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Along the Streets of the Town

The Online Communities Project (pp. 12-13)

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■ **On the cover:**
Holocaust survivor
Oskar Klein identifies
himself in a film made
by his extended family
on a visit from the US
to Munkács in 1938
(see pp. 12-13).

Uniting



**EUROPEAN HOLOCAUST
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE**

■ Since the end of WWII, Holocaust-related documentation – lists, maps, photographs, certificates, artworks, films and more – has been scattered throughout the world. One of the central goals of Yad Vashem has always been to gather all of these documents into one place and make them available to scholars and the public at large. Today, Yad Vashem houses more than 130 million pages of documents, some 400,000 photographs, 2.2 million Pages of Testimony, over 100,000 testimonies and tens of thousands of original objects and works of art. It is therefore natural that Yad Vashem is one of the architects and major participants in a new international project to render Holocaust archives more accessible to all.

"Here is a golden opportunity for us to demonstrate the leading status of both Yad Vashem and the State of Israel in the field of Holocaust documentation and research."

Dr. Haim Gertner

The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project, a venture of the European Union Research Department, will

Information



New EU Project to Make Holocaust Documentation Accessible to All



■ The four-year project will see cooperation between institutions from across Europe.

begin in October 2010, with the participation of 20 different institutions of Holocaust documentation and research from 13 countries – Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, the Netherlands, Hungary, Israel, Poland and Romania.

The four-year project, headed by Dr. Conny Kristel, Head of the Research Division of The Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD), will be based on a series of ongoing activities carried out by the member organizations. As a member of the project's Executive Committee, Yad Vashem is playing a central role in a well-designed system of 20 sub-projects aimed at fashioning a virtual research environment open to the general public; bringing together scholars and experts; and sharing information between countries and organizations.

The main objectives of the EHRI project include creating:

■ a unified database of all institutions around the world that hold Holocaust documents, including a list of the collections at each of the institutions

■ a collection of some 5,000 shared and translated key words for describing collections of Holocaust documentation

■ “Connecting the dots” – a virtual presentation of several document collections relevant to one location

■ a Virtual Research Environment (VRE) sharing and building a website for researchers, educators and the general public

■ a forum for experts in the various fields of documentation (visual documentation of the Holocaust, names of Holocaust victims, oral documentation, Holocaust art, and more).

In addition, 30 research grants will be allocated to scholars at leading archives, including those of Yad Vashem, and four summer workshops for young scholars will be held,

Yad Vashem is playing a central role in a well-designed system of 20 sub-projects aimed at fashioning a virtual research environment open to the general public; bringing together scholars and experts; and sharing information between countries and organizations

one at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research.

EHRI will be officially launched in Brussels on 16 November, at an event held under the auspices of the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, with the planned attendance of the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, senior representatives of the EU, directors of the EU Research Authority, government ministers, heads of institutions, scholars and public figures from all participating countries. At the launch ceremony, Israel will be represented by Education Minister Gideon Saar, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner.

“Focusing on the fate of the Jewish victims exclusively has become unpopular in both the academic and public discourse about the Holocaust in Europe, and this project stands out for its intention to deal with the issue head-on,” explains Dr. Gertner. “The participation of the State of Israel in a central EU project is not self-evident, but that is precisely why it is so important that Yad Vashem be involved in the initiative. Here is a golden opportunity for us to demonstrate the leading status of both Yad Vashem and the State of Israel in the field of Holocaust documentation and research, and the efforts on behalf of remembrance for future generations.”

In the First Person

Jonathan Clapsaddle



■ *Ovadia Baruch ז"ל on the boardwalk, Thessaloniki, Greece. From the making of the film "May Your Memory Be Love"*

■ *"I never stop telling my story so anyone that hears me will be able to say – even when I am no longer here – 'I heard Hannah Bar Yesha, I knew her, I listened to her. She was there, and she told me.'"*

Together with the Multimedia Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the International School for Holocaust Studies has produced seven films in the "Witnesses and Education" series, including that of Bar Yesha, Auschwitz survivor and educator, whose documentary "She Was There and She Told Me," strikes to the core of this unique educational project to record the life stories of Holocaust survivors.

"When depicting the story of the individual, firsthand testimony stands at the center of Holocaust educational endeavors," explains

Filmed at the places in which the events took place, the series of testimony films tell the complete story of the survivors: their lives before, during and after the Holocaust

Director of the School's Educational Technology Department Na'ama Shik. "The generation of witnesses will soon be gone, and with them the experience of hearing testimony directly

from those who experienced the *Shoah*, along with the empathy and unique emotional bond this creates. Recording personal accounts on film allows the study of the Holocaust to continue from a distance. In a demanding, inquiring era, survivors bequeath the truth to us for generations, against attempts to deny or to forget."

Filmed at the places in which the events took place, the series of testimony films tell the complete story of the survivors: their lives before, during and after the Holocaust.

During the filming and production process, the staff understood that this approach – returning the survivors to locations from their earlier lives – gave the accounts added depth and vigor. Survivors returned to familiar scenes of their youth and childhood: they rediscovered

Survivor Testimonies on Film



■ Malka Rosenthal at a railway station, Legnica, Poland. From the making of the film “The Heavens Will Open for You”

old playgrounds, gardens and homes; and met relatives, friends and neighbors. These multi-sensory experiences awakened in them a wide range of emotions.

In planning the films, the staff and educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies aimed to strike a balance between the historical and educational goals of the project. The questions posed to the survivors took a somewhat different direction to that of the standard historical interview, employing angles that often arise when teaching the Holocaust in the classroom. The focus was thus on broader, universal and humanistic issues, with important long-term educational implications. This invokes greater empathy and internalization, as well as a desire for further study.

The films in the series have been translated

into seven languages: Hebrew, English, German, French, Russian, Spanish and Polish. They all feature prominently in the activities of the International School for a variety of target audiences, including international seminar programs in Israel and abroad. Many of the thousands of educators who have already viewed the films have gone on to use them in their localized teaching endeavors around the world. The films will therefore continue to serve a prime educational purpose long after the opportunity to hear the stories firsthand has passed.

The films in the “Witnesses and Education” Series were produced with the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation and are available for viewing in Yad Vashem’s Visual Center.

The author heads the English section of the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

New in the Virtual School

Yael Weinstock

Online Courses Get Facelift

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies’ online courses in English have been given a new layout, making it easier for learners to access related materials, videos and lesson plans. This includes all five courses that are part of “At the Edge of the Abyss” and “Life Lessons – Bringing the Holocaust Into Your Classroom,” as well as courses offered for credit for teachers in Israel.

“Teaching the Holocaust Through Film”

■ The latest Virtual School e-newsletter focuses on teaching the Holocaust through film. It discusses the “Witnesses and Education” project (see main article) – films of survivors telling their story in their hometowns in Europe – explaining methods of utilizing survivor testimony for decades to come. The newsletter also features two articles on the films *Valkyrie* and *The Illegals*, and how to use them to teach about the Holocaust.

Seminar for Tatar Muslim Teachers

Dr. Irit Abramski

■ During the month of August, the European Department held its third annual seminar for teachers from Tatarstan, an autonomous region in the Russian Federation, in cooperation with Kazan State University. The International School was privileged to welcome Mufti of Tatarstan Farid Khaydarov and his secretary Albert Khabibullin among the 23 seminar participants.

As most of the educators were Muslims, the program included topics such as “Jewish-Arab Relations in Classical Islamic Tradition” and “Teaching the Holocaust to Israeli Arabs.” Participants also attended a workshop on the evacuation of industry and civilians in the Soviet Union during WWII, and many of the participants learned for the first time the depth of the tragedy. They also took part in a vibrant interfaith dialogue with Rabbi David Rosen, Honorary Advisor on Interfaith Relations to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

“Unfortunately many of our students take little interest in the history of WWII,” wrote one of the participants at the seminar’s conclusion. “Now that we are more acquainted with Yad Vashem’s wide-ranging pedagogic materials and website, we will undoubtedly be more successful in introducing this topic in our schools.”

The author is Head of the Russian-speaking Countries Desk, European Department, 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:

Yael Weinstock

■ In January 2010, David De Groot participated in the first Yad Vashem seminar of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators. Though interested in the topic as a history teacher, it was his personal family story that truly attracted him to teaching about the Holocaust.

Living in the Netherlands during WWII, De Groot's mother's family gave refuge to Moshe Davidson and his two children, as well as Joel Elzas, Carola Fallmann and Han Blein. His grandmother Geertje de Vries and her sister Grietje met the Davidsons and brought them to the home of their parents, Harmen and Trijntje de Vries, where two of the other Jews were already hiding. Due to the crowded living situation and the difficulties in finding food, the Davidsons were moved to the home of the couple's son and daughter-in-law, where they lived for almost three years, until liberation in May 1945. The de Vries family remained in

touch with all of those they rescued, and were later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.

De Groot chose to focus his teaching on the role played by certain resistance movements in occupied Europe during the Holocaust. He strives to enlighten young people as to the different types of resistance that occurred, as well as their effectiveness. Emphasizing the Dutch Resistance Movement in particular, he highlights his remarkable family story and its place within the historical context of the time.

"My grandmother passed away aged 92 in 2008," he recalls. "This is my way of remembering her heroism during the Holocaust. I feel privileged to have been on this course, and I want to thank the Gandel Charitable Trust for its incredible generosity and Yad Vashem for this unique opportunity. It was truly a life-changing experience."

David De Groot Australia



■ International School graduate David De Groot points to the inscription of his family in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

For more information about how to apply for the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, please contact: gandel.program@yadvashem.org.il

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

Palestinian Groups Visit Yad Vashem

■ On 20 July, 22 young Palestinian students participated in a unique day-long seminar at Yad Vashem during which they learned about the Holocaust and discussed its implication and impact on today's society.

The visit was the initiative of Mujahad Sarsour, a West Bank native who grew up knowing virtually nothing about the Holocaust. Mujahad first became aware of the subject while a student at Bard College in upstate New York. Becoming familiar with the *Shoah* made him understand its special significance for the Jewish people as well as young people the world over: "If we change our way of thinking about the Holocaust, we will succeed in building bridges of understanding and tolerance."

The students, who came to Yad Vashem during the month of Ramadan, listened attentively to Arabic-speaking guide Yaniv Yaakov, who accompanied them throughout the day. The information, photographs, films and especially the testimonies of Holocaust survivors regarding their experiences in the

concentration and death camps left many of them emotionally shaken.

Knowledge of the Holocaust in Palestinian society is very limited, and ignorance and denial is widespread. In the opening discussion, many of the visitors noted the difficulty of studying the Holocaust in light of their belief that the establishment of the State of Israel resulted in their loss of land and independence. Their encounter with the human dimension of the story presented at the Museum contributed greatly to a more complex understanding of the events.

Nur Amar, a 15-year-old youth participant, noted: "Despite my difficulty with the concept of Zionism, the visit to Yad Vashem helped me understand that after the Holocaust the Jews had nowhere to go."

After the visit, Mujahad expressed his hope that additional Palestinian groups will come to Yad Vashem and learn about the Holocaust. "Shoah Remembrance is a vital component of Israeli society. We live alongside one another and must understand one another better if we want to live in peace."

Osnat Dadon and Zahava Vidal



■ Yaniv Yaakov guides a group of Palestinian students through the Holocaust History Museum.

Two other Palestinian groups visited Yad Vashem this summer: 30 students from the village of Mas'ha, near Nablus, and 25 students from Ramallah.

Activities for the Arab-speaking community at the International School are generously supported by the Beracha Foundation.

Osnat Dadon is the acting Director of the Teacher Training Department, and Zahava Vidal is a Department Coordinator, International School for Holocaust Studies.

International Seminars – Summer Activities

■ The annual **International Seminar for Educators** held this July was attended by 35 participants from 10 countries, including 11 Canadian educators specially chosen by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. Attendees were given a wide range of lectures and practical guidance sessions as well as tours throughout Yad Vashem and across the country. Two fascinating addresses by Prof. Robert Wistrich of the Hebrew University on “The Intellectuals and Rise of Modern Antisemitism in Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries” and “Antisemitism and the Global Jihad” have since been uploaded to the Yad Vashem website.

■ The **International Seminar for Latin-American Educators** took place at the end of July, with 22 participants from seven countries. The educators, journalists and museum staff all articulated their gratitude for the high

academic level of the lectures and diverse range of topics covered, and expressed their renewed commitment to Holocaust education. They especially appreciated their meetings with four Holocaust survivors, including a particularly emotional discussion with Yona Zahavi, who gave his testimony for the first time in front of an audience. “I was so moved when talking to the participants that I often couldn’t find the right words,” Zahavi recalled. “They were interested and sympathetic – their ‘Latin’ emotions clear on their faces. It was not easy, but I left with a feeling of relief that my story had been heard.”

The International Seminar for Educators was sponsored by the Adelson Family Foundation and supported with the assistance of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The International Seminar for Latin-American Educators was sponsored by the Claims Conference and the Adelson Family Foundation.

Seminars for Ultra-Orthodox Educators

Nava Weiss

■ “There wasn’t much time, this was just a sampling. We must come back again and again, to hear and to see, so that the next generation will know the atrocities that Amalek committed.”

Participant in the Seminar for Ultra-Orthodox Educators at Yad Vashem

“You shall tell it to your children’: Documentation and Memory During and After the Holocaust” was the subject of four seminars held during the first nine days of the Hebrew month of Av by the International School for Holocaust Studies, under the auspices of the Division of Ultra-Orthodox Education in the Jerusalem Municipality.

The seminars were devoted to various aspects of documentation during the Holocaust, including diary writing, photography, drawing and materials collected in the ghettos. Lectures also dealt with documentation after the Holocaust, including interviews given by survivors and the collection of *Shoah* victims’ names for the Yad Vashem Names Database.

Each day began with a Holocaust-related religious lecture, after which conference participants split into different workshops examining the use of documentary materials and videotaped testimonies in teaching about the *Shoah*.



■ *Ultra-orthodox teachers tour the Holocaust History Museum during their educational seminar at Yad Vashem.*

The days ended with lectures dealing with different aspects of documentation: the Names Recovery Project, the *Oneg Shabbat* Archive, and documentation by Holocaust survivors. Participants also toured the Holocaust History Museum and met with survivors.

More than 1,500 people attended the seminars – 700 teachers from the boys’ Talmud Torah system and 800 teachers and seminary students from the girls’ schools. “The conference gave me a different perspective from the one I was used to,” said one of the participants. “I realized that Holocaust remembrance is a crucial part of educating our children.”

The author is Head of the Ultra-Orthodox Desk, Teacher-Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Antisemitism Exhibit Continues to Tour Germany



■ On 25 May 2010, the exhibition “Antisemitism? Anti-Zionism? Criticism of Israel?” was mounted for the first time in Saarbrücken, Germany. Since 2007, this traveling presentation on current antisemitic trends in Europe, produced by Yad Vashem and the Center for Antisemitism Studies at the Technical University of Berlin and designed by Muli Ben Sasson, has toured more than 10 major cities throughout the country.

Featuring some 45 panels and divided into 13 chapters, the exhibit begins with a review of the demography and richness of Jewish life, and then moves on to a brief history of antisemitism. “Classic” religious-based antisemitism of the extreme Christian right is presented side by side with its newer expressions that are often mixed with extreme anti-Israel sentiment and the violent language of Islamists and the radical left. The trivialization and denial of the Holocaust, which has become a mainstay of antisemites, and its use as a rhetorical weapon is examined as well. The exhibit finally analyzes current expressions of antisemitism in the European media, through caricatures, photos and more, as well as antisemitic attacks in Europe, including violence and vandalism.

A Mission and a Privilege

Volunteers for the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project

Deborah Berman

■ For more than five decades, Yad Vashem has invested tremendous efforts into redeeming the names of every single Holocaust victim. To date, almost four million names have been recorded from a number of sources, including 2.2 million Pages of Testimony.

In a special interview for *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, three volunteers in the project to gather Holocaust victims' names – Sara Perry (general Israeli population), Mindy Ribner (Ultra-orthodox population) and Galina Pohovitski (Russian-speaking population) – discussed the reasons they joined the project, what the work involves, and the satisfaction it provides both them and the survivors with whom they share this emotional journey.

Perry, a Holocaust survivor, was liberated from Majdanek at the age of five. "Growing up in the *Shoah*, I really had no childhood," she remembers. "Today, when I sit with survivors and help them recall their stories, I feel a strong sense of empathy and understanding. Their recollections often bring to mind my own experiences – although I was very young, I still remember certain events. The survivors feel a sense of contentment in being able to give testimony; mine is that I help them do so."

Pohovitski was drawn to Holocaust remembrance by the memory of many family members that perished in the *Shoah* in Belarus. Though she never had the opportunity to meet them – she was born after the war – she is painfully aware that during the Communist regime little was done to commemorate the Jewish victims; they were listed as "Soviets," not Jews. "Many names of *Shoah* victims from the FSU are still missing,"

she notes. "It is important for us to reach out to assist this generation of survivors to commemorate the victims they knew, because soon there will be no one left who still remembers them."

"I feel humbled in the presence of survivors. It gives me perspective on my own life."

Mindy Ribner

Though she has no direct personal experience of the Holocaust, Ribner's bond with the survivors is clear. "For as long as I can remember, I have always felt an emotional tie to the *Shoah*," she explains. "Many members of my parents' family were killed: aunts, uncles and cousins. I have always wanted to understand more about what happened."

So what motivated these women to become "Names Recovery Project" volunteers? "Every person deserves to be memorialized," declares Ribner. "Under normal circumstances, a person is buried with a *matzevah* (tombstone) and the memory of the person lives on. That is not the case regarding the *Shoah*. In many cases, entire Jewish communities were wiped off the face of the map, leaving nobody to remember the men, women and children that were part of them. It is a privilege to be involved in helping memorialize these people."

"I believe that every story, every piece of human history is unique," adds Pohovitski. "Most



■ Names Recovery Project volunteer Galina Pohovitski speaks to a survivor on the phone.

of the survivors alive today were children during the war. It is impossible to understand what they must have suffered at the hands of the Germans. I find that many survivors are very lonely and that the work I do with them gives them a sense of comfort."

The volunteers all help survivors submit Pages of Testimony. The process is often long and emotionally charged, and requires a special sensitivity on behalf of the interviewer. "Sometimes we meet at Café Europa (a common social gathering arena for Holocaust survivors), other times I go to their houses and show them how to fill out the form," explains Perry. "It takes a lot of time. We begin to talk, and the story slowly comes out. Sometimes they bring out pictures or personal items from the Holocaust period, which I also collect and deliver to Yad Vashem for preservation and safekeeping." "It's very rewarding to sit across from a 95-year-old man and help him commemorate his family," adds Ribner. "I feel humbled in the presence of survivors. It gives me perspective on my own life."

Testimonies Reveal Long-Term Impact

■ "My sister knew about the gas and the crematorium and still she called me... and I... didn't go with her. This will torment me until the end of my life."

So describes Márta, an Auschwitz survivor from Hungary who lost her sister during a selection at the death camp. Though she endured gruesome medical experiments which left her sterile, Márta's worst trauma is the longstanding and deep sense of guilt she feels that her younger sister was selected for death, while she was sent to forced labor.

Márta's account is part of a collection of

survivors' testimonies amassed by Hungarian sociologist and psychologist Dr. Julia Vajda and recently added to the more than 100,000 testimonies in the Yad Vashem Archives. Vajda gathered the 332 audio testimonies between 2004 and 2007 as part of her "Totalitarianism and the Holocaust" project at the University of Debrecen. Analyzing the interviews from a psychological-sociological perspective, Vajda examined how they explain the events they endured during the Holocaust, and how these experiences affected the course of their lives afterwards.

Lital Beer

This unique collection is vital to understanding the intensity of the trauma experienced by survivors. In Márta's case, Vajda presents possible explanations of how her infertility and the guilt she feels over her sister's death affected the course of her life: "More than the camps and atrocities Marta went through, the agonizing guilt for believing she was her sister's murderer – however misguided – cast a great shadow over the rest of her life."

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

Gaining Closure

Survivor Honors Rescuers and Discovers New Family

Irena Steinfeldt

■ Seated in the shade of a tree in the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, Rochelle Sameroff relates her story. She tells them about her childhood in Paris and her hospital stay in July 1942, and how perplexed she was when one day her mother stopped visiting her. Only much later did she find out that her parents, Wolf and Bronia Kokotek, and her four-year-old sister Fernande were caught in the Vel d'Hiv roundup of the Jews of Paris in July 1942 and deported to Auschwitz.

After Rochelle had regained her health, a neighbor came to discharge the lonely child from the hospital and bring her back to her apartment. Trying not to cause her too much pain, Madame Registel told Rochelle that her parents had escaped from France. "That lie haunted me for decades, because I believed my mother didn't love me enough and abandoned me," Rochelle recalls.

Being a devout Catholic, Madame Registel sent Rochelle to St. Helene, a convent school. However when it became dangerous for the Jewish girl, she took her out of the school and found a family to take her in. Rochelle went to live with Roger and Jeanette Voinot, who owned a small bakery in Avrolles, in the Yonne district in Eastern France. Despite the danger — the Germans were stationed in the village and some were even billeted in villagers' homes — and although they had their own seven-year-



■ During her visit to Yad Vashem, Rochelle Sameroff (third from left) was shown papers identifying her rescuers as Righteous Among the Nations.



■ Roger and Jeanette Voinot, second and third from left, with Rochelle (then Kokotek), second from right, January 1944

“That lie haunted me for decades. I believed my mother abandoned me.”

Rochelle Sameroff

old daughter, the couple took Rochelle in and treated her with warmth and kindness. They called her Renée, and told their neighbors she was a niece who was sent to live in the country for health reasons.

After liberation, Rochelle was once again torn from her environment and placed in an institution for orphaned Jewish children.

However, on a visit to her old Paris neighborhood she happened to enter a store, where a former neighbor told her that her father had family in the US. This coincidence led to her reuniting with her paternal grandparents in New York in March 1947. It had been almost five years since she had last seen any of her relatives.

Her trip to Israel this June finally brought Rochelle some closure. During her visit to Yad Vashem, she was delighted to learn that the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous had decided to award the title of Righteous Among the Nations to her rescuers, Jeanette and Roger Voinot. Rochelle and her family also spent an emotional time viewing the documents that had been gathered by the Department of the Righteous documenting the family's fate.

Most moving of all, however, was a Page of Testimony Rochelle's daughter discovered browsing Yad Vashem's online Database of the Shoah Victims' Names, in memory of her maternal grandmother. The Page had been submitted in 1957 by a cousin in Israel. The newly discovered relative was invited to attend the wedding of Rochelle's granddaughter the following day, and thus, close to 70 years after her mother had been murdered, Rochelle was finally able to fill in the missing pieces about the rest of her long-lost family.

The research for Rochelle Sameroff, and other research carried out in the Righteous Among the Nations Department, is generously supported by the Ford Foundation.

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

A Doll Named Rosa

Artist Inspired by Her Grandmother's Story

Rinat Harris-Pavis



■ Dr. Rosa Szabad-Gabronska

■ One of the more fascinating women depicted in the “Spots of Light” exhibition, displayed at Yad Vashem during 2007, was Dr. Rosa Szabad-Gabronska, a member of the Vilna Judenrat in charge of establishing an orphanage, a daycare center and a food distribution point for the children of the ghetto. This responsibility sealed her fate: when her daughter and son-in-law offered her an opportunity to go into hiding, Rosa refused to leave the orphans and other staff members to manage on their own. She chose instead to stay in the ghetto – and was eventually murdered at Majdanek.

Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division and “Spots of Light” exhibition curator Yehudit Inbar searched feverishly for Dr. Szabad-Gabronska's surviving son-in-law, but to no avail. The circle was finally closed when the exhibition “Virtues of Memory,” curated by Yehudit Shendar, opened this April at Yad Vashem, three years later. It was then discovered that one of the artists represented in the exhibition was Sophie Libo-Wawziniak, the granddaughter of Dr. Szabad-Gabronska, who had donated to Yad Vashem's art collection a glass-fronted cabinet containing handmade puppets that illustrate the orphanage established by her grandmother in the Vilna ghetto.

Sophie comes from a well-known family of Vilna doctors. Her great-grandfather was Dr. Zemah Szabad, a social and political activist



■ Exhibit of handmade puppets illustrating the orphanage in the Vilna ghetto, displayed in Yad Vashem's “Virtues of Memory” exhibition



■ Artist Sophie Libo-Wawziniak

and a co-founder of YIVO, who was also the inspiration for Dr. Aybolit by Korney Chukovsky, a popular character in Russian children's literature similar to Dr. Dolittle.

Her grandmother, Dr. Rosa Szabad-Gabronska, was a noted pediatrician in Vilna and a board member of a number of organizations. Her father, Dr. Aleksander Libo, was an ENT specialist who after the war served as chairman of the Association of Jews from Vilna and the Surrounding Areas in Israel.

Born in 1935, Sophie spent most of the war years under an assumed identity, living with her mother's voice coach. Sophie's parents and sister were hidden in a convent by Sister Maria Mikulska and Father Juozas Stakauskas, later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.

Sophie has two main memories of her grandmother, the first from the Christmas before the war broke out, when Grandma Rosa and Grandma Nadja arrived at their house bearing gifts – two dolls. The Nadja doll was meant for Sophie, while the Rosa doll was meant for her

sister. Sophie begged her sister to trade with her and had to add a teddy bear before her sister would agree to the exchange. Throughout the war, Rosa the doll went everywhere with Sophie, who still has its tattered remains.

The other memory is a testament to Dr. Szabad-Gabronska's dedication to the children in her care. Sophie remembers that her grandmother was worried about the orphanage and the fate of the orphans and that she, as a young child, was jealous of these poor children. “They were really small and cute; I was her *granddaughter* yet she spent most of her time with them.”

Sophie, a construction engineer by training, emigrated to Israel in 1958, and for the past 40 years has created puppets out of barbed wire, wood, cloth and papier-mâché. The settings vary: folktales, plots from movies and the theater, biblical stories and the Holocaust, the latter focused on by the series “Silent Feelings,” “The Sacrifice of Isaac,” “Rendezvous,” and “A Party in My Fantasy Garden.” Her puppetry reflects her childhood fears and attempts to cope with them as an adult in a way that allows her to convey her feelings.

“I always felt an attraction to dolls,” Sophie explains. “I would look for ways to express myself through art and sculpture but never quite succeeded – until I discovered the puppets.”

The author is deputy curator of the “Spots of Light” exhibition, and a curator in the Museums Division.

Distinctive Voices

The Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project

Daniella Zaidman-Mauer

■ *“On the surface, all memoirs of Holocaust survivors resemble one another. They tell of the peaceful happiness of the before, the terrifying violence of the Tragedy, and then, the difficult challenges that came after. This seems to be true of the broad strokes of these narratives. Yet each person evokes his or her life and agony in his or her own unique manner, distinctive voice, with his or her own distinct emphases and silences.”*

From the introduction by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel to Joseph E. Tenenbaum's memoir, *Legacy and Redemption: A Life Renewed*

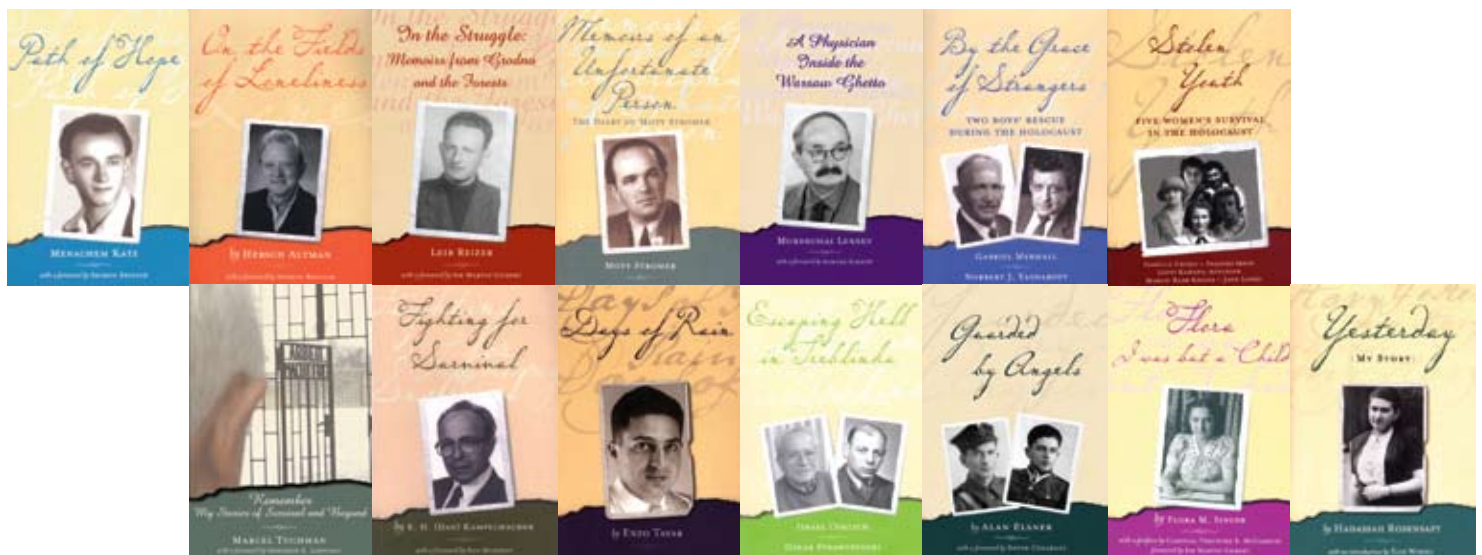
Six years ago, Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project embarked on a mission to publish a series of life stories of Holocaust survivors in English. With assistance by the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen

authors – and their families – an immeasurable sense of satisfaction and relief to record their memoirs for posterity.

The wide range of memoirs includes stories of childhood struggles, the surprising kindness of strangers, heart-wrenching decisions and valiant attempts to rebuild their lives after the war. Dan Kampelmacher, author of *Fighting for Survival*, recently wrote: “The publication of my memoirs served two purposes: public enlightenment – informing the world, my family and my friends about one terrible aspect of the Holocaust (just 65 years ago one could be rewarded with 40 Dutch guilders for turning in a Jew in hiding); and gaining personal “closure” to the years of fear I suffered. At the age of 90 I still think every day of the angel on my

his experiences attending university in postwar Germany, filled with characters both good and evil, and some even heroic, all of whom played a role in his survival.

Marek (Moty) Stromer's remarkable diary, *Memoirs of an Unfortunate Person*, was written over the course of 300 days in the dark attic of his Christian neighbor from Kamionka, Józef Streker, who had given Stromer a blank ledger book and a pencil. He wrote his memoirs for his younger sister who had moved to the United States, under the assumption that all of those left behind had been killed. Stromer recounts the viciously brutal treatment he suffered at the hands of the local Ukrainians, his imprisonment in the Janowska forced labor camp and his escape from a deportation



Associations and a grant from Random House Inc., this joint project has already published 22 memoirs in 16 books (the first three were published by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Memoirs Project).

The project is an initiative of UN Messenger of Peace Elie Wiesel and Menachem Rosensaft, Chairman of the Project's Editorial Board; its Editor-in-Chief is Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. While its declared aim is to collect, preserve and make available to interested readers the autobiographical accounts of survivors of the Holocaust, it also brings the

shoulders that saved my life.” One reviewer wrote of Mordechai Lensky's book, *A Physician Inside the Warsaw Ghetto, 1939-1943*: “This book is a gripping read for all and a perfect resource for historians.”

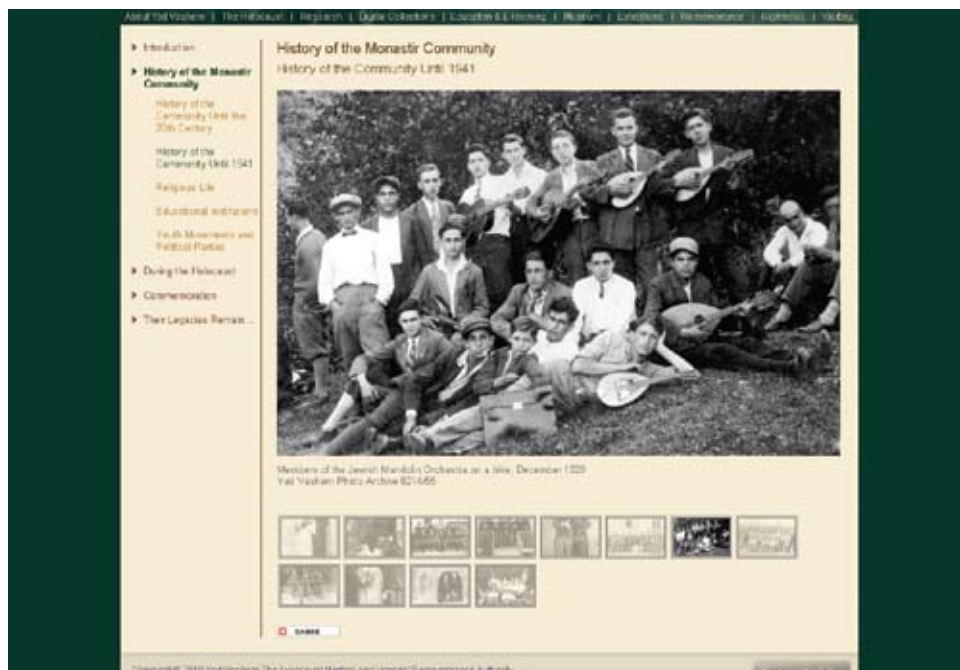
The seventeenth and most recent book in the series is the dramatic account by Dr. Marcel Tuchman, *Remember: My Stories of Survival and Beyond*. Tuchman, an esteemed physician living in New York, recounts tales of his often brutal, always compelling experiences as a young man in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust and in its afterwards. The story leads from the Przemysł ghetto and slave labor in Auschwitz to

transport to the Belzec death camp. On Thursday, 6 April 1944, he writes: “I had a difficult time trying to decide whether to write this or not, because I always hoped I would live through the greatest disaster... As I write these words I hear exploding artillery shells. Is there a possibility that my memoirs will burn in a fire? I am writing with mistakes, and my Yiddish is very poor, but how can I write in another language when that would mean that some Jews would not be able to read [these words] about the great upheaval and suffering?”

The author is Associate Editor of the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project.

Along the Streets of the Town

The Online Communities Project



■ From the exhibition “Monastir: The Story of a Sephardic Community in Macedonia,” part of Yad Vashem’s online Communities Project

■ **“For more than one thousand years, Jews lived in Europe, organizing communities to preserve their distinct identity. In periods of relative tranquility, Jewish culture flourished, but in periods of unrest, Jews were forced to flee. Wherever they settled, they endowed the people amongst whom they lived with their talents. Here their stories will be told.”**

From the inscription at the entrance to the Valley of the Communities, Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem’s Internet team recently launched a new project on its website (www.yadvashem.org) that tells the stories of the Jewish communities decimated or destroyed during the Holocaust.

The online exhibitions depict each community’s unique character, history, languages, achievements, and struggles to survive in a changing world. They bring to viewers a rich, multifaceted and geographically diverse world of Jewish life that is now lost: an array of communities with thriving cultural lives, communal and political organizations, great institutions

of Torah learning, and centers of Zionist activity. The visitor becomes familiar with their challenges and joys, their everyday lives, their schools and businesses, their Sabbaths and religious holidays. They meet rich and poor, Torah sages, wealthy traders, artisans and pushcart peddlers.

The virtual exhibitions are built from a wide range of materials taken from Yad Vashem’s Archives – documents, testimonies, eyewitness accounts, film clips, photographs, objects and books – in cooperation with the various departments at Yad Vashem.

The preparation stages often led to “rescue missions” of sorts: approaching former residents and survivors of the lost communities, researchers found in their homes treasure troves of community mementoes. Rare documents were uncovered; Yad Vashem’s photographic collection expanded and new testimonies gathered, shedding more and more light on the life of Jews across Europe – both communal and personal – before, during and after the Holocaust.

Munkács: A Jewish Community in the Carpathian Mountains

■ In 1959, the poet and author Avigdor Hameiri, who emigrated to Israel from the Carpathian region in 1921, described a meeting with a native of Munkács who spoke about visiting the city of his birth at the end of the war:

“I walked along the streets of the town, with the melody of Eicha [Book of Lamentations] caught in my throat. Where was our filthy, hate-filled, quarrelling, informing, crime-ridden, generous, simple, charitable, pure and sweet Munkács?... Seal her in your soul as she once was, and be satiated by her for the rest of your lives, for there is nothing like her in the whole world [Hasidic Sabbath robe].”

“A Jewish Community in the Carpathian Mountains: The Story of Munkács” is the latest exhibition to be added to the new online Communities Project.

On the eve of the Holocaust, Munkács was the largest and most important of the Jewish communities in the Czechoslovakian Carpathians. It was a lively Eastern European community, known for its religious piety, and was also home to significant Zionist activity. In November 1938, Munkács was annexed by Hungary. As a result, Jews lost their livelihoods and, soon after, their educational and religious freedoms. Gradually, Jewish youths were drafted into forced labor battalions on behalf of the Hungarian army. The last census before the German occupation, in January 1941, counted 13,488 Jews in Munkács – 42.7% of the town’s population. On 19 March 1944, the German army invaded Hungary and Munkács was occupied. In less than three months, all the Jewish communities in the vicinity were eradicated, and the Jews of Munkács were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. According to a 1945 assessment, some 2,000 Jews from Munkács (15% of the prewar population) survived. Today, only about one hundred Jews remain in Munkács.

The online exhibitions depict each community's unique character, history, languages, achievements, and struggles to survive in a changing world

Dana Porath and Yona Kobo

“A Glimpse of the Past”

■ In 1938, Dora (née Klein) Lichtman, her husband and daughter, Gloria, arrived from the US to visit Dora's parents and other relatives. They recorded their visit on film.

The home movie was taken in Munkács at the home of Dora's parents, Chaim Tzvi-Hirsch and Nina Klein, and in the village of Batyu some 30 km. outside Munkács, where Chaim Tzvi's brother Moshe lived with his wife, Tzila. Chaim Tzvi and Moshe's children, David and Ilona, were married to one another and lived with Moshe and Tzila in Batyu.

David and Ilona's son, Oskar Klein, donated the film to Yad Vashem, and helped historians in the film archive establish the identity of the people and locations depicted within. The film allows viewers a rare glimpse into the world of a Jewish family from Munkács and Batyu before the war, thus giving a real face and name to Holocaust victims.



“A Pledge and a Purpose”



■ In 1934, 20 graduates of the Munkács Hebrew Gymnasium's third graduating class signed a unique document in which they undertook to meet at the Western Wall in Jerusalem on the eve of Passover 1944. Ten were fortunate enough to realize the pledge and emigrate to the Land of Israel.

On 7 April 1944 – Passover eve, the day that had been set for the reunion in Jerusalem – the Jews of Munkács were facing extermination. Immediately after Passover, they were imprisoned in ghettos, and on 11 May the deportation trains started their ghastly journeys to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

With the help of survivors from Munkács and using Yad Vashem archival materials, researchers were able to discover the fate of most of the signatories of the “Pledge and Purpose” document. Besides the ten in Israel,

one had emigrated to the UK before the war; four of the signatories were murdered during the Holocaust. The fate of the other five is still unknown. It is hoped that publicizing their story online will generate further information about them.

The online Communities Project is generously supported by the Claims Conference.

Dana Porath is Director of the Internet Department. Yona Kobo is the website's Communities Project Coordinator.

■ Ten were fortunate enough to realize the pledge... The fate of five is still unknown

New Research:

“Ordinary People”

The Role of the Grassroots in the Events of the Shoah

Estee Yaari

■ How could a third of the Jewish people be wiped out in broad daylight, in the middle of Europe, without the help or at least consent of the local population? How vital was the role played by the “man on the street?” This summer, Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research held a workshop that looked at this very aspect – the witting or unwitting collaboration of millions of people across the continent in the murder of six million of their friends, neighbors and compatriots. Some 35 researchers came together from across the globe to discuss the Holocaust from the perspective of the grassroots contributions to the events, and the deeds of local collaborators and perpetrators.

“For many years, the focus of research and conventional wisdom has been on Hitler



■ June 1941: Lithuanians beating Jews in the streets of Kovno while German soldiers look on. (Yad Vashem Photo Archive)

"It could not have happened without the contribution of the local populations on the grassroots level. It could not have happened without a lot of help"

Prof. Dan Michman

and the upper echelons of the Nazi hierarchy,” said Prof. Dan Michman, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem. “But we must remember that the Holocaust took less than four years to murder six million Jews. The Nazis were in power for only 12 years. This workshop helped us understand what took place in various areas of Europe that facilitated the murder of the Jews. It could not have happened without the contribution of the local populations on the grassroots level. It could not have happened without a lot of help.”

Dr. Wendy Lower, an American lecturer at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, has made female perpetrators the focus of her research. Looking at these “extraordinary

women” of the Third Reich (a play on Prof. Christopher Browning’s well-known term “ordinary men”), Lower found many women who volunteered to go east and be part of the Holocaust apparatus there, or who found themselves at the scenes of the crimes. Lower noted that her findings challenge our notion of how women behave. “Victim witnesses and postwar investigators were appalled by these female killers, baffled that women could kill children. They committed mass murder outside the concentration camp system and Nazi administrative structures, in informal settings where they displayed their power and ideological commitment to the regime by killing innocent Jewish men, women and children,” she said. “Their acts demonstrate just how socially embedded the terror violence of the regime became.”

Dr. Nikolaos Tzafleris, of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, examined the Greek state bureaucracy and willing Greek collaborators, such as the National Union Hellas [EEE], and the Greek National-Socialist Party. “Before the Holocaust, the Jewish community of Thessaloniki, by far the largest in Greece, numbered almost 56,000 members. But by the end of the Nazi occupation, not only had 96% of these people vanished – leaving only

1,950 – but also their properties, houses, shops, industries, and even their cemetery had ceased to exist or changed hands.”

During WWII, groups of Dutch citizens went to the Baltics, Belarus and Ukraine, to “colonize” the area. Dr. Geraldien von Frijtag Drabbe Künzel looked at the lesser known story of these “Ordinary Dutchmen.” In particular she examined the question of how far this group of colonists was involved in anti-Jewish matters, and if they were aware of – or took part in – the acts of murder. Other researchers explored how the judiciary, students’ organizations, municipal administrations, police, industry and others played a role in allowing the Holocaust to unfold.

“The papers presented during the workshop certainly shed light on many unknown aspects of the Holocaust,” concluded Dr. Bella Guterman, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research. “The added information and the uncovered stories help us understand the mechanics of the Holocaust, but our quest to fathom *how* – on an existential level – it could have happened continues to challenge us.”

“The Persecution and Murder of the Jews: A Grassroots Perspective” took place in cooperation with the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

First International Conference of the Diana Zborowski Center:

The Fate of Polish Jewry

Prof. Zeev Mankowitz

■ For decades the destruction of Polish Jewry has dominated the study of the *Shoah*, but it was only recently that the unprecedented challenges of the return to life of the surviving Jews has begun to attract sustained scholarly attention. Thus it was particularly fitting that the first international conference of the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the *Shoah*, held at the beginning of October, concentrated on the many and different aspects of the repercussions of the Holocaust in Poland. The conference, the initiative of American Society for Yad Vashem Chairman Eli Zborowski and Prof. Feliks Tych of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, was attended by 22 researchers from Poland, each of whom has already contributed a chapter to the broad collection of studies that will make up *The Aftermath of the Holocaust: The Polish Case 1944-2010*, due to be published in English and Polish by the end of the year. Discussions were significantly enriched by the presence of two distinguished guests from North America – Prof. Antony Polanski and Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross – together with a group of Israeli scholars in the field.

The major themes tackled at the conference began with the survivors' first encounters with Polish society, and the memory of this period embedded in early personal letters and in the docudrama *Undzere Kinder* (Our Children). The focus was then broadened to embrace Polish attitudes towards the surviving Jews, the first steps in rebuilding Jewish life and the initial attempts to shape adequate forms of commemoration. The conference ended with



■ Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross speaks at the opening of the international conference, "The Aftermath of the Holocaust: Poland 1944-2010."

a discussion on Polish-Jewish relations and attempts to access what remains of the Polish Jewish community.

"The conference looked at how Polish society deals with the fact that their country was the main arena for the murders," explained Dr. Bella Gutterman, Director of the International Institute. "We examined the immediate postwar events – extreme antisemitic expressions and pogroms – through the Communist era and then from the fall of Communism until today. Much of what was presented was new research and findings undertaken in the past two years, and we look forward to broadening our scholarly investigations as a result of the conference."

"The Aftermath of the Holocaust: Poland 1944-2010" was underwritten by Eli Zborowski and Family with the generous support of the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences, the Gutwirth Family Fund and the Instytut Polski.

The Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Shoah is an overarching body that coordinates research activities throughout the world. The Center, which operates under the auspices of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, promotes and coordinates research, documentation, conferences and publication of research dealing the fate of the Jewish people after the Holocaust, especially during the first decades following WWII. The center was endowed by Eli Zborowski, Dr. Lilly Zborowski-Naveh and Mr. Murray Zborowski in loving memory of their wife and mother.

The author is Chair of the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Shoah.

New Research Fellow Studies Art from the Holocaust Eliot Nidam-Orvieto

■ The International Institute for Holocaust Research recently granted Prof. Willa Johnson of the University of Mississippi a four-month postdoctoral research fellowship. Prof. Johnson, who has a background in religious studies, came to Yad Vashem to conduct research on "Holocaust Art: Documenting History and Resistance."

During her tenure, Prof. Johnson made extensive use of the Archives by collecting more than 13,500 pages of archival material and hundreds of artwork images. She also

conducted over 100 hours of interviews with Holocaust survivors such as Yehuda Bacon and Fred Terna, whose artwork depicts the horrors and unspeakable tragedy of the Holocaust. Prof. Johnson met with several Israeli researchers in the field of art and the Holocaust such as Niv Goldberg of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Art Museum and Dr. Mirjam Rajner of Bar-Ilan University, who greatly assisted her endeavors.

"Researching this material day to day made this one of the most painful times of my life,

but the depth of the testimonies depicted in the artworks also made it one of the most faith-filled encounters I have ever experienced," says Prof. Johnson. "I hope to continue my research by collating the material I collected in Israel and promoting Holocaust research, awareness and training at all levels of the Mississippi educational system."

The author is Coordinator of Academic Foreign Relations at the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

28 June ■ Ceremony posthumously honoring **Vladimir Kurtev from Bulgaria as Righteous Among the Nations**, in the presence of Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolai Mladenov, Bulgarian Ambassador to Israel Dimitar Tsanchev, Israeli Ambassador to Bulgaria Noah Gal Gandler Chairman of the Israel-Bulgaria Friendship Association Dr. Moshe Mossek and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. Jasmin Kurteva and Vladimir Kurtev (center) received the medal and certificate of honor on their grandfather's behalf.



4 August ■ “I am telling my story in order to ensure that future generations will never witness what my eyes saw during the Holocaust,” declared Holocaust survivor from Rhodes Samuel Modiano (pictured) at the **annual memorial service for the Jews of Rhodes and Kos who perished in the Holocaust**. The event was held in cooperation with the National Association for the Heritage of the Jews of Rhodes, with the participation of dozens of survivors and second and third generations.



5 August ■ Members of the Mahanot Olim youth movement with Yitzhak Belfer and Yitzhak Skalka (center), children in the orphanage of Janusz Korczak, attended the **annual assembly honoring Janusz Korczak, Stefania Wilczynska and the children in their care**.



6 August ■ The Meitar Ensemble, under the musical direction of Prof. Michael Wolpe, played at the **History, Music and Memory** concert at the Wohlin Community Hall in Givatayim, in cooperation with Bet Terezin.



9 August ■ Clarinet, violin, bandoneon, accordion, percussion instruments and others joined together for the **Mashiv Haruach concert of Jewish soul music** held in the Valley of the Communities, with the participation of veteran and new Klezmer musicians from Israel and around the world, and students from the Safed international master classes – “Clarinet and Klezmer in the Galilee” – under the musical direction of Maestro Giora Feidman.



25 August ■ Ceremony honoring Polish **Righteous Among the Nations Teodora Olszewska and her children Anna, Kazimierz and Józefa**, attended by survivor Bella Nomkin (seated) and her extended family. Staszek Olszewski, grandson of Olszewska (fifth from right in the center row) received the award and the medal on behalf of the rescuers.



14 September ■ **Annual assembly marking 69 years since the murder of the Jews by the Nazis on Ukrainian soil** – victims of the slaughter at Babi Yar, Bogdanovka, Drobitski Yar and the surroundings. Front row, left to right: Ukrainian Ambassador in Israel H.E. Mr. Hennadiy Nadolenko, Holocaust survivor Sergei Sushon, Minister of Public Affairs and the Diaspora Yuli Edelstein, Director-General of the Jewish Agency Alan Hoffman, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev



15 September ■ **Annual assembly of the Association of Lodz Jews in Israel** marking the 66th anniversary of the destruction of the Lodz ghetto, at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

20 September ■ **Annual assembly commemorating the Lithuanian Jews murdered in the Holocaust**, marking 67 years since the destruction of the Vilna ghetto, in cooperation with the Israeli Association of Lithuanian Jews and the Association of Jews from Vilna and Vicinity in Israel. Front row, left to right: Ambassador of Lithuania in Israel H.E. Mr. Darius Degutis, Director-General of the Yad Vashem Directorate Nathan Eitan, Chairman of the Association of Jews from Vilna and Vicinity in Israel Michael Schemiavitz, Chairman of the Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel Adv. Joseph A. Melamed



News from the Visual Center Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

“Cabaret-Berlin”: Winner of 2010 Avner Shalev Award

■ *Cabaret-Berlin, la scène sauvage (The Wild Scene)* (France–Germany, 2010) was the recipient of this year’s Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust-related film. Director Fabienne Rousso-Lenoir received the prize in the Jewish Experience category at the 27th Jerusalem International Film Festival held in July. The annual award, endowed by Michaela and Leon Constantiner, is part of the Visual Center’s support of creative and original filmmaking on the Holocaust, and Rousso-Lenoir is its sixth recipient.

“By artistically combining audio and visual archival materials, the filmmaker focused on the Berlin cabaret scene during the 1920s, where creative individuals, including many Jews, brought into being an incisively satirical

world of words and music concerning events in Germany after the First World War,” noted the jury. “Fascinating, contemporary and unconventional cinema make *Cabaret Berlin* worthy of this special award.”

Special screenings of *Cabaret Berlin* in the presence of Rousso-Lenoir are planned at the Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Holon and Haifa Cineatheques as part of the Visual Center’s *Kristallnacht* commemoration events in November, with the assistance of the French Embassy in Israel, The French Cultural Institute and Centers in Israel and the producers of the film, Bell-Air Media, France.

An Honorable Mention was also granted to renowned filmmaker Claude Lanzmann for his film *The Karski Report* (France, 2010) and “the way he describes his fateful meetings at a critical

point in time by means of a cinematic method that places a unique testimony at the core of the film, revealing the inability of the free world to comprehend what happened in Europe.”



■ Scene from the award-winning film *Cabaret Berlin, la scène sauvage*

New Israeli Documentaries

■ Recent Israeli documentaries about the Holocaust have achieved widespread recognition both at home and abroad. Many have been deposited in the Visual Center, including works by major Israeli filmmakers. In *Go in Peace, Rain*, director Reuven Hecker sets out in search of a Jewish melody, which began as a prayer bidding the rain “farewell” each year, and ended up as the Israeli national anthem, “Hatikvah.” Through encounters with musicians, scholars, and community elders, the film reveals the vast richness of traditional Jewish culture spanning centuries, devastated by the Holocaust.

Yehuda Kaveh’s *The Children of Teheran*, produced by Dalia Guttman, is the story of the heroic rescue of some 870 Jewish children who arrived in *Eretz Israel* in 1943 from Siberia,

after a long and arduous journey. The film returns to significant sites along the way, and features reminiscences by the “children.”

In *The Last Postcard*, painful secrets come to light, as director Sylvain Biegeleisen and his mother, an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor, face the memory of traumas suffered during WWII. The film is a tender and touching portrait of aging, guilt feelings and the emotionally charged encounter between the children of Holocaust survivors and their parents.

The documentary *Zitra (Tomorrow): of Truth and Reconciliation*, directed by Yehuda Judd Ne’eman, examines the artistic process of a group of Israeli high school pupils and music conservatory students from Schwerin, Germany, who put on a musical production based on the memories of Manka Alter, a

survivor of the Terezin ghetto. The resulting “Memory Theater” presents the historical truth, while setting it to a more contemporary beat in today’s Berlin.

In *Rafting to Bombay*, directed by Erez Laufer and co-produced with his father Nachum Laufer, a family trip to Mumbai in search of the past takes a dramatic turn with the brutal terrorist attack of 2008. Laufer’s father and grandmother found refuge from the Nazis in the city during the war. This documentary deals with trauma and remembering, and includes testimony by Laufer’s grandmother, recorded in the 1980s.

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

Commemoration for Austrian Community



■ Yad Vashem’s Eva Lutkiewicz presents gifts to Franz Muellner (center) and his daughter Magdalena (right) following a memorial ceremony in the Valley of the Communities.

■ When Magdalena Muellner was a 16-year-old student, she discovered that before the war, dozens of Jewish families had lived in the city of her birth, Laa an der Thaya in Austria, and that most of them had been murdered during the *Shoah*. Together with her father Franz, Magdalena set up the La’ad Niskor (We Will Always Remember) Society, which commemorates the Jewish community of Laa an der Thaya. Franz and Magdalena succeeded in erecting a monument in their city to commemorate the Jews who died, and organized a special memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities.

The ceremony, held on 19 August, was attended by survivors of the Laa an der Thaya Jewish community and members of their families, as well as members of the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel. Addressing the attendants were Vice Mayor of the City of Laa an der Thaya Brigitte Ribisch, Director of the Cultural Forum at the Embassy of Austria in Israel Gabriele Feigl, Chairman of the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel Gideon Eckhaus, Director of the European Department at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies Richelle Budd Caplan, and Franz and Magdalena Muellner.

Over the months of July, August and September 2010, Yad Vashem conducted some 130 guided tours for over 1,300 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government, ministers, ambassadors, governors, mayors and athletes. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:

■ **Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko** (center) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 21 July, guided by Dr. Aharon Shneyer from the Hall of Names.



■ Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar guided **Prime Minister of Greece George A. Papandreou** during his visit to Yad Vashem on 22 July.



■ **NBA star Amare Stoudemire** visited the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem on 30 July. "It was an incredible experience," he remarked. "I learned a lot and will encourage my friends and others to visit as well."



New on www.yadvashem.org

Dana Porath

Many of Yad Vashem's mini-sites and exhibitions are regularly updated and expanded, providing continuous opportunities for visitors to the website to experience and learn more on a particular subject area. Some of the recent expansions include:

■ New lectures to our "Insights and Perspectives" video lectures series, including topics such as "Hanging by a Thread: Reflections on Being a Jew during the Holocaust," "The Development of the Final Solution" and "The German Judiciary in Eastern Galicia and its Contribution to the Holocaust."

■ New photos and identifications in our "Anonymous No Longer" online exhibition, which features names of men, women and children identified from the photographic displays in the Holocaust History Museum

■ New features added to the "Bearing Witness: Stories Behind the Artifacts in the Yad Vashem Museum Collection" online exhibition

■ New mini-exhibits from Yad Vashem collections prepared for the "Through the Lens of History" online exhibition.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.

Stay Connected: Join Yad Vashem on Facebook: www.facebook.com/yadvashem and visit "Insights and Perspectives" – the Yad Vashem Blog: www.yad-vashem.blogspot.com

Agreement with Poland on Holocaust Documents

■ On 6 September, an agreement was signed that will allow Yad Vashem to access documents from the Holocaust housed in the Polish State Archives (NDAP), and photocopy materials pertinent to the fate of the Jews.

"From the 1960s until the beginning of the 1990s, Yad Vashem copied a lot of material from Polish archives, including that of the Jewish Historical Institute (ZIH) and of the historical committees active in Poland after the war," explained Nomi Halpern, Deputy Director of the Yad Vashem Archives. "Unfortunately, we were unable to copy much from the State Archives in Poland, primarily because of the high costs involved. With this new agreement, however, we will be able to look at documents produced by the Germans working in Poland, the Poles themselves, and even the Jews. These will give us vital information on the policies of the German authorities, anti-Jewish legislation and the different stages leading up to the murder of Polish Jewry; the conduct of the Polish populace; the fate of Polish Jews in the ghettos and their deportation to the



■ Left to right: Director of the Department of Education and Cooperation of the NDAP Dr. Gregory Mędykowski, Deputy Executive Director of the Polish National Archives Dr. Barbara Berska, Yad Vashem Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Ambassador of Israel in Poland Zvi Rav-Ner at the signing of the agreement between the Polish National Archives and Yad Vashem.

concentration and death camps; and the story of the survivors and their attempts to rebuild their lives after the war. The agreement will allow us to systematically photocopy all the relevant documentation, something we have been unable to do until now."

New Yad Vashem Calendar 5771 (2010-2011)

■ A new desk calendar marking the Jewish New Year 5771 (2010-2011) includes a handful of the more than 300 pieces of artwork on display in the "Virtues of Memory" exhibition, currently housed in Yad Vashem's Exhibitions Pavilion.

The paintings and drawings featured in

the calendar are from the collection of works created by Holocaust survivors that Yad Vashem has diligently gathered together over the past 50 years. Produced with the generous support of Lee Liberman of Melbourne, Australia, the calendar is available at Yad Vashem's Book and Resource Center.

Supporting IDF Holocaust Education: Frank and Shirley Lowy

■ **Yad Vashem is honored to welcome Frank and Shirley Lowy of Sydney, Australia, as its newest Benefactors.** In honor of the Lowy family, Keren Hayesod is supporting a new Holocaust education program for groups of IDF soldiers that will comprise day-seminars and guided tours of the Holocaust History Museum, viewings of Holocaust survivor testimony and workshops on various Holocaust-related topics.

Frank Lowy was born in 1930 in the town of Filakovo, Czechoslovakia. As a child, Frank and his family moved to Budapest, Hungary. In 1944 his father, Hugo, was deported to Auschwitz Birkenau. Upon arrival at the camp, Hugo was beaten to death by SS officers for refusing to relinquish his *tallit* and *tefillin*. In memory of this, in 2010, Frank placed an original railway wagon on tracks inside Birkenau. It is dedicated to the Hungarian Jews, including his father, who perished there.

After surviving the Holocaust, in 1946 Frank secured a berth on the ship *Yagur* bound for Mandatory Palestine. He was arrested by British authorities and interned in Cyprus for several months. After finally arriving in *Eretz Israel*, he joined the Haganah and the Golani Fighting Brigade and was heavily involved in the battles for Israel's independence.

In 1952, he joined his family in Australia and four years later co-founded the Westfield Group. Frank and Shirley Lowy's generous support of Yad Vashem will enable over 1,000 IDF groups to study at the International School for Holocaust Studies annually for the next five years.



■ *Shirley and Frank Lowy*

Recovering Their Stories: Colin and Gail Halpern

■ **New Yad Vashem Benefactors Colin and Gail Halpern of New York were amazed to discover the wide scope of Yad Vashem's activities and level of professionalism on a trip to Israel a few years ago.** That visit quickly led to a dynamic partnership between the Halperns' Dayenu Ltd. and Yad Vashem.

The seeds of their affiliation with Yad Vashem were planted several years beforehand when their daughter Lisa, an attorney in Manhattan, was handling the estate of a deceased client with no family. This client had bequeathed her estate to three professional contacts who acquired only what was of interest to them. Lisa brought her father along to examine the remains of the estate, which included books, photographs and other personal artifacts.



■ *Gail and Colin Halpern at Yad Vashem's Benefactors' Wall*

Knowing that this woman had been a Holocaust survivor who had lived alone since the war's end, Colin Halpern felt a deep sadness while looking at her photographs: "It was as if this woman had never really existed; there was nobody left to remember her name." The parallel between this case and that of the millions of victims left nameless after the *Shoah* was clear, and the event was the catalyst for him to launch a project of restoring not only the names of these victims, but also their stories.

Today, Colin and Gail Halpern are generously funding the project known as "Recovering Their Stories," which aims to digitize and catalogue millions of documents and then create unique personal files and stories for the individual victims of the Holocaust. They are actively involved in the process of finding the most effective way of making this information accessible to the world.

Steadfast Friends: Fanya Gottesfeld Heller and Family

■ **Holocaust survivor Fanya Gottesfeld Heller is an author and educator.** Born into a traditional Jewish family in Skala, a small Polish village in 1924, Fanya and her family hid from the Nazi squads with the help of two Christian rescuers.



■ *Left to right, at the American Society for Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner, 2009: Dr. Jacqueline Heller, Miriam Hanina, Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, Yad Vashem Director Avner Shalev, American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski, Benjamin Heller*

Fanya recently re-issued her book *Strange and Unexpected Love* under the new title *Love in a World of Sorrow*. The new edition describes her emotional reunion with the daughter of her rescuer. The book is read in numerous universities and schools throughout the US, and Fanya speaks extensively to students.

A Member of the Board of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Fanya serves on the board of numerous organizations. In 1998, the New York Board of Regents awarded her the Louis E. Yavner Citizen Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to teaching about the Holocaust and other assaults on humanity.

Fanya resides in New York City and has three children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She and children Benjamin and Beth Heller and Jacqueline Heller recently made a munificent donation to Yad Vashem honoring Fanya's stalwart commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance.

Friends Worldwide

CANADA

Over 100 of Canada's top businesses and corporations sponsored the "True Heroes Tribute Gala" on 5 October in Toronto – a groundbreaking fundraising event organized by the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** under its visionary National Chair **Fran Sonshine** and devoted Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**. Integral to the evening's financial and operational success were acting Event Co-chairs and MCs **Ed Sonshine**, long time benefactor of Yad Vashem and the Canadian Society, and **John Tory**, Canadian businessman, political activist and broadcaster, and Dinner Chair **Fred Waks**, Executive Vice President and COO of RioCan REIT and Yad Vashem Trustee. Steering Committee Members **Felicia Posluns**, **Jeff Ross**, **Irit Shay**, **Beth Singer**, **Liora Yakubowicz**, **Nelly Zagdanski** and **Sarah Zagdanski** were also important contributors to the event.

This emotional and poignant evening, attended by over 900 guests, honored five Righteous Among the Nations – **Cornelis and Heintje Roggeveen** and **Klaas and Boukje Feringa** from Holland, and **Marie Françoise Borel** from France – in recognition of their exceptional heroism during the *Shoah*. Their descendants, now residing in Canada, accepted the award on the honorees' behalf, and were reunited, after many years, with the survivors.

Among the guests at the gala were Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Israel's Ambassador to Canada **Miriam Ziv**, Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism **Jason Kenney**, Ambassador of Albania in Canada **Besnik Konci**, Ambassador of France in Canada **François Delattre**, Israel's Consul General to Toronto **Amir R. Gissin**, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Toronto **Hans Horbach**, US Consul General in Toronto **Kevin Johnson** and Israel's Consul to Montreal and Eastern Canada **Avi Lev-Louis**, as well as Holocaust survivors, Canada's most respected corporate and business leaders, and honored guests from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities.



Left to right: John Tory; Ed Sonshine; **Hélène Kaufman** and **Thérèse Kwiatek**, saved by Marie Françoise Borel; Minister Jason Kenney; Fran Sonshine; Avner Shalev; **Philippe Borel**, grandson of Marie Françoise Borel; Yaron Ashkenazi; Ambassador Francois Delattre



Left to right: John Tory; **Joost Roggeveen**, son of Cornelis and Heintje Roggeveen; Minister Jason Kenney; Avner Shalev; **John Feringa**, son of Klaas and Boukje Feringa; Fran Sonshine; Yaron Ashkenazi; Consul General Hans Horbach; Consul General Kevin Johnson; **John Jr. Feringa**; **Sjoerd Roggeveen**, son of Cornelis and Heintje Roggeveen. Seated at front: survivor **Max Noach**, saved by Cornelis and Heintje Roggeveen and Klaas and Boukje Feringa.

USA

The **American Society for Yad Vashem** held its first outreach program for 35 honored guests on 19 July, graciously hosted by **Leslie Adler** (left), close friend of Yad Vashem Benefactor **Marilyn Rubenstein** (second from right). American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski** (center), accompanied by his wife **Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski** (second from left), retold his poignant personal story as a Holocaust survivor. Guest speaker **Rabbi Avraham Bronstein** (right) gave a fascinating talk about the connection between the mission of Yad Vashem and the fast of Tisha B'Av the following day.



On 9 June over 100 members and friends of the American Society's Young Leadership Associates gathered at the Jewish Museum in New York City for "An Evening With Curious George – And the Wartime Journey that Saved Him." The event was chaired by **Jeremy** and **Abbi Halpern** and **Ilana** and **Mitchell Kahn** (pictured with American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**, center). **Ilana Apelker** spoke of Margaret and H.A. Rey, the famous children's characters they created as well as their amazing escape with their stories and artwork from occupied France to South America.



Yad Vashem's "No Child's Play" exhibition opened at the Marcus Jewish Community Center in Atlanta on 25 April, the same day as the opening of the Besser Holocaust Memorial Garden at the center. **Marlene** and **Abe Besser** (right) viewed the exhibition with sculptor **Dee Clemens**, who created the sculptures at the Besser Holocaust Memorial Garden.



Travelgirl Magazine publishers **Renee Werbin** and **Robyn Werbin** from Georgia, along with Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia **Carol Hunstein**, philanthropist **Lou Kerr** of Oklahoma, former Dean of International Programs at the University of Oklahoma **Ruth Leebron**, **Dr. Jeffrey Klugman** and other friends visited Yad Vashem during their Interfaith Israel tour in July.



Ingeborg and **Ira Rennert** (right) took part in an emotional tour of Yad Vashem highlighted by a visit to the Museum of Holocaust Art.



On 28 September Yad Vashem held a dedication ceremony in tribute to **Fanya Gottesfeld Heller**, **Benjamin** and **Beth Heller** and **Jacqueline Heller** and their munificent donation honoring Fanya's courage, resilience and commitment to Holocaust education (see p.19). The ceremony was attended by friends and family of the Hellers as well as Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem **Eli Zborowski**. Filled with humility and gratitude, Fanya said: "In 1981, when my late husband and I were here for the first Survivor's Conference, we made a vow to do what we could for Yad Vashem. I came here today to fulfill that vow."



Caroline Karger (second from right), daughter of Yad Vashem Benefactors **Cecile** and **Edward Mosberg**, visited Yad Vashem together with her husband **Darren** (right), his parents and their children. Pictured: the family in front of the Torah scroll that Caroline's parents rescued from Poland and which they subsequently donated to Yad Vashem.



Yad Vashem supporters **Pnina** and **Anatol Hiller** and family recently toured the Yad Vashem campus.



The **Castoriano** and **Matushevsky** families toured the Holocaust History Museum and attended a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance during their recent visit to Yad Vashem.



Jan and **Andy Groveman** (right), Yad Vashem Builders and staunch supporters of Holocaust remembrance, toured the "Virtues of Memory" exhibition, which features the artwork of approximately 300 Holocaust survivors.



Three generations of the **Deutsch** family visited the Holocaust History Museum and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives, during which they met with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, who presented survivor **Naftali Deutsch** (second from left) with his memoir, recently published in Hebrew by Yad Vashem.



Yad Vashem supporters **Sheryl** and **Ken Pressberg** (center) from Los Angeles visited Yad Vashem earlier this year, and toured the Hall of Names. Ken's parents, **Anna** and **Sidney Pressberg**, both from Poland, survived the Holocaust but lost many members of their families.



Friends Worldwide

CANADA

■ The Dales family of Vancouver visited Yad Vashem in August to mark the bar mitzvah of **Eli Dales**, and the bat mitzvah of his cousin, **Roni Cohen**. The family gathered in Yad Vashem's Synagogue, where they were presented with gifts and certificates in honor of the occasion.



AUSTRALIA

■ In July, **Andrew and Erica Romer** (right) received a special behind-the-scenes tour of Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection, guided by Curator of the Artifacts Department **Michael Tal** (left). They examined the *Machzorim* (festival prayer books) that the Romers donated to Yad Vashem for safekeeping.



SWEDEN

■ Yad Vashem supporters **Mikael and Eva Kamras** (right) of Stockholm toured the Holocaust History Museum in July.



ITALY

■ A delegation of Catholic youth, led by **Don Flavio Rolfi** (back row, center) from the churches of Casaleone and Venera, toured the Holocaust History Museum and took part in a special workshop. The delegation was accompanied by Director of the Italian Desk, International Relations Division, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (front row, second from left).



GERMANY

■ **Erika Herskovits** (center) from Frankfurt visited the "Auschwitz Blueprints" exhibition, currently on display in the Foyer of the Yad Vashem Archives Building. She was accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) and guided by **Dr. Daniel Uziel** (right), the exhibition's scientific advisor. Mrs. Herskovits recently became a Yad Vashem Guardian and generously donated a multipurpose classroom in memory of her husband **Zoli Herskovits, z"l**. Zoli hailed from Benedicovce near Munkács (then in Slovakia), and survived Auschwitz and the subsequent death marches. The classroom, which will host the "Auschwitz Blueprints" exhibition, will be situated in the new International Seminars wing at the International School for Holocaust Studies and will be dedicated to the Jewish victims of Auschwitz.



Christian Desk

■ During Succoth, participants of the Christian Feast of Tabernacles organized by the ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) visited Yad Vashem as part of their Israel tour. All the guests enjoyed special tailor-made programs, including visiting the tree of the Righteous Among the Nations they adopted. Pictured: ICEJ Ireland National Director **Brian Silvester** (left) with **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem (right)



Participants also attended a special screening of Yad Vashem's new film for Christian audiences. Left to right: Israel Vision filmmakers **Dr. Jay and Meridel Rawlings**, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, ICEJ Canada National Director and supporter of the film **Donna Holbrook**, Managing Director of Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



BRAZIL

■ **Thereza and Gustavo Halbreich** (third from left and second from right) were greeted by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) and Director of the Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (second from left).



MEXICO

■ **Eduardo and Jovita Cojab** (center) were joined by **Jacobo and Merav Cojab** (fourth and third from right), **Mayer and Dinah Zaga** (first and second from right), **Mari and Yosi Cojab** (first and second from left) and **Toufic and Flor Khabie** (third and fourth from left) during the unveiling of a plaque in their honor.



■ The **Wengrowsky** (center), **Drucker** (right) and **Sandler** (left) families celebrated the bat mitzvah of their daughters **Lizette Wengrowsky** (eighth from right), **Rosy Drucker** (fifth from right) and **Deborah Sandler** (third from left), accompanied by Director of the Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (second from left).



VENEZUELA

■ **Rebeca, Mónica and Nathan Lustgarten** visited the “Virtues of Memory” exhibition.



■ **Alberto and Malca Cohen** (center) and their family celebrated the bar mitzvah of their grandson **Daniel Cohen** (fifth from right), accompanied by Director of the Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (fourth from left).



FRANCE

■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 3 August, **Baron Edouard de Rothschild** signed the Guest Book at the Children’s Memorial.



Yad Vashem Needs Your Support!

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

■ To make tax deductible donations:

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■ **For information** on societies in other countries, please visit: www.yadvashem.org

■ Donations may also be sent to:

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International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

Yad Vashem Studies in Russian

NIS 80/\$24 (airmail included)

■ The International Institute for Holocaust Research has recently published its first two volumes of *Yad Vashem Studies* in Russian. The first volume, with eight articles, discusses the *Shoah* in the USSR, while the second volume includes ten articles addressing both broader Holocaust issues and FSU-related subjects. Different periods of research – prewar, wartime and postwar – are covered, as well as fundamental questions about the *Shoah* from new perspectives for the Russian-speaking public. Topics covered by veteran scholars and rising young researchers include: Jews in the war and the Resistance, Jewish forced labor in Soviet territory, interwar inter-ethnic relations, the Intentionalist-Functionalist debate and early Jewish attempts at Holocaust commemoration in the USSR.



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Yitzhak Arad, *In the Shadow of the Red Banner: Soviet Jews in the War Against Nazi Germany*

In Association with Gefen Publishing House, NIS 140/\$38
(airmail included)



■ Over 500,000 Jews fought in WWII under the Soviet banner, of which an estimated 40 percent gave their lives – yet this fact was systematically concealed by the Soviet government. In this gripping analysis, Dr. Yitzhak Arad sets the record straight on the immense contribution of Soviet Jewry in the battle against Nazi Germany. After outlining the military progress of the war, the book documents the contributions of Soviet Jewry on the

battlefronts and in the weapons development industry, as well as in the ghetto undergrounds and during partisan warfare. The book also records the Soviet government's deliberate attempts to downplay the Jewish effort, and the antisemitism that Jewish soldiers and partisan groups suffered at the hands of the Soviet establishment, even while giving their lives for their country.

Safira Rapoport, *A Pedigreed Jew: Between There and Here – Kovno and Israel*

NIS 74/\$21 (airmail included)



■ This story of a daughter who sets out on a journey tracing the footsteps of her mother reveals to us the great extent to which the lives of the second-generation were fashioned in the shadow of the Holocaust. Nechama Baruchson, a native of Kovno, was a company commander in the underground ghetto movement ABZ (Covenant of Zion). After the loss of her mother and the destruction of the ghetto, Baruchson was taken to the Stutthof concentration camp from which she

eventually left on a death march. Due to her resourcefulness and courage, she managed to escape from the rows of prisoners, join the Brichah organization, and ultimately emigrate to Israel.