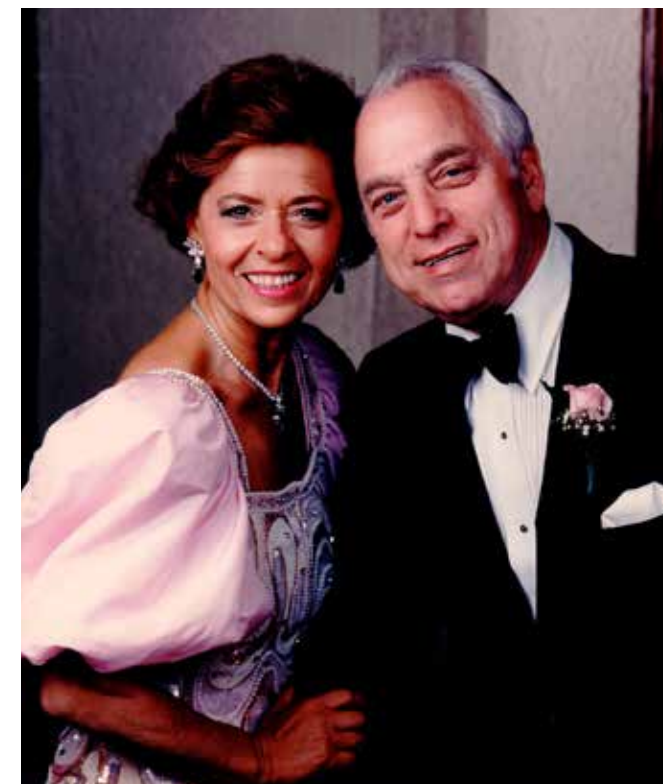
On 27 October, **President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo H.E. Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo** visited Yad Vashem. Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, the President wrote in the Yad Vashem Guestbook: "This place represents all that can be abominable in man. It is a place of eternal memory, which teaches us only one thing: Never Again!"



**President of the Republic of Colombia H.E. Mr. Iván Duque Márquez** (left) was accompanied on his tour of the Mount of Remembrance on 8 November by Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan. President Márquez called Yad Vashem: "A place where our souls and our hearts are united with millions of victims rejecting forever any hate speech, exclusion, segregation or annihilation, and calling for the building a society free of fanaticism, extremism and discrimination."

## NEW PILLAR: LUSIA ROSENZWEIG MILCH IN MEMORY OF BERNARD MILCH

**Lusia Milch and her husband of 65 years, Bernard z"l, were always deeply involved in Jewish philanthropy as a way of expressing their love for the Jewish people, and gratitude for the blessings in their lives.**



The couple first met in the Jewish Displaced Persons (DP) camps of American-occupied Germany. Both were originally from eastern Poland: Lusia had lost her entire family in the Skalat ghetto; Bernard had survived with some family members in Kosova. They were reintroduced in the US, married and had two sons, David and Neal. Today they have three grandchildren, Cody, Julia and Jason.

Bernard had studied to be a mechanic in the DP camp, and he put his skills to use in New York.

Within a few years, he had founded a commercial laundry company, which became a core holding of the Scandinavian industrial giant, Electrolux. In 1980, Bernard was awarded the Order of the North Star by the King of Sweden for his contribution to Swedish-American business, the highest honor given to a non-citizen. The company, Laundrylux, continues to be run by the Milch family. Lusia pursued her education and became a Russian language and literature teacher in the public-school system.

Eight decades after the Holocaust,

aging physical materials—documents, photos and recordings that were witness to its horrific events – risk serious and irreversible deterioration and must be preserved and safeguarded for future generations. This task becomes ever more important at a time when antisemitism and Holocaust denial are growing threats. The Milch family is proud to support Yad Vashem's digitization of this material to be used by scholars and students from around the world, and Yad Vashem warmly welcomes them as Yad Vashem Pillars.



## THE ASPER FOUNDATION

The Asper Foundation, Pillars of Yad Vashem, was founded in 1983 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, by the late Israel and Babs Asper and today is managed by their children Gail (President and Trustee), Leonard (Chair and Trustee) and David Asper (Trustee), as well as Richard Leipsic (Trustee). In addition to the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, which was launched two decades ago, the Asper Foundation supports many Jewish and Israeli community projects.

In a special interview for *Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine*, Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D, looked back at her parents' dedication to Yad Vashem and Holocaust education, and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the World Holocaust Remembrance Center for the sake of future generations.

### What Yad Vashem project speaks to you the most?

For obvious reasons, the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program is something that is very close to our hearts.

The Program was conceived to educate the wider public about the events of the Holocaust through various multilevel educational initiatives. Developed in partnership with Yad Vashem's educational experts, it incorporates comprehensive

professional development programs, support for Yad Vashem's international educational conferences and expert international engagement, among other facets. Tens of thousands of beneficiaries from over 70 countries have been impacted since the program's inception. I know my parents deeply believed that Yad Vashem was the premier world institution serving as the memory repository for Holocaust victims and one of the key global educational

institutions attempting to inoculate people from racism and hatred. We've been very pleased with the progress of this program and the positive difference it is making.

In announcing the creation of this program in 2002, my father said: "The Asper Foundation is proud to play an integral role in supporting Yad Vashem, a world-renowned institution respected not only for commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, but imparting the lessons



of the Holocaust and educating people worldwide to help ensure that the rally cry 'Never Again' refers not only to Jews, but to all peoples." I believe this nicely sums up why we established this program and why the Foundation continues to support Yad Vashem.

### What experience did you find particularly meaningful at Yad Vashem?

I will never forget my first visit to Yad Vashem in 1974, when I was fourteen. In one life-changing visit, I learned more about the Holocaust than with all my previous studies combined. The Children's Memorial in particular left an indelible mark, and its effect on me is as powerful today as it was 48 years ago.

Each time I visit Yad Vashem, I find the experience extremely moving and always learn something new. It's an institution filled with such depth and breadth. Knowing that

my commitment to Yad Vashem was established through my parents is what moves me and my family the most, and inspires us to continue our relationship and support.

### Who from the Shoah has inspired you the most?

There are so many inspirational people connected with the Shoah. Two individuals stand out to me: Simon Wiesenthal, as he embraced the Jewish concept of justice as action; and Elie Wiesel, as he understood Judaism's belief that being witness to injustice obligates people to educate others. As well, I have always been moved by Anne Frank's experiences and her positive views about life and the importance of *Tikkun Olam* [repairing the world]. I am also stirred by stories of the Righteous Among the Nations such as Anne's rescuer Miep Gies, who risked

their own lives to save those of their Jewish friends and neighbors.

### What do you think would surprise others to know about Yad Vashem?

I think that many people would be surprised by just how robust Yad Vashem's research is and the extent of its outreach to hundreds of millions of people around the world. It is not just a museum, but is also an effective and world-class education and research institution.

### What do you think is a major challenge that faces Yad Vashem in the near future?

The major challenge facing Yad Vashem is the ability to continue effectively imparting its message to younger generations. Without a deep understanding of the Holocaust, and the long history of antisemitism and circumstances that allowed it to take place, it is hard to understand and react appropriately to human rights abuses that are taking place today.

This area of Holocaust education has always been relevant, but its significance in the last few years has become even more pronounced with the waning number of survivors, increasing Holocaust denial, revisionism and distortion, as well as growing antisemitism, including by some dressed in the cloak of criticism of Israel.

We are very confident, as always, that Yad Vashem is up to the task.

## USA

Yad Vashem warmly welcomes newly appointed Director of the US Desk of its International Relations Division, **Chen Harkov**. Chen has a long career in resource development of over 20 years, working for Jewish and Israeli causes, including Bar Ilan University and the City of David. Chen made Aliyah from the US, where she graduated from Boston University School of Law and Barnard College, Columbia University.

Chen is proud to join Yad Vashem, and looks forward to partnering with its dedicated supporters and accomplished professionals.

"Holocaust remembrance and education is especially crucial at this time when antisemitism is on the rise, and while Holocaust knowledge and empathy for its victims is on the decline. I look forward to working with our teams in Israel and the United States to enable Yad Vashem to combat the decline in Holocaust acknowledgement and knowledge; and to make Holocaust education the strongest tool preventing history from repeating itself."

Yad Vashem would like to sincerely thank outgoing US Desk Director **Jeremy Weiss**.



After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, **Audrey Binkhorst** (center, left), her husband **Noam** (left) and friend **Ruth Weinstein** (center, right) came to Yad Vashem to dedicate the Yad Vashem Memorial Bench. They were greeted by US Donors Affairs Liaison **Debbie Efraim** (right).



On 7 November, **Lior German** (left), **Alan Omsky** (second from left) and his daughter **Chiara** (center) along with their friend **Reuven Gitter** (second from right) came to Yad

Vashem for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum. They were greeted by **Debbie Efraim** (right).



The **American Society for Yad Vashem** held its 2021 National Gala on 14 November. Hundreds of people came together virtually to experience "The Art of Remembrance" hosted by Israeli entertainment personality **Noa Tishby** and honoring **Rochelle Etingin**, **Doreen** and **Neil Davidowitz**, **Orli Etingin** and **Jonathan Silver** and their families.



American Society Board members **Abbi** and **Jeremy Halpern** chaired the event, which featured artwork and music connected to the Shoah and provided a window into the human spirit that lifted Jewish victims during this dark period. The program showcased creative works developed both during and

after the Shoah as a way of helping remember and document what the Jewish people endured.

An intimate watch party was held at the Beacon Hotel together with the Etingin Family. There, Chairman **Dani Dayan** honored the family with the Yad Vashem Key.



On 30 November, Yad Vashem Builders, **Jack**, **Gabriela** and **Rachel Shnay** and **Vanessa** and **Oren Neiman** visited Yad Vashem



with a group of social media personalities and guests, including **Naomi Nachman**, **Danielle Renov** and **Rachelle Yadegar**. A tour of

the Holocaust History Museum was followed by a special behind-the-scenes presentation of the Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection.

## GERMANY



In 1931, Holocaust survivor **Rahel Posner** took a photograph that has since become an iconic image of resistance: in the foreground is the Posners' Hannukiah placed on the window of their home in Kiel; in the background, the Nazi headquarters decorated with a huge banner bearing a swastika. Rahel was the wife of **Akiva Posner**, the Chief Rabbi of Kiel. Soon after Hitler came to power, the couple emigrated from Germany to British Mandatory Palestine with their three children. Today the Hannukiah is housed at Yad Vashem, but each year, the Posner descendants take it home to use

over Hannukah. On the eighth and last evening of Hanukkah – exactly 90 years after the photo was taken, **Ruth Ur**, Head of German-speaking Countries Desk in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division, and Director of the **German Friends of Yad Vashem**, was in Israel to light the candles with the grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of Rahel and Akiva Posner. The German Friends and the local newspaper **Kieler Nachrichten** created a unique project around the Hanukkah and the iconic photo: On International Holocaust Remembrance Day



On 13 October, Yad Vashem welcomed the new Head of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Office in Israel **Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy** (left) along with KAS team members **Liza Katz** (center) and **Phillip Burkhardt** (right). The group toured the Holocaust History Museum and visited their new recognition on the Builders Wall.

2022, under the motto "Licht zeigen" (Show the Light) the newspaper distributed stickers of the Hannukiah. The citizens of Kiel were invited to place the sticker in their window, take a photograph of the Hannukiah and the view from their window and upload it to their social media using the hashtag #LichtZeigen. In this way, every citizen of Kiel was encouraged to take a personal stand in remembering and being part of a society that does not forget. According to Mayor of Kiel Dr. Ulf Kämpfer: "This was a chance for the whole of Kiel to stand together and show the light."

## AUSTRIA

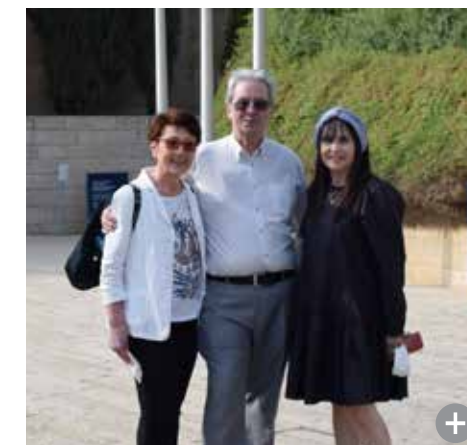


Yad Vashem welcomes **Gustav** and **Ursula Arthofer** as the new Chairs of the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria**, succeeding long-serving Chairs **Gunther** and **Ulli Schuster**. The Arthofers have served on the Board of the Austrian Friends since 2005.

Gustav Arthofer was trained as a civil engineer and entered his family's business in 1981. Ursula trained as a teacher and later worked in administration. They

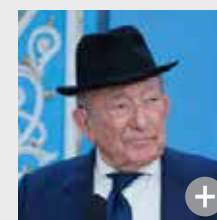
have four daughters, one foster son and seven grandchildren. In addition to helping support Yad Vashem's multifaceted projects and programs, the Arthofers aim to strengthen the voices of those who experienced the Shoah firsthand, and organize excursions in Austria and study trips to Israel to meet survivors and their descendants.

"The Austrian Friends are very important to Yad Vashem," said Ruth Ur, Director of the German Desk in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division. "We thank the Schusters for their years of dedicated service, and are delighted to be working with the Arthofers to build support and increase awareness in Austria of the vital work of Yad Vashem."



Outgoing **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** Chairmen **Ulli** and **Guenther Schuster** (left) recently visited Yad Vashem and were greeted by the Director of the **Christian Friends for Yad Vashem Sari Granitza** (right). During their visit, they toured the ["Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust"](#) exhibition.

## SOUTH AFRICA



Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Yad Vashem Pillar **Stanley Tollman z"l**, an architect of global tourism and devoted philanthropist; and a warm and

generous friend to all who knew him. Raised in South Africa, Stanley was Chairman of The Travel Corporation, his family-owned and now fourth generation-led business. Thousands of people are able to support their families due to the entrepreneurial activities of the Tollman family.

"I believe that if a cause that is worthy of a donation of a million dollars is in need of an additional million dollars of funding, and one can afford to support it, then one should," Stanley recently

said. He continued to honor his commitment to Yad Vashem despite the pandemic and its implications on worldwide travel, which speaks volumes about his impeccable integrity and admirable generosity.

Stanley's legacy will endure, and his and his wife Bea's names will continue to be prominently displayed at Yad Vashem for posterity. Yad Vashem extends its sincere condolences to Bea; Brett and Miranda, Toni and Gavin, Vicki, Michael and Jessica.

## VENEZUELA-MIAMI



In November, **Kathy Rothenberg** (right) from Miami and Venezuela, her daughter **Tamy** (center left) and grandson **Alex Bibas Rothenberg** (left) visited Yad Vashem in honor

of Alex's Bar Mitzvah. They were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (center right).

## MEXICO



**Peter Rosenfeld Span**, **Boris Jusidman** and his grandmother **Annette Rubinstein** (from Los Angeles), were joined by **Moshe** and **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem.

## CHRISTIAN FRIENDS WITH ICEJ



**Dan** and **Christin Olofsson** (center), **Sam Olofsson** (left) and other family members and friends, all firm supporters of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, came for a visit to Yad

Vashem. The group who hailed mainly from Sweden, took a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum and concluded their visit with a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. They were accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman **Dani Dayan** (fourth from right), Director of the International Relations Division **Dr. Haim Gertner** (third from right), and **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem** Director **Sara Granitza** (second from right).



Every year, the **ICEJ** (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) hosts its annual Envision Conference; this year the conference was held as a month-long online event. In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a session was streamed from Yad Vashem, which included a wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, an interview with **Sara Granitza** and a discussion by ICEJ President **Dr. Jürgen Bühler** (right) with Yad Vashem Chairman **Dani Dayan** (left).

## SPAIN



**Daniel Toledano** from Spain (second from right) and **Jaques Bessoudo** from Mexico (left) were

joined by **Moshe** and **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem in December 2021.



**H.E. Mrs. Ana Salomón Pérez**, the new Ambassador of Spain in Israel, met with **Perla Hazan** during her visit to Yad Vashem in December 2021.



**Shari Dollinger**, Co-Executive Director Christians United for Israel (CUFI), and her husband **Eric Magnus** brought their two children **Aidan** and **Layla** to Yad Vashem to mark their coming of age. Following

their guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum, a [Bar and Bat Mitzvah Twinning](#) ceremony was conducted in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, accompanied by survivor of the *Kindertransport* rescue initiative **Dr. Henry Foner**. Aidan, who was twinned with **Israel Dov Perlman z"**, and Layla, who was twinned with **Shushana Roza Cukierman z"**, received a personal signed copy of Dr. Foner's memoir, [Postcards to a Little Boy: A Kindertransport Story](#).

**Pastor Jobst Bittner**, founder of the worldwide TOS Ministries and the "March of Life" movement, came to Yad Vashem with his wife **Charlotte** and some members of their March of Life team. After a guided tour of Yad Vashem,

they concluded their visit with a wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. Left to right: **Tina Pompe**, **Stefan Haas**, **Gudula Kasch**, **Guido Kasch**, **Heinz Reuss**, **Charlotte Bittner**, **Jobst Bittner**, **Sara Granitza**



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