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Pope Benedict XVI's Historic Visit to Yad Vashem

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Kaddish

The Israel Philharmonic Performs
Bernstein's Symphony No. 3
with Samuel Pisar

(pp. 12-13)



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Pope Bene

by **Leah Goldstein**

■ On 11 May 2009 Pope Benedict XVI made an historic visit to Yad Vashem, on his first day in Israel.

Similar to the visit of his predecessor Pope John Paul II in March 2000, Pope Benedict XVI's visit took place in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, where he participated in a memorial ceremony, delivered an address and greeted six Holocaust survivors and a Righteous Among the Nations.

The Pope was greeted upon his arrival at Yad Vashem by Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev, who escorted him to meet Israel's President Shimon Peres, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau. Before the ceremony, the Pontiff was greeted by Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, Welfare and Social Affairs Minister Isaac Herzog, Tourism Minister Stas Misezhnikov, Public Affairs and Diaspora Minister Yuli Edelstein, Minister Yossi Peled, Deputy Pensioner Affairs Minister Dr. Lea Nass, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, and Yad Vashem Benefactors Yossie

May the names of these
victims never perish!
May their suffering never
be denied, belittled or
forgotten!

Pope Benedict XVI,
Yad Vashem, 11 May 2009

and Dana Hollander and Marcos Katz. Also attending the ceremony were Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone and members of the visiting delegation from the Vatican, Holocaust survivors, and Yad Vashem Friends from around the world.

In his remarks at the Hall of Remembrance, broadcast to a worldwide television audience, the Pope spoke of the importance of remembering the victims of the Holocaust and the identities embodied by their names, and denounced Holocaust denial as illegitimate. The Pope also expressed sympathy and reverence for the victims: "The Catholic Church... feels deep

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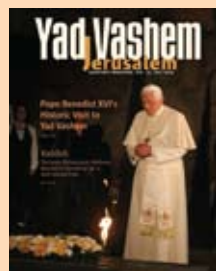
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■ On the cover: Pope Benedict XVI lays a wreath during a memorial ceremony in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance.

Pope Benedict XVI's Historic Visit to Yad Vashem



■ Top: Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (right) greets Pope Benedict XVI on his arrival at Yad Vashem, accompanied by the Apostolic Nuncio, Monsignor Antonio Franco (left). Above left, left to right: President Shimon Peres, Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau greet the Pope. Above right, at the memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, front row, left to right: Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Reuven Rivlin, Pope Benedict XVI, President Shimon Peres, Avner Shalev

compassion for the victims remembered here... I am deeply grateful to God and to you for the opportunity to stand here in silence: a silence to remember, a silence to pray, a silence to hope."

Following his address, Rabbi Lau presented the Pope with a gift, a facsimile of a painting by Jewish artist Felix Nussbaum, who was murdered in the Holocaust (see p. 5). The Pope then greeted six Holocaust survivors: Avraham

Ashkenazi, Ruth Bondy, Israella Hargil, Gita Kalderon, Dan Landsberg and Ed Mosberg, and Ivan Vranetic, a Righteous Among the Nations who lives in Israel (see p. 4). At the conclusion of the visit, the Pope inscribed the Yad Vashem guest book with the entry: "His mercies are not spent" (Book of Lamentations 3:22).

While references to antisemitism and the identity of the Nazi murderers and their accomplices were missing from his address at

Yad Vashem, Pope Benedict XVI's visit was a positive and significant event that will surely increase Holocaust awareness around the world. His remarks during his visit to Israel regarding the Holocaust strengthen his global message: to honor and respect the victims and survivors of the *Shoah*, and to commit to the basic human values that underpin the coexistence of humanity.

During his visit to Yad Vashem, Pope Benedict XVI greeted six Holocaust survivors and a Righteous Among the Nations



■ Pope Benedict XVI greets (left to right) Holocaust survivors Ed Mosberg, Israela Hargil, Avraham Ashkenazi, Gita Kalderon, Dan Landsberg and Ruth Bondy, and Righteous Among the Nations Ivan Vranetic.

Avraham Ashkenazi

■ Avraham Ashkenazi was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1939. After the German invasion of Greece, the family was forced to flee to Athens using false identity papers obtained from Greek Christian friends. Under constant threat of denouncement, they eventually escaped Greece in a fishing boat. From Turkey they crossed to Syria, where they met members of the Haganah. In 1944, the family reached Israel by train via Lebanon. Today Avraham is the administrator of a marketing services company.

Ruth Bondy

■ Journalist, author and translator Ruth Bondy was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1923. Following the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia in 1939, Ruth was interned in the Terezin ghetto, and in 1943 she was transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she looked after young children who were later sent to their deaths. At liberation in the spring of 1945 at Bergen-Belsen, Ruth weighed just 35 kilograms (77 pounds). She returned to Prague and came to Israel with the establishment of the State.

Israela Hargil

■ Artist Israela Hargil (Harnik) was born in Brody, Poland, in 1938. Her mother was murdered following the German invasion of the town in 1941. In January 1943, the 6,000 Jews of Brody were concentrated in a ghetto. Israela was hidden at the home of family friends, the Miklaszewskis, later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Her father also went into hiding and then joined the Red Army. The two were reunited some four years later, and came to Israel together.

Gita Kalderon

■ Gita Kalderon (née Shami) was born in Monastir, Yugoslavia, in 1926. After the annexation of Macedonia to Bulgaria, Gita fled with eight of her friends to the Italian-occupied area of Greece, where they joined the resistance movement. However, Gita was caught and sent to Auschwitz in 1944, and then to Bergen-Belsen and Mauthausen, where she almost died. In December 1948 Gita, her husband Shimon (Simo) Kalderon and their daughter emigrated to Israel. Today Gita volunteers at the Schneider Children's Hospital in Petach Tikva.

Dan Landsberg

■ Dan Landsberg was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1939, and lived with his parents in nearby Otwock. In 1942, just before the Otwock ghetto's liquidation, Dan was transferred to the orphanage at the Saint Elizabeth convent in Otwock, where he was hidden under a false identity. He was then sent to live with a local family in a village in the Lublin district, and after the war was reunited with his mother. Dan came to Israel with his wife in 1965. Prior to his retirement, he ran the projects laboratory at the Technion's Electrical Engineering faculty.

Ed Mosberg

■ Ed Mosberg was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1926. He and his family were interned in the Krakow ghetto in 1941. In 1943, Ed was sent to the Plaszow concentration camp and then to Mauthausen, where he was almost beaten to death by one of the guards. In 1951, Ed and his wife Cecile arrived in the US, where he became a successful businessman and esteemed philanthropist. Members of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Ed and Cecile Mosberg are recipients of the Yad Vashem Prize for Holocaust Commemoration.

Ivan Vranetic

■ Ivan (Ivica) Vranetic was born in Vrbas, Yugoslavia, in 1927. In September 1943, after the German occupation of Italy, Yugoslav partisans released Jews interned on the Island of Rab, and helped them reach Topusko in southern Yugoslavia. Seventeen-year-old Ivan aided the Jews from the moment they arrived. He befriended them, found them places to live and warned them of upcoming dangers. After the war, he kept in contact with many of the Jews he saved, among them Arna Montilio, who emigrated to Israel. Some 20 years later, Ivan came to Israel and married Arna.

In 1970 Yad Vashem honored Ivan Vranetic as Righteous Among the Nations. He was awarded honorary citizenship of the State of Israel, and in 1986 was elected Chairman of the Organization of Righteous Among the Nations in Israel.

Camp Synagogue

Replica of Felix Nussbaum's Artwork Presented to the Pope

by Yehudit Shendar and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

■ The origins of this work of art are found in an outline quickly sketched by Felix Nussbaum immediately after escaping to Brussels from the French internment camp in Gurs. Here, for the first time, his Jewish identity took central stage, after many years of addressing universal subjects. Marked as a Jew and denied his freedom, Nussbaum fully comprehended his Jewish affiliation. A universalist at heart who believed in the power of art, he was compelled to express his Judaism through this medium.

The scene: a cohesive group of four men wrapped in their prayer shawls, standing in front of a camp barrack that served as a makeshift synagogue, while a single figure remains apart. This is likely the artist himself, hesitating whether to join the service. Does he too put his trust in the God of Israel, in the shadow of Whose mercy and salvation Jews can find comfort? The harsh whiteness of the prayer shawls is the only highly illuminated surface in the dominant gloom. Only under the *tallitot* does light prevail; yet the enveloping and protective shawl amplifies the fragility of one who is searching for God even in a place where he is denied a house of prayer.

The enveloping and protective shawl amplifies the fragility of one who is searching for God even in a place where he is denied a house of prayer

The gray light of the threatening morning sky, the sun blotted out by a dark cloud, confers on the painting an apocalyptic aura. Above the rickety hut, scavenger birds circle above their prey, indicating Nussbaum's full understanding of the impending threat. Similarly, the items scattered on the sand allude to the struggle for survival: barbed wire, leaving no doubt that the synagogue is within the confines of a concentration camp; a bone and an empty tin can, symbolizing hunger; and an abandoned shoe, all that is left of those who once lived.

Felix Nussbaum was born in Osnabrück, Germany in 1904, and studied art in Hamburg

and at the Berlin Academy of Art. Following the Nazis' rise to power, Nussbaum refused to return to his homeland, condemning himself to life as a refugee. He sought asylum in Belgium with his wife, the artist Felka Platek, and went underground after escaping from Gurs. Though forced to live in hiding, Nussbaum painted many works expressing his fate as a Jew, as well as that of his persecuted brethren.

In June 1944, an informant revealed Nussbaum's hiding place, and he and his wife were deported that July on the last transport from Belgium to Auschwitz, where they were murdered: the apocalyptic vision in the painting revealing itself as reality. The paintings he left behind testify to the Jewish artist's attempt to cope with the catastrophe created by the Nazis. As long as his hand still grasped a brush, Nussbaum managed to create a document of breathtaking power for future generations, confronting the persecution and existential questions faced by many of his fellow Jews in those dark days of the Holocaust.

Yehudit Shendar is Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division, and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg is an art curator in the Museums Division.



■ Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau presents a facsimile of Felix Nussbaum's artwork Camp Synagogue to Pope Benedict XVI.



Visit of Pope Benedict XI on www.yadvashem.org

Video and full text of Pope Benedict's speech
Video explanation of painting presented to the Pope
Text and scanned copy of letter read during ceremony
Photo gallery
Mini-site of visit of Pope John Paul II in March 2000

Exceptional Endeavors

Yad Vashem Educational Prizes 2008/9

by Rinat Ribak-Wagon

■ *“At the Jewish cemetery in Saloniki, I walk past the headstones, and every headstone tells a story – about a rabbi, a historian, a seamstress, a charitable woman, a young man killed in an accident with a picture of a truck on his headstone... As the saying goes, ‘Show me your headstone and I’ll tell you who you were.’”*

This description is from the travel journal of an Israeli naval cadet who sailed to Saloniki together with 65 of his classmates from the 23rd Seamen’s Naval Officers Academy in Acre. The journey, which included nine days of sailing in the picturesque port city, marked the climax of a unique project combining naval training with Holocaust studies for the Academy’s 11th graders. The exceptional program, its implementation and implications earned the Academy a prize at the 2009 Yad Vashem Award Ceremony for Educational Enterprises.

For the first time, this year’s awards were given to educational programs created by students at institutions for higher learning. Third-year students at the Michlalah-Jerusalem College for Women received a prize for developing and maintaining a learning center for middle-school students in schools around Jerusalem. The Alon Shvut State Religious School also collected an award for a curriculum based on the topic of Children in the Holocaust. The remarkable project, spread over an entire school year, was delivered by a group of students to their peers in the school. Together with their teachers, the girls put on a play that seamlessly fused elements



■ *Officers from the 23rd Seamen’s Naval Academy in Acre among the audience at the Yad Vashem Educational Enterprises Awards Ceremony*



■ *Anita Tarsi, recipient of the prize for lifetime achievements in the field of Holocaust education*

from the stories of Holocaust survivors Uri Orlev, Martha Goren and Hannah Gofrit.

This year, the category of Educator of the Year received a facelift and was redefined as a prize for lifetime achievements in the field of Holocaust education. The prize went to Anita Tarsi, who recently retired as the long-time director of Beit Terezin, in recognition of her efforts in turning the center into one of the most important institutions for Holocaust commemoration in Israel.

Hiding Edith received this year’s prize in the category of youth and children’s literature. Author Cathy Kaiser translated the true, poignant story of Edith Schwalb, hidden in France during the Holocaust, into a compelling and age-appropriate prose for younger readers.

In the category of End-of-Year Projects, the prize was awarded to students in the Film Department at the Yahud Comprehensive High School. The remarkable film, based on Ida Fink’s short story *A Game with a Key*, used Yiddish as the language of its characters, which lent it credibility and integrity.

The prize for an educational curriculum dealing with the history of French Jews in the Holocaust was awarded this year to the Ben-Gurion School in Rishon Letzion. As part of a three-year program of Holocaust studies, the middle-school pupils dealt with the unique features of the Holocaust in France through the stories of three Holocaust survivors whose childhoods were spent there.

Among the Prize Donors: Three Outstanding Educational Curricula & Lifetime Achievement in Holocaust Education – The Najmann Family Trust; Children’s Holocaust Literature – Sandra Brand, in memory of her only son Bruno Brand, who perished in the Holocaust; Outstanding Matriculation Papers on the Holocaust – The Luba and Mark Uveeler Foundation; Outstanding Educational Curricula on French Jewry during the Holocaust – Le Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah and the Aloumim Association.

The author works in the Teacher Training Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Global Seminars at the International School

by Galit Avitan

■ Some 40 educators representing UNESCO-affiliated schools in 23 countries attended a special seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies in June, in conjunction with the Israel National Commission for UNESCO. School Director Dorit Novak explained, “In accordance with the 2007 UNESCO resolution to promote Holocaust awareness, we are pleased to be working with new educators from many diverse European nations, such as Bulgaria, Georgia, FYR of Macedonia, Kazakhstan and Luxembourg.”

Approximately 250 teachers and clergy from across Europe participated in seminars at the Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies during April, May and June. Educators from Russia, Germany, Poland, Great Britain, Serbia and Lithuania heard lectures and participated in workshops such as “Holocaust and the Arts” and “Modern Antisemitism in a Multicultural Setting.” During these months, seminars were also held for Russian-speaking educators – one of them for Yad Vashem seminar graduates – as well as for Lithuanian, Polish and

German teachers. In May, a seminar for teachers from Great Britain took place in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum. In June, the School held a second seminar for educators for 22 British members of the clergy who teach about the Holocaust. As every year, School staff also participated in seminars abroad: in Croatia; as part of a European Council seminar in Poland; and in Spain for a seminar on the topic of “Genocide in the Twentieth Century.”

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

German Police Officers Study the Holocaust

by Dr. Noa Mckayton

■ “We arrived in Riga at 21.50. The train was kept at the station for one-and-a-half hours without heat... The temperature outside was -12°C... I myself found a place to sleep in the guesthouse.”

These words close a detailed report about the deportation of 1,007 German Jews from the Düsseldorf area to Riga in December 1941. Police officer Paul Salitter, who was in charge of escorting this transport, wrote the report after handing over the Jews to the guards of the Riga ghetto.

Salitter's police station in Düsseldorf still exists, and the officers working there today are well aware of their colleague who served 75 years ago. In April, Captain Klaus Dönecke, who devotes a large portion of his job as a police officer to studying the archival documents still stored in the cellar of the police headquarters, accompanied a group of police officers for the second time to a seminar run by the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Before a wreath-laying ceremony, which took place in the presence of the Ambassador of Germany to Israel H.E. Dr. Harald Kindermann,



■ German police officers in Warsaw Ghetto Square during an educational seminar at Yad Vashem, accompanied by (bottom row, from right): Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner, International School Director Dorit Novak, Ambassador Kindermann, Captain Dönecke and Prime Minister Rüttgers

the group met with Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, Prime Minister of Northrhine-Westfalia, who encourages and supports groups from his state attending Yad Vashem's educational seminars. During the meeting, Dönecke handed over a rare historical document to the director of the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner: the personal file of Officer Salitter. The double page shows a carefully filled-in form, documenting the career of a simple policeman who climbed the Nazi



■ Captain Klaus Dönecke presents Dr. Haim Gertner with the personal file of German police officer Paul Salitter.

hierarchy – seemingly without ever doubting the moral correctness of the institutions and organizations in which he was serving.

The deep commitment of Prime Minister Rüttgers' policy towards Israel and the Jewish people is expressed in his own personal annual visits to Yad Vashem. When he met the group from Düsseldorf, he greeted his policemen with the words: “Good morning here in Yad Vashem. I have to admit – I am proud of you.”

The author is Head of the German Desk in the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

New Opportunities for Australian Educators

by Richelle Budd Caplan, Orit Margaliot and David Metzler

■ On 16 April, Yad Vashem held a one-day seminar tailored for principals of Catholic schools in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. This inter-disciplinary program included a comprehensive tour of Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, as well as workshops on Holocaust literature and teaching methodologies. During the concluding session, participants noted, “An excellent selection of speakers and a great amount presented to think about... the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem has been most welcoming and generous to us.” “We need to spend more time here... Thank you!”

The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, established in honor of the Gandel family from Melbourne, is a long-term professional program aimed at training a cadre of Australian teachers to become experts in Holocaust instruction. Due to the untiring efforts of Prof. Suzanne Rutland on behalf of the New South Wales Joint Committee for Jewish Higher Education, Phil Symons on behalf of B'nai B'rith Australia's Raoul Wallenberg Unit, and Avril Alba

on behalf of the Sydney Jewish Museum, teachers from across Australia have had the opportunity to study at Yad Vashem since the 1980s. This opportunity is now being expanded and enhanced through the new Gandel Program.

“By working in close partnership with Australian non-government organizations and universities, the Gandel Program aims to form an active organized network of Australian educators committed to teaching about the Holocaust and its universal implications, using multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural and age-appropriate approaches,” explains Orit Margaliot, the newly appointed director of the Gandel Program. “The components of the program will include follow-up seminars in Australia and videoconferences to foster professional exchange and provide educators with practical teaching tools.”

Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak is enthusiastic about the program: “More than 250 educators from Australia have studied at Yad Vashem over the past two decades, and we look forward to building a sustainable program that will fit

into the guidelines of the Australian national teaching curriculum about the Shoah.”

The next seminar geared to Australian educators will take place on 10-22 January 2010 at the International School for Holocaust Studies. For more information on how to apply for this special, subsidized program, please contact: gandel.program@yadvashem.org.il

Richelle Budd Caplan is Head of the International Relations Section and Orit Margaliot is Director of the Gandel Program at the International School for Holocaust Studies. David Metzler is Director of Yad Vashem's English Desk.



■ Left to right: Richelle Budd Caplan, President of Israel Philanthropy Advisors Yael Shalgi, Executive Director of the Gandel Charitable Trust Laurence Joseph, David Metzler, Dorit Novak, Orit Margaliot

Educational Programs for Arab-Israeli Youth

by Lonny Wilk

■ According to a poll commissioned by Yad Vashem in 2008 following the launch of its Arabic website, 58% of Israeli Arabs believe it necessary to learn about the Holocaust in school. However, due to political and other reasons, it has been historically difficult for many Israeli-Arab students to attend seminars and programs about the *Shoah* at Yad Vashem. Nevertheless, as the Holocaust is intrinsic to Israeli society and a critical topic for humanity worldwide, Yad Vashem views it of the utmost importance to raise Holocaust awareness among Israel's Arab sector.

Thanks to the generous support of the Beracha Foundation (Israel), 81 groups of students from Israel's Arab sector – comprising 1,595 youth – attended tailor-made seminars at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in the 2007-2008 academic year.

During these seminars, the Holocaust is presented primarily through first-person accounts, giving a human face to the danger that racism creates. In addition, participants engage in a special program presenting Muslim-Albanian Righteous Among the Nations.

Educators at the schools that participated in the seminars described the program as an



■ Israeli-Arab and Jewish students tour Auschwitz during a Yad Vashem trip to Poland, March 2009

important bridge for their youth to connect with Israeli society, promote feelings of empathy and foster an increased understanding of the Holocaust.

According to the International School's Director Dorit Novak, Arab-Israeli students come to Yad Vashem "not only to better learn about the historical event of the Holocaust, but also to enhance their perception of its meaning in Israeli consciousness and as a phenomenon of universal significance."

The author is Foundation Relations Coordinator at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

New in the Virtual School

www1.yadvashem.org/education

by Jonathan Clapsaddle

■ The July edition of *Teaching the Legacy*, the e-newsletter for Holocaust educators, focuses on Jews in prewar culture and art. The e-newsletter includes a main article on this theme, as well as articles on prewar culture and antisemitism, and synagogue artwork. As always, the newsletter features new publications, book reviews and updates on recent and upcoming activities at the International School for Holocaust Studies and across Yad Vashem.

Each of the School's **English-language online courses** is now recognized for professional development credit (*gmul hishtalmut*) hours by Israel's Ministry of Education. The courses, intended for teachers and the general public, cover a wide range of Holocaust-related topics, including prewar Jewish life in Europe, the rise of Nazism and persecution of Jews in

Germany, ghettos, the Nazi camp system and the "Final Solution," postwar commemoration and Holocaust denial. These accredited courses, offered on specific dates, run alongside general-audience courses, open throughout the year.

A **new teacher's guide**, "Your Son, Your Only One," focuses on the biblical sacrifice of Isaac as a recurring motif in Holocaust poetry. In keeping with the International School's interdisciplinary approach to Holocaust study, this unit covers works by several preeminent poets: Yehuda Amichai, T. Carmi, Amir Gilboa, Haim Gouri and Uri Zvi Greenberg. The guide includes suggestions for approaching the subject matter, discussion questions and relevant biographical information about the featured poets.

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

The Came

by Dr. Daniel Uziel

■ A series of photographs acquired by the Yad Vashem Archives in its early years were accompanied by very little information, but were described as documenting the renovations of the Great Synagogue on Herzog Max Street in Munich after *Kristallnacht*. During a recent investigation by Yad Vashem experts, it became clear that the photos were actually of one of

Photographs from the Holocaust period serve as important historical visual documentation, and play a central role in Holocaust studies as well as in the commemoration of its victims

the first synagogues to have been destroyed in Germany, months before *Kristallnacht*, and that they document the process of the municipal authorities tearing it down on 9 June 1938, or shortly thereafter. In other words, the scaffolding seen around the building actually served the purpose of dismantling – not repairing – the building.

Photographs from the Holocaust period serve as important historical visual documentation, and play a central role in Holocaust studies as well as in the commemoration of its victims. However, the use of these photos has always been problematic because of missing data, the multiplicity of descriptions, forgeries and erroneous interpretations.

At the beginning of May 2009, Yad Vashem hosted the first-ever international workshop on the subject of photography and photographs from the Holocaust in order to discuss these problems and to promote cooperation between organizations with such photographs in their possession. In addition to Yad Vashem representatives, participants included representatives of the German Federal Archives, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Beth Hatefutsot-The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora,

ra Doesn't Lie

International Workshop on Holocaust Photography



■ *The Great Synagogue on Herzog Max Street, Munich, pre-WWII. Renovation or destruction?*

the Ghetto Fighters' Museum, and various commemoration sites in France, Germany and Austria, as well as a number of historians. Notable among examples displayed during the workshop were a photograph of a concentration camp; the collection of the German Jewish

photographer Herbert Sonnenfeld; a collection of passport photos of Jews from Munich; and a personal photo album belonging to a Bergen-Belsen survivor.

Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division Yehudit Inbar, Senior Photo Curator

Nina Springer-Aharoni and Head of the Archives' Footage Section Efrat Komisar described the process of investigating photographs and incorporating them into the exhibitions in the Holocaust History Museum. Dr. Habbo Knoch from the Bergen-Belsen commemoration site spoke on the culture of visual commemoration, and Prof. Heidmarie Uhl from the Austrian Academy of Arts presented the use of photographs in commemoration projects. One of the most important subjects was the challenge of digitizing photographic archives, cataloging them electronically, and making them accessible to the public through online computerized information systems, a feat achieved by Yad Vashem last year.

The Yad Vashem Archives have now opened an Internet forum accessible to professionals from various disciplines that will further discussions of various issues associated with Holocaust photography and foster contacts among experts. "I want to thank you both for all your efforts and for hosting such an interesting event on Holocaust photography," said Genya Markon of the USHMM. "I am sure we all realize that this is just the beginning and hopefully will lead to a lot of shared information and knowledge in the future."

The author is Director of Yad Vashem's Photo Archive.

Putting Names to Faces by Lital Beer

■ **The publication of large numbers of pictures from the Holocaust helps staff in the Yad Vashem Archives identify the subjects, and decipher and recreate the stories that lie within.**

The day after Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem received an email from Shlomit Muszkat: "...I happened to be reading an article in *Yediot Ahronot* about the children of Otwock, with a reference to Yad Vashem's online exhibition. When I saw the exhibition's opening photograph, I immediately recognized my father, Karol. I was very moved – and still am. I told my family members, including my father, and we talked a little about that period."

The next day, *Yediot Ahronot* published the article "I Am the Girl with the Teddy Bear," in which Yaela Marinberg explained how she had identified her mother, Rosa Worman-Wolf, in pictures published in the newspaper for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Rosa was two years old when her parents were deported to Auschwitz. "The puzzle is still full of holes," said Rosa, "but this photograph filled in one of the pieces of that puzzle."

A year ago, Yad Vashem's photographic collection was uploaded to its Internet site. Some of the people in the photos are identified, but many others – survivors and victims – remain unknown. If you believe you recognize yourself or someone else in any of the photographs, please forward the information to ref@yadvashem.org.il

The author is Head of the Outreach Department in the Archives Division.



■ *Rosa Worman-Wolf: The girl with the teddy bear*

Strengthening Jewish Identity

■ In an official ceremony in mid-June, Yad Vashem launched a comprehensive four-year program aimed at raising awareness and deepening knowledge of the Holocaust among Russian speakers. The new initiative is made possible by a four-year, \$4 million grant from the Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG), a foundation dedicated to strengthening Jewish identity among Russian-speaking Jews around the world.

The grant will promote inter-disciplinary projects in the fields of formal and informal education related to the Holocaust and Jewish identity, research and publications, archival documentation, Internet outreach and Righteous Among the Nations recognition from the areas of the Former Soviet Union.



■ Left to right: Special Advisor to the Yad Vashem Chairman Arie Zuckerman, Public Affairs and Diaspora Minister Yuli Edelstein, Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman, German Khan, Mikhail Fridman, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Pyotr Aven and Stan Polovets at the unveiling ceremony for the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

“The efforts to encourage meaningful education and commemoration of the Holocaust among Russian speakers are crucial, since the Holocaust is an important building block of Jewish and Israeli identity, and a historical event that continues to reverberate among young people today,” said Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem. “Unfortunately due to the historical circumstances, the study of the Holocaust in the areas of the Former Soviet Union has been underdeveloped over the years. The grant from

Genesis will allow us to focus more intensively on this critical aspect of the Holocaust.”

The Genesis Philanthropy Group was established in the summer of 2007 by Mikhail Fridman, German Khan, Pyotr Aven, Alex Knaster and Stan Polovets. GPG (www.gpg.org) is committed to supporting and launching projects, programming and institutions focused on ensuring that Jewish culture, heritage and values are preserved in Russian-speaking Jewish communities worldwide. The foundation has so far made over 30 grants, including gifts to organizations such as Taglit-Birthright Israel, Moscow State University, the IDF Education Corps, Limmud, the Maccabi Youth Movement and the New York Jewish Museum. The grant to Yad Vashem is intended to help increase Holocaust awareness among the global Russian-speaking population, with a particular emphasis on the FSU, North America and Israel.

“The Holocaust is the key issue that touches every Russian-speaking Jew, even those who never personally experienced it,” explains Stan Polovets, CEO of GPG. “The history of this tragedy with all the attached sorrow teaches us about the wider perspective of Judaism, and helps strengthen Jewish identity and the sense of belonging to the Jewish people.”

GPG has already sponsored several projects at Yad Vashem. These include the expansion and development of the International School for Holocaust Studies’ Russian-language online

“The history of this tragedy may teach us about the wider perspective of Judaism, and help in strengthening the sense of belonging to the Jewish people”

Stan Polovets

portal; the publication of *Yad Vashem Studies* in Russian, which contains selected research studies about the Holocaust in the FSU; the publication of the *Yad Vashem Album We are Here* in Russian; and the distribution of educational materials and information in Russian (in hard copy and via the Internet).

Among the programs to be included in the new initiative is a strategic project to work with formal and informal educators in Russian-speaking communities in Israel to broaden Holocaust education in schools and community centers. Each year, Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies will focus on two Israeli cities with large Russian-speaking populations. Through seminars for

tity New Multi-year Program for Russian Speakers



■ Lithuanian educators at a Yad Vashem seminar, June 2009

educators and students, activities in community centers and working with Holocaust survivors and WWII veterans, Holocaust education will be intensified throughout the community.

Another key aspect of the new program is the establishment of a special chair at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, dedicated to advancing research of

the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union. In the near future, Yad Vashem plans to launch the production and presentation of two Russian-language traveling exhibitions related to the Holocaust; a large-scale archival acquisition project within the FSU pertaining to the Holocaust in the area; and a new database and online presentation of 75 stories in Russian regarding the Righteous Among the Nations in the FSU.

On 12 June, the Advisory Board and Professional staff of the Genesis Philanthropy Group came to Yad Vashem for a board meeting and the launch of the new program. Participants attended a special ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance in the presence of Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Liberman; Israel's Minister of Public Affairs and the Diaspora Yuli Edelstein; Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev; Holocaust survivors; and IDF soldiers. After the ceremony, a plaque recognizing the support of the GPG was unveiled.

Names Recovery: A Filmmaker's Take

By Cynthia Wroclawski

■ When it became clear that only one-quarter to one-third of all the Jews murdered during the Shoah in the FSU were commemorated in Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims Names, Boris Maftsir understood the enormity of his challenge. Maftsir, who in 2006 joined Yad Vashem's project to document the names of Jews killed in the Nazi-occupied areas of the former USSR, developed a program to collect names of victims from regions where for decades, commemoration, research and documentation had been forbidden.

"It was only with the disintegration of the USSR in 1990 that the first opportunities for reviving the memory of the Shoah arose," explains Maftsir. For someone whose career

has included the production of close to 40 movies about the Holocaust, it was clear that the cinematic medium was an ideal way of transmitting the importance of Holocaust remembrance. "I drew upon my experience as a filmmaker to create a documentary trilogy about memory," explains Maftsir. "They reflect the tremendous efforts we are making to document the names of the victims, and the importance of remembrance to us as a nation as well as to the countries in which the Holocaust took place."

The three documentaries allow a glimpse into the painful recesses of memory: *Names and Remembrance* (20 min.) accompanies a group of ghetto and concentration camp survivors living in Israel during a visit to

Yad Vashem in December 2007; *Zhitomir – A Jewish Story* (20 min.) tells the story of Genya Sokolovskaya who, at the age of 10, escaped the liquidation of the ghetto in Zhitomir, west of Kiev; and *The Palevich Brothers' Memorial Day* (33 min.), features Friedrich and Boris Palevich talking about their childhood in the Slutsk ghetto in Belarus, its liquidation, and the murder of their family members. The movies are in Russian with subtitles in Hebrew and English.

"The trilogy is available for viewing on the Internet," says Maftsir. "The films provide information about the project, which we hope will further its reach across Russian-speaking communities worldwide."

The author is Manager of the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project.

Kaddish

The Israel Philharmonic Performs Bernstein's Symphony No. 3 with Samuel Pisar

by Yifat Bachrach-Ron



■ In the presence of President of Israel Shimon Peres, Yad Vashem hosted a special concert on 1 June given by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: Leonard Bernstein's "Kaddish - Symphony No. 3" with the libretto "A Dialogue with God," written and narrated by Holocaust survivor Dr. Samuel Pisar. The concert was sponsored by Lily Safra, President of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, and supported by the Ministry of Education with the assistance of the Marc Rich Foundation and the Alexander Charitable Foundation in fond memory of Zvi Alexander.

Maestro John Axelrod, soloist Danna Glaser (soprano), narrator Samuel Pisar, the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir and singers from the New Israeli Vocal Ensemble and the Ankor Choir performed Bernstein's "Kaddish" with Pisar's text for the first time in Israel. This unique event, held in partnership with the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, was attended by hundreds of Holocaust survivors and other distinguished guests.

The monumental symphony "Kaddish" was first heard in Tel Aviv in 1963. In 2001, Holocaust survivor and world-renowned peace advocate Samuel Pisar composed a new text for the symphony, which he called "A Dialogue with God." The world premiere of Bernstein's "Kaddish" symphony, accompanied by Pisar's text, was performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Axelrod, at the 2003 Ravinia (Illinois) Festival of Arts, and has since been performed around the world to international acclaim.

"A Dialogue with God" is influenced by Pisar's own biography as a survivor of Auschwitz (see p. 13). "For me, the performance reaches its climax when I recount a heart-wrenching lullaby about how loving, caring and merciful is our God – the lullaby that my beloved grandmother used to sing to me before her voice was silenced in the ovens of Treblinka," says Pisar. "At that moment, I feel as if I am saying *kaddish* for her, for my family, for my people... For the symphony's luminous finale,

all the other voices and instruments on the stage join me in a mounting crescendo for universal tolerance, reconciliation and peace between the hereditary enemies of history."

"There is nowhere more fitting for this important event than here in Jerusalem," said President Shimon Peres to the audience. "To remember with pain and to hope with belief – this was and will remain our destiny."

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev also addressed the crowd: "The performance of 'Kaddish' with Pisar's accompanying text is an expression of the human need to artistically convey a cry from the heart," he noted. "In the aftermath of the *Shoah*, such cries have been channeled through a wide range of art forms, including prose, theatre, cinema, dance, drawing and sculpture, as well as music and poetry, two forms of aesthetic expression so effectively integrated in 'Kaddish'... the hills of Jerusalem resonate with the sound of a stirring, profound *kaddish* – a *kaddish* which is simultaneously personal, national and universal."

...Thus, O great and unique God of Abraham:
 It is with profound respect
 for the beliefs of all,
 and with malice to none,
 that I bow towards the synagogues,
 churches and mosques of eternal Jerusalem,
 and sing for you from Yad Vashem -
 the hallowed memorial to the innocent
 martyrs
 and righteous heroes of the Shoah -
 my fervent prayer of hope
 drawn from torrents of blood and tears.
 Bond with us again, Lord.
 Guide us toward reconciliation,
 tolerance, brotherhood and peace,
 on our small, divided, fragile planet -
 our common home.
 Amen! Amen! Sela!



■ Holocaust survivor Samuel Pisar (left) reads his text "Dialogue with God," accompanied by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra playing Leonard Bernstein's "Kaddish," conducted by Maestro John Axelrod (right).

A Triumph of Human Spirit: Dr. Samuel Pisar

■ Samuel Pisar was 10 years old when Stalin and Hitler carved up his native Poland and ignited World War II. After six years of Soviet oppression and Nazi internment in Auschwitz and other infernos, he escaped from Dachau and was liberated by the advancing US Army. At the age of 16, he was the only survivor of his family and his school.

Pisar resumed his education in Paris, pursued it in Melbourne, and ultimately earned doctorates from Harvard and the Sorbonne as well as honorary doctorates from other renowned American, European and Australian universities. In the late 1950s he began his professional career at the United Nations in New York and UNESCO in Paris, returning to Washington in 1960 to serve as a member of John F. Kennedy's task force on foreign economic policy, advisor to the State Department and consultant to

committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In 1961 he was made a US citizen by a special Act of Congress, signed by President Kennedy.

In conjunction with his prestigious legal career, Pisar was also the founder-president of Yad Vashem France and administrator of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah. He was one of the first to urge broader economic, cultural and human contacts as "weapons of peace" and, as a defender of freedom and human rights, he took up the causes of oppressed minorities, political dissidents such as Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, Russian scientist Andrei Sakharov and author Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, and succeeded in freeing many "refuseniks" from Soviet jails.

His books, translated into 20 languages, include *Coexistence and Commerce*, acclaimed

as a work that "charted an enlightened course for the future of American and Western policy" (Senator Edward Kennedy) and his autobiography, *Of Blood and Hope*, hailed as "a powerful testimony to faith, courage and man's capacity for redemption" (*Il Tempo*, Rome).

Recipient of numerous international honors and awards, Pisar was nominated and short-listed for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973. On the 50th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe, French President Jacques Chirac cited Pisar's life and work in an historic speech acknowledging France's responsibility for the Vichy regime's crimes against Jews, and US President Bill Clinton publicly recounted Pisar's traumatic adolescence and miraculous liberation on a German battlefield.

New Publications

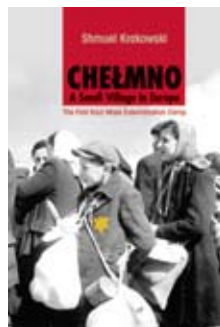
by Gabi Hadar, Daniella Zaidman-Mauer and Dr. David Silberklang

Shmuel Krakowski, *Chełmno: A Small Village in Europe – The First Nazi Mass Extermination Camp*

■ The village of Chełmno lies 70 kilometers northwest of Łódź and 130 kilometers east of Poznań. It was in this placid setting that the Germans established the first site for intensive mass murder by gassing, with the ultimate aim of annihilating the Jewish people. Mass killings, mostly of Łódź Jews, began in Chełmno in December 1941 and continued until the Red Army liberated the camp in January 1945.

Holocaust literature about Chełmno does not give the tragedy that occurred there the treatment it deserves. Only a few works concern themselves with the camp's history. While the Germans went to great lengths to keep the events at Chełmno secret and

conceal all traces of the mass murder that took place there, the camp's Jewish inmates, languishing under the most appalling of conditions, made every effort to alert the world to the camp's existence and document in detail the events that took place there. These efforts were successful – reports about the camp appeared during the war and are available to researchers today. Furthermore, invaluable



supplementary documentation about the camp's history and the killings is contained in the transcripts of the trials of Nazis stationed at the camp. Both the criminals themselves and local residents from the Chełmno vicinity testified at these trials. Based on German and Jewish documentation and trial transcripts, Holocaust survivor and former director of the Yad Vashem Archives Shmuel Krakowski now provides us with a more penetrating look at the horror known as Chełmno.

Chełmno - A Small Village in Europe was published with the support of the Claims Conference, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Adelson Family Foundation.

Gabi Hadar is Director of Yad Vashem Publications.

Leib Reizer, *In the Struggle: Memoirs from Grodno and the Forests* With a foreword by Sir Martin Gilbert

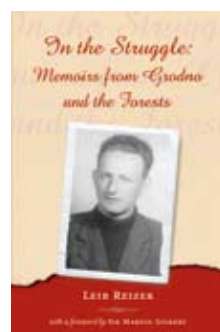
■ Early in the Nazi occupation, Leib Reizer escaped to Minsk, spending three months in the ghetto before embarking on a risky return to Grodno and his family.

In riveting prose he tells of ghetto life, the horror of the liquidation, and his family's escape after he broke into the military hospital storeroom where he worked as a carpenter, taking pistols, rifles and bullets with him for the partisans in the forests.

Reizer's story has a powerful, basic

honesty to it, telling everything in the purest truth, hiding nothing.

Sir Martin Gilbert concludes in his foreword: "No one can read this memoir without tears and anger: tears at the suffering and



torments inflicted on the Jews, and anger at the perpetrators and bystanders who had no human decency."

Daniella Zaidman-Mauer is Managing Editor of *The Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project*.

Yad Vashem Studies, 37:1

■ The latest volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* (37:1) addresses the subjects of children, Betar activists and ultra-Orthodox rabbis, and spans Poland, Israel, Romania, Ukraine and Hungary, tracing the theme of how the Holocaust is remembered and researched. Contributions include: Joanna Michlic on the postwar Jewish Children's Home in Otwock, children's experiences during and after the war, and continuity and change in child survivors' memories; Dariusz Libionka and Laurence Weinbaum on the Betar Zionist youth farms near Hrubieszów in 1941 and this group's

possible impact on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising; Diana Dumitru with a two-tiered comparative analysis of rural and urban attitudes toward Jews in Romanian-controlled Bessarabia and Transnistria; Isaac Hershkowitz on the wartime controversy over the escape of Hasidic



rabbis from Budapest in 1943-44; Yfaat Weiss on the close relationship between Israeli writer Leah Goldberg and her 1930s German doctoral advisor, Prof. Paul Ernst Kahle; and review articles by David Engel and Natalia Aleksiu on recent important books by some of the leading scholars in Poland.

Dr. David Silberklang is Editor of *Yad Vashem Studies*.

Seder at the Parish

by Irena Steinfeldt

■ While walking to the Hall of Remembrance during his visit to Yad Vashem, Pope Benedict XVI passed by the tree planted in honor of the Celis family from Belgium: two brothers – Father Hubert and Father Louis Celis, who were Catholic priests – their father and siblings. During the Holocaust the Celis family hid the four Rotenberg children, whose parents had been deported to Auschwitz in November 1942.

To camouflage their identity, the Rotenbergs had to attend church services, but in the privacy of his home, Father Louis Celis made sure that they preserved their Jewish identity, that Wolfgang put on his *tefillin* (phylacteries) and recited his prayers. After the war Father Hubert Celis wrote, “I never tried to convert the Rotenberg children to the Catholic faith. I always respected their religious belief. Besides, Mrs. Rotenberg had confidence in me and I had given her my word as priest.”



■ Father Hubert Celis (center) at the bar mitzvah of the son of survivor Regina Rotenberg-Wolbrom

Hundreds of clerics of all Christian denominations have been recognized over the years as Righteous Among the Nations, among them many Catholics. Hubert and Louis Celis received the title of Righteous for their role in the rescue of the four Rotenberg siblings, but their conduct is especially admirable because of the deep respect they showed for the children's religion. Like them, Don Gaetano Tantalò of Tagliacozzo Alto, Italy, not only hid seven members of the Orvieto and Pacifici families, but also went out of his way to enable them to perform Jewish rituals. The page on which he did his calculation to determine the date of Passover is exhibited in Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, with the fascinating story of the celebration of a Jewish Seder at the home

of a parish priest during the German occupation of Italy in 1944.

The attitude of the churches towards rescuing Jews during the *Shoah* touches upon intricate and often painful questions, and when examining the particulars of every case, the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous

While Christian anti-Jewish theology and its teaching of contempt contributed to indifference and collaboration, other clerics and Christians saw it as their religious duty to intervene and act

is often faced with enormous challenges that reflect the complexity of the topic: the baptizing of children (was it motivated by the theological mission to convert the Jews and save their souls, or was the purpose to protect them and hide their Jewish identity?); the return of children to the Jewish fold at the end of the war; what made rescue more recurrent in certain dioceses or religious orders than others; and to what extent did clerics act as individuals or make their decisions as a result of instruction and guidance from their superiors?

Christian conduct during the Holocaust continues to challenge the Christian world well into the 21st century. A range of factors played a role in influencing the behavior of church leaders and clerics when confronted with the murder of the Jews. Like other groups, many remained silent and a number of clerics went as far as to collaborate, but there were those who risked their lives to rescue Jews. While Christian anti-Jewish theology and its teaching of contempt contributed to indifference and collaboration, other clerics and Christians saw it as their religious duty to intervene and act.

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

News

Personal items from Auschwitz donated to Yad Vashem

■ In mid-June, 95-year-old Holocaust survivor Meyer Hack donated to Yad Vashem jewelry and other personal items he found while toiling as a slave laborer at Auschwitz. Forced to work in the *Bekleidungskammer* that received the tattered clothing after its initial sorting in the *Kanada* storerooms, Hack sometimes found belongings hidden by the deportees in the linings. At enormous risk to his life, he hid some of them in a hole he dug behind his barrack. In January 1945, he collected the items – including watches, a bracelet and a pendant – in a sock, which he secretly took with him on the death march to Dachau, and then on a second march in May 1945 towards Munich, from which he escaped to the forests until liberation.

Hack's mother, brother and two sisters were murdered at Auschwitz. For sixty years he kept the story of the items close to his heart, but a short while ago he decided to donate them to Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection, as a memorial to their original owners. “At 95, now is the time,” he said.



■ Meyer Hack with the artifacts he saved during the war

New Agreement Allows Exchange of Information About French Holocaust Victims

■ Marcel Kadenski was born in Paris in 1932. He was deported on transport number 76 from Drancy to Auschwitz, where he was murdered. His name can be found in Yad Vashem's Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, but until recently there was no accompanying photograph. A new agreement signed at the end of May between Yad Vashem and the Mémorial de la Shoah, the central institution for commemorating French Holocaust victims, will allow Yad Vashem to give a face to the name.

"This new and historic agreement between the two institutions will enable the exchange of archival documents regarding the fate of French Jews during the Holocaust," explained Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner, during a ceremony conducted at Yad Vashem. "The two institutions will jointly gather additional documents, and exchange copies of those amassed by each of them over the past fifty years."



■ Holocaust victim Marcel Kadenski

Since the 1950s, Yad Vashem has been collecting information about Holocaust victims in order to document and commemorate their names. To date, the names of some 3.6 million victims have been commemorated in the Names Database, including those of almost all French Jews deported or murdered. The names of 78,000 Holocaust victims from France appear on a list submitted by Serge Klarsfeld; one third of these are accompanied by Pages of Testimony. Some 5,800 photographs have also been collected.

As a first step in the new agreement, Yad Vashem received 8,000 photographs of Jews murdered at Auschwitz, among them Marcel Kadenski. Says Dr. Gertner: "Exchanging collections will allow us to create a broad, joint collection, and restore the identities of some 20 percent of French Jews killed in the Holocaust."

News from the Visual Center by Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

Perlov and Walk Films Added to Digital Film Library

■ During the first quarter of 2009 Yad Vashem's Visual Center added 100 new films to its collection. To date, more than 5,700 films have been catalogued in the digital film library and more than half are available for viewing.

Recently, three Holocaust-related documentaries by the noted Israeli filmmaking team Ruth Walk and Yael Perlov were added to the collection. *The Balcony* (2000) recounts the eventful life story of the venerated Israeli actor, screenwriter and director Israel Becker. The sole survivor of a large family that perished in the Holocaust, Becker later became a central figure at the Israeli National Theater, Habima. *The Garden that Floated Away* (2004), an intimate portrait of Holocaust survivor Ida Fink, takes its name from one of her short eponymous stories. Fink's subtle fiction has achieved worldwide acclaim. *The Birthday Party* (2007) introduces us to 25 Holocaust survivors from Kovno, incarcerated together in Auschwitz as children. They meet each year for a group "birthday" celebration.

Perlov's editing career includes Claude Lanzmann's monumental *Shoah* (1985); David Perlov's *Yoman* (1983), the iconic documentary saga by one of the fathers of Israeli documentary filmmaking; Dover Koshashvili's award-winning feature *Late*

Marriage (2001); and several films for the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem. Walk, a cinematographer and director, garnered the 2007 Mifal Hapais Landau Award for documentary filmmaking.

Film acquisition and cataloging at Yad Vashem is supported by the Righteous Persons Foundation.

Special Screening Holocaust Remembrance Day 2009

■ Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day 2009, the Visual Center held a special screening of *Killing Kasztner* (2008), directed by Gaylen Ross, at the Jerusalem Theater in the presence of Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat. Dr. Israel Kasztner's daughter, Zsuzsi Kasztner, and his three granddaughters – Merav, Keren and Michal Michaeli (pictured below, left to right) – addressed the audience. Director of the Visual Center Liat Benhabib moderated the event, and Director of the Yad Vashem



Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett presented the opening remarks on the historical perspective of the film.

Fourth "Avner Shalev Award" for Holocaust Film

■ At the 2009 Jerusalem International Film Festival this July, the Visual Center will grant the Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award to a Holocaust-related film that brings a unique story to the screen using a creative cinematic approach. The award, now in its fourth year, is made possible through the generosity of Leon and Michaela Constantiner.

The following Israeli and foreign films produced during the last twelve months are candidates in the "Jewish Experience" competition: *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, directed by Larry Weinstein (Canada/Czech Republic); *The Wedding Song*, directed by Karin Albou (France); *Bombay Rhapsody*, directed by Erez Laufer (Israel); *Human Failure*, directed by Michael Verhoeven (Germany); and *Harlan – In The Shadow of 'The Jew Süß'*, directed by Felix Moeller (Germany). Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib will present the award at the festival's closing ceremony on Friday afternoon, 17 July 2009.

Liat Benhabib is Director of the Visual Center. Mimi Ash is the Center's Acquisition and Special Projects Coordinator.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



■ **President of Romania H.E. Mr. Traian Basescu** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 1 June, accompanied by Israel's Minister of Improvement of Government Services Michael Eitan (left). They were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Alexander Avraham, Director of the Hall of Names (right).



■ **President of El Salvador H.E. Mr. Elias Antonio Saca González** and his wife visited Yad Vashem on 6 May.



■ **Prime Minister of Hungary Gordon Bajnai** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 23 June guided by Chava Baruch (right) of the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ On 9 May, **Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney** visited Yad Vashem, where he met with Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak.



■ **Yang Jiechi, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China** (center), visited Yad Vashem on 23 April and was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by the Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (second from right).



■ On 14 May, **Chairman of Germany's Conference of Bishops, Archbishop Dr. Robert Zollitsch** (center) visited Yad Vashem and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. Pictured carrying the wreath: H.E. Dr. Harald Kindermann, Ambassador of Germany to Israel (left), and Veronika Nickel (right), who is completing a two-year internship in the Righteous Among the Nations Department, sponsored by the German Jesuits.

At the conclusion of his visit, the Bishop spoke of the importance of Holocaust remembrance and the Church's role in educating the next generations to develop a solid historical conscience. Noting the joint roots of both religious faiths he said, "I would expressly encourage groups of Christian pilgrims to visit Yad Vashem during their stay in Israel."



■ **Prime Minister of Togo Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo** (center) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 5 May by Dr. Alain Michel of the International School for Holocaust Studies (right).

New Documents from Germany Aid Names Recovery

■ The International Commission for the ITS (International Tracing Service) recently transferred to Yad Vashem an additional package of documents copied from its collection, among them some 180,000 "CM1" (care and maintenance) questionnaires from German DP camps. The documents, presented to Yad Vashem delegates at the ITS Directorate's annual meeting in London in May, provide information on the fate of Jews and non-Jews rescued from concentration and forced labor camps.

Yad Vashem also received copies of some 55,000 lists of Holocaust survivors, compiled after WWII mostly by Jewish organizations from different countries. The documents helped the Tracing Service clarify individual fates and reunite families. The remaining documents from DP camps in other European countries as well as emigration lists will follow at the end of the year, once digitization of that part of the ITS collection at Bad Arolsen, Germany has been completed.

At the beginning of June, the Yad Vashem Archives hosted an extraordinary international expert workshop dealing with the effect of opening the ITS collection on Yad Vashem's Names Recovery Project. The workshop, led by Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham, was attended by experts in Holocaust Victims' Names Recovery and computerization projects from Holocaust memorials throughout Europe, including Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Dachau, Flossenbuerg, Majdanek and Mauthausen, as well as representatives from Yad Vashem and Holocaust museums and organizations in France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Belgium, the Czech Republic and the US.

"The Archives Division and the Hall of Names are leading and centralizing the location of information and documents pertaining to the fate of Holocaust victims," explains Director of the Yad Vashem Archives, Dr. Haim Gertner. "The additional documents we received from the ITS collection will help complete some of the missing information. The mission of locating the information is becoming more complex as years pass, and necessitates international cooperation. The Recording the Names expert workshop is one of the most important forums for coordinating and deepening these vital efforts."

1 April ■ Ceremony posthumously honoring **Righteous Among the Nations Wessel and Ankje Ruwersma of the Netherlands** who rescued Jews in the Holocaust. The award was presented to their grandchildren, Daniel Postma and Ankje van Keulen-Postma.



Left to right: Dutch Embassy representative Mr. Jeroen van Rijckevorsel, Daniel Postma, survivor Yehudit Levi, Ankje van Keulen-Postma and family members in the Garden of the Righteous.

20 April ■ Some 2,500 survivors, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, youth movement members from Israel and abroad and IDF soldiers filled Warsaw Ghetto Square for the **official state ceremony opening Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day**. Top: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the audience. Bottom: Violinist David Strongen (left) played the violin that belonged to the child partisan Motele, who was killed in the Holocaust, together with fellow "Musicians of Tomorrow" Michael Faigin and Mark Karlinsky.



4 May ■ "To Every Community There is a Name" – Evening of memories and liturgical poetry at the Wolyn Community Hall in Givatayim dedicated to the Balkan Sephardic communities destroyed in the Holocaust. The audience was addressed by a number of distinguished guests, including the fifth President of the State of Israel and Chairman of the National Authority for Ladino Culture Yitzhak Navon (pictured).



10 May ■ Some 1,000 veterans, partisans, underground fighters and representatives of the Association for Demobilized Soldiers took part in the **official state ceremony marking the Allied victory over Nazi Germany**, in the presence of Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver, Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, organization heads and military attaches of the Allied Nations.



14 June ■ Hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families, IDF soldiers and youth movement members took part in the **gathering of former residents of the Dorohoi district, Romania, and the Romanian Association in Israel** at the Dorohoi Martyrs' Forest to mark 69 years since the beginning of the Holocaust in Romania, the pogrom in Dorohoi on 30 June 1940 and the deportation of the region's Jews to the death camps in Transnistria. The ceremony took place in the presence of Minister Yossi Peled, Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Edward Iosiper and organization heads.



23 June ■ **General Meeting of the Aloumim Association**, including a tour of the Museum of Holocaust Art. Among the distinguished guests was Colette le Baron, Council General of France in Israel.

Yad Vashem Research Prizes 2008/9

■ Towards the end of each academic year, the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem grants prizes to Master's degree students and Doctoral candidates enrolled in Israeli universities to encourage Holocaust research. The awards are distributed from endowments established by individuals and organizations in memory of relatives and Holocaust victims.



■ PhD student Yoram Haimi (left) is presented with a Research Prize by Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman (right).

Prizes for the 2008/9 academic year were conferred on 25 May during a ceremony at Yad Vashem. PhD candidate Martine Sadeh from the University of Haifa addressed the audience on the subject of the Jewish community in Algeria under the French Vichy regime (1940-1943), and in the period until the end of French colonial rule in Algeria in 1962. In her thesis, Sadeh describes the significant role of the Jewish educational system, founded during the war, as an agent for social change.

Friends Worldwide

BENEFACTOR AND FRIEND: JAIME MEIR STRASBERG

■ **Jaime Meir Strasberg was born in Nova Suliza, Bessarabia in Romania.** During WWII, he was imprisoned together with his family in a refugee camp near Bershad. Under such harsh circumstances, they suffered from severe starvation and cold. Jaime Meir's father perished in the camp. His mother and brother survived. Recently he unveiled a plaque at Yad Vashem memorializing the family members he lost during the *Shoah*.

Following the war Jaime Meir moved to Israel, and eventually emigrated to Venezuela. There he met and married Nira Hendel and

became a successful businessman. He is an ardent soccer fan, and is very close with Brazilian soccer player, Pele.

Nira and Jaime Meir are the proud parents of three daughters and nine grandchildren. Their deep commitment to Holocaust remembrance is reflected in their recent munificent donation to Yad Vashem, through which they continue to take an active role in ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust will serve to build a better future for their family, the Jewish people and all mankind.



■ Jaime Meir and Nira Strasberg (right) were presented with the Yad Vashem Key by Chairman Avner Shalev. They were accompanied by Perla Hazan, Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk (left).

NEW NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM: FRAN SONSHINE

■ **Prominent Canadian Jewish-community leader and Yad Vashem Benefactor Fran Sonshine was elected National Chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem in**



February 2009, following many years of involvement with the Society. Both Fran and her husband, Ed, are children of Holocaust survivors. In Fran's words, "The *Shoah* permeates the way we look at life."

Fran is dedicated to implementing the vision of Yad Vashem across Canada by raising funds for its worldwide activities, advancing the Canadian Society's numerous educational and commemorative initiatives, and developing important new national projects.

Fran serves on the boards of numerous organizations including: UJA/Federation's Jewish Foundation; the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy; the Baycrest Foundation; and the National Women's Philanthropy Board of the United Jewish Communities. She is also past co-chair of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 2009 Annual Campaign, past chair of UJA Federation Women's Campaign and

Advocacy, and past chair of the Lion of Judah Endowment. Additionally, she has been involved with Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, the State of Israel Bonds and Aish Hatorah. The Sonshines established one of the first legacy funds for the Toronto Jewish Foundation.

Bringing vast experience and passion to her new position at the Canadian Society, Fran feels "honored by the opportunity to partner with Yad Vashem, the world's leader in Holocaust education and commemoration. I look forward to building its important presence in Canada, and working with my fellow citizens in securing the Holocaust's legacy and promoting universal tolerance."

NEW NAME, NEW LEADERSHIP: BRITISH FRIENDS OF YAD VASHEM

■ **The year 2009 has already witnessed big changes for the Yad Vashem representation in the UK, with an official name change of the charity to the British Friends of Yad Vashem, as well as a brand new Board of Trustees.** Jeffrey Pinnick, who gallantly led the Yad Vashem UK Foundation for over five years, recently retired, and Brian Markeson now serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, which includes Michael Charles, Anton Dell, Ian Fenton, Tony Hyams, Jonathan Lauffer, Hannah Loftus, Jonathan Metliss, Esther Tager and Jacques Weisser.

The year began with a Ladies' Luncheon, held in a private home, with the Deputy Ambassador of Israel, Talya Lador-Fresher, as keynote speaker. In February, a business breakfast was held at

the magnificent art gallery of the Foundling Museum. Journalist Daniel Finkelstein addressed the audience, surrounded by a number of works by Hogarth, Gainsborough and other distinguished artists.

The British Friends of Yad Vashem is committed to continuing the "Guardian of the Memory" campaign, which not only brings in much needed donations, but also widens their circle of friends.

The new Trustees are also devoted to helping raise crucially needed funds for Yad Vashem, as well as to raising awareness in the UK, emphasizing Yad Vashem's position as one of the most important institutions in Israel and beyond, and leading the responsibility of safeguarding the memory of the past and

imparting its meaning for the future. A number of exciting fundraising events are planned for the rest of 2009.



■ Left to right: Jonathan Lauffer, Tony Hyams, Chief Executive Linda Paterson, Brian Markeson and Anton Dell.

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ Yad Vashem Builders **Linda and Murray Laulich** came for a visit to Yad Vashem together with their daughter and son-in-law **Laurie and Bernard Hasten** and their grandchildren. Yad Vashem supporter **Mark Hasten** toured the Museum of Holocaust Art, and presented his book *Mark My Words!* to Yad Vashem's Library.



■ Dedicated advocates and supporters of Yad Vashem **Colin and Gail Halpern** came for a two-day visit in May, which included attending a special presentation in Yad Vashem's Archives and participating in the visit of Pope Benedict XVI.

Left to right: Director of Yad Vashem's English Desk **David Metzler**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, retired Supreme Court Justice and Assistant General Prosecutor at the Eichmann trial **Gavriel Bach**, Colin and Gail Halpern



■ Yad Vashem Trustee **Selma Gruder Horowitz** visited Yad Vashem with her sister and brother-in-law **Pearl and Carl Field** for a specially designed tour, including a behind-the-scenes look at the artifacts room.



■ **Sam Boymel** came to Yad Vashem on 22 April, and viewed the plaque that includes the name of **Petr Tokarsky**, of blessed memory, the Righteous Among the Nations who saved him during the *Shoah*.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Cecile and Ed Mosberg** dedicated to Yad Vashem a Torah salvaged from Poland during an emotional ceremony held in the presence of their daughter, **Louise Levine**, and grandson, **Alexander Levine**, who was in Israel as part of a "March of the Living" group.



■ **Ester Celebivic** from Yad Vashem presented eight special artifacts given by Yad Vashem to the new Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois, including a brooch made from a Lodz ghetto bread ration card, an armband from the Kovno ghetto and a yellow badge from Belgium.

Left to right: Ester Celebivic; Director of Development, American Society for Yad Vashem **Shraga I. Mekel**; the Skokie Holocaust Museum's Executive Director **Richard Hirschhaut**; curator **Bethany Fleming**; Vice-President of the Museum **Aaron Elster**



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Phyllis and William Mack** toured the Holocaust History Museum together with their friends **Nancy and Jeffrey Lane**, and **Christina and Robert Baker**. They were greeted by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev** (second from right) and Managing Director of the International Relations Division, **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ Over 200 people attended the **American Society for Yad Vashem** Annual Spring Luncheon entitled "Women, Resistance and Renewal" on 21 May in New York City. Yad Vashem Benefactor, **Stella Skura**, and **Anna Erlich**, both Holocaust survivors, philanthropists and members of the Society since its inception, were presented with Achievement Awards for their lifetime dedication to Holocaust Remembrance. **Prof. Nechama Tech**, author of the renowned book *Defiance*, now a successful motion picture, was the guest speaker. Event Co-Chairs **Abbi Halpern** and **Iris Lindenbaum** represented the Third Generation within the American Society's Young Leadership.



Pictured, top: American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**, **Iris Lindenbaum**, **Stella Skura**, **Ilana Lifshitz**, **Cheryl Lifshitz**. Bottom: **Eli Zborowski**, **Scott Erlich**, **Anna Erlich**, **Dr. Sheila Erlich Pruzansky**, **Susan Erlich**

■ Chairman of the **American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski** (center) laid a wreath at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony together with American Society Cultural Director **Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski** (right) and Yad Vashem Builder **Mark Palmer** (left).



■ Two Yad Vashem exhibitions were recently displayed in Los Angeles: “No Child’s Play” at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day in Los Angeles’ Pan Pacific Park, sponsored by Yad Vashem Guardian **Jona Goldrich** (pictured below), where thousands of people (including many schoolchildren) viewed the exhibits; and the “Auschwitz Album” exhibition at the local Holocaust Museum.



Hundreds of guests participated at the **American Society for Yad Vashem’s** reception for the opening of the “Auschwitz Album” exhibition on 27 January, including the museum’s chairman, **Randol Schoenberg**.

At the reception, and at the American Society event at the end of March, participants included Yad Vashem supporters **Susanne** and **Jan Czuker**, **Vera** and **Paul Guerin** and family, **Maria Herskovic** and her daughter **Suzanne**, **Hanna** and **Bernie Rubinstein**, **Renee** and **Jack Slomovic**, **Barbara Kort**, **Sam Delug**, **Mira Becker**, **Steve Halaj**, **Gita** and **Jack Nagel** and **Leo David**.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of a dear friend, **Edith Tessler, z”l**. The youngest survivor of a family of twelve, Edith’s parents and seven brothers and sisters were murdered at Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen and Muhlendorf, as were her brother-in-law, nieces and nephew. At 17, Edith was one of 25,000 Jewish women liberated from Bergen-Belsen. After the war, she recuperated in Sweden. Rudolph and Edith Tessler were married in 1951. With Edith by his side, Rudolph became a successful businessman. As part of their commitment to Holocaust education, the Tesslers generously supported the development and publication of *Years Wherein We have Seen Evil*, a four-volume series published by Yad Vashem teaching the Holocaust to the ultra-Orthodox community.

Yad Vashem expresses its sincerest condolences to Rudolph, their children Florence, David and Mordechai, their daughters- and son-in-law and numerous grandchildren. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

CANADA

■ Under the leadership of its new National Chair **Fran Sonshine**, the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** held three annual Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies at the national, provincial and municipal levels:

Chaired by Canadian Society Board member **Dr. Joel Dimitry**, the Canadian National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at the National War Museum in Ottawa. Greetings from the Government of Canada were delivered by **The Hon. Jason Kenney**, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.



Front: Cantor **Moshe Kraus** recites *Kaddish*. Behind, right to left: **H.E. Ambassador Miriam Ziv**, Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**, **Dr. Joel Dimitry**, **The Hon. Jason Kenney**, **The Hon. Michael Ignatieff**, **Mr. Gilles Duceppe**, **The Hon. Jack Layton**

In a ceremony chaired by Canadian Society Board Member **Hank Rosenbaum**, 12 Holocaust survivors were honored by Premier **Dalton**

McGuinty for their contributions to the Province of Ontario. The survivor’s biographies were read by Minister of Immigration **The Hon. Michael Chan** and **Monte Kwinter**.



Pictured: Premier **Dalton McGuinty** poses with local Israeli Consul General **Amir R. Gissin** and this year’s award recipients: **Fay Goldlist**, **Elly Gotz**, **Pinchas Gutter**, **Peter Jablonski**, **Frida Lebovici**, **Jack Mudryk**, **Zelda Rosenfeld**, **Shoshana Rotenberg**, **Wolf Rotman**, **Helen Sonshine**, **Ernst Weiss** and **Edith Weiss**. Also pictured: **Hank Rosenbaum**, **Fran Sonshine** and Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**.

The Toronto citywide Holocaust Remembrance Day Memorial Ceremony was co-chaired by Canadian Society Vice-Chair **Lou Greenbaum** and **Joyce Rifkind** of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation. Consul General of Israel to Toronto **Amir R. Gissin** presented a Righteous Among the Nations certificate to **Catharina Develing** (center), posthumously honoring her mother for saving the life of **John Sanders**, who now lives in Toronto.



■ The UJA Canada’s Prime Minister’s Mission came to Yad Vashem for a moving visit in May.



Friends Worldwide

UK

■ **Philip Gee** and his wife **Nicola** toured Yad Vashem with their children in April. The family is pictured here next to a plaque honoring the **Archie Sherman Charitable Foundation**, headed by Philip's father, **Michael Gee**, for supporting the building of the Holocaust History Museum.



AUSTRALIA

■ Australian Holocaust survivors **Joseph** and **Helen Fröhlich West** lay a memorial wreath at Yad Vashem on Holocaust Remembrance Day, with their daughter **Tonia Komisarov** and granddaughters **Lana Tavor** and **Renee Maoz**.



■ Australian guests at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Opening Ceremony at Yad Vashem included (left to right): **Gary Zamel** of Sydney; Director of Yad Vashem's English Desk **David Metzler**; Executive Director, Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce **Paul Israel**; **Norman Schueler** of Adelaide; South Australian Minister for Environment and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs **The Hon. Jay Weatherill MP**; and **Shlomo Werdiger** of Melbourne.



FRANCE

■ Yad Vashem had the privilege of hosting many friends from France and Belgium at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies. Left to right: **Andre Benichou**, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Maxi Librati**, **Dov Luski**, Director of the French, Benelux and Italian Desk **Miry Gross**, Yad Vashem Builders **Renee** and **Josef-Chaim Kaufman**



GERMANY

■ Holocaust Survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Rose Landschaft** laid a wreath at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony at Yad Vashem.



SWEDEN

■ **Georg** and **Elisabeth Citrom** represented Sweden at the Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony and daytime events at Yad Vashem.



AUSTRIA

■ Longtime Friend of Yad Vashem **Fini Steindling** (left) participated in the visit of Pope Benedict XVI. She was accompanied by **Miry Gross** (right), Director of the French, Benelux and Italian Desk.



■ Yad Vashem's Travelling Exhibition "Spots of Light - To be a Woman in the Holocaust" opened in a festive ceremony in Vienna on 31 March 2009, in the presence of distinguished guests from the Austrian public and Vienna's Jewish community. Pictured: Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division **Yehudit Inbar** (left) and Director of the Switzerland and German-speaking Countries Desk **Arik Rav-On** (right), in front of the exhibition.



Christian Desk

■ On Holocaust Remembrance Day, Executive Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) **Malcolm Hedding** and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** laid a wreath on behalf of Yad Vashem's many Christian Friends worldwide.



■ Christian broadcaster and former presidential advisor **Earl Cox** brought a delegation of distinguished guests from the United States to the Holocaust Remembrance Day events at Yad Vashem, where he laid a wreath on behalf of his organization “Israel Always.”



■ TV personality and popular program host **Raul De Molina** from Miami visited Yad Vashem in April as a guest of the **American Society for Yad Vashem**. Pictured in front of the Donors’ Wall, left to right: Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**; Mr. and Mrs. **Raul de Molina** and their daughter; **Mr. Henry de Arcos**; American Society Director of Development **Shraga Mekel**



VENEZUELA

■ **Paulina Gamus, Amram Cohen** and **Jaime Parente** toured the Yad Vashem campus accompanied by **Perla Hazan**, Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk (left).



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Nira** and **Jaime Meir Strasberg** (center) and **Ada** and **Nathan Moskowitz** (center, standing) paid their respects at this year’s official Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day. They were accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican,

Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) and **Mauricio Hazan** (right).



MEXICO

■ **Masha** and **Victor Cohen** came with their family for an unveiling ceremony in their honor at the Square of Hope, and to celebrate the bar mitzvah of their grandson, **Simon Hoffman Cohen**.



■ **Orly Beigel** (left) was accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (right) during her visit to Yad Vashem.



CHILE

■ At this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony held by the **Chilean Society for Yad Vashem**, Director General of the Chilean Investigative Police **Arturo Herrera** was presented with the key to Yad Vashem. Left to right: Arturo Herrera, Chilean Society President **David Feuertsein**, **Gabriel Zaliasnik**, **David Cohen**



■ **Susy** and **Selik Wengrowsky** attended the official Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day, accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (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 and click on “Donate Now.”

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



Camp Synagogue: Replica of Felix Nussbaum's Artwork Presented to the Pope (p. 5)

*Felix Nussbaum (1904-1944), Camp Synagogue, St. Cyprien, 1941
Oil on plywood. Collection of the Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust Art
Gift of Paul and Hilda Freund, Jerusalem*



Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority



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