

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

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New Exhibit:

## The Republic of Dreams

Bruno Schulz: Wall Painting Under Coercion (p. 4)

## Children in the Holocaust

The Central Theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2009

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# Children in

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■ On the cover: **Bruno Schulz (1892-1942), Carriage Driver (Self-Portrait), Drohobych, 1941-1942. Fresco secco. Loan of the Drohobychyna Museum, Ukraine (© Marek W. Podstolski)**

### ■ On Holocaust Remembrance Day this year, during the annual "Unto Every Person There is a Name" ceremony, we will read aloud the names of children murdered in the Holocaust.

Some faded photographs of a scattered few remain, and their questioning, accusing eyes cry out on behalf of the 1.5 million children prevented from growing up and fulfilling their basic rights: to live, dream, love, play and laugh.

From the day the Nazis came to power, Jewish children became acquainted with cruelty, first in Germany and, as time passed, in every other country the Germans conquered or forged an alliance. The parents and families of these children were unable to grant them the security and protection they needed. Jewish children were separated from their non-Jewish playmates and expelled from state-sponsored schools. They saw their parents lose the right to support their families, and often witnessed the descent of the family unit into an abyss of despair.

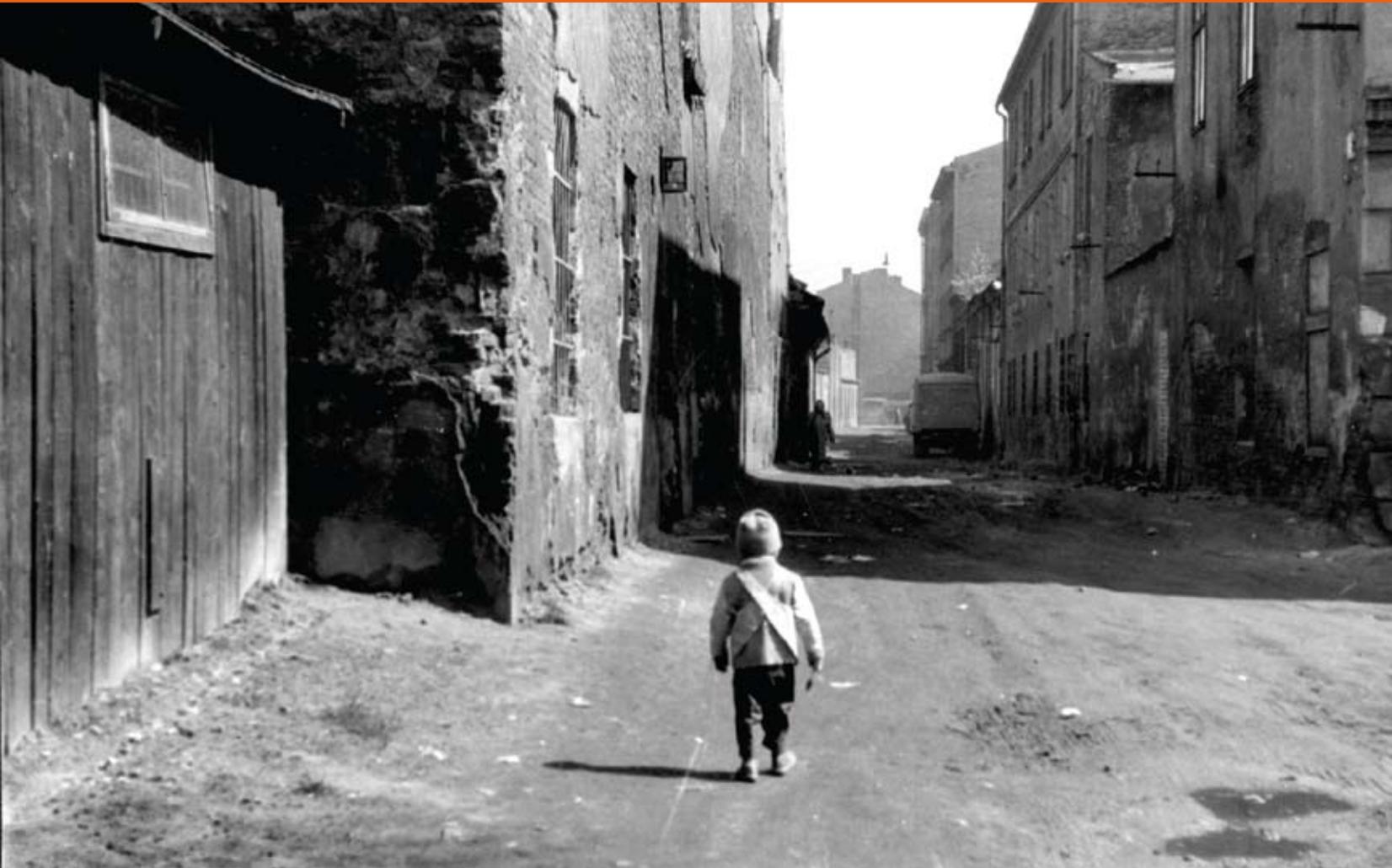
As war broke out and antisemitic policies worsened, the suffering of Jewish children increased: many were doomed to the horrific suffering of life in the ghetto – the bitter cold, the never-ending hunger and a multitude of dangerous diseases. There, cut off from the world, they lived in the shadow of endless terror and violence. As smuggling was central to survival in the ghettos, they were often forced to assume the new role of breadwinner for their disintegrating families. Henrika Lazobert, a Jewish poet, wrote a paean to a daring young smuggler who, despite the risks, persevered in finding food for his family. The poem ends:

*I shall no longer come back to you [mother]  
... and only on my lips  
will one worry freeze fast:  
My beloved mother, tomorrow who'll bring you  
your piece of bread as in the past?*

Still, children in the Holocaust remained children, desiring only to partake in activities beloved by all their contemporaries. In August 1940 David Rabinowitz, a young boy from a village near Kielce, Poland, wrote in his diary: "During the war, I've been studying by myself, at home. When I remember that I used to go to school, I feel like crying."

# the Holocaust

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2009



■ *Young boy on a street in the Krakow ghetto, Poland. Yad Vashem Photo Archives*

When the deportations to the extermination camps began, a chasm opened up in the lives of Jewish children. Throughout Nazi Europe, they fled and hid, separated from their parents and loved ones. Some of them found refuge in the homes of decent people whose conscience would not allow them to remain passive; several were hidden in convents and monasteries and boarding schools; others were forced to roam through forests and villages, hunting for food like wild animals and relying entirely on their own ingenuity and resourcefulness. Many were forced to live under assumed identities, longingly anticipating the return of their father and mother. Some were so young when separated from their parents that they forgot their real

names and Jewish identity. Many were forced to train themselves not to move, laugh or cry, or even talk. Upon liberation, one little girl asked her mother, "Mommy, may I cry now?"

Of course, not all Jewish children were lucky enough to find a place of refuge, and many tens of thousands of children were caught and sent to the death camps. Their young age made most the first prey of the Nazi killing machine.

Yet wherever they were – in the ghettos, in hiding and even in the camps – they did not surrender moments of childish playfulness. A short break in a daily routine of hunger and dread was enough to summon gales of joyous laughter, childish brawls, and games with toys made of rags and scraps of paper. Together with

their beloved dolls, the children could dream of a better world, of returning to their family and lost childhood; and only to these dolls could they open their aching hearts.

At the end of the war, a new chapter began, one of both hope and pain for the life that was gone, never to return. Many children were lost to their families and their Jewish heritage forever. For others, the war's end marked a beginning of their return to their real selves, a process filled with difficulties and torment. Very slowly, they emerged from hiding, from the forests and the camps, and began the long and painful process of rehabilitation. Despite the scars, they sought to rebuild their lives anew.

New Exhibit:

# The Republic of Dreams

## Bruno Schulz: Wall Painting Under Coercion

by Yehudit Shendar and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

■ On the evening of 30 June 1941, the town of Drohobycz (in the Lwow district in Poland, now Drohobych in Ukraine) was conquered by the Germans, and a campaign of abuse and murder of Jews began.

Serving at the Gestapo headquarters in the town was SS *Hauptscharführer* Felix Landau,

holding the reins of two splendid horses, from the story of Cinderella.

But instead of simply decorating the nursery for the children of the SS *Hauptscharführer*, Schulz created, with sensitivity, ingenuity and courage, a personal memorial room for himself, his family and his community. Thus

Günther, who shot him in the back of the head on “Bloody Thursday,” 19 November 1942. With close to two hundred fellow Jews from his beloved town, Schulz was buried in the Jewish cemetery that same night; his last self-portraits were left on the villa walls.



■ Bruno Schulz (1892-1942), *Snow White Accompanied by Dwarves, Drohobych, 1941-1942*. Fresco secco. Loan of the Drohobychyna Museum, Ukraine (© Marek W. Podstolski)

who was responsible for enlisting forced labor from the ghetto's populace. Landau ordered the Jewish artist and writer Bruno Schulz to decorate the walls of the local riding school.

With the arrival of his children at Drohobycz, Landau instructed Schulz to decorate the walls of the nursery at his home, where he lived with his lover, with images from popular fairytales. Thus, in late 1941 or early 1942, Schulz arrived daily at the “Villa Landau” in order to complete the work, in the hope that his assignment would save him from deportation and death.

The discontinuous fragments, spread over three walls in a small room, reveal an array of familiar fairytale heroes: a queen or princess in an evening gown fit for a ball, in shades of greenish aquamarine, apparently Cinderella; the figure of Snow White in a short dress, her legs adorned with red shoes, accompanied by five dwarves; and finally, a carriage driver

in the depiction of Snow White, the bearded dwarf holding a shovel to Snow White's right is in fact an image of Bruno's father, Jakub, whose facial features are recognizable from many of his surviving depictions. Bruno was highly attached to his father, making him a protagonist in many of his short stories.

The carriage driver is none other than the artist's self-portrait. The motif of carriage and driver is a recurrent theme in Schulz's graphic and literary works, reflecting his belief that men are servants to their princesses. This time though, the driver is not wearing his customary wizard's hat, but is helmeted, as Schulz enlists himself to his own last battle – his attempt to flee.

Thus, faithful to his inner world, the artist from Drohobycz bequeathed to us a work that epitomises spiritual resistance during the *Shoah*. This resistance, however, did not save him from the pistol of SS *Oberscharführer* Karl

Some 60 years after Schulz decorated the “Villa Landau,” his wall paintings were rediscovered. A display of the paintings at Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art was inaugurated on 20 February 2009, in the presence of Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Vladislav Kornienko and celebrated Israeli author David Grossman.

Addressing the audience, Grossman described how Schulz's creations had been an inspiration to his own literature: “When I finished reading his compilation of stories [*Cinnamon Shops; Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass*], I felt that Bruno Schulz had given me, for the first time, the key to writing about the *Shoah* – not about death nor about destruction, but, in truth, about life itself.”

*Yehudit Shendar is Deputy Director and Senior Art Curator of the Museums Division. Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg is Curator in the Art Department of the Museums Division.*

# Taking Charge

## Courageous Nursemaids in a Time of Horror

by Irena Steinfeldt

■ **At the inauguration of the Avenue of the Righteous at Yad Vashem on 1 May 1962, a tree was planted by Maria Babicz.** To the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, Babicz had been described as “an old lady, short, of simple background – a true ‘babushka.’” When Mina Osipov was killed in Rowno in November 1941, Babicz, her former nursemaid, took in Osipov’s daughter and raised her as her own. The girl and her father, who had fought in the Red Army, were the sole survivors of the entire family. After liberation, Babicz emigrated with them to Israel.

Before the war, Domicile Pajojute had been the nanny to Reizl Shohat’s two sons. After the German occupation of Telz, Lithuania, Pajojute contacted her former employer and offered to help. Pajojute found different hiding places for the Shohats in the countryside and sometimes hid them in her own little room. The bond they formed remained strong after the war, and Pajojute lived with her former employer until Shohat followed her sons to Israel in 1970.

Babicz and Pajojute were just two of many young girls from modest or poor backgrounds who were forced to leave their parents’ home at an early age and go to work taking care of other people’s households. When the war broke out, the situation often changed overnight, creating a sudden reversal of fortunes. With

their Jewish employers stripped of their status, assets and rights, and turned into defenseless victims of persecution and murder, it was the nursemaids who – notwithstanding their young age and lack of education, as well as the extreme personal danger – took charge and assumed full responsibility for their survival.

Ida Brunelli (later Lenti) of Italy was just 15 years old when Yuzzi Galambos, a Jewish dancer of Hungarian origin, employed her to take care of her household and children. On her deathbed, Galambos revealed her Jewish identity to the young nursemaid who, despite the danger, immediately shouldered the heavy burden of caring for the three orphaned children, aged 9, 12 and 13. After the liberation of Italy, Lenti contacted soldiers of the Jewish Brigade, and refused to leave the children until she was assured they were safely on their way to the Land of Israel.

Lenti died in January 2009. For this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, an online exhibition has been uploaded to the Righteous Section of Yad Vashem’s website in memory of Ida Lenti and other courageous and resourceful nursemaids who, against all odds, saved the lives of Jewish children during the Holocaust.

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



■ Domicile Pajojute with Haim and Joshua Shohat

## German Officer who Helped “The Pianist” Recognized as Righteous

■ **The German officer made famous in Roman Polanski’s 2002 Oscar-winning film *The Pianist* has been posthumously recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.**

Wilm Hosenfeld was drafted into the *Wermacht* shortly before the outbreak of WWII. He was stationed in Poland and from July 1940 based in Warsaw. Hosenfeld spent most of the war as a sports and culture officer and during the Warsaw Uprising in the summer of 1944 was involved in interrogating prisoners. After the war, Hosenfeld was arrested and tried by the Soviets. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. The sentence was commuted to 25 years, but Hosenfeld died in a Soviet prison in 1952.

Over the years, two survivor testimonies were presented to the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations: Leon Wurm related that Hosenfeld had employed him at the Sports Center after his escape from a train to Treblinka; and Władysław Szpilman wrote to Yad Vashem, as well as in his memoirs (which later became the basis for the film), that in November 1944 Hosenfeld had helped him find a hiding place, and provided him with blankets, food and moral support.

Recently, new material, including Hosenfeld’s personal diaries and letters to his wife, came before the Commission. The documents clarify his consistent stance against Nazi policy of oppression, persecution and abuse, and express

his horror at the extermination of the Jewish people. Although Hosenfeld had supported the Nazi party in its beginnings, it is clear that once he saw the consequences of the Nazis’ rise to power, his opposition to them was deep and consistent. Following a clarification that he had not been involved in war crimes, the Commission decided to posthumously honor Wilm Hosenfeld as Righteous Among the Nations for his efforts to rescue Jews during the Holocaust.

Hosenfeld’s children, who live in Germany, will receive a medal and certificate on their late father’s behalf in a ceremony to be held at the Jewish Museum in Berlin this summer.

# New International Seminars Wing Cornerstone Laid at Yad Vashem

■ On 19 January 2009, a moving cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new International Seminars Wing took place at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. Attending the event were the principal donor of the new wing, Joseph Gottdenker of Canada, his children Debbie and Adam, Canadian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Jon Allen, and diplomats from more than 30 countries who were at Yad Vashem for the event that also marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Also present were educators from more than 15 countries, including Canada, Australia, Korea, Latvia, Venezuela, Mexico and Brazil, who were attending various seminars at Yad Vashem.

Established in 1993, the International School for Holocaust Studies organizes educational programs for both students and educators from Israel and abroad. In 2008, School staff held 64 long-term seminars at Yad Vashem for 1,570 educators from abroad, and participated in more than 50 seminars and conferences around the



■ Left to Right: Executive Director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Yaron Ashkenazi, Joseph Gottdenker, Debbie Gottdenker, Adam Gottdenker, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Canadian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Jon Allen

world. With over 50,000 square feet of added space, the new Wing is being built to meet the ever-growing interest in the Holocaust and the many requests from educators to study at Yad Vashem and explore ways to grapple with the challenges they face in Holocaust education.

The new International Seminars Wing is being established through the generous support of Joseph Gottdenker, Rose Landschaft, Jane and Isaac Ladelsky, The Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Foundation, The Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture, Esther and David Mann, Betty and Jerry Breslaw, The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust and Ivonnie and Samuel Geller. The new Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, in the International Seminars Wing, is endowed by the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation.



■ Chairman of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, Ambassador Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff, signs the scroll during the cornerstone-laying ceremony

## “Echoes and Reflections” Professors’ Seminar at Yad Vashem

by Ephraim Kaye

■ *“...despite the fact that I have been teaching the Holocaust for many years, I have gained a perspective and knowledge that I did not have before. Most of all, I have been inspired to expand Holocaust education at my institution.”*

Prof. Ellen G. Friedman, The College of New Jersey

The first “Echoes and Reflections” Professors’ Study Tour took place in January, with 19 professors from across the United States coming to Yad Vashem to study the Holocaust and identify meaningful ways to bring the multimedia Holocaust educational curriculum “Echoes and Reflections” to college students.

Accompanied by staff from the Anti-Defamation League, participants met with historians and pedagogical experts from Yad Vashem and studied a range of topics including: pre-war Europe and the Jews of Poland, Jewish leadership during the Holocaust, the Final Solution, Holocaust literature and art, and the complexity and responsibility of teaching the Holocaust to students today.



A series of guest lecturers supplementing Yad Vashem experts included Robert Wistrich of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who spoke about the rise of antisemitism in Europe during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and antisemitism in the modern world; Simcha Stein of the Ghetto Fighters’ House, who discussed Jewish armed resistance during the Holocaust; and Professor Rafi Vago of Tel Aviv University, who talked

about the “unprecedentedness” of the Holocaust in the age of genocide. In addition, Holocaust survivor Ruth Brand shared her story of survival in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Tours of Yad Vashem’s museum complex and other important landmarks around the country completed the weekend seminar.

The prestigious group of professors who participated in the program will now work with “Echoes and Reflections” staff to bring the curriculum to their college campuses, with a special focus on preparing trainee educators to teach the Holocaust once they enter the classroom.

The 2009 “Echoes and Reflections” Professors’ Study Tour was funded by the Holocaust Studies Program for Training U.S. Educators in Memory of Nathan Katz, Holocaust Survivor from Lithuania. The “Echoes and Reflections” program is funded by Dana and Yossie Hollander.

*The author is Director of International Seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# New in the Virtual School

[www1.yadvashem.org/education](http://www1.yadvashem.org/education)

by Jonathan Clapsaddle

## Holocaust Remembrance Day 2009 Online

■ To mark Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2009, a new educational resource section has been launched on the Virtual School. In keeping with Yad Vashem's annual theme, this section features a variety of materials about children in the Holocaust, including lesson plans and ceremonies, interviews, diary entries and testimony.

The March edition of *Teaching the Legacy*, the e-newsletter for Holocaust educators, also touches on this subject – focusing on childhood and creativity during the Holocaust. The newsletter includes a main article, an interview with artist Chava Wolf (Wijnitzer), and a lesson plan on the creative use of Holocaust themes in art classes. As always, the newsletter features new publications, book reviews and updates on new activities at the International School for Holocaust Studies and within Yad Vashem.

## All Online Courses Open for Registration

■ All online courses in English are now available for registration. Operating throughout 2009, the courses offer students the flexibility of studying at home, under the guidance of a qualified instructor from the International School for Holocaust Studies. Courses currently offered are: *Jewish Life in the Ghettos, Germany: 1918-1943, Commemoration and Remembrance, The 'Final Solution to the Jewish Problem,' Prewar Jewish Life in Europe*, and *Life Lessons – Bringing Holocaust History to Your Classroom*.

Online courses are developed and operated with the support of the Claims Conference, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust.

*The author works in the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Reaching Out to Catholic Youth

by Richelle Budd Caplan

■ On 9 February, 150 sixth, seventh and eighth graders at the St. Jude Catholic School in Boca Raton, Florida attended a special workshop led by Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Organized and sponsored by the local Anti-Defamation League (ADL) regional office, these Catholic middle school students viewed the International School's film *Outcast*, focusing on the rise of Adolf Hitler to power as well as the responses of German Jews to Nazi antisemitic policies in the 1930s.

After the viewing, Imber highlighted reactions triggered by the film. One student remarked that she was very surprised "that there were so many signs excluding Jews" in Germany at that time, while another found it difficult to comprehend how the German "people treated Hitler like a hero" and "gave him flowers." A third student expressed the importance of studying about the Holocaust "because a whole generation has been lost."

Photo: Marcie Shaughnessy, ADL



"The importance of strengthening our ties with Catholic schools, especially in light of the recent Holocaust denial by Bishop Richard Williamson, cannot be overestimated," said Imber upon her return to Yad Vashem. "Working with these students not only provided me with new insights, but also strengthened my belief that our answer to Williamson and others like him must be to educate, educate, educate!"

*The author is Head of the International Relations Section at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## New Countries Represented at the ICHEIC Forum

by Lisa Oren

■ This year's Annual International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) Forum, held at the International School for Holocaust Studies in February, was attended by some 20 participants, representing Yad Vashem's European partners actively involved in the planning of seminar programs at Yad Vashem and the recruitment of Holocaust educators. For the first time, this year's participants included representatives from Slovakia and Slovenia, underlining the progress Yad Vashem has made over the last year in reaching out to European educators.

This annual Forum takes place within the framework of the ICHEIC program for Holocaust education in Europe. It provides an opportunity for participants to learn about the status of Holocaust education throughout the continent, as well as new educational philosophies and programs being applied at Yad Vashem.

During the Forum, participants heard lectures about Holocaust art and viewing the Holocaust in a post-modernist context. Three pedagogical issues were highlighted during group discussions: teaching the Holocaust in the realm of human rights, working with students at memorial sites, and creating lesson plans about the Holocaust



and genocide. Workshops dealt with practical suggestions for improving seminars and making them more relevant vis-à-vis the changing realities in Europe, as well as the specific needs of educators across the continent.

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

# Entendiendo el Holocausto

## Yad Vashem Activities in the Spanish-Speaking World

by Dana Porath, Mario Sinai and Rinat Pavis

■ The global population of Spanish-speakers is a principal and extremely receptive audience for Holocaust-related material. This was reflected by the tremendous honor paid to Yad Vashem by Spain in October 2007, when it was bestowed with the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord. In the wake of this historic recognition, Yad Vashem redoubled its commitment to Spain, Portugal and Latin America, greatly strengthening the dissemination of its wealth of information to the Spanish-speaking world:

### New Spanish Website and YouTube Channel

■ Marking the fourth International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem launched a comprehensive new website in Spanish on 27 January. The new site, accessible at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org), contains extensive resources on the Holocaust, as well as a multimedia exhibit of *The Auschwitz Album*, material on Righteous Among the Nations and a variety of educational materials in Spanish, including lesson plans, ideas for working with testimonies and two online courses: "Ghettos" and "The Final Solution."

The website was launched at the Palace de Viana in Madrid with the participation of Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos. The event, held in cooperation with Casa Sefarad Israel, took place in the presence of Ana Salomon, Spain's ambassador to the 25-country Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF), and Perla Hazan, Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk of the International Relations Division at Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem also launched a YouTube channel in Spanish, joining the English, Hebrew and Arabic channels launched in 2008. So far, over one million video views have been logged at the four sites.

At its meeting at the Viana Palace on 27 January, the Governing Council of Casa Sefarad-Israel decided to invite Yad Vashem to join the Institutional Council of Casa Sefarad-Israel. Yad Vashem was represented for the first time at the Institutional Council by Perla Hazan.



■ At the launch of Yad Vashem's new Spanish website, left to right: Coordinator of the Spanish website Jorge Gun, Director of Yad Vashem's Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk Perla Hazan, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Pilar Sanz Briz, daughter of the Righteous Among the Nations Ángel Sanz Briz, Holocaust survivor Jaime Vandor

### "Spots of Light" to be Displayed in Spanish Universities

■ Answering the growing demand of Spanish universities' Gender Studies departments to expose more Spanish students to the subject of the Holocaust and the unique topic of women in that period, Yad Vashem recently completed the translation into Spanish of its acclaimed traveling exhibition, "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust." The exhibition, supported by an anonymous donor from Mexico, will be shown at the University of Granada until September 2009, and afterwards at the University of Alicante until the end of November 2009.

### Seminars for South American Educators and Youth Leaders

■ In recent months, the International School for Holocaust Studies held three international seminars for South American educators. The first, supported by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), was for a select group of 24 Yad Vashem and Jewish Agency graduates. These "teachers' teachers" underwent a full year of

training, including seminars in Argentina, an online course, a volunteer project, a trip to Poland, and a concluding seminar in Israel. "It surpassed my expectations," said one of the educators. "I learned an innovative approach that changes everything I have thought and known in the past."

Two seminars for Jewish and non-Jewish teachers from 12 Central and South American countries were also held with the support of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference. Among the participants were a judge from Paraguay, evangelical pastors from Puerto Rico, the head of the Civil Rights Bureau at the Ministry of Justice in Uruguay, a radio producer from Argentina, and university lecturers. Yad Vashem also held its first seminar for youth leaders from Zionist youth movements in Latin America: "The seminar represents the beginning of a new path on the personal and communal level," said one youth leader. "I'll be going back with a great deal of knowledge, and the desire and strength to pass on the material to the next generations."

*Dana Porath is Yad Vashem's Website Content Manager. Mario Sinai is Head of the Desk for Spanish-Speaking Countries at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Rinat Pavis is Associate Curator in the Museums Division.*

# 27 January

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day Marked Worldwide

■ **Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau was the keynote speaker at the official UN event** marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. “The lesson that the United Nations and all of mankind has to learn from those years of darkness is not what happened at Auschwitz, but rather what led

Courtesy: UN/Paulo Filgueiras



to Auschwitz,” said Rabbi Lau. “The question is: Have we indeed learned something, 64 years on?” Also addressing the audience were Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN H.E. Ambassador Gabriela Shalev, Holocaust survivor Ruth Glasberg Gold and WWII veteran Leonid Rosenberg.

■ **At the UN European Center in Geneva, International School for Holocaust Studies Pedagogical Director Shulamit Imber addressed some 1,000 participants in a special ceremony** alongside Director General of the UN Office in Geneva Sergei Ordzhonikidze. “Three generations took an active role in this ceremony – a Holocaust survivor, an educator (myself) and one of the Swiss representatives to last year’s First International Youth Congress at Yad Vashem,” said Imber on her return. “Just as we pass on our varied Jewish traditions to our children, we must also ensure the continuation of Holocaust remembrance from generation to generation.”

■ On 25 January, **Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev participated in a special Israeli government cabinet session addressing a report on antisemitism.** “Alongside increasing antisemitism over the past month [in the wake

of Operation Cast Lead], we are witness to an ever-increasing worldwide interest in the Holocaust. While paradoxically these two phenomena exist side by side, the Yad Vashem website, which logged over eight million visits last year, and the thousands of graduates of Yad Vashem’s educational seminars serve as a buffer against the denial and distorted use of the Holocaust.”

■ **An International Holocaust Remembrance Day gathering and memorial service at Yad Vashem was attended by some 300 World Jewish Congress members.** Pictured, left to right: Chairman of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors Roman Kent, Congress President Ron Lauder, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Prof. Yehuda Bauer, who addressed the audience on “The Holocaust and Other Genocides.”



■ **The acclaimed exhibition “BESA – A Code of Honor: Albanian Muslims Who Rescued Jews in the Holocaust” (photographer Norman Gershman) opened in Hebrew and Arabic on 27 January at the Ramle Municipal Museum,**



■ *Holocaust survivor from Yugoslavia Miriam Aviezer shows two students from the Arabic Comprehensive School in Ramle the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition “BESA – A Code of Honor: Albanian Muslims Who Rescued Jews in the Holocaust.”*

in the presence of Avner Shalev and Director General of the Ramle Municipality Ofer Toder. For the following three months, Arab and

Jewish students from the city attended special educational programs given by Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ **A new educational portal in Russian was uploaded to Yad Vashem’s Virtual School.** The site, developed through the generous support of the Genesis Philanthropy Group, includes encyclopedic entries, photographs, testimonies, maps, diaries, historical documents and more, making pedagogical materials easily available to Russian-speaking educators and students in Israel and around the world.

■ **Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem traveling exhibitions opened around the world:** “Auschwitz Album” at the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles; “BESA” at New York’s Columbia University School for International Relations, “Auschwitz: From the Depth of the Abyss” at the headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels; “No Child’s Play” in Linz City Hall, Austria; “An Arduous Road: Samuel Bak – 60 Years of Creativity” at the University of Mainz, Germany; and “Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell” in Neustrelitz, Germany.

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies and WIZO College in Haifa collaborated for the second time on a joint project in which third-year students at the College’s Graphic Design Department design a series of five postcards on the topic of “Universal Aspects of Holocaust Commemoration.” **“Signposts – Students Shaping Memory,” on display at the School and on its website,** touches on a variety of topics and expresses the creative worlds of the students.



# Torchlighters 2009

compiled by Ehud Amir

## Lea Paz

■ Lea Paz, née Weitzner, was born in 1930 in Lwow. Her father Herman, a civil judge, passed away when Lea was five, and Lea and her mother Gusta moved to the village of Kochawina to live on her grandfather's large farm.



In September 1942, Lea, Gusta and her grandmother were deported to Belzec. With rumors about the camp circulating on the train, Gusta pushed Lea out through a narrow opening in the side of the train car. Lea eventually found her way back to her grandfather and an uncle, Mundek, who had escaped the deportation. Mundek, who had lived in Mandatory Palestine but had come back to introduce his fiancée to his family and got caught in the war, was determined to save the young girl. He bought Lea false papers, and taught her Christian prayers and customs, all the while encouraging her to eventually emigrate to the Land of Israel.

Lea first lived with the Plauszewski family, and then with a relative of theirs, Stefania Gos, whose husband was a commander in the Polish underground. Her rescuers were later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

Just before liberation, Lea's grandfather and Mundek were turned in by one of their neighbors. After Mundek's death, the family who had hidden him, the Wohanskis (later also recognized as Righteous Among the Nations), gave Lea his two picture albums filled with photographs of Mandatory Palestine.

Lea emigrated to *Eretz Israel* on an illegal immigrant ship, but was arrested by the British and interned in Cyprus. During a demonstration organized by the internees in Cyprus, Lea was wounded by British police gunfire. The story was published in the Jewish press in Mandatory Palestine, thus allowing her relatives on Kibbutz Merhaviva to discover that she had survived. Lea was reunited with them after she was finally allowed to enter *Eretz Israel*. She married Ephraim, and they have two children and six grandchildren.

## Solomon Feigerson

■ Solomon (Sjema) Feigerson was born in 1930 in Liepaja, Latvia, the middle of three sons. His older brother Hanoch was killed in June 1941, in defense of the town against the Germans. His father, Yaakov, was murdered in July 1941, and his mother and younger brother Josef were murdered at the Skede execution grounds in February 1942. Solomon escaped that and another murder operation in April by running away, despite being shot by Latvian guards.

In July 1942, the Jews of Liepaja were herded into a ghetto. Solomon lived in one room with 20 other orphaned boys. On Yom Kippur (October) 1943, the ghetto was liquidated and Solomon was deported to the Kaiserwald labor camp. There he met and bonded with Lina Goldblatt, a prisoner from Hamburg, and her daughter, Rosa. "She was like a mother to me," he recalls, "she even sewed me a shirt and a pair of pants."

In August 1944 Solomon was transferred to the Stutthof concentration camp, and in April 1945 he was put on one of four ships carrying 500 inmates, sent into the Baltic Sea to die. Solomon's ship eventually sailed into Neustadt on 3 May 1945. German sailors on the shore shot at the survivors. A British soldier found Solomon, exhausted and ill, clutching a loaf of bread.

After the war, Solomon went to Riga. He studied engineering and started a family. While in Riga, he campaigned with Holocaust survivors and others to emigrate to Israel. He arrived in Israel in 1971 where he worked as an engineer and volunteered with a number of organizations commemorating the Holocaust and assisting survivors. He also published a book about the destruction of the Jewish community of Liepaja.

Solomon and his wife Ethel have a son and two grandchildren.



## Esther Debora Reiss-Mossel

■ Esther Debora Reiss-Mossel, the youngest child of Josef and Elsa, was born in 1938 in Heiloo, Holland to a well-known Zionist family. In 1942, her parents entrusted her to their nanny's family, but Esther refused to stay and returned home.



During the *razzia* (raid) of 26 May 1943 the family was sent to the Westerbork transit camp. After being hospitalized for many weeks with a number of childhood diseases, Esther went to the camp nursery, where she recalls learning Jewish and Zionist songs. On 11 January 1944 the family of five – including Esther's brother Benjamin (Ben) and sister Yetty (Yael) – was sent to Bergen-Belsen, which her father believed was a stop on the way to *Eretz Israel*. When her parents caught typhus, Esther was sent to an orphanage set up by Henny and Yehoshua Birnbaum. Esther remembers the eve of Passover 1945, as her father lay dying, when the Birnbaums baked matza in honor of the Festival of Freedom.

In April 1945, some 2,500 prisoners were forced onto what later became known as "the lost train." Elsa was left behind at Bergen-Belsen, where she died. For weeks, the train traveled back and forth in an attempt to reach Theresienstadt, caught in the crossfire between German and Red Army forces. Close to one quarter of the passengers died during the journey. Early in the morning of 23 April they heard a Russian soldier shout, "Comrades – freedom!" The train was finally liberated next to a destroyed bridge over the Elster River near Troebitz, some 80 km. from Leipzig. In Troebitz, Tzadok and Chana Mossel adopted Josef's children, and the enlarged family returned to Amsterdam in August. In the summer of 1950 Esther's parents' dream was realized when she immigrated with Chana and Tzadok to Israel. Today, Esther is active in commemorating wartime Jewish rescuers as well as saving the forests and hills of Judea.

Esther was married to the late architect Elimelech Reiss, who helped plan Yad Vashem's Children's Memorial. She has three daughters and five grandchildren.

"Mommy, may I cry now?"

asked a little girl upon liberation, when she came out of hiding  
(Abba Kovner)

## Shimon Greenhouse

■ Shimon (Sjema) Greenhouse was born in 1932 in Krasna, Belarus, to a traditional Jewish Zionist family.

His older siblings, Henya and Mendel, were active in Zionist federations and planned to emigrate to Mandatory Palestine.



At the end of 1941, after the Germans invaded the USSR, Shimon and his family were interned in the Krasna ghetto. Shimon and his mother managed to sneak out of the ghetto and reach a Polish acquaintance who gave them food and convinced an SS officer not to kill them.

One day, after a German horse fell into a pit, the Germans gathered Jews in the ghetto's central square and shot them one by one. Shimon and his father, Yekutiel, stood there, their hands clasped. When Yekutiel was shot, he dragged his young son down with him. Shimon remained beneath his dead father, dazed and covered with blood, for a full day until family members pulled him out.

On Purim (March) 1943, the Germans liquidated the ghetto and murdered its residents, including Mendel and Henya. Shimon and his mother hid for five days with 20 other people. When they emerged, the ghetto was empty, and the air stank of incinerated bodies. As Shimon was recovering from typhus, his mother carried him on her back to the marshes where the partisans were hiding. They survived the remainder of the war among the partisans, with minimal clothing and food.

After the war, Shimon and his mother returned to Krasna. In 1950, after Shimon completed his studies, they emigrated to Israel. Shimon married and had four children and three grandchildren. He served as an educator and high school principal in Petach Tikva, leaving his mark on generations of students.

## Iudit Barnea and Lia Huber

■ Identical twin sisters Iudit Barnea and Lia Huber (nées Tchengar) were born in 1937 in the town of Simleul Silvaniei (Szilagyssomlyo), Transylvania. In 1940, Transylvania was annexed to Hungary, and in June 1942 their father Zvi was taken to a forced labor unit on the Russian front.



With the German conquest of Hungary in March 1944, the family's property and belongings were confiscated, and they were forced to wear a yellow star. In May 1944 Iudit, Lia and their mother, Miriam-Rachel, were interned in a ghetto, and the following month they were deported to Auschwitz, along with many other members of their family.

At Auschwitz, Iudit and Lia suffered the infamous medical experiments of Josef Mengele. The twins always stayed close together. Every night, their mother would sneak into their block and give them her meager portion of bread. She would also take them outside, in all weathers, to wash them and comb their hair, preventing them from getting infested by lice and thus being doomed to the gas chambers. One day, as Mengele was experimenting on the girls, Miriam-Rachel burst into the shack and begged him to stop. In response, she was injected with a concoction that nearly killed her, and caused her permanent deafness.

In January 1945 the girls and their mother were liberated by the Red Army. They returned to Simleul Silvaniei, and in August 1945 they were reunited with their father, who had survived many camps. In 1960 the family immigrated to Israel. Both girls married: Lia and her husband Jean have two children and seven grandchildren; Iudit and Moshe have three children and five grandchildren.

## Mirjam Schuster

■ Mirjam Schuster was born in 1935 in Zarojani, Moldova, to an observant Jewish family of six children.

In 1941, the family was deported by Romanian soldiers and forcibly marched, together with



all the Jews in the area, towards Transnistria.

After more than two months of walking day and night, Mirjam and her family arrived at Balki, near the city of Bar, where thousands of Jewish prisoners were crammed into horse stables without windows or doors. The stables were terribly crowded, and rife with hunger and disease. Mirjam and her family slept on the exposed concrete floor. Her mother saw to Mirjam's needs and those of the other children, while her older sisters smuggled in food from the adjacent village.

Mirjam remembers a Jewish child named Mendele, who was smuggled into the camp by his parents. Mirjam took Mendele under her wing and protected him from other children who were bullying him. One day, the Germans found Mendele and murdered him. His horrific death left Miriam deeply scarred.

In 1944, the Soviets liberated Balki. Out of more than 10,000 inmates, only a few hundred had survived. Following liberation, the Jewish Agency placed Mirjam in a children's home. After a few months, she boarded an illegal immigrant ship, which was intercepted by the British and sent to Cyprus. Just before the establishment of the State, Mirjam finally reached Israel's shores.

Mirjam married Moshe and has three children and eight grandchildren. After her children had grown, she began volunteering with new immigrants, helping ease their adjustment to living in Israel. Today, Mirjam is the volunteer director of the "Help for Holocaust Survivors" organization.

*Ehud Amir works in Yad Vashem's Internet Department.*

# “When I get some bread, I’ll send it to you”

by Lital Beer ■ Research and Translation: Miriam Moschytz



■ Siegfried Rapaport, c. 1938. Yad Vashem Photo Archives

■ In 1938, the Rapaport family from Hanover, Germany was deported to Poland, but the Polish authorities refused to take them in and they were immediately returned to Germany. The father, Moritz-Moshe, was sent to jail, and the mother, Miriam, fell ill and was hospitalized. Every day, the four children visited their parents. Moritz-Moshe was finally deported to Poland, and all trace of him was lost. One of the daughters, Resi (now Varda), was sent to England in the hope that her siblings would eventually join her, but the rest of the family was deported to Riga. In 1944, the youngest son, Paul, was sent to Auschwitz. Miriam and her remaining children, Paula and Siegfried, were sent to the Stutthof concentration camp.

In Stutthof, Siegfried was separated from his sister and mother, but they managed to stay in contact by letter. One of these letters survived the war and is located in the Yad Vashem Archives. Siegfried, aged 11, wrote to Miriam: “Dear Mommy, How are you? I got your two letters. I am healthy. You surely don’t have a stomachache anymore. Mommy, I think you need bread. I am going to Block 3. I have enough for myself so please don’t worry about me. [...] I hope we will all be together again soon. When I get some bread, I’ll send it to you, you surely know that, Mommy.”

The childish handwriting on the aging paper reveals a boy sensitive to his mother’s health and needs, a boy who misses his family but also tries to offer them some comfort, a boy who – amidst the horror of a concentration camp – takes on the role both of breadwinner and supporter, mature way before his time. Later on in the letter, he continues: “Mommy, please send me some writing paper, that is why I haven’t written. Our block will be gassed in the next few days, Mommy, that’s why I have this paper. Everything is being pasted over so I stole this piece of paper.”



■ Page of Testimony for Siegfried Rapaport submitted by his sister, Varda

The letter is written on a long, narrow strip of paper. According to his sister Varda, Siegfried was referring to the upcoming fumigation of the block. The building was either sealed or marked by strips of paper glued over the windows and doors. Siegfried took advantage of this opportunity to send a few words to his mother.

The letter ends with the following: “Mommy, I kiss you, give my regards to Paula. Soon we will be cooking potatoes again.” But the young boy’s hopes were never realized. Siegfried died in 1945 during a death march. His mother died of typhus about two weeks after liberation. Paula, who survived, gave the letter to her sister Varda, who later passed it on to Yad Vashem for safekeeping.

Lital Beer is Head of the Outreach Department and Miriam Moschytz works in the Acquisitions Department in the Archives Division.

The childish handwriting on the aging paper reveals a boy who misses his family but also tries to offer them some comfort, a boy who – amidst the horror of a concentration camp – takes on the role both of breadwinner and supporter, mature way before his time



# “And God Saw That It Was Bad”

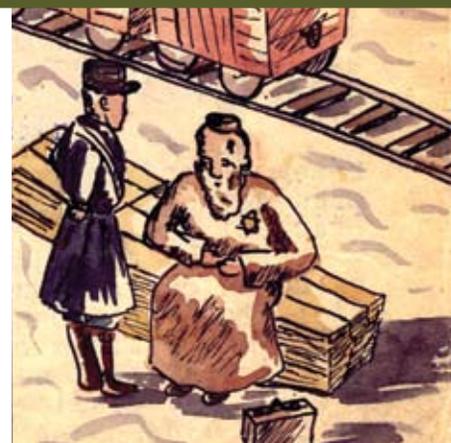
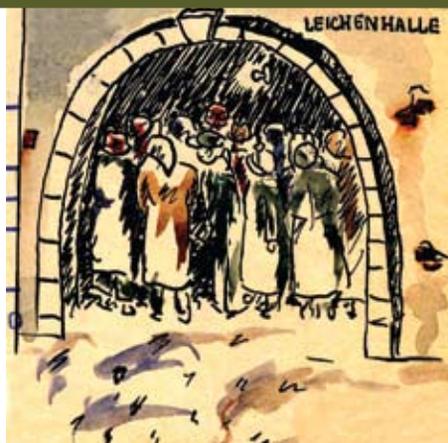
By Dr. David Silberklang

## Otto Weiss' Unusual Birthday Present

■ *“It was a calm, pleasant January evening, full of peace and serenity, and in Heaven they were getting ready to light the stars. God was seated comfortably on His majestic throne; His head bent, resting in His hands. He had just listened to the reports from His heavenly elders... With a sad face God sat motionless, gazing fixedly into space, deep in thought. What was He thinking about?”*

Thus opens Otto Weiss' novella about Terezin (Theresienstadt), *And God Saw That It Was Bad*. Weiss, his wife Irena, and his daughter Helga were deported to Terezin from Prague in late 1941. A devoted husband, Weiss decided in 1943 to surprise his wife with a special present for her 37<sup>th</sup> birthday that June. Thirteen-year-old Helga, a budding artist, was his co-conspirator in the surprise. They were going to present Irena with a novella about Terezin. They met in the evenings, and Helga followed her father's instructions for all her art: “Draw what you see.”

Weiss tells a riveting story in which God descends from Heaven to Terezin and assumes the body of an elderly man, Aaron Gottesmann, in order to see for Himself what was happening on Earth since He had withdrawn from mankind's daily affairs. He was particularly concerned about his loyal and undemanding servant, Vitězslav Taussig, “an insignificant, simple old man,” an inmate in the ghetto. God sensed that



something was amiss, and, indeed, during His encounters with many aspects of the camp and its inner workings, God learns the hard way just how much was wrong in Terezin. Most of the characters in Weiss' story are Jewish inmates, and their own suffering alongside the corruption of some of the camp's Jewish and Czech personnel comes across clearly, as does the basic goodness of others despite everything. Weiss' critique of the camp personnel, often spiced by bitter humor and sarcasm, is harsh. But what can God, in the body of a human being, do about the situation? The story unfolds towards an unexpected conclusion that raises stimulating moral and theological questions.

Otto Weiss was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in October 1944; his wife and Helga followed three days later. When they were deported, they left the novella, a book of poetry written by Otto and Helga's drawings with a relative. Helga and her mother never saw Otto again, but they survived and managed to retrieve the precious items. Yad Vashem is now publishing this remarkable and gripping novella in English and in Hebrew, with a touching foreword by Helga Weissova Hoškova and an introduction and annotation by survivor Ruth Bondy, accompanied by Helga's original drawings.

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

## New on the Shelf...

**Nachum Bogner, *At the Mercy of Strangers: The Rescue of Hidden Jewish Children in Poland***

2009, \$51.00 (airmail included)

■ Hidden under false identities in cities, on farms and in convents and monasteries, young Jewish children survived the war by the grace of kindhearted strangers. Child Holocaust survivor and historian Nachum Bogner describes how the emotional closeness so essential for survival made it hard for the children to leave their host families after the war.

**Emunah Nachmany-Gafny, *Dividing Hearts: The Removal of Jewish Children from Gentile Families in Poland in the Immediate Post-Holocaust Years***

2009, \$51.00 (airmail included)

■ Personal stories of Polish rescuers and Jewish children often include “tragedies with no winners.” Research into this topic raises many questions: Why were so many organizations set up to find the children? How did they operate? How did the Polish courts deal with the issue? What was the stance of the Church vis-à-vis returning the children to their families or to Jewish organizations? And how did the children react to the transition? All these and more are dealt with in Emunah Nachmany-Gafny's new comprehensive research into the postwar search for hidden Jewish children in Poland.

## Council Meeting Honors Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, z"l

■ On 3 February, members of the Yad Vashem Council gathered for the first time under their new chairman, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau. Also in attendance were members of the Lapid family, who heard Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev and Rabbi Lau speak about the previous Chairman of the Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, z"l. A moving film about Lapid's work in Yad Vashem was screened, followed by a short dedication from his widow, Shulamit Lapid.



After the tribute, Shalev summed up Yad Vashem's activities in 2008, and its proposed work plan for 2009. Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar then presented the exhibition "My Homeland: Holocaust Survivors in Israel," currently on display at Yad Vashem.

## Yad Vashem Event at Israel Film Festival, Paris



Photo: Erez Lichtfeld

■ A festive premiere of original Yad Vashem Museum films as well as *Adam Resurrected* (Paul Schrader, 2008, Germany, USA, Israel) took place at the Cinema Le Balzac in Paris on 22 March, in cooperation with the Isratim - Israeli Film Festival. The event was moderated by the journalist H el ene Schoumann.

Left to right: Director and Producer of the Museum films Noemi Schory, President of the French Committee for Yad Vashem Paul Schaffer, Paul and Jacky Schaffer's grandson, Jacky Schaffer, Director of the French Committee for Yad Vashem Claudine Calo, Director of Yad Vashem's Visual Center Liat Benhabib, Director of the Italian, French and Benelux Desk, International Relations Division, Miry Gross

## "One cannot be Catholic if one denies the Shoah" International Academic Workshop on Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust

■ On 8-9 March, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research and the Studium Theologicum Salesianum, Saints Peter and Paul held a joint international scholarly workshop, looking at the current state of research on Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust.

In light of several important books and articles on the topic that have been published in the past few years, this meeting of scholars presented an opportunity to exchange updated knowledge, share scholarly opinions and re-evaluate any new information.

At the opening session, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said, "Serious academic research, whose goal is to uncover the truth, must rest on documentation. I was pleased to learn that the Pope has directed that the cataloging of the Vatican archives related to the Holocaust be accelerated so that they can be opened up to researchers as soon as possible."

In his remarks, Vatican Nuncio Msgr. Antonio Franco referred to the case of the Holocaust-denying Bishop Richard Williamson: "It is clear that one cannot be Catholic if one denies the *Shoah*." He added that the workshop was an important step in building cooperation in the search for the truth. At the end of his speech, the Nuncio also referred to the upcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Yad Vashem in May.



## "The Holocaust in the Press, Newsreels and Radio Broadcasts": International Research Workshop, Summer 2009

■ From 13-20 July 2009, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research will host a group of senior researchers from all over the world at its international summer research workshop, "The Holocaust and Its Immediate Aftermath (1933-1947): The Press, Newsreels and Radio Broadcasts in Real Time." Scholars from Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Russia, Ukraine and USA will gather at Yad Vashem to promote new research on the extent of information given by the media in real time on the Jews under Nazi rule, their extermination in Nazi-Occupied Europe, the treatment of Jewish refugees, and the responses of bystanders. The workshop is generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

For more information, please contact: [research.institute@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:research.institute@yadvashem.org.il)

## "Spots of Light" Opens in Vienna

■ On 31 March, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust" opened at the Nestroyhof-Hamakom Theater in Vienna. The theater was built in 1898 by the famous Jewish architect Oskar Marmorek. The Austrian Jewish Theater used the building until 1940, and last year it was reopened under the name "Hamakom" (The Place).

Participating in the opening ceremony were Austrian MP Sonja Kato, Director General of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism Hannah Lessing, Director General of the Ministry for

Culture and Information in Vienna Dr. Andreas Mailath-Pokorny and Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division and Curator of the exhibition Yehudit Inbar.

The exhibition in Vienna was opened under the auspices of the President of Austria Dr. Heinz Fischer, and generously supported by the Austrian Future Fund, the National Fund, government ministries, Vienna's Culture Authority and private companies. The exhibition will be displayed until the end of May 2009, with related educational activities planned for schools in the Vienna municipality.

## RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

■ During her visit to Yad Vashem on 3 March, **US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** was accompanied by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau. The Secretary toured the new display, *Bruno Schulz: Wall Painting under Coercion* (see p. 4) in the Museum of Holocaust Art, guided by Director



of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar. She also participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.

In the guest book, Secretary Clinton wrote: “Yad Vashem is a testament to the power of

truth in the face of denial, the resilience of the human spirit in the face of despair, the triumph of the Jewish people over murder and destruction and a reminder to all people that the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten. God bless Israel and its future.”

■ **Foreign Minister of Canada Lawrence Cannon** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 1 March, guided by Director of the English Desk, International Relations Division, David Metzler (right).



■ **Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre** (right) was greeted by Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan (left) when he visited on 1 March. Accompanied by incoming Chairman of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), **Ambassador Tom Erik Vraalsen**,



the Minister came to Yad Vashem for a working meeting with staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

### New on [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) by Dana Porath

#### “A Time to Heal” (Ecclesiastes 3:3) The Story of the Children’s Home in Otwock, Poland

■ Some one and a half million of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust were children. The number of children who survived is estimated in the mere thousands. At the war’s end, special children’s homes were set up to meet the tremendous physical and emotional needs of these children. One of these homes was in Otwock, Poland.



A new online exhibition, “A Time to Heal,” focuses on the children’s experiences from the time of their arrival at the home in Otwock through the difficult and often painful process of healing and rehabilitation. The film and photographs, stories and testimonies that comprise the exhibition tell the story of how,

with the love and guidance of the devoted staff of the home, the children of Otwock learned to laugh, play, create, trust and – ultimately – hope again. “A Time to Heal” is part of the Yad Vashem subsite created annually in advance of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The subsite contains links to related exhibitions, teaching materials, Torchlighter stories, video clips and Remembrance Day events.

#### The Auschwitz Album: Now in Multimedia Format

■ *The Auschwitz Album*, the only surviving visual evidence of the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau, is now available online in multimedia format (slideshow and narration) in four languages: English, Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish.

The multimedia presentations are part of the Auschwitz Album online exhibition that includes explanatory texts, photos from the Album and aerial photos taken of Auschwitz in 1944.

*The author is Yad Vashem’s Website Content Manager.*

### Pope to Visit Yad Vashem in May

■ On 11 May 2009, Pope Benedict XVI will pay a historic visit to Yad Vashem. Following in the footsteps of the previous Pope John Paul II, who visited Yad Vashem in March 2000, the Pope will attend a memorial service in the Hall of Remembrance, rekindle the eternal flame, lay a wreath commemorating the six million Holocaust victims, and address a public of dignitaries, Holocaust survivors and clergy. The Pope will also be presented with a replica of an artwork from the Yad Vashem art collection created by an artist who died in the Shoah.

The Pope will be accompanied on his visit to Israel by a delegation of 40 Vatican representatives and over 70 journalists. He will be greeted at Yad Vashem by President Shimon Peres, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev.

On the day of the Pope’s visit, Yad Vashem will be closed to the public.



**6 January** ■ **Ceremony honoring Magdalena Grodzka Guzkowska of Poland as Righteous Among the Nations** for saving Jewish children during the Holocaust. A member of the Polish underground, Guzkowska helped smuggle Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto and find them refuge with Polish families and in convents.



Pictured: William Donat (left) who was saved by Magdalena Grodzka Guzkowska (right) when he was five years old.

**2 March** ■ **Memorial ceremony for the Struma victims**, 769 “illegal immigrants” who drowned 67 years ago when their ship was sunk. The ceremony was held in cooperation with the Struma Museum—the Struma Martyrs’ Synagogue, in the presence of MK Colette Avital, Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Edward Iosiper, and Beersheva mayor Ruvik Danilowitz.

**16 March** ■ Dozens of Holocaust survivors, former residents of the **Children’s Home in Selvino**, Italy and their families gathered for an emotional meeting at Yad Vashem. They toured the exhibition “The Selvino Children -

From Holocaust to Resurrection” on display at the International School for Holocaust Studies, and then gathered for a ceremony at which they were addressed by Italian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Luigi Mattiolo, the Selvino Children’s Home Committee Chairman Alex Sarel, MK Arie Lova Eliav and Director of the International School Dorit Novak. The composer Ya’acov Hollander, a Selvino child, read a ballad he wrote in honor of the event.



Pictured: actor Shmuel Shiloh (second from right) and fellow Selvino children

**25 March** ■ **Annual memorial service marking the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Macedonia** with the participation of members of the next generations (Dorot Hemshech), in the presence of Chairman of the Association of Immigrants from Former Yugoslavia Joseph Zhamboki and representative of the Macedonian Embassy in Israel Mr. Pajo Avirovic. Historian Jennie Lebel spoke about Dr. Semilian Tchekada, who saved Jewish children in Macedonia; journalist Raoul Teitelbaum spoke about the Jews of Macedonia among Tito’s partisans; and Yad Vashem’s Na’ama Galil told



the stories behind artifacts, photographs and documents relating to Macedonian Holocaust victims.

### “Kaddish” Symphony to be performed at a special concert in June

■ On 1 June 2009, a special concert will be held in Yad Vashem’s Warsaw Ghetto Square in conjunction with the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, women, children and men’s choirs, a presenter and a singer will perform Symphony No. 3, “Kaddish” (1963) by Leonard Bernstein, according to the text written by Auschwitz survivor Dr. Samuel Pisar.

The concert, sponsored by Mrs. Lily Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, is supported by the Israel Ministry of Education, the Alexander Fund and other donors.

## Yad Vashem Receives Luxembourg Archive



■ On 16 March, Yad Vashem received an archival collection from Luxembourg detailing the Holocaust’s effect on its Jewish population. The microfilms, presented to Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev by Prof. Paul Dostert (right), Director of the Center for Documentation on World War II in Luxembourg, will be accessible to researchers and the public at Yad Vashem’s Archives.

## Supporting Holocaust Education and Remembrance: Rose Landschaft

■ Rose Landschaft was born in Sosnowiec, Poland. During WWII, she was imprisoned in Bergen-Belsen. Rose’s father and one of her brothers perished in the *Shoah*, though the dates and places of their deaths remain unknown. Her mother and other brother survived the Holocaust.

Rose was married to Henry Landschaft z”l from Lodz, also a Holocaust survivor, who became a successful businessman.

The Landschaft family is deeply committed to Holocaust Remembrance. Understanding that education is of exceptional importance in this enterprise, Rose recently became a Benefactor of Yad Vashem as one of the major donors of the new International Seminars Wing currently under construction

at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ Rose Landschaft (left) at the cornerstone laying ceremony of the new International Seminars Wing with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev.

# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ During their visit to Yad Vashem with their children and friends, **Scott Berrie** and **Patricia Willens** participated in a bar mitzvah ceremony in honor of **Sam Feder**, son of **Victoria** and **Ben Feder**.



■ **Sondra** and **Murray Myers** (left) visited the Holocaust History Museum in December, accompanied by Deputy Director and Senior Art Curator of the Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar** (right).



■ **Gary** and **Kim Heiman** visited Yad Vashem together with the Israel Experience Group from Cincinnati on 26 January.



■ **Robert** and **Penny Fox** were given a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum as well as a behind-the-scenes visit to Yad Vashem's Archives.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem in November, **Alice** and **Thomas Tisch** and family participated in a bat mitzvah ceremony in honor of their daughter **Abigail**.

Left to right: **Thomas Tisch**, **Abigail Tisch**, **Alice Tisch**, Managing Director, International Relations Division, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



## CANADA

■ At the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** Annual General Meeting on 23 February, **Fran Sonshine** was elected the Society's new National Chair. She succeeds **Hank Rosenbaum**, who served as National Chair for 14 years. At the meeting, Yad Vashem and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem presented Hank Rosenbaum with a gift of appreciation for his years of dedication and service.



Left to right: Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, newly-elected Canadian Society Directors **Joseph Gottdenker** and **Dr. Naomi Azrieli**, Ambassador of Israel to Canada H.E. Ms. **Miriam Ziv**, **Hank Rosenbaum**, **Fran Sonshine**

## UK

■ Yad Vashem Builders **Kurt** and **Marie Danzig** came for a special tour of Yad Vashem in November.



■ **Sir Evelyn de Rothschild** toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum with his family in December.



## AUSTRALIA

■ **Professor Louis Waller**, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, visited Yad Vashem in January.

Left to right: Director of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program **Udi Cohen**, Director of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies **Dorit Novak**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**, Professor Louis Waller, Director of the English Desk, International Relations Division, **David Metzler**



# Friends Worldwide

■ **Roma Shell** (left) visited the Yad Vashem campus in November 2008. Accompanied by Director of the English Desk **David Metzler** (right), she paused on the Jerusalem Vista (a panoramic view of Jerusalem) endowed through the generosity of her parents-in-law, **Ruth** and **Morris Shell**.



## GERMANY

■ **Renata Jacobs** (center), widow of the late **Klaus J. Jacobs** and Board Member of the Jacobs Holding AG, visited Yad Vashem with her family in December.



## AUSTRIA

■ During the Annual General Assembly of the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** in Linz in March, Chairman **Günther Schuster** (center) and his wife **Ulrike Schuster** (left) received a gift from **Arik Rav-On** (right), Director of the Switzerland and German-Speaking Countries Desk, honoring the Austrian Friends' long-time commitment to Yad Vashem.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

■ The Liechtenstein Government and the **Liechtenstein Society for Yad Vashem** commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day in the presence of government officials and members of the Princely Family.

Left to right: Director of the Switzerland and German-speaking Countries Desk **Arik Rav-On**, Member of the Board of the Liechtenstein Society for Yad Vashem His Highness **Prince Wolfgang of Liechtenstein**, Liechtenstein Foreign and Culture Minister **Rita Kieber-Beck**, author **Michael Donhauser**, pianist **Elena Büchel**, Member of the Board of the Liechtenstein Society for Yad Vashem **Evelyne Bermann**



Photo: Michael Zanglielini

## FRANCE

■ Generously endowed by the **Krammer** and **Romano** families, the Yad Vashem Shuttle transport enables more than one million visitors, educators, students and soldiers who come to Yad Vashem every year to travel around the extensive campus.



## BELGIUM

■ On 9 February, a ceremony was held at Yad Vashem honoring the generous contribution of **Josef Chaim** and **Renée Kaufman**, which enabled movies related to Jewish life during the *Shoah* featured in the Holocaust History Museum to be produced, translated into different languages and uploaded to the audio guide.

**Josef Chaim Kaufman** was born in Siret (Romania). In October 1941 the Kaufman family was deported together with the 1,300 Jews of the city, to Tzibulivka. Only 160 Jews from the city survived. The Kaufman family was among them and rebuilt their lives in Antwerp, Belgium. All of their children now reside in Israel.



## VENEZUELA

■ **Rebeca** and **Natan Lustgarten** attended the unveiling of a plaque in their honor together with their children **Saul** and **Monica**.



## COLOMBIA

■ **Daniel Eilemberg** (right), **Nicolás Iburguen** (center) and **Isaac Lee** (left) were accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan**, during their visit to Yad Vashem.



## MEXICO

■ The **Uziel, Alter, Chapiro** and **Harari** families visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzva of **Isaac Alter Uziel**.



■ The Mizgueret Group visited Yad Vashem, accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan**.



■ **Vicky** and **Alejandro Saade** visited Yad Vashem.



## CHILE

■ Accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan**, **Gabriel Zaliasnik** visited Yad Vashem together with his family.



## Christian Desk

■ In February, Director of the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem** **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** visited the United States, attending the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention as well as various Yad Vashem events. During her stay, she met with Holocaust survivor **Rabbi Isaac Neuman** and his wife **Eva**, as well as **Dr. Carrie** and **Mark Burns**, organizers of the Yad Vashem gathering held in Champaign, Illinois. Pictured, left to right: **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, **Eva Neuman**, **Rabbi Isaac Neuman**, **Dr. Carrie Burns**



■ The **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem** brought three Christian educators, including (left to right) **Dr. Carrie Burns**, **Susie Sandager** and **Ron Cantrell**, to the Winter Seminar of the International School for Holocaust Studies in January. The educators plan to use the experience to contribute towards various Yad Vashem activities across the USA.



■ Director of the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem**, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (right), visited Northern Ireland and Ireland in January 2009. She was a guest of the Northern Ireland's National Assembly together with International Christian Embassy Jerusalem National Director **Brian Silvester** (left).



## Yad Vashem Needs Your Support!

In these difficult times of financial uncertainty and a worrying rise in antisemitism around the world, Yad Vashem is redoubling its efforts to commemorate the Holocaust, disseminate its universal implications and strengthen Jewish continuity. Yad Vashem is deeply grateful for your generosity in supporting its vital work, and welcomes both new friends and established supporters as partners in our shared mission.

- To make tax deductible donations:
  - USA: American Society for Yad Vashem  
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor  
New York, NY 10110  
Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 1-212-220-4304
  - CANADA: Canadian Society for Yad Vashem  
970 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 211  
Toronto, ONT M6A 3B6  
Tel: 1-416-785-1333
  - UK: British Friends of Yad Vashem  
6 Bloomsbury Square  
London, WC1A 2LP  
Tel: 020-7543-5402

■ For information on societies in other countries, or to donate online, please visit: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) and click on "Support Us."

Donations may also be sent to: International Relations Division, Yad Vashem, PO Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel.

# Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2009

## Program of Events at Yad Vashem

### Eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day: Monday 20 April

- 20:00** **Opening ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day**, in the presence of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset and President of the Supreme Court—**Warsaw Ghetto Square. Admission by personal invitation only**
- 22:00** **Symposium on "Through the Tears—Childhood and Youth During the Shoah"** moderated by Ehud Graf, with the participation of author Alona Frankel, actress Lia Koenig, psychiatrist Dr. Henry Shore, actor Shmuel Shiloh and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev—**Auditorium**

### Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day: Tuesday 21 April

- 8:30 – 15:00** **Activities for student groups:** meetings with survivors, multimedia workshops, special tours, and creative activities—**International School for Holocaust Studies**  
For details, tel: 02-6443632/3
- 10:00** Siren
- 10:02** **Wreath-laying ceremony** with the participation of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Chief of General Staff, Chief of Police, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, public figures, representatives of survivor organizations, school children and delegations from throughout the country—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
- 10:30 – 12:30** **"Unto Every Person There is a Name"** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names by members of the public—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 11:00** **"Unto Every Person There is a Name"** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names in the presence of the Speaker of the Knesset and public figures—**Knesset**
- 13:00** **Main memorial ceremony**—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 15:00** **Memorial ceremony commemorating the Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust**—**Synagogue**
- 16:00** **Memorial ceremony for the Association of Veterans of the Jewish Resistance in France**—**Auditorium**
- 17:30** **Ceremony for youth movements** in conjunction with the Youth Movement Council and the Ministry of Education's Youth and Social Administration—**Valley of the Communities**
- During the day, there will be an increased number of manned booths across the Mount of Remembrance, providing assistance to visitors in filling out Pages of Testimony.**
- ■ ■
- 18:30** **Special evening of the "Generation to Generation—Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy" organization** with the participation of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev—**Tel Aviv "Tzavta" (Tzavta Chazan Hall 3), 30 Rehov Ibn Gvirol, Tel Aviv**  
For registration and details: dorot\_hemshech@walla.com or tel: 02-6443822
- 20:30** **Special Screening of Killing Kasztner** in cooperation with Yad Vashem's Visual Center, with the participation of the daughter of Dr. Israel Kasztner, Zsuzsi Kasztner, his granddaughters Michal, Keren and Merav Michaeli, film director Gaylen Ross and Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett. Moderator: Director of the Visual Center Liat Benhabib—**Rebecca Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem Theater.** For tickets: 02-5605755



**Yad Vashem**

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'  
Remembrance Authority

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