

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

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**Gathering the Fragments and  
Safeguarding Them for Future Generations**

(pp. 18-20)

**Yad Vashem Leadership Mission 2016** (pp. 2-7)

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■ **On the cover:** Jacob Kalka donates

precious artifacts belonging to his parents Ruth and Meyer Kalka z”l at a collection day for the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign (see pp. 18-20)

“This journey was an exceptional event in my life. I will remember.”

Thomas Zieringer (Germany)



■ *Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Leonard Wilf (left) and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) with the President of Israel, H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin. The President is holding a facsimile of a prayer book written by Holocaust survivor Naftali Stern while he was incarcerated in the Wolfsberg labor camp.*

■ In July 2016, Yad Vashem led more than 50 of its most dedicated supporters on an exclusive Leadership Mission to Poland and Israel to explore the history of the Shoah, as well as to deepen their understanding of Yad Vashem and commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education. Participants included long-standing partners as well as new friends, and represented a wide range of intergenerational, international and interfaith leaders.

Beginning in Wroclaw (Breslau) on 6 July, the Mission participants learned about the rich prewar Jewish life in Europe, and the impact of the Nazi occupation even before the outbreak of WWII. In the Wolfsberg labor camp, the group examined the depths of the human spirit as it clings to life in the shadow of death. Indeed, the prayer book written by Holocaust survivor Naftali Stern from memory while incarcerated in Wolfsberg served as the basis for the parting gift presented to each participant, as well as to the President of Israel, H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin (pictured above).

Following an entire day at Auschwitz-Birkenau, including a guided tour of Yad Vashem’s state-of-the-art permanent exhibition “Shoah” in Block 27, the group spent a moving Shabbat in Krakow with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, himself a Holocaust survivor.

In Israel, Mission participants were greeted by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Director General Dorit Novak at the President’s Residence. On the Mount of Remembrance, they experienced exclusive behind-the-scenes visits to the artifacts and art collections, received detailed explanations of Yad Vashem’s conservation and digitization endeavors, and engaged with Yad Vashem staff and guests on a

# Yad Vashem Leadership Mission 2016



■ The Yad Vashem Leadership Mission at the Opening Reception at the President's Residence in Jerusalem.

range of educational, research and commemoration programs. Additionally, they visited an IDF army base, enjoyed private performances by top

Israeli artists and attended a Righteous Among the Nations recognition ceremony as well as an intimate gallery talk with Holocaust survivor

artist Yehuda Bacon (see pp. 6-7).

The pages to follow bring some of the highlights of this truly unique experience.

## POLAND

■ Yad Vashem Builder **Benjamin Warren** (USA) addresses the Leadership Mission at the Opening Event in Wroclaw, Poland.



■ Members of the Latin-American Delegation at the Wolfsberg labor camp. Left to right: **David Serur, Jaime, Evelyn, Sharon and Sandra Ellstein**, Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan, Ivonne Leizorek, Rolando and Sara**



**Uziel, Jose and Jennie Serur, Elena and Robert Kucinski**, and tour guide **Menache Zugman**.

**“It’s amazing how much work is done to honor each individual, each name, each story.”**

**Pastor Becky Keenan (USA)**

■ International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) with Yad Vashem Builders **Suzanne and Lenny Goldschein** (USA) (second from left and right) and their nephew **David Salomon** (second from right) at the “Hidden Synagogue” in Bedzin, Poland.



■ **Josef “Chick” Paradis** (USA), who was on the Mission with his wife **Shelley**, leaves through the Book of Names in Yad Vashem’s permanent exhibition “Shoah” in Block 27, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland.



■ Director of the Christian Desk **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (left) with **Dan and Yvonne Celia** (USA) outside Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland.



“We’re extremely proud to be a small part of the Yad Vashem family.”

Dana Hollander (Israel/USA)

■ **Esther Fixler** (Australia) welcomes in Shabbat in Krakow.



■ **American Society for Yad Vashem** Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier** leads the ceremony in Birkenau with participation of other Mission participants.



■ **Pastor Becky Keenan** (USA) addresses the Mission at the end of Shabbat in Krakow.



■ Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council and Holocaust survivor **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** leads services following the end of Shabbat in Krakow.



“It falls to us, the new generation, to tell the story... The world cannot afford for this history to be lost.”

Barry Levine (USA)

## ISRAEL

■ The Christian Delegation at the President’s Residence with Director of the Christian Desk **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** and Christian Desk Assistant **Shavit Aharoni-Simons**.



■ **Mark Moskowitz** (right), Yad Vashem Benefactor and **American Society for Yad Vashem** Board Member, converses with President and COO of RioCan REIT **Rags Davloor** (left), a friend and supporter of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem**, at the President’s Residence.



■ **Dana** (center) and **Yossie Hollander** (second from left) and their daughter **Tamar** (left), her husband **Ignatius Francois Maritz** (right) and musician **Rami Kleinstein** (second from right) following Kleinstein’s performance at the Opening Event.



■ Participants learn about Yad Vashem’s conservation efforts with Director of the Museums Division **Vivian Uria** and Director of the Artifacts Department **Michael Tal**. In the audience are members of the **Wilf family**, **Rev. Malcolm Hedding**, **Adina Burian**, **Pastor Mark Jenkins** and **Roger Sofer** (USA).



■ **Elena** and **Robert Kucinski** unveiled a plaque in honor of the Righteous Among the Nations in the expanded Memorial Cave at Yad Vashem.



■ **Perla Hazan** and **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) joined **Evelyn** and **Jaime Ellstein** (center), and their daughters **Sandra** and **Sharon** (right), for the unveiling of the plaque in their honor on the new Builders Wall.



■ **Avner Shalev** (third from left) and **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (second from left) joined **Sara** and **Rolando Uziel** (third and fourth from right), and their daughter **Rebeca** (second from right), son-in-law **Elias Harari** (right) and grandson **Joseph** (left) during the unveiling of the plaque in their honor on a classroom in the International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ At the Closing Event held in the Valley of the Communities, the Mission was addressed by Israel’s Minister of Education **Naftali Bennett** (pictured), **Avner Shalev** and **Mark Moskowitz**. Featured entertainers included **Nathan Dattner**, **Roni Daloomi**, **Dudu Fisher** and the **Shmuel Gogol Harmonica Ensemble**.



# “Keeping the Memory Alive”

■ This year's Leadership Mission included a significant number of members of the American Society for Yad Vashem Young Leadership. On their return home, Yad Vashem sought to understand the motivation of the younger participants for joining the Mission, as well as their reflections and plans in its wake:

### Harrison Wilf

“ I was eager to see with my own eyes the country where my relatives once lived, the town squares they once walked through and the shuls they once prayed in. Protecting the legacy of the Holocaust has been a priority for my family for three generations and that has been passed down to me... Soon the survivors

**"Yad Vashem is not just a powerful museum; it is an entire institution that is keeping the legacy of the Holocaust alive"**

won't be here to tell their stories. Yad Vashem is not just a powerful museum; it is an entire institution that is keeping the legacy of the Holocaust alive.”

### Jonah Burian

“ Seeing the infamous Auschwitz in person made the stories much more tangible, and yet, in a juxtaposed manner, the atrocities seem even harder to comprehend. There was one thought that pierced through my shocked mind. My grandfather and I both went through the same entrance, he suffered and I toured, but we both left as witnesses... although I was the youngest member on the Mission (16), I was treated no differently than anyone else. This allowed me to participate in ways I also did not expect.”

### Daniella Pomeranc

“ It was so extraordinary to see the preservation process and how pictures and information are scanned into Yad Vashem's databases. Yad Vashem continues to help



■ Young participants in the 2016 Yad Vashem Leadership Mission: “There is so much more to Yad Vashem”

many people discover their family's history. I am always so taken aback how different each experience is there. There is really so much to see and learn and feel. I am so thankful for every opportunity to reestablish my connection.”

### Shira Stein

“ Fortunately, my family was not directly affected by the atrocities of the Holocaust; however, I am a parent of three daughters and know that it is my responsibility to share with them the importance of keeping the memories alive... I joined the Mission with the expectation of learning and growing. I was not expecting the amazing personal connections I made with others on the trip. Additionally, I was utterly impressed by the attention to detail at each ceremony, event and seminar that took place. The guides were above and beyond knowledgeable and personable. The ceremonies that took place were moving and every person on the Mission had an active role.”

### Rachel Shnay

“ I have been involved with the Yad Vashem Young Leaders for many years and am passionate about Holocaust education and awareness. The victims, survivors and their families are forever grateful for the everlasting flame that Yad Vashem has lit for generations to come, and this trip solidified the fact that it is up to us to keep that flame alive... I had

no idea about the complex ‘underground’ work being done at Yad Vashem every single day. From archiving to preserving, from the Names Database to protecting against hackers – it was absolutely incredible. I always visited Yad Vashem as a museum-goer and now I can proudly tell others that there is so much more to Yad Vashem.”

**"The trip changed my point of view on almost everything. I feel like I became more of a Jew"**

### Sam Gordon

“ Perhaps naively, I always thought prewar Europe was this depressing cemetery of a place. But I was wrong. Jews had lives no different than mine. They had nice homes, schools, went to dinners, parties, etc. Some of them knew the good life. Everything they had was taken in cold blood. To see how Jewish life thrived before the war, and to see what happened during the Holocaust was an eye-opening experience... The trip changed my point of view on almost everything. I feel like I became more of a Jew. I plan to remain involved in Yad Vashem going forward in perpetuity.”

*For the expanded article, please see: [yad-vashem.blogspot.co.il](http://yad-vashem.blogspot.co.il)*

# Giving Thanks

## Mission Participants Attend Righteous Among the Nations Ceremony



■ Anthonie Vink and James Loewenstein (front, center) with members of the 2016 Leadership Mission after the ceremony in the Yad Vashem Synagogue

■ Participants of the Leadership Mission were invited to attend an historic and moving ceremony in Yad Vashem's Synagogue posthumously honoring Jan Willem Kamphuis and his daughter Klazenia Kamphuis-Vink from Holland as Righteous Among the Nations.

In the spring of 1943, Henny Dünner, a German-born Jew who had fled to the Netherlands, was arrested and sent to the Jewish Theater to await deportation together with thousands of other Jews living in Holland. Dünner managed to convince the authorities to let her help out at the nearby Jewish children's home, where she met her future husband Manfred Kurt Loewenstein. When the opportunity arose, Henny and Manfred fled the area, and found refuge with Jan Willem Kamphuis, a widower who lived together with his daughter, Klazenia, in Driebregen near the city of Utrecht. Despite the danger, Jan Willem and Klazenia opened their home to the desperate couple, and for eight months, provided them refuge in a small room in the attic of the house. In February 1944, the situation became more dangerous, particularly because some of the neighbors were Dutch Nazi party members. With the help of the local resistance, Henny and Manfred were taken to another refuge, where they hid until the end of the war. Shortly before liberation, while still in hiding, Henny gave birth to their son, James.

For many years following his parents' deaths, James Loewenstein searched for any surviving relatives of his family's rescuers, including making a trip to the Netherlands,

but to no avail. Little did he know that in the meantime, Klazenia's son Anthonie Vink had met and married a Jewish Israeli woman and moved to Israel.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day last year, Vink, who had also spent years searching for the Loewenstein family, finally managed to find a phone listing for Dr. James Loewenstein, and made a call that would change their lives. After a brief conversation confirming that he had reached the correct address, the two families were reunited. Fortunately, both had kept documentation attesting to the rescue story, and soon after the late Jan Willem Kamphuis and Klazenia Kamphuis-Vink were recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.

"My grandfather and mother simply saw it as their duty to protect the lives of a Jewish

For many years, James Loewenstein searched for any surviving relatives of his family's rescuers. Little did he know that in the meantime, Anthonie Vink had met and married a Jewish Israeli woman and moved to Israel

family when approached by their local church leader," explained Anthonie Vink. "The fact that we are gathered here today is a miracle on its own."

Dr. James Loewenstein thanked Yad Vashem for helping recognize his parents' rescuers. "The *mitzvah* to be thankful [for the good deeds of others] is deeply rooted in Jewish law and tradition," he said. "Though to my great regret Jan Willem and Klazenia are not alive to accept this award, they are undoubtedly here in spirit, as the Talmud teaches us that the souls of the Righteous Among the Nations continue to live in the Garden of Eden from where they witness this blessed ceremony."

# To the

## Gallery Talk with Artist

■ Members of the 2016 Leadership Mission were privileged to attend an intimate discussion between Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg, Curator of the Museum of Holocaust Art and Director of the Art Department in Yad Vashem's Museums Division, and Holocaust survivor and internationally acclaimed artist Yehuda Bacon.

A group of established artists in Theresienstadt encouraged Bacon, and provided him with materials and private classes to hone his artistic talent

Born in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia to an Orthodox Jewish family, Yehuda Bacon was deported at the age of 13 to Theresienstadt with his mother, father and sister. There he was forced by the Germans to help bluff the International Red Cross by taking part in fake cultural activities, including a children's opera. However, a group of established artists in Theresienstadt encouraged Bacon, and provided him with materials and private classes to hone his artistic talent. Just over a year later, the family was transported to Auschwitz, where he was placed in a Czech "family camp" – another ruse to trick the Red Cross. Even at Auschwitz, Bacon found some opportunities to draw as the counselors in the family camp procured some paper and pencils. However, it was so dangerous to hold onto these drawings that Bacon destroyed them. Nevertheless, some of his drawings immediately after liberation depicting the scenes he witnessed around the camp – including the gas chambers and crematoria – were eventually used as testimony in war crimes trials, including that of Adolf Eichmann.

Moreh-Rosenberg chose a number of Bacon's works to discuss and invited the artist to comment. About the first piece, *Before the Transport to Theresienstadt, 1945*, the artist

# Man Who Restored My Belief in Humanity

## and Auschwitz Survivor Yehuda Bacon



■ Yehuda Bacon speaks to Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg about his artistic creations in an intimate gallery talk held especially for the Leadership Mission participants

recalled “[This was] the last bread and cup of coffee before I had to leave my home... Painted at liberation, it reminded me of a world that didn’t exist anymore. As I sat down next to a table for the first time in three years, I remembered what it was like that last time I had sat at a table. I wanted to express what it felt like for a boy my age to go through all of this – I felt a responsibility to describe what had happened, on behalf of those who didn’t survive.”

In the “Family Camp” at Auschwitz, Bacon lived with the full knowledge that his time on earth was limited to just six months, and was determined to document as much of the camp as he could. In *Recollections from Auschwitz, 1945*, he depicted a transport being led by armed guards to the crematoria. “The black sunset indicates the end of life,” Bacon explained.

To his astonishment, instead of death Bacon was chosen to join some 90 boys aged 12-16 performing labor tasks around the camp. At one point, the boys were carrying wood to the area of the crematoria to build bunkers for the SS guards, when they were told they could “warm up in the gas chambers. Of course, we were scared, but a few of us were very curious and we went inside and looked carefully at

everything there. I noticed the numbers on the wooden hooks – meant to dupe the victims into believing they would get their clothes back – and the fact that the so-called ‘showers’ were not attached to any hole through which water could arrive. I tried to imprint all of this in my memory so I could use it later as testimony.”

**"I felt a responsibility to describe what had happened, on behalf of those who didn't survive"**

One very personal piece depicts the image of Bacon’s father emerging from the crematoria chimney. *In Memory of the Czech Transport to the Gas Chambers, 1945* also bears the exact date and time of his father’s murder – a piece of information Bacon knew with certainty as his neighbors were members of the *Sonderkommando*, a group of prisoners forced to work at the crematoria. “I wanted to draw a private memory about the death of my father,

together with all the fathers and mothers of the rest of the boys with me. In the left-hand corner is a man throwing himself against the electric wire fence... these were our two options: suicide or the crematoria.”

After surviving a grueling death march, Bacon was liberated by the US Army in Austria. On his return to Prague, he had the great fortune of being taken under the wing of Přemysl Pitter – a deeply religious Christian man, later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, who had saved numerous Jewish families during the war, and who after liberation dedicated his life to bringing orphaned survivors back into society. *To the Man Who Restored My Belief in Humanity, 1945* is dedicated to Pitter.

**Some of his drawings depicting the scenes he witnessed around the camp were eventually used as testimony in war crimes trials**

“After the war, we didn’t believe anyone. Why would someone be good to us? And yet here was a human being who didn’t want anything from us, only to give us children a feeling of love. He had a wonderful capability to communicate with each of us, and helped us recover our trust in humanity... This made such a deep impression on me. It changed my life. I slowly regained my faith in other human beings. In Israel, there were other ‘humanists’ – friends of Kafka – who gave me hope... they were living examples of proper human behavior. How to speak to every human being in the same way, with the greatest respect, for each person is a creation, God’s creation.

“After I testified at the Eichmann trial, a journalist asked me if this kind of suffering made any sense. I told him that if it gives us a deeper understanding of other human beings, any life can have meaning.”

# Education

## Combating Antisemitism Through Holocaust Education

■ At the end of June, the second France–Israel Bilateral Dialogue on Combating Antisemitism and Racism took place in Israel. Yad Vashem representatives were invited to take part in the meetings with French governmental officials, community representatives and experts at Israel’s Foreign Ministry regarding troubling trends of current French antisemitism as well as comprehensive efforts currently underway in France to directly tackle these phenomena via wide-ranging legislation. During the meeting, Shani Lourie of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies presented the School’s recently launched pilot teaching model to assist educators in dealing with and discussing antisemitism in the classroom. Additional strategies currently being worked on by the staff of the International School range from in-depth teaching and developing new Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the history of antisemitism (see p. 11) to engaging in discussions regarding Holocaust education on its educational social media.

The following day, the visiting French delegation toured the Holocaust History Museum and met with Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and the Director of the International School Dr. Eyal Kaminka. As such, the delegates were able to learn firsthand about the decades of experience Yad Vashem has in working



■ Dr. Na’ama Shik, Director of the International School’s E-Learning Department (left), with members of the France–Israel Bilateral Dialogue on Combating Antisemitism and Racism at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs

with French educators and creating materials in French, with a view to future cooperation.

On 14 July, Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission’s Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, visited Yad Vashem. Ms. von Schnurbein, who was recently appointed to this new capacity, sought to gain knowledge and insight from Yad Vashem’s comprehensive and much-respected expertise in Holocaust education and research. She also revealed the efforts the Commission is undertaking to combat the alarming increased incidence of antisemitic expressions and behavior throughout Europe. During discussions with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and senior Yad Vashem staffers,

Ms. von Schnurbein, who was accompanied by representatives of the European Union and Parliament, committed to enhancing ties with Yad Vashem, citing her admiration for its comprehensive databases, educational tools and methods. She was particularly impressed to learn that Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies already conducts extensive educational activity with schools, institutions and governments in 40 European nations. The meetings opened doors to new opportunities for meaningful and effective Shoah remembrance across the continent, which will serve as a buffer against rising antisemitism.

## Rwandan Memorial Leadership Visit Yad Vashem



■ Members of the Kigali Genocide Memorial delegation in Yad Vashem’s Hall of Names

■ In July 2016, Gatara Honore, Manager of the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda, and the Memorial’s Deputy Archives Manager and

Head of Data Collection Martin Niwenshutel led a delegation on a two-day seminar at Yad Vashem. The seminar, held in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was aimed at providing the Rwandan delegates with an opportunity to learn how Yad Vashem commemorates, documents, researches and educates about the Holocaust. The participants, who included survivors of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, discussed the various documentation and educational activities conducted by Yad Vashem with Chairman Avner Shalev, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Eyal Kaminka, the International School’s Pedagogical Director and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak Shulamit Imber,

and Director of the Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner. They also met with Holocaust survivors and toured Yad Vashem’s Holocaust History Museum.

The connection between Yad Vashem and Rwanda began over a decade ago. In November 2005, Yad Vashem’s International School hosted Rwandan intellectuals, judges, journalists and academics for an educational seminar on Holocaust remembrance and education. Since then, scholars from Yad Vashem have traveled to Rwanda in cooperation with Israel’s Foreign Ministry, generating fruitful dialogue and offering insights that are relevant to the commemoration of their own national tragedy.

# “Continuity within the Rupture”

## Tenth Annual Conference for Ultra-Orthodox Teachers

Nava Weiss

■ *“What is the correct formula for remembering the Shoah, beyond our obligation to ‘remember the days of old’? What is the meaning of the continuous commandment, ‘Remember what Amalek did to you’?”*

The words of the Admor (Grand Rabbi) of Talne echoed poignantly at the main session of Yad Vashem’s tenth annual conference for teachers from the ultra-Orthodox sector in Israel, which took place on 6-7 July 2016. Close to 2,000 ultra-Orthodox educators, principals and school inspectors – men and women separately – took part in the conference, which was organized by the Ultra-Orthodox Section of the Department for Teacher Training in Israel at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

“This conference marks the peak of the intensive work of the Ultra-Orthodox Section, which has been active at Yad Vashem for 15 years, in the world of Torah-based education,” explained Sarit Hoch-Markovitz, Director of the Department for Teacher Training in Israel.

Sessions and workshops investigated many aspects of the struggle of Jews to continue their religious faith and practices despite the terrible cruelties imposed upon them

workshops investigated many aspects of the struggle of Jews to continue their religious faith and practices despite the terrible physical and spiritual cruelties imposed upon them by the Nazis. Participants were provided with key educational concepts and pedagogical tools to help guide them in their Holocaust teaching.

The main address for the female teachers was given by Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, who has actively

“This is the correct answer: I am continuing on the *derech* (observing Jewish practice). If we are talking about commemoration, the best kind of commemoration is that I don’t let the flame – the flame of G-d – become extinguished. This is not a flame lit during a memorial ceremony. This everlasting flame is when I get up in the morning and thank Hashem for returning my soul to me, when I go to the synagogue and wrap myself in my *tallit* as my father did, when I put on my *tefillin* just as my grandfather did – that is when I rekindle that flame.”

The conferences for both men and women were highlighted by musical interludes, including a Jewish musical journey through the Valley of the Communities for the women teachers, played by students of the “Avivim” seminary for girls.

Reactions from the participants were positive and varied. “The conference was wonderful,” said one. “You thought about every detail, and you enriched both our minds and our souls.” Another remarked that



■ Ultra-orthodox teachers gather to hear the opening address of the conference, given by Rabbi Israel Meir Lau



■ Seminar participants tour the Holocaust History Museum

“It was on the one hand an opportunity to summarize our achievements, and on the other an opening for future activities aimed at bringing ultra-Orthodox teachers the newest pedagogical tools and knowledge in the fields of Holocaust education and research, while emphasizing the struggle of observant Jews during the Holocaust.”

This year, the conference dealt with “Continuity within the Rupture” – and the sessions and

accompanied the activities of the Ultra-Orthodox Section for many years. Rabbi Lau, who that very week was mourning the loss of his dear friend, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel z”l (see p. 21), was visibly moved when he addressed the educators about teaching the Holocaust. He also spoke of the answer he gives to the difficulties faced in teaching the Shoah to this generation:

the conference had taught them “to regard life events with the right proportions.” “You brought content into ultra-Orthodox education in a formal and organized manner, directed towards continuity,” added a third. “*Yeshar koach* [Well done].”

*The author is Head of the Ultra-Orthodox Section in the Department for Teacher Training in Israel, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Graduate Spotlight

Every year, over 300,000 students and educators from Israel and around the world attend hundreds of educational activities, in a dozen languages, at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Featured here is one of the School's graduates, and what she has achieved since:



## Stella Kalle Greece

James Joseph McIntosh

■ Stella Kalle has always found the history of the Jews of Greece fascinating, particularly those who lived in her native Thessaloniki, which had a majority-Jewish population for centuries. An educator living on the island of Lipsi, in 2012 Kalle read testimonies of Holocaust survivors from Greece as well as books concerning the Jewish community of Thessaloniki.



With a view to organizing a workshop for young people about the Holocaust, she attended a conference sponsored by EUROCLIO – the European Association of History Educators – in Germany in April 2013. During the conference, she met Richelle Budd-Caplan, Director of the European Department of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, who told her about Yad Vashem's educational seminars and referred her to the Athens-based Jewish Museum of Greece.

Intrigued by the chance to study the Holocaust with some of the world's leading historians and experts on the subject, Kalle applied to participate in an educational seminar at Yad Vashem and joined a cadre of Greek teachers in Jerusalem in July 2013. For the first time in her career, she had access to Yad Vashem's extensive databases and detailed lesson plans. "I knew it would be a unique opportunity to learn the most effective methods for teaching such a challenging topic," she said. One point that she found particularly significant was how the experts at Yad Vashem

discouraged role-playing. "We should never give the children the roles of victims or victimizers. I try to always remember that," she said.

Not long after returning home from Israel, Kalle began to put what she had learned into practice. Together with her students in different age groups and at different schools, she has carried out several projects commemorating prewar Jewish life in Greece, the impact of the Holocaust, and its aftermath. After reading an age-appropriate book about the war together, she and her second-grade students at the School of European Education of Heraklion on the island of Crete designed a large banner with the words "Never Again" and displayed it on International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January) in 2014.

Kalle eventually returned to Thessaloniki, where she currently lives, and became a teacher at the city's Jewish Primary School. Later in 2015, she organized a workshop about Jewish life in Thessaloniki before, during and after WWII. The school's entire fifth- and sixth-grade classes attended this in-depth learning opportunity.

In her largest undertaking in this field to date, Kalle translated into Greek one of Yad Vashem's most popular books for young readers, *I Wanted to Fly Like a Butterfly*. Working in partnership with the Moses Mendelssohn Jewish Gymnasium of Berlin and the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Educational Campus of Las Vegas, Kalle and her students also organized an art exhibition based on the book at the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki. Titled "Looking Back: A Child's Recollections of

the Holocaust through the Eyes of the Children Today," the exhibition afforded her students the opportunity to express the feelings and emotions that the protagonist's life sparked in them.

The exhibition opened in March 2016 under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Thessaloniki Municipality, the Embassy of Israel to the Hellenic Republic, and the Jewish community of Thessaloniki. Teachers and students from many schools visited the exhibition, and it garnered impressive coverage in the Greek press.



"It was a challenging and demanding goal to achieve, but my students and I were very pleased that we made it come true," said Kalle. "Commemorating death is a really important thing to do, but commemorating life is equally important. Now I try to teach my students how they must struggle with difficulties and never lose hope. I also try to emphasize all those people who helped Jews survive. They are an example of humanity, and this is the path I encourage my students to choose."

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

## Graduate Seminar Tackles Holocaust in Baltic States

■ In July, 45 graduates of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies attended a unique seminar in the Latvian capital, Riga. Unique among other graduate seminars, this was both the first time that Yad Vashem had planned a seminar especially for graduates from the Baltic States, as well as the first such seminar that was coordinated with its longstanding Paris-based partner, Mémorial de la Shoah.

The participants, hand-picked by the Estonian and Latvian Ministries of Education and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, heard lectures on prewar Jewish life in the region,



■ Graduate seminar participants visit Rumbula, Latvia, July 2016

the history of the Holocaust in the Baltic States, tools for teaching about perpetrators and collaborators, dealing with contemporary antisemitism and efforts made in the field of Holocaust remembrance. The group also

toured several Holocaust-related sites, and were provided with educational materials and certificates at the seminar's end.

"I learned a lot during the guided tour of the Rumbula Memorial and the Riga ghetto," said one participant. "It was difficult to hear those facts, but they must stay in our memory." The seminar's international character facilitated opportunities to exchange perspectives and network across borders. "It was interesting to compare the history of the Jews in Estonia and in Latvia," remarked an Estonian graduate. "I'll certainly take a lot of new knowledge home with me."

*The Graduate Seminar in the Baltic States was supported by the Federal Government of Germany.*

# News from the Virtual School

## MOOC on the Holocaust Attracts Tens of Thousands Worldwide

Dr. Na'ama Shik

■ *"I believe that with knowledge comes responsibility, the responsibility to make sure this is never forgotten, never repeated. I will do what I can to ensure that your experiences were not in vain, and that the world learns to treat every person with love and respect regardless of color, religion or nationality. Thank you for this course; it has affected me profoundly."*

So wrote student Violet Lusher, after completing the Yad Vashem online course, "The Holocaust: An Introduction." The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) was launched on the UK-based FutureLearn educational platform in

Many thousands of the participants have shared their appreciation at the course's high level of content, and explained how it has awakened within them deep reflections on humankind and society

November 2015 and the US-based Coursera in January 2016, and since then tens of thousands of people from across the globe – the US, Europe,



Asia, South America, Africa and Australia – have participated. Residents from Jordan, Iraq, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Pakistan and Turkey have also registered to take the course. On average, the students, most of whom have at least one degree and many of whom hail from the field of education, have graded the course extremely favorably – an average of 4.8 out of five – and a remarkably high number have completed it.

Many thousands of the participants have shared their appreciation at the course's high level of content, and explained how it has awakened within them deep reflections on humankind and society.

Ng Mui Ting, another student, concurred that the course blended information with life experience. "Most importantly, the horror of the Holocaust and its meanings for today will guide me in my interactions with others as we continue to live in a diverse world."

*The author is Director of the E-Learning Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Cyprus Signs Educational Agreement



■ During his visit to the Mount of Remembrance on 22 June, the Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus H.E. Prof. Costas Kadis (left) signed the first Memorandum of Understanding between the Cypriot Ministry of Education and Culture and Yad Vashem.

The new agreement, also signed by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right), will

promote the professional development of Cypriot educators in the field of Holocaust Studies and lays the groundwork for several teacher-training projects. "With the signing of this agreement, we are committed to strengthening our relationship even further," said Minister Kadis.

The agreement also plans for additional seminars for Cypriot educators, following the first one of its kind held at Yad Vashem in June 2015. "Yad Vashem provided us with a range of effective tools to teach about the Holocaust back home," said one participant of last year's seminar. "I also gained a fresh perspective of the Shoah that remains relevant to young people today."

"The lectures and workshops were all clearly presented and very thorough," said another graduate. "I am returning to Cyprus furnished with many new ideas for presenting this difficult topic in an appropriate manner to students of different ages and backgrounds."

## The Shoah and Jewish Identity

International Conference for Leadership in Jewish Education

26-29 December 2016



■ A first-time international conference for head teachers, principals and leaders in Jewish education will convene at Yad Vashem during Chanukah, 26–29 December 2016. This historic event will feature representatives from over 35 countries around the world.

The conference will expose decision-makers in Jewish education to the effectiveness and creativity of the Yad Vashem age-appropriate methodology, and explore ways in which Holocaust education may be used to inspire, engage, challenge and motivate Jewish students in subjects and themes that extend far beyond traditional Shoah studies. Also to be examined are curriculum options currently used around the world, college credit, informal educational programs, synagogue and adult educational programs, and tips on how to tackle this challenging topic under time constrictions.

Most importantly, participants will have the opportunity to share with Yad Vashem what they need for more effective classroom teaching, as well as ideas for the future of Holocaust education in the face of modern-day antisemitism.

*For more information, please contact: International.Conference@yadvashem.org.il; +972-2-644-3893*

## “Echoes and Reflections” Training Seminar

■ In August 2016, a group of American educators from across the USA traveled to Yad Vashem to participate in an advanced seminar using “Echoes and Reflections,” a multimedia program that provides secondary educators with professional development and resources to teach about the Holocaust. Prior to departing for Israel, the participants took an online course and worked on presentations meant to give them greater insight into prewar Jewish life in Europe.

Several participants stated that they felt their whole perspective on Holocaust education had changed in the course of the seminar, shifting the focus from the horrors of the Holocaust to the values and choices made by Jewish victims, and

the dilemmas they faced in the escalating chaos. They understood the importance of focusing on stories of individuals and highlighting the “light in the darkness,” including stories of resistance, rescue and the Righteous Among the Nations. They noted too the importance of including Jewish voices, as well as the need to include authentic multidisciplinary sources, such as paintings and photographs.

The fact that the seminar took place in Israel was particularly meaningful for the group. Together with the program coordinators, the new graduates have already begun planning follow-up projects, including webinars and other e-learning opportunities. “The participants recognized that they have become leaders in



■ “Echoes and Reflections” teachers learn how to use visual tools in the classroom

Holocaust education,” said seminar coordinator Sheryl Ochayon. Shani Lourie, Head of the International School’s Pedagogy Section, added: “They now feel responsible to pass on what they learned – both to their students as well as to other educators.”

*The “Echoes and Reflections” program is generously supported by Dana and Yossie Hollander.*

## Museum of the Bible Pledges Continued Support for Christian Outreach



■ Museum of the Bible President Cary Summers (left) receiving the Yad Vashem Key from International Relations Division Managing Director Shaya Ben Yehuda

■ In August 2016, Museum of the Bible, Washington DC supported a special Graduate Meeting and Training Session for 100 graduates of Yad Vashem’s Christian Leadership Seminars. The meeting, a unique gathering of dedicated Christian leaders from North America, the UK and Africa, took place as the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem marked its tenth anniversary. During the event, a special Declaration of Cooperation was

signed, cementing the Museum’s support for Yad Vashem’s activities as well as its desire to participate in outreach efforts within the greater Christian community. At the signing, Museum of the Bible President Cary Summers affirmed its commitment to support several educational seminars for pastors and Christian leaders at Yad Vashem each year.

Earlier in the summer, fledgling Christian mentors from across the globe gathered at Yad Vashem for its first-ever Young International Christian Leadership Seminar. The seminar, also sponsored by Museum of the Bible, was designed to provide the participants with the basic history of the Holocaust and its aftermath, as well as elements of antisemitism throughout the centuries. Participants – who hailed from North and South America, Europe and Africa – also heard Holocaust survivors tell their personal stories, and visited various sites of both Christian and Jewish significance in Jerusalem and the north of Israel.

“Our main goal was not only to provide these future communal leaders with sound academic

knowledge, but also to connect them with Israel and Yad Vashem,” explained Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Dr. Susanna Kokkonen. “Since they are the future ‘movers and shakers’ within the Christian community, they can bring Yad Vashem’s vital mission to wider audiences. In light of the worrying growth in contemporary antisemitism as well as other forms of xenophobia, now is the time to reach out and give them accurate information about the history of the Holocaust and its continued relevance today.”



■ Young International Christian Leadership Seminar participants at Yad Vashem

## Chinese Educators’ Seminar 2016

■ In September, some 30 high-school and university educators, Masters and Doctoral students, a journalist and a museum director came to Yad Vashem for its seventh annual Seminar for Educators from China. Participants were exposed to a number of in-depth lectures on Holocaust History, guided tours of the Museum Complex and meetings with Holocaust survivors, as well as experiential visits countrywide.

“As an educator, not only have I learned so much from the lectures, I have also learned from the lecturers themselves,” said Yichen Liu, a lecturer in communications at Shenzhen



■ International Seminars Director Ephraim Kaye guiding Chinese educators in the Holocaust History Museum

University. “The way in which they delivered their courses were impressive, inspired and

touching. They showed us how to be an educator, what an educator should do in the classroom.”

“Thank you for bringing us safely in, and safely out, of this difficult and complex topic,” wrote Simon Li, Director of Education at the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Center. “After we return home, we will enter this topic again, but this time with enlightened minds – academically, pedagogically and spiritually. As you told us, no one knows what will happen tomorrow, but we have today. We will act now.”

*The Seminar for Chinese Educators was generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.*

# The Game of Their Lives

Dana Porath



■ “The Game of their Lives” online exhibition tells the stories of non-Jewish sportsmen and women who risked their lives to save their Jewish compatriots during WWII

■ With world attention on this summer’s Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Yad Vashem’s website featured two unique online exhibitions commemorating both Jewish and non-Jewish athletes.

The lives of Jews in prewar Europe were rich in culture and tradition. Jews excelled in practically every part of society. Not only were they scholars and teachers, doctors and lawyers, but many were renowned athletes as well. Jews competed in the most prestigious sporting competitions throughout Europe, including the Olympics. “Jews and Sport Before the Holocaust: A Visual Retrospective” displayed rare photographs and artifacts portraying Jews who participated in different sporting events and

Sports often served as a bridge between the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds. During the Holocaust, some of these bonds would help save Jews

competitions prior to WWII, including champion boxer Victor Perez, the Hapoel football team from Poland, and the HaKoach Vienna hockey team competing at the Bar-Kochba International Sports Games in 1937.

Sports often served as a bridge between the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds. Friendships and comradery formed between these two societies. During the Holocaust, some of these bonds would help save Jews, when non-Jewish athletes risked their own lives to rescue their Jewish compatriots from Nazi persecution. “The Game of Their Lives” exhibition featured the inspiring accounts of a dozen of these brave

Content from the exhibitions was shared with over 2.5 million people around the world

men and women who were later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, including world-renowned Italian champion cyclist Gino Bartali, Olympian swimmer Margit Eugénie Mallász, and Czechoslovakian soccer player Martin Uher – all of whom truly embodied the Olympics spirit of “social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.”

As the two exhibitions were particularly timely and relevant, Yad Vashem made a concerted effort to bring them to a variety of global audiences. The exhibitions were promoted in Yad Vashem’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels, utilizing the unique outreach options each social media network offers. As a result, content from the exhibitions was shared with over 2.5 million people around the world, and articles about the exhibitions in English, Hebrew, German and Spanish appeared in numerous online and print media outlets, generating great public interest.

One of the featured stories in “The Game of Their Lives” recounts the wartime refuge given by German-born gymnast Maria Helena Bruhn to her Jewish husband, the typographer and graphic designer Henri Friedlander, his fellow Jewish artist Paul Citroen and members of the Dutch underground between 1942 and 1945. To avoid drawing the attention of the German authorities to her house, Maria pretended to be a Nazi sympathizer and gave gymnastics lessons to female Nazi officers. With her income, she

managed to provide for all of her charges, among them Resistance worker Paul Guermontprez and his Jewish wife, Trude Jalowetz. After the war, the Friedlanders immigrated to Israel, where Henri continued to study, teach and work in typography – eventually designing the popular Hebrew typeface Hadassa for which he was awarded the Guttenberg Prize – typography’s highest award.



■ Gymnastics at a sports event for Jewish schools, Gruenewald sports ground, Berlin, Germany, 1935. Courtesy Juedischen Museum Im Stadtmuseum, Berlin. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

Maria and Henri’s granddaughter, Ayala Tal, was delighted to discover that her grandparents’ story had been highlighted during the Olympics. “These stories – of Maria and the other Righteous Among the Nations – will always be treasured by human beings around the world,” she said. “They are optimistic, and despite the inherent difficulties and challenges they faced, these noble rescuers were filled with a decisive and unfettered love for their fellow human beings. They are the purest examples of ‘loving your neighbor as yourself,’ and should be emulated by all of humanity.”

The author is Director of the Internet Department, Communications Division.

# Research ■ “Transports to Extinction”

## Research Completed on 1,100 Deportations from Western Europe

Leah Goldstein



■ Jews gather at a train station prior to deportation, Hanau, Germany, May 1942. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

■ **“We traveled in ‘omnibus’ cars, like the ones they had before the war. At the end of the car was a wooden bench where the German soldiers sat and watched everyone... it was Friday night. After I finished my Sabbath prayers, I opened the door to jump out. The boys next to me shouted, because the Germans had told us before we left that if anyone tried to escape they’d kill everyone in the carriage. So I sat back down quietly... at a certain point the train slowed down. I ran to the door and jumped. I have no idea what happened next [to the rest of the passengers]...”**

From the testimony of Georges Rueff, sent on a transport from Drancy, France to Auschwitz on 27 March 1942

For almost a decade, researchers at Yad Vashem have been studying the wartime transports of Jews to concentration and death camps. Using primary and secondary sources culled from Yad Vashem and other archives, dedicated staff at the International Institute for Holocaust Research have investigated the period of deportations from the German-named “relocation of Jews” in the early war years through the methodical transport of millions of victims to the extermination camps at the peak of the implementation of the “Final Solution,” and the final frantic attempts to send Jews to their deaths as the Allied armies converged on Nazi Germany.

In 2010, the project, entitled “Transports to Extinction: The Shoah (Holocaust) Deportations Database,” was uploaded to Yad Vashem’s website, making the findings readily accessible

### The site delves into the personal experiences of the victims using letters, diaries and survivor testimonies

to historians, scholars and the public alike. Each year, some 150 transports – from territories of the Third Reich, countries under German occupation, and the Axis and satellite states – are added to the Database. This unique online project recently completed comprehensive research on more than 1,100 deportations from Western Europe, including the Greater German Reich (Germany, Austria and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia), France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Greece. The main destinations of these transports were the death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor and Treblinka, the Theresienstadt ghetto, and murder centers in the areas of the Soviet Union, although some transports that took Jews from their places of residence to central gathering points within the same country are also included.

“The completion of this stage allows us to present the prolific anti-Jewish policy expressed by the extensive geographic reach of the deportations across Western Europe, by train, by truck and even by ship,” explains Dr. Joel Zisenwine, who heads the project. “The site also



delves into the personal experiences of the victims using letters, diaries and survivor testimonies, as well as the identities of the organizers of the transports, both German and local.”

The research team is now turning its focus to deportation operations from Eastern Europe – beginning with Poland, and then focusing on other areas such as Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Croatia and the Baltic States. “These countries present their own challenges,” says Dr. Zisenwine. “On one hand, we are talking about a far greater number of transports than from the western part of the continent, but on the other – the significant wartime damage to these areas, the brutal nature of the Nazi occupation policies and the possibility that documents were intentionally destroyed towards the end of the war, along with the oppressive Soviet era, makes it more difficult to locate relevant documentation. Our test case is the Warthegau region in western Poland that was annexed to the Reich. One of the largest ghettos, in Lodz, was situated here, as well as the first death camp, Chelmno. Additionally, some of the first deportations were carried out in this area in 1939.”

The first findings are due to be made available online in 2017.

*The Transports to Extinction – Shoah (Holocaust) Deportations Database Project is made possible through the generous support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; The Estate of Isaac Jacques Cohen of France, Survivor from Thessaloniki; Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF); and the Samson Charity Foundation, based in Switzerland.*

# In the Aftermath of the Shoah

## New Director Unveils Zborowski Center's Latest Projects

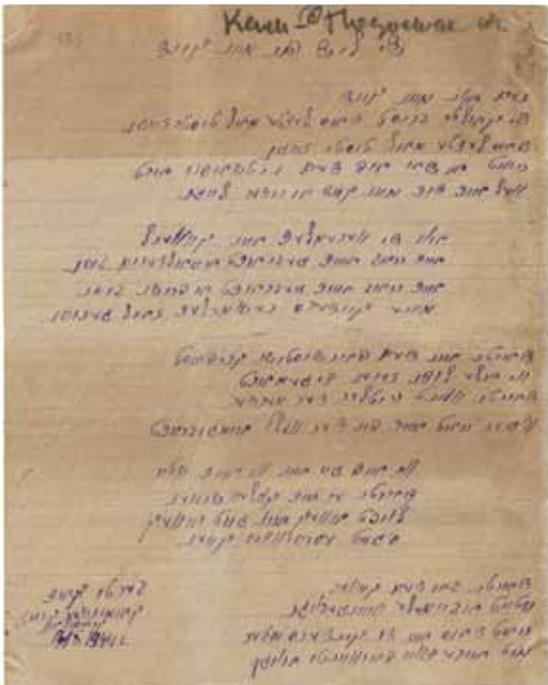
Leah Goldstein

■ In early August, Yad Vashem's groundbreaking anthology *After So Much Pain and Anguish: First Letters After Liberation* was published, the result of years of painstaking research of missives written by Holocaust survivors in the immediate aftermath of the Shoah. The book, published through the generous support of Adina and Laurence Burian (USA), not only provides readers with a glimpse of these firsthand accounts of the horrors their authors experienced and their hopes and dreams for a new life, but wherever possible it also details vital background

Libraries Director Dr. Robert Rozett. "This includes life in the Displaced Persons camps; the trials and travails of returning home or beginning new lives abroad; and grappling with the past while starting life anew. All of these experiences are encapsulated in the letters the survivors wrote after the end of WWII – and that is why *First Letters* was such a fitting venture for the Center."

The Diana and Eli Zborowski Center was established through the encouragement and support of Eli Zborowski z"l, founder and former Chairman of the American Society for Yad

investigating the reconnection of Jewish children to their families, communities and even adoptive parents in the confusion of the immediate postwar period," explains Dr. Kangisser Cohen. "Finding the children, identifying their physical and emotional needs, and reestablishing 'normal' life patterns, such as attending youth groups and returning to formal education – these are some of the fascinating topics to be investigated in detail. Specific attention will be given to the challenges and efforts made to help children rebuild their moral universe. One of the papers



■ Letter from Bertha Katz, 1944. Yad Vashem Archives



■ Members of the Jewish Brigade teach Hebrew to Jewish schoolchildren in a DP camp in Italy, after WWII. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

information to allow for a more accurate and comprehensive background of the writer and/or recipient (see back cover).

This fascinating project is just one of a number of new initiatives undertaken by the Diana and Eli Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust, situated in Yad Vashem's International Research Institute. "The mission of the Diana and Eli Zborowski Center is to examine the experience of survivors in reclaiming and rebuilding their lives in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust," explains Director of the Research Institute Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, who co-edited the book together with

Vashem. Under the guidance of the Center's first director, Dr. Zeev Mankowitz z"l, three books were published examining survivors' reflections in the postwar years. With the generous support of Lilly Zborowski-Naveh and Murray Zborowski, the Center renewed its activities this past April under current Director Dr. Sharon Kangisser Cohen, and together with the publication of the anthology, has initiated one particularly moving endeavor: examining the physical, emotional and social rehabilitation of child survivors.

"A dedicated group of scholars from different disciplines – historians, psychologists, healthcare professionals and sociologists – will be

will also examine the children's relationships with, and opinion of, their rescuers."

The scholars, who hail from Israel, the US, the UK, Germany and Poland, are all accomplished researchers in their fields and looking forward to expanding their findings. They will meet during July 2017 to present their ongoing work and exchange ideas and challenges, and the results of these research papers is due to be published by Yad Vashem in an anthology.

On 27 October, Dr. Sharon Kangisser Cohen gave this year's annual lecture of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies on the topic: "A Child's View: Children's Depositions of the Central Jewish Historical Commission."

# 75 Years Since Babi Yar

## Mirilashvili Center Holds Symposium on Killing Sites



■ **“The murder by bullets, mostly in forests and thickets close to the homes of the victims, marked the beginning of the ‘Final Solution.’”**

So emphasized Yad Vashem Historian Prof. Dina Porat in her opening lecture at a symposium held on 28 September to mark 75 years since the mass murders of some 50,000 Jews at the Babi Yar ravine on the outskirts of Kiev. The symposium was entitled “Killing Sites in the Occupied Territories of the Former USSR: History and Commemoration,” and was organized by the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust



■ **Mirilashvili Center Director Dr. Arkadi Zeltser spoke about the efforts made by Soviet Jewry to commemorate the Shoah**

Research. According to Prof. Porat, the brutal and primitive methods that characterize the mass murders of Jews in the Soviet Union were the precursor to the industrialized murders by gas that followed in the death camps.

The fact that dozens of years after the end of the Shoah only sluggish research had been conducted into the events that occurred in the Soviet Union during WWII was in great part due to the difficulty in accessing related documentation in Soviet archives. Only with

the opening of the archives at the beginning of the 1990s and the release of hundreds of thousands of pages of such documentation did a significant change occur. This paved the way for Yad Vashem’s online research project “The Untold Stories: The Murder Sites of the Jews in the Occupied Territories of the Former USSR.” At the symposium, Dr. Lea Prais, who heads the project, gave a fascinating insight into studies conducted on the topic over recent years, focusing on the lesser-known killing sites and the dearth of personal material remaining from that period – mostly a few photographs and a handful of letters written by those fated for murder.

Based on “The Untold Stories,” the first comprehensive study of the efforts to commemorate the Shoah by Soviet Jewry after the war has also been conducted, collated and edited by Mirilashvili Center Director Dr. Arkadi Zeltser. Dr. Zeltser has examined hundreds of memorials erected by Jews in the FSU from the late 1940s onwards, and found that the image of “silent Judaism,” as Prof. Elie Wiesel z”l coined the Jews of the USSR, does not relate to the findings on the ground in this aspect. On the contrary, despite the complex Soviet reality, Jews made every effort to give expression to the Jewish people’s unique tragedy – the Shoah in the Soviet Union.

**“The Untold Stories” online research project is conducted with the generous support of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the European Jewish Fund and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (Germany).**

**The symposium took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.**

## Memorial Ceremony for Ukrainian Holocaust Victims

■ **On 9 October, a memorial ceremony was held in Yad Vashem’s Hall of Remembrance commemorating the murder of the Jews in Ukraine, including the massacres at Babi Yar and adjacent areas.** The ceremony took place in cooperation with the Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel and with the participation of Minister of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver MK, Ukrainian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Hennadii Nadolenko, Chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel David Levin and Holocaust survivors.



## New Online Educational Tool Focuses on the Jews of Kiev

■ **Yad Vashem is continuously developing new methods and tools to educate the public about unique stories from the Holocaust, such as those of Jews murdered in the German-occupied territories of the Soviet Union.** With the support of the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies recently launched the “Babi Yar Learning Environment,” an online multimedia educational tool focusing on the Holocaust of the Jews of Kiev and surrounding areas. Based on the Yad Vashem online research project “The Untold Stories,” the Learning Environment presents lesson plans and video testimonies along with rich historical information and an overview of the larger story of the Jews of Ukraine.

## Moscow Students Hosted by Mirilashvili Center

Dr. Arkadi Zeltser

■ **Doctoral and MA students from the Moscow Higher School of Economics, one of the most prestigious centers of learning in Russia, recently attended a five-day workshop at Yad Vashem focusing on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.** The workshop, organized by the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem's International Research Institute, aimed to provide the students with both historical knowledge and practical dilemmas of researching this topic. The students are affiliated with the School's International Centre for the History and Sociology of WWII and Its Consequences, headed by Prof. Oleg Budnitskii, and as such the workshop emphasized the place of the Holocaust as a specific phenomenon of the war – one that held special importance in the framework of Nazi Germany's ideological “struggle against Judeo-Bolshevism.”

The lectures covered general topics, such as the Holocaust and contemporary antisemitism, as well as those based on empirical research, including the moral dilemmas faced by Jewish councils in the USSR as reflected in diaries, chronicles and journals; how much the Soviet leadership knew and published about the murder of Jews during the war; Nazi racial policy vis-à-vis different groups of Jews in the east; the participation of the German military and police units in the murder of Soviet Jews;



and a general overview of the methodological problems encountered by researchers of “The Untold Stories” – the International Institute's online research project of the mass murder sites in the Soviet Union (see p. 16). While at Yad Vashem, several students of the University presented their research.

During his stay, Prof. Budnitskii delivered a lecture on “Women in the Red Army.” In his lecture, Prof. Budnitskii described the roles women played in the Soviet forces during WWII. While female combat pilots and snipers received public fame, he pointed out that most Soviet women served in combat support roles, such as anti-aircraft defenses, medical personal, cooks, etc. In addition, he refuted the public image of Soviet women volunteering *en masse*

for duty, noting that most of the women were drafted rather than volunteered for service. He also spoke about the relations between female soldiers and their male comrades-in-arms, including sexual abuse of the female soldiers by their commanders. Quoting from the diaries of Esther Fain, who served as a medical orderly, and Irina Dunaevskaya, who was a military translator, Prof. Budnitskii brought forth the personal perspective of Jewish female soldiers. Finally, Prof. Budnitskii lamented that the study of the role of the women in the Red Army continues to be difficult since the majority of the relevant archival records remain classified.

*The author is Director of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, International Institute for Holocaust Research.*

## Fellows Corner: Dr. Katharina Friedla

■ **Dr. Katharina Friedla from the University of Basel (Switzerland) has just completed a two-year post-doctorate MINERVA Fellowship Program at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, which served as a home institution.**

The program, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, enables German and Israeli researchers to spend long-term residences at institutions in a host country.

During her tenure as a MINERVA fellow at Yad Vashem, Friedla progressed with her current research on the “Topography, Experience and Memory of Life in Transition: Polish Jews in the Soviet Union (1939–1959).”

“The majority of the 230,000 Jews who lived in parts of Poland that came under Soviet control after the Nazi-Soviet Pact survived because they were ‘deported to life,’” explains Friedla. “They were first sent to forced labor camps in Siberia and then, after the German

invasion in June 1941, to Central Asia. Stalin's Soviet Union provided a crucial – if harsh and generally involuntary – refuge for at least three quarters of all Polish Jews who survived the war. I am hoping to integrate these as yet largely unexamined experiences into our understanding of the Shoah, and to remap the landscape of persecution, survival, relief and rescue during and after WWII.”

Part of Dr. Friedla's research analyzes the experience of mass violence against Polish Jews during their exile in the Soviet Union. Between late 1939 and 1941, many of them were sent by the NKVD to the Gulag, prisons and other places of banishment: How did they respond to the situation of mass violence? What survival strategies, if any, were possible? Through the exploration of archival, oral history and memoir sources, she is also investigating the efforts of the survivors to rebuild their lives in postwar Poland. “My stay at Yad Vashem was

very productive, and I benefited greatly from its rich archival holdings. Most of the primary and autobiographical sources on the topic of Polish-Jewish deportees in the Soviet Union

collected from archives all over the world are concentrated here. Not only did I locate a significant amount of material crucial to the completion of my research, but also the intellectual environment at the Institute stimulated discussions that brought me into contact with other scholars in my field. I am very grateful for the helpful expertise and great friendships I enjoyed during the last two years from Yad Vashem historians, archivists, library and administrative staff.”



# “Gathering the Fragments”

**Orit Noiman**

■ For many decades, Yad Vashem has been gathering Holocaust-era documentation and artifacts in Israel and around the world. The items housed at Yad Vashem are not only testimony to the scope and meaning of the cruel mass murders carried out against the Jewish people during the Shoah, they are also a gateway to recreating the victims' life stories. Most are

the last testaments to the very existence of the victims, but they also help illuminate the Jewish reaction and struggle to maintain their humanity and traditions. In some cases, they also give witness to the survival of the few, their rehabilitation after the war, and their reentry into society.

Despite the efforts made by Yad Vashem

to gather these vital effects, many millions more remain scattered across the globe, in the private possession of Holocaust survivors and their families. There they are not being kept in optimal conditions, and most of them are in danger of being lost forever.

In light of this critical situation, in April 2011 Yad Vashem launched its “Gathering the

“Gathering the Fragments” - in figures:

**110,000 documents**

**80,000 photographs**

**50,300**

## Diary and Notebook from Two Years in Hiding

■ Born in Czestochowa, Poland, Ruth and Meir Kalka were married in 1942. In March 1943, after they had labored at the Hasag factory close to the city's ghetto and their families



had been deported, the couple decided to flee. Ruth and Meir wandered for some two years from refuge to refuge, until they were finally liberated. During their travels, Ruth wrote a diary in a small metal-bound notebook. The entries were laconic, but detailed main events and dates. For example: “9 August 1944: We buried our photos under an oak tree. If we survive to retrieve them, it will be a miracle.”

At the war's end, Ruth rewrote her memoirs in a more detailed manner in a notebook.

Hadassa Eckstein and Jacob Kalka, Ruth and Meir's children, came to a collection day at the “Ad 120” retirement home in Tel Aviv to donate the diary and the notebook, along with scanned photos from the period, for safekeeping at Yad Vashem.

## Hundreds of Letters from Jail

■ After their father Daniel Israel was arrested by the Germans, Dario and Vittorio Israel hid in Trieste, Italy with their mother Anna. During a visit of Yad Vashem representatives to their home in Givatayim, Dario and Vittorio donated 270 letters written by Daniel to Anna over ten months that Daniel managed to smuggle out of the jail where he was being held – before his deportation to Auschwitz in October 1944.



## 8-mm Films from Amsterdam

■ One of the hobbies enjoyed by Henry-Zvi Soop, a jeweler and jewelry factory owner in Amsterdam, was to record the daily life of his family on 8-mm film. In February 1945, Henry was murdered in Bergen-Belsen, where he had been sent with his wife Helena and daughters Rini (Katerina) and Yona (Josephina) after

incarceration in the Westerbork detention camp. In February 2014, Rini Shlish and Yona Weiss (née Soop) donated to Yad Vashem many artifacts documenting their family story, including their father's films, created between the years 1936 and 1942.



The items housed at Yad Vashem are not only testimony to the scope and meaning of the mass murders carried out against the Jewish people, they are also a gateway to recreating the victims' life stories

## Telling the Story of the Shoah Through Personal Effects

Fragments” campaign to rescue Holocaust-era items. The process of collecting the items has also resulted in the documentation of the narratives that lie behind each one, a mosaic of accounts that make up the story of the Shoah.

“The success of the ‘Gathering the Fragments’ campaign – some 200,000 items have been

donated so far by over 9,000 people – and the fact that it continues at full pace demonstrates that Yad Vashem is the most appropriate place to preserve and safeguard personal items from the Holocaust and present them to the greater public,” explains Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation.

“Everybody is aware that we are in a race against time; that, to our sorrow, very soon there will be no eyewitnesses left among us. This makes the operation a true rescue campaign, a last-minute attempt to gather together and preserve as much evidence as we possibly can.”

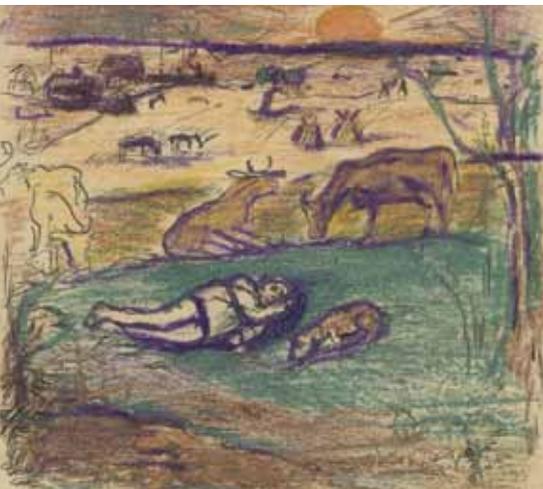
Below are short accounts of a range of items collected during the campaign thus far.

letters | 3,900 artifacts | 1,700 memoirs | 600 artworks | 400 diaries | 180 films

### “Village Landscape”

■ This artwork was donated to Yad Vashem during a collection day in Rehovot in May 2011. Chaim Tzoref and his wife brought with them over 40 watercolor sketches and artworks by Chaim Uryson. Tzoref had received the works in the 1980s from Naomi Uryson-Quarnit, the artist’s widow and Tzoref’s teacher, with whom he had remained in contact for many years.

Chaim Uryson (1905-1943) was born in Slonim, Poland, and was active among the Jewish artists in Poland, particularly in Lodz. With the outbreak of WWII, he fled to Soviet-controlled territory in eastern Poland. During 1939-1941, he lived in Borszczow and concentrated on creating portraits. After his mother fell ill in June 1941, he returned



“The success of the ‘Gathering the Fragments’ campaign and the fact that it continues at full pace demonstrates that Yad Vashem is the most appropriate place to preserve and safeguard personal items from the Holocaust.”

Dr. Haim Gertner

to Bialystok. With the German occupation, Uryson was taken to the ghetto, where he was forced to copy the pictures of well-known artists. According to testimony given by Isaac Celnikier, Uryson was murdered in an *aktion* in the ghetto in August 1943.

At the war’s end, Naomi Uryson searched for her late husband’s artworks and managed to bring them with her to Israel, where she memorialized Chaim Uryson and his artistic endeavors.

### Letters and Documents of a Girl in Belgium

■ Margalit Rosenzveig was born Cecilia Mandel in Duisburg, Germany in 1936. During the war, she was hidden in a number of places across Belgium. Margalit attended a collection day in the “Dor Carmel” retirement home in Haifa, close to her home, where she donated letters, photos and other documents left by her parents and siblings, whom she barely knew. In addition, she donated a ration book she used after the war in Belgium.



## Dress from Mother

■ Tzila Wahiler (née Markus) was born in Rowne, Poland in 1939. After her father, Szachne Markus, was murdered by the Germans, her mother Basia fled with her to the forest, where they joined the partisans. There Tzila's sister was born, but she died after a short while. Tzila



remained the only child among the group of partisans.

The dress Tzila donated to Yad Vashem was sewn from a shirt that originally belonged to a Ukrainian whom her mother shot in self defense. Tzila wore the dress throughout her survival in the woods, and after the war brought it with her to Israel on the *Exodus*. She kept it folded in a small suitcase containing all of her memories from the wartime period.

## A Tiny Passport Photo

■ Three days before he was deported to Auschwitz, Pavel Pisk married Anny Levinger. During his entire incarceration at the camp, he kept a photo of his beloved wife – at first in his mouth, and later inside a sock. On the reverse side of the photo, there is a Czech inscription: “From Anny to Pavel.” At a collection day in Tel Aviv in November 2011, Anny's children from her second marriage, Chagit Shorek and Itay Tzchori, donated to Yad Vashem the precious photo that had helped sustain Pavel throughout his terrible days at Auschwitz.



*Yad Vashem runs the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign with the support of the “Landmarks” Program at the Israel Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage; the Israel Ministry of Education; Dora Zitno (Argentina); The Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture (Germany); Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands; and the Nash Family Foundation (USA); and in cooperation with “Yedioth Ahronoth.”*

*The author is Head of the “Gathering the Fragments” Project in the Archives Division.*

# The New Shoah Heritage Building

■ **Yad Vashem houses unrivalled collections of Holocaust-related documents (190 million pages), photographs (465,000), testimonies (127,500), artifacts (30,000), artworks (10,000), and films (close to 10,000 titles).** This rapid growth of these collections, together with the continued improvement of preservation standards, has resulted in the planning of the Shoah Heritage Building – a new center which will contain state-of-the-art repositories to preserve and safeguard the precious art, artifacts and archival collections for posterity. The building will be an integral part of the campus, with the collections housed mainly in underground storage spaces with the necessary

climate and light control for the protection of fragile artworks, artifacts and documentation storage, preserving Yad Vashem's collections for generations to come.

The repository will cover a total area of around 4,500 sq. m., and include a conservation laboratory, storage facilities, a study room and display area, and work space for staff, including registration and conservation assessment sections. The facility will include the most advanced museological standards in air-filtration, fire-suppression and advanced security and safety control systems necessary to preserve and protect these invaluable collections while providing easier access to researchers and

historians. Storage rooms will be organized to maximize the use of space and will be adapted to the different kinds of artifacts held in the collections (such as fabrics, paper, metals and wood).

As the torch of remembrance is being passed on to the next generations, the Shoah Heritage Building will provide eternal safekeeping for these irreplaceable collections – giving the victims back their voices and identities and ensuring that they will never be forgotten.

*To join the circle of honored supporters of this vital project, please contact: [international.relations@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:international.relations@yadvashem.org.il)*

■ Prof. Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, Nobel Laureate, historian and Vice Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, passed away in early July at the age of 87. Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Romania and was eleven years old at the outbreak of WWII. In May 1944, Elie, age 15, was deported together with his family to Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was selected for forced labor at Auschwitz III-Monowitz, a work subcamp, together with his father. In April 1945, he was liberated at the Buchenwald concentration camp by the Allied Forces. He immigrated to the United States in 1955.

Prof. Elie Wiesel was an accomplished writer and humanitarian. His famous *La Nuit (Night)*, based on his memoir *Und di velt hot geshvign (And the World Remained Silent)*, became a top-selling book as well as a tool for teaching the subject of the Holocaust to youth around the world. Prof. Wiesel won numerous awards and prizes, including the Nobel Peace Prize.

Over the years, Prof. Wiesel worked closely together with Yad Vashem on many projects relating to Holocaust remembrance and education. He was involved in the planning of the Holocaust History Museum that opened

in 2005 and the design of Yad Vashem’s permanent exhibition “Shoah” in Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. Together with Romanian historian Prof. Jean Ancel, Prof. Wiesel also led the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania, established by former Romanian President Ion Iliescu in 2003.

“Elie Wiesel was a loyal member of the Jewish nation,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “He dedicated his life to strengthening and ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people throughout the world. As a Holocaust survivor, he was devoted to bearing testimony to the atrocities he witnessed, and did so through his exceptional talents both as a writer and as a gifted orator. Elie believed to his dying day that the world must remember and study about the Holocaust as a unique event of the Jewish nation that has a universal message for all of humanity. It was these complementary contrasts that so characterized Elie – sadness and hope, desolation and renewal, Jewish and universal values – that helped forge his unique bond with us at Yad Vashem, to which he was deeply devoted and which he described as ‘the heart and soul of Jewish memory.’”



On 6 November, Yad Vashem will hold a special event in memory of Prof. Elie Wiesel z”l in the presence of the President of Israel, H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin. The event will include a roundtable discussion on Holocaust survivors and memory, and addresses by the President, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Dr. Joseph (Yossi) Ciechanover, Member of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity-Israel. A symposium in his memory will also take place on 24 November at Tel Aviv University, in cooperation with Yad Vashem.

## Names Recovery

### “The Page of Testimony that Changed Our Lives”

■ Until a few years ago, Rafael de Levie was totally unaware that many of his family members had been murdered during the Holocaust. His grandparents and parents, who were able to escape to Argentina, did not speak of it – and the younger generation did not ask.

After some years of research and several trips to Germany, de Levie and his wife Claudia managed to compile a list of 177 murdered family members. During their research, they discovered that Yad Vashem’s Pages of Testimony are a vital source of information. To fill in and submit the relevant Pages to the Hall of Names became a project for the dedicated couple, which took almost a year to complete.

While working on a Page of Testimony for de Levie’s grandfather’s cousin, Gerda Lazarus née Jakobs, they discovered that somebody had already submitted a Page for her. “I could hardly believe my eyes,” recalled de Levie. “The Page had been submitted in 2006 by Gerda’s granddaughter Gerda Lawrence-Niermeyer, a resident of Hamburg, Germany.

“I was shocked and very excited. I was about to discover a lost relative: Gerda’s grandmother

was my grandfather’s cousin – and I had not known anything about this branch of the family. Within a few more seconds on the Internet, I had found Gerda’s name, address and telephone number. My fingers shook as I dialed...”

After that initial conversation, hundreds of WhatsApp messages, e-mails, photos and voice messages flew back and forth between the de Levies’ hometown of Ashdod, Israel, and Hamburg on a daily basis. Claudia and Rafael then travelled to Germany, where they enjoyed an unforgettable family reunion and were able to exchange old family photos, letters, documents and memories. “We are eagerly awaiting Gerda’s visit to us in Israel for the first time in her life.”

“Through Yad Vashem’s Pages of Testimony and Names Recovery Project, our family has re-established the relationship that the Nazis strived to tear apart,” says Claudia de Levie, who now volunteers for Yad Vashem’s Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project. “That Page of Testimony changed our lives. We will all be forever grateful for this vital endeavor.”



■ Top: Page of Testimony for Gerda Lazarus, submitted in 2006 by Gerda’s granddaughter Gerda Lawrence-Niermeyer

Bottom: Gerda Lawrence-Niermeyer and Rafael de Levie at their reunion in Hamburg

## Yad Vashem Calendar 2016-17 Presents Portraits from the Shoah



■ This year's desk calendar offers a selection of portraits from the Yad Vashem Art Collection. Some portraits were painted prior to the Holocaust, while others were created in the midst of the cataclysmic events of the Shoah. By portraying their brethren, the Jewish artists sought to leave a trace of each one's presence and identity for posterity, thus fighting the Nazis' plan to annihilate the Jewish nation.

As part of Yad Vashem's ongoing efforts to document the lives and identities of Jewish victims, whenever possible the name of the

person portrayed and some informative details are noted. The result is a rare and fascinating human mosaic of individuals from different origins and backgrounds who shared the Jewish people's common fate during the darkest era in its history.

*The Yad Vashem 2016-17 desk calendar was produced with the generous support of the Swiss Friends of Yad Vashem.*

*The calendar is available for purchase in the Yad Vashem Online Store: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)*

## News from the Archives

### Keeping His Promise after 70 Years

Michal Dror

■ Yaakov Zilberstein (b. 1924), from Tomaszów Mazowiecki, was a student at the Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva. Immediately after Poland was occupied at the outbreak of WWII, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah 5700 (September 13, 1939), Zilberstein set off to find food for his family ahead of the High Holidays.

Because he was ultra-Orthodox, the SS immediately arrested and began harassing Zilberstein. After a month of forced labor in Poland, he was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. When the terrified youngster reached Buchenwald, he met an older prisoner, Rabbi Frankfurter, who took him under his wing. Rabbi Frankfurter and Zilberstein prayed and studied Talmud together at night. Zilberstein later recalled that Rabbi Frankfurter became nothing less than a father figure to him, giving him spiritual and emotional support during the grim times in the camp.

Religious Jews were a special target for abuse by the camp guards, and they regularly harassed and flogged Rabbi Frankfurter. After several days of whippings, the rabbi's body gave out under the torture and he died in March 1942. Before his death, he gave Zilberstein a blessing, wishing him a long life after the war. He also asked the young man to send his love to his family and two daughters, and to tell the world of the horrors they experienced.

Several months after Rabbi Frankfurter's death, Zilberstein was sent from Buchenwald to Auschwitz, where he survived for two years. When Auschwitz was evacuated, Zilberstein was marched back to Buchenwald, where he once again became an inmate at the camp. He was liberated from the Altenburg sub-camp in April 1945.

Ever since liberation, Zilberstein has been looking for the family members of the man who gave him the strength to survive during

■ Page of Testimony filled out by Kitty Luel in memory of her father, Rabbi Prof. Dr. Arnold Frankfurter

such trying times. He did not remember the rabbi's first name, but he did recall that he was originally from Vienna and had been sent to Buchenwald, together with others who had been deported during the *Kristallnacht* pogrom.

After years of searching, Zilberstein contacted Yad Vashem for assistance. A search of the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names yielded a Page of Testimony filled out in 1977 by Kitty Luel in memory of her father, Rabbi Prof. Dr. Arnold Frankfurter, a rabbi and lecturer in Vienna. More information about him was located in the database of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, a complete copy of which exists in the Yad Vashem Archives. According to this information, Rabbi Frankfurter had been deported to Dachau in the summer of 1938. After several months, he and other Austrian Jews were transferred to Buchenwald.



■ Rabbi Arnold Frankfurter (center) in Austro-Hungarian Army uniform, pre-WWII



■ Yaakov Zilberstein (center, holding the flag), Auschwitz-Birkenau

Cross-checking the findings from both databases yielded contact information for Dr. Steven Luel, Kitty's son and Rabbi Frankfurter's grandson, who lives in New York. Seventy-four years after the murder of Rabbi Frankfurter, his grandson and Zilberstein met via Skype. Zilberstein kept his promise and told the emotional Dr. Luel his grandfather's last words. "The Rabbi sent his love, and a traditional fatherly blessing in Yiddish: 'Zeit gezunt un shtark – Be healthy and strong.'"

*The author is a Reference Archivist in the Reference and Information Services Department, Archives Division.*

## Cooperation with YIVO on Vilna Collections Project

Dr. Anat Kutner

■ **Dr. Jonathan Brent, Director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (based in New York), recently visited Yad Vashem in order to hold working meetings following the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Yad Vashem Archives.**

The YIVO Institute was founded in Vilnius in 1925 in order to preserve and cultivate Yiddish culture in Eastern and Central Europe. Upon the outbreak of WWII, the Institute and some of its collections were relocated to New York, but other parts were sequestered in various hiding places around the city of Vilnius. In recent years, some of these important documents have been rediscovered, and Dr. Brent was keen to share with Yad Vashem staff the story of the rescue of the Vilnius collections and efforts made to restore them. He described how they were preserved in different ways during the war thanks to activists, ecclesiastical figures, public libraries and even private citizens who stored them in their basements. He remarked that it is necessary to preserve these treasures and make them available to the public not only to commemorate the victims, but also,



and especially, “for the sake of the living who seek to connect with them.”

The YIVO Institute currently focuses on researching and providing access to the heritage of the Jews of Eastern Europe, Yiddish language and culture, Holocaust studies and the Eastern European Jewish immigrant experience in the United States. During the visit, Dr. Brent, together with Dr. Lyudmila Sholokhova, Director of the YIVO Archives and Library, met with Yad Vashem Chairman

Avner Shaley, Director General Dorit Novak and senior staff of the Archives and other divisions to learn more about their work and review possibilities of expanding channels of cooperation between the respective institutions.

One such cooperative endeavor involves the recently launched Vilna Collections Project, the Institute’s multiannual flagship project aiming to locate, preserve, digitize and make widely accessible all of the YIVO Institute’s collections dating up to the outbreak of WWII – to which Yad Vashem is eager to lend its expertise.

“This project is an excellent example of the ability to virtually reunite collections that are located in different places,” said Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation. “Not only is Yad Vashem leading the development of groundbreaking methodologies in this field, we also have great interest in these invaluable collections, which is why we are delighted to be part of such an important enterprise.”

*The author is Assistant Manager in the Acquisitions Department, Archives Division.*

## EHRI Furthers Educational and Research Opportunities

Petra Drenth and Hillel Solomon

■ **Once a year, members of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project meet for a General Partner Meeting and several smaller working sessions.** Funded by the European Commission, EHRI’s mission is to support the Holocaust research community by building a digital infrastructure of Holocaust-related archives and facilitating networking between researchers and historians. This June, some 60 representatives of 23 partner institutions from 17 countries met in Bucharest, hosted by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania – an EHRI partner.

During the proceedings, Sandra Rosenfeld of the E-Learning Department at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies presented a preview of a six-lesson online course developed at Yad Vashem in the framework of EHRI’s efforts to provide innovative ways to study the Holocaust. Teaming Yad Vashem’s expertise in online education with the knowledge and assistance of other EHRI partners, the course designers travelled throughout the US, Europe and Israel to film Holocaust experts. Rosenfeld screened segments featuring Dr. Daniel Uziel, Head of the Yad Vashem Photo Archive, and esteemed



historian Prof. Christopher Browning before the EHRI partners to demonstrate how the course provides students and other audiences with tools for utilizing archival documentation in researching the fate of the Jews in the Holocaust.

Programs for a number of future seminars and workshops were also presented. A seminar on “Languages, Cultures and Perspectives: How to Read Holocaust Sources” took place in Vilnius shortly after the General Partner Meeting, and was hosted by EHRI partner The Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum; while an experts’ workshop on “Holocaust Archival Film Footage as a Historical Source” was held at Yad Vashem in September.

Among other initiatives, a new fellowship program launched this year was promoted during the meetings. This flexible program offers opportunities not only to Holocaust researchers, but also to archivists and curators. Fellows can stay at one or more of the 15 participating institutions for up to six weeks. So far, 21 fellows have been selected for over 30 such visits, bolstering study and networking opportunities for those in Holocaust-related fields worldwide.

*Petra Drenth is the EHRI Publicity and Dissemination Officer at NIOD – the Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam. Hillel Solomon is EHRI Administrative Coordinator for Yad Vashem, Archives Division.*

# News

## RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During June–September 2016, Yad Vashem conducted some 275 guided tours for more than 3,300 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors, mayors, NGO officials, leaders in the fields of economics and technology, family members of Righteous Among the Nations and members of royalty. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Zhang Dejiang**, toured Yad Vashem on 20 September. At the end of his visit, the Chairman met with Chinese teachers participating in an international educational seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies (see p. 12). “Like you, I learned so much from the museum tour I just experienced,” Chairman Zhang told the participants. “We can never forget the crimes committed against the Jewish people by Nazi Germany... Activities you are engaging in here are therefore of great significance, as they enable you to spread the message of peace and justice. It is a very rare opportunity in your lifetime, which I hope all of you, as young Chinese scholars and educators, will cherish.”



■ On 18 July, **President of Paraguay H.E. Mr. Horacio Cartes** was guided through Yad Vashem by Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names. In the Yad Vashem Guest Book, President Cartes wrote: “I leave in these lines my sentiments of deep sorrow and pain as well as an identification with the Jewish people regarding the tragic events of the Holocaust... We must continue to fight for freedom and hope through open dialogue.”



■ On 6 June, **President of Liberia H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf** (left) took an extensive tour of Yad Vashem, including the Museum of Holocaust Art, guided by Liz Elsby. At the conclusion of her visit, the President signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book and expressed how she and her delegation shared “in the pain and memories as we walked through the past events of sorrow.”



■ **The Foreign Minister of Australia H.E. Ms. Julie Bishop MP** visited Yad Vashem on 4 September. “Australia will never forget those who suffered at the hands of this evil brutality,” she wrote in the Yad Vashem Guest Book. “Yad Vashem reminds us that however troubled our world may be, the forces for good must prevail for our common humanity.”



■ **Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Witold Waszczykowski** toured Yad Vashem on 15 June. At the end of his visit, Minister Waszczykowski remarked: “We must remember these tragic events which, in a most brutal way, caused the end of a thousand years of Jewish life in Poland. Our cooperation with Yad Vashem, the guardian of the memory of the Holocaust, is extremely important to us... The enormity of the suffering of the Jewish nation is a lesson for the future and the entire civilized world.”



■ During her visit to Yad Vashem on 7 June, **Speaker of the Danish Parliament H.E. Ms. Pia Kjaersgaard** viewed the tree planted on the Mount of Remembrance in honor of the Danish people for their efforts in saving Jews during the Holocaust. In the Yad Vashem Guest Book, Ms. Kjaersgaard wrote: “In commemoration of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and in grateful memory of the lights in the darkness. Never again.”



■ On 5 June, **Nobuki Sugihara**, son of Righteous Among the Nations Chiune-Sempo Sugihara, visited Yad Vashem. Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat who helped save thousands of Jews, mainly from Lithuania, during WWII. At the end of his visit, Nobuki Sugihara thanked Yad Vashem for preserving the accurate history and memory of the Holocaust for the next generations.



■ **Prime Minister of Luxembourg H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 12 September. “I am the first Prime Minister from my country to visit Israel,” he said. “It is so important for us to learn from the errors of the past... Thank you for creating this special place where people, young and old, may come to learn the story of what happened.”



■ A group of descendants of Righteous Among the Nations Prince Eugène, the 11<sup>th</sup> Prince de Ligne of Belgium, visited Yad Vashem on 13 July. Led by the 14<sup>th</sup> Prince de Ligne Prince Michel (left), they toured the Holocaust History Museum and visited the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, where Prince Eugène de Ligne and Princess Phillipine de Ligne-de Noailles are recognized for providing refuge and loving care for Jewish children at their castle during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak explained that one of the continuing missions of Yad Vashem is to uncover the stories of all the Righteous Among the Nations: “Regardless of their station or position in society, there were people who chose to do the right thing, and for that the whole world needs to be grateful.”



## New: “ready2print” Exhibitions

■ In recent months, a number of “ready2print” exhibitions have been displayed around the world. The exhibitions, prepared in several languages by the Traveling Exhibitions Department in the Museums Division, are distributed as high-resolution graphic-digital files, accompanied by instructions for printing and display. This format greatly reduces the cost of the production and display of Yad Vashem exhibitions at venues in Israel and abroad, including synagogues and churches, schools, universities, libraries, municipal buildings and community centers.

In May, the exhibition “The Anguish of Liberation as Reflected in Art” was displayed in the Temple Sinai synagogue in Stamford, Connecticut (pictured). Hundreds of visitors, including students, youth and educational groups, visited the exhibition, which presents selected works from the Yad Vashem Art Collection depicting the different ways Jewish artists dealt with liberation. The same exhibition was shown in Hebrew in Israel’s Knesset (Parliament) building to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2016, also earning hundreds of visits and critical acclaim.

The “SHOAH” exhibition presents the main events of the Holocaust period as well as the fate



of European Jewry from 1939-1945. Suited in the main for viewers who are unfamiliar with the Holocaust story, it was chosen by the Israeli Consul in Bengaluru, India, as a focal point marking Israel’s Holocaust and Martyrs’ Remembrance Day. In 2017, the exhibition is due to be displayed in Portuguese in cities around Brazil, in German across Austria, and in Italian throughout Italy.

On 5 September, the “BESA: A Code of Honor” exhibition opened in Geneva, Switzerland. Through moving black-and-white portrait photographs and family stories, the exhibition presents the remarkable rescue of Jews in Albania by Muslim Righteous Among the Nations. It will be displayed in Marche en Famenne, Belgium, in November.

*For more information on “ready2print” exhibitions, Tal Ronen or Rinat Pavis: +972-2-6443250; traveling.exhibitions@yadvashem.org.il*

## Chantal Akerman z”l: Winner of the Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award 2016

Mimi Ash

■ This year’s Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award for Holocaust-related film was granted to the late Belgian filmmaker Chantal Akerman for her final cinematic work, *No Home Movie*. Akerman’s film documents her special relationship with her elderly and ailing mother, Shifra-Natalia, an Auschwitz survivor. The mother’s apartment in Brussels is poignantly portrayed as a lonely space, full of objects but almost devoid of life – which is found, in contrast, in the loving dialogue between mother and daughter. Lively Skype chats and face-to-face conversations in the apartment are interspersed with long takes of Natalia as she wanders around her home. Akerman struggles to break her mother’s silence about the dark past, without succeeding. The absent presence of the Holocaust haunts the film like a specter.

The title of the film is not only a warning that Akerman’s creation is not a standard home movie, but, on a deeper level, it also expresses a profoundly existential sense of homelessness. Akerman’s mother passed away shortly after the film was finished, and Chantal died a year later, not long after the film’s premiere.

Chantal Akerman (1950–2015) was a major creative force in avant garde as well as feminist film for over forty years. Her best-known work is *Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080*

*Bruxelles* (1975), which portrays the drudgery and desperation of the daily life of a single mother. Akerman’s name appears on *Sight and Sound* magazine’s list of the best films of all times, and her *oeuvre* has been the subject of scholarly as well as more popular writing. Alienation was always a major theme of Akerman’s, as well as the subliminal memory of the Holocaust as transmitted from generation to generation. In more recent decades, Akerman also touched upon other aspects of her Jewish identity.

According to Liat Benhabib, Director of Yad Vashem’s Visual Center, “Akerman compels the viewer to confront the conflict between detachment and belonging that characterizes family ties. Dialogue, silence and questions of identity are also probed, as Akerman tells a story of aging and separation.” Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev called Akerman’s film “a cinematic *tour de force*. I am delighted that her final work was deemed worth of this important award.”

*The jury for the Jewish Experience competition at the International Jerusalem Film Festival, at which the Award was announced, included French author and journalist Hélène Schoumann; former Director of Yad Vashem’s Commemoration and Public Relations Department Rachel Barkai; and Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann, a lecturer in Film and German Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.*

# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ On 6 June, the American Society for Yad Vashem hosted its “Salute to Hollywood” Benefit Gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles. Some 350 Yad Vashem supporters attended the Gala – the most successful to date – including American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf**, Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance **Sheldon** and **Dr. Miriam Adelson**, Yad Vashem Visionary **Fela Shapell** and family, and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Susanne Czucker** and family. **Edward** and **Elissa Czucker** were the Gala Chairs.

Inspired by *The Hollywood Reporter’s* groundbreaking story, “Hollywood’s Last Survivors,” Yad Vashem Builder **Jeffrey Katzenberg**, Founder and CEO of DreamWorks Animation, presented *The Hollywood Reporter’s* President and CCO **Janice Min** and EVP and Group Publisher **Lynne Segall** with the Vanguard Award. Holocaust survivors and Hollywood producers **Branko Lustig** and **Meyer Gottlieb** – who was warmly introduced by actor **Tony Goldwyn** – each received the Legacy Award. Noted philanthropist and Holocaust survivor **David Wiener** was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Yad Vashem Builder **Adam Milstein**.



■ *Lynne Segall, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Janice Min, Leonard Wilf*



■ *Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson*



■ *Tony Goldwyn, Meyer Gottlieb, Leonard Wilf*



■ *Phil Blazer, Branko Lustig*



■ *Ron Meier, David Wiener, Leonard Wilf*



■ *Shaya Ben Yehudah, Rita Spiegel, Elissa and Edward Czucker*

■ On 27 July, the American Society Young Leadership Associates hosted the third annual “An Evening at Citi Field,” in Queens, New York, chaired by **Daniella Pomeranc** (right). Before the game, former US WWII POW **Lester Tanner** (left) shared with the 30 young professionals his experience of being one of the 200 Jews saved from certain death through the bravery of **Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds** in a Nazi POW camp in January 1945. Earlier this year, Mr. Tanner spoke at an historic ceremony in Washington, DC honoring Edmonds as the first American soldier to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Trustee **Rose Zarucki**. Born in Poland in 1930, Rose survived the Holocaust in hiding with her mother for 18 months, thanks to the heroic acts of Righteous Among the Nations **Janek** and **Maria Barzał**.



After the war, Rose immigrated to the US and started a family with her beloved husband **Charles Zarucki z”l**.

Yad Vashem extends its condolences to Rose’s daughters **Betsy** and **Judith Zarucki**, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May her memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Builder **Mildred (Millie) Werber**. Born in Radom, Poland, Millie survived the Radom ghetto, Auschwitz concentration camp and a labor factory in Germany. During the war, Millie married **Heniek Greenspan z”l**, a Jewish policeman, who did not survive the war.



Millie met her second husband, **Jack Werber z”l**, in late 1945 and together they immigrated to the US in 1946. Millie and Jack raised their two sons, **David** and **Martin**, in Queens, NY, and together built a real estate business.

Yad Vashem extends its condolences to David and Martin and their families. May her memory be a blessing.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its dear friend **Joseph Wilf**, founder and former Vice Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem.



Joseph, a Holocaust survivor from Jaroslaw, Poland, immigrated to the United States in 1950 and raised a beautiful family with Elizabeth (Susie), his wife of 67 years. Despite the horrors of the Holocaust, Joseph's life and that of his extended family stand as eloquent testimony to the heroism and tenacity of the Jewish people.

With his brother Harry z"l, Joseph established Garden Homes, a thriving real estate development company in New Jersey. Paralleling their achievements in business are the Wilfs' involvement in philanthropic causes and their efforts to enhance the lives of the Jewish people both in the United States and in Israel. Joseph and Harry Wilf

were among the founders of the American Society for Yad Vashem: Joseph became a Vice-Chairman of the Society; he chaired the "Yad Vashem 2001" campaign; he and Elizabeth are Benefactors of Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum together with Harry and Judith Wilf; and the Wilf family recently inaugurated the Yad Vashem Square at the entrance to the Mount of Remembrance. Of the new Museum Complex, Joseph said: "The importance of the project lies not only in establishing a meaningful commemoration, but also in reaching out to the younger generations and affording them the opportunity to learn, to witness and to remember."

Together with Elizabeth, Joseph was a Yad Vashem Visionary. In addition to Yad Vashem, the Wilf Family Foundation supports other Holocaust-related affiliations – Joseph was Chairman of the March of the Living, North America – as well as numerous cultural, educational and social endeavors.

Joseph was Vice-President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and was also active on behalf of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee. His many honors and awards included the Louis Brandeis Humanitarian Award of the Zionist Organization of America, the Israel Bonds David Ben Gurion Peace Medal, and an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Yeshiva University and the Rabbinical College of America.

Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt condolences to Joseph's beloved wife Elizabeth; his children Zygi and Audrey, Mark and Jane; his grandchildren Jeffrey, Jason and Cori, Jonathan and Rachel, Elana and Brett, Stephanie, Steven, Daniel, Rachel and Andrew; and his five great-grandchildren.

Joseph Wilf's legacy is also continuing through his nephew Leonard (Lenny) Wilf, the son of his brother Harry and Judith Wilf z"l and current Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem.

■ On Tisha B'Av (14 August), American Society Board Members and Yad Vashem Builders **Lawrence** (second from left) and **Adina Burian** and family launched *A Boy from Bustina*, the memoir written by their father **Andrew Burian** (third from right). The event, held at the Young Israel of New Rochelle, showcased not only the inspiring book, but also the vital work of Yad Vashem.



■ On 30 August, **Martin and Bracha Werber** came to Yad Vashem with their daughter **Chava Ornter** and granddaughter **Lia** to mark Lia's bat mitzvah. This was especially meaningful after the recent passing of Martin's mother, Yad Vashem Builder and Holocaust survivor **Millie Werber z"l** (see p. 26).



■ **Alan Bell** (center), son of **Aron Bell (Bielski)**, Holocaust survivor and last surviving brother of the Bielski partisans, visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Robin** and family on 7 July. They toured the Holocaust History Museum, with an emphasis on the role of the partisans during the Holocaust, and visited the Partisans' Panorama.



■ On 30 June, **Cathy and Jeff Field**, son of Holocaust survivor **Joyce Field**, visited Yad Vashem with their family to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Dylan**. Dylan participated in a Twinning ceremony, in which he pledged to remember a child who was murdered during the Shoah.



■ Yad Vashem Supporter **Charles Borrok** (center) visited the Mount of Remembrance on 3 July with his friend **Keith Copley** (left). Executive Vice Chairman at Cushman & Wakefield (NY), Borrok is a frequent visitor to Yad Vashem. Their visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial, as well as a presentation in the Archives.



■ On 16 June, **Jeff Greenstein** and his family, supporters of the organization "Brothers for Life," marked the bar mitzvah of their children **Gabriel** and **Gailen** in the Yad Vashem Synagogue with a group of 60 friends, relatives and Israeli soldiers.



# Friends Worldwide

■ **Sharon Hurowitz**, founder and president of Coplan Hurowitz Art Advisory, LLC, and her husband **Richard**, publisher of *Octavian Report*, visited Yad Vashem on 19 June to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Asher**. Asher participated in a Twinning ceremony, in which he pledged to remember a child who was murdered during the Shoah.



■ On 9 June, Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Sam Boymel** (left) visited Yad Vashem to unveil a plaque in memory of his wife **Rachel z"l**, also a Holocaust survivor, whose parents **Yakov** and **Pesia Frema** and brothers **Meir** and **Zalman** were murdered in the Holocaust.



■ On 27 June, **Andrew Resnick**, son of Yad Vashem donor **Jimmy Resnick**, visited Yad Vashem with two friends for a tour of the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 24 May, American Society Executive Director **Ron Meier** (second from left) represented Yad Vashem at a signing ceremony in Washington, DC, along with representatives of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, on an agreement granting open access to the State Archives of Ukraine for the very first time.



■ Yad Vashem warmly welcomes newly appointed Director of the USA Desk of its International Relations Division, **Michael Fisher**. Fisher returns to Yad Vashem following extensive experience working in and with the Jewish communities in North America, including as community *shaliach* (emissary) in Pittsburgh and Community Development Director for the North American Coalition for Israel Engagement.



Prior to his return to Yad Vashem, Fisher was Vice President for Development at Orr Shalom for children and youth at risk. He also served as the Israel Emergency Campaign Field Manager for United Jewish Communities (UJC) Israel. He is the recipient of the Yakir Zion award for his outstanding contribution to Israel-Diaspora relations.

■ On 1 June, Yad Vashem donors **Iris** and **Shalom Maidenbaum** (left) accompanied their friends **Nancy** and **Lloyd Karp** for their first time in Israel to experience a meaningful tour of Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 26 June, **Isaac** and **Yvette Dabah** and family toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. They met with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, and marked the bar mitzvah of their son **Morris Dabah** in the Synagogue.



■ On 3 July, **Daniel Novick**, grandson of Yad Vashem Benefactors **Marilyn** and **Jack Belz z"l**, visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Ina**. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and went behind-the-scenes at the Yad Vashem Archives with **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ Philanthropist **William Spell** and his family toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial for the first time.



■ During their tour of Yad Vashem, **Richard Katz** and his family viewed the activities of the 'Dorothy's Hope' Project of Holocaust Education for Individuals with Special Needs, which was generously supported by their relatives **Barbara** and **David Blumenthal**.



## ISRAEL

■ A year ago, **Aba-Yaakov Manielewicz z"l**, a faithful and dedicated friend of Yad Vashem, passed away at the age of 97.

Aba was born in Radoshitz, Poland in 1918. As the lone survivor of his family, the fulfilment of their unwritten will "to remember and never to forget" became Aba's lifelong mission. He chose to commemorate his parents, sister and brothers at Yad Vashem, among other family members who were killed in the ghettos and the death camps.

After the war, Aba married Cela – who was given refuge by a family of Righteous Among the Nations during the war – and together they immigrated to Israel, settling in Jerusalem. The couple had two children, Moshe and Rachel. Aba viewed their existence as the continuation of his cherished family that the Germans endeavored to wipe out. After Cela passed away, Aba also commemorated her at Yad Vashem, as well as members of her family who were murdered during the Shoah.

Aba fervently believed that without memory, there is no meaning to life. Thus, safeguarding the memory of the Shoah and passing it on to the next generations was always close to his heart. May his memory be a blessing.



■ On 4 July, **Dr. Michael** and **Sandy Hayden** met with Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** and viewed the Restoration and Digitization Laboratories. They also toured the Holocaust Art Museum with Curator and Art Department Director **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg**, and visited the Artifacts Collection with Director of the Artifacts Department **Michael Tal** (right).



## AUSTRALIA

■ On 29 August, members of the extended **Bachrach family** visited the Holocaust History Museum prior to their trip to Germany for the unveiling of the *stolpersteine* (stumbling stone) in memory of their late grandparents. While at Yad Vashem, they also met with Director of the Reference and Information Services Department in the Archives Division **Lital Beer**, obtaining copies of documents relating to the fate of family members during the Shoah.



■ On 18 September, **Vera, Andrew, Taryn** and **Mia Boyarsky**, and Taryn's parents, **Norma** and **Cecil Hoffman**, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. They also took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**, where **Lital Beer** provided them with copies of documents relating to the fate of relatives during the Shoah. Mia participated in a bat mitzvah Twinning ceremony and a plaque unveiling ceremony was held in the International School for Holocaust Studies to memorialize Vera's late parents.



■ On 26 June, **Dr. Brandon Carp** and his son **Ayden** visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial.



■ **Esther** and **Sandy Fixler** attended the Yad Vashem Leadership Mission in Poland in July. Following the Mission, they were joined by family members for a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, as well as an unveiling of their plaque on the Australian Wall of the Memorial Cave.



■ On 2 June, **Sue Hoffman**, daughter of Yad Vashem Builders **Harry** and **Sylvia Hoffman**, toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, and viewed her family plaque on the Australian Wall of the Memorial Cave.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem on 8 July, members of the **Naumburger family**, Yad Vashem Sponsors, and their friends visited the Holocaust History Museum, Monument to the Deportees, Yad Vashem Archives and the "Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust" exhibition. They also unveiled a plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies in memory of **Max Israel Naumburger z"l**.



# Friends Worldwide

■ During their visit to Yad Vashem on 16 September, Yad Vashem donors **Peter and Sharon Ivany**, accompanied by four other couples, toured the Holocaust History Museum, in which a photo of Peter's father **Alexander Israel Ivany z"l** is displayed.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors the **Lowy family**, their extended family and friends were in Israel to celebrate the bar mitzvah of **Judy and Steven Lowy's son Jonah**. On 7 July, a memorable bar and bat mitzvah twinning ceremony for eleven children was held in Yad Vashem's Synagogue, preceded by visits to the Holocaust History Museum, Museum of Holocaust Art and the exhibition "Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust."



## CANADA

■ In July, **Bruce Emmett, Dean Haddad, Erika Hardman, Anne-Marie Jacob, Thomas Christopher Jacoby, Ramin Khodaie, Marie-Hélène Laverdière, Michael Luchka, Sandy Plamondon and Suzanne Ujvari**, Canadian educators from Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, participated in an educators' seminar at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.



## MIAMI

■ **Miriam and David Attias** visited Yad Vashem together with their children **Elias, Sharon and Ilan** on the occasion of the unveiling of a plaque in their honor on the new Builders Wall. They were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speakers Desk **Perla Hazan**.



■ **Daphna and Ariel Bentata** were joined by their family on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Leonardo** (center). They were accompanied by **Perla Hazan** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ **Yael and Joe Ackerman** were joined by their family on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Aaron** and the unveiling of a plaque in honor of **Ruth and Salomon Marcuschamer**, their daughters and grandchildren in the Administration and Research Building.



## MEXICO

■ Marking the bar mitzvah of their son **Abraham** (fifth from right), the **Zonana family** were joined Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speakers Desk **Perla Hazan** and **Mauricio Hazan**.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Benefactor and long-time supporter, Holocaust survivor **Marcos Katz**.



Marcos was born in Krakow, Poland in 1927. A Mexican by naturalization, Marcos was honored with awards such as the Kethre Shem Tov, the highest honor of the Union of Orthodox-Jewish Congregations in America, as well as the Vermeil Medal of the French Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters and the Legion of Honor. He graduated with a degree in law from the Universidad Iberoamericana, was a member of various boards of directors, and founded Real Estate Arsaraz, Promotora Dynamo Airlines Marcos, Chemistry Apollo and Constructora Reynolds Latino Americana, among other companies. He also founded the House of Mexico-Israel Trade and promoted the Free Trade Agreement between both countries.

Marcos and his wife Adina contributed to saving lives of cancer victims through their support for stem cell transplantation with Ezer Mizion's Bone Marrow Donor Registry (BMDR). The Katz family also collaborates towards meaningful research in Judaic Studies and has contributed to rabbinical training for more than four decades. Bar-Ilan University conferred an honorary doctorate for Marcos's contribution to the People of Israel and his efforts to strengthen Jewish identity, heritage and culture. May his memory be a blessing.

■ **Sari and Isaac Bissu** (center) were joined by **Perla Hazan** and participants in the “Masbirim” Seminar of Mexico for the unveiling of the plaque in their honor on the new Builders Wall.



■ **Arlette and José Cattan** (center) were joined by their family on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Alan** (top, center). They were accompanied by **Perla** and **Mauricio Hazan**.



## BRAZIL

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Benefactor and long-time supporter **Edmundo Safdié** at the age of 87.

A pioneer in the Judeo-Lebanese Brazilian banking industry, Edmundo was the founder of Banco Cidade and Chairman of the Board of the Brazil-Israel Chamber of Commerce between 2000 and 2012. He also supported research into cancer, AIDS and immunology at Bar Ilan University, as well as the Center of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Edmundo Safdié was a fighter on behalf of Shoah remembrance and commemoration. May his memory be a blessing.



## PANAMA

■ **Nathalie and David Arman** (fourth and fifth from right) visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Joseph**. They were joined by members of their family and Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speakers Desk **Perla Hazan**.



## Your Support Helps Make A Difference

Yad Vashem is far more than a memorial: It is a beacon of Jewish and universal values which form the very bedrock of civil society and Jewish continuity. Yad Vashem effectively and consistently confronts the dangers that ensue when communities and nations neglect to bolster the fragile ethical foundations underpinning civilized countries – foundations which require constant nurturing. It is only due to the support of partners such as yourselves that we are able to not only memorialize our brethren who were murdered in the Holocaust, but also educate the next generation of citizens and leaders by stressing the importance of values and morality in human society worldwide.

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# The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

## After So Much Pain and Anguish: First Letters after Liberation

Edited by Robert Rozett and Iael Nidam-Orvieto

NIS 148 NIS 108

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Despite the confusion and extreme mixed emotions of survivors in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, many of them chose to express their joy, grief and optimism in letters written to relatives and friends abroad. The letters articulate the first signs of life after liberation, giving moving accounts of suffering, loss and destruction. Sighs of relief at liberation are intertwined with the anguish of irreversible loss, and even cautious utterances of hope for a better tomorrow.

In addition to the survivors, some soldiers of the liberating forces also chose to put their experiences and sentiments to paper. These are the earliest, raw, unadulterated accounts by external witnesses to the effects of the Nazi machinery of exploitation, brutality and mass murder. Their empathy for the survivors and outrage at the Nazis is palpable in their



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Enriched with background texts on the people, places and events described in the letters, this collection is a raw and powerful body of firsthand testimony of the catastrophe that struck the Jewish people, forming an important record of the most shocking and ignoble period of the twentieth century.



## To Pour Out My Bitter Soul: Letters of Jews from the USSR, 1941-1945

Edited by Arkadi Zeltser

NIS 174 NIS 130



■ The 100 letters presented in this book provide a unique insight into the multi-faceted Jewish life in the Soviet Union during the years of WWII. Written between 1941 and 1945, these letters open a window into the world of Soviet Jewish thoughts and feelings. The authors differed from each other in terms of their education, their prewar experience and their wartime fate, and yet all of them felt the urgent need to share their thoughts with their loved ones – for some, for the last time before their deaths.

## Yad Vashem Studies 44:1

Editor: David Silberklang

NIS 80 NIS 60



■ Dedicated to the memory of David Cesarani, Hans Mommsen and Alfred Gottwaldt, this volume features articles that analyze the thinking of important rabbis during and after the Holocaust – the Esh Kodesh (Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira) and Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Vogelmann; the 1944 performance of Verdi’s Requiem in Theresienstadt examined through Josef Bor’s novelized version of the event; the postwar attempt to provide Holocaust survivors from Poland refuge in Finland; and Holocaust memorials in Lithuania since independence.

### Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine

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