

# JERUSALEM Yad Vashem

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Gudrun Himmler's  
Photo-Album in  
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**D**ear Readers and Friends, Shalom. The tragic and the joyful, the sacred and the secular, are closely intertwined in our destiny as a people.

While still in shock and mourning for the late Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, we are confronted by the mundane political world of elections. In addition, a heinous wave of murderous terrorist attacks has struck at the heart of our cities, our everyday lives, our nation.

Loss and grief mesh with birth and growth as part of our national experience; historic memory merges with hope.

Yad Vashem in Jerusalem embodies the essence of this fusion. It is our responsibility to teach the history of the Holocaust, to commemorate its victims, to memorialize their names, and to disseminate the lessons of the worst period in Jewish history.

This responsibility carries with it the privilege of glorifying the Jewish creativity of the past - Jewish culture, tradition and learning in the communities of yesteryear. We testify to the humanity, courage and fineness of human nature, both of the Jew and the Righteous Among the Nations.

With the approach of Passover, the Festival of Freedom, we continue our task of memorialization as we recall our losses and our striving for freedom, peace, and a secure future.

The Jerusalem Yad Vashem Magazine is a newsletter providing information to our friends worldwide on new developments in research, education and commemoration at Yad Vashem.

In addition, it will contain special features and articles on the Jewish world, the legacy of the Holocaust, and current events.

We hope that you will find the magazine informative, interesting and stimulating.

*Dvital P. Bear* The Editor

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*The next issue will cover Holocaust Remembrance Day (see back cover)*

# PARTING WORDS

**2 days prior to his assassination Yitzhak Rabin videotaped greetings from Jerusalem**

**H**istory is unpredictable. Events which would seem logically to tend to a certain conclusion suddenly take an unexpected turn, destroying any basis of stability and security. Following the firing of a single shot by a fanatic, wars have been declared, pogroms have been unleashed, and nations have mourned.

On November 2, greetings from Jerusalem were videotaped for screening three days later at the annual dinner of the American Society for Yad Vashem. They served instead as a eulogy witnessed by millions of people throughout the United States. The speech was delivered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. In what were to become his parting words on the Holocaust, Rabin spoke of the need for future generations to remember the deeds and lessons of the past.

"Our task is to prevent the world from forgetting. Our task is to teach and transmit the remembrance of the Holocaust and its victims to the generations to come. The 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany marks the victory of the forces of freedom and democracy over the ultimate evildoers, the perpetrators of the Holocaust. This year also marks 3,000 years of Jerusalem, the City of David, as the capital of the Jewish people, and now the capital of the free and independent State of Israel."

1995, a year of various Holocaust - and World War II - related anniversaries for the Jewish people, was, oddly enough, also a year that brought peace. This was the year in which peace agreements with Jordan and the PLO were signed, and Rabin was at the forefront of both commemoration and celebration.

By a strange coincidence that sent tremors down the spines of Jews worldwide, Prime Minister Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, had intended on carrying out his sickening mission at a Yad Vashem ceremony eleven months

earlier. The ceremony was held to mark the installation at Yad Vashem of a cattle car presented by the Polish government, which had been used by the Germans to transport Jews to the death camps. Rabin was scheduled to deliver the main speech, but cancelled at the last moment when a bus was blown up at Beit Lid and dozens of Israelis, including many soldiers, were killed and injured.

In the speech that was to have been delivered at the ceremony, Rabin traced a connection between the

Jews' tragic fate at the hands of the Nazis and the fortitude to endure the terrorist attacks of the present, so that peace may be achieved.

"This cattle-car faces an abyss. The Jewish nation was in an abyss during the Holocaust, but it extricated itself with the last of its strength and reached the land of its forefathers in order to build a home, to establish a state, to ensure that the Jewish nation will never

again - never! - hear death rattling in the wheels of these railroad cars. This cattle-car serves as a memorial for a world which has disappeared, for the millions of children, the millions who were lost. It is a memorial to those who courageously rose up in the ghettos, who marched to their deaths, who fought tooth and nail for life, and to those who survived in order to bear witness and tell of the horrors they had endured.

"There are those amongst us who are uncomfortable in the shadow of the Holocaust, a shadow that has not relaxed its hold on us during the past fifty years, that penetrates every corner of our lives and accompanies us, step by step, in every decision that we make. There are those amongst us who urge

us not to forget and erase the memory of

*"Our task is to prevent the world from forgetting"*





*Yitzhak Rabin, frame from the last Videotape*

the Holocaust, but discourage us from placing it at the center of our lives. But it is a mistake to think and act thus. The Holocaust of the Jewish people, during which so many of our children perished, is a continuation of the destruction of the First and Second Temples, and as terrible. We must, therefore, carry it with us from generation to generation, from father to son, from one tribe to another, until the end of time."

In conclusion, Rabin stated: "Our measure of agony is not yet complete, for there are those who still seek our lives. Today, too, we lost our dear sons; today, too, death has hit us; today, too, there are those who try to unsettle our lives here and to damage our chances for peace. To our enemies, to those who murder us, we say: We will not surrender to a thousand car bombs. We will continue to build our homes here. We will continue to gear ourselves toward peace. We will hit you, crush you, kill you. We will be victorious."

Prime Minister Rabin is not with us today. But the echoes of this legacy are so deeply entrenched in the Jewish subconscious that no Yigal Amir, no matter how extreme, can weaken our will to survive.

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## THE FIRST AMERICAN "RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS"

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**Varian Fry rescued thousands from occupied France, among them Marc Chagall**

**D**uring a visit to Yad Vashem on Tu B'Shvat - February 5, 1996 - American Secretary of State Warren Christopher planted a tree in honor of Varian Fry, the first American citizen to receive the title "Righteous Among the Nations." Fry, who passed away in 1967, risked his life to rescue large numbers of Jews in occupied France in 1940-41.

Fry was a volunteer for the "Emergency Rescue Commission," established under the aegis of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for the purpose of saving people from arrest by the Nazis in Vichy France. Although he held only 200 immigration permits, Fry managed to save some 4,000 people through various illegal channels. Most were Jews, including artists Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipschitz and scholar Hannah Arendt. Fry was pursued by the Vichy authorities and finally expelled from France in 1941, when he returned to the United States.

"We owe Varian Fry our deepest gratitude but we also owe him a promise, a promise never to forget the horrors that he struggled against so heroically," said Christopher.

A certificate of honor and medal were awarded to Varian Fry's son, Professor James Fry, by the Chairman

of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Avner Shalev, in the presence of Warren Christopher; Judge Yaakov Maltz, Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous; and Dr. Mordechai Paldi, Director of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations.



*Planting the tree (from left to right): James Fry, Warren Christopher*

# 2001 Yad Vashem

## INTRODUCING "MASTERPLAN 2001"

### *Yad Vashem's Development Project in the Age of the Communications Revolution*

**T**wo generations have passed since the end of World War II. Today we live in an age of information, instant communication, and progressive technology.

The benefits to be garnered from the free flow of heterogeneous information - which can be overwhelming on a day-to-day basis - are counterbalanced by an unavoidable side effect: the creation of short memories. Young people today regard the past not in the sense of where they have come from, but rather as a bygone series of events which are "past," while they themselves are living "post." This viewpoint is dangerous in that it is disjunctive rather than connective.

The world is rapidly advancing toward the close of the second millennium under the pressure of the cultural universalism characteristic of an open-market economy, hyper-consumerism, the world communications revolution and a flood of boundary-reducing tourism. In the face of this, local cultures are struggling to maintain their own uniqueness.

The generation that lived through the Holocaust is dwindling. The presence of witnesses - the remnant who survived - ensured a certain moral strength; their absence creates a moral, cultural and educational vacuum.

What will be the fate of Holocaust commemoration among members of the fourth generation -- both Jewish and non-Jewish? What place will it occupy in the midst of the currents that are sweeping us along towards the onset of the third millennium? Will remembrance be meaningful in the context of contemporary events? How should we prepare ourselves at this historic juncture?

Such basic questions confront Yad Vashem as we plan our strategy to meet the challenges of the third millennium. Yad Vashem's Masterplan 2001 seeks to provide an answer to both present and future aims and requirements.

The program incorporates six principal goals:

1) The rapid collection and transfer to Yad Vashem of documents from Europe which might otherwise disappear, and the videotaping of survivor testimonies. This effort involves not only the accelerated collection of material by every possible means, but also the construction of a modern archive building to ensure the preservation of archival material under optimal physical conditions. Video testimony is being compiled in cooperation with the Visual History Foundation, created by film director Steven Spielberg, and will be housed in the new archive building.

Special attention is being paid to recording the names of all those murdered in the Holocaust. Every victim had a name and a family, and we hope to use this last opportunity to collect "Pages of Testimony" from family members, so as to uncover additional names of those who perished.

2) The pursuit of educational goals as a key factor in fostering commemoration. Thus, it has been decided in cooperation with the Minister of Education, Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, to create a Central School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. The school will concentrate on training teachers and educators, and developing innovative educational materials.

3) The encouragement of research by scholars from all over the world at the recently-established International Center for Holocaust Studies.

4) The complete computerization of Yad Vashem's documentation system. Initiated over a year ago, this process is currently in its second stage. A modern information retrieval system should be functional by 1998, although full computerization will not be accomplished until the following year.

Yad Vashem's archival retrieval system is expected to be among the most advanced in the world.

5) The expansion and renewal of the entire Yad Vashem museum complex so as to present particular aspects of the Holocaust, as well as underlining its universal significance. The permanent exhibition will incorporate the results of wide-ranging research which has been carried out over the past two decades. It will be based on original material presented in modern form, including multi-media displays. The museum will also include the largest and most important collection of Holocaust art in the world. A pavilion for temporary exhibitions will enable Yad Vashem to mount historical or artistic displays on a specific theme, such as the current temporary exhibit on the Lodz ghetto, which has met with considerable critical acclaim. Within the museum complex, a viewing center (videotheque) will show documentary and

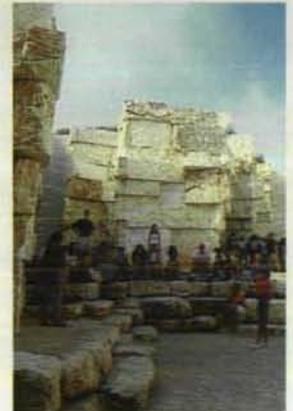
other films on the Holocaust, and a multi-media information center will be installed.

The architectural design of the museum complex is now underway. Construction is scheduled to begin at the end of 1996, so that the renovated museum may be inaugurated in the year 2000.

6) Har HaZikaron, the Mount of Remembrance upon which Yad Vashem is located, is a complex of sites, both indoor and outdoor.

A new enlarged entrance plaza and an entrance building, now in the planning stages, will bridge the chasm between the everyday world and the sanctity of this memorial site for an anticipated two million visitors yearly.

The planned budget for Yad Vashem 2001 is 45 million dollars, of which one third will be provided by the Israeli government. The remainder will be raised through the Claims Conference, Yad Vashem Societies in Israel and abroad, and our large circle of friends and benefactors.



*Students at Yad Vashem*

**Avner Shalev**  
*Chairman of the Directorate*

▼ *The architectural plans of the 25,000 square foot complex were drawn up by top Jerusalem architect David Guggenheim, in conjunction with David Reznik, an architect of world renown. It encompasses an elaborate building and campus which will comprise 20 classrooms, two auditoriums, and an extensive educational center, including a general and pedagogic library and a study program development unit.*



# 100,000 Students and Teachers

*annually, will attend courses in the first International School for Holocaust Studies*

**A**s Passover approaches, every Jewish home worldwide prepares to recite the age-old maxim from the Hagaddah, "Throughout the generations, each individual must regard himself as having personally left Egypt." This precept represents a central tenet within Judaism: the imperative of personal commitment toward the continuity of collective memory and identity.

In this spirit, Yad Vashem serves not only as a memorial for those who perished in the Holocaust, but also as a center for education. By exposing the evils committed in the past, it endeavors to ensure that generations to come will safeguard the future of the Jewish nation, and of humanity as a whole.

Yad Vashem's School for the Holocaust Studies has a remarkable record. Housed in extremely cramped quarters, the School is currently engaged in intensive educational work in six different languages for various target populations. An annual total of more than 40,000 Israeli high-school students study the history of the Holocaust and ponder its dilemmas; over 20,000 soldiers from the Israel Defense Force investigate Holocaust-related concepts such as racism and isolation; and several thousand teachers and educators from both formal and informal educational establishments in Israel and abroad are instructed by the School's expert staff of 40 on teaching methods and materials. This is the only school in the world which trains teachers of Holocaust studies, offering a full 12-month enrichment program. Tens of thousands of young tourists from overseas have made use of the School's facilities. The staff of the library and pedagogic center has guided numerous authors, dignitaries and researchers in the multiple complexities of Holocaust research.

Motti Shalem, who heads the School, points to the changes in public attitudes concerning the Holocaust. Increasingly, both local and international communities are demanding greater access to information, and indicating the need to develop curricula and methodology to cover general and specific aspects of the subject. According to Shalem, Holocaust studies are no longer the exclusive pursuit of historians: the issue has entered the domain of education, sociology, philosophy and creative art.

Until recently, the heavy burden of remembrance, commemoration and education fell mainly on the shoulders of Holocaust survivors, whose impact on young audiences was invaluable. Now, however, more than fifty years after the end of the war, the survivors' generation is aging and dwindling. Shalem emphasizes the needs of today's youth, who are searching for a deeper understanding of the meaning of genocide, human indifference and human conscience, while relating it to broader issues of collective identity, empathy and humanitarianism.

Over the past two years, the number of students and teachers has tripled. In 1996, approximately 100,000 students and teachers will attend intensive full-day courses and seminars. In order to provide adequate space for the school's expanding activities, a new building will be erected with the generous support of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, the United Jewish Appeal Education Fund and other friends of Yad Vashem, and a grant from the Israeli Ministry of Education.

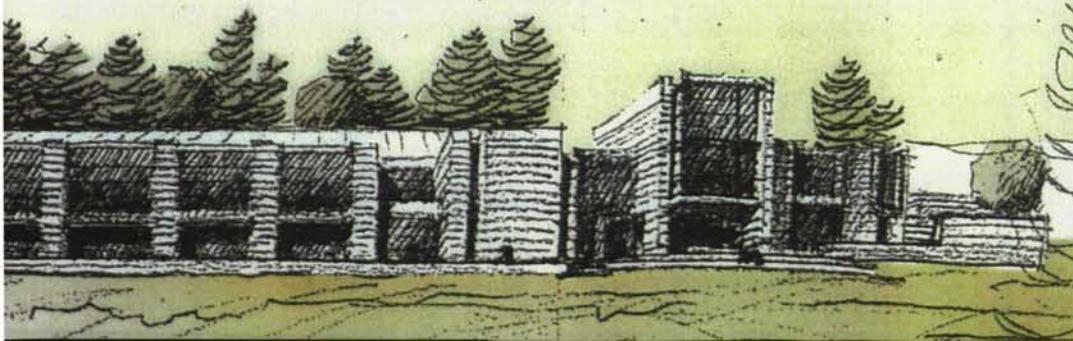
There are also plans - funds permitting - to construct a unit for special projects and to develop educational materials suited to different age groups in diversified settings. The International School for Holocaust Studies

will provide multilingual inservice training, consultation, and teaching units to Jewish and non-Jewish teachers, students, and researchers from Israel and abroad. Construction of the School building is scheduled to begin in April 1996.

## MULTIMEDIA STUDY PROGRAMS ON THE HOLOCAUST

Yad Vashem's "Masterplan 2001" projects the use of the most up-to-date multimedia technology in order to produce sophisticated educational programs on the Holocaust. The International School's highly-skilled staff are currently developing computer programs which will enable the user to internalize historical information and ponder moral dilemmas by means of a variety of multimedia aids. The value lies in its ability to provide information, expression and formulation of ideas. Teachers will be able to provide their pupils with intellectually stimulating tools, and encourage them to use their initiative and work independently when studying the Holocaust.

The first study program to be developed deals with the theme of facing reality after the liberation of the camps, and the period before the survivors leave Europe for Israel or the U.S. Original news reels, clips of survivors' testimonies, and a steady flow of pictorial collages and texts provide a constant stimulus and challenge. The program is currently available in Hebrew (English version is slated to appear shortly).



from

# sarajevo

to

# ISRAEL

*Sarah Pacanac, daughter of a Moslem "Righteous Among the Nations," has found asylum in Israel and converted to Judaism*

**Z**ejneba Hardaga's arduous journey from Sarajevo to Israel was accompanied by much family suffering, but this unique, elderly Moslem woman would allow no difficulties to stand in her way. Fifty years earlier, Zejneba had confronted a German Gestapo officer and demanded the release of a close friend, Josef Kabilio.

The year was 1941. Zejneba's former neighbors, the Kabilios - a family of wealthy Jewish merchants from Sarajevo - had been forced by the war and the ensuing persecution of the Jews into a desperate search for refuge. After Josef Kabilio's arrest and imprisonment by the Gestapo, his wife Tova and their two young children were left to fend for themselves.



*Zejneba Hardaga during the journey to Jerusalem (1994)*



Sarah Pacanac and her daughter Esther, at Yad Vashem

The Hardagas opened their doors to the Kabilios, providing them with food and shelter. When the danger of discovery became overwhelming, the Hardagas organized the Kabilios' escape to Eretz Israel via Italy.

Two years ago, in February 1994, the wheel turned full circle. The Hardaga family was evacuated from the Yugoslavian war zone and brought to Israel. The rescue of Zejneba, her daughter Sarah, son-in law Moshe and granddaughter was painstakingly organized by the Israeli Minister of Absorption, Yair Tsaban, and Jewish Agency emissaries acting under the guidance of Yad Vashem. Zejneba had already been awarded the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem in 1985, when she was commended for her courage and humanity, and for eschewing the indifference exhibited by so many who had watched the Jews being led to their deaths.

Upon her arrival in Israel, Zejneba received honorary Israeli citizenship in acknowledgement of her efforts to save Jewish lives at great personal risk. In April 1994, during an elaborate ceremony held at the office of the late Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, the entire Hardaga family was granted honorary Israeli citizenship. In his speech, Rabin said: "Words cannot express the appreciation and respect felt for you by the Jewish people for your acts of courage during the Holocaust. This is your home."

During the ceremony, Zejneba requested that Rabin do everything in his power to ensure that the tragedy that had befallen Sarajevo would not recur in Israel. "Jews and Moslems have lived side by side in Yugoslavia for over five hundred years," she said.

After Zejneba's death her daughter, Sarah (Aida) Pacanac, chose to follow in her mother's footsteps. Humanity, tolerance and respect for others led this remarkable woman to the doors of Yad Vashem - in her words, "one of the most important places in the world for

Jewish people," says Sarah, "took in my family and myself - poor, simple folk - without preconditions. You, who yourselves have suffered persecution throughout history, were the only ones to open your doors and enable us to live normal lives after the destruction of our world. I consider it a great privilege to be part of the Jewish nation, to share its culture, its religion and its life in the Land of Israel."

the Jewish people." Thus Sarah, a former Moslem, is now engaged in documenting Jewish history. "The

# Yad Vashem PERSONAL

Sarah Pacanac is now a religious Jew. She and her family have converted to Judaism in accordance with strict Orthodox procedure. As part of this process, she remarried her husband Moshe in a modest Jewish ceremony attended by Minister Tsaban and many of her friends from Yad Vashem.

The Pacanacs live in a small Jerusalem apartment provided by the Ministry of Absorption. They continue to maintain close ties with the Kabilio family and their children. The Kabilios' grandchildren and great-grandchildren, born into a different world from that of their forebears, have found a new friend in 13-year old Esther, Sarah's beautiful daughter, who has clearly adapted well to her new environment.

"Our future lies with Esther," says Sarah. "We, who witnessed war, cruelty and destruction in Sarajevo, wish only to create a small corner for ourselves where we can live the remainder of our lives in peace and security."

## YUGOSLAVIAN JEWRY DURING WORLD WAR II

DURING WORLD WAR II, YUGOSLAVIAN JEWRY WAS DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THE VARIOUS ZONES OF OCCUPATION AS FOLLOWS:

Area	No. of Jews in 1941	No. of Jews who perished	Percentage of deaths
Croatia	40,000	30,000	75
Serbia	16,000	15,000	90
Bezczaka	16,000	14,000	84
Macedonia	8,000	7,000	88

The main concentration of Jews was in Belgrade (approx. 11,000), Zagreb (approx. 11,000), Sarajevo (approx. 10,000), Backa, Bjelovar, Skopje and Bitola. The country's partition by the various occupying forces was the deciding factor in determining the timing, manner and implementation of the extermination policy.

The areas of present-day Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina at that time comprised the German satellite state of "Independent Croatia." The Germans and Italians established a local Facist movement, the "Ustasa." Although the Italian authorities tried to prevent the Germans from rounding up and dispatching the local Jews to Auschwitz, the Ustasa nevertheless persecuted local Jews from the

first as part of a systematic overall plan to exterminate "alien elements" - Jews, Gypsies and Serbs. The Jews were very badly hit by the implementation of Nuremberg-type laws and the steps taken toward the "Final Solution," which left them no options for escape.

At the end of June 1941 extensive arrests were made, and by the end of that year two-thirds of Croatian Jewry had been interned in camps. The majority were ultimately murdered in the Jasnowitz concentration camp by the Ustasa. In August 1942, 5,000 Croatian Jews were sent to Auschwitz following an agreement between the Croatians and the Germans, and in May 1943, 2,000 more Jews were sent to the East. Most of the survivors of Croatian Jewry fled to the Italian-occupied zones.

# ALBUM

1. The central memorial ceremony for the victims of the concentration and death camps, one of the events marking 50 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. (January 22, 1995)
2. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Yad Vashem Archive building, which will contain the world's most extensive documentation on the Holocaust. From left to right: Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Directorate; Avraham Burg, Chairman of the Jewish Agency; Rabbi Dr Yisrael Miller, President of the Claims Conference. (October 31, 1995)

3. The Red Army Choir performs at Yad Vashem during a ceremony marking 50 years since the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. Large numbers of Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad were present, as well as members of the American and British societies for Yad Vashem. (May 9, 1995)

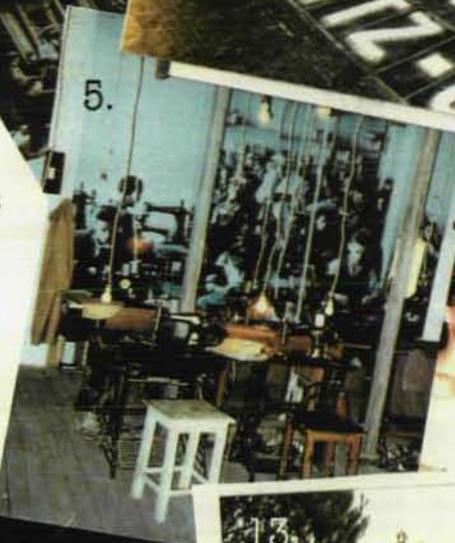
4. US President Bill Clinton tours Yad Vashem during his visit to Israel for the signing of the Israel-Jordan peace agreement. (January 28, 1995)

5. "The Last Ghetto" - an exhibition on the Lodz ghetto, 1941-44, at the Yad Vashem Museum, displayed original photographs and artifacts in a unique reconstruction of ghetto life.

6. Diana Ross, the renowned American soul singer, during a visit to Yad Vashem. (June 12, 1995)

7. The Memorial to the Deportees is dedicated in the presence of Minister of Education Prof. Amnon Rubinstein (at left). The cattle-car, which was presented to Yad Vashem by the Polish government, was used to transport Jews to the death camps. The memorial was designed by architect Moshe Safdie. (January 22, 1995)

8. A unique concert in the Yad Vashem auditorium featured the reconstruction of an identical program performed in Theresienstadt in 1943. In the picture: renowned violinist Henry Meyer, an Auschwitz survivor and former member of the camp orchestra (third from right); violist Michael Tree (second from right), and musicians from the Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim. (December 24, 1995)



...During 1995, 1,300,000 tourists visited Yad Vashem, including 428 official visitors from Georgia and Japan; the German Chancellor; a member of the Thai royal family; and

# '95



9. US Vice President Al Gore (center) during his visit to Israel to promote regional cooperation in the spheres of economy and education, accompanied by the speaker of the Knesset, Prof. Shevach Weiss (right) (March 24, 1995)

10. The Foreign Minister of the Vatican, H.E. Mons. Jean-Louis Tauran, on his first official visit to Yad Vashem. (December 12, 1995)

11. Members of the "Alharar Political Party," Jordan, tour Yad Vashem with Dr Rob Rozett (first from left). The leader of the party, Dr Ahmed Alzabi (third from right), is an ardent supporter of the peace process and the Jordanian agreements with Israel. (September 13, 1995)



12. Rita Suessmuth, President of the German Bundestag, at Yad Vashem. (May 14, 1995)

13. Prince Philip plants a tree in the Avenue of the Righteous in memory of his mother, Princess Alice of Greece, who was posthumously awarded the title "Righteous Among the Nations" for her bravery in saving a Jewish family from the Nazis. (October 30, 1994)



14. Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus of Holland are present at the rekindling of the Eternal Flame in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance. (March 27, 1995)



15. The Tenth Congress of the International Institute of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem From left to right: Prof. Matityahu Minc, Prof. Michael Cohen, Dr. Dina Porat, Prof. Robert Herzstein. (October 10-12, 1995)

among them presidents and heads of state of Lithuania, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Madagascar, Russia, Costa Rica, Italy, Brazil, South Africa...etc.

# RESCUING THE **art** OF THE HOLOCAUST

An impressive and well-attended gathering was held at the President's Residence, hosted by the President of Israel, Mr. Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma. Among those present were many senior dignitaries from the economic and manufacturing sectors of Israeli society, singers Riki Gal and Dudu Fisher and conductor David Kribochet, in addition to members of the Yad Vahem directorate. The event was held to mark the inauguration of the Israeli Yad Vashem Friendship Society, which will function within the framework of the Yad Vashem Foundation. The Foundation, only recently established, is chaired by Shlomo ("Chich") Lahat; Ms. Simcha Salach, who was appointed its Managing Director, also heads the Development Department of Yad Vashem.

Rescuing the art of the Holocaust is the first project of the Israeli Friendship Society, and is of vital importance, as relics of the Holocaust provide indisputable proof of the gruesome reality of the period in the face of Holocaust denial. "We hope to raise three million dollars from the first three years of the Foundation's activities in Israel in order to save these artistic creations and bring them home to Israel," said Shlomo Lahat. The importance of locating these works of art and putting them on permanent display in Israel lies both in the inspiring nature of the art, and in their historical value. Through them, future generations will be able to absorb the atmosphere of this period of darkness and gloom in the history of humanity.

Exhibiting these works at Yad Vashem is of historical and national significance. "Yad Vashem's role is of great importance, for it promotes national unity," said President Weizman. "It is the duty of the Jewish people to remember what took place a mere fifty years ago."



*Shlomo Lahat, at the President's Residence*



## *The Aussenberg Collection*

Adolf Aussenberg, born in Germany in 1917, was a film producer. During World War II he was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto, where he was employed as a member of a film crew producing a propaganda film for the Germans. Through his job he gained access to art materials, and he began to draw scenes of ghetto life, primarily in brush and ink. He subsequently perished in Auschwitz.

Aussenberg's work offers exceptional insight into life in Theresienstadt. His drawings focus on the ghetto internees and their activities, both those typical of ghetto life in general, and those unique to Theresienstadt. His major preoccupation was with his fellow internees - their faces and movements. Many of his subjects are shown from the back. As so often in Holocaust art, a recurrent theme is food - its acquisition, preparation, and distribution. The meager rations received by the starving internees in the ghettos and camps was vital to their survival.

In contrast to these scenes are those of plays and concerts, and the "cafes" which were used as a facade by the Nazi murderers. Aussenberg shows particular affection for violinists and the violin. Occasionally he also portrays children - a theme rarely found in Holocaust art, for obvious reasons. The hospital, where Aussenberg probably spent some time as a patient, is also represented.

The Aussenberg collection and others like it constitute indisputable proof of the terrible realities of the Holocaust. Most of the artists who recorded their impressions perished, leaving only their creations as testimony to what they had witnessed. These paintings and sketches will convey the fine details of the Holocaust to future generations; they will communicate with our children and grandchildren better than a thousand words. Bringing the collection to Yad Vashem is one of the first activities of the Israeli Friendship

Society within the overall framework of its project to save the art of the Holocaust.

*A selection from the 54 sketches of the Aussenberg Collection*

survive."

Through the lives of the characters in her recent collection of 18 stories, Fink views the pre-Holocaust period nostalgically, if ironically. The future she faces with dread, anticipating the horrific outcome of this period. The present, during which most of the narrative takes place, is a time of humiliation and anxiety, linking the past to the ominous future. As in her previous works, Fink portrays the sparks of humanity that momentarily ease the suffering of her characters on their journey to destruction.

Ida Fink uses descriptions of landscapes as a contrast to men's deeds. The tragedies that she describes almost always occur in pastoral settings, in the small towns and villages of eastern Poland. Her succinct use of words and her tone of quiet understatement create an atmosphere of suspense that is sometimes almost unendurable. Originally written in Polish, Ida Fink's works have been translated into English and Hebrew.

Fink's writings are the product of the fear and loneliness she experienced during the Holocaust. She has succeeded in depicting these feelings within the framework of engrossing plots, which carry the reader beyond the world of historical events to challenge his concepts of the universal meaning of existence.

## THE BUCHMAN PRIZE: PERPETUATING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS

The Jacob Buchman Prize is awarded each year by Yad Vashem to authors, artists or researchers of works connected with the Holocaust. This year's panel of judges included two of Israel's finest literary scholars, professors Gershon Shaked and Aharon Appelfeld, and, representing Yad Vashem, Mr. Avner Shalev, Professor Yisrael Gutman and Mr. Reuven Dafni. This year, for the first time, there is only one prizewinner; in previous years, the award was shared.

The Jacob Buchman Fund, which forms part of the "Fund for French Jewry," was established in Paris in 1988 in memory of Buchman's wife and daughter, Esther and Hannale, who perished during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem is responsible for allocating the assets of the Fund, which was created in order to perpetuate the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



(from left to right:) Dr. Josef Burg, Eli Zborowski, Avner Shalev

A festive meeting of the International Council of Yad Vashem was held on January 1, 1996, in Jerusalem. The opening address was given by the Chairman, Dr. Josef Burg, who was recently awarded the title of Distinguished Citizen of Jerusalem in recognition of his many years of work and achievement. In his address, Dr. Burg commented on the attempts of modern historians in Israel and worldwide to "revise" the Holocaust, thus minimizing its existential centrality and tragic magnitude.

The Chairman of the Directorate, Mr. Avner Shalev, expressed concern that post-Zionists were perverting Holocaust history in order to boost the ideological claims of their political philosophy. In a dangerous precedent, they had transferred the history

of the Holocaust from the plane of objective historical research to that of political ideas and beliefs.

Shalev outlined for the members of the Council the main items in Yad Vashem's "Masterplan 2001."

Professor Yisrael Gutman, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, reviewed the historical research currently taking place at the Institute, and the challenges still facing the academic staff. He mentioned

that many archives in Eastern Europe and Russia, which were hitherto inaccessible, are now open to researchers of the Holocaust period. Last to speak was Dr. Yitzchak Arad, the former Chairman of the Directorate, who called for increased dialogue with as many historians as possible to combat the wave of "post-Zionism" which, in his view, is based on ignorance.

The mood of the meeting was festive as the International Council celebrated the 70th birthday of Mr. Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem. As a birthday gift, Avner Shalev gave Mr. Zborowski a stone from the Valley of the Communities - a project that was conceived and financed jointly by the American Society and Yad Vashem.

## P O L I S H T E A C H E R S IN A SPECIAL YAD VASHEM SEMINAR



Among the numerous pedagogic enrichment courses in Holocaust studies held at Yad Vashem, one in particular stood out recently, chiefly on account of its participants. 16 Polish teachers, aged between 30 and 50, participated

in a two-week Polish-language seminar held at Yad Vashem in January 1996.

The program was initiated, developed and directed by Gideon Greif and Viola Wein of the International School of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. It aimed, according to Greif, at "building bridges despite the multitude of difficulties. Surprisingly, this is a group that wants to hear the whole truth concerning Polish-Jewish relations, no matter how painful and unsettling it might be."

The course, the fourth in a series for Polish educators, was funded jointly by the Foreign and Education ministries of Poland and Israel.

It was based on an in-depth study of four subjects: the history of the Jewish people; the history of Polish Jewry; the historical background and uniqueness of the Holocaust, and Israel as a modern Jewish state.

## WORLD'S LARGEST STONEWARE JAR: THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

### THE ORIGINAL PHOTO ALBUM OF HIMMLER'S DAUGHTER - IN YAD VASHEM

During the past few weeks, staff at the Yad Vashem Archives have been making a careful study of a rare and chillingly evocative item: a pocket-book size photograph album belonging to Gudrun Borowitz, daughter of Heinrich Himmler. According to Yaakov Lozowick, Director of the Archives, the album contains 13 snapshots of Hitler and Himmler, some with brief captions in Germanized English. The final shot is of Himmler's teenage daughter Gudrun standing beside the Fuhrer, holding a signed picture that he had presented to her.

Gudrun presented the album as a Christmas present to an unidentified English-speaking friend in 1955.

According to Dr Dina Porat of Tel-Aviv University, who is a member of the Institute of International Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Gudrun Borowitz currently heads the German "Stille Hilfe" ("Silent Aid") organization, which provides financial assistance to former SS officers convicted of war crimes, and their families. Gudrun, 66, who is based in Munich, is known to be ideologically committed to Nazism, and her husband Wolf is a leading activist in the German Neo-Nazi Party (NPD). The German government has chosen to ignore the activities of "Silent Aid."



Yad Vashem endeavors to nurture awareness of the dangers inherent in such organizations, and to arouse public opinion so as to put pressure on the German and other European governments to combat neo-Nazism.



In January 1996, a gigantic stoneware jar, created by Danish artist Peter Brandes, was installed in Yad Vashem. The jar, donated jointly by the artist and Holocaust survivor Marcus Choleva, was molded in one piece in clay and fired in a huge, specially-constructed kiln for 34 days. Its height is just under 5 meters, its weight approximately 7 tons. The jar's walls are 35 cm thick at the bottom, tapering to 10 cm at the top.

Transported from Denmark to Greece in a giant truck, the jar was ferried across the Mediterranean to Haifa and then brought to Yad Vashem. The transport and installation of the jar, for which two giant cranes were used, was funded by Marcus Choleva in memory of his parents, survivors of Theresienstadt.

Peter Brandes was born in Denmark in 1944 and settled in Paris in 1972. He works in a variety of media, including paint, ceramics, graphics, photography and sculpture. A large one-man exhibition of his works on the theme of the sacrifice of Isaac was held at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in January 1995. The jar, which is colored exclusively in shades of black and white, is Brandes's largest to date. Its motif is based on the biblical story of the sacrifice of Isaac. Isaac is seen kneeling, his head bowed, at the moment when Abraham is about to slaughter him.

The artist explains the symbolic implications. "My grandfather, Isaac, died at Auschwitz, and since childhood I have been fascinated by the story of Isaac's sacrifice." According to Brandes, Isaac's deliverance parallels the post-Holocaust resurrection of the Jewish nation with the establishment of the State of Israel. Brandes perceives the jar in terms of a vessel embodying life and death. Its historical function was to hold water, oil and seeds; in death, it held ashes. The size of Brandes's jar reflects the monstrous, unfathomable dimensions of the Holocaust.



1995 was a fruitful  
year for the Yad Vashem  
Societies around the world

■ **The American Society**, chaired by Mr. **Eli Zborowski**, is raising funds for the extension and renovation of Yad Vashem's museum complex, within the framework of "Masterplan 2001." The campaign, headed by Mr. **Joe Wilf**, has already made significant progress.

□ A delegation of over 100 members arrived in Israel to take part in ceremonies marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration camps. A fundraising dinner attended by Minister of Education and Culture Professor **Amnon Rubinstein**, concluded the visit.

□ The Society's annual dinner in November was overshadowed by the assassination of the late Prime Minister, **Yitzhak Rabin**. Guest of honor was Holocaust survivor Mr. **Felix Zandman**, founder of the mega electronics concern "Vichy." Mr. Zandman is a major supporter of "Masterplan 2001."

■ Over 20 members of the **British Society**, chaired by Mr. Ben Helfgott, arrived in Jerusalem to participate in ceremonies marking 50 years since the defeat of Nazi Germany. The Society has collected a substantial contribution toward "Masterplan 2001."

■ **The Canadian Society** has recently resumed functioning. After many years of devoted and invaluable service, Dr. **Joel Dimitry** has been succeeded by Mr. **Hank Rosenbaum** as chairman. The new Executive is composed mainly of second generation Holocaust survivors.

□ The Society held a well-attended dinner in the presence of Canada's Premier, Mr. **Jean Christian**. Holocaust survivor Mr. **Lesley Dan** and his wife were guests of honor. Mr. Dan has raised substantial funds for the establishment of the Multi-Media Center in the new International School of Holocaust Studies.

□ The Society has committed itself to underwrite the building of the School's "Canadian Wing."

■ **The Venezuelan Society** is chaired by Mr. **David Israel**. Thanks to the initiative and efforts of Mrs. **Perla Hazan**, two major events took place: a Holocaust Day ceremony and the establishment of the **Anna Zygmund Rotter** Chair for Holocaust Studies at Andres Bello Catholic University.

□ An exhibition of photographs entitled "A Day in the Life of the Warsaw Ghetto" was held at the Sofia Imber Museum of Modern Art.

□ The ceremonial opening of the **Klara and Hilo Ostfeld** Education Center will take place in May 1996 in the Valley of the Communities.

□ The "Memorial Cave" is in its final stages, thanks to the generous support of Mr. **David Israel** and Mr. **Moric Dum**.

□ A Spanish-language seminar for teachers and educators took place in Yad Vashem thanks to the generous support of Mrs. **Maritza Pionkowski**.

■ **Panamanian friends** of Yad Vashem have established a Society with the blessing and support of Rabbi **Sion Levy**. Members are in the process of adopting a project from "Masterplan 2001."

■ **The Mexican Society** has been revitalized under the guidance of Mr. **David Gorodzinsky**, and is currently considering the adoption of suitable projects from "Masterplan 2001." Mr. **Shimon Kushnir** is coordinating the Society's activities.

■ **The French Society** is currently in the process of reorganization. The President, Mr. **Samuel Pizar**, was present at the unveiling of the Memorial to the Deportees which took place in January 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The memorial was erected with the generous assistance of the **Merchin, Merczynski** and **Merin** families of Paris, New York and Tel Aviv.

■ **The Norwegian Society**, chaired by Mr. **Herman Kahan**, is now fully functional. The Society received a generous gift from "Christians for Israel" for the employment of new immigrants from the CIS in the Yad Vashem Archives.

■ **The Dutch Society**, chaired by Mr. **Ab Caransa**, is currently selecting a project to support from "Masterplan 2001."

■ Leaders of the **Saloniki Jewish community**, under their president Mr. **A. Sefiha**, supported and dedicated an exhibition on the history of the community during the Holocaust.

*In each issue, we shall present highlights of events in our Friendship Societies around the world.*

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# new Yad Vashem

## PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

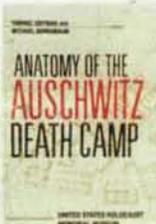
### NEW PUBLICATIONS



**"Jews for Sale?" Nazi-Jewish Negotiations, 1933-1945,** by Yehuda Bauer  
Yale University Press, 306 pp.

Professor Bauer's latest work deals with one of the most controversial and painful aspects of the Holocaust - the question of fostering rescue through negotiations with the Nazis. Bauer presents much original material, especially from German sources.

The book investigates the opportunities for large-scale negotiated rescue of Jews available within the framework of Nazi policy, while examining the theme of "rescue" within its historical context. Much of the book examines the contact between Jewish leaders in Slovakia and Hungary, and representatives of the SS. These contacts later resulted in an acrimonious public debate about the morality of such rescue attempts.



**"Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp,"** by Yisrael Gutman and Michael Berenbaum  
Indiana University Press, 1994, 638pp.

A compendium of essays by an international team of scholars from Israel, Europe and the United States recounts the history of the most notorious Nazi extermination center, where at least 1.1 million people - most of them Jews - were murdered. The book examines the dimensions of the murder, the perpetrators, the inmates, resistance in the camp, and world reaction. To be published shortly by Yad Vashem and Sifriat Hapoalim.



**"I Wanted to Fly Like a Butterfly" - the Childhood Story of Hannah Gofrit,** by Naomi Morgenstern  
Yad Vashem Publications (Hebrew), 36 pp.

In this account of her life as a young child, Hannah

Gofrit relates how she and her mother sought refuge from the Nazis during the Holocaust in Poland.

Their struggle for survival and the efforts of the local Polish population to protect them are eloquently described. Suitable for children aged 6-12.



**"The Man who was Murdered Twice - The Life, Trial and Death of Dr. Yisrael Kastner,"** by Yehiam Weitz  
Keter Publications (Hebrew), 407 pp.

The murder of Dr. Yisrael Kastner shook Israeli society to the core. Many considered Kastner a traitor who had sold his soul to the devil, while others acknowledged the courage of his attempts to save Hungarian Jewry.

Yehiam Weitz presents us with a fascinating biography of the controversial Dr. Kastner.

The Kastner Trial is described within the social and historical context of Israeli society in the 1950s - a period of tense internal ideological struggle and strife.

### NEW EXHIBITS



**"Victims and Perpetrators": Drawings by two Hungarian-Jewish Artists**

Works by two Jewish artists who survived the Holocaust in Hungary - Ilka Gedo and Gyorgy

Roman - are currently on display at the Yad Vashem Art Museum.

Ilka Gedo's sketches depict the misery and despair of her fellow-inmates in the Budapest ghetto. Gyorgy Roman escaped from a forced labor battalion and spent the rest of the war hiding out in a "mousehole".

In 1946, he was present at the trials of Hungarian war criminals, and his portraits of the defendants have a somber harshness. The curator of the exhibition is Bella Zaichick.



**"Written on our Faces": Photographs of Survivors**

Display: Valley of the communities, Yad Vashem.

An exhibition of photographs of Holocaust survivors by

the Canadian artist Jason Aharon Schwartz is being held to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II. Schwartz's portraits in black and white, with dedications by the survivors, provide an unusual view of his subjects in peaceful settings such as their homes and gardens. A unique and painful documentation of history. The exhibition's curator is Margo Stroumsa-Uzan.

### HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mon.-Tues.  
April 15-16, 1996.

This year's upcoming Remembrance Day will be dedicated to the theme of the renewal of life after the war, and the survivors' determination to retain their Jewish identity. Those chosen to kindle the six torches at the official state ceremony at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, will describe the journey undergone by Holocaust survivors and their resolution to rebuild their lives as individuals within the framework of a national Jewish entity. The narratives will include accounts of attempts at resettlement; the encounter with flagrant antisemitism; various options for escape routes to Eretz Israel; meetings with members of the Jewish Brigade; the rebirth of Jewish life in the Displaced Persons' camps, and finally the choice made by the majority of survivors: to participate actively in the Jewish nation's most important collective enterprise of the 20th century - the establishment of the State of Israel.

*The next issue will give full coverage of Remembrance Day events.*