4 Million Holocaust Victims Identified

Education
Remembrance
Documentation
Research
Introduction

Yad Vashem, the world’s foremost center of commemoration and teaching about the Shoah, stands steadfast in its dedication to Holocaust education, remembrance, research and documentation. From the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem remains committed to utilizing the most modern technology and advanced didactic tools to bring its world-class research facilities, groundbreaking educational initiatives, and unwavering dedication to Shoah remembrance to an ever-growing global audience. All this, while assuring that each achievement is a stepping stone to meet the challenges ahead.
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From the Chairman of the Directorate

Dear Friends,

The year 2010 concluded the first decade of the 21st century, notable for important achievements in Yad Vashem’s core areas of endeavor. We may now rightfully envisage Holocaust remembrance as meaningful and compelling for the third and even fourth generation following the Shoah. They will benefit from resourceful approaches and tools that Yad Vashem has initiated this past year and which make essential Holocaust-related data more accessible than ever before. Thanks to our efforts, fundamental components of the Shoah’s legacy – victims’ names and stories, survivor testimonies, archival data, historical research, educational programs, museum exhibitions, films, and much more - are now readily available within such dynamic contexts as Google, Facebook and YouTube.

During 2010, our International School for Holocaust Studies enhanced its comprehensive scope. Over 70 educators’ seminars at Yad Vashem, as well as a world conference of educational policymakers, spearheaded the School’s unique global activity, which creates and nurtures multinational communities of learning. They skillfully grapple with a challenging paradox: prevalent legitimacy of Holocaust remembrance worldwide, coupled with problematic historical relativism that “contextualizes” Holocaust memory by dubiously comparing it to various human misfortunes. A significant and helpful force in this context is the 28-nation Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF), chaired this year by Israel, with indispensable input and guidance from Yad Vashem.

A crucial research breakthrough this year emerged from our ongoing project to uncover the annals of over a thousand killing sites, scattered throughout the territory of the former USSR, where the German Nazis and their local collaborators murdered approximately a million and a half Jews. During 2010 we conducted four Holocaust research conferences and workshops, yielding intriguing new data, such as previously unexplored findings about the Holocaust’s aftermath in Poland.

Among Yad Vashem’s most notable and tangible achievements this year was the completion of documentation of four million Holocaust victims’ names. This milestone spurs us to redouble our efforts over the coming years to increase to five million the number of verified victim names. We are progressively realizing our aspiration to create a personal profile for each victim, by digitally integrating our vast storehouse of archival data. This grew significantly during 2010, largely thanks to extensive acquisition of vital Hungarian and Soviet records.

Our confidence in Yad Vashem’s enduring ability to secure its ambitious goals is strengthened by two remarkable groups of people: our many dedicated friends and supporters, all over the world, and our devoted, professionally unsurpassed staff on the Mount of Remembrance. Their tireless partnership indicates a profound understanding that in this era of uncertainty and upheaval, Yad Vashem’s Holocaust remembrance efforts are ever more imperative and relevant.

Avner Shalev
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate
From the Chairman of the Council

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that today we are witnessing increased global interest in the Shoah across continents, cultures and religions. However, we must not err by assuming that this interest will endure over the generations without our persistent efforts to reach out and continue to inspire and educate our youth.

The first Mishnah in the Ethics of the Fathers states, "Moses received the Torah on Sinai and handed it to Joshua, and Joshua to the Elders..." Judaism is about continuity, about passing our values and history from generation to generation. It is our imperative – as in relating the story of our enslavement and redemption in Egypt – not just to remember our past, but also to tell our stories and our history to our children, who will in turn tell their children. It is this charge that compels us to share both our individual and collective histories – and to preserve their memory and meaning among the history of our nation.

The many millions of documents, the inspiring exhibitions, and the scholarly research at Yad Vashem resonate with the memories and stories of the six million Jews who were murdered and of those of us who survived. As I look back over the past year, I feel proud to have represented Yad Vashem in some of its myriad activities around the world. These initiatives strengthen the voices of the survivors and ensure the relevance of the Holocaust for this generation and future ones.

It is incumbent upon us all to guarantee that these voices continue to be heard. Yad Vashem is rightfully entrusted with this singular task. As the Jewish people’s central memorial to the Holocaust, on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, it is both its legacy and its bequest.

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council
Highlights of Yad Vashem’s Activities in 2010

Holocaust Education – The International School

- 280,000 students from Israel and abroad, soldiers and officers of the IDF and other Israeli security forces participated in seminars and programs of the International School for Holocaust Studies.
- 68 long-term seminars were held at Yad Vashem for more than 2,000 educators from abroad.
- 700 foreign educators participated in 31 teacher-training days at the School.
- International School staff were active in some 55 different countries around the globe.
- 117 seminars were held at Yad Vashem for more than 3,500 Israeli educators.
- 11,300 Israeli educators attended 384 teacher-training days at Yad Vashem and throughout Israel.
- 200 decision makers, opinion shapers, lay leaders, philosophers and educators from 40 countries participated in the 7th International Educators’ Conference.
- 24 educational units were published in Spanish, German, Hungarian, Russian, French, Romanian, Polish, English and Hebrew.
- 1.1 million visits were recorded on Yad Vashem's interactive Virtual School.

Research and Publications

- The International Institute for Holocaust Research held 27 international research workshops and symposia.
- 25 fellowships and awards were granted to scholars from Israel and abroad.
- 38 new publications were released by Yad Vashem, including memoirs and research studies.
- The Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews During the Holocaust was inaugurated.
- A new Center for the Study of the Jews in Poland During the Holocaust was dedicated.
- A new Chair for the Study of Resistance During the Holocaust, in tribute to William Cooper, was established.
- 473 artifacts were added to Yad Vashem’s Artifacts collections now totaling 23,500 pieces.
- 64 works of art were added to Yad Vashem's Art Collection now totaling over 8,200 items and more than 4,200 museological pieces.
- 2 exhibitions were displayed at the Exhibitions Pavilion.
- Traveling exhibitions were shown in 45 locations worldwide.
Righteous Among the Nations

449 individuals were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. As of the end of 2010, more than 23,700 individuals have received the honor.

Visits and Commemorative Events

900,000 people visited the Mount of Remembrance.

800 world leaders, dignitaries and official visitors toured Yad Vashem.

100 events and 280 memorial services were held across the campus.

Internet Activity

11 million visits were recorded on the Yad Vashem website from some 220 countries and territories worldwide.

A new website in Russian received more than 380,000 visits.

A YouTube channel was launched in Russian. Over 3.5 million video views have been recorded on the English, Hebrew, Spanish, Arabic and Russian channels since their launch.

17,500 individuals joined Yad Vashem’s Facebook page, bringing the total number of members to 24,000.

Documentation, Photographs, Names, Testimonies and Films

8 million pages of documentation were added to the Yad Vashem Archives, bringing the total number to some 138 million pages.

Over 450,000 names records were digitized from archival documents gathered from Hungary, the Former Soviet Union and other sources.

Yad Vashem’s Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names reached 4 million names.

8,000 photographs were added to the Photo Archive, and 3,000 to the Hall of Names. Yad Vashem currently houses more than 400,000 images.

1,000 new Holocaust survivor testimonies were filmed. The Archives now hold 102,000 video, audio and written testimonies.

34,000 public inquiries were answered by the Reference and Information Services Unit: 25,000 written and 9,000 from visitors to the Library and Archives Reading Room.

4,000 book titles were added to the Library collection, which now numbers over 126,000 publications.

300 new films were acquired by the Visual Center. The Center now holds some 6,570 Holocaust-related films, with 4,100 films available for immediate viewing.

85 groups of students, teachers and film directors visited and attended varied activities and programs of the Visual Center. The Visual Center held 10 special screenings of new films at commemorative events and at film festivals in Jerusalem and in Rome.
Yad Vashem is the ultimate place for Shoah studies.

Participant in Seminar for Finnish Teachers, November 2010
Education

The International School for Holocaust Studies, with its years of experience, is the undisputed vanguard of Shoah education. With its exceptional programs and an innovative pedagogical approach, the School is uniquely suited to reaching out to educators and students from around the world. It continually develops creative educational materials, making it the source of vital knowledge for teaching and learning about the Holocaust.

During 2010, the International School for Holocaust Studies engaged with 300,000 educators, students and soldiers from Israel and abroad who attended 68 long-term seminars and 377 teacher-training days.

What has now been instilled in our hearts and inscribed in our minds, we will teach.

Dr. Zhong Zhiqing, participant in the Chinese Educators’ Seminar

Chinese Educators Study at the International School

Some twenty Chinese educators participated in a two-week seminar at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies in October 2010. This first seminar of its kind brought together participants from China, Hong Kong and Macau for in-depth study of the Holocaust and methods of teaching it in the classroom. Seminar attendees included university department heads, the dean of a graduate program, a translator of author Amos Oz, a high school principal, professors and teachers. Lectures by experts included topics dealing with older and new forms of antisemitism, prewar and Holocaust literature, art and cultural resistance during the Shoah, and Righteous Among the Nations. At the close of the seminar, the participants were keen to suggest ideas for furthering Holocaust education among their peers and students.
Yad Vashem Takes Active Role in Chairmanship of International Task Force

Founded in 1998, the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) was established to raise international awareness of Holocaust education and commemoration. It now comprises 28 member countries, as well as three Liaison States, three Observer States, and six Permanent Observer International Organizations. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev serves as co-chair of the Israeli Delegation together with Aviva Raz-Shechter of the Israel Foreign Ministry. This year, the revolving chairmanship of this prestigious international umbrella organization was assumed by Israel, with former Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon appointed Chairman of the Israeli term.

Yad Vashem took an active role in the Israeli Chairmanship, with Plenary and Working Group meetings held in Jerusalem and Haifa. In June 2010, 200 ITF delegates congregated at the International School, which hosted Working Group Meetings and enabled the delegates — experts, policy makers and diplomats, many of whom had never visited Israel — to explore the Yad Vashem campus. ITF members also attended two high-level conferences organized by the International School prior to each Plenary meeting, and a successful academic symposium highlighting Israeli research on the Holocaust in June organized by the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

In addition, the International School spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives in Holocaust outreach and education via the “Chair’s Project,” wherein a new website was created enabling distance learning, and expert training teams were sent to three states wishing to join the ITF for intense discussion and practical assistance in expanding Holocaust education on a national level. Overall, Yad Vashem’s role in the Israeli Chairmanship was a rewarding and beneficial experience for all concerned, raising Holocaust awareness across Europe to new and unprecedented heights.
In June 2010, some 200 high-level figures in the areas of education and culture participated in Yad Vashem’s 7th International Conference on Holocaust Education, “Shoah Education and Remembrance in Hindsight and in Foresight: Text and Context.” Decision makers, opinion shapers, scholars and lay leaders from countries as diverse as Ireland, Mexico, Croatia and Poland debated and discussed important questions concerning a number of current educational issues, such as addressing the Holocaust and human rights, and how to grapple with contemporary comparisons of Nazism and Stalinism.

Organized in conjunction with the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF), conference attendees included world-renowned scholars, philosophers and leaders such as Israel’s Minister of Education Gideon Sa’ar, Former President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski and Former President of Croatia Stjepan Mesić, leading academic Professor Alain Finkielkraut, who delivered the keynote address, and a panel of well-known Holocaust survivors that responded to contemporary issues concerning Holocaust memory.

Following the lectures, participants met in groups to discuss practical ideas and make concrete recommendations. The results were sent to international organizations and non-governmental organizations for suggested follow-up action, and submitted to the ITF Working Groups for further dialogue.

**Conference Draws Educators from 40 Countries**

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**2010 Educator of the Year**

“There has never been a student who has studied with Felicia that didn’t love history lessons,” enthused a former student of Dr. Felicia Karai, a native of Krakow and a renowned Holocaust educator who was awarded Yad Vashem’s 2010 educational Prize for Lifetime Achievement. Among Dr. Karai’s scholarly publications and books are *Death in Yellow, Heroism Has Many Faces* and *Bombs and Beads*, all well known to the Israeli public. Active in promoting and designing Holocaust curricula, Dr. Karai has creatively educated many generations of teachers and students. The prestigious Yad Vashem Prizes for Educational Projects are granted annually to encourage both Holocaust educators and learners.
**First-ever International Seminar for Christian Leadership**

In April 2010, Christian leaders from eight countries gathered at the International School for Holocaust Studies for its first-ever international seminar for Christian leadership. The week-long seminar addressed a number of issues related to the Holocaust, including the roots of antisemitism, how Jews responded to Nazi persecution and the postwar fate of the survivors. Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon addressed participants on Israel’s history and society today. Participants greatly appreciated the range of issues presented, and committed themselves to further action in their spheres of influence.

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**The seminar was the most intense and emotionally-charged experience I have had in 50 years of ministry in over 40 countries of the world.**

Jim Bevis, Co-Director of CSR Ministries and participant in the 2010 Christian Leadership Seminar

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**Educational Initiatives Target Russian-Speaking Public**

In May 2010, the International School for Holocaust Studies, in conjunction with the Haifa Municipality, embarked on a new Russian-language educational project on the Holocaust. The unique curriculum, dedicated to Holocaust study in general and the experience of the Jews in the FSU in particular, involves both formal and informal educational activities and includes a range of pedagogical tools integrating many of the arts – theater, music, film, painting and sculpture – for students, teachers, youth group leaders, artists, survivors, veterans and other members of the Russian-speaking public.

In addition to its multidisciplinary project in Haifa, the International School also ran seminars and teacher-training days for students and educators from schools throughout Israel with large Russian-speaking populations. Additional projects for the Jewish Russian-speaking sector will continue during the coming year, with new initiatives planned both in Israel and abroad.
Seminars to Bring Every Israeli Soldier to Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem aspires to have every Israeli soldier participate in a Holocaust seminar at least once during his or her military service. The new Lowy Family IDF Day Seminars Program ensures that each year some 80,000 soldiers attend education programs at Yad Vashem. The participants come from all military units and echelons, ranging from new recruits to high-ranking officers, from veteran Israelis to new immigrants. The day-long seminars for IDF soldiers are run by specially trained guides, and generally include a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum and a workshop on topics such as Jewish leadership; existential dilemmas of the individual; the character of the murderers; the story of the survivors; and Israeli society and the Shoah.

In addition to providing the soldiers with knowledge of the Holocaust and its implications, the seminars reinforce their personal connection with the Jewish people and its heritage, and cultivate a sense of responsibility for its destiny. They also stimulate dialogue on ethical issues, and help participants internalize the humanitarian values of tolerance and moral courage.

Now I suddenly understand what was really lost.

Tyler Barnet, referring to Yad Vashem following a visit to Israel with Birthright, *Jewish Week*
During the winter months of 2010, Yad Vashem, together with the Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, sponsored a competition for the design of an official poster for Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010. Public response to the call for entries was lively, with close to 300 entries competing for the honor. In addition to awards for the best three entries, the winning poster was distributed to schools, educational institutions and youth groups for display.

After deliberating among the talented and thought-provoking submissions, the prestigious panel of judges, which included several winners of the noted Israel Prize, awarded first place to Nimrod Bar-On, 34, a graduate of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. His graphic design incorporates the text of Kaddish, the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead, with the names of victims of the Shoah, including those of his grandmother’s family who were murdered in the Holocaust. The judges noted that Bar-On’s poster “utilizes traditional imagery in a unique way that infuses meaning into his design. The curiosity that his poster arouses encourages study and interest in the subject of the Holocaust.”

New Commemorative Poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010

This was the best teacher training of my life, at a place that deeply impressed me.

Participant in Seminar for German Educators, November 2010

Acclaimed Educational Journal Now in English

The International School for Holocaust Studies recently released Legacy, a new, updated English language version of its acclaimed Hebrew journal Bishvil Hazikaron. The periodical, aimed at International School graduates, features Holocaust-related research articles intended to encourage discussion and debate both in the classroom and across educators’ networks. In addition, each issue of Legacy includes a section entitled “From the Archives,” emphasizing fascinating and often unfamiliar Holocaust-related documents housed at Yad Vashem, as well as a special section providing readers with a variety of methods for dealing with topics related to their educational endeavors.
Graduate Spotlight

Following a teacher-training course at Yad Vashem, Hungarian youth educator and history teacher Péter Heindl was eager to teach his students the human and moral significance of the history of the Holocaust. To raise their interest and curiosity, Heindl hung up a notice with an old photo of a young, school-age girl and the following lines underneath: "Lili Ney, a girl from Magyarmecske, disappeared from our village. A few weeks later she was killed. Who was she? Why did she die? She was not the only person from Magyarmecske to suffer this fate. Let’s find out together the history of Lili Ney and the others."

Holding a series of "detective workshops" over the year, Heindl and his students investigated the wartime fate of Ney, a Jewish girl from their underprivileged village of Magyarmecske, and through her story, the shocking end to the Jewish community that once called Magyarmecske its home. At the project’s end, the entire village joined forces with the students to erect a memorial plaque to commemorate the Jewish victims.
Yad Vashem's approach towards Holocaust education made sense to me. It is a human approach, and that's why it is so convincing. I finally found the structure I was searching for.

Participant in Seminar for Educators from Baden Wurtemburg, Germany, October-November 2010
Yad Vashem's Virtual School (www1.yadvashem/education) reaches out to thousands of students and teachers around the world, allowing immediate access to the School's vast educational resources. Dynamic courses, moving ceremonies and valuable pedagogical materials make the Virtual School the most varied and comprehensive online Holocaust educational site in the world.

Film Series Adds Personal Dimension to Survivor Testimonies

The International School, together with the Multimedia Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has produced seven films in the “Witnesses and Education” series, recording the life stories of Holocaust survivors. The account of Ovadia Baruch, whose documentary is entitled “May Your Memory Be Love,” strikes to the core of this unique educational project. While in Auschwitz, Ovadia met Aliza Tzarfati, a young Jewish woman from his hometown, and the two developed a loving relationship despite the inhuman conditions. This film depicts their remarkable, touching tale of love and survival in Auschwitz, a miraculous meeting after the Holocaust, and the home and life they built together in Israel.

Created at the places in which the events took place, the films tell the complete narrative of the survivors: their lives before, during and after the Holocaust. They have been translated into seven languages – Hebrew, English, German, French, Russian, Spanish and Polish – and thousands of educators have gone on to use them in their teaching endeavors around the world. The films will continue to serve as a prime educational tool long after the opportunity to hear the stories firsthand has passed.
Online Courses Provide Unique Learning Opportunities

The International School offers the broadest array of Holocaust-related educational programs available on the web, with dynamic curricula on Holocaust history, pedagogy and commemoration available in six different languages. Among the English-language courses offered is "Germany: 1918-1943," covering German Jewry in the postwar and Nazi period. Topics in this module include the rise of the National Socialist Party, the establishment of the totalitarian state, anti-Jewish policies, and responses of German Jewry in the face of racial persecution. Throughout the course, students familiarize themselves with reactions from within the German Jewish community leading up to its destruction.

Each unit draws on archival material, primary documents and historical analysis from Yad Vashem’s rich institutional resources. Expert educators facilitate every course, and provide personal instruction to students through focused writing assignments and research projects.

As a scholar of the Holocaust, I am desperately searching for a way to carry the message, volunteer, or serve in some capacity toward forwarding the goals of Remembrance. These classes will help me achieve my lifelong aspiration.

Graduate of Virtual School online course
I cannot overstate the importance of passing on the legacy of this generation.

US Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, The Sun-Sentinel
Remembrance

During 2010, Yad Vashem hosted 800 dignitaries – including heads of state, ministers, business and NGO leaders, actors, sports personalities and journalists – and inspired hundreds of thousands of visitors who came to learn about the cataclysmic events of the Shoah.

In addition to the official ceremonies for Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem held some 100 events and 280 memorial services throughout the year, in conjunction with more than 45 Holocaust survivor and next-generation organizations. Over 50,000 visitors were professionally guided through the campus, among them thousands of Holocaust survivors who were welcomed as guests of Yad Vashem.

A visit to the Museum should be mandatory to all that want to run a nation. I will take back to Brazil what can happen when irrationality rules human beings.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil
Sounds of Music Fill the Valley

The rousing concert “Mashiv Haruach - From Safed to Jerusalem: A Concert of Jewish Soul Music” enthralled hundreds of Holocaust survivors, members of the next generations and friends of Yad Vashem from Israel and abroad in August 2010. Maestro Giora Feidman brought his international master class – talented Israeli high school students as well as seasoned professionals from abroad – to the Valley of the Communities, where the joyous sounds of Klezmer flooded the hills of Jerusalem. Encouraged by the charismatic Feidman, the audience of over 500 visitors sang and clapped along, their voices and the music echoing off the towering walls of the Valley, in which walls are etched the names of Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust. The concert thus represented a living memorial to the Jewish world destroyed during the Shoah, as well as the celebration of Jewish life that continues to thrive in its wake.

A Rich Culture Remembered

Hundreds of Libyan Holocaust survivors and their families and distinguished guests assembled during October 2010 for the annual gathering marking the liberation of Libya and commemorating the Jews of Libya murdered in the Holocaust. Prior to the outbreak of WWII, some 30,000 Jews lived in Italian-controlled Libya. In 1942, conditions worsened for the Jewish community, and the Jews of Libya were deported to concentration camps. Those with French and Tunisian citizenship were deported to Tunisia and Algeria, and British citizens were sent to concentration camps in Europe. In January 1943, Libya was liberated by the British forces. Israeli singer David D’Or, himself of Libyan descent, moved the gathering with several heartrending songs.
Bringing New Life to a Rescued Megillah

In February 2010, the Yad Vashem Synagogue was filled with the voices of singing and dancing in celebration of the Festival of Purim. The festive event, held in conjunction with the Association of Cracowians in Israel, brought together youth and survivors for an evening prayer service followed by a remarkable presentation of Purim photographs from various communities from the early 1920s through the 1930s. The highlight of the evening was the reading of a unique Megillat Esther (Book of Esther). The Megillah, written in elegant calligraphy and estimated to be 300-450 years old, was discovered by Professor Kazimierz Kowalski during the Shoah in a pile of rubbish in the courtyard of a Jewish school in Kazimierz. Beryl Shore, a member of the Association of Cracowians in Israel, brought the handwritten scroll to Israel two years ago, and delivered it to Yad Vashem for safekeeping.

Buchenwald Children Gather for Commemorative Ceremony

In the summer of 1944, 600 children between the ages of 6-16 arrived at the Buchenwald camp. The children were dispersed among different barracks, but mainly Block 66. On April 11, 1945, when the camp was liberated by US troops, there remained 21,000 prisoners, among them 4,000 Jews. Most of the children of Buchenwald survived, building new lives after the war. In May 2010, there was a special gathering at Yad Vashem to commemorate 65 years since the camp’s liberation and to mark the Hebrew-language publication (Yad Vashem) of Saving Children: Diary of a Buchenwald Survivor and Rescuer written by the late Holocaust survivor Jack Werber with Prof. William Helmreich.

Free Tours in Russian Attract Hundreds

In December 2010, Yad Vashem began providing complimentary tours of the Yad Vashem Campus in Russian. For three months, each Friday morning expert Russian-speaking guides led the three-hour tours that included the Holocaust History Museum, Hall of Remembrance, Children’s Memorial and other exhibitions and monuments. Hundreds of immigrants – both new and veteran – from the FSU took part in this new initiative.

It is hard enough to face the heavy story of the Holocaust, but even more challenging in a language we sometimes have not completely mastered. I speak Hebrew with my friends, but for this I felt I needed to hear it in Russian.

17-year-old student from Holon who took part in the free Russian-speaking tours of Yad Vashem
Reaching Out Online

With over 11 million visits from more than 200 countries in 2010, the Yad Vashem website remains the most definitive, reliable and comprehensive online resource about the Holocaust. Currently Yad Vashem has comprehensive websites in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, with additional languages being planned for 2011, to meet growing global interest in the historical events and current relevance of the Shoah.

Facebook Connects Tens of Thousands to Yad Vashem

As of December 2010, more than 24,000 people joined Yad Vashem as friends on Facebook – almost quadrupling the amount registered the previous year. Yad Vashem’s Facebook page has provided a forum for discussion, the dissemination of information and the engagement of ever-widening circles of interested and committed individuals around the world.

Russian Language Website and YouTube Site Launched

The launch of a new Russian-language website in April 2010 generated an unprecedented response among the global Russian-speaking community. The user-friendly website received more than 380,000 visits during its first nine months of activity, providing easily accessible and accurate information about the Holocaust to Russian speakers across the globe. An impressive range of photographs, documents, video testimonies, scholarly articles, archival footage and works of art are available for instant viewing and examination. The materials, including a state-of the art multimedia section, were carefully chosen to offer a broad picture of the Shoah, while placing an emphasis on the events that occurred from 1941-45 in the Former Soviet Union.

Launched simultaneously with the website, a new Russian-language YouTube channel joined Yad Vashem’s dedicated channels in English, Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish. The five channels contain over 750 online videos and have cumulatively received more than 3.5 million video views since their launch. The channels are comprised primarily of survivor testimonies, supplemented by documentary footage and mini-lectures. Additional language channels are in development for 2011.

For one person it is an educational resource, for another it's a source of remembrance, for somebody else it's a tool for preserving the memory of his murdered family. In short, the website presents the world of the Holocaust as well as Yad Vashem, where people are dedicated to researching and preserving the memory of the Shoah.

Evsey Tseytlin, PhD literary critic and US-based writer
Looking at the photographs, one can envision the vibrant life the residents led. The families all appear close and loving. It is always tragic to learn how the Nazis ended their beautiful lives so suddenly.

Nancy MacLachlan, visitor to Yad Vashem’s Facebook Page

Online Exhibition tells the story of a Sephardic Community

A fascinating new online exhibition examines the history of the Jewish community of Monastir in Macedonia. Of the 3,351 Jews who lived in the town before the Germans invaded, only a few survived the Holocaust. The moving survivor testimonies that form part of the exhibition are a particularly powerful medium for understanding an entire world that was lost, infusing the online exhibition with content and with meaning. “Monastir: The Story of a Sephardic Community in Macedonia” is part of the growing series: “Here Their Stories Will be Told,” online exhibitions of Jewish communities that tell of their rich Jewish heritage, the heartrending events of the Shoah, and the commemorative efforts made by survivors around the world.

Insights & Perspectives

A new feature on Yad Vashem’s website in 2010, ”Insights and Perspectives from Holocaust Researchers and Historians” is a video lecture series on topics of broad interest to the public. Among the popular topics so far included are: ”The Auschwitz Bombing: Controversy in Context”; ”Fascist Italy and the Jews”; ”Myth versus Reality: Icons of the Holocaust”; and ”Confronting Holocaust Denial: A Strategy.” The short insightful lectures also appear on Yad Vashem’s YouTube channel.
**The Museum Collections and Exhibition**

Yad Vashem’s extensive art, artifact and document collections form the basis of the displays throughout its state-of-the-art Museums Complex, as well as its extensive program of multi-language traveling exhibitions viewed around the world.

Each year, Yad Vashem continues to receive personal and historical items that enrich its unique collections. Many arrive in a fragile state, and require expert care and restoration. To date, Yad Vashem houses more than 23,000 artifacts and augmenting documentation and over 8,000 pieces of Holocaust art – the precious annals of the victims and survivors of the Shoah.

**In the brief five years since it has opened, Yad Vashem's Museum has become a rite of passage of sorts for all history-minded visitors to Israel, and after spending a day there, I could see why.**


**Virtues of Memory**

The burden of memory is borne daily by the survivors. They have unburdened themselves step by step; some by means of the word, others by means of visual images. Over the years, Yad Vashem has diligently collected the pieces that emanated from the brushes and chisels of the survivors – a visual testimony, a bequest to the generations to come.

Over the past 50 years, an incredible corpus of works of art has been amassed at Yad Vashem, offering a look at the myriad ways Holocaust survivors have struggled to express themselves artistically after the Holocaust. In April 2010, a new exhibition opened, showcasing the creative works of nearly 300 Holocaust survivors whose artistic expressions of their Holocaust experiences and memories are housed at Yad Vashem.

These expressions take their shape, face and voice in a multi-colored and multi-layered exhibition entitled, “Virtues of Memory: Six Decades of Holocaust Survivors’ Creativity.” Each work represents the voice of an individual; combined, they form an ensemble, generating a resonance of signs and symbols, that urges us to delve into the depths of memory, unvarnished and unadorned.
Creativity in Hiding

When the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands prevented Gerard (Gershon) Polak (1912-2004) from working as an attorney, he turned his talents to drawing. Gerard took a course in graphic art, and began creating posters and advertisements. At that time, Gerard, his wife, Johanna, and Gerard’s mother found refuge in the basement of a boarding house that belonged to their former neighbors. In the spring of 1944, with the help of the Dutch underground, Johanna gave birth to their first daughter, Tirza. During the long hours in hiding, Gerard sketched everything, from the portraits of his family to still lives and comics, including a colorful and witty illustrated book created especially for Tirza.

Recently, the Polak family donated a rich and varied collection to Yad Vashem. It comprises portraits of the family in hiding, five notebooks of sketches, promotional posters and Tirza’s book. One of the artworks depicting the family’s experience in hiding is currently on display in the permanent collection of the Museum of Holocaust Art.

Yad Vashem’s little-known Art Museum is actually a respite, offering an unexpected glimpse into how a group of persecuted artists, facing one of the 20th century's ugliest chapters, managed to secretly produce a body of work that was often quiet, understated and beautiful.

Edmund Sanders, The Los Angeles Times

Traveling Exhibitions Enlighten New Audiences

The traveling exhibition “Architecture of Murder – the Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints” opened at the United Nation headquarters in New York on January 26, 2010 for International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Among the noted guests attending the opening were UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon; Israel’s Ambassador to the UN Prof. Gabriela Shalev; Israel’s Minister of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein; and Poland and Germany’s Ambassadors to the UN. The original exhibition opened a day earlier at Yad Vashem in the presence of the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu and diplomats of some 80 countries, who participated in a special symposium on the topic.

The exhibition features the Auschwitz-Birkenau blueprints, given to Yad Vashem for safekeeping by the German newspaper Bild, published by Axel-Springer. They illustrate how seemingly conventional activities of ordinary people brought about the construction of the largest murder site of European Jewry. Displayed alongside the original architectural sketches of Auschwitz were an aerial photo of the massive complex, the Vrba-Wetzler Report, written by two Jewish escapees from Auschwitz in 1944, an album displaying pictures of the camp’s construction, and quotes from SS men and Jewish inmates describing the site and its murderous purposes.
From Jerusalem to Russia

Coinciding with VE Day celebrations in May 2010, Yad Vashem displayed a unique exhibition at the prestigious State Museum of Contemporary History of Russia in Moscow. “Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell,” opened to a large crowd that came to view 59 original drawings and paintings, on display in Moscow for the first time. The drawings depict the harrowing scenes encountered by official Red Army artist Zinovii Tolkatchev, upon arriving at the Majdanek and Auschwitz extermination camps soon after liberation. The audience of some 250 distinguished guests included Israel’s Ambassador to Russia H.E. Ms. Anna Azari, Israel’s Cultural Attachée to Russia Ilana Stein, Museum Director Sergey Arkhangelov, Holocaust survivor Prof. Anatoly Vanuhevich, and Anel Tolkatcheva, daughter of the artist.

A day earlier, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "No Child’s Play" opened at Moscow’s Marina Roscha Synagogue and Jewish Community Center in the presence of some 100 guests. The exhibition offers a window into the world of children during the Shoah through the toys, games, artwork, diaries and poems that highlight some of their own personal experiences.

The pictures of the exhibition open peoples’ eyes to the suffering of the victims of Nazi persecution and lend to the fates narrated in the millions of files an individual human face.

From the International Tracing Service website
Personal stories, with a tangible, authentic artifact as their focus, promote the understanding of the experiences of the survivors. During 2010 Yad Vashem received some 500 artifacts, carefully restoring and preserving them where they join Yad Vashem’s unsurpassed Artifacts Collection — now numbering some 23,500 pieces. Survivors and their families continue to donate items — ranging from simple personal belongings to elaborate communal objects to Yad Vashem, where they remain for safekeeping and to be used as educational tools for generations to come.

Judaica Returns to Life

More than 70 years after being looted on from a Synagogue in Nuremberg during the Kristallnacht pogrom, a pair of silver Torah finials (rimonim) were brought to Jerusalem, where they have been donated for use in the Yad Vashem Synagogue. The finials were found by a liquidator while emptying an apartment of its contents. Inscribed on the rimonim were the names of their donors: Gestiftet von Jakob & Bertha Weinschenk. The liquidator contacted Ralf Rossmeissl, an expert in both Judaica and Germany’s former Jewish communities, who made intensive efforts to find relatives of the donors. In 2003, Rossmeissl located descendents of the Weinschenks in the US – the Buehler and Simkovitz families. They related to Yad Vashem the fate of Jakob and Bertha Weinschenk: among the founders of their synagogue in Nuremberg, they were transported to Theresienstadt where Jakob was murdered in 1943. Bertha and her children survived the war. After their return to the US, the rimonim were used in religious ceremonies in the families’ local synagogue. In 2010 the extended family decided to donate the finials to Yad Vashem.

"This was singularly the most poignant experience in my life. The memories of what I saw in the Holocaust History Museum will never leave me.

Michael Greely, in Business Insider"
Piecing Together Family Ties

Klaas & Hendrika van der Knoop from the Netherlands were honored as Righteous Among the Nations in 2006 for saving a number of Jews during the Shoah, including three-year-old Alexander Groenteman, whose parents were deported and murdered. After the rescue story was uploaded to Yad Vashem’s website, Yad Vashem received an e-mail from the Netherlands, requesting Alexander’s contact information. The family that had hidden his uncle had a medallion with a photograph of Rachel and Samuel Groenteman, Alexander’s aunt and uncle, and wanted to present it to Alexander. “I made a phone call to the Netherlands this morning, and I don’t know how to thank you,” wrote an emotional Alexander Groenteman in an e-mail to Yad Vashem. “It turns out that my father’s brother was sheltered there. I know very little about my father’s side of the family, and receiving this medal after so many years is unbelievable.”

The Search for Documentation

By the time Joe Gottdenker was born in Sandomierz, Poland, in 1942, his father had already been deported to a labor camp, and his mother had found refuge with Władysław and Petronela Zioło, owners of a small farm on the outskirts of the town. However soon after their arrival at the farm, Joe’s mother recognized a local woman she had studied with, and fearing denouncement decided to flee and join the partisans. The Ziołos continued to care for Joe until his mother returned following liberation.

Because Joe Gottdenker was too young to be able to testify firsthand about his rescue – a necessary component for recognition as Righteous Among the Nations – Yad Vashem began to search for additional documentation that would substantiate the case. The missing piece was found in the vast collection of testimonies in Yad Vashem’s Archives. Joe’s uncle, David Zuckerbrodt, who survived the Holocaust in Nazi camps, described in a 1995 testimony how he had returned to Poland after the war and found his sister and her young son at the Zioło’s farm. Władysław and Petronela Ziło will be posthumously honored as Righteous Among the Nations in a special ceremony on Holocaust Remembrance Day 2011.
This is our heritage, our history, and ultimately what connects us all.

Names Recovery Volunteer Linda Gallant
Yad Vashem's Archives are the premier repository for Holocaust-era documentation worldwide. Currently containing over 138 million pages of documentation, the Archives provide the authentic pieces of history necessary for grasping the scope and implications of the Holocaust, as well as the fate of its victims.

New technologies for cataloguing and creative approaches to digitization are continually explored in order to preserve these precious documents, commemorate the victims, and provide easy global access. Intelligent cataloguing has increased accessibility to documents in the Yad Vashem Archives to an unprecedented degree. Since 2008, the number of catalogued files has increased from 190,000 to 400,000. This exponential growth is due in large part to the unique methodology employed in the cataloguing process, which has allowed 10 times the number of files to be accessed year after year.

Watching the worst crime ever against humanity so thoughtfully documented, I wholeheartedly commit myself to always remembering the millions of innocent victims of the Holocaust.

Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris P. Droutsas

A Milestone in Holocaust Commemoration

At the end of 2010, Yad Vashem announced that it had reached an unprecedented milestone in Holocaust remembrance: identifying four million names of the Jews murdered in the Shoah. Since its foundation, Yad Vashem has prioritized the recovery of each and every victim’s name and personal story, resulting in relentless efforts to restore the names and identities of as many of the six million Jewish victims as possible. In the last decade alone, Yad Vashem has succeeded in adding some 1.5 million names to the online Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names.

Names are recovered via Pages of Testimony – special forms filled out in memory of the victims by people who remember them – as well as by combing official lists and searching through documentation and other sources. Of the four million names currently known, some 2.2 million come from Pages of Testimony, and the remainder from various archival sources and postwar commemoration projects.

During the last five years, names recovery efforts have been concentrated in areas where the most names remain unknown. While in Western Europe lists were often kept of the Jews and their deportation, in countries of Eastern Europe and areas of the Former Soviet Union, as well as in Greece, much information was still lacking. The retrieving of four million names is a significant accomplishment, but this obviously means that one-third of the Holocaust victims remain to be identified. Yad Vashem continues in its active and urgent efforts to locate these names.
Private Memory: Collective Remembrance

Personal memorials in synagogues, cemeteries and seforim (religious texts) often provide an additional source of names and personal details that are used to supplement the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names. The Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project systematically photographs these commemorations, often discovering new information that enriches the database by adding information about family ties and other important facts.

During the war, the Rabbi of Ritova, Lithuania, Shmuel Fondiler, and the local Shochet (ritual slaughter) Rabbi Aba Rabinowitz, were forced by the Lithuanians to dig their own graves and were subsequently buried alive in a public park in Ritova. Years later Nathan Katz, a survivor of Ritova, honored his father’s last wishes by returning to his father’s hometown in order to retrieve the remains of the two important rabbis. While a Page of Testimony had been submitted for Rabbi Rabinowitz, several personal details of his life were missing. A photograph of his final resting place on the Mount of Olives provided some of the missing details – the exact date and the tragic circumstances of his and Rabbi Fondiler’s deaths, and their subsequent re-interment in Israel, in accordance with Jewish tradition.

My work here is not only my livelihood, it is a mission.
Erez Levi, Names Recovery Staff Photographer

Radio Campaign Bolsters Names Recovery

In mid-February, the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project launched a nationwide radio campaign calling on the Israeli public to commemorate the names of any Holocaust victims they may remember. The successful campaign helped bring names collection to the forefront of public consciousness. Thousands of calls were received by volunteers, who sent out Pages of Testimony and offered help filling them out to those who requested it. For the duration of the campaign, volunteers assisted survivors and their families regarding the submission of Pages of Testimony, and also explained the importance of related commemorative efforts by Yad Vashem, including the filming of video testimony and the submission of artifacts, documents and photographs from the Shoah period.
New Project to Connect Holocaust Documentation Across Europe

A Europe-wide archives and research project that will allow easier access to Holocaust documents dispersed across the continent commenced in November 2010. In a special event under the patronage of European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, the European Holocaust Research Initiative (EHRI) was launched in Brussels in the presence of Israeli Education Minister Gideon Sa’ar, European Commissioner for Research Innovation and Science Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, State Secretary of Education, Culture, and Science of the Netherlands Halbe Zijlstra, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Director the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner.

Lead by the Dutch organization NIOD (The Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam), EHRI will become a vital source of information for researchers and educators around the world. With 20 partner organizations from 13 European countries, including Israel, the four-year, seven million euro venture is a part of the EU’s FP7 research program, in which Israel plays a key part.

Active in EHRI since its inception, Yad Vashem is playing a leading role in its various sub-projects, including creating a shared thesaurus of 5,000 keywords to allow unified searches across collections of millions of documents. The initiative is also creating a network among experts in various Holocaust-related fields through forums that will explore cooperation in names recovery, Holocaust art, identifying photos from the Holocaust period, and more. Other aspects of the project will deal with information technologies, access, and scholarships for researchers to study at Yad Vashem and at other archives.

Connecting the dots from one document to another, from a story to a photograph, from a tax file to a sister to a brother, this is how Yad Vashem’s Archives Division helps build personal stories, and gives the victims of the Holocaust dignity and respect.

Darryl Egnal, Ha’aretz
Archival Acquisitions Help Build Virtual Personal Files

Arie Biegun was born in Brest Litovsk (Brisk). His whole family was murdered during the Shoah, leaving nobody behind to give testimony about what happened to him. In the 1960s, a Page of Testimony in his memory was submitted to Yad Vashem by Avraham Strikman, a native of the same city who remembered him. Although he had no idea of Biegun’s fate, Strikman had filled in the title “Dr.” and wrote that Biegun had been a physician. Most of the Jews of Brest were murdered on 15 October 1942. In recent years, Yad Vashem researchers copied a collection of documents of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission in Moscow that provided additional details about Dr. Biegun’s fate and that of his family. There they found a list of the Jews who were murdered in Brest, including written evidence that Dr. Biegun was indeed killed. However, they also discovered that he was not murdered alone. Next to his name was that of his wife Sofia (Sara), and two daughters, Celina and Shulamit, all of them murdered with him.

The continued acquisition of both official and personal documentation – especially from areas of the Former Soviet Union and the Baltic States – provides not only important historical testimony, but also the essential documents that allow the building of “Virtual Files” of the Jews that lived in these communities before the war, helping to restore the personal identity of each Holocaust victim.

A Filmed Family Celebration Provides Unique Testimony

Shortly after the Anschluss, the annexation of Austria by Germany in 1938, the Heidenfeld family celebrated their last Passover together in Vienna as a family. The family Seder, attended by parents David and Frieda and their four children – Moshe and his wife Lily, Zvi, Gideon (Gustav), and Lily, her husband Heinrich Schwartz and their son Uri (Willy) was filmed by Gustav. A short time later, the family was separated. While Heinrich escaped to England, his wife Lily and their son Uri were departed to Theresienstadt, but survived. Gustav, Zvi, Moshe and his wife Lily escaped to Eretz Israel. Moshe and Lily’s son Kurt and his grandmother, Freida, were deported; Freida was murdered in Treblinka and Kurt in Auschwitz.

In 2010, Benny (Uri’s brother) and Zippy Ben Rachav donated this unique historical film to Yad Vashem. While testifying to family life on the eve of the war, it also commemorates those that did not survive. The collection of original Holocaust-era films that comprise Yad Vashem’s Film Archive includes raw footage, newsreels, amateur productions, propaganda movies, institutional and feature films.
Rescuers Remembered as Child Survivors Give Group Testimony

Yehoshua and Hennie Birnbaum z”l, lived in Berlin, where five of their six children were born. After the Kristallnacht pogrom in November 1938, the family fled to Holland, but following the Nazi invasion they were transferred to the Westerbork concentration camp, where the camp commander instructed them to care for the hundreds of orphans imprisoned there. Hennie and Yehoshua arranged clothing, food, laundry facilities and activities for the orphans, but most of all, they took whatever actions they could to prevent them from being deported to Poland.

After the war, the Birnbaum family established a children’s home in a villa in the Netherlands. The villa soon became the center of intense Zionist activity: the children learned Hebrew there, and after a training period emigrated to Eretz Israel with the help of the Youth Aliyah organization. In November 2010, in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Senior Citizens’ Affairs, the Birnbaum family’s six biological children and many of the children from the Westerbork children’s home gathered at Yad Vashem for the filming of a group testimony. Yad Vashem collects group testimony only in very rare cases, such as this exceptional one in which dozens of Jewish children were rescued by one Jewish family. The event was recorded by the Oral History Section of the Archives Division, which films some 1,000 testimonies of Holocaust survivors living in Israel each year.

Agreement with Poland Provides Access to Critical Documents

In September 2010, an agreement was signed allowing Yad Vashem to access documents from the Holocaust housed in the Polish State Archives (NDAP), and photocopy materials pertinent to the fate of the Jews. From the 1960s until the beginning of the 1990s, Yad Vashem copied a tremendous amount of material from various Polish archives, but was unable to copy much from the State Archives, primarily because of the high costs involved. This new agreement will allow review of documents produced by the Germans working in Poland, the Poles themselves, and even the Jews. They provide vital information on the policies of the German authorities, anti-Jewish legislation and the different stages leading up to the murder of Polish Jewry; the conduct of the Polish populace; the fate of Polish Jews in the ghettos and their deportation to the concentration and death camps; and the story of the survivors and their attempts to rebuild their lives after the war.
Yad Vashem’s Visual Center contains the largest database and digital film library of Holocaust-related films in the world. More than 1,000 public inquiries were received by the Center in 2010, indicating the intense public interest around the world for accurate information about these films and their remarkable capacity to inspire and educate generations.

I was very excited to discover two films in the Visual Center’s collection produced by my late father Ely Landau, and was impressed by the option of watching them at the Center’s viewing stations.

Jon Landau, Film Producer (Avatar, Titanic, Dick Tracy)
Cabaret-Berlin – Winner of the 2010 Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award

Cabaret-Berlin, la scène sauvage (Cabaret Berlin: The Wild Scene) focuses on the Berlin cabaret scene during the 1920s, which satirically and poignantly addressed events in Germany after World War I. Highly creative individuals, including many Jews, were part of this special entertainment genre. Director Fabienne Rousso-Lenoir’s absorbing film about the scene, created entirely of audio and visual archival materials, won her the fifth annual Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award for Artistic Achievement. Audiences packed special screenings of the award-winning film took place in Israel’s five Cinematheques, an essential part of the Visual Center’s ongoing outreach efforts for bringing quality Holocaust-related films to the greater public.

Spotlight: Holocaust Cinema and the USSR

Films about WWII produced in the Former Soviet Union arouse great curiosity, especially since most of them are not well known in the West. The struggle for hegemony between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in prewar Europe served as the backdrop for two dramatic films released in the USSR in 1938: The Oppenheim Family and Professor Mamlok. These two noteworthy films decry the brutal treatment of the Jews by the Nazi regime. As a result of the Visual Center’s ongoing collaboration with the Israel Film Archive at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, and with the assistance of Mosfilm, both films were screened with Hebrew subtitles at the 2010 Jewish Film Festival in Jerusalem, and deposited in the collection of the Visual Center where they join other USSR-related films.
Sophisticated Search Technology Aids Access to Library

One of the most well developed entry points into Yad Vashem’s vast Library is through geographic reference. But finding published material relating to specific geographic areas and places can be a complex task affected by the sometimes numerous spellings and variant names of the same place. During the course of 2010, the Yad Vashem Library carried out a pilot toward integrating the Library into the complex search capabilities created for Yad Vashem’s online Names Database. This sophisticated technological platform adds variant spellings and geographical contexts to existing place names. The indexing of place names alongside the Library’s own subject headings will result in a more precise and simpler search process, and thus the beginning of easier and better access to all Yad Vashem holdings.
"It was undoubtedly one of the most fruitful and valuable professional experiences I have ever had."

Dr. László Csösz, Holocaust Memorial Center, Budapest
The world-renowned International Institute for Holocaust Research is dedicated to promoting innovative insights into the Holocaust, and disseminating original research about the events that took place. Annual conferences, symposia and seminars bring together both young and celebrated researchers from illustrious academies worldwide, where they have access to Yad Vashem’s extensive research facilities.

This has been a very stimulating and interesting workshop...I will return to my desk with some new thoughts and a lot of motivation and inspiration.

Kim Wünschmann, University of London, UK

The Repercussions of the Holocaust in Poland

For decades the destruction of Polish Jewry has dominated the study of the Shoah, but it was only recently that the unprecedented challenges of the return to life of the surviving Jews has begun to attract sustained scholarly attention. In October 2010, a four-day international conference took place, exploring Polish attitudes toward Jews and the events of the Holocaust. Twenty-two Polish researchers participated in “The Aftermath of the Holocaust: Poland 1944-2010,” the first international conference of the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Shoah of the International Institute for Holocaust Research. Conference topics included research on the first encounters of survivors with post-war Polish society; reverberations of the Kielce pogrom; rebuilding Jewish life in Poland; post-war emigration of Jews from Poland; and the origins and results of the Communist regime’s antisemitic campaign.
The Role of the Grassroots in the Events of the Shoah

Some 35 young Holocaust researchers participated in the International Research Institute’s annual summer workshop for Holocaust scholars. The workshop, entitled “The Persecution and Murder of the Jews: A Grassroots Perspective,” brought together scholars from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, the UK and the US. Participants addressed the witting or unwitting collaboration of millions of people across the continent in the murder of six million of their friends, neighbors and compatriots. Researchers discussed the Holocaust from the perspective of the grassroots contributions to the events, and the deeds of local collaborators and perpetrators.

Lithuanian Survivor Testimonies Shed Light on Scholarly Research

While the Shoah in Lithuania’s major cities of Vilnius and Kaunas has been studied in detail, until now, the annihilation of the Jews in the provinces has not been systematically researched. Over the past several years, the International Institute for Holocaust Research has been conducting a research project on postwar testimonies of survivors of provincial Lithuanian Jewry. Immediately after the war, a number of Shoah survivors were interviewed in the DP camps in various documentation ventures. The largest collection of these was gathered by Leyb Konuichowsky, himself a survivor of the Kaunas ghetto. The testimonies analyzed and researched for the project were chosen out of the 150 Survivor testimonies collected by Konuichowsky that are housed in Yad Vashem’s Archives. A groundbreaking publication of the testimonies and other relevant information collected by the researchers is nearing completion.

The workshop…was an opportunity to confront some firmly entrenched presuppositions in Holocaust research that require renewed examination.

Prof. Robin May Schott, Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen

New Chair for the Study of Resistance During the Holocaust

In December 2010, Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and Israel’s Minister of Education Gideon Sa’ar participated in an event launching the International Institute for Holocaust Research’s new Chair for the Study of Resistance During the Holocaust, in tribute to William Cooper. The Chair will support the study of the phenomena of resistance against Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Holocaust.
It has been the opportunity of a lifetime. I have met wonderful new colleagues from around the globe, gathered an enormous amount of data, and laid the groundwork for several new projects in addition to the one I came here to further develop.

Prof. Willa Johnson, University of Mississippi
Yad Vashem Publications

Each year, Yad Vashem Publications issues and distributes innovative research studies, reference books, documents, diaries, albums and memoirs in a variety of languages. Collaborative projects with prestigious university presses and leading publishers in Israel and abroad aid in its primary goal: to disseminate information on the Holocaust and perpetuate the memories of its victims and survivors among as broad an audience as possible worldwide.

In 2010, Yad Vashem released 38 publications in several languages, and provided 62 grants to Holocaust survivors to support publishing their memoirs.

Original Novella of Life in the Ghetto

In 1943, devoted husband Otto Weiss decided to surprise his wife Irena with a special present for her 37th birthday. Their daughter, 13-year-old Helga, a budding artist, was his co-conspirator in the surprise: a novella about Terezin. They met in the evenings, and Helga followed her father’s instructions for all her art: “Draw what you see.” The result, And God Saw That It Was Bad: A Story from the Terezín Ghetto, is a unique creative reflection of life in the ghetto. Suffering, fear and alienation alternate with moments of humanity and hope, with a surprising conclusion raising fascinating moral and theological issues. Weiss was murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau in October 1944. Irena and Helga survived, and retrieved the precious book. Yad Vashem has now published this remarkable and gripping story.

In addition to collecting, preserving and making autobiographical accounts and original documents written by Holocaust survivors available to interested readers, recording Holocaust survivor’s memoirs for posterity also helps bring the authors and their families an immeasurable sense of satisfaction and relief. Furthermore, in order to respond to the growing need of Holocaust survivors to tell their stories before it is too late, Yad Vashem extends limited grants to support publishing memoirs by other firms or independently.

Raising their Distinctive Voices

Six years ago, Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Survivors’ Memoirs Project, with the assistance of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations, embarked on a mission to publish Holocaust survivor memoirs in English. Among the 22 memoirs in 16 books published thus far is Mordechai Lensky’s memoir, A Physician Inside the Warsaw Ghetto, 1939-1943. This gripping account of a Jewish doctor struggling against all odds to provide medical care to the Warsaw Jewish community condemned to squalor, disease and death provides singular insights into many aspects of ghetto existence.
Public Representatives

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Dr. Yitzhak Arad  Vice-Chairman
Dr. Moshe Kantor  Vice-Chairman
Dr. Israel Singer  Vice-Chairman
Prof. Elie Wiesel  Vice-Chairman
Chaim Alon  Chairman of the Building Committee
Aharon S. Amit  Chairman of the Comptrolling Committee
Prof. Dan Michman  Chairman of the Scientific Committee
Yaakov Nechustan  Chairman of the Finance Committee
Justice Jacob Türkel  Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations

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Chaim Chesler  Effi Shtensler
Matityahu Drobles  Baruch Shub
Abraham Duvdevani  Amira Stern
Moshe Ha-Elion  Dr. Zehava Tanne
Noah Flug  Adv. Shoshana Weinshall
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Yehudit Shendar
Deputy Director and Senior Art Curator, Museums Division

Michael Lieber
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Prof. David Bankier, z”l
Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research

Prof. Dan Michman
Chief Historian

Prof. Yehuda Bauer
Academic Advisor

Prof. Israel Gutman
Academic Advisor
Financial Highlights 2010

Operational Budget, as of December 31, 2010, unaudited

### Revenues

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Development Budget

The source of all revenues for Yad Vashem development projects is donations and legacies.

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<tr>
<td>New Projects &amp; Programs*</td>
<td>48,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological Infrastructure and Building**</td>
<td>28,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>77,145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Projects and programs in the spheres of Education, Remembrance, Documentation and Research

** Construction of the new International Seminars Wing at the International School for Holocaust Studies, general construction works and development of technological infrastructure

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Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson, Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance

The European Jewish Fund

The European Jewish Fund was founded in February 2006 on the initiative of Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor, for the goal of strengthening Jewish life in Europe. To achieve this objective, the Fund focuses on young people and their connection to Judaism and their communities by supporting programs aimed at building Jewish identity, especially by re-connecting young people to their rich and vital Jewish past. The Fund is also focused on addressing such serious threats to Jewish life in Europe as assimilation, antisemitism and racism. In keeping with these goals, the Fund supports activities related to education, research and commemoration of the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union.

Colin and Gail Halpern

Colin and Gail Halpern of New York are generously funding “Recovering Their Stories,” a project that aims to rescue the identities of the nameless and faceless victims of the Shoah. By digitizing and cataloguing millions of documents and photographs, unique personal files and stories for the individual victims of the Holocaust will be created. The seeds of the Halpers’ affiliation with Yad Vashem were planted several years ago when their daughter Lisa, an attorney in Manhattan, was dealing with the estate of a deceased client who had never married and had no immediate family. Lisa brought her father Colin along to examine the remains of the estate, which included books, photographs, and other personal artifacts.

The case made Colin think of the millions of victims who were left unidentified after the Shoah, as he realized that if there is no one to remember a person, it is as if they never existed. This was the impetus for the partnership between the Halpers’ Dayenu Ltd. and Yad Vashem in a project of restoring not only the names of victims, but also their individual stories, so that they will never be forgotten.

Fanya Gottesfeld Heller and Family

Holocaust survivor Fanya Gottesfeld Heller is an author and an educator. Born into a traditional Jewish home in the small Polish village of Skala in 1924, Fanya and her family hid from the Nazi squads with the help of two Christian rescuers. Fanya’s commitment to Holocaust education has been recognized by numerous academic institutions, and she lectures at universities and conferences to promote further awareness of the Holocaust, speaks to hundreds of inner-city schoolchildren every year, and commissions an annual conference on Holocaust education at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. A member of the Board of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Fanya, resides in New York, and has three children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Fanya and her children Benjamin and Beth Heller and Jacqueline Heller recently made a munificent donation to Yad Vashem honoring Fanya’s stalwart commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance.
Frank and Shirley Lowy

Frank and Shirley Lowy of Sydney, Australia are supporting a five-year program on Holocaust education for the Israel Defense Forces that will enable over 1,000 IDF groups to study at the International School for Holocaust Studies annually for the next five years. Frank Lowy was born in 1930 in the town of Filakovo, Czechoslovakia. His father was beaten to death in Auschwitz, but Frank survived and in 1946 he secured a berth on the ship "Yagur," bound for mandatory Palestine. He was arrested by the British authorities and interned in Cyprus for several months. After finally arriving in Eretz Israel, he joined the Haganah and the Golani Fighting Brigade and was heavily involved in the battles for Israel's independence. In 1952, he joined his family in Australia and started his first business; in 1953, he co-founded the Westfield Group.

The Moskowitz Family

Mark Moskowitz is the son of Rose Moskowitz and the late Henry Moskowitz, both Holocaust survivors who immigrated to the United States in 1951. Mark and his siblings, Sonia, Jacob and Dan, were raised on the Upper West Side of New York. After attending Columbia Business School, Mark joined the family real estate and hotel business, Argo Real Estate LLC, established by Henry in 1952, in which he currently serves as President and CEO. Over the last few years, Mark has continued and expanded his family's involvement in Yad Vashem's activities, recently honoring his late father with a dedication in the Square of Hope. Mark has attended the official state Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony at Yad Vashem for the past five years, representing the American Society for Yad Vashem's "Young Generation" in 2010.

Ernest and Helen Singer

Born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia on 9 July 1930, Ernest Singer and his family lived in Kosice until they were deported by the Nazis in 1944 on a transport to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where his mother and sister were immediately sent to the gas chambers. Ernest was sent with his father and brother to a slave labor camp in Valkenburg and then on a death march to the Ebensee concentration camp in Austria. Ernest and his brother, the only survivors of their immediate family, returned to Kosice and stayed there until 1948, and then emigrated to Caracas, Venezuela. In 1961, Ernest settled in Canada with his wife, Helen, and their two children, Miguel and Nelly, named after Ernest's father and mother who were murdered in the Holocaust. Ernest and Helen became Benefactors of Yad Vashem in order to honor the memory of Ernest's father, mother, sister and 36 family members including grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins killed in the Holocaust. As well, their gift is a testimony to their children, grandchildren and future generations, of their legacy, which must never be forgotten.
Yad Vashem’s accomplishments would not be possible without the support and commitment of our valued partners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many friends who have shared in our vision in 2010 and in previous years, enabling its realization:

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- Mr. and Mrs. Charles & Libby Winograd, Canada
- Liora & Simon Yakubowicz, Canada
- The Yanowski Family, Canada