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a View
to Memory

The New Holocaust History Museum

(pp. 10-11)

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Photography: Einat Alon (cover), Ardon Bar Hama,
Ailyn Dayan Shick, Melanie Einzig, Orit Guttel,
Isaac Harari, Doron Ritter, Ruti Shachar Zarihi,
Yael Tellem, Sasson Tiram

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Design: Stephanie & Ruti Design

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Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine
P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel
Tel: 972-2-6443413, Fax: 972-2-6443409
yv.magazine@yadvashem.org.il
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Chairman's Remarks

“And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name [Yad Vashem]... an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.” (Isaiah 56:5)

From the moment a child is named, that name becomes a representation of his identity in the world. His personality, his likes and dislikes, his accomplishments and his experiences may be brought to mind simply by uttering his name.

Following the terrible years of the *Shoah*, the Jewish people began to search for a way to salvage the memories of those who perished. Each person represented an unending potential chain of creation, lost to humanity. Unable to express the complete life story of each victim—each world that was extinguished—Yad Vashem sought to convey its loss through gathering for eternity the one symbol of identity the victims left behind: their names.

This kind of remembrance—where the name of each and every victim is recalled—is unique in Jewish history and particular to the *Shoah*. Most of the victims have no official place of rest, no tombstone to testify that they once lived. Thousands upon thousands of families were completely wiped out, leaving no one behind to keep their memory alive, or be named after them.

From its very inception, Yad Vashem adopted the sacred task of gathering the victims' names and—through Pages of Testimony, lists, diaries, artifacts and photographs—rebuilding their identities. As we document the victims' names and the lives that were lost, private memorials have been turned into public commemoration for the Jewish people and for all mankind.

In order to keep their memories alive, to reach the widest audience and to redeem as many names as possible, Yad Vashem will soon launch its Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names onto the Internet. I hope that by taking advantage of the best that today's technology has to offer, the public will respond by joining us in this vital mission to collect and catalogue all the information available. Help us recall the lives, the possibilities—the names—that are part of our history and heritage, and will remain in our collective memory, for generations to come.

Avner Shalev



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Correction: The last sentence of Torchlighter Esther Eisen's story on page 13 in Magazine 33 (Spring 2004) should have read: Today Esther is a sculptor, a poet and a writer.

Wanted: Private Investigators

by Zvi Newman

Several individuals and private organizations generously give of their time to gather *Shoah* victims' names in places less accessible to Yad Vashem. In Uruguay, the *Centro Recordatorio del Holocausto* has gathered over two thousand Pages of Testimony, and in France, the *Comité Français pour Yad Vashem* has collected many thousands more.

Israeli resident Menashe Davidovitch spent five years tracking names of the four thousand victims from his hometown of Satoraljauihely in Hungary. He managed to locate from the local municipality the birth records of the children who had perished. These documents also bore the names of their parents. "Paradoxically, these birth records are also certificates of their passing," Davidovitch said. His recently published memorial book contains the full lists he discovered, as well as over 100 original photographs and documents from the destroyed community.

To facilitate this type of vital fieldwork, Yad Vashem provides methodological consulting and information referrals. There are still thousands of locations where names remain unredeemed, and Yad Vashem is urgently seeking the assistance of volunteers—especially those from eastern European communities—to work with municipalities and local archives. All the names gathered will be added to the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names. For more information, please contact: names.research@yadvashem.org.il

September 2004 will see one of the greatest technological revolutions in Holocaust Remembrance: the uploading of the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names to the Internet. With its leading-edge search, cross-reference and display capabilities, the site will be a one-of-a-kind interactive platform for commemoration and education.

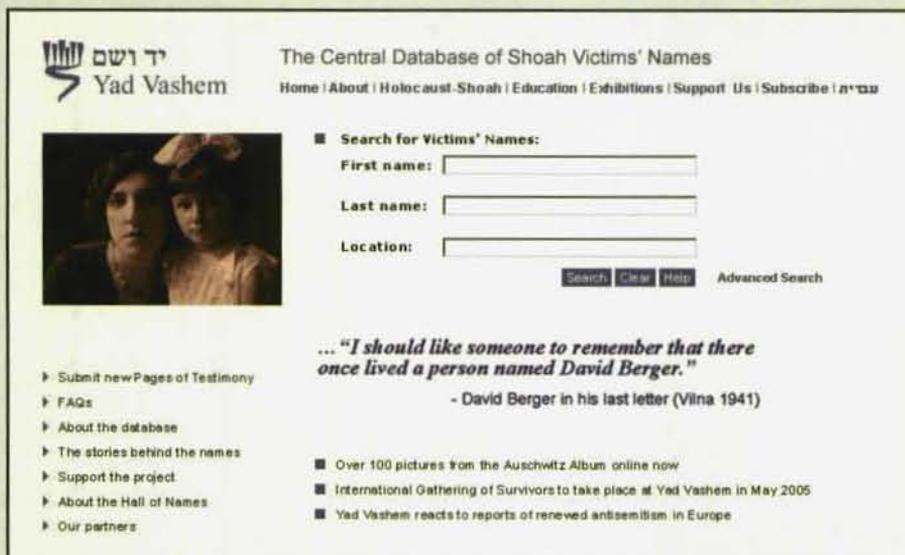
activity uses Pages of Testimony as the starting point for a personalized educational session. Through links on the Pages themselves, a victim's biographical data is augmented by relevant historical, geographical, and linguistic information. Additional context-sensitive links open further resources on related issues.

On the site's main screen, users will be

all of which have now been digitized. Other names have been gleaned from additional computerized lists, including deportation, camp and ghetto records. With a click, users will be able to view and print Pages of Testimony, or a screen containing a victim's personal story, based on information from documentary sources available in the Database. Each such "mini-biography" will

The Online Database

Countdown to L@unch



The screenshot shows the website's header with the Yad Vashem logo and navigation links. The main content area features a search form with fields for 'First name', 'Last name', and 'Location'. Below the form are buttons for 'Search', 'Clear', and 'Help', along with a link to 'Advanced Search'. A quote from David Berger is displayed: "...I should like someone to remember that there once lived a person named David Berger." - David Berger in his last letter (Vienna 1941). A sidebar on the left contains a list of links: 'Submit new Pages of Testimony', 'FAQs', 'About the database', 'The stories behind the names', 'Support the project', 'About the Hall of Names', and 'Our partners'. A list of news items is also visible: 'Over 100 pictures from the Auschwitz Album online now', 'International Gathering of Survivors to take place at Yad Vashem in May 2005', and 'Yad Vashem reacts to reports of renewed antisemitism in Europe'.

This vital endeavor is being assisted by businessman and hi-tech entrepreneur Yossi Hollander and other individuals, and supported by Chief Judge Edward R. Korman—responsible for the distribution of funds from the Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation against Swiss Banks—as part of an extensive list of all the victims of the Nazi regime.

Accessible through Yad Vashem's website, the Database will enable visitors to search for any of the nearly three million names of Shoah victims Yad Vashem has digitized to date, submit Pages of Testimony about victims not yet recorded, and learn about the Holocaust through the "Stories Behind the Names" feature. Developed by the International School for Holocaust Studies and the Hall of Names, this online

able to search the Database by the victim's family name, first name or location before and during the Shoah. Results will show all matches and near-matches, plus basic biographical details. The search engine will take into account phonetics and synonyms in both Latin and Hebrew characters at the same time. Users will be able to perform advanced searches for common names or numerous results, where the search may be narrowed by using additional search parameters such as dates, names of family members, or the names of the people who submitted Pages of Testimony.

Two-thirds of the names in the Database were obtained from the more than two million Pages of Testimony submitted to Yad Vashem over the past 50 years, nearly

further link to information about the particular victim, such as the places he/she lived and died, related historical events and more. A page listing the victim's details on the specific record will also be available.

Through the site, users will be able to submit new Pages of Testimony, add photographs or documents to existing ones, and suggest corrections of data entry errors. Submitters will be required to fill out a special online Page of Testimony form with a victim's biographical information, print it out and mail it to Yad Vashem for review. Correctly submitted Pages will then be placed as symbolic tombstones in the Hall of Names. Before the online-entered data can be added to the Database, Hall of Names staff will conduct a sophisticated authentication process, including cross-referencing for historical accuracy, proofreading of the information and, if necessary contacting the submitter for clarifications.

Based on experience from previous campaigns to collect Pages of Testimony, a major wave of submissions during the months following the launch of the online Database is expected. Submissions will presumably decline somewhat and steady as time passes. Yad Vashem expects to take six to eight months to process each batch of new names during the initial peak, and less following stabilization. Additional resources would enable Yad Vashem to shorten response time, insert new features to the site and add newly digitized lists of names at an accelerated pace.

The author is Director of the Hall of Names

by Haim Gertner and Naama Shik

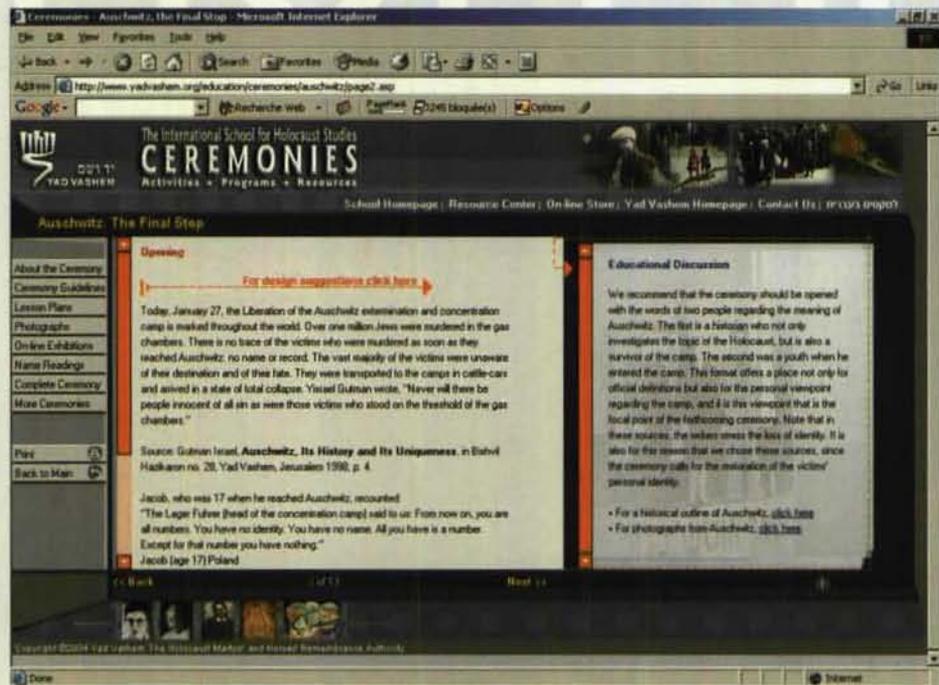
“As I complete this course, I want to thank you for the extra attention you gave me. Yad Vashem has built an excellent website. It was a pleasure to learn in such a user-friendly manner.”

Do online courses make people feel disconnected? Unable to communicate? Distant? Apparently not. The above quote is the reaction of one of the participants in the online Hebrew-language course “Accord of Pain and Hope” run by the International School for Holocaust Studies. The course, soon to be presented in English, focuses on the fate of the Stanislov community in Eastern Galicia (now part of the Ukraine) during the *Shoah*. Participants were so moved by what they had learned, they completed the course by organizing a visit to Stanislov together.

Over the past five years, the School has intensified its online educational activities. In addition to the Internet course, Yad Vashem’s website (www.yadvashem.org) has a link to the School’s “Holocaust Resource Center.” This site features thousands of articles incorporating materials from Yad Vashem’s Archives, including letters and diaries, testimonies, excerpts from memoirs, photographs, objects, artistic works, research and lexicon entries. Suggestions for memorial ceremonies, a teachers’ resource center and more, also attract tens of thousands of Internet-users on a monthly basis. Members of staff are currently designing an educational program to accompany the online *Shoah* Victims’ Database (see page 3), as well as establishing a virtual School for Holocaust Studies.

Using the Internet as an educational tool has many advantages:

H o l o c a u s t E



Accessibility

The Internet enables the School to display a wide range of fascinating and reliable original materials to an extensive audience not always able to visit Yad Vashem. In addition, the sites currently offered are used by people from all sectors of the population, including teachers in formal and informal education, students, researchers, and members of Jewish communities abroad. From the many responses already received, it is clear

that users—especially young people—appreciate this kind of access to so much of Yad Vashem’s unique knowledge-base.

Reliability

In today’s hi-tech world, as people are inundated with more and more information, it is not always easy to evaluate its quality or reliability. The School guarantees all its material is historically accurate, carefully selected by a team of researchers and educational experts.

Yad Vashem Education Awards – 2004

by Yona Gal

On 20 May, Yad Vashem awarded its annual prizes for educational achievement. The ceremony was attended by award donors, recipients, Holocaust survivors, students and educators.

Avraham Oded Cohen, former Deputy Director-General and Head of the Youth and Society Administration at the Ministry of Education, was awarded the Chuno and Blima Najmann Foundation Educator’s Prize for his vision, years of activity and unique contribution to Holocaust education in Israel. Other prizes awarded by the Foundation included the Curriculum Prize,

received by Jerusalem’s *Habad* Beit Hannah School for its program, “The Final Solution in the Soviet Union – Communities in Ruin.”

Five students received prizes funded by the Mark and Luba Uvelev Memorial Foundation, and Manya and Gershon Bergson, for outstanding projects in a variety of areas: Music in Westerbork; the Silence of Pope Pius XII; Wagner’s Antisemitism in Nazi Ideology; Illusion and Reality in the Theresienstadt Ghetto; and Patterns of Resistance in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

For the first time, the *Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah* awarded a prize for an

educational program on French Jewry during the Holocaust. Dora Weinberger, member of the *Alumim* Association, presented the prize to teacher Tali Spiegler, for her study of French Righteous Among the Nations. Student Dan Chaim Ross was also awarded a prize for his paper on Jewish resistance in France.

Israel Education Television won the Esteem Award for its Arabic-language film, “We Were There,” depicting last year’s journey to Auschwitz-Birkenau by an Arab-Jewish delegation.

The author is the Yad Vashem Awards Coordinator, the International School for Holocaust Studies

education

Online

Educational dialogue ▼

Through the Internet in general, “virtual communities” of people sharing a common interest are constantly formed; likewise for those using the School’s online sites. Students and teachers discuss use of the materials in frontal teaching; educational discussions are held regarding online lesson plans and workshops; and ceremonies based on the materials found on the site are conducted at hundreds of schools around Israel. In addition, many students contact staff with historical or didactic questions, arising from the study of online material. As such, independent use of the Internet becomes a dynamic learning experience.

Individual pace ▼

Learning via the Internet enables individuals to study and teach according to the level best suited to their needs, and at their own pace—from a short study of basic lexicographical entries to preparing lesson plans—as well as educational, historical and philosophical discussions on the Holocaust and how to teach it.

Members of staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies see themselves as educators and “tour guides” in a vast world of knowledge and information, and would welcome assistance in their plans to expand their online courses. “I liked this comprehensive online course despite the tough subject matter,” wrote one participant from Rishon LeZion. “As a high school history teacher, I have no doubt that it contributed a great deal to my knowledge and level of teaching. I am certain that my students will also benefit from it significantly.”

Haim Gertner is Director of Teacher Training, and Naama Shik is Head of the Internet Unit, the International School for Holocaust Studies

Reminder: 8-11 August The Fourth International Educators’ Conference

Marking Yad Vashem’s 50th anniversary, the International School for Holocaust Studies will hold its Fourth International Educators’ Conference entitled: “Teaching the Holocaust to Future Generations,” on August 8-11, in cooperation with Oranim Educational Initiatives, Ltd. and sponsored by the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program. Among the topics to be discussed are: the importance and challenges of teaching the Holocaust in the 21st century; the place of the Holocaust in shaping Jewish identity in Israel and in the Diaspora; and the relevance of contemporary antisemitism in Holocaust remembrance. Participants include Professors Yehuda Bauer, Yitzhak Greenberg, John K. Roth and Robert S. Wistrich, as well as some 450 renowned academics, researchers and educators from over 20 countries.

In addition to the lectures, there will be discussion groups and interdisciplinary workshops combining topics from the fields of history, literature, art, psychology and philosophy. Conference participants will also be given an opportunity to visit the site of the new Holocaust History Museum, due to open in March 2005. For further information, please visit: www.teachingholocaust.com

Recent Highlights at the International School for Holocaust Studies

In advance of Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day, several study days for senior members of Israel’s security forces, supported by the Fund in Memory of Dolly Steindling, were attended by the IDF Chief of Staff and General Staff Forum, the Police Commissioner and senior police commanders, the Director of the General Security Services and ranking GSS officials. On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day—after the memorial ceremony—some 350 people participated in a study evening entitled: “And these are the names of the Children of Israel,” broadcast live on Israel Radio. The following day, the School offered an extensive program of informal events marking Holocaust Remembrance Day. Some 2,300 people participated in varied activities, including drama workshops and listening to survivor testimonies. Later that evening, a special event was held at the Beit Shmuel auditorium entitled: “*Muzika*—Young People Make a Connection with the Holocaust” (see page 6).

Prior to their trip to Poland and other eastern European destinations, seven delegations of IDF officers participated in two days of intensive preparation as part of the “Witnesses in Uniform” project. Study days for Foreign Ministry cadets, for German army cadets (arranged through the IDF Liaison Unit) and a seminar for French priests took place in May. Special study days were also organized for senior staff of the Rehabilitation Bureau for the Disabled, as well as Education Department employees from Hod Hasharon, together with the city’s mayor.

Swiss educators attended a seminar in April. In May, some 200 survivors participated in the Annual Meeting of Testimony-Givers, and two training courses (in Hebrew and Russian) on how to give testimony were held in June.

Expressions of Resistance

by Havi Ben Sasson

“Self-defense in the ghetto is a reality. Jewish armed resistance and revenge are facts. I have been a witness to the magnificent, heroic fighting of the Jewish people in battle.”

(From the last letter of Mordecai Anielewicz)

Written for 9th and 10th grade students, *Resistance* was prepared in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and describes various facets of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. The program is based on the premise that in order to appreciate the nature of the fight against the Germans and the tremendous achievement of simply staying alive, one must understand the grueling conditions in which the Jews lived.

The documents, testimonies and guiding questions that comprise the program impart different expressions of Jewish resistance in the Holocaust, from cultural and spiritual pursuits to armed uprising, partisan warfare and resistance in the death camps. Each kind of struggle highlights the terrible situation the Jews faced; almost every decision concerned questions of life and death.

The program concludes with a discussion on the issue of courage, presenting the magnitude of spirit demanded of Jewish individuals and Jewish society during the Holocaust.

The author works in the Programs and Curricula Development Department, the International School for Holocaust Studies



by Dafna Gallili

At the close of Holocaust Remembrance Day, performing arts students gave a special and emotional performance of Holocaust-related material, produced by Jerusalem's "Tzolelot" company. The pieces presented were original instrumental, vocal, drama and dance compositions based on texts from the book, *These Are My Final Words* (see page 7).

The goal of Project *Muzika* (Music), organized by the International School for Holocaust Studies, is to provide a link between young people and Holocaust victims and survivors. How this connection is forged is left to the participants, who choose the words that inspire them to create a dramatic or dance presentation, a heavy rock rendition or a piece of classical music.

The performance concluded an extended educational-artistic program attended by the students at the School's Training Department, including informal seminars on the Holocaust from the historic, national and personal perspectives. Yifat Ziv, an 11th-grader from Jerusalem, chose to sing a section from a letter written by Rozelka, a young woman from Lvov, which ends with the words, "Life is horrible, but death is many times worse."

"I saw her as a girl with aspirations," Yifat explains. "I identified with her not only as a Jew, but also as a young woman." Other students chose texts involving relationships between parents and their children, questions of faith, and expectations and fears about the future—all issues that absorb young people on a highly personal level. Yair Sari

Levy composed music based on a letter written by Julius Yosef to his son Arno: "I chose this piece because I loved the resolve he expressed, the optimism during those most difficult moments of their lives, the ultimate love between a father and his son, the trust and faith in God."

The performance was a moving one for the audience—young people, the performers' families, Holocaust survivors and representatives from Yad Vashem. "Through music we are attempting to connect with another world," said composer and performer Yuval Lev Ari, who also participated last year. "We take the music we are familiar with—and if possible, add our own feelings—and forge a bridge to a world past, in order to know and experience the horror of that time."

The author is Director of the Junior High School and Projects Unit in the Training Department, the International School for Holocaust Studies

MUZIKA

Young People Make a Connection with the Holocaust





Generation to Generation: Sharing the Legacy

Multi-Generational Gathering to be held in May 2005

by Leah Goldstein

“It is my wish, for the sake of the Jewish people and all of humanity, that Yad Vashem continue to serve as a site for the commemoration of the Holocaust, a place where Holocaust remembrance and its lessons are transmitted from generation to generation, for all eternity.” Moshe Katsav, President of the State of Israel

Marking 60 years since the end of WWII, Yad Vashem will hold an historic international and multi-generational gathering of Holocaust survivors and their families, entitled: “Generation to Generation: Sharing the Legacy.” From 4-9 May 2005, thousands of participants of all ages from around the world will come together to pay tribute to the survivors and to ensure that the torch of remembrance is passed from one generation to the next.

The week-long program will include a unique range of seminars, inter-generational discussions and guided tours of Jerusalem and Yad Vashem, as well as participation in the Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day events and the chance to search the Shoah Victims’ Names Database and fill out Pages of Testimony.

For further information, please contact: meetings@unitours.co.il, Tel: 972-3-520-9972

Youth Mark Holocaust Remembrance Day

by Osnat Dadon

In keeping with Yad Vashem’s belief in conducting an open, value-based and genuine dialogue with today’s youth, the International School for Holocaust Studies designed a special program of Holocaust Remembrance Day activities for young people. During the afternoon, participants attended seminars, workshops and survivor testimonies focusing on the shaping of Holocaust memory in Israeli society. The groups were led by students of the course for guides to Poland, who were specifically trained for the events of the day.



In the evening, some 600 members of youth movements from around the country gathered for the “Ceremony for Youth,” in the presence of the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport Limor Livnat and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. The event was held in the Valley of the Communities, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education’s Information Center, Youth and Social Administration and Youth Movement Council. During the

ceremony, the youngsters listened to moving testimony from Holocaust survivor Shmulik Shilo, and heard touching songs performed by singer Sarit Hadad and the Youth Movement Ensemble.

The author is Coordinator of the Informal Education Unit of the Training Department, the International School for Holocaust Studies

These Are My Final Words

by Orit Guttel

In advance of Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day in April, the Ministry of Education printed and distributed a special Hebrew edition of *These Are My Final Words – Last Letters from the Holocaust* for thousands of Israeli secondary school students. The book is a collection of personal testimonies written by Jews in the ghettos, transit camps, transports, and concentration and death camps.

The first-person testimonies in the book are compelling, sincere and moving, allowing young people to encounter the topic of the Holocaust and absorb the experiences of the victims in a more tangible way. Edited by Professor Walter Zvi Bacharach, the anthology was published in English and Hebrew in 2002 by Yad Vashem, with the generous assistance of the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Culture.



“ Alien... hostile... dangerous... poison... depraved... hate-filled... enemies... pernicious... corrupting... foreign... tumor... pornographers... frauds... parasites... predators.”

These descriptions of Jews are not taken from a Nazi ideologue, but are the language

festering as an abscess on the body of the Polish nation, which had to be saved from the nefarious Jews. The threatened Polish people had “the right” to defend themselves against the Jews “by all decent means.”

A key influence on Polish-Catholic intellectual attitudes towards Jews in this period was the infamous *Protocols of the Elders*

Alien, Hostile, Dangerous

The Image of the Jews in the Polish-Catholic Press in the 1930s

of discourse in the intellectual Polish-Catholic press in the 1930s. In a courageous but disturbing article appearing in the latest volume (32) of *Yad Vashem Studies*, Dr. Dariusz Libionka, senior lecturer at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, lets the words speak for themselves.

Libionka cites quotation after quotation, author after author, editor after editor, journal after journal, all with similar impact. The Jews were reviled with vehemence and conviction, and at times with language similar to that used by the Nazis. During the 1930s, the ‘Jewish Question’ became the main issue of Polish political life, explains Libionka. Regardless of the nature of the periodical, its target audience, or the political leanings of its editors, the urgency of finding a solution to the ‘problem’ exercised the Catholic intellectual press extensively.

This media feared assimilated Jews the most: “No cultural type is more dangerous than the ‘assimilated Jew,’” wrote the editor of *Głos Narodu* in 1937. This Jew was “an instrument of destruction,” whereas Judaism itself—and by definition its traditional adherents—was a “duplicious... immoral... shallow, bland, formalized religion,” as well as “a form of materialism.” Jews were seen as both conspiratorial communists and capitalists who had stolen Polish wealth—an alien race

of Zion. The widely respected scholar and priest Stanisław Trzeciak was the best-known advocate of “The Protocols” and in the second half of the 1930s, his writings reached a broad readership, especially in *Przegląd Katolicki*. The respect accorded him by the Catholic press lent his anti-Jewish articles an air of authority in the discourse. Judaism was charged with being “a system of contempt... without any trace of Christian forgiveness and love.” Certainly it was no surfeit of ‘forgiveness and love’ that led these Polish-Catholic authors and editors to attack the Jews so vehemently, viciously, and persistently, doing all in their power to inflame an already highly antisemitic atmosphere in Poland to fever pitch.

What could result from such an intense hostility? In an article written in 1936, Krakow Archbishop Adam Sapieha warned against Jewish employers “whose eyes are so clouded by greed that they cannot even see the looming danger, and practice ruthless exploitation in every area, preying on human misery.” The same Sapieha was largely unhelpful when approached by leaders of the remnant Jewish survivor community after the war, requesting he condemn antisemitism and the widespread physical attacks on Jewish survivors in Poland.

The virulent antisemitic atmosphere in pre-war Poland—encouraged and aggravated



Archbishop Adam Sapieha

by the intellectual Polish-Catholic press—certainly did not turn all Poles into active accomplices of the Nazis. Yet two articles scheduled to be published in the next volume of *Yad Vashem Studies*, illustrate how Jews continued to be viewed as the “other,” the “foreign” and the “undesirable,” allowing their fate during the Holocaust and their needs afterward generally to receive minimal sympathy. In describing Polish wartime attitudes towards Jews, and Polish Church attitudes towards Jewish survivors in the immediate postwar years, researchers Joanna Michlic and Natalia Aleksiu respectively illustrate how little changed afterwards. With Libionka’s research as a foundation, perhaps their findings are not surprising. But the story told in these three articles is shocking and, in light of the current rise of anti-Jewish expression and the re-employment of age-old antisemitic stereotypes, the need for introspection deep.

The author is Editor of *Yad Vashem Studies*



Publication of *Yad Vashem Studies* is assisted by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture

Combating Antisemitism

by Leah Goldstein

In April, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev accompanied President Moshe Katsav to Germany in order to participate in the Conference on Antisemitism organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The Conference was held at the invitation of Germany's Foreign

Minister, Joschka Fischer, in the country's Foreign Ministry in Berlin. Conference

Strategies for Change

delegates from the 55 participating European, Central Asian and North American states addressed a variety of measures to combat antisemitism throughout the OSCE region.

These included anti-discrimination legislation and law enforcement, collecting and analyzing hate crime statistics, inter-faith and inter-community

dialogue, education and raising awareness. Separate workshops focused on concrete measures and efficient practices already implemented in OSCE states—including Holocaust education, the role of NGOs, Jew-hatred on the Internet, and contemporary antisemitism.

Avner Shalev addressed the third session, which was dedicated to the role of education in combating antisemitism, and moderated by Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Professor Yehuda Bauer. During his speech, Shalev stressed the clear and present dangers of antisemitism in all spheres of life, not only for the Jewish people, but also for democracy and basic human ethics. Recognizing that antisemitism is wrong is not enough, he explained: the subject must be studied at a deeper level within the context of the Holocaust. Shalev proposed establishing a network of training centers linked to other institutions worldwide in order to provide senior educators and academics with "the know-how in developing educational strategies and in providing teachers with the necessary tools and knowledge to deal with this complex and critical subject."

Keynote conference speakers included President of Germany Johannes Rau, Nobel laureate Professor Elie Wiesel, and President of the *Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah* Simone Weil. At the end of the conference, the official OSCE declaration warned against the rapid rise of verbal, visual and physical acts of antisemitism "posing a fundamental danger to the nature of post-WWII democracy." Concern was expressed too about the "increasingly popular conspiracy theories that consider Jews responsible for the evils of the world." Delegates called upon national governments to institute training programs for teachers and civil servants on combating antisemitism, as well as promoting education about the Holocaust.

Education against antisemitism continues

Over 700 downloads of the International School for Holocaust Studies' new lesson plan: "Remembering the Holocaust and Combating Xenophobia"—prepared for Holocaust Remembrance Day around Europe on 27 January—have so far been recorded. Following its launch at Yad Vashem by Minister for Jerusalem, Society and Diaspora Affairs Natan Sharansky, many of the 30 ambassadors and diplomats present expressed an interest in expanding Holocaust educational programs in their countries.

In June, Yad Vashem participated in a session on antisemitism in the sphere of Holocaust education at the Education Committee of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

Hungary pledges to search for names of Holocaust victims

by Yifat Bachrach

"I declare that this heinous crime was committed by Hungarians against Hungarians. There is no excuse or explanation... Forgetting is the ally of tyranny; forgiveness and remembrance—of freedom. We have a task to search and tell the truth."

These words were spoken by Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy at the dedication ceremony of Budapest's new Holocaust Museum and Documentation Center on 15 April, in the presence of President of Israel Moshe Katsav, Hungarian President Ferenc Madl and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev.

At the opening ceremony, Yad Vashem symbolically presented the museum with the original *Auschwitz Album*—a collection of 235 photographs mostly of Hungarian Jews taken at Auschwitz in 1944—as requested by the museum's designers following a decision to exhibit the album's photographs. The original album was then returned to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

During his visit, President Katsav met with President Madl, and raised the issue of trying to locate lists containing the names of Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust period. These lists, compiled by the Hungarian government prior to the Jews' ghettoization, represent the only chance for discovering the names of most of Hungarian Jewry killed during the Holocaust, since no lists were made during transports. Finding them is a crucial step in Yad Vashem's efforts to gather all *Shoah* victims' names. A government-appointed committee to investigate the matter had concluded in March that most of the lists had been destroyed during the war and the subsequent period of communist rule, and only



Avner Shalev (right) and President Moshe Katsav present the *Auschwitz Album* at the opening ceremony of the new Holocaust Museum and Documentation Center in Budapest

painstaking research might lead to the few that did survive.

In light of President Katsav's request, Prime Minister Medgyessy proposed establishing a joint commission with Yad Vashem, which would seek to uncover the lists. In a subsequent letter, Avner Shalev commended the Hungarian Prime Minister and offered "all the necessary assistance to promote this effort." He proposed that experts from other institutions be included in the commission, and noted: "Over the last decades, Yad Vashem has been involved in such projects in other countries and we know that meticulous research may yield results."

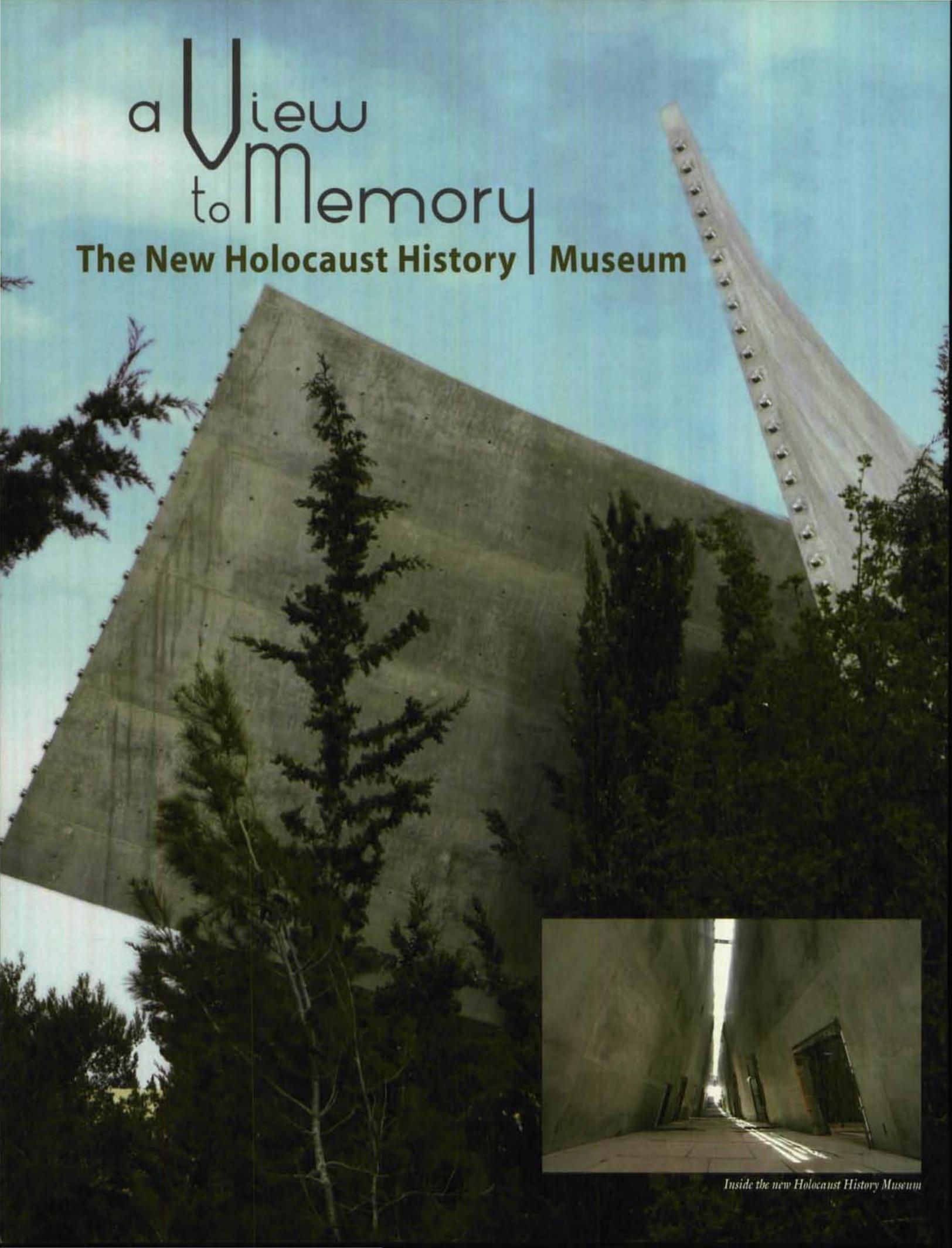
Romania declares Holocaust Remembrance Day

by Yifat Bachrach

In consultation with Yad Vashem and the International Historical Commission of Enquiry into the murder of Romanian Jewry, Romania has declared 9 October as its national Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The date chosen commemorates the 1941 deportation of 21,000 Jews from Bukovina and Bessarabia to their deaths, under the sponsorship of the Romanian Fascist leader Ion Antonescu. In September, Yad Vashem will hold a working meeting of the Commission of Enquiry, which will summarize its work since its inception in October 2003. Headed by Professor Elie Wiesel, the Commission is expected to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Romanian president in November.

a View
to Memory
The New Holocaust History | Museum



Inside the new Holocaust History Museum

When planning the architectural design of the new Holocaust History Museum building, world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie was faced with considerable challenges outlined in Yad Vashem's development program: to design a museum structure that would combine the Holocaust's historical narrative with an appropriate and effective experience for the thousands of individuals who visit Yad Vashem daily; to make the museum an integral part of the visitors' route through the campus; to design the Hall of Names as an essential component of the museum; and to maintain the character of the surrounding natural landscape, as well as the prominence of the Hall of Remembrance—the focus of commemoration at Yad Vashem since its early years.

In response to these considerations, Safdie developed a concept of an underground scheme. The design consists of a prism-like triangular structure that penetrates the mountain from one side to the other, with both ends dramatically cantilevering into the open air. The visitor enters the museum via a bridge from the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations. Once inside, a series of diagonal channels cut into the floor of the prism—introduced by the museum's exhibit designer Dorit Harel, of Dorit Harel Design Inc.—guides the visitor through each of the eight-meter high underground galleries flanking the prism depicting different chapters of the *Shoah*. All the while, both ends of the museum remain visible, thus maintaining the linear character of the events.

"The triangular form of the structure was chosen to support the pressure of the earth above the prism while bringing in daylight from above through a 200 meter-long glass skylight," explains Safdie. "The museum's planners requested that it not be immersed in darkness. The skylight allows gleams of daylight to contrast with darker areas required for multimedia presentations." Within the galleries, light enters through localized skylights varying from diffused to clear glass, depending on the requirements of each exhibit.

At the end of the historical narrative is the Hall of Names, which serves as a repository for the Pages of Testimony of millions of Holocaust victims, a memorial to those who perished, and—in a separate room—a place where visitors can conduct computerized searches of the *Shoah* Victims' Names Database. The main Hall is composed of two cones: one extending ten meters skywards, echoed by a reciprocal well-like cone excavated into the natural bedrock, its base filled with water. Visitors enter the Hall in the mid-level circular space—nine meters high and eleven meters in diameter—between the two cones onto an elevated ring-shaped platform. From here they are able to view the upper cone, where a display, designed by Dorit Harel, features some 600 photographs of Holocaust victims and fragments of Pages of Testimony; this is reflected in the water at the bottom of the lower cone, commemorating those victims whose names remain unknown. Surrounding the platform is the circular repository, housing the Pages of Testimony collected so far, with empty spaces for those yet to be submitted—room for six million Pages in total.

The entire structure of the museum—floors, walls, interior and exterior—is reinforced concrete. No other finishes, insulation or any other cladding were added to the basic concrete shell. Throughout the prism, the triangular cross-section varies, narrowing at the center. The warped surface formed by this variation, amplified by a gently sloping floor, creates a changing sequence of spaces and gives the illusion of descending deep into the mountain. As the route nears its northern exit, the floor begins to ascend and the triangle opens up again, with the exit bursting forth from the mountain's slope to a dramatic view of modern-day Jerusalem.

The new Museum is scheduled to open in March 2005.



The new Hall of Names

Ring of Courage

by Leah Goldstein

One of the exceptional artifacts to be displayed in the new Holocaust History Museum, due to open in March 2005, is an extraordinary ring. One of a pair, the ring was used by Jewish and Polish resistance fighters in Warsaw to identify each other during clandestine operations against the Nazis during WWII.

Members of the Zionist youth group *Beitar* established the Jewish militia organization—ZZW—even before the Warsaw ghetto was built. They were relatively well equipped and trained, and after the Nazi invasion, they established contact with the Polish underground, *Armia Krajowa* (AK), which assisted them from outside the ghetto walls. Contact people were chosen for their “Aryan” looks and fluency in Polish and, using frequently changing pre-arranged passwords, the two groups smuggled people, arms and information in and out of the ghetto.

An additional means of identification—used in particular during meetings of higher-level officers—were two identical gold rings set with a red stone and engraved with Jewish symbols, which they were required to explain each time they met. A star on the red stone represented the biblical passage “there shall step forth a star out of Jacob” (Numbers 24:17); and the number seven in the center of the star symbolized the seven branches of the Temple’s *Menorah* (candelabrum). The lamb and lion depicted on the inside of the ring represented the Jewish victims and the courage of Judah respectively, and on either side of the ring, fruit, flowers and plants signified the belief that the Jewish people would flourish and be fruitful once again.

The ring in the possession of the Jewish underground fighters was lost in the ghetto ruins. Its twin remained in the hands of Henryk Iwanski, leader of the Polish underground. In 1962, Chaim and Chaya Lazar, former partisans in the Vilna forests, traveled to Poland to conduct research on the ZZW. They located Iwanski, who told them of the existence of the ring, but could not bring himself to part with it. Four years later, Henryk and his wife Wiktoria were recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. In April 1978, Chaim returned to Warsaw for the opening of the Jewish pavilion in the Auschwitz Museum. During his stay, he visited Iwanski, who had become seriously ill: “On the shelf above his bed lay the famous ring,” Lazar recalled. “I took it, played with it and then returned it to its place. All the time I was thinking: ‘How can I persuade him to display it in Israel?’” Two days later he returned, and to his great surprise, Iwanski gave him the ring. “I put the ring on my finger and my heart was completely flooded with joy,” Lazar said. Soon after, Iwanski passed away.

After Chaim died in 1997, Chaya requested the original ring be displayed in Yad Vashem. Following her death last year, the ring was permanently loaned to Yad Vashem’s museum collection a few days before Holocaust Remembrance Day, in memory of Chaya and Chaim Lazar *z”l*. It will be displayed in the new Holocaust History Museum, so that the incredible story of courage, concealed for so many years, may be told once again.



Rouge for Life

by Haviva Peled-Carmeli

A few months ago, the Association of Immigrants from Krakow donated a collection of artifacts and drawings to Yad Vashem. Among the different items was a small slip of oily paper containing a reddish substance—rouge. On a label accompanying the rouge were the following words: “Rouge kept hidden, used before every *selektion*.” This precious artifact is extremely significant: it substantiates survivor testimonies of how women and men in death camps used different methods to look healthier during *selektions*, so that they would be chosen for work, not extermination. These included shaving, standing tall and broad, and using powder and even their own blood to redden their cheeks.

Anyone with artifacts that attest to the experiences of Jews during the *Shoah* is requested to call the Museums’ Collections Department on 972-2-644-3598.

The author is Director of Artifact Retrieval in the Museums Division

**Yitzhak Arad, History of the Holocaust:
 The Soviet Union and the Annexed Areas**

Yad Vashem, 2004, Vol. I – 68 pp., Vol. II – 524 pp.



INVASION AND ANNIHILATION

by Leah Goldstein

The latest volume in the critical series *The History of the Holocaust* covers, for the first time, the fate of the Jews under Nazi occupation in the Soviet Union and the Annexed Areas (including the Baltic States, Bessarabia and North Bukovina, West Belorussia and West Ukraine). An essential breakthrough in research on this topic occurred with the opening of the Soviet archives at the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s. In addition, many survivor testimonies have been collected from Russian immigrants to Israel over the past decade. The result is a two-volume work by former Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Dr. Yitzhak Arad, emphasizing the unique aspects of the implementation of the ‘Final Solution of the Jewish Question’ in these areas.

Soviet Jews were the first in Europe to be annihilated. Unlike in other Nazi-occupied countries, where the Jewish population was persecuted in a number of different stages—such as wearing a yellow badge, ghettoization and forced labor—before being taken to extermination camps, here, execution was carried out immediately following the German occupation. In most cases, victims were killed close to their homes. The majority of Jews were shot; in certain places they were gassed in vans or suffocated in abandoned mines. In this way, the Germans exterminated the Jews of Kiev, Kharkov and many other cities. In a few places (such as Vilna, Minsk and Lvov), all the stages were interconnected

and implemented simultaneously.

This kind of mass murder required the active and direct participation of thousands of Germans, members of the *Einsatzgruppen* and German Order police units, along with tens of thousands of local collaborators—particularly in the Baltic States and the Ukraine. In the occupied territories of the Soviet Union, the German army and the military administration collaborated with the *Einsatzgruppen* in their murderous actions.

The murders were conducted in the open, with the local residents well aware that their Jewish neighbors were not being sent to work “somewhere in the East” but being taken for immediate execution. Influenced by generations’-long antisemitic sentiment as well

significantly contributed to the highest Jewish death rate in German-occupied Europe: about 96% of the local Jewish population was wiped out.

The Jews’ reaction to the extermination policies was characterized by a prominent element of armed resistance. The phenomenon of clandestine organizations—and particularly the scale of escape to the forests and partisan warfare—was unparalleled in the rest of Europe.

Alongside the immense number of deaths, the Holocaust in the Soviet Union also resulted in the total destruction of the *shtetl*—that for centuries had embodied the Jews’ unique way of life in Eastern Europe—and of Jewish agricultural settlements (*kolkhozes*) with tens of thousands of Jewish peasants, particularly



Jews digging their own graves before being executed by the Einsatzgruppen, USSR, 1941

as Nazi German propaganda claiming their war was not with the Russian people or the other nations of the Soviet Union, but against the ‘Judeo-Bolsheviks’, many locals eagerly offered their assistance to the Nazi persecutors. In addition, the measures employed by the Germans for any infringements of Nazi edicts—including aiding and abetting the Jews—were extremely cruel. In spite of this terrifying atmosphere, a few gentiles risked their lives to help the Jews. Yet the apathy of the vast majority of the local population, and the cooperation of many of them with the Nazis,

in the Ukraine and Crimea.

Despite the relief of victory over Germany in 1944, Holocaust survivors in these lands did not resume a calm and quiet life. In addition to the objective difficulties faced by all Soviet citizens at that time, Jews also encountered persistent antisemitism from the local populace and the government establishment, which continued to thwart their attempts at rehabilitation for many decades to come.

The publication, supported by the Claims Conference and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, is currently being translated into English.



“Hear O Israel” — International Cantorial Concert

In the presence of Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and a 2,000-strong audience, an International Cantorial Concert was held on 9 June in the Warsaw Ghetto Square, as part of Yad Vashem’s Jubilee events. During the concert, the works of the greatest Jewish composers and cantors—some of whom perished in the Holocaust—were performed for the first time by the world’s leading cantors: Shimon Farkas, Yitzhak Meir Helfgot, Ben Zion Miller, Ya’akov Motzen and Israel Rand. They were accompanied by the Yuval Cantorial Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Mordechai Sobol.

News from the Research Institute By Elliot Nidam Orvieto

International Conference on Holocaust Research

Marking the 50th Anniversary of Yad Vashem, the International Institute for Holocaust Research will convene an international conference entitled: “Holocaust Research in Context: The Emergence of Research Centers and Approaches” on 21-24 November 2004.

Holocaust research now stands at a crossroads. The time has come to examine the emergence and development of Holocaust research since the end of the war as well as the prospective directions it will take in the future. Participants will examine a variety of topics, including: who promoted Holocaust research and why it was so important; how the scholarly world accepted this topic into its realm of work; the influence of changing public interest on directions and modes of research; the differences between perpetrators’ and victims’ perspectives; and the role of survivors in Holocaust studies.

Professor Christopher Browning will participate in a special session marking the publication of his book, *The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evaluation of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942* (Yad Vashem, in association with the University of Nebraska Press). Keynote speaker Professor Gerhard Weinberg (Emeritus, University of North Carolina) will address delegates on: “Two Separate Issues? Historiography of World War II and The Holocaust.” The conference is generously supported by the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences.

Research Workshop in Austria

A group of young Israeli scholars led by Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Professor David Bankier, and Chief Historian of Yad Vashem Professor Dan Michman, flew to Austria in May

for a six-day workshop with Austrian researchers affiliated with the Universities of Vienna and Salzburg. During their stay, the researchers joined other European groups visiting the site of Mauthausen concentration camp on the anniversary of its liberation. The event raised many perplexing questions regarding identity, memory, and commemoration for the remainder of the workshop seminars.

First Fulbright – Yad Vashem Grant: Research on Arab Holocaust Denial

Ph.D. candidate Esther Webman was recently awarded the first Fulbright – Yad Vashem Research Grant. A research associate at the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University, Ms. Webman is writing her doctoral dissertation on: “The Representation of the Holocaust in the Egyptian Public Discourse, 1945-1962.”

Esther emigrated from Egypt with her family as a young child after the 1952 revolution. Overcoming the challenges of a new society and culture, she excelled academically, developing an interest in antisemitism and Holocaust denial in the Arab world. She has participated in several conferences and delivered papers on the topic, and was invited to appear at a special forum in the Knesset on Arab antisemitism. In May 2003, she joined the group of Israeli Arabs and Jews who visited Auschwitz assisted by Yad Vashem’s International School of Holocaust Studies.

This grant will help her complete her dissertation as a research fellow in the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University.

The author is Academic Assistant to the Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research

Saluting Their Sacrifice

by Yifat Bachrach

“If those people had become a band of bandits, thieves and murderers, then perhaps they would have also been the most humane and the most righteous in the world...”

Abba Kovner

Arriving on the eve of Israel's War of Independence, many Holocaust survivors gave the Jewish State the most precious gift of all—their lives. Of those who died, 275 were the last surviving member of their families.

On 22 April, a ceremony was held at Mt. Herzl dedicating a monument in their memory. Established in conjunction with the Ministry of Defense, the “Monument of the Last Survivor” commemorates the ultimate sacrifice of those survivors who have no remaining family to visit their graves. Participating in the ceremony were Minister of Defense Shaul Mofaz, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, head of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division Avraham Duvdevani, and Yehuda Sternfeld, a Holocaust survivor and initiator of the monument.



Dedication ceremony of the “Monument of the Last Survivor”

Documenting Survivors' Contributions to Israeli Society

Yad Vashem is currently undertaking a project to recognize all the contributions of Holocaust survivors to the State of Israel. Despite the immense tragedy and loss they suffered, many survivors acclimatized successfully into Israeli society, contributing their skills and knowledge in the spheres of science, culture, industry, agriculture, the military, politics, law and academia.

The Yad Vashem Archives' staff is currently collecting artifacts, photos, diaries, journals, newspapers and other relevant documents from private homes, regional libraries and independent archives nationwide. The material will then be restored, preserved and recorded for posterity. Professor Chana Yablonka will then conduct comprehensive research into this remarkable topic at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Studies.

Grateful to Meet Again

by Katya Gusarov

In an exceptionally moving ceremony held at Yad Vashem on 4 April, Aysha Kanapatski and her late mother Fatima were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Just three days earlier, Aysha had been reunited with Rachel Shmailovich (née Davidsohn), who was hidden with her family by the Kanapatskis during the Holocaust.



Aysha Kanapatski (left) and Rachel Shmailovich

The story began after the German invasion of Minsk in June 1941, when an unexpected guest arrived at the home of Fatima Kanapatski, a widow, and her 16-year-old daughter Aysha. Israel Davidsohn, the husband of Fatima's good friend Fruma, had been injured in the leg while escaping from the labor camp in Drozdy. Despite the great personal danger, Fatima and Aysha treated his wounds and then helped him reunite with his family in the ghetto. Over the many months that followed, Fatima and Aysha helped the Davidsohn family by hiding them during *aktions* in the ghetto and giving them food. Rachel—who was 8-11 years old during this time—remembers how she secretly visited her father while he was hiding in the Kanapatski's home, returning with food to the ghetto. After two years, the family managed to flee to the forests and join a Jewish partisans' brigade.

After the war, the survivors returned to Minsk, where they continued their friendship with their rescuers, and helped support them financially. In 1958, the Davidsohns immigrated to Israel, and correspondence between the two families continued until 1967. Fatima passed away in 1985; shortly afterwards Aysha married and moved to another neighborhood. Despite great efforts made by Aysha and the Davidsohn family, contact was not reestablished; however, the hope of reunification never faded.

In 2003, a clipping from a Jewish newspaper published in Minsk was sent to Yad Vashem, detailing the rescue story. Rachel was soon located, thanks to the efficient help of Batya Unterschaltz (former Director of the Jewish Agency's Search Bureau for Missing Relatives). Through Yad Vashem's initiative and with Rachel's assistance, Aysha and Fatima were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations last December. Not long after, the two women were reunited in an emotional program organized and broadcast by the Israel Plus Russian-language television channel on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Three days later, when Aysha was officially presented with the medal and certificates honoring her and her mother as Righteous Among the Nations, she and Rachel thanked Yad Vashem for bringing them together again after nearly 50 years.

The author works in the Righteous Among the Nations Department, Russian Desk

Events April – June 2004

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day Some 14,000 people visited Yad Vashem and took part in the wide variety of Remembrance Day activities and events held across the site. Approximately 2,000 people attended the opening ceremony on 18 April, in the presence of President Moshe Katsav, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, government ministers, Knesset members, the



Diplomatic Corps, Righteous Among the Nations and Holocaust survivors. The next day, the President, Prime Minister and some 1,000

participants attended a wreath-laying ceremony. During the day, Holocaust victims' names were publicly recited in the Knesset and in the Hall of Remembrance.

9 May V.E. Day ceremony held in the plaza of the Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans, in the presence of Immigrant Absorption Minister Tzippi Livni, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Association of Disabled WWII Veterans Avraham Cohen, Chairman of the Israel War Veterans League Yevsei Paskover, diplomats, and over 1,000 veterans.

24 May Conference and memorial ceremony marking 60 years since the liberation of concentration camps and ghettos in the former Soviet Union, in the presence of Jerusalem, Society and Diaspora Affairs Minister Natan Sharansky and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Professor Szewach Weiss.

30 May Presentation of the *Lexicon of the Righteous Among the Nations – France* to French Ambassador Mr. Gérard Araud, in the presence of Avner Shalev, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Professor David Bankier, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Professor Israel Gutman, editor Dr. Lucien Lazar, researchers, Holocaust survivors and French Righteous Among the Nations Jean Francois Marty and his wife Violetta.

31 May International Institute for Holocaust Research scholarship award ceremony, in the presence of Yad Vashem's Chief Historian Professor Dan Michman, representatives of the donors, scholarship recipients and their families.

31 May "The Poetry of Ya'akov Barzilai"—memorial concert at the Diaspora Museum marking 60 years since the extermination of Hungarian Jewry—under the auspices of the Hungarian Embassy in Israel and in the presence of Hungarian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Dr. János Hóvári, Professor Szewach Weiss and hundreds of Holocaust survivors.

22 June Study evening marking the publication of *History of the Holocaust – Soviet Union and Annexed Territories*, in the presence of Avner Shalev, Professor David Bankier and author Dr. Yitzhak Arad.

30 June Presentation by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee-Israel of a bridal canopy used by Holocaust survivors in DP camps. The canopy will be exhibited in the gallery featuring DP camps in the new Holocaust History Museum.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



On 2 May, Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Yad Vashem (pictured right in the new Hall of Names with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev)



Participants in the international Mayors Conference gathered in the Valley of the Communities on 11 May



Minister President of Nordrhein-Westphalia Peer Steinbrück (center) toured the Historical Museum on 3 May



Chairman of the Board of Governors, European Jewish Congress Viatcheslav (Moshe) Kantor (front left) toured the International School for Holocaust Studies on 17 May, with School Director Dr. Motti Shalem (right), Avner Shalev (center) and Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda (back left)

Supporting Future Remembrance

Max and Gianna Glassman of Toronto recently announced their generous endowment of the "World Rebuilt" balcony overlooking Jerusalem at the exit of the new Holocaust History Museum.

The son of Polish immigrants, Max Glassman is a graduate of Toronto University's Medical School. During his career, Max has devoted himself to Jewish and Zionist causes, serving on the executive committees of major communal organizations including Bnei Brith, Beth Tzedek, State of Israel Bonds, Jewish Immigrants Aid Society and the Council of Christians and Jews. He has also been deeply involved in both the Jewish and general communities in Canada and in Israel. Gianna Glassman—a graduate of York University—has been a teacher in the Toronto school system for more than 20 years.

Yad Vashem deeply appreciates their continuous and vital support of its crucial work in Holocaust remembrance.



Max and Gianna Glassman with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (center)

W Friends WORLDWIDE

U.S.A.

Philanthropist and Holocaust survivor **Selma Gruder Horowitz** (right), and **Caroline Arfa Massel**, grandchild of Holocaust survivors and successful businesswoman (left), were each presented with the **American Society for Yad Vashem Achievement Award** at the Society's Fourth Annual Spring Luncheon. Guest speaker at the luncheon, held at The Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan, was eminent historian **Sir Martin Gilbert**.



National Vice Chairman of the **American Society for Yad Vashem** **Jack Pechter** and his wife **Marilyn**—Benefactors of Yad Vashem—hosted an event for the Society's Florida Chapter at their Boca Raton home. Guest speaker was former



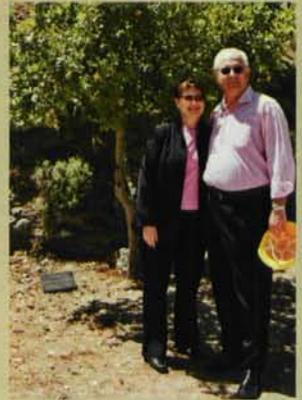
astronaut **Senator Bill Nelson** (right, with his hosts), who expressed great support for Israel and admiration for the achievements of Holocaust survivors.

Marcia (left) and **Yaacov Toledano** and their daughters **Keren** (second from left) and **Michal** (right) visited Yad Vashem (pictured near the Partisans' Panorama, built through the generosity of Marcia's parents **Julia** and **Isidore Karten** *z"l*).



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Joseph J. Bukiet** *z"l*, founding member and Vice Chairman of the **American Society for Yad Vashem**. A survivor of the *Shoah*, Joseph contributed greatly to Holocaust Remembrance.

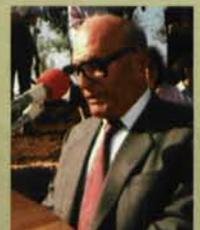
Jane and Alan Cornell of Florida toured Yad Vashem in May and visited the tree planted in honor of Righteous Among the Nations **Jan Sprey**, who saved Alan's parents, **Frida and Ernest Cornell** *z"l*—Builders of Yad Vashem's New Museum Complex—in the Netherlands.



At a special ceremony posthumously honoring **Milena Herbenova** as Righteous Among the Nations, Israel's Minister for Jerusalem, Society and Diaspora Affairs **Natan Sharansky** (left) presented the award to her son **Milan Herben** (right). Mrs. Herbenova saved the life of **Eva Novotna-Beerova** in

Prague during the *Shoah*, after Eva's father perished and her mother was sent to Auschwitz. The ceremony, organized by the **American Society for Yad Vashem**, took place at Temple Emanu-el in San Francisco, as part of the Holocaust Remembrance Day program.

Yad Vashem mourns the loss of a great friend and supporter **Avraham (Abe) Spiegel** *z"l*. Born in Mukachevo (now in the Ukraine), Abe married his childhood companion **Edita** (*z"l*) in 1940. In 1944 they were sent to Auschwitz together with their two-year-old son, **Uziel**, who perished. After the *Shoah*, Abe and Edita rebuilt their lives while treasuring in their hearts the memory of their dear son. Abe became a successful businessman, great philanthropist, steadfast supporter of Israel and Yad Vashem, and a leader in the Los Angeles Jewish Community. He also served as West Coast Chairman of the **American Society for Yad Vashem**. In 1987, the Spiegels dedicated the Children's Memorial—commemorating the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust—to Uziel's memory. The memorial testifies to the Spiegels' generosity as well as their commitment to commemorating the Holocaust and transmitting its legacy to future generations.



W Friends WORLDW

AUSTRALIA

Paul and Vivienne Zimmet (left and second from right), Andrew Gutwirth (center), and Ambassador (ret.) Raphael Gvir (right) of Jerusalem visited Yad Vashem (pictured in the Janusz Korczak Square together with Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda, second from left).



AUSTRALIA



Frank and Shirley Lowy of Sydney visited the Historical Museum together with their children and grandchildren.

UNITED KINGDOM

Dame Vivien Duffield (center), Chairperson of the Clore-Israel Foundation, visited Yad Vashem together with the Foundation's trustees Sir David Sieff and Caroline Deletra, and director Kay Weinberger (left). The group toured the "No Child's Play" exhibit and the site of the new Holocaust History Museum with Avner Shalev (right).



CANADA

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (left) presented the *Gurs Haggadah* to Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Hecht of Montreal during a recent visit to Yad Vashem.



In March, Linda and William Hechter of Toronto (below left in the Administration and Research Building) and Judy and Isaac Thau of Vancouver (right, by the temporary Donors' Wall) visited Yad Vashem. Carol and Howard Tanenbaum (below right and second from left) and their son and daughter-in-law Daniel and Kim Tanenbaum of Toronto, toured the Historical Museum.



IDE

BRAZIL



BRAZIL

Miriam and Henry Nekrycz (Ben Avraham) dedicated a garden at the entrance to the Administration and Research Building in memory of their parents, who perished in the Holocaust. The ceremony also marked the release of their Holocaust-period memoirs, published by Yad Vashem.

VENEZUELA

During their visit to Yad Vashem, Miguel Vaisman (right) and his wife Miriam Landau de Vaisman (front center) toured the Archives and



the site of the new Holocaust History Museum, and viewed the "No Childs Play" exhibit, accompanied by Shaya Ben Yehuda (left).

MEXICO



During their brief stay in Israel, a delegation of the Chamber of Commerce Mexico-Israel, led by Elias Massri (center, after presenting a gift to Shaya Ben Yehuda), made sure to include a visit to Yad Vashem.

GERMANY

GERMANY



Moniek Stawski of Frankfurt (back row, between Shaya Ben Yehuda, left, and Avner Shalev) visited Yad Vashem together with his daughter Naomi and son-in-law Andre Altholz and their children from Israel.

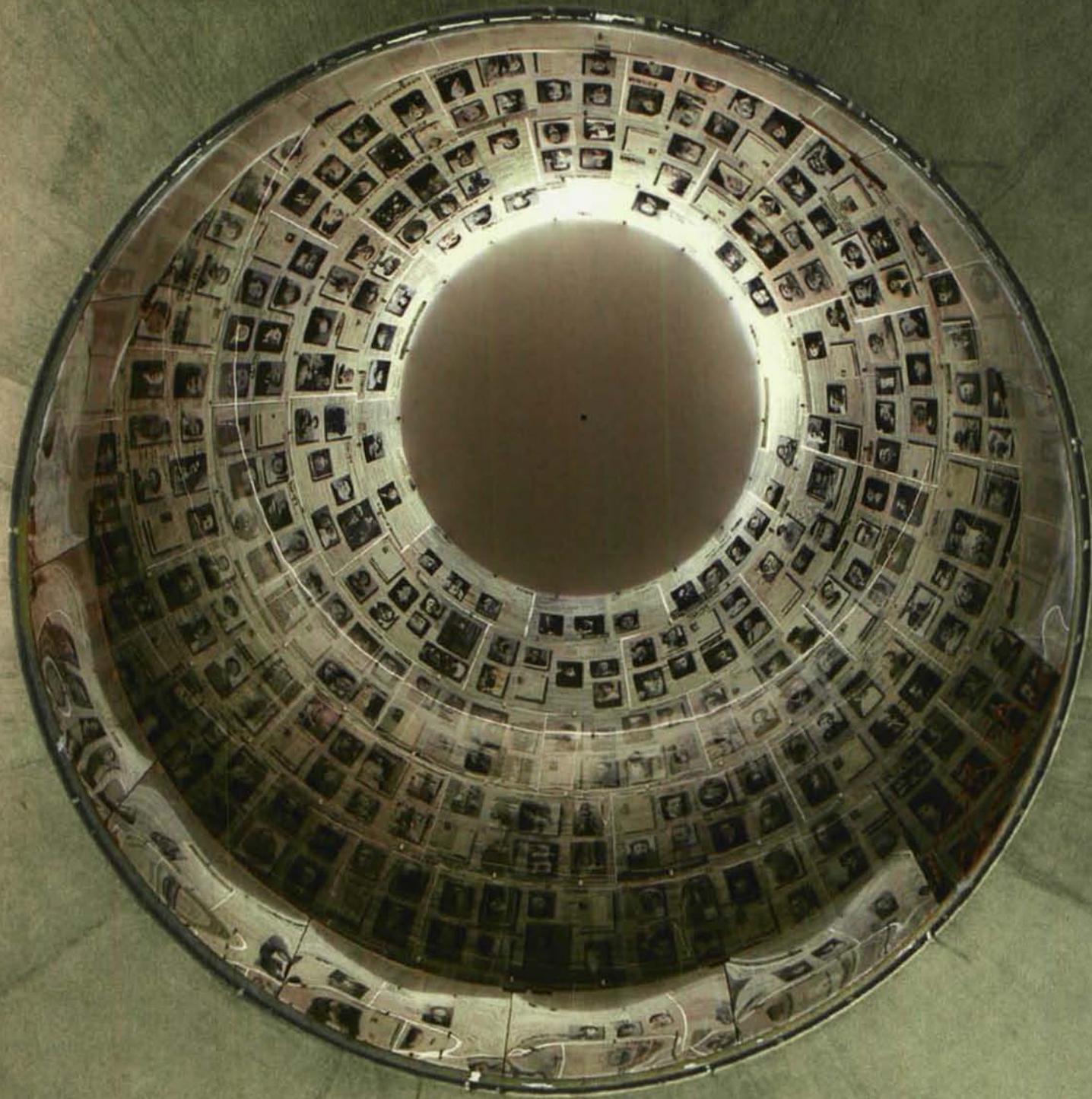
FRANCE

FRANCE

Maxi Librati (right), and Nicolas Roth, Treasurer of the Comité Français pour Yad Vashem, laid a wreath on behalf of the Comité on Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Leon and Lily Schidlow toured the New Museum Complex (left, in the new Hall of Names) and were given a preview of museum artifacts.



The New Hall of Names
(pp.10-11)