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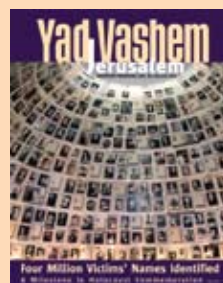
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Marking 27 January: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ In keeping with its commitment to raise Holocaust awareness worldwide, on Sunday 23 January, Yad Vashem will launch a **YouTube channel in Farsi**, as well as its substantially expanded Farsi website. The YouTube channel contains survivor testimonies, archival footage, and mini-lectures by Holocaust historians on topics such as contemporary antisemitism, why the Allies failed to bomb Auschwitz, and what makes the Holocaust a unique historical event. The comprehensive new website includes a chronological and thematic narrative about the Holocaust with related video, photos, documents and artifacts; frequently asked questions about the Holocaust; a lexicon of terms; online exhibitions including a multimedia presentation of the Auschwitz Album in Farsi; and stories of Righteous Among the Nations. With websites and YouTube channels in English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Farsi, Yad Vashem's expanding online presence ensures that reliable information and knowledge is offered to as broad a global audience as possible.

The expanded Farsi website and YouTube channel were made possible with the generous support of Greg Rosshandler and Family, Australia.

■ ■ ■
In advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day Yad Vashem has also planned a number of educational and commemorative events in Israel and around the world:

■ On 27 January, the United Nations will hold a memorial ceremony in the **UN General Assembly Hall in New York** on the theme "Women and the Holocaust." Together with the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education and Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, the Holocaust and the UN Outreach Program has produced a study guide on the subject as well as a DVD containing survivor testimony from the SFI's archives, which will be distributed to the network of UN information centers for educational programs. The information will also be posted online (www.un.org/holocaustremembrance) for use by educators worldwide.



New Farsi YouTube Channel

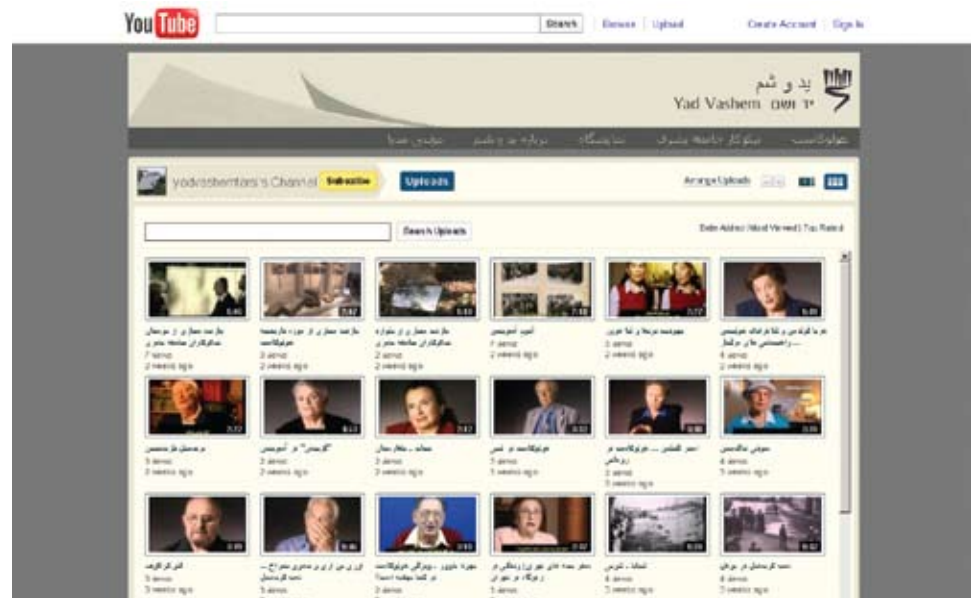
■ During the official ceremony at the **UNESCO headquarters in Paris** on 27 January, Israel's Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar will address diplomats, who will then attend a seminar run by Arièle Nahmias of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. The seminar will introduce educators and staff at UNESCO's Division of Higher Education, Section for Teacher Education, to the work of Yad Vashem, the pedagogical approach of the International School, and an educational unit on children in the Lodz ghetto.

■ A special concert will take place in **Berlin's Rykestreet Synagogue** on 24 January, in the presence of Germany's President Christian Wulff and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The concert is being organized by the German Society for Yad Vashem, chaired by Hildegard Müller.

■ A memorial ceremony will take place on 25 January at the **Headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels**, in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress and the Israel Ministry of Public Affairs and the Diaspora. Minster Yuli Edelstein will participate in the ceremony. At the event, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev will open Yad Vashem's "Architecture of Murder" exhibition, which displays the plans of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp complex, as well as aerial photos of the complex, photographs of the camp's construction and quotes from its SS staff and Jewish inmates.

■ Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau will participate in a **special Israeli Government** session on 23 January. Shalev will address ministers regarding world observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the current situation of Holocaust education, research and commemoration around the world.

■ President of Croatia Ivo Josipović, as well as the Croatian Minister of Education and Minister of Culture, will attend the opening of a three-day educational seminar entitled "Teaching about the Holocaust and the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity" at the **Palace Hotel in Zagreb**. Led by Chava Baruch and Yiftach Ashkenazy of the International School for



■ The new Yad Vashem YouTube Channel in Farsi

Holocaust Studies and in conjunction with the Croatian Ministry of Education, some 50 local educators will take part in workshops based on the unique teaching methods of the International School, and also visit the site of the extermination camp in Jasenovac, Croatia.

■ Estonia's Ministry of Education and Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies will hold a joint educational activity in **Estonia's capital, Tallinn**. The International School's Irit Abramski will hold seminars for potential participants in the School's educational programs as well as for its graduates, and will visit a number of Estonian schools holding commemoration activities for International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

■ On 27 January, a joint event of the **Liechtenstein Society for Yad Vashem** and the Liechtenstein Government will take place, with the participation of the Liechtenstein Foreign Minister Dr. Aurelia Frick. The same day, the Mayor of Linz, Franz Dobusch, will participate in an event organized by the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** in Linz, Austria.



Traveling Exhibitions Worldwide

■ The photographic exhibition "BESA – A Code of Honor: Albanian Muslims Who Rescued Jews in the Holocaust" (curator: Yehudit Shendar, photographer: Norman Gershman) will open on 17 January at the **British House of Commons**. The exhibition comprises 17 portraits and stories of Albanian Righteous Among the Nations and their families who went out of their way to rescue Jews, despite the grave danger it entailed. Sponsored by MP Richard Harrington, the exhibition in London was organized by the British Friends of Yad Vashem and the Exploring Islam Foundation.

■ The "No Child's Play" traveling exhibition (curator: Yehudit Inbar) will open in German at **Landhaus Innsbruck, Austria** on 27 January in the presence of the Governor of Tirol, Günther Platter. The exhibition features toys, games, artwork and poetry that allow the visitor to glimpse into the lives of children who experienced the Holocaust. Israel's Embassy in Cyprus is opening the exhibition in English at the **Nicosia Municipal Gallery, Cyprus**, and it is also planned to be displayed in Portuguese at the **Sines Public Library in Portugal**.

Ripples in a Pond

First-Ever Seminar for Chinese Educators

Stephanie McMahon-Kaye

■ **“I will bring what I learnt from the seminar to my class, I will write relevant papers for learned journals, I will invite more scholars – both domestic and abroad – to deliver lectures on the Shoah in Nanjing, and I will encourage my graduate students to write their dissertations on the Shoah... It’s high time to collect the available sources for the teaching and study of the Holocaust in China.”**

So promised Dr. Lihong Song, participant in Yad Vashem’s first-ever seminar for Chinese educators held in October at the International School for Holocaust Studies. The two-week seminar, generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation and coordinated with the invaluable assistance of Prof. Glen Timmermans of Macau University (himself an International School graduate), was attended by 22 educators hailing from mainland China – Shanghai, Beijing, Shang Dong, Nanjing and Kaifeng – as

well as the Chinese territories of Macau and Hong Kong.

Seminar attendees included university department heads, the dean of a graduate program, a translator for author Amos Oz, a high school principal, professors and teachers. Without exception, all were enthusiastic about the seminar, asking insightful questions, displaying curiosity and interest in the lectures and country-wide tours, and offering ideas and suggestions as to how Holocaust education might be furthered in China.

Lectures by experts from Yad Vashem and the Hebrew University included topics dealing with older and newer forms of antisemitism, prewar and Holocaust literature, art and cultural resistance during the *Shoah*, and Righteous Among the Nations. Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev met with the seminar participants to engage in an in-depth question and answer session, in which they shared their thoughts

following their tour of the Holocaust History Museum (right), and learned of Shalev’s vision for Holocaust museology in the 21st century.

At various points in the program, the participants also met with eight survivors, including two “Schindler Jews,” who related their experiences in the Emile Factory in Krakow, and the best friend of Anne Frank, who spoke extensively of their friendship as young children. These meetings engendered great sympathy and interest on behalf of the educators, who requested to keep in contact with the survivors after their return to China.

At the end of the seminar, the participants were keen to suggest ideas for furthering Holocaust education among their peers and students, ranging from helping Yad Vashem provide website access and materials in Chinese; offering Chinese online courses for fellow teachers; and bringing more diverse groups of educators and leaders to Israel for

New in the Virtual School

Naama Shik

Educational Environment for 27 January

■ In November 2005, the United Nations passed a resolution to mark 27 January, the anniversary of the Soviet liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, as an international day of commemoration to honor the victims of the Holocaust. The resolution urged member states to develop educational programs to impart the memory of this tragedy to future generations. Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies will be organized on international, national, regional and local levels, including in universities and schools around the world. Ahead of this important day, the International School for Holocaust Studies has launched an online educational environment, making ceremonies, lesson plans, video testimony, and other useful material available for teachers and educators.

“From Where Shall My Help Come?” The Story of Fanny Rozelaar and Betty Mayer

■ The latest installment in the series of survivor testimony films, “Witnesses and Education,” tells the story of sisters Fanny Rozelaar and Betty Mayer, nee Ichenhäuser. The two daughters were born to Arthur (Aharon Chaim) and Ada Victoria, nee Jacobson in Frankfurt am Main, Germany in 1919 and 1923 respectively. After the Nazi rise to power they moved, together with their families, to Amsterdam.

“From Where Shall My Help Come?” follows the different paths of Fanny and Betty: the elder daughter marrying and going into hiding with her husband, as well as entrusting her infant son to another young mother; and the younger daughter choosing to nurse her ailing mother and being sent, with Ada, to Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen. The sisters and their mother reunited and emigrated to Israel after the war, carving out new lives for themselves and their families.

While this film is unique in that it portrays the viewpoints of two sisters with two different



■ Holocaust survivors Betty Mayer (left) and Fanny Rozelaar (right) meet with students at a school in their hometown of Frankfurt am Main.

experiences, both narratives characterize the story of Dutch Jewry and, to a degree, that of the Jews of Central Europe during and after the Holocaust.

“From Where Shall My Help Come?” was produced by Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies and the Center for Multimedia Assisted Instruction at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The author is Director of the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Participants were keen to suggest ideas for furthering Holocaust education, including providing website access and teaching materials in Chinese



further seminars. One English-language teacher is determined to create lessons involving the *Shoah* Victims' Names Database, using issues of identity to encourage her students to delve further into studying the Holocaust.

"Yad Vashem is continuously searching for ways to widen the circle of knowledge about the Holocaust in the world," said Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. "While we naturally first concentrated on European countries, in recent years we've noticed more and more interest from countries further away, like China." The success of the first seminar has already led to plans for another one next year. "What we've done with this seminar is cast a pebble into a pond," explained Novak. "We hope that the ripples of what we've taught about the Holocaust, as well as about individual and national memory, will spread throughout China."

The author works at the Desk for Seminars in English, International School for Holocaust Studies.

“A First Step Towards Future Joint Activity” Holocaust Education in Argentina

Shulamit Imber

■ On 12-17 October, a seminar held jointly by Yad Vashem and Argentina's Ministry of Education took place to deepen the partnership between the two bodies and promote expertise in the field of Holocaust education in Argentina.

The seminar, attended by some 40 senior personnel from the country's 23 provinces, was the climax of a process begun when the country joined the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF). The seminar was organized in Argentina to implement the decision taken by its Ministry of Education at the end of 2009 to include Holocaust education in the curricula of public schools throughout the country. This decision was promoted, among others, by graduates of courses given at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Education.

Aware of the trend to create analogies

between the Holocaust and the systematic murder of civilians in Argentina during its period of dictatorship, the seminar program included a preliminary study of modern antisemitism, its place in Nazi ideology and its effect on German policies regarding the Jews, and an examination of the Holocaust as the central event of the 20th century. Participants also discussed ethical and moral dilemmas during the Holocaust, and were shown how these dilemmas raised universal questions. The entire seminar was carried out in accordance with the educational perspective developed at Yad Vashem.

Towards the end of the seminar, a panel discussion clarified the unique nature of the *Shoah*, and its relevance when confronting forms of genocide in other countries. During a visit to ESMA (Argentina's Naval Mechanics School, a notorious torture and political persecution center between 1976 and 1983) a discussion ensued

regarding how the Argentinean educational system may learn from the way in which Holocaust remembrance is taught in Israel and around the world. In addition, Holocaust education was brought as an example of ways in which societies – and nations – may ensure remembrance, deal with their history, and give it proper meaning.

"It was a week of hard work made meaningful and interesting by the exchanges of opinions and a first step for future joint activity," concluded Mara Brauer, Undersecretary for Equality and Educational Quality at the Argentine Ministry of Education. "We would like to thank Yad Vashem for its contribution to enriching the discussion about issues relating to remembrance, a key topic on our agenda."

The author is Pedagogical Director 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 she has achieved since:

Leora Brothman

■ Following her participation in a teacher-training seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies in 2008, Ursula Heine introduced Holocaust education to her students at the Friedrich-List Berufskolleg College in Bonn, Germany, in several courses and disciplines. Relating to Yad Vashem's pedagogical philosophy of studying the Holocaust through individual stories, Heine was inspired to use survivor testimonies for the lessons with her students.

With the assistance of the International School, Heine made contact with Pessach Anderman, a Holocaust survivor originally from Buczaz in Galicia, Poland. Anderman donated copies of his autobiography to Heine and her students, and after studying his life story, the students held a videoconference with Anderman in which they posed questions about and discussed his personal history. "I did not talk about my personal experiences during the Holocaust for almost 60 years," recalls Anderman. "As you can imagine, it is not easy for me to talk about my past. However, over the past two years I have given testimony to many German educators at Yad Vashem, as well as to students in Germany. They don't have many opportunities to talk to Holocaust

survivors. They often tell me that they do not know anything about it. Ursula Heine has demonstrated a serious commitment to teaching about the *Shoah*. Although today's students are not to blame for what happened, it is their national history and they need to learn about it in order to shape a better future."

The encounter was so valuable that Heine and her students plan to expand their contact with Anderman to explore his experiences further. The students have invited him to a special conference in Germany with additional students at which they plan to share his story and a song they composed about it, as well as a video they created explaining their studies about the Holocaust.

Heine's commitment to Holocaust education extends to other initiatives as well. With the support of the ICHEIC (International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) Humanitarian Fund, she has developed a project whereby students study two Holocaust survivors' stories and write compositions on them. Together with other pedagogical material, the students' pieces are planned to be compiled and published in the form of a didactic handout that may be used as lesson plans for other teachers. The material will also be sent to the

Ursula Heine Germany



■ International School graduate Ursula Heine (center) with some of her students in Bonn, Germany

survivors, providing a further opportunity for cross-generational communication. "It is important to remember that the survivors are at the center of Holocaust education," says Heine. "That educational message is the most valuable thing a teacher like me can give my students before they leave school and develop their respective paths in life. I hope this project will extend to other schools across Germany."

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

North Rhine Westphalia Seminar Graduates Mark 12 Years of Cooperation

■ On 10 November 2010, a conference for graduates of Yad Vashem seminars from North Rhine Westphalia, the most populous state in Germany, was held in its capital, Düsseldorf. This gathering, which took place on the day marking the anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, assembled some 150-200 seminar participants who have studied at the International School for Holocaust Studies over the past 12 years. The event demonstrated the continued strong interest in Yad Vashem's educational and commemorative endeavors, as well as the development of networks with other Holocaust education-related institutions.

Participants were addressed by Director General of Yad Vashem Nathan Eitan; former

prime minister of North Rhine Westphalia Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers; Chairwoman of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany Hildegard Müller; and Dr. Martin Cüppers, historian and author of *Halbmond und Hakenkeuz* (Crescent and Swastika). Speakers noted the importance of not only continuing to remember the Holocaust, but also fighting new forms of antisemitism.

At the event a new multilateral memorandum of understanding was presented between the Annette-von-Droste-Hülshoff-Gymnasium, the Paul-Gerhard-Realschule, the Villa ten Hompel Memorial Site in Münster, Germany and the International School for Holocaust Studies. The memorandum pledges to further cooperate on educational initiatives that will

encourage students' learning, enhance teaching methods and assist with the interpretation of information across the state.



■ Left to right: Project Coordinator Theo Schwedmann, Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, Hildegard Müller, Nathan Eitan, Arik Rav-On, Olaf Lehne

ITF Chairman's Initiatives Bolster Holocaust Awareness in Europe

Richelle Budd Caplan and Yael Weinstock



■ For 2010–2011, Israel is serving as Chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). In recent months, current ITF Chair Dan Tichon has initiated an important flagship project to promote Holocaust education and commemoration among member and observer states across Europe. The project consists of two parts:

Training Teams to Lead 27 January Events in States Seeking ITF Membership

In advance of the UN-sanctioned International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem will lead teams representing the ITF at various ceremonies, events and programs in three European countries that are currently seeking ITF membership: the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Portugal and Slovenia.

Yad Vashem experts guiding this international initiative include Pedagogical Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Shulamit Imber; Director of the School's European Department Richelle Budd Caplan; and Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, co-head of the

Israeli delegation to the ITF, noted, "The mission of the ITF is to encourage governments to observe International Holocaust Remembrance Day as well as implement Holocaust studies within their national educational structures. I am pleased that this year our staff will be instrumental in furthering these important goals."

During the week of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the ITF Training Teams will be addressing parliaments and diplomatic corps in the respective countries, giving lectures to university faculty and students, advising policy makers in the fields of education, culture and international affairs, and lecturing on various topics related to the challenges of Holocaust education in the 21st century.

Other highly acclaimed scholars who have agreed to contribute to this special ITF project include Dr. Stephen Smith, Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute in Los Angeles; Mark Weitzman of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in New York; Dr. Wolf Kaiser, Director of Education of the House of the Wannsee Conference in Berlin; Jerold Gotel of the London Jewish Cultural Center; Dr. Juliane Wetzel of the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung at the Technical University of Berlin; and Dr. Kathrin Meyer, Executive Secretary of the ITF.

Series of Videoconferences for ITF Leadership

The second part of the Chairman's initiative is to increase information on current Holocaust-related issues pertinent to ITF member states. As part of the project, six international videoconferences

took place, featuring prominent experts in the field of Holocaust research and education: Dr. Juliane Wetzel (Technical University of Berlin) on "Antisemitism Today"; Professor Omer Bartov (Brown University) on "The Holocaust and Minority Rights"; Prof. Robert Wistrich (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem), on "Holocaust Denial"; Prof. Yehuda Bauer (Yad Vashem) on "The Holocaust and Genocide"; Dr. Piotr Cywinski (Director, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum) on "Preservation and Marking of Sites"; and ITF Academic Advisor Prof. Dina Porat (Tel Aviv University) on "Dealing with the Past."

International audiences comprised of ITF delegates, academics and students were in attendance for each of the videoconferences, conducting a question and answer session after each lecture. The outcome of the project is a special subsite (www.holocausttaskforce.org/holocaust-issues), hosted on both the ITF and Yad Vashem websites. Aimed at the worldwide network of ITF members, the subsite is divided into the six topics above, and includes the lectures, question and answer sessions, articles on the topics, relevant links, and interviews with other researchers in these fields.

"This is an important initiative by the ITF chairmanship," explains Director of the International School Dorit Novak. "Through these expert lectures, we hope to educate decision-makers, public figures and diverse populations on Holocaust-related issues that are on today's international agenda."

Richelle Budd Caplan is Director of the European Department, International School for Holocaust Studies. Yael Weinstock works in the Internet Department and manages the ITF Chair Project.

International Seminars Director Keynote Speaker at Holocaust Education Week in Canada

■ Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies, gave the keynote address at the closing session of Holocaust Education Week, an annual event taking place in Toronto, Canada. During the week some 30,000 people – students, teachers and the general public – took part in over 100 educational activities throughout the city of Toronto, in synagogues, churches and schools.

The theme of the week was "Holocaust survivor testimonies," and Kaye was invited to address some 800 participants at the closing

ceremony about the International School's and the Hebrew University's joint survivor testimony film project "Witnesses in Education."

"The presentation was a great success and certainly fell on the receptive ears of an audience made up of many survivors and their children," said Kaye (pictured). "I hope that we will continue to be a part of this important week in Toronto in the future."

During his stay in Canada, which was facilitated by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, Kaye also attended a reunion of Canadian graduates of the International

School, and gave presentations of the School's educational units to students, teachers, young professionals and second-generation groups across Toronto and Ottawa.



Four Million Victims' Names

A Milestone in Holocaust Commemoration

Leah Goldstein

■ At the end of December 2010, Alexander Avraham, Director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, made an historic announcement: Yad Vashem has now collected two-thirds of the names of all Holocaust victims – four million names. One of its central missions since its foundation, the recovery of each and every victim's name and personal story has resulted in relentless efforts – with the support of Jewish and other organizations worldwide – to reach a complete account of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices.

The first endeavors in this colossal task led to the development of Pages of Testimony, one-page questionnaires designed to restore the personal identity of each individual Holocaust victim. Beginning in the 1950s, campaigns have continued throughout the years in Israel and among Jewish communities abroad requesting survivors, family members or friends to submit Pages of Testimony. "Pages of Testimony rebuild an individual's identity, beyond a reference on a deportation or camp inmate list," explains Avraham. "Those lists were created during wartime by the Nazis and their collaborators, for their own murderous purposes. It is our moral imperative not to leave the commemoration of our lost brethren to our enemies, who wished to destroy them. Today some 2.2 million of the names we have retrieved come from Pages of Testimony."

In the 1990s, Yad Vashem extended its efforts beyond Pages of Testimony, actively gathering and processing lists of names originating from deportation transports and camp and ghetto records. By organizing and encouraging common workshops and mutual exchanges of data, methodology and expertise, Yad Vashem became the leading force in this attempt to assemble all of the available knowledge concerning *Shoah* victims.

This second track for retrieving the names of Holocaust victims involves "mining" the archival materials in the Yad Vashem Archives for relevant missing data. The Archives house the largest collection of Holocaust documentation in the world: 130 million pages of documentation, 100,000 survivor testimonies, 400,000 photographs and 15,000 Righteous Among the Nations case files, as



■ Map of Europe illustrating the percentage of Shoah victims' names retrieved so far. "In countries of Eastern Europe, much information is still lacking."

well as 25,000 artifacts and 12,000 pieces of art. Through intelligent cross-referencing of all of these elements, the life stories of more and more Holocaust victims are being reconstructed daily (see "Retrieving Their Identities," p. 9).

By the year 2000, an intensive computerization project resulted in the creation of a database containing close to 2.5 million names of *Shoah* victims. In November 2004, the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names was uploaded to the Yad Vashem website (www.yadvashem.org) with some three million names, offering the general public full and free access to the victims' names in English and in Hebrew, and later also in Russian.

The Names Database is the result of decades of dedicated and painstaking work by Yad Vashem, in close cooperation with an ever-growing number of partners documenting the victims of Nazi persecution in Europe and beyond. Founded on a sophisticated technological platform, advanced search capabilities – including "soundex" (the indexing of words by their pronunciation) and the unique Yad Vashem-devised synonyms search, which

allows for multiple spellings and names of the same person or location – were developed to maximize results.

The documents from which the data are extracted are often difficult to decipher, requiring a high degree of expertise in handwriting in various languages. Some 50 Yad Vashem experts trained in names cataloguing digitally scan the documents, enter the relevant information and record the names within. The information is then uploaded to the Names Database, allowing online searches to be performed by visitors to the website. "The increasing interest of the global community in the human dimension of the *Shoah* is most evident on the Internet," adds Avraham. "More than 10 million visits are registered annually on Yad Vashem's website, from over 200 countries and territories worldwide."

The retrieving of four million names is a significant accomplishment, but this obviously means that one third of the Holocaust victims remain to be identified. While in Western Europe in particular there were often lists kept of the Jews deported, in countries of Eastern Europe and the areas of the former Soviet Union, as well as Greece, much information is still lacking.

Identified

The retrieving of four million names is a significant accomplishment, but this obviously means that one third of the Holocaust victims remain to be identified

“During the last five years we have concentrated our names recovery efforts in areas where most of the names remain unknown,” says Avraham. “We have made great progress. In 2005, we knew the names of some 20% of Jews murdered in Ukraine, today we know 35%; in Byelorussia the figure has risen from 23% to 37% today, in Poland (1938 borders) from 35% to 46%, in Hungary from 45% to 65%, and in Greece from 35% to 70%.”

The active and urgent efforts to locate these names is being led by Yad Vashem’s *Shoah* Victims’ Names Recovery Project, through its ongoing worldwide Pages of Testimony venture, interviewing members of Jewish communities in the FSU and other countries, photographing gravestones, and extracting names from memorial books and synagogue plaques. The Project also collects documents and records from individuals and organizations, and creates new documentation – lists of names from various sources. “Pages of Testimony and Project campaign material have been widely distributed to Jewish communal venues in Israel, America, Europe, Australia, South America and South Africa, encouraging people to investigate whether or not their loved ones killed during the *Shoah* are recorded at Yad Vashem,” explains Cynthia Wroclawski, Manager of the Names Recovery Project. “The grassroots efforts of local Jewish communities are critical in accessing the millions of additional names that still linger in the memories of survivors or in the lore of their families. Through local outreach campaigns, the Project aims to ensure that no *Shoah* victim will ever be forgotten.”

“No cemeteries, headstones or traces of life were left to mark the loss of the majority of the six million Holocaust victims,” concludes Avraham. “Yad Vashem will not rest until every one of them is commemorated within its walls.”

The indexing of the Names Database and the Names Recovery Project are supported by: the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement; Hi-Tech Entrepreneur Yossie Hollander; the Claims Conference; Dayenu Ltd, led by Gail & Colin Halpern and family; the Nadav Fund and the Noaber Foundation; the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism; the American Society for Yad Vashem; the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah; Wexner – The Legacy Heritage Fund; Stichting Collectieve Marogelden Israel; Dora Zitno; Hanna Rubenstein; Edith Steinlauf; and additional supporters.

Retrieving Their Identities

Dr. Arie Biegun, Brest Litovsk, Poland

■ Arie Biegun was born in Brest Litovsk (Brisk). His whole family was murdered during the *Shoah*, leaving nobody behind to give testimony about what happened to him. In the 1960s, a Page of Testimony in his memory was submitted to Yad Vashem by Avraham Strikman, a native of the same city who remembered him. Although he had no idea of Biegun’s fate, he filled in the title “Dr.” and wrote that Biegun had been a physician.

Most of the Jews of Brest were murdered on 15 October 1942. In recent years, Yad Vashem researchers copied a collection of documents of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission in Moscow. There they found a list of the Jews who were murdered in Brest, including written evidence that Dr. Biegun was indeed killed. However, they also discovered that he was not murdered alone. Next to his name was that of his wife Sofia (Sara), and two daughters, Celina and Shulamit, all of them murdered with him.



Joachim Weingarten, Drohobycz, Poland

■ Joachim Weingarten’s name first appeared in the Names Database as a line on a list of 76,000 Jews deported from France to the extermination camps in Poland. There was no Page of Testimony, nobody left, apparently, to remember him. According to the document, he was sent to Auschwitz on 17 July 1942 on Transport no. 6. His birth date was reportedly 1875, his place of birth illegible except for the last three letters “icz.”

Years later, a document received from the Auschwitz-Birkenau National Museum confirmed Weingarten’s death in the camp on 28 August 1942. The document states his real birth date, 9 October 1895, his birth place as Drohobycz, Poland, his parents’ names, and his residence as Paris, France. A few more years passed until a book catalogued in the Yad Vashem Library completed the picture: an album describing the lives and works of the “Groupe des quatre,” four young Jewish painters from Eastern Galicia studying in Montmartre, includes a self-portrait by Joachim Weingarten, some of his modernist paintings and two full pages of his biography.



Transports to Extinction

Launch of the New *Shoah* Deportation Database

Leah Goldstein

■ *My Dear,*

In a few minutes from now we shall pull out of the train station and set off toward infinity. Take care of Mother. My husband and I were given the chance to remain because we are workers, but our young son has to go and we don't want him to go on his final journey alone [so] we are going together to our deaths...

Our hair has turned white overnight; pray to God to save you from this thing that has happened to us.

This is the final message from us...

From *'These are My Last Words': Final Letters from the Holocaust* (Yad Vashem, 2002)

In December 2010, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research and Information Systems Division completed the first part of a comprehensive and ground-breaking new project: to construct an online database of each and every transport of Jewish victims carried out by the Nazi regime during the *Shoah*. Using a wide range of documents, including official Nazi documentation, survivor accounts and various studies carried out since 1945 on deportations, the "Transports to Extinction: *Shoah* (Holocaust) Deportation Database" aims to map the entire deportation process in Germany and occupied Europe during the war.



■ Jews board a train during the deportation of the Jewish community of Macedonia, March 1943

The project focuses on three key features. The first investigates the dates of each transport, its geographical origins, actual route, pick-up points, journey time and type of vehicle used throughout the entire process. This information provides an accurate and detailed reconstruction of the event, taking into account various incidents that occurred along the way.

The second feature is the bureaucratic apparatus that was responsible for the deportations. This included officials in Nazi security services such as Adolf Eichmann, but also ordinary local policemen and officials who rounded up Jews in villages and towns across the continent. In addition, the project is investigating the degree of collaboration

Portrait of the Victims Aviv Shashar

Margarethe Gertrude (Trude) Herzl Neumann

■ Among the deportees on transport No. 40, (train "Da 513"), which departed Vienna on 10 September 1942 at 21:00 and arrived at Theresienstadt the following day, was Margarethe Gertrude (Trude) Herzl Neumann, the beloved youngest daughter of the Zionist leader Benjamin Zeev (Theodor) Herzl. Upon the train's arrival, the transport was marked as IV/10.

Trude was a gifted writer and possessed irresistible personal charm. She wrote to Churchill demanding him to make peace with the Germans, and also to Hitler with a rebuking letter stating her dissatisfaction with the manner in which things were being carried out. "Don't you understand that you are ruining all of human civilization?" she asked the Nazi leader. Hitler did not respond.



■ Trude Herzl (second from left) with her father and siblings

Tragically, like her two deceased siblings, Hans and Paulina, Neumann suffered from episodes of depression and had been admitted to various psychiatric institutions in Vienna. It was during a 1942 stay at the Shteinhoff Institution that she was taken, along with the

rest of the patients, to Theresienstadt, where she informed the hospital staff of her lineage and requested to meet the ghetto leadership. While its chairman Jacob Edelstein displayed little interest in her arrival, Nurse Trude Groag decided to take charge of her new patient. Neumann survived six months in the ghetto hospital, but she gradually weakened and died on 15 March 1943. Her husband, Richard Neumann, a textile industrialist and 27 years her senior, was deported on the same transport and died two months later. In September 1946, Stephen-Theodor, the couple's only child and Herzl's only grandson, was appointed commercial representative to the British embassy in Washington, D.C. Two months later, when he learned of the fate of his parents, he committed suicide.

"We view each transport-deportation as an historical event in and of itself, and not merely a technical process that simply moved Jews from place to place"

Dr. Joel Zisenwine

of civil organizations, such as European rail companies, in the deportation process.

The victims themselves make up the third element of the project. Use of updated deportation lists along with additional demographic data derived from archival sources enabled the Institute's researchers to present a socio-economic profile of the victims, as well as that of the Jewish communities on the eve of their destruction.

The results of the project is an online database accessible from the Yad Vashem website in English and in Hebrew, which provides a broad overview of the deportation practice, as well as detailed information regarding

specific transports and/or victims. A unique conglomeration of Yad Vashem resources and databases, including that of the Archives Division, Commemoration and Public Relations Division, Hall of Names and Libraries, the site allows researchers, family members and Holocaust students access to a comprehensive collection of documents, photographs and names relevant to the transports.

"The deportation of the Jews from their homes was a central component, or stage, in the implementation of the Final Solution," notes Dr. Joel Zisenwine, Director of the Deportations Project. "In their testimonies, many of the survivors relate to the horror that news of an upcoming deportation would engender, and more so, describe in great detail the traumatic experience of the actual transport. We therefore view each transport-deportation as an historical event in and of itself, and not merely a technical process that simply moved Jews from place to place. As such, the new database will provide researchers with a range of testimonies found at Yad Vashem, and will also guide them on to further resources in order to continue their studies."

The first stage of the project has reconstructed some 50 transports from Vienna, Austria, between

1939 and the beginning of 1943, the first of which departed for Nisko, Poland, in October 1939. For the next four years, some 50,000 Jews were deported from the city. "Vienna was chosen as our first focus because the mechanism of deportation there was developed by the Central Office for Jewish Emigration, established by Eichmann already in the summer of 1938," explains Zisenwine. "The Office later became an agency of deportation, which coordinated the confiscation of the Jews' property, their concentration in designated areas, and their eventual deportation out of Austria."

The next stage, already under preparation, will cover the transports from Germany, Bohemia and Moravia (the Protectorate) to Theresienstadt. And after that? "The project aims to research deportations from the whole of Europe as well as the Mediterranean basin (Saloniki)," says Zisenwine. "For the next few years we are concentrating our efforts on points of departure from central and western Europe, the beginnings of the most traumatic journeys the victims would ever take, whether they ultimately survived or not."

"Transports to Extinction: Shoah (Holocaust) Deportation Database" is supported by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.



Jacobus Henricus Kann

Jacobus Henricus Kann (1872-1944), owner of Lissa & Kann Bank that served members of the Dutch royal family, was exposed to the Jewish national ideal as a result of the Dreyfus affair. A secular Dutch Jew by definition, Kann attended the first Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897. In 1902 Kann opened the Anglo-Palestine Bank in Jaffa, later known as Bank Leumi. He was among the founders of the Zionist Organization of Holland, and in 1899, he purchased the first 60 lots of Achuzat Bayit, enabling the beginning of construction of what later became known as Tel Aviv.

Following the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in 1940, Kann's bank closed and he and his wife Anna were expelled from their home in The Hague. On 29 September 1943, they were transferred to Westerbork, where he fell ill and was



■ Anna and Jacobus Kann

admitted to the camp hospital. On 4 September 1944 they were deported to Theresienstadt on transport number XXIV/7, a journey of two days.

"We were packed with another 2,500 people into sealed freight cars," remembered Lea Schweiger, a nurse who treated and accompanied the couple to Theresienstadt. "We were supplied with one barrel

of drinking water and another barrel, which served as a toilet. ...Suffocating in the sealed car, and in spite of threats from the SS, we tried to open a small crack in one of the boards." On arrival, Kann's condition deteriorated rapidly, and he died on 7 October 1944.

Anna Kann died in the ghetto hospital on 28 April 1945, and three of their five children were also murdered in the Shoah: Maurits, the oldest son, died in Oranienburg in March 1942; Johan, the third son, was sent in July 1942 to Auschwitz; and Jap, the youngest son, was sent to the east. Kann's personal journey is remembered in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Kiryat Yovel, where a square is dedicated in his memory.

The author is the Deportations Project Coordinator at the International Institute for Holocaust Studies.

“Courage, Wits and Nerves of Steel”

■ “These heroic girls... are a theme that calls for the pen of a great writer. Boldly they travel back and forth through the cities and towns of Poland. ...They are in mortal danger every day. ...Nothing deters them.”

Emmanuel Ringelblum, 1942

Much of the research conducted about the Holocaust has dedicated itself to the actions of the underground and resistance – both Jewish and non-Jewish. However, surprisingly little has covered the phenomenon of the *kashariyot* – young women who traveled on illegal missions for the Jewish resistance in German-occupied Eastern Europe. Using false papers to conceal their Jewish identities, they smuggled secret documents, weapons, underground newspapers, money, medical supplies, information, forged identity cards, ammunition – and other Jews – in and out of the ghettos of Poland, Lithuania and parts of the USSR. The *kashariyot* (from the Hebrew *kesher*, meaning connection) were a lifeline for news and information, a trusted contact for supplies and resources, and a personal inspiration for hope and resilience.

In the early months after the German invasion of Poland, the young men and women who first set out on reconnaissance missions were the leaders of pre-war Jewish organizations seeking to re-energize the local members of their movements. But when the Germans instituted the death penalty for Jews found outside the ghetto, it became more dangerous for the male leaders to travel (because Jewish men were circumcised and could be easily identified). But the women continued, and the couriers became predominantly female.

Disguised as non-Jews, these *kashariyot* often relied on sheer *chutzpah* to bluff their way through multiple police inspections, document checks and border controls. They were always at risk of being unmasked, and always under the threat of death. Their missions required great courage, quick wits and nerves of steel.

Most of the *kashariyot* were already active in, and often recognized as leaders of, a youth group affiliated with a specific Jewish organization. These organizations ranged from Zionist youth groups (such as Dror, Akiva and Hashomer Hatzair) to major political parties



■ Kashariyot, left to right: Chaika Grossman, Chasia Bielicka, Bronka Winicka, Anja Rod, Lisa Czapnik

The *kashariyot* typically spoke fluent Polish without a “Jewish accent,” and did not look distinctively Jewish, which allowed them to blend into the Polish population. Their young age and their gender also helped, allowing them to shop and walk the streets with little suspicion

(such as the Jewish-Socialist Bund and the Communist Party).

The *kashariyot* typically spoke fluent Polish without a “Jewish accent,” and did not look distinctively Jewish, which allowed them to blend into the Polish population. Their young age and their gender also helped, allowing them to shop and walk the streets with little suspicion, asking for help from both Germans and Poles: Chasia Bielicka (Bornstein) escaped from an inspection while carrying a laboratory for forging documents because she appealed to a guard and “looked so innocent;” Bronka Winicka (Klibanski)’s smile and elegant bearing inspired men to buy her train tickets and carry her suitcases – containing guns and ammunition; and Bela Chazan received special travel passes from the Gestapo office where she worked

because with her long blond braids, she looked like the picture-perfect German girl.

When a *kashariyot* arrived in a ghetto, she immediately sought out the local members of her movement. They were eager to learn about recent events and devoured every precious word in the underground newspapers, letters and bulletins she carried. They all knew the risks she had taken to reach them, and they basked in the reflected glory of her success in breaking through the German barricades. In the early days of the German occupation, the *kashariyot* also conducted educational seminars, with inspiring lessons from Jewish history, and held all-night meetings to organize local programs.

As the Jewish resistance responded to shifts in German policy, however, the tasks of the *kashariyot* also began to change. When news of mass murder operations began to circulate, they shifted gears and mobilized to carry the news and urge resistance activities. Having always encouraged others to believe in life and hope, it was hard for them to carry the news of the killings. And it was even more difficult for others to hear – and to believe – their reports. Bela Chazan, the Dror courier sent from Vilna to Grodno in January 1942, reported that the Grodno Judenrat “did not believe” what she described, even though she brought authoritative information on the massacres in Vilna and Ponary.

However, those who became involved in organizing the ghetto uprisings accepted and acted on their reports, and they then turned to the *kashariyot* to organize a wide range of difficult and dangerous tasks that had to be undertaken on the Aryan side: acquiring guns, explosives and ammunition and finding

Heroines of the Jewish Resistance

Prof. Lenore J. Weitzman



a way to smuggle them into the ghettos. The *kashariyot* also brought money, messages, supplies and ammunition to groups of Jews planning resistance operations in factories, prisons and labor camps. At the same time, they provided critical guidance and logistical support for other leaders of the Jewish resistance working on the Aryan side.

Faced with such treacherous missions, most of the *kashariyot* did not survive. The tragic arrest of two of the most talented and experienced

kashariyot, Lonka Kozibrodzka and Bela Chazan, was triggered when Kozibrodzka was caught smuggling four pistols into Warsaw. Because the two women looked so typically Polish, they were able to maintain their Aryan cover when they were arrested, but were eventually sent to Auschwitz as Poles. (Kozibrodzka died of typhus in Auschwitz in March 1943. Chazan survived and lived to tell their story.)

When it became clear that the ghettos were being liquidated, the *kashariyot* were charged

International Research Conference: “Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowing Identities”



■ Prof. Lenore J. Weitzman addresses the International Conference on “Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowing Identities.”

■ Everyone knows of the six million victims of the Holocaust, the men, women and children persecuted, hunted down, caught, tortured and murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices during WWII. But what of those who managed to avoid detection, at least for part of the time, by hiding or masquerading as non-Jews? How did they evade discovery? Who helped them do so, and why? What kind of documentation did they keep to record their experiences? What was it like living under an assumed identity, and how did that affect their lives afterwards?

These questions, and many others, were posed, discussed and deliberated at an

international research conference entitled “Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowing Identities,” held at Yad Vashem from 19–21 December 2010. This captivating look at the whole phenomenon of life-saving ventures during the Holocaust, on an individual and group level, was organized by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, and attracted world-renowned scholars of 20th century history, politics, religion and social sciences.

“Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowing Identities” was held with the generous support of the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences and the Gutwirth Family Fund.

When it became clear that the ghettos were being liquidated, the *kashariyot* were charged with their fourth and most critical mission: saving as many Jewish lives as possible

with their fourth and most critical mission: saving as many Jewish lives as possible. Aware of this race against time, they embraced the undertaking with passion: they escorted and aided children and adults in escaping from the ghetto, located rooms for them to stay in on the Aryan side, prepared new identity cards, and supplied them (and those hiding and helping them) with financial support.

Each of these tasks was enormously complicated and risky. One never knew if someone had placed an advertisement for a reasonable room to set a trap, or if the landlord would change the published price after the escapee arrived. The arrangements often fell apart and had to be redone: a neighbor would become suspicious, a landlord would become nervous, or someone would be discovered by a blackmailer. The psychological stress was relentless. But for the Jews they aided and saved, these women of valor were heroines of the entire Jewish people.

The author has written/edited five books, including *Women in the Holocaust* (Yale, 1999), co-edited with Prof. Dalia Ofer. She addressed the recent Yad Vashem international conference “Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowing Identities” on “Jewish Rescuers,” focusing on the *kashariyot* for Dror, Hashomer Hatzair and the Bund.

Murderous Incompetence?

IG Farben and the Development of Auschwitz-Birkenau Dr. David Silberklang

Yad Vashem Studies

38



Jerusalem 2010

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■ In early 1941, the IG Farben conglomerate began planning a new, huge factory complex near the provincial Polish town of Oświęcim (Auschwitz) for the manufacture of synthetic rubber and synthetic fuel (the camp that came to be known as “Buna”). With Germany victorious on all fronts, a two-and-a-half-year construction project seemed reasonable to both the company managers and the regime. Yet when Soviet troops reached the area four years later, the industrial complex was still not completed, and some 30,000 prisoner forced-laborers, seventy-three percent of the mostly Jewish workforce, had died. How did this apparent construction and engineering fiasco come about, and in what ways is this story linked to the planning of the Birkenau extermination camp?

These are the main subjects addressed by Eliezer Schwartz in his study, “The Role of IG Farben–Auschwitz in the Construction of the Birkenau Extermination Camp,” which appears in the latest issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (vol. 38, no. 2). Earlier research discussed the development of Auschwitz from a concentration camp for political prisoners in 1940 to the extermination and forced-labor camp complex that began to be developed in 1941. Similarly, IG Farben’s presence at Auschwitz-Birkenau from 1941 and its own exploitation of the camp’s forced

laborers has also been noted in research. But Eliezer Schwartz brings a special perspective to his research – his training and rich experience in urban planning and engineering – and thus adds a totally new dimension to our understanding of Auschwitz-Birkenau. What emerges from his research is the extraordinary incompetence of the IG Farben planners.

Schwartz shows that this construction project was accompanied from the outset by remarkable engineering failures in planning and performance. These failures significantly inflated the construction costs, delayed the completion of the project by years, and brought Auschwitz-Birkenau to expand its forced labor supply and provide ever-increasing numbers of forced laborers to IG Farben. To overcome the delays resulting from their blunders, IG Farben’s managers subjected the prisoners to brutal treatment, spent their strength and quickly dispatched them – to death.

The project was initiated and led by Dr. Otto Ambros, manager of the IG Farben rubber and plastics division. He and the company’s

The availability of free Jewish labor made the site especially attractive

engineers and planners were attracted by the site’s proximity to raw materials such as coal, the availability of water from the nearby confluence of three rivers, and the fact that the area was very flat and required hardly any leveling. They also believed the area was approximately 248 meters above sea level, so that the Vistula (Wisła) River, at 225 meters above sea level, posed no danger of floods. Schwartz demonstrates that the availability of free Jewish labor was a central factor that made the site especially attractive to IG Farben.

As it turned out, Ambros and his team had not taken the minimal precautions required in designing the project: they produced no detailed geographic surveys or large-scale maps as a basis for the planning; they had not done professional deep hydrology testing to determine the floodlines of the rivers; and they had not

tested the soil’s quality or performed deep drilling in order to plan and lay foundations. As the project progressed, the IG Farben team discovered that the ground was unstable, the water table was high, and the area’s rivers were prone to flooding. This forced them to redesign, rebuild and rebudget, resulting in huge cost overruns, long delays and the loss of tens of thousands of human lives.

The IG Farben team stuck to its plans, arguing that Auschwitz’s combination of proximity to raw materials, room for expansion and relative safety from air raids made it an ideal location for the plant and would enable it to absorb the added costs. The availability of an endless supply of Jewish forced laborers from Auschwitz-Birkenau was an important factor in their consideration, although the human lives expended at the construction and at the nearby coal mines run by the company for the project were not an issue that concerned them.

The company cut costs on machines and fuel by having the prisoners do barehanded the work of heavy hauling machines. One work unit, Kommando 4, the Cement Detail, was forced to work at such extremely heavy labor and at such a furious pace that the prisoners nicknamed it “Murder Detail 4.”

The number of Auschwitz-Birkenau prisoner forced laborers working at Buna rose from several hundred in 1941, to more than 3,000 by the end of 1942, and 11,600 at the end of 1944, shortly before the complex was shut down. Jews constituted more than ninety percent of the forced-laborer population. From January 1943, a two-way traffic of prisoners developed: spent forced laborers from the IG Farben complex to Birkenau for gassing, and fresh prisoners from Birkenau to the complex to be worked to death by the IG Farben managers and staff.

This is a chilling study of the lethal outcome when absolute murderous disregard for forced-laborer prisoners was coupled with the glaring professional incompetence of the engineers and managers responsible for them.

To order *Yad Vashem Studies* (\$24):
publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il

The author is Senior Historian at Yad Vashem and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*.

■ **The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), a European-wide archives and research project about the Holocaust that will allow easier access to dispersed Holocaust document collections across the continent, was officially launched in Brussels on 16 November 2010.**

At a special event under the patronage of European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, Israeli Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar (pictured) pointed out the deep connection and importance the State of Israel and Yad Vashem feel in taking a central role in EHRI, and the moral duty of all "to reassemble the shattered fragments of memory, in order to fill in the gaps and restore the faces to the victims."

With 20 partner organizations from 13 European countries as well as from Israel, the four-year, seven-million-Euro project is a part of the EU's research program FP7, in which Israel is a partner. Yad Vashem has been active in the project since its inception, and is playing a leading role in the various sub-projects that make up EHRI.

The event was also attended by European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, Dutch State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science Halbe Zijlstra, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, and Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner.



Events: October-December 2010

14 October ■ **Ceremony honoring the late Nicolaas and Hendrikje Plantinga of Holland as Righteous Among the Nations.** Left to right: Aart Plantinga, the son of the Righteous; Elizabeth Alfarsi, who linked Yad Vashem with the Plantinga family; Johanna (Jos) Plantinga; Dutch Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mr. Michiel den Hond



18 October ■ **The annual commemoration marking 67 years since the deportation of the Jews from Italy to the death camps was attended by hundreds of Italian Holocaust survivors. Auschwitz survivor and author Giuliana Tedeschi, who passed away this year, was also remembered.** Left to right: Rosella Fubini Tedeschi, daughter of the late Giuliana



Tedeschi, who lit the Eternal Flame; Vito Anav, Chairman of the Organization of Italian Jews; the Italian Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mr. Luigi Mattiolo; Judge Eliyahu Ben Zimra, Chairman of the Association of Italian Jews

26 October ■ **The annual gathering marking 68 years since the liberation of Libya and commemorating the Jews of Libya murdered in the Holocaust** was attended by hundreds of Libyan Holocaust survivors and their families. Deputy Finance Minister MK Yitzhak Cohen (pictured) spoke, as did Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Shimon Doron, Board Member of the World Organization of Libyan Jews, and Aryeh Barnea, a member of the Israel Parliamentary Association for Holocaust Commemoration and Survivor Assistance.



9 November ■ **A day-long seminar marking 72 years since the Kristallnacht Pogrom** was attended by hundreds of members of the Association of Israelis of Central European Origin. Front row, left to right: Austrian Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mag. Michael Rendi; Reuven Merhav, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association of Israelis of

Central European Origin; Yehudit Shendar, Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of the Museums Division at Yad Vashem; and German Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Dr. Harald Kindermann. At night, *ma'ariv* was recited in the synagogue; this was followed by an address delivered by Rabbi Mordechai Neugerschl and attended by students and educators from the Jerusalem yeshiva high school Netiv Meir.



28 December ■ **The annual commemoration by the Israel Association of Concentration Camp Survivors** was attended by Minister of Public Affairs and the Diaspora Yuli Edelstein (pictured), Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Noah Flug, Chairman of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel.



New on www.yadvashem.org Dana Porath

“In Full Dimension”: The Righteous Among the Nations Online

■ To meet increasing international interest in the Righteous Among the Nations, Yad Vashem is constantly adding inspiring stories of the Righteous to its Internet site, enhanced with photos, documents and testimonies. Recently, with the generous support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Yad Vashem also launched a special playlist on its YouTube channels, featuring video testimonies from the rescuers and the rescued. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. A teacher from South Dakota recently wrote that these videos give the students a “sense of people in full dimension.”

Yad Vashem has also expanded its social networking activities to also include frequent postings about the Righteous on its Facebook page. These updates have generated dynamic discussion and moving feedback. “These stories give me faith in humanity,” wrote Kelly Szanyi from Chicago. Added Bill Woofers Crane, “Not many have to face so blatant a choice as the Righteous (risking their own lives in the attempt to save others), but we all get a chance to help. Seize the opportunity in remembrance of the Righteous.”

Online exhibition: The Community of Mir

■ On the eve of WWII, some 2,400 Jews lived in Mir, the location of the renowned Lithuanian yeshiva that attracted scholars from across the Jewish world. On 22 June 1941, Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. By 16 August 1942, the entire Jewish population of Mir – apart from members of the Mir Yeshiva that had relocated to Shanghai – had been murdered in three waves of executions at shooting pits. On the night of 9 August, a few days before the final mass murder, 200 Jews managed to escape from Mir with the help of Oswald Rufeisen. They fled to the forests and joined the partisans. As part of the online Communities Project, “Here Their Stories Will Be Told,” an exhibition about the community of Mir, its history and its commemoration, is now accessible on Yad Vashem’s website.

“Here Their Stories Will be Told” is generously supported by the Claims Conference. The online exhibition on the Community of Mir is generously sponsored by the Foundation in Memory of Mir Jewry, Belarus, and the Claims Conference.



New mini-sites on Research and Museums Collections

■ Two new sections were recently added to the Yad Vashem website: a sub-site of the International Institute for Holocaust Research with extensive information about Yad Vashem’s research projects, symposia, conferences, publications and more; and a new Museums section, featuring photos and descriptions of the galleries in the Holocaust History Museum, a virtual tour, and explanations about the Museum of Holocaust Art, Synagogue, Visual Center, Temporary Exhibitions Pavilion and Learning Center. Accompanying the texts and images are links to related exhibitions and projects.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.

Website wins WebiAward 2010



■ For the fifth year in a row, the Yad Vashem website has won the People and Computers Magazine Special Category WebiAward. At the awards ceremony held in Tel Aviv on 24 October, Yad Vashem’s CIO Michael Leiber (right) and Outreach Technology Coordinator Effi Neumann (left) accepted a certificate on behalf of the Internet team from WebiAward Chairman Ido Levy (center) singling out the Yad Vashem website for its “unique excellence” in providing online information about the Holocaust.



■ Video of Righteous Among the Nations Lyubov Gerasimchik, who rescued the Khumut family from Tuczyn in Ukraine.

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and visit “Insights and Perspectives” –
the Yad Vashem Blog:
www.yad-vashem.blogspot.com

Weekly Museum Tours in Russian

■ Since the beginning of December 2010, Yad Vashem has been providing tours of the site every Friday by expert Russian-speaking guides. The three-hour tours, which include the Holocaust History Museum, Hall of Remembrance, Children’s Memorial and other exhibitions and monuments, are free of charge, generously supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Fund. The tours will run through the end of February 2011.

For advance registration, tel: +972 2 644 3415/769

“Indelibly Engraved in Their Memories” Child Survivors Tell of their Rescue by the Birnbaum Family

Yifat Bachrach-Ron

■ Yehoshua and Hennie Birnbaum ז”ל, who were married in 1927, lived in Berlin, where five of their six children were born. After the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in November 1938, the family fled to Holland, but following the Nazi invasion they were transferred to the Westerbork concentration camp, where the camp commander instructed them to care for the hundreds of orphans imprisoned there – infants without diapers, sick, exhausted and starving. Hennie and Yehoshua threw themselves into the job with absolute dedication. They arranged clothing, food, laundry facilities and activities for the orphans, but most of all, they were determined to save them from being deported to Poland. The couple would sneak into the camp offices and rifle through the lists of children destined for transport; whenever they spotted a name of a child from the orphanage they would exert whatever pressure they could to cancel the order. Hennie even approached the camp commander and told him that some 50 of the children were not Jewish as they were the result of relations between German soldiers and Jewish women. She gave him a list of names, prepared ahead of time in conjunction with the Dutch Resistance; the commander approved the list, and the children were thus saved.

After the war, the Birnbaum family established a children’s home in Amsterdam, and in 1946 the home moved to a villa in the town of Bussum. The villa soon became the center of intense Zionist activity: the children learned Hebrew there, and after a training period emigrated to *Eretz Israel* with the help of the Youth Aliyah organization.



■ Rare group testimony: child survivors gather at Yad Vashem to remember their Jewish rescuers, Yehoshua and Hennie Birnbaum, ז”ל.

On 1 November 2010, in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry for Pensioner Affairs, the Birnbaum family’s six biological children and many of the children from the Westerbork children’s home gathered at Yad Vashem for the filming of a group testimony. The event was recorded by the Oral History Section of the Archives Division, which films some 1,000 testimonies of Holocaust survivors living in Israel each year. Yad Vashem collects group testimony only in very rare cases, such as this unique one in which dozens of Jewish children were rescued by one Jewish family. On this occasion, Yad Vashem also screened a movie that was filmed at the children’s home in Holland just after the war ended, so that those present could identify themselves.

Over and over again, during the course of the group testimony, the figures of the late

Yehoshua and Hennie Birnbaum, the people who had provided them with food and shelter, came alive: they were indelibly engraved in the memory of those present, not only as having saved them physically, but also for having restored to them, at least in part, the sense of childhood. As noble educators, they also returned the many children that had lived under a Christian identity to their Jewish roots.

Esther Reiss, née Mossel, who came to Yad Vashem with her three daughters and grandchildren to participate in the group testimony, was seven years old when the war ended. “My parents did not survive the Holocaust,” Esther said, “but I did, and it is clear to me that this was thanks to the Birnbaum family.”

“Representing a Generation of Holocaust Survivors”: Dov Shilansky, ז”ל

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Adv. Dov Shilansky, Holocaust survivor, member of the Yad Vashem Directorate, and former Speaker of the Knesset.



Dov Shilansky was born in Siauliai, Lithuania. After the Soviet invasion of Lithuania, he joined the underground. During the German occupation too, Shilansky did not cease in his resistance efforts. While imprisoned in the Siauliai ghetto, the young Shilansky was set to work at various forced labors, and then was sent to Daugailiai,

Stutthof and Dachau, from where he was taken on a death march. After liberation, he continued his activities to help his Jewish brethren, aiding their clandestine immigration to *Eretz Israel*.

In 1989, as Speaker of the Knesset, Shilansky led the commemoration campaign “Unto Every Person There is a Name” in the Knesset, which continues today in Israel and abroad. In 2006, Yad Vashem published his book, *Darkness in the Light of Day – the Battle of a Young Zionist in Lithuania and the Camps* (Hebrew), that tells his story. In the book he wrote: “We were not adventure-seekers, we were not looking for trouble, and we certainly did not wish to harm

the residents of the ghetto to whom we were steadfastly loyal. We were not drawn to death. We were lovers of life, but we refused to die as slaves, and were prepared to give up our lives for the sake of freedom and honor.”

“Dov Shilansky was one of the people that represented a generation of Holocaust survivors,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “As a member of the Yad Vashem Directorate he contributed greatly to Holocaust remembrance, and understood its importance for coming generations. His personal story is an example of the deep mark made by Holocaust survivors on Israeli society.”

■ **“I was baptized in Lithuania as a Catholic boy named Henryk Stanisław Kurpi, the names of my nanny and my patron saint.** I went to church every Sunday, and, when passing through the city of Vilna, I would cross myself when I neared a church. When I met a priest, I kissed his hand; when we saw a Jew, I was taught to spit at him.”

So recalls Abe Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, in the introduction to his father Joseph's memoirs about his war experiences, *In the Shadow of Death*, the latest edition in the memoirs series published by Yad Vashem and The Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project.

Joseph Foxman's memoirs, divided into ten vignettes, describe his experiences during the war and concentrate on his narrow escapes from death, the help he received, and his gratitude each time he managed to survive. During all those hard times, Abe's welfare was his first and foremost concern.

Leaving their 13-month-old son with a poor Polish nanny when they were forced into the

Vilna ghetto, Abe's parents didn't know this arrangement would last for four years. “It was perhaps the most unnatural decision a parent could make,” recalls Abe. “They entrusted my life to my Polish nursemaid, a woman they had known for only a short time. They did so on a leap of faith, a belief that I would have a better chance of surviving outside the burgeoning Jewish ghetto of Vilna under the protection and care of the devout Catholic woman who loved me as her own.”

After the war, Joseph slowly reintroduced his son to his Jewish roots. Abe recalls the first time his father took him to *shul* in Vilnius on Simchat Torah: “The Jewish children picked me up and danced with me, and I came home and told my mother, ‘Hey, I like the Jewish church!’ It was the beginning of my return to Judaism.” Foxman reflects on his experience as a hidden child as a strange story, “in which compassion, love, faith and heroism are blended with selfishness, deceit, cruelty and pain.”

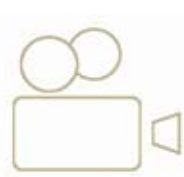


An initiative of Elie Wiesel, UN Messenger of Peace, and Menachem Rosensaft, Chairman of the Project's Editorial Board, The Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project is generously assisted by the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations and a grant from Random House Inc.

To order *In the Shadow of Death* (\$21): publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il

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

Spotlight: Holocaust Cinema and the USSR Mimi Ash and Liat Benhabib



■ **Films about WWII produced in the Former Soviet Union arouse great curiosity, especially since most of them are not well known in the West.** The

struggle for hegemony between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in pre-WWII Europe served as the backdrop for two dramatic films released in the USSR as early as 1938 – *The Oppenheim Family* and *Professor Mamlok* – decrying the brutal treatment of the Jews by the Nazi regime. As a result of the Yad Vashem Visual Center's ongoing collaboration with the Israel Film Archive at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, and with the assistance of Mosfilm, both films were screened with Hebrew subtitles at the Jewish Film Festival in Jerusalem, and deposited in the collection of the Visual Center. *The Oppenheim Family* (Grigori Roshal, Mosfilm) is a screen adaptation of acclaimed German-Jewish author Lion Feuchtwanger's prescient novel *The Oppermanns*, which tells the story of the ruination by the Nazis of a wealthy and influential Jewish family. Roshal stresses the painful realization by the protagonist, Edgar Oppenheim, a prominent Jewish ophthalmologist, that his homeland has turned on him, and is

now bent on wiping him and his people off the face of the earth. Similar motifs appear in *Professor Mamlok* (Adolph Minkin, Gerbert Rappaport, Lenfilm), a portrayal of a German-Jewish physician who fought for Germany in the First World War, and who was tragically and brutally crushed by the Nazis in their early years of power.

The Soviet military campaign against the Nazis, 1941-1945, was known in the USSR as “The Great Patriotic War,” and many films made there about the subject are available for viewing at the Visual Center. The 1964 dramatic feature *Father of a Soldier* (Rezo Chkheidze, Gruzia Film), portrays an aging peasant who sets off to search for his wounded son, and ends up at the gates of Berlin as it is being liberated. Larisa Shepitko's masterpiece *The Ascent* (1976, Mosfilm), is the story of two Russian partisans who lose contact with their unit in the snow. Their attempt to find refuge among the local peasants raises difficult moral issues concerning loyalty. Elem Klimov, Shepitko's husband and a highly acclaimed filmmaker in his own right, created one of the most monumental films about the war in *Come and See* (1985, Mosfilm and Belarusfilm). The film follows a young teenage boy forced to witness Nazi atrocities against peasants in Belarus. He joins an anti-Nazi

underground doomed to failure, losing first his innocence and then his sanity.

The Visual Center also contains new documentaries produced in recent years, focusing not only on the military struggle between the Nazis and the Soviets, but also on the annihilation of the Jews in the territories controlled by the FSU. *Spell Your Name*, by one of Ukraine's foremost documentary filmmakers, Sergey Bukovsky (2006, USC Shoah Foundation Institute), combines excerpts from video testimonies by Ukrainian Jewish survivors with shots of young catalogers at the archive, as well as contemporary views of related locations in Ukraine. The film was awarded an Honorable Mention in the 2007 Jerusalem Film Festival's “Avner Shalev Chairman's Award.”

Lukas Pribyl spent ten years researching his documentary series *Forgotten Transports* (2007-2009, The Czech Republic). The series of four films covers the transports of Czech Jews to obscure camps in Belarus, Latvia, Estonia and Poland. Pribyl weaves survivor testimonies together with rare archival materials found in personal and institutional collections to reveal the previously untold stories of Czech survivors.

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

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During October, November and December 2010, Yad Vashem conducted some 300 guided tours for more than 3,000 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government, ambassadors and governors, mayors and sportsmen. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:

■ **President of the Federal Republic of Germany Christian Wulff** visited Yad Vashem on 28 November. Accompanied by his daughter Annalena Wulff and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, the President toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance with Israel's President Shimon Peres. President Wulff also laid a wreath in the Valley of the Communities, next to the wall on which his hometown, Osnabrück, Germany, appears. **German Chief of Staff Volker Wierer** visited Yad Vashem on 12 October, and participated in a memorial ceremony with Israel's Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi.



■ **Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris P. Droutsas** returned to Yad Vashem on 18 October, this time touring the Avenue of Righteous, the Museum for Holocaust Art, and the Synagogue (pictured). Accompanied by Israel's Ambassador to Greece H.E. Mr. Arye Mekeel (right), the Foreign Minister also viewed the temporary exhibition, "Virtues of Memory: Six Decades of Holocaust Survivors' Creativity."



Correction: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko was guided through the Holocaust History Museum in July 2010 by Mark Shraberman of the Archives Division, and not as published in Vol. 59. We apologize for the error.

■ During her visit on 12 October, **President of Finland Tarja Halonen** (front, center) toured the Holocaust History Museum guided by Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar (left).



■ On 20 December **Prime Minister of Lithuania Andrius Kubilius** (center) toured the Holocaust History Museum, accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) and guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (left).



■ On 12 December **Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd** (center) visited Yad Vashem. The Foreign Minister participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial.



■ On 2 November, **Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Hall of Names.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 4 November, **UK Foreign Minister William Hague** toured the Museum of Holocaust Art, guided by Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar.



■ **Foreign Minister of Slovenia Samuel Žbogar** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 8 November.



■ **Swiss Minister of Defense Ueli Maurer** (left) visited the Holocaust History Museum on 10 October.



Friends Worldwide

USA

■ The American Society for Yad Vashem's 2010 Annual Tribute Dinner was held on 7 November at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, honoring Dr. Yitzhak Arad, Mark Moskowitz and leaders of the Society's Young Leadership Associates. Chaired by Marilyn Rubenstein, Melvin Bukiet and Jeremy Halpern, the dinner was attended by 1,000 guests, including several hundred members of third generation.



Pictured: Dinner Honorees Boaz Zborowski, Mindy and Alan Schall, Nicole and Joseph Meyer, Nicole and Avi Lieberman, Ilana and Mitchell Kahn, Abbi and Jeremy Halpern, Iris and Adam Lindenbaum, Nadav Besner, Robert Bernstein, Adina and Lawrence Burian, Rebecca Hanus, Barry Levine, Ilana Lifshitz, Caroline and Morris Massel, Jaci and Gonen Paradis and Ariel Zborowski with Dinner Chair Melvin Bukiet and American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski

Photos: Melanie Einzig and the American Society for Yad Vashem



Left to right: Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, 2010 Yad Vashem Remembrance Award recipient Dr. Yitzhak Arad, Eli Zborowski



Left to right: Avner Shalev, 2010 Yad Vashem Leadership Award recipient Mark Moskowitz, Eli Zborowski

■ A special ceremony took place in Cincinnati on 21 November in honor of Petr Tokarsky, who was posthumously awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem for helping Sam Boymel survive the Holocaust.

Tokarsky, a farmer from the village of Rastov, now Ukraine, risked his own life by hiding the young Sam (the only survivor of his family) and giving him food and shelter for a year and a half. Accepting the award on behalf of Tokarsky were his granddaughter Olga Khvas and great grand-daughter Antonina Potysiuk. Sam and wife Rachel, also a survivor who lost many members of her family in the Holocaust, made a new life in the US, raised a family, and became very successful businesspeople and philanthropists, supporting many Jewish and Israeli causes.

Attended by 250 guests, the ceremony also celebrated the launch of *Run My Child* (Yad Vashem, 2010), which chronicles the lives of Rachel and Sam Boymel.



Left to right: Lou Balcher of the Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia; Mark Shraberman, Yad Vashem; Olga Khvas; Antonina Potysiuk; Sam Boymel; Rachel Boymel; Shraga Mekel, Director of Development, American Society for Yad Vashem

■ The American Society for Yad Vashem's Young Leadership Associates (YLA) launched the first of a series of educational evenings focusing on the subject of the Holocaust and young children. The program was designed for parents of young children who may be confronted with questions about this difficult subject. Guest speakers at the launch, held at

the home of Adrianne and Avi Shapira, were child psychologists Dr. Laura Barbanel and Dr. Susanna Neumann.



Left to right: YLA Chair Caroline Massel, Event Chairs Suzanne Doft, Rachel Stone and Michelle Foxman, Dr. Laura Barbanel, Ilana Apelker, Dr. Susanna Neumann

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its staunch supporter Edith Goldner Steinlauf, z"l. May her daughters, Arlene Eis and Michele Schwartz, and the entire family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

■ **Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein** (left), dedicated friends and Benefactors of Yad Vashem, visited Yad Vashem together with **Toby and Jerry Pollak**. They toured the Valley of the Communities and Archives, as well as the Synagogue, which they generously endowed.



■ A plaque honoring Holocaust survivor **Sigmund Rolat** was unveiled at Yad Vashem in recognition of his generous donation of the works of Private Zinovii Tolkathev as well as other art pieces to Yad Vashem's art collection.



Left to right: International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Sigmund Rolat, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, former Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Szewach Weiss**

■ Newly elected US Senator **Marco Rubio** (second from right), his wife **Jeanette** (left) and Yad Vashem Benefactors **Irma and Norman Braman** participated in a memorial ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance during their recent visit to Yad Vashem.



■ On 30 December, Yad Vashem hosted the extended Moskowitz family and their friends for a ceremony marking their generous endowment of the Square of Hope in memory of **Henry Moskowitz, z"l**. The event included a tour of the temporary exhibition "Virtues of Memory," as well as an unveiling ceremony of both the panel in the International School for Holocaust Studies featuring Henry Moskowitz's journal entry about his experiences in the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the plaque mounted in their honor in the Square of Hope.



The Moskowitz and Gordon grandchildren speaking in the Yad Vashem Synagogue about their grandfather, Henry Moskowitz, z"l



Left to right: **Dan Moskowitz, Sonia Gordon, Rose Moskowitz, Mark Moskowitz, Jake Moskowitz, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev**

■ **Rivka Zell** visited Yad Vashem in November and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Roy Tanzman** (right) and a delegation from The Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, New Jersey, received a special tour of Yad Vashem.



Diaspora Affairs

■ Yad Vashem donors **Alexander and Boris Semberg** from Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and the Rabbi of Krasnoyarsk **Benyamin Vagner** (left) visited the Holocaust History Museum on 26 July and met with **Arie Zuckerman**, Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate.



Christian Desk

■ Pastor **John Hagee** and Mrs. **Diana Hagee** visited Yad Vashem in November with leading pastors from CUFI (Christians United for Israel). The group was greatly impressed by their guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum and many planned to return with their own tour groups.



Left to right: Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**; Pastor John Hagee; Mrs. Diana Hagee; Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**

Friends Worldwide

CANADA

■ The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem was privileged to bestow the Prime Minister of Canada, **The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper**, with Yad Vashem's exceptional Carol Deutsch Portfolio as the distinguished "Guardian of our Children's Award." In the spirit of Deutsch's remarkable fortitude and legacy, Prime Minister Harper's leadership in the cause of human rights and human dignity, and his mission to educate Canadians in the universal lessons of the *Shoah*, stand as his legacy to future generations.



Left to right: **Adam Gottdenker**, Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**, Prime Minister Harper, Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, Canadian Society Vice Chair **Joe Gottdenker**

SWEDEN

■ Board members of the Hans Wiener Foundation and members of the Wiener family visited Yad Vashem for a special tour, during which they had the opportunity to meet with Holocaust survivors and graduates of the "Training Workshops for Shoah Survivors," a program of the International School for Holocaust Studies sponsored by the Hans Wiener Foundation in memory of **Käte** and **Franz Wiener**. At the unveiling of the commemorative plaque, **Marion Wiener** (right) accepted the Yad Vashem Key from Yad Vashem Director General **Nathan Eitan**.



AUSTRIA

■ On 7 October 2010 the Austrian President of Parliament **Barbara Prammer** was appointed President of Honor of the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem**. The ceremony in the old Linz City Hall was hosted by the Vice Mayor of Linz **Klaus Luger** and attended by more than one hundred guests and dignitaries. Ms. Prammer was also awarded with the Yad Vashem Medal.



Left to right: Barbara Prammer, Yad Vashem's Director for Switzerland and the German-speaking Countries **Arik Rav-On**, Israel's Ambassador to Austria H.E. Mr. **Aviv Shir-On**

AUSTRALIA

■ Leading the Global Couples' Forum in October, **Jack** and **Val Smorgon** from Melbourne visited Yad Vashem with their friends and colleagues from the World Presidents' Organization.



■ In December, **Albert Dadon** (right, accepting a token of gratitude from Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**) visited Yad Vashem representing the Australia Israel Cultural Exchange. Mr. Dadon participated in a ceremony inaugurating the Chair for the Study of Resistance during the Holocaust, in tribute to William Cooper, endowed by the AICE at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research.



UK

■ Yad Vashem Benefactor and long-standing friend **Hertha Najmann** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem in October 2010. She was joined by her daughter and son-in law, **Julia** and **Scott Reid** of New Zealand, and their children, who were visiting Yad Vashem for the first time, as well as outgoing Director of the English Desk **David Metzler** (left).



■ **Sir Victor Blank** (right) and **Michael Blake** (left) were given a behind-the-scenes tour of Yad Vashem's Archives during their visit to Yad Vashem in September 2010.



SPAIN

■ **Susan** (right) and **Rubén Lerner** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem with **Prof. Santiago Álvarez de Mon** (second from right) and his son **Santiago** (left).



MEXICO

■ **Linda and Eduardo Achar** from Mexico visited Yad Vashem with their son **Luis**, daughter-in-law **Jacqueline** and grandchildren **Eduardo, Linda, Lilia** and **Marcos** for the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the Square of Hope, and the bar mitzvah ceremony of Eduardo.



■ The Zetune family marked the bar mitzvah of **Nathan Zetune** at Yad Vashem. They were joined by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ **Jane and Isaac Ladelsky** (left and right) were joined by their grandchildren **Dan Lilienthal-Ladelsky** (fourth from left), **Itamar and Alan Lilienthal-Ladelsky** (second and third from left) and **Ariela, Alejandra and Nathan Finkelstein-Ladelsky** (second, third and fourth from right) during the unveiling of the plaque to mark the bar mitzvah of Dan Lilienthal-Ladelsky.



■ **Erika Mogyoros** (center) was joined by her family for the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



VENEZUELA

■ **Simy** (second from left) and **Sady Cohen** (right) visited Yad Vashem together with **Ángeles Varga** (second from right) and **Luna Sultan** of Spain (left).



■ **John and Sandra Szkolnik** of Miami visited Yad Vashem together with their children **Daniel, Dalia** and **David**.



ISRAEL

■ Yad Vashem expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the **Ted Arison Family Foundation** for its generous decision to support, for the fourth year in a row, a project to train teachers from the peripheral areas of Israel in Holocaust education, run by the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Your Support Helps Make a Difference

All of the activities, projects and events which you have just read about are made possible thanks to the generous support of our donors. In these difficult times of financial uncertainty and a worrying rise in antisemitism around the world, Yad Vashem is doubling 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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The International Institute for Holocaust Research:

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■ *The Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos During the Holocaust* has been named the 2011 American Libraries Association Booklist Editors' Choice in the Reference Section. The two-volume Encyclopedia, published by Yad Vashem in 2009, is an epic chronicle of the history and fate of some 1,100 ghettos established by the Nazis during the Holocaust, with an accompanying DVD containing

original archival footage. "This is an outstanding piece of scholarship that fills a gap in reference collections dealing with the Holocaust," said ALA reviewer Barbara Bibel. "There have been general works... and books about the Warsaw and Lodz ghettos, but this is the first comprehensive source dealing with the ghettos created by the Nazis. It is an essential work for academic collections supporting history, Jewish studies, and Holocaust studies."

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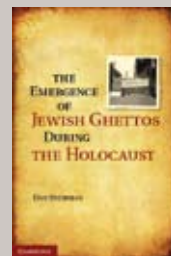
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New on the Shelf

Dan Michman, *The Emergence of Jewish Ghettos*
During the Holocaust

Cambridge University Press in association with Yad Vashem
~~\$67~~ \$50 (airmail included)



■ *The Emergence of Jewish Ghettos During the Holocaust* is a linguistic-cultural study that traces the origins and uses of the term "ghetto" in European discourse from the 16th century until the Nazi regime. Examining both the actual establishment of the ghettos and the discourse of the Nazis and their allies on the subject from 1933-1944, the study's conclusions oppose all existing explanations and cursory examinations of the ghetto, impacting our overall understanding of the anti-Jewish policies of Nazi Germany.

Avraham Milgram, *Portugal, Salazar, and the Jews*

~~\$51~~ \$38 (airmail included)



■ The racial persecution and condemnation of Jews in Europe occurred in an anti-liberal atmosphere, disillusioned with democracy and yearning for strong leadership. Salazar's Portugal, which saw everything from the privileged position of a neutral country, far from the battles that were sealing the fate of Europe and the world, was not immune to the moral and ethical challenge raised by the Jewish Question. This pioneering work of historical research confronts both Portuguese and Jewish historiography vis à vis the wide range of new documentation found by the author. It rigorously examines the main protagonists in this drama: Salazar, the dictator of Portugal; his police (PVDE); the Portuguese political and social elite; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their agents outside the country; the leaders of the Jewish community of Lisbon; representatives of international Jewish organizations that acted in Lisbon; and the refugees.