

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

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## Building Blocks of History

Digitization of Millions of Documents from the Archives (pp. 12-13)

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**Yad Vashem**

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■ On the cover: Scanning an original diary  
from the Holocaust era

## Jane Jacobs Kimmelman and Dr. David Silberklang

■ This June, more than 200 representatives of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) congregated at Yad Vashem for educational, academic and plenary discussions concerning the future of Holocaust education and remembrance worldwide.

For the first time since the ITF's establishment, the revolving chairmanship of this prestigious international umbrella organization was assumed by Israel in March.

Immediately following Yad Vashem's Seventh International Educators' Conference (see pp. 4-5), an intensive two days of Working Group meetings were held on the Yad Vashem campus, involving Holocaust experts from around the world. While Yad Vashem staff members have represented Israel within the various Working Groups for years, the opportunity to host the gathering was greatly appreciated. "It was a real pleasure to show my ITF colleagues around our School," said International School Pedagogical Director Shulamit Imber, long-standing delegate in the ITF Educational Working Group. "We were able to share our expertise on a wide variety of programs for Holocaust educators and the creation of pedagogic materials tailor-made for different nationalities and age-groups." Members of the Memorial and Museums Working Group were given a special working tour around Yad Vashem's unique Museum Complex, and the Academic Working Group appreciated an in-depth discussion of the Yad Vashem Archives and uses of the International Tracing Service materials by Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of Yad Vashem's Archives Division.

On the third day of the plenary, the International Institute for Holocaust Research organized an academic symposium highlighting current Israeli study on the Holocaust. Five speakers, spanning generations of Israeli scholars, were invited to present their research, which often challenged popularly held ideas and evoked lively discussion. Dr. Havi Dreifuss (Ben-Sasson) of Tel Aviv University analyzed Polish Jewish responses to the "Final Solution," asserting that the victims' responses may be properly understood only through their own sources. Dr. Dana Arieli-Horowitz, Head of the History and Theory Department at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, took symposium



# Setting the Standard

## The International Task Force Convenes at Yad Vashem



■ ITF delegates at the concluding plenary session in Jerusalem: “A resounding success”

participants on a fascinating postwar journey of the buildings and artifacts of the Third Reich.

The second session focused on Israel and the Middle East, and opened with ITF Academic Advisor Prof. Dina Porat of Tel Aviv University offering a penetrating analysis of the response to the Holocaust by the Jewish community in pre-state Israel. Dr. Haim Saadoun, Dean of Students at the Open University and Director of the Center for Documentation on North African Jewry during World War II at the Ben-Zvi Institute, spoke on a subject little known outside of Israel – how the study of the Holocaust in North Africa influences the attitude of the Arab world towards the Holocaust. The symposium closed with an address by Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor at Yad Vashem and Honorary Chairman of the ITF, who demonstrated that, contrary to popular world belief, the Holocaust may in fact almost have prevented the creation of the State of Israel. “The academic conference captured everyone’s attention,” said one US delegate. “The fact that more than 100 people stayed until the end is testimony to the interest it evoked among the participants.”

As many of the delegates were visiting

Israel for the first time, Yad Vashem provided participants with comprehensive tours of the museum complex and the campus, as well as an inspiring evening concert in the Valley of the Communities. The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which convened the four-day ITF event in Israel, also provided specialized visits around Jerusalem.

The concluding plenary session, which took place at the Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem, was attended by diplomats and officials from all participating, liaison, observer and guest nations, as well as representatives of the six affiliated international organizations (see box). While voting on decisions to affect the future of the ITF, plenary delegates also heard a special presentation by Na’ama Shik, Director of the Educational Technology Department at the International School, about the progress of the Israeli “Chair’s Project” – an innovative online distance learning initiative being spearheaded by Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who serves as the Israel Delegation Co-Chair together with Aviva Raz-Shechter of Israel’s Foreign Ministry, described the event as a

resounding success. “We were heartened to see the ongoing commitment of the member states towards Holocaust awareness, commemoration and education, particularly in these times of heightened political tensions. We achieved a great deal of progress in all the focus areas and we look hopefully towards the next plenary in December.”

“The Israeli team did an outstanding job,” summarized ITF Chair and former Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon. “I would like to encourage further debate regarding rising tides of antisemitism and Holocaust denial in member states among other important issues: these remain the core concerns of the Israeli chairmanship, and we will continue to promote them.”

*Jane Jacobs Kimmelman is Director of the International Relations Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies and Israeli Delegate to the ITF Communications Working Group. Dr. David Silberklang is Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Israeli Delegate to the ITF Academic Working Group.*

### THE ITF – A Beginner's Guide

- Founded in 1998
- 27 Member States, 4 Liaison States, 3 Observer States, 15 Guest States (interested in joining and who have attended plenary gatherings as observers)
- 6 Affiliated International Organizations: UN; UNESCO; OSCE/ODIHR; The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); Council of Europe; Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
- Over 330 registered delegates from member countries (experts and diplomats)
- 2 Biannual Plenary Meetings lasting 4 days each
- 4 Expert Working Groups (which make recommendations to the plenary): Memorials and Museums, Education, Communications, and Academic

# Hindsight and Foresight



■ How do we appropriately commemorate all victims of Nazi persecution without diminishing the fact that they specifically targeted the Jewish people? How do we develop and design age-appropriate visits to Holocaust-related sites and museums? Can the Holocaust be used as a vehicle to teach about other human rights violations in the world?

On 12-13 June, 200 scholars, philosophers and leaders from some 40 countries came together at Yad Vashem to discuss these questions and others at the Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education. Entitled “*Shoah* Education and Remembrance in Hindsight and in Foresight,” the conference was geared towards educational policy makers as well as participants attending the Plenary Session of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) (see pp. 2-3).

Holding the chairmanship of the ITF since March 2010, the Israeli delegation has already begun to work closely with decision makers, leading specialists in Holocaust education and scholars to promote the study of the *Shoah* and its meaning worldwide. This international conference, organized under the auspices of



the ITF but not limited to members of ITF delegations, was convened to gain a deeper perspective on the current challenges of historical memory.

The conference was launched with addresses by Israel’s Minister of Education Gideon Sa’ar

and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak.

In his keynote address, Prof. Alain Finkielkraut tackled the recent phenomenon of comparative remembrance, which expounds the idea that the Holocaust was preceded by other

## Yad Vashem Educational Prizes 2009/10

■ “The younger generations need to understand that Holocaust survivors must not be viewed with pity. They arose from the lowest place imaginable, where their entire family had been wiped out, and came to this country with nothing. They should be viewed as heroes.”

Noam El Haddad and Nimra Hitron, two students at the Mor Maccabim-Reut High School, chose this quote to conclude their assignment on Vera Meisels, a Holocaust survivor who has recorded her experiences during the *Shoah* at Yad Vashem. The two girls heard Vera’s story while taking part in their school’s Documentation and Commemoration Project, an outstanding venture that won the Yad Vashem Prize for Educational Endeavors 2009/10. The Project is designed for eleventh-grade students as part of their preparations for a trip to Poland the following year. Pairs of students document the

personal story of a survivor, and the locations they visit in Poland connect to the stories they have learnt about. But most of all, the students and survivors develop a strong personal relationship that extends beyond the study sessions themselves.

The official prize ceremony took place on 9 June in the Auditorium of the International School for Holocaust Studies, in the presence of Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan, Ministry of Education Director of Pedagogic Affairs Dr. Zvi Zameret, International School Director Dorit Novak, Director of the Teacher Training Department Sarit Hoch-Markovitz and the donors and their representatives, including representatives of Le Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah and the Aloumim Association Chairman Shlomo Balsam and Dora Weinberger.

### Rinat Ribak-Wagon

This year, two additional projects won prizes. At the Beit Shulamit School for Girls in Jerusalem, ninth-grade students used survivor memoirs to embark on a personal journey. Closely guided and supervised by teacher Silvie Sitbonne, the girls conducted in-depth research on the communities described in the memoirs, studying the history of those locations and their unique geographical features. The Amirim Elementary School in Kiryat Yam maintains an unbroken, ongoing relationship with the club of WWII veterans that operates near the school. Beginning in first grade, students meet the former soldiers before the Jewish holidays and over the years a warm and empowering relationship develops between the two groups.

Among the many matriculation projects submitted, three film and radio show projects made innovative use of varied sources and



# The Seventh International Educators' Conference

human rights violations, and therefore every European nation must mourn its own historical tragedies and victims just as the Jewish people does with the *Shoah*. "The obsession today is not to defend academic freedom, but to expand and broaden the Holocaust," he noted. But "we should not accept the very notion of a competition between victims. On the contrary," he added, "we should emphasize the fact that whatever the crime, the descendants of the victims are not themselves victims. Remembrance is about paying our debt to the dead, not about taking their place."

On the first day of the conference, Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem, gave a fascinating lecture on Holocaust memory in different contexts. Prof. Dina Porat chaired a panel of well-known Holocaust survivors, including Dr. Yitzchak Arad, Roman Frister, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Dr. Samuel Pisar, who discussed contemporary issues concerning Holocaust remembrance, Holocaust and human rights education, as well as days of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust.

During the conference, moderated groups met to make recommendations to policy-making ITF delegates. Proposals included

holding commemoration ceremonies for Jews and other victim groups, while noting that the "Final Solution" only applied to the Jewish people; differentiating between antisemitism and legitimate criticism of the policies of the Israeli government; and encouraging educational systems to set clear goals for Holocaust education and to define the relevancy of Holocaust education to human rights. Participants also called for education to combat Holocaust denial and diminishment, government support of Holocaust-related memorial institutions, and enlisting the aid of universities to provide historical and methodological guidance for educators and museum staff.

The final panel discussion, "Our Responsibility Over the Next Decade: Upholding the Stockholm Declaration (2000)," featured distinguished guests Dr. Leonidas Donskis, Member of the European Parliament; Aleksander Kwasniewski, Former President of Poland; and Stjepan Mesic, Former President of Croatia.

*The Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education was generously supported by the Asper Foundation and the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, and was held in collaboration with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education.*

## Designing Remembrance for Future Generations

■ Delegates to the Conference were given a special tour of an exhibition of posters designed for Israel's first national "Designing Memory" competition held in advance of Holocaust Remembrance Day in April. The posters, displayed in the International School's Family Square, presented a wide array of post-Holocaust artistic expression by survivors, design scholars, graphic artists and high-school students. ITF participants were also presented with a package of 15 postcards from the "Signposts" postcard design project undertaken by undergraduate design students at Haifa's WIZO College in conjunction with the International School, who were challenged with finding an international "language" to articulate the Holocaust that successfully speaks to non-Jewish youth around the world.

shed new light on the field of Holocaust study. One documentary in particular followed the journey of a student to Poland, and the very real emotional dilemmas and struggles she faced during her trip.

Dr. Felicia Karai, native of Krakow and nationally recognized Holocaust educator, won the Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Holocaust Education. Among Dr. Karai's scholarly publications and books, *Death in Yellow*, *Heroism Has Many Faces* and *Bombs and Beads* are well known to the Israeli public. Active in promoting and designing Holocaust curricula, Dr. Karai has creatively educated many generations of teachers and students.

The Prize for Holocaust Youth Literature was given to *Measuring the Chasm* (Yad Ben Tzvi), which describes the life of Antek Zuckerman during the war and afterwards. With great dexterity and grace, the book weaves the history of the period into the personal story of one of



■ High school student Noa Goldman (left) receives a prize for her final paper on the Holocaust from Dora Weinberger, representative of the Aloumim Association, and Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan

the important leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, thus moving the young reader while also instilling a new breadth of knowledge.

Noting the intense interest in the prestigious prize ceremony held every summer, International School Director Dorit Novak pointed out that

this year, more candidates than ever before submitted their work for consideration in every category of award. "All the programs and projects recognized the need to grapple with the topic of the Holocaust more deeply and comprehensively, and to dedicate more time to Holocaust education in the school schedule," said Novak. "Once again, the standard of work and dedication of the students impressed us beyond our expectations."

### Among the Prize Donors:

Three Outstanding Educational Curricula & Lifetime Achievement in Holocaust Education: *The Chuno and Blima Najmann Educational Achievement Awards*; *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.*

# Graduate Spotlight

Every year, the International School for Holocaust Studies holds hundreds of seminars and conferences, in dozens of languages, for over 300,000 educators and students in Israel and around the world. Featured here is one of the School's graduates, and what he has achieved since:

## Szilvia Pető-Dittel

■ History teacher and youth educator Péter Heindl is more like a father figure than a teacher to his students in Magyarmecske, a remote and poverty-stricken Hungarian village near the Croatian border. After returning from a teacher training course at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, Heindl not only shared his fascinating experience with "his kids," but was also eager to teach them the human and moral significance of the history of the Holocaust.

In order to raise his students' interest and curiosity, Heindl hung on the school notice board an old photo of a young, school-age girl with the following lines underneath: "Lili Ney: a girl from Magyarmecske disappeared from our village. A few weeks later she was killed. Who was she? Why did she die? She was not the only person from Magyarmecske to suffer this fate. Let's find out together the history of Lili Ney and the others!" The poster had an enormous effect on the students; dozens wanted

**"The crime story opening solved one of the biggest challenges of Holocaust education: how to involve young learners in dealing with a gloomy topic that only adults feel is important enough to remember?"**

to take part in the investigation sessions Heindl scheduled one afternoon a week for the entire school year. "The crime story opening solved one of the biggest challenges of Holocaust education," explains Heindl, "how to involve young learners in dealing with a gloomy topic that only adults feel is important enough to remember?"

During the series of "detective workshops," Heindl and the students gradually found out the truth about the events of WWII. Heindl, the

"chief detective," carefully chose and planned the program from week to week, making sure that each phase revealed more details, and the students did not lose interest over the year-long process.

With the help of a local historian and researcher (István Vörös, also a Yad Vashem graduate) they learned about the various religious communities in the village at the time of the war, and discovered that there were once 17 Jewish



■ Lili Ney z"l

and two Roma families living there. "Aunt Cinka" (Bence Kálmánné), an elderly lady from the village who still remembered the events from 64 years earlier, took the group on a guided tour of the village, pointing out former Jewish houses and describing each family that lived there, as well as their deportations and the plunder of their possessions. Students were shocked to find out that a real mass murder had taken place in their small village.

Based on Aunt Cinka's account, a Jewish survivor from the village, László Szántó (Steiner), was traced in Budapest. Szántó visited the young students in Magyarmecske, bringing with him some old photos, including one of himself with the two children from the Ney family outside their house.

Further lessons for this special group of investigators included a visit to the closest living Jewish community in the city of Pécs and a meeting with their chief rabbi, András Schönberger; a conversation about questions of responsibility with the Catholic priest of Alsószentmárton, who actively ministers Roma groups in Magyarmecske; a visit to the Jewish cemetery in Kacsóta, where most of the Jews from Magyarmecske are buried; and a two-day excursion to the Holocaust Memorial Center and the Jewish quarter and museum in Budapest.

## Péter Heindl Hungary



■ Educator Peter Heindl (fourth from left) teaches his group of "investigators" about local events during the Holocaust

The school year ended with the discovery of the house belonging to Righteous Among the Nations Erzsébet Tóth (née Juhász). Inside the house, the current owners were surprised to be shown an original hiding place. "The topic was a perfect one to close the detective story," Heindl says. "It drew my students' attention to positive examples of human behaviour in times when inhumanity prevailed."

The end of the school year, however, did not mean the termination of the project, which had already surpassed all the expectations of its creator. On 8 August 2008, the whole village actively joined the group's initiative, and a memorial plaque to commemorate the 11 Jewish victims from Magyarmecske was dedicated on the wall of the local school (once home to the Jewish Ledrer family). An exhibition was also organized from the findings of the student group. The national media took great interest in the project, and coverage of the work was broadcast and reported in several different forms. As a result, Heindl soon received an emotional phone call from Judit Ney, Lili's niece, who had read a newspaper article on the project. More family photos were gained from Judit, one of which shows the Ney children standing together with the Roma children of the village. "My eyes filled with tears when I saw the photo," recalls Heindl. "No matter how small the Jewish community is now (only two survived), almost seven decades after their destruction, it has become a living community once more – for my students as well as the entire village."

*The author is Liaison of the Hungarian Desk in the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*



# New in the Virtual School

## Recent e-Newsletters for Educators

Yael Weinstock

### “Each Made a Difference” – Women and Resistance During the Holocaust

■ This e-newsletter focuses on the Jewish women who resisted both physically and spiritually during the Holocaust, defying those trying to annihilate them. It also includes articles on the women couriers who served as a lifeline between Jewish communities throughout war-torn Europe, a teacher's guide, and a unit on artifacts left behind by a small child, providing educators with many useful resources for their classrooms.

### “Strength, Hope and Choices” – The Family Unit During the Holocaust

■ Featuring a main article on the subject, an interview with survivor Duki Gelber and pages from Yitzchak Rudashevski's diary, this e-newsletter delves into some of the challenges that confronted families during the *Shoah*. Presenting the day-to-day realities and challenges of the family unit under Nazi rule, students are encouraged to connect with the subject matter and teachers are provided with recommended starting points to approach this broad topic.

As always, both issues also contain regular updates on events at the International School for Holocaust Studies, recent publications, featured books and more.

*The author works in the Educational Technology Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies: [www1.yadvashem/education](http://www1.yadvashem/education)*

## Education Agreement with Ekaterinburg

■ Over the past year, ties between the International School for Holocaust Studies and the city of Ekaterinburg have steadily strengthened. In May 2010, Dr. Irit Abramsky, Head of the Russian-speaking Desk of the International School's European Department, visited Ekaterinburg, a major metropolis located in the center of the Russian Federation, to work with teachers and students on programs coordinated by the city's Education Department. An agreement was also recently signed between the International School and the city to further cooperation over the next two years. “This is an important step in furthering Holocaust education across the Russian Federation,” noted International School Director Dorit Novak. “We look forward to fostering local networks as well as maintaining close contacts with our colleagues from Ekaterinburg.”

# New Issue of *Legacy*

Prof. Guy Miron

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies has released a new, updated English-language version of its acclaimed Hebrew journal *Bishvil Hazikaron*. The periodical, aimed at International School graduates, features Holocaust-related research articles intended to encourage discussion and debate both in the classroom and across educators' networks.

*Legacy* volume 2 includes a selection of articles that appeared in recent editions of *Bishvil Hazikaron*. Dr. Havi Dreifuss discusses the leadership status of rabbis in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust, and presents the reader with examples of how Israeli Holocaust researchers – members of the second generation – cope with related research challenges. Dr. Lea Prais focuses on the status of physicians in the ghettos, portraying the ghetto doctors as part of “a professional leadership” whose status was built upon its expertise. The article by Prof. Alexandra Garbarini brings to light the world of three Jewish diarists during the Holocaust. Hailing from completely different cultural backgrounds, each diarist coped in diverse ways with the task of fathoming the tragic events of the Holocaust and their ramifications on the question

of Jewish identity. The article by Prof. Sergio Della Pergola provides a demographic overview of the short- and long-term ramifications of the Holocaust on the future of the Jewish people.

Prof. David Weinberg presents the attempts at rehabilitation of the Jewish communities in Western Europe in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Each issue of *Legacy* includes a section entitled “From the Archives,” emphasizing interesting and often unfamiliar Holocaust-related documents housed at Yad Vashem. This edition highlights a translation of selected parts of the work *4580*, composed by the Yiddish writer Joshua Perle in the Warsaw ghetto towards the end of 1942, with a scholarly interview by Maya Dover Daffan.

The issue closes with the section “In Order to Teach,” which provides readers with a variety of methods for dealing with certain topics in their educational endeavors.

*The author is Editor of Legacy.*



# First International Christian Leadership Seminar

Ephraim Kaye



■ On 10-17 April, 23 Christian leaders from eight countries gathered at the International School for Holocaust Studies for its first-ever international seminar for Christian leadership.

Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Dr. Susanna Kokkonen emphasized the importance of the seminar and its relevance today. “The information these church leaders learned will help them understand what happened and why it happened, and the consequences of intolerance and antisemitism in modern society.”

The week-long seminar addressed a number of issues related to the Holocaust, including the roots of antisemitism, how Jews responded to Nazi persecution and the postwar fate of the survivors. Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon (pictured) addressed participants on Israel's history and society today.

Participants greatly appreciated the range of issues presented, and committed themselves to further action in their spheres of influence. Jordanian-born Pastor Bahjat Batarseh noted that it was neither “far away nor impossible that something like this could happen again.” “This isn't a time to be ill-informed or apathetic,” said Linda Burkle (USA) of the Salvation Army. “People will now be held accountable. We will not be able to just sit back idly and be bystanders.”

“Do something with what you have learned,” Rev. Charlyne Boddie (UK) urged her fellow participants. “Now is not the time to be silent. The headlines speak for themselves. Now is the time to act.”

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

# Connecting with the Global

Leah Goldstein

■ **The Russian-speaking public, both in the FSU and across the globe, is showing more and more interest in learning about the Holocaust, its legacy and its relevance today.** Many young students, researchers and historians are seeking information about the events of WWII not only from a Soviet nationalist

viewpoint, but also from the position of the Jewish people – the victims and the survivors.

In recent months, Yad Vashem has made a concerted effort to reach out to the Russian-speaking world and make accessible to them a wealth of information and educational programs about the Holocaust. The tremendous

appreciation already expressed in Israel and abroad has set the pace for the next phase of activities planned for the coming months and years – all with the much-appreciated assistance of Yad Vashem's generous supporters.

## ■ **New and Comprehensive Website** Dana Porath

■ **On 12 April 2010, Yad Vashem launched its new comprehensive website in Russian, generously supported by Mikhail Bezeliansky, the Genesis Philanthropy Group, the Claims Conference, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Nadav Foundation.** The user-friendly website includes the story of the Holocaust – presented thematically and chronologically – with a special section focusing on the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union. Related resources, such as photos, documents, artifacts and artworks, assist the visitor to gain a more complete picture of the events, and a state-of-the-art multimedia section complements the texts with video clips, short movies, archival footage and survivor testimonies.

The new website also features over 100 stories of Righteous Among the Nations, with a special section focusing on Righteous in the FSU (see box). Online exhibitions in Russian



and an expanded Russian-language educational portal make this website a must-visit for Russian-speakers worldwide.

Russian-speaking visitors to the website can also access the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names in Russian and read about the lives of the victims. With so many of the missing names believed to be from communities in the FSU, online guides are at hand to help visitors check for and submit names of family and friends murdered during the war.

The launch of the website has generated an unprecedented response among the global Russian-speaking community. More than 100,000 visits were recorded in the first six weeks alone, and hundreds of messages of support were sent from around the world. "The website was obviously created by truly professional and talented people," wrote Evsey Tseytlin, a PhD literary critic and writer based in the US. "For one person it is an educational resource, for another it's a source of remembrance, for somebody else it's a tool for preserving the memory of his murdered family. In short, the website presents the world of the Holocaust as well as Yad Vashem, where people are dedicated to researching and preserving the memory of the *Shoah*."

*The author is Director of Yad Vashem's Internet Department.*

## ■ **Righteous Among the Nations from the FSU – Online** Irena Steinfeldt

■ **With the generous support of the Genesis Philanthropy Group, a special section was created within the new Russian-language website, with some 75 diverse stories of rescue in the Former Soviet Union and the Baltic countries.** Accompanied by photos, video excerpts, testimonies and documents, the stories depict the rare moments of inspirational humanity and kindness against a background of destruction and betrayal, as well as the relentless efforts of the survivors and Yad Vashem to document and commemorate the rescuers.

The section has already generated great interest and enthused feedback: "I spent many hours yesterday reading the stories of Jews

from many countries and their rescuers – the Righteous Among the Nations," wrote Alla Shevelkina, Moscow-based reporter of the French magazine *L'Express*. "Thanks to the structure and design of the website, you feel like you're watching a serial movie – a terrible movie that is infused with hope."

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



■ **Jonas and Ona Mozūraitis, and their children Mefodija (Čepienė), Alfonsas, Zuzana (Leskauskienė) and Zenonas, poor farmers who lived in the village of Lenkčiai, Lithuania, sheltered Lea Brik and her eight-year-old son Aharon after they fled the Kovno ghetto. Following liberation, the Brik family emigrated to Israel, where they changed their family name to Barak. Aharon Barak eventually became Chief Justice of Israel's Supreme Court.**



# Russian-Speaking Community



Photo: Shauli Landner, Studio Art

■ Two new Yad Vashem exhibitions in Moscow: Left, "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell" at the State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia; right, "No Child's Play" at the Marina Roscha Synagogue and Jewish Community Center

## ■ Traveling Exhibitions Bring the Face of the Holocaust to Moscow

■ **The Russian public is renowned for its interest in art and culture, and the high esteem in which it holds exhibitions.** In order to expose the public to the history of the Holocaust, two major Yad Vashem exhibitions were recently opened in Moscow.

On 12 May, "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell," a collection of original paintings and drawings by the artist in the ranks of the Red Army at the liberation of Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau, was launched at the State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia. The audience of some 250 distinguished guests included Tolkatchev's daughter Anel Tolkatcheva-Shield, Israel's Ambassador to Russia H.E. Ms. Anna Azari, Israel's Cultural Attaché to Russia Ilana Stein, Museum Director Sergey Arkhangelov, Co-chairs of the Holocaust Fund (Russia) Alla Gerber and Dr. Ilya Altman, Genesis Philanthropy Group Israel Executive Director Sana Britavsky, Holocaust survivor Prof. Anatoly Vanukevitz, Yad Vashem Director

General Nathan Eitan, Deputy Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division and Curator of the exhibition Yehudit Shendar, and Tanya Manusova, Advisor to the Yad Vashem Director General, EJF and GPG programs.

In his address, Eitan quoted Shendar's comparison of Private Tolkatchev's drawings to those of Francis Goya, recalling that "while Goya's images were the product of his dark and twisted imagination, Tolkatchev's sketches reflected the horrific reality beheld by his very own eyes."

The opening date coincided with nationwide V.E. Day celebrations, and took place three days before the capital's annual "Night of the Museums," during which museums and exhibition halls across the capital remain open well into the nighttime hours. The thousands of visitors that night reflected the interest in receiving another vantage point to their victory over Nazi Germany, namely, the Jewish perspective, as well as their appreciation for the exhibition's state-of-the-art design.

A day earlier, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "No Child's Play" opened at Moscow's Marina Roscha Synagogue and Jewish Community Center in the presence of some 100 guests, including war veterans, Holocaust survivors, the Chief Rabbi of the Russian Army Colonel Aharon Gurevich, Chairman of the Roof Movement of the Holocaust Victims and Auschwitz survivor Aron Zusman, and Community Center Director Rabbi Mordechai (Motti) Weisberg. Curated by Yehudit Inbar, Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division, the exhibition offers a window into the world of children during the *Shoah* through the toys, games, artwork, diaries and poems that highlight some of their own personal experiences. Yehudit Shendar delivered opening remarks and an a capella Hassidic choir performed Jewish songs. At Weisberg's initiative, guided tours of the exhibition were organized, and have been enthusiastically taken by the general public, including many groups of Jewish schoolchildren.

“Sure, we know about this tragedy from the books, movies, from Yevgeni Yevtushenko’s poem “Babi Yar,” but the most detailed picture we can receive is only by visiting the Yad Vashem website”

Visitor to new Yad Vashem website in Russian

## ■ Holocaust Curriculum Launched in Haifa Masha Pollak Rozenberg



■ On 7 May, a new Russian-language community education project on the Holocaust was launched in Haifa. A joint effort of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies and the Haifa Municipality, the unique project is dedicated to Holocaust study in general and the experience of the Jews in the

FSU in particular, and involves both formal and informal educational activities. A range of pedagogical tools integrating many of the arts – theater, music, film, painting and sculpture – will be used extensively. The program will run for three years, with the end of each year of activity marked by a special evening presenting projects completed by the students.

The project, generously financed by the European Jewish Fund (EJF) and the Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG), was launched at a ceremony at the conclusion of the veterans’ parade marking 65 years since the victory over Nazi Germany (pictured). Some 1,200 parade participants attended the ceremony, as well as Mayor of Haifa Yona Yahav, Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, Chairman of the NGO for Immigrant Absorption Shai Fischel, ambassadors and consuls. The crowd also included youth movement members and students at the Haifa Military Boarding

School, who all came to express their respect and esteem for the veteran soldiers.

“It is no coincidence that we launch this important new project on the day these veterans helped us win a final victory over Nazi Germany,” said Sana Britavsky, GPG Israel Executive Director and Supervisor of EJF programs at Yad Vashem. “The project has the power to draw together different generations and parts of the nation – new immigrants and native-born Israelis – as one.” International School Director Dorit Novak noted that Haifa, one of many towns to absorb new immigrants, was chosen to be the first Israeli city in which to implement the project both because of its large number of immigrants from the CIS and because of the city’s exemplary and committed educational systems.

*The author is the Head of the Division for Secondary School Education and Director of the EJF Project at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## ■ Hundreds of Russian-Speaking Journalists Tour Yad Vashem

■ More than 200 editors, journalists and publishers of Russian media around the world, as well as Russian government officials, visited Yad Vashem on 25 May as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual World Conference of the Russian Language Press.

Participants from 49 countries, including Russia, Italy, Canada, Vietnam, the UK, Bulgaria, France, Australia, Azerbaijan, Germany, the UAE, Portugal and the US toured the Holocaust History Museum (pictured), visited the Children’s Memorial and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance in the presence of Minister for Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein.

While at Yad Vashem, participants also heard about Yad Vashem’s initiatives in reaching out to Russian-speaking audiences, including the new Russian website, and current research regarding the Holocaust in the areas of the Former Soviet



Union, in particular the Names Recovery Project in Russian-speaking areas. The journalists’ tour

of Yad Vashem was generously sponsored by the Genesis Philanthropy Group.



# A Familiar Scapegoat?

## Lingering Economic Antisemitism in Postwar Munich

Dr. David Silberklang



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■ *“A larger number of retail stores... have been opened in the Möhlstrasse... the owners of these stores belong to the group of “Displaced Persons” of various nationalities... predominantly of the Jewish denomination. In these stores everybody is being offered a large number of commodities, a great many of which are, on the normal market, subject to rationing... and which could not yet have been imported through the officially authorized channels.”*

This June 1949 letter from the Bavarian Retailers Association to the American Office of the Military Government, Bavaria (OMGB), with its carefully couched antisemitic innuendo, is part of Kierra Crago-Schneider’s revealing new research on Jewish Displaced Persons (DPs) and their economic ties in the American Occupation Zone. In the article, featured in the new volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* (38:1) and entitled “Antisemitism or Competing Interests? An Examination of German and American Perceptions of Jewish Displaced Persons Active on the Black Market in Munich’s Möhlstrasse,” Crago-Schneider explains that complaints by German merchants to American and German officials throughout Bavaria talked of “unfair” competition on Munich’s main trade street, and argued that customers were lured away from

their stores by the cheaper and higher quality goods sold in shops owned by Jewish DPs. The Jewish merchants allegedly acquired these goods through illegal channels, allowing them to sell them at reduced prices for cash instead of ration tickets.

Using previously untapped sources, Crago-Schneider reveals the extent of ongoing antisemitism in postwar Munich. Those complaining about Jewish business practices used stock antisemitic language to charge Jewish DPs in Bavaria with being the main perpetrators of illegal economic activities. The complainants ignored the fact that thousands of other foreign nationals, as well as many Germans, were also profiting from the sale of illegally acquired goods. In fact, Jews were hardly the main players on the gray and black markets in Germany; Germans and non-Jewish DPs were

**Jews were hardly the main players on the gray and black markets in Germany; Germans and non-Jewish DPs were much more prominent**

much more prominent. Yet, the complainants reiterated antisemitic ideas of Jewish criminality in an attempt to rid themselves of their main competitors, consciously choosing language that would resonate with Germans.

American responses to such complaints referred to large-scale black marketing by German shopkeepers and asserted that the Bavarian government and police had sufficient authority to stop criminality on Möhlstrasse, whether by Germans or by DPs, if they so chose. However, American officials suspected that the German police turned a blind eye to these activities because they were taking bribes from German storeowners.

Jewish DP merchants were not innocents when it came to black marketeering in

Germany during the postwar period, but the evidence brought to bear by Crago-Schneider clearly contradicts German claims of Jewish predominance in these activities. Like almost all individuals living in postwar Germany, Jews had

**The Germans sought to deflect attention from their own criminal activities in an effort to squash their competition**

initially become involved in the black market as a means of survival in a country without a functioning economy, government or currency, and remained active players in the black market as the years progressed and the market changed, as a means to acquire the funds they would need to rebuild their shattered lives.

The letter from the Bavarian Retailers Association exploited the common belief in Jewish criminality in order to portray their Jewish competitors as the main perpetrators and themselves as victims. The Germans sought to deflect attention from their own criminal activities in an effort to squash their competition.

These German shop owners looked to a familiar scapegoat in order to prop up their own businesses and played on longstanding German perceptions of the Jews as a means to an end. The use of antisemitic language in the press and in letters to the government resulted in the spread and further acceptance of these claims and promoted antisemitism in Bavaria. Although these antisemitic complaints did not include the coarsest Nazi slurs or policy proposals, they did reflect both a lingering antisemitism and a failure to grasp that the only way to stop Germany’s black market was to build anew a fully functioning economy, which in fact would take more than a decade to achieve.

*The author is Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies.*

# Building Blocks of History

## Digitization of Millions of Documents from the Archives

Leah Goldstein



■ From start to finish: an original diary from the Holocaust era is arranged, preserved and digitally scanned and uploaded to Yad Vashem's computers

■ **Yad Vashem recently began implementing a broad-ranging project to digitally scan all the documents preserved in its Archives.** In a special interview for *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Archives Division, explains the project and its goals, both short- and long-term.

### Why do the Archives need to digitize their contents?

The Yad Vashem Archives currently contain the biggest collection of Holocaust documentation in the world, including 130 million pages of documentation, 400,000 photographs and over 100,000 survivor testimonies. This documentation is one of the important treasures of the Jewish people. It serves as the basis for Holocaust research, for the creation of exhibitions and museums, for commemoration activities, as well as for the education of future generations. The documents serve as proof of the Holocaust, and are vital for understanding its scope and meaning, as well as the fate of its victims.

Today, over 65 years after the end of the war, when the documents are starting to disintegrate and the photographs are gradually fading, one of the important challenges we face is to protect these building blocks of history for future generations from damage, extinction

and disaster. Digitizing documentation from the Archives is therefore a rescue operation of the first degree.

### When did the project begin?

We have been scanning documents and microfilm for many years, though in a very limited scope. In recent years we finished digitizing all the tens of thousands of audio and video files, as well as most of the photographs preserved in the Archives, thanks to the crucial support of the Legacy Heritage Fund, honoring the life work of Bella and Harry Wexner, z"l. Last year we began examining the possibility of methodically scanning all the remaining paper documents and microfilm. After a long period of preparations, we started the project in late 2009.

### What is the anticipated scope of this work?

Through the project we plan to scan tens of millions of documents and card catalogs, some 30,000 reels of microfilm and microfiche (film strips with miniaturized copies of documents) as well as tens of thousands of photographs.

### What are the project's goals?

The project is geared first and foremost towards the creation of a high-quality backup copy of all the documentation found at Yad Vashem. These copies will be preserved in secure sites, employing all the advanced technologies

available today. Moreover, the digital copies could be presented on Yad Vashem's computers and made accessible to the general public throughout the world.

### Where do you do the actual work?

In researching the project, we found out that there aren't many places in Israel that perform this sort of professional scanning on such a scale. We consulted many organizations and experts abroad, and in the end decided to perform the project ourselves at Yad Vashem. The reasons are many. First, much of the documentation arrives unsorted, and we have to prepare the pages for scanning: arrange and paginate them, remove staples and paper clips, and offer "first aid" treatment for crumbling documents in our preservation laboratories. Likewise, we need to link the scanned file to our computerized catalogue, so that it can be located and extracted in the future.

The sorting is performed in the Archives' storerooms by a team of about ten experts fluent in the languages in which the documents were created. After preservation treatment, the documents are taken to our digitization room, where staff members scan them and test their quality using state-of-the-art equipment such as high-speed double-sided color scanners and desktop cameras. A high-tech computerized



## "Digitizing documentation from the Archives is a rescue operation of the first degree"

Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Archives Division



system is installed at all the workstations that connects them together, extracts the data from our computerized catalogue and, finally, updates the online catalogue.

### What difficulties have you encountered?

The project was prepared with a broad and multi-disciplinary team, including experts from the Archives and Information Systems Divisions. To an uninformed observer the project seems simple, but what do you do when you are dealing with millions of documents? How do you prioritize them? How do you move such a massive amount of documents between the different stations without losing some of them along the way? How do you decide which machine is suitable for which document? How do you make sure the quality of the original is preserved and may be reliably reconstructed from the digital copy? Where do you save the scanned files? How do you connect them to information in the computerized catalogue? The challenges were seemingly endless, but we worked through each one until an answer was found.

### Have you had any surprises so far?

Our enormous collection of documentation has been gathered over a long time, and some of the boxes had not been opened in many years, so we discover new "treasures" every day. We

were also pleasantly surprised by the great interest the public has already expressed in the project, beyond our expectations.

### When will the public be able to see the scanned documents?

The advantage of the system we developed is that at the end of each work day all the scanned files can be immediately accessed from the computer stations at Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem's computerization staff updates the online catalogue overnight, and the next day the digital copies can already be viewed in color, and even printed out. Later on, some of the scanned documents are added to the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, accessible online. In the future, we plan to gradually provide access to Yad Vashem's documents on our website.

### When is the project expected to end?

The current scanning rate stands at about 100,000 pages a month, so by the end of the year we will have scanned over one million pages. We plan to increase the amount of scanners and purchase an advanced high-speed device for scanning microfilm, thus completing the project within the next few years.

### Who is supporting the project?

The project's preparatory period and first year of operation was made possible thanks to the

generous support of Dayenu Ltd., led by Colin and Gail Halpern and family, steadfast friends of Yad Vashem and partners in our long-range vision of accessibility. Today it is supported by additional donors and financing organizations, including the Claims Conference. The continued operation of the digitization project depends on the location of additional resources, and I am convinced these will be found.

In one of the notebooks we scanned this year, I found a letter written by Eliezer Gandwenger, an orphaned boy from the Mogilev ghetto, to his Hebrew teacher, who educated him for three years at the ghetto's orphanage. In a handsome script and fluent Hebrew, Eliezer wrote: "Memory is the only heaven from which man cannot be banished." This sentence has accompanied me throughout the whole project. This emotional procedure of opening boxes, shaking off the dust and meeting with the documents leads our staff to rediscover the power of the original document and its emotional, instructional and moral strength. This direct contact with written memory leaves no one indifferent. Leafing through photographs, personal documents and testimonies on the yellowing pages proves anew every day the importance of documentation as the cornerstone for the memory of the Holocaust, and for the restoration of the person behind each and every document.

**20 April** ■ Some 2,500 Holocaust survivors, State officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps, as well as hundreds of young people and IDF soldiers, filled Warsaw Ghetto Square for the official State ceremony marking Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Dr. Shimshon Shoshani, Director-General of the Ministry of Education, spoke to hundreds of youth movement members and student representatives from all over Israel at the **Youth Movements' Ceremony**.



**27 April** ■ Ceremony posthumously recognizing Righteous Among the Nations Rev. Marcel Ducommun and his wife, Helene-Marthe-Ducommun of France. Pictured: French Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Christophe Bigot (left), daughters of the Righteous Evelyne Jacobson and Irene Dutont, survivor siblings Maurice Grubain and Nadia Rosenblum, and members of their extended families



**4 May** ■ Some 500 people filled the Wohlin Community Hall in Givatayim for an evening dedicated to the **Balkan Sephardic communities destroyed in the Holocaust**.

**9 May** ■ Official State ceremony marking V.E. Day at the Jewish Fighters and Partisans Monument, in the presence of Israel's Minister of Defense Ehud Barak, Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver, and some 1,000 veterans, partisans, underground fighters, representatives of the Commemorative Association of British Army Volunteers During WWII, ambassadors and military attaches representing the Allied countries.



**11 May** ■ Special gathering of the **Buchenwald Children** to commemorate 65 years since the camp's liberation and to mark the Hebrew-language publication of *Saving Children: Diary of a Buchenwald Survivor and Rescuer* (Yad Vashem) written by the late Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Supporter Jack Werber with Prof. William Helmreich.



**14 May** ■ Some 400 Holocaust survivors participated in the **annual commemoration and memorial service for the Jews of Romania, Bessarabia and Bukovina** who were murdered in the Holocaust. Left to right: Director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names Alexander Avraham, President of the World Federation of Bessarabian



Jews Dr. Danny Koren, Chairman of the United Organization of Survivors from Romania Michah Harish, Executive Director of the Association of Survivors from Moldova in Israel Arkady Brover

**31 May** ■ General meeting of the **Aloumim Association** and a lecture on the topic "From Auschwitz to Exodus" by journalist, author and Auschwitz survivor Noah Klieger.

**8 June** ■ Gathering of Holocaust survivors who were rescued by the late Karl Plagge, a German Righteous Among the Nations, as part of the international conference of the **Association of Jews from Vilna and Vicinity in Israel**. Left to right: Simcha ben Shaul and Association Chairman Michael Schemievitz who were rescued by Plagge, survivor Simon Malkes, the niece of the Righteous, German Ambassador in Israel H.E. Dr. Harald Kinderman, Dr. Michael Good



**10 June** ■ Ceremony posthumously recognizing Righteous Among the Nations **Baronesse Giselle van der Staten Waillet** from Belgium. Pictured: Belgian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mrs. Bénédicte Frankinet, Holocaust survivor Josef Fruhauf, the daughter of the Righteous Gaëtane van der Stegen and family members



**10 June** ■ Hundreds of Holocaust survivors and members of the next generations met at the **Dorohoi Martyrs' Forest** for the annual commemoration ceremony by **Former Residents of the Dorohoi Region, Romania, and the Romanian Association in Israel** to mark 70 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 camps in Transnistria.



# News from the International Institute for Holocaust Research

## Encyclopedia of the Ghettos launched in New York

■ After six years of research, the groundbreaking *Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos During the Holocaust* was launched in New York on 13 May. The two-volume encyclopedia covers the more than 1,100 ghettos established by the Nazis in Europe during the Holocaust and includes 250 photographs, 62 maps, essays, and a DVD of wartime footage of ghettos filmed during the war.



■ American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski (right) and Treasurer Marvin Zborowski browse the new Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos During the Holocaust at its US launch

The launch took place at a special symposium at the Juan Carlos Center in New York, organized by the American Society for Yad Vashem and the Encyclopedia's distributor, NYU Press. "This encyclopedia presents scholars and laymen for the first time with a comprehensive view of the ghetto phenomenon, which was so central to Jewish life during the Holocaust," said Prof. Omer Bartov, John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University. Also present at the symposium was Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman.

*The publication of the Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos During the Holocaust was made possible by the generous support of the Claims Conference, the Lisa and Norbert Schechter Fund, and the Tema and Shlomo Kravitz (z"l) Fund.*

## International Workshop on Danish-Israeli Holocaust Research

■ A first-time seminar entitled "New Trends in Danish-Israeli Holocaust Research" was held in April at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, in collaboration with the University of Southern Denmark and the Danish School for Doctoral Studies in History at Aarhus University.

## Research Seminars in Memory of Prof. David Bankier and Dr. Jean Ancel

■ On 22 April, Yad Vashem held a seminar in memory of Prof. David Bankier z"l, John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies, who headed the International Institute for Holocaust Research since 2000 and passed away in February after a long battle with cancer. The auditorium at Yad Vashem was filled to capacity with family members, friends, colleagues and students who all came to honor his memory.

The seminar, held in conjunction with the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, included moving tributes to Prof. Bankier – the person, teacher, educator and historian – by his students and colleagues around the world. The tributes reflected his influence and centrality among academics and scholars in the field of Holocaust study and the enormity of the void he left behind.

Dr. Goetz Aly of the Free University in Berlin, a former research fellow at the International Institute, spoke about the close relationship and profound friendship that formed despite the great differences in their academic approaches. Editor-in-Chief of the Publications Department Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto (pictured), who was one of Prof. Bankier's students, spoke movingly about his role as an outstanding educator. "The great skills and capacity for learning and assimilating



information that he managed to infuse in his students assist them at every stage of research," she noted. Yoel Zissenwein, David Bankier's last doctoral student, echoed Dr. Nidam-Orvieto's words and delivered a lecture on his thesis topic, "British and American Intelligence Reports on Nazi Germany 1942-1945."

Other speakers included Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who noted Prof. Bankier's enormous contribution to Yad Vashem; Yad Vashem's Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer; Yad Vashem's Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman; Prof. Dina Porat of Tel Aviv University; Prof. Dalia Ofer of the Hebrew University; and Prof. Daniel Blatman, Head of the Institute for Contemporary Jewry.

■ On 29 April, the International Institute hosted a seminar in memory of the late historian Dr. Jean Ancel z"l. The seminar focused on Dr. Ancel's historical research and his contribution to the struggle for Holocaust awareness in Romania. Among the topics discussed was his significant activity and involvement in the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania. Dr. Ancel's research colleagues, friends and family members were present.

Dr. Yosef Govrin, a scholar and former Israeli ambassador to Romania, said: "Jean Ancel was an indefatigable fighter in revealing historical truth. The fact that Romania is dealing with its past crimes against the Jewish people

is undoubtedly, as it has been called, 'Ancel's personal victory.'"

Also addressing the audience were Avner Shalev; Prof. Dan Michman; Prof. Dalia Ofer of the Hebrew University; Prof. Tuvia Friling of Ben-Gurion University; Dr. Rafi Vago of Tel Aviv University; Dr. Leon Wolovitz of the Hebrew University; and Irena Steinfeldt, Director of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem. The seminar concluded with Dr. Ancel's son Tzvi describing his father from a personal and family perspective, and his ability not only to delve into the past, but also to live in the present and for the future.

Participants presented a critical approach to the hitherto established national historiography concerning the period of the German occupation of Denmark from 1940-1945, including issues such as the rescue of Danish Jews in October 1943; Danes serving in German SS units; and the living conditions of the Danish Jews

in Theresienstadt. The lively reactions and discussions following the presentations indicate clearly that the period of the Nazi occupation of Denmark is a relevant topic followed with interest in Israel and abroad.

## New at the Visual Center

■ The Visual Center recently acquired collections from two independent distributors:

Udy Epstein's Seventh Art Releasing, which distributes quality independent films, donated ten films in honor of Avigdor Scharf, and in memory of Eliezer, Rashe, Natan and other members of the Scharf family who perished in the Holocaust. Prominent films in the collection include Dariusz Jablonski's *Photographer*, in which Dr. Arnold Mostowicz's testimony and rare color slides of the Lodz ghetto shed light on chillingly laconic Nazi documents from the ghetto; and Paolo Poloni's *Salonica*, the story of hundreds of years of history and culture in the vibrant Jewish community of Salonica, and its tragic end.

Direct Cinema, an American distributor committed to human rights, deposited 16 documentaries, including Debbie Goodstein's *Voices From the Attic*, one of the first films in the "personal journey" genre; and Nina Rosenblum's *Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in WWII*, the powerful story of the 761<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion's African-American servicemen, who fought not only against the Axis powers, but also against the racism rampant in the US armed forces as well as in American society at the time.

## Son Recognizes Mother in Auschwitz Album

### Madelyn Cohen

■ Jim Berk, a sports journalist and Holocaust guide, was attending a viewing of the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "The Auschwitz Album: Story of a Transport" at Detroit's Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Campus, when he came upon a startling discovery. He recognized his mother – Ilona Dorenter Berk – in one of the photos with a group of women that had just arrived at the notorious death camp.

The Auschwitz Album is the only surviving visual evidence of the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The unique document was donated to Yad Vashem by Lilly Jacob-Zelmanovic Meier in 1994. The photos were taken in early summer 1944 by an SS guard. Although their purpose remains unclear, they clearly show the arrival of Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz, and the entire selection process up until the murder itself. The American Society for Yad Vashem has shown this fascinating exhibition in several cities, colleges and museums across the US for the past four years.

## Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

■ The nominees for this year's "Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award," to be presented at the International Film Festival in Jerusalem, are:

*Cabaret Berlin – The Wild Scene* (Germany/France, Fabienne Rousso-Lenoir); *A Jewish Girl in Shanghai* (China, Wang Genfa); *The Karski Report* (France, Claude Lanzmann); and *The Round Up* (France/Germany/Hungary, Rose Bosch). In addition to the award presentation, a special screening of the 1949 film *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* will take place in the "Jewish Experience" category. This official US government film about the postwar trials was directed by Marine Corps Sgt. Stuart Schulberg, who served with the OSS War Crimes film team, headed by Hollywood director John Ford. Though it was distributed in Germany in 1948 and 1949 as part of the US denazification campaign, the film's release to American theaters and other countries was canceled due to political concerns. Sixty years later, Schulberg's daughter Sandra, together with Josh Waletzky and executive producer Leon Constantiner (see box), embarked on a meticulous restoration of the film, which will be screened for the first time in Israel at the

Festival, followed by a special panel on the Nuremberg trials and the political atmosphere in the US after the war.

■ Yad Vashem Builder Leon Constantiner was born and raised in Mexico City. His parents, Yad Vashem Guardians Dr. Jaime Constantiner and Dr. Joan Sourasky Constantiner z"l, were ardent philanthropists committed to the State of Israel and Holocaust Remembrance. Leon has continued his family's tradition – he supports the arts, culture and education – and is a prominent collector of photography.

Among their many charitable endeavors, Leon and his wife Michaela established two important awards bestowed annually at the closing of the Jerusalem Film Festival: the Lia Van Leer Award for a film dealing with a Jewish theme, and the Avner Shalev Award for an outstanding Holocaust-related film.

*Liat Benhabib is Director of the Visual Center. Mimi Ash is the Center's Acquisitions and Project Coordinator.*



■ Ilona Dorenter Berk (third from right in the white headscarf) arrives at Auschwitz with a group of Jewish Hungarian women, May, 1944. Photo from *The Auschwitz Album*

In May 1944, at the age of 25, Ilona was deported with her siblings and mother from the Berehovo ghetto in Hungary to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Upon arrival at the camp, she was selected for forced labor, and she miraculously survived. Her sister Zisel and two brothers Yido and Peretz were murdered. Today Ilona is 91 years old, and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. She believes that her skills as a seamstress, and



■ Ilona and Sam Berk on their wedding day, March 1953

her ability to speak German, gave her the slim chance she needed to stay alive.

"I was completely astonished when I discovered my mother's picture in the

Auschwitz Album exhibit," recalled Jim. "This has made my guiding all the more special, because I can hold up a picture of her when I lead a tour and bring home the message more vividly. I can tell her stories and communicate the message of what she went through and, in the process, raise my level of devotion and commitment to Holocaust remembrance."

*The author is Director of Outreach at the American Society for Yad Vashem.*



## RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

Over the months of April, May and June 2010, Yad Vashem conducted some 200 guided tours for over 2,500 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government, business and NGO leaders, actors and journalists. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:

■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 28 June, **President of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum, including the opening exhibit on the massacre at the forced labor camp in Klooga, Estonia.



■ **Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Jandroković** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 17 May, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett.



■ **White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel** (right, with Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham, center) and his family visited Yad Vashem on 28 May during their trip to Israel marking his son Zach's bar mitzvah. Following a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Zach (left) was "twinned" with Zecharia Kanonitz of Poland, who was shot dead by the Nazis at the age of ten.



■ **Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Werner Faymann** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 23 June, and was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Dr. Noa Mckayton of the International School for Holocaust Studies (right). **Austria's Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance Josef Pröll** toured Yad Vashem on 26 May and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 17 May, **Belgian Foreign Minister Steven Vanackere** toured the Holocaust History Museum and other sites across the campus.



■ On 8 March, **President of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands Gerdi Verbeet** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Nannie Beekman of the Department for the Righteous Among the Nations (right).



■ **Colombia's Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez Merizalde** visited Yad Vashem on 29 April. He was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Dr. Avraham Milgram.



■ During her tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 2 May, **Foreign Minister of Denmark Lene Espersen** was shown one of the boats used to rescue Danish Jewry. The Foreign Minister was guided by Director of the International Relations Division's English-speaking Desk David Metzler.



■ **President of the Parliament of Italy Gianfranco Fini** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 23 June and toured the "Virtues of Memory" temporary exhibition, guided by the exhibition's curator, Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar (left).



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

**Dana Porath**

### “The Voice of the Survivors”: New Video Testimony Resource Center

■ *“For whoever listens to a witness becomes a witness” – Elie Wiesel*

Throughout Yad Vashem’s comprehensive website, the voices of the survivors infuse its online exhibitions, historical narratives, teaching units and ceremonies with content and meaning. A new resource center gathers many of those testimonies, where they can be easily accessed either by topic – such as “The Jewish World Before WWII,” “The Ghettos,” “Combat and Rescue” and “Return to Life” – or by location – organized according to the birthplace of the witness-survivor. Since the videos are gathered from various sources, some contain testimony of survivors from numerous locations all relating to a particular topic. The center will continue to grow as more and more testimonies are added to the website.

### New Exhibitions in Spanish

■ Two new online exhibitions have recently been added to the Spanish-language website: “Monastir: The Story of a Sephardic Community in Macedonia” – relating the chronicles of the centuries-old community, the devastating events of the *Shoah*, and the postwar commemorative efforts of the few survivors; and “Heartstrings: Music of the Holocaust” – 20 Yiddish songs created during the *Shoah* in the ghettos, camps and partisan groups that tell the stories of individuals, groups and communities, and later, of documentation and remembrance.

### Yad Vashem Facebook Page – Over 15,000 fans

■ On Israel’s Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day, the Yad Vashem Facebook page welcomed its 10,000<sup>th</sup> fan, and the numbers continue to grow daily: the current total stands at over 15,000. Yad Vashem updates its Facebook page regularly, with statuses ranging from links and relevant content from the website to specially prepared photo galleries of recent Yad Vashem activities and visits. A recent fan posting read: “We need to reinforce this education more and more... the world must constantly remember.”

*The author is Director of Yad Vashem’s Internet Department.*

## List of Salonica Victims Given to Yad Vashem

**Zvi Bernhardt**

■ On 14 June, Holocaust survivor Heinz Kounio (pictured) gave Yad Vashem the names of 37,500 Holocaust victims from Salonica (Thessaloniki). Kounio used a myriad of sources – including his own memory of pre-war Salonica – to compile the list, with assistance from Yad Vashem. The names will be added to the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names, significantly augmenting the listings of the victims of this ancient Jewish community.

The ceremony was attended by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Ambassador of Greece in Israel H.E. Mr. Kyriakos Loukakis, Director of the Service of Diplomatic and Historical Archives at the Foreign Ministry of Greece Photini Tomai-Constantopoulou, future Ambassador of Israel to Greece H.E. Mr. Arye Mekel, Chairman of the Association of Greek Survivors of the Death Camps in Israel Moshe Ha-Elion, representative of the Salonica Jewish community Mili Saltiel, Director of the Archives Division Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham, and survivors from Salonica.

Thousands of names of the estimated 53,000 murdered Jews from Salonica are still missing. Yad Vashem staff continues to use every available path – including searching archival sources, gathering Pages of Testimony from relatives and friends, and local and international cooperation – to implement its continuous and multifaceted effort to restore the name of every single Holocaust victim.

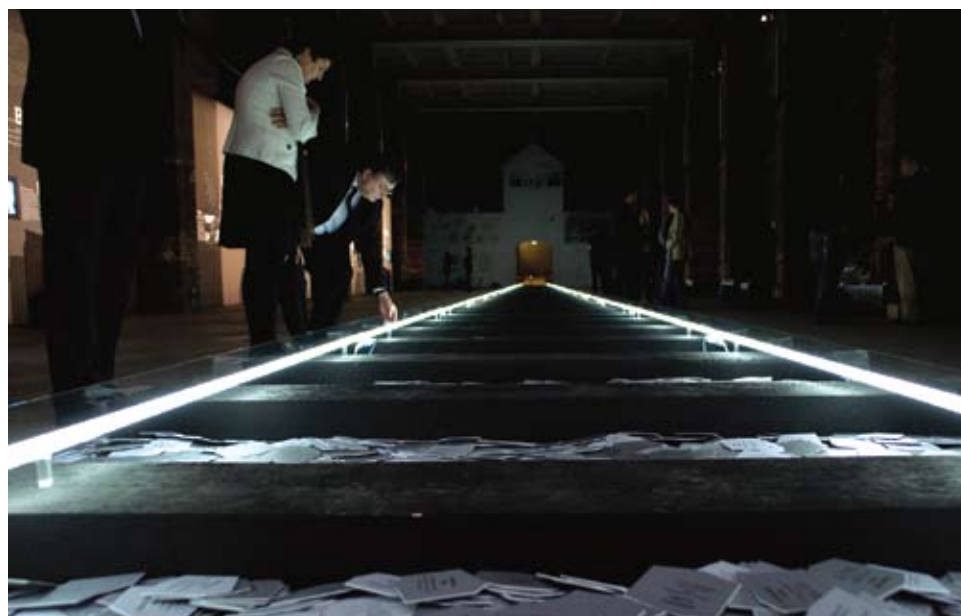
*The author is Head of Data Processing at the Hall of Names, and Deputy Director of the Reference and Information Unit.*



## German Exhibition Uses *Shoah* Victims’ Names

■ A recently opened exhibit at the Deutsche Bahn Museum of Railways in Nuremberg features names of Holocaust victims supplied by Yad Vashem’s Hall of Names. Portraying the role played by the state railway during WWII and the Holocaust, the “Railway Under National Socialism” exhibition presents the

importance of the railway as a pillar of the war and its culpability in the *Shoah* through exhibits, texts, pictures and documentary film. The names of some 60,000 Holocaust victims, provided by Yad Vashem’s Hall of Names, are inscribed on small cards scattered along the train tracks of the exhibit.





# Friends Worldwide

## USA

Over 200 people attended the **American Society for Yad Vashem Annual Spring Luncheon**, held on 27 May at the Grand Hyatt New York. This year's Luncheon, chaired by long-time American Society supporter **Lili Stawski** – the daughter of Yad Vashem Builders **Ellis** and **Israel Krakowski** – was made especially meaningful by the active participation of many members of the third generation who expressed their commitment to carry the torch for the Legacy of Remembrance.

Awards were presented to Holocaust survivor and dear friend of the American Society **Doris Gross** (top picture, left) by her daughter **Lili Barasch**; and Young Leadership Associate member **Yonina Gomberg** (right) by her grandmother **Gladys Halpern**, a past Luncheon honoree and Benefactor of Yad Vashem. American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski** (center) congratulated the honorees. Yad Vashem Benefactor **Marilyn Rubenstein** (bottom picture, right) introduced this year's featured guest speaker, **Prof. Joseph Kertes** (left), who spoke about his award-winning book *Gratitude*.



On 5 May, **Dr. Editha Samson** of Switzerland was joined by **Debra Ziff** and **Karen Lewis**, the daughters of **Dr. Heinz Ewald Samson z"l**, his granddaughter **Joanna Lewis**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev** and close friends for a ceremony inaugurating the new Gateway to the Holocaust History Museum. Heinz Samson z"l and Editha Samson dedicated the Museum Gateway in memory of Heinz's parents **Paula** and **Heinrich Samson** of Norden, Germany, who were murdered in Minsk, and his sister **Gerda Samson**, who was murdered at Auschwitz.



During their recent visit, members of the **Halpern family**, long-time friends and Yad Vashem Benefactors, toured the Holocaust History Museum and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives.



**Jared Kushner** and **Ivanka Trump** visited Yad Vashem in March for a special tour of the campus.



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of esteemed Benefactor **Jan Czucker z"l**, who endowed the "Bridge to the Vanished World" together with his beloved wife **Susanne**. Jan's commitment to Holocaust remembrance and his passionate dedication and devotion to the Jewish people and the State of Israel has left a remarkable legacy for generations to come. May **Susanne**, sons **Edward** and **Mark** and the extended family be comforted among the mourners of **Zion**.



Chairman of the **American Society for Yashem** and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Eli Zborowski** and his wife **Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski** laid a wreath at this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony.



Yad Vashem Supporters **Murray Zborowski** (left) and **Mark Moskowitz** (right) represented the American Society for Yad Vashem's Second Generation Leadership at this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony.



# Friends Worldwide

■ On 27 May, **Bernie Marcus** (left), **Charlotte Mailliard Swig Schultz** (center) and former US Secretary of State **George Shultz** (right) visited Yad Vashem. They were joined by **Jay Kaiman**, Managing Director of the Marcus Foundation, and **Arye Carmon**, President of the Israel Democracy Institute.



■ Board and staff members from the UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Federations of North America visited Yad Vashem in May and toured the new "Virtues of Memory" exhibition, which features the artwork of some 300 Holocaust survivors.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Jack Pechter**, who endowed the International School for Holocaust Studies, gathered with his family and friends, including his sister, Yad Vashem Builder **Jean Schreiberman**, on 9 June for a memorable tour of the site. During the visit, Jack Pechter presented Yad Vashem Director General **Nathan Eitan** with a collection of documents from the Nuremberg trials as well as Goering medals from the personal archives of US Col. Robert Gill.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Irma and Norman Braman** visited Yad Vashem together with their friends **Nancy and Robert Magoon**.



## CANADA

■ Yad Vashem friends and Benefactors **Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman** (left) represented the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony at Warsaw Ghetto Square. They were greeted by President **Shimon Peres**, Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu** and Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**.



■ Leading a 25-member "Zachor" coalition, the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** organized the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa. The ceremony was attended by over 500 people, including government representatives and ambassadors, Holocaust survivors and their families, and 60 students from Jewish and non-Jewish schools across Ontario.

Left to right: Canadian Society Board and MC **Linda Rechtsman**; French MC **Victoria Levai**; Canadian Society Vice Chairman and MC **Joe Gottdenker**; Israel's Ambassador to Canada H.E. Mrs. **Miriam Ziv**; Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway and President of the Treasury Board **Stockwell Day**; Leader of the Bloc Quebecois **Gilles Duceppe**; Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**; Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) **Peter Kent**; Leader of the Liberal Party **Michael Ignatieff**; Leader of the New Democratic Party **Jack Layton**; Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

**John Baird**, Minister of Labour **Lisa Raitt**; Minister of State **Lynne Yelich**; and Rabbi **Reuven Bulka**. Cantor **Moshe Kraus** led the memorial ceremony.



■ Eighteen Holocaust survivors received certificates of honor from **Premier Dalton McGuinty** (back row, right) in recognition of their fortitude in rebuilding their lives after the *Shoah* and their contributions to the Province of Ontario. They were joined by MPP for York Centre **Monte Kwinter** (back row, second from right), Minister of Citizenship and Immigration **Dr. Eric Hoskins** (back row, centre), Israel's Consul General to Toronto **Amir R. Gissin** (back row, second from left) and Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi** (back row, left).



■ In May, the UIA Canada's Prime Ministers' Mission toured the Holocaust History Museum and heard an emotional presentation in the Yad Vashem Archives. They also visited the Family Plaza (pictured), located next to the Archives and Library Building, that provides a striking view of Jerusalem.





## AUSTRALIA

■ Honored friends **Baba and Andor Schwartz** (second and third from left) visited Yad Vashem in March with their son **Danny** and his family. The Schwartz family became Yad Vashem Benefactors in 2005, endowing “The Path of Remembrance and Reflection” in memory of their families who perished in the *Shoah*.



■ An Israel Mission of the Victoria branch of UIA Australia visited Yad Vashem in April. The delegation toured the Museum of Holocaust Art, and received a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives. The visit was concluded in the Hall of Remembrance where the group joined a group of 22 cadets from the Australian Defence Force Academy for a moving memorial ceremony. Pictured: Yad Vashem Archives Director Dr. **Haim Gertner**, **Ezra Eini**, UIA Victoria President **Shlomo Werdiger**, **Shyrla Werdiger**, **David Frenkiel**, UIA Victoria Chairman **Esther Frenkiel**, UIA Victoria Executive Director **Meir Buber**



■ In June, **Dina and Ron Goldschlager** toured Yad Vashem’s new temporary exhibition, “Virtues of Memory,” which they generously supported. They were guided through the exhibition by its curator, Deputy Director of the Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar** (center), who shared her vision

about its design, as well as the artworks and artists on display.



■ Sisters and Holocaust survivors **Eva Slonim** (center) and **Martha Weiss** (second from right), both liberated from Auschwitz as children, participated in this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, laying a wreath on behalf of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** along with Eva’s husband **Ben Slonim** (second from left), their daughter **Sharon Sherman** (left), and Director of the English-Speaking Desk **David Metzler** (right).



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its dear friend, Holocaust survivor **Helen Fröhlich-West z”l**, and extends its sincere condolences to Joseph West on the sad loss of his beloved wife and life partner. Its deepest sympathy also to the rest of the family: daughter **Tonia Komisarov**, granddaughters **Lana Tavor** and **Renee Maoz** and their families on the loss of their mother and grandmother. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



## UK

■ On 13 April, the **British Friends of Yad Vashem** hosted a Gala Dinner in London to raise awareness of Yad Vashem, including the activities of the International School for Holocaust Studies. **His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester** (top, right) spoke in support of Yad Vashem’s global efforts to teach about the Holocaust, particularly in the UK, and presented Yad Vashem with a certificate of recognition,

accepted by Director of the English-Speaking Desk **David Metzler** (left). The Gala Dinner took place in the exquisite Guildhall of London with 300 guests in attendance, including long-time Yad Vashem supporter **Michael Gee** (bottom, right) and Israel’s Ambassador to the UK, **H.E. Mr. Ron Prossor**.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its distinguished Benefactor and long-time supporter **Lord Leonard Wolfson of Marylebone z”l**, of London, and extends its sincere condolences to his wife **Lady Estelle Wolfson** as well as to his daughters and their families, and all the friends of the **Wolfson Family Charitable Trust**. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



## SWEDEN/USA

■ Left to right: Director of the English-Speaking and Scandinavian Desk **David Metzler** accompanied dedicated friends and supporters of Yad Vashem **Georg and Elisabeth Citrom** (Sweden) and **Gail and Colin Halpern** (USA) at Yad Vashem’s Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony.



# Friends Worldwide

## ISRAEL

■ On 31 May, the trustees of the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust (UK) visited Yad Vashem, and toured the new "Virtues of Memory" exhibition. The participants also received an overview of the International School of Holocaust Studies' online courses, which the Trust generously supports.

## GERMANY

■ German film producer **Artur Brauner** recently visited Yad Vashem's Visual Center for a dedication ceremony. Brauner donated his 22 Holocaust-related movies to Yad Vashem, where they can be watched at the Center's viewing stations. He was accompanied by his family from Germany and joined by numerous family and friends from Israel. Left to right: **Maria Brauner**, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Artur Brauner, Visual Center Director **Liat Benhabib**



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor and friend **Rose Landschaft** (center) participated in the official opening Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony along with her family.



## AUSTRIA

■ On 8 June, the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** gathered for their yearly General Assembly, this year devoted to the topic of how Christian churches deal with the Nazi period. Left to right: Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Israel's Ambassador to Austria **Aviv Shir-On**, Protestant Bishop **Dr. Michael Bünker**, Diocesan Bishop **Dr. Ludwig Schwarz**, Protestant Superintendent

of Upper Austria **Dr. Gerold Lehner**, Vienna's Archbishop Kardinal **Dr. Christoph Schönborn**, Governor of Upper Austria **Dr. Josef Pühringer**, Chairman of the Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria **Günther Schuster**, **Ulrike Schuster**, Director for Switzerland and the German-speaking countries **Arik Rav-On**



■ Long-time friend **Fini Steindling** was present at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Opening Ceremony at Yad Vashem.



## Christian Desk

■ **Rob and Bernie Neal** from Los Angeles (pictured with Director of the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, center) laid a wreath in memory of the six million Holocaust victims.



■ The Orion Foundation is a long-term supporter of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem and the work undertaken on Yad Vashem's behalf in various Christian communities. In June 2010, the Foundation Board visited Yad Vashem to further familiarize itself with the practical sides of the activities. Foundation Governor **Jonathan Smalley** (right) accepted a symbolic Key to Yad Vashem in recognition

of their support. Pictured at the Family Square: Board members with Deputy Director of the International Relations Division **Sari Granitza** (fourth from left) and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (third from right)



■ Grand Chief **Ron Evans** (fifth from right) and a delegation of Canada's First Nations' leaders visited Yad Vashem in April, as part of their Israel tour. Reverends **Jean** (back row, center) and **Raymond McLean** (fourth from right), long-time friends of Yad Vashem, led the delegation, which was greeted by Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (front row, center).



## Diaspora Affairs

■ During their recent visit to Yad Vashem, **David Joukov** and **Svetlana Liakhevskaja** were greeted by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), who presented them with the Yad Vashem medal and a special certificate recognizing their generous donation.





## MEXICO

■ Susy and Selik Wengrowsky (left and right) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony with Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk Perla Hazan.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem, Jane and Isaac Ladelsky (center) were greeted by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk Perla Hazan.



■ Orly Beigel (right) and Ute Lemper (center) were accompanied by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk Perla Hazan during their visit to Yad Vashem.



■ Jacobo Cojab (left) attended Yad Vashem's official Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony.



■ Stephanie and Marcos Fastlicht (fifth and seventh from left) and their family celebrated the bar mitzvah of their grandson Samuel (third from left) accompanied by Managing Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda (fourth from left) and Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk Perla Hazan (second from right).



■ Marcos Katz (center) with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres and Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk Perla Hazan (left) at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony



## PORTUGAL

■ Cecilia Caria Mendes (right) and Madalena Barata Canton (left) participated in the official Holocaust Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony at Warsaw Ghetto Square.



## IBEROAMERICA/SPAIN/ PORTUGAL

■ Left to right, at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony: Madalena Barata Canton (Portugal), Jonathan Brender (Venezuela), Cecilia Caria Mendes (Portugal), Abraham and Gladys Serfaty (Spain), Rubens and Esther Goldberg (Israel), Jacobo Benzaquen (Spain), Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk Perla Hazan, Ilana Benzaquen (Spain), Mauricio Hazan



## 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.

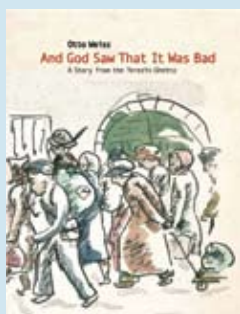
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UK: British Friends of Yad Vashem  
6 Bloomsbury Square  
London, WC1A 2LP  
Tel: 020-7543-5402

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

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

## International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

**Otto Weiss, Ruth Bondy (Ed.), *And God Saw That It Was Bad: A Story from the Terezín Ghetto***  
(98 NIS)



■ What would have happened if God had heeded one man's prayers in the Theresienstadt ghetto, and had taken on human form to help him? This unusual personal novella by Otto Weiss, dedicated to his wife for her birthday in June 1943 and illustrated by their daughter Helga, then 13, is a unique creative reflection of life in the ghetto – suffering, fear and alienation, melded with moments of humanity and hope.

The surprising conclusion raises fascinating moral and theological issues. Weiss was murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau in October 1944. His wife and daughter survived and retrieved the book.

**Sam and Rachel Boymel, *Run, My Child*** (74 NIS)



■ In this fascinating memoir, Yad Vashem Supporters Sam and Rachel Boymel separately describe their childhood before and during the war, then join voices to tell about life after liberation in a beautifully intertwined account. Sam grew up in Turzysk, Poland (today in Ukraine), and witnessed the massacre of his fellow Jews and family. Rachel narrates how her parents met, attending *cheder* as the only girl, and her tendency to dream about the future. Each narrator tells of

life in the ghetto, on the run and in hiding. Life in the DP camp, early family life, struggles to make a life in the USA and eventual success in business complete this captivating tale.

**Zvi Asaria-Hermann Helfgott, *We Are Witnesses***  
(110 NIS)



■ This unique account of the Holocaust and its aftermath is told by a Jewish Yugoslav army chaplain, based on his wartime diary. Zvi Asaria-Hermann Helfgott, PhD, rabbi and army officer during WWII, spent four years in Germany as a prisoner of war with fellow Yugoslavian Jewish officers. With distinct literary skill, the author paints a broad scene of their days in captivity, and delineates fine-tooled descriptions of the atmosphere

engulfing the Jewish prisoners, Bergen-Belsen after the liberation, and the dreams and struggles of the camp survivors. At every station of his wanderings, he offers encouragement and consolation, celebrates Jewish holidays, fosters the study of Hebrew and Jewish history, and reinforces the survivors' faith in the destiny of the Jewish people. After liberation, he devoted great effort in the Displaced Persons camps, provided spiritual support and organized survivors for their immigration to the Land of Israel.

*To order these and other Yad Vashem publications:*  
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