The New Museum: Thousands of Visitors a Day

"Etched Voices" New Exhibitions Pavilion Displays Contemporary Art

Inauguration of the New Synagogue Education

Focusing on Europe New Department Broadens the Scope of Holocaust Education on the Continent

Generation to Generation Historic Gathering of Survivors and their Families at Yad Vashem

The Names Database Collecting Names, Memorializing Lives

Their Silent Cries Hidden Child Survivors of the Holocaust

News Friends Worldwide

As Yad Vashem's Jubilee Year draws to a close, its redevelopment plan also nears completion. The new Museum—opened in March—continues to attract an unprecedented number of visitors (see “The New Museum: Thousands of Visitors a Day,” pp. 2-3), while in May, the Exhibitions Pavilion opened its doors, with a display of the finest contemporary art on the Holocaust (see “Etched Voices,” pp. 4-5). The new Synagogue, inaugurated in June, bears witness to the rich spiritual world of prewar European Jewry; its function as a place of worship and commemoration is testament to the indestructible Jewish faith (see “Inauguration of the New Synagogue,” pp. 6-7.)

The 60th anniversary of the end of WWII was especially poignant for the thousands of Holocaust survivors and their families who gathered at Yad Vashem on 8 May. Emotional commemorations, candid discussions, moving reunions and strong feelings of solidarity and affection permeated the atmosphere (see “Generation to Generation,” pp. 10-11). Yad Vashem, for its part, continues to search for effective ways to educate about the Shoah (see “Focusing on Europe,” p. 8), to remember and mourn its victims, and to keep its message relevant across the generational and cultural divide.

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by Vivian Uria

“There are no words… only those who were there know what it was to be there. And yet we are duty bound to try to tell, and not bury our memories in silence… We decided to tell the tale because we wanted the world to be a better world. And learn, and remember.”

Nobel Laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel, at the opening of the new Museum at Yad Vashem, March 2005

In the first three months since the new Holocaust History Museum and Museum of Holocaust Art opened to the public at the end of March, over 350,000 people have visited Yad Vashem. An average of 5,000 visitors tour the Museum every day—an increase of 100% from before the opening. There has also been a dramatic rise in the number of individuals touring the Museum, currently amounting to half of all visitors.

The development plan implemented at Yad Vashem over the last decade sought to meet the ever-increasing expectations and standards of quality service and exhibit presentation. Yad Vashem is now facing various challenges: to provide a meaningful experience for all visitors while maintaining suitable services and facilities.

The Visitors Center—inaugurated in September 2003—offers an information and orientation center, a bookstore and more. Here, staff members endeavor to provide efficient service, shorten waiting times, and smoothly coordinate the flow of visitors to the Museum. The level of background noise (including screened survivor testimonies) within the new Museum has also brought to light the need for an audio system to provide undisturbed visitor guidance. Efforts are therefore currently underway to provide such a service.

“Thank you for creating this wonderful tribute. Its sadness and hope mix beautifully to create a powerful symbol of my past, present and future.”

Prof. Avraham Nathan Kluger (Israel), from the visitors' book

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The New

Front Cover: Torah Ark—Radnitz, Romania, displayed in the new Synagogue

Back Cover: Torah Crowns—Warsaw, Poland, and the Balkans, displayed in the new Synagogue

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This image is a page from a magazine with multiple articles and sections. The main focus is on Yad Vashem, a museum associated with the Holocaust. The page contains an article discussing the new museum's opening and its impact on visitors. The text is a mix of narrative and reportage, highlighting the significance of the museum and its role in preserving and commemorating the Holocaust.
Established in advance of the Museum's opening, the new Reservations Center coordinates group visits, allowing the largest possible number of people to tour the Museum in an appropriate atmosphere. (Individuals are not currently required to coordinate their visits prior to arrival.) Currently external tour guides may lead public groups through the Museum, with prior permission from the Reservations Center. Educational groups—teachers, students and soldiers—are guided by staff members from the International School for Holocaust Studies.

The author is Director of the Visitors Center.

**Bearing Witness**

**To Bear Witness — Holocaust Remembrance at Yad Vashem,** edited by Bella Guterman and Avner Shalev, 2005, 350 pp., NIS 119

The new Museum Complex is designed to meet the changing needs of each generation and serve as a bridge between the world that was destroyed and the life that resumed.

The Editors, To Bear Witness—Holocaust Remembrance at Yad Vashem

One visit to the new Holocaust History Museum and the new Museum of Holocaust Art is insufficient to absorb the wealth of material displayed: documents, artifacts, photographs, maps, artworks and personal testimonies. To Bear Witness—Holocaust Remembrance at Yad Vashem allows visitors to take the momentous experience home with them and digest the immense store of impressions and information provided by the Museum.

The album offers an in-depth acquaintance with the Museum Complex, and may be read at various levels of interest. The reader can leaf through the hundreds of photographs—some of which are being published for the first time in the album—and glean concise information from the accompanying explanations. For those who wish to learn more, the comprehensive text presents the events leading up to and during the Holocaust, the national Jewish revival and the founding of the State of Israel, along with a description of the establishment of Yad Vashem and its various components.

The layout of the album follows the structure of the museum, chapter by chapter. A chronological description, alongside a thematic one, emphasizes the Jewish perspective—and particularly that of the individual—against a backdrop of the deeds of the murderers and the inaction of those who idly stood by. Special chapters are devoted to the acts of rescue carried out by the Righteous Among the Nations, along with rescue operations of Jews by other Jews and the heroic acts of the partisans, underground fighters and soldiers in the Allied armies.

The album has been published in Hebrew and English, and is currently being translated into French, German and Spanish. A Russian translation will follow.

The English edition was made possible through the generosity of Tobias and Rosalie Bernam (USA), and the Hebrew edition through the generosity of Zelig and Suzi Wengrowwsky (Mexico and Israel).

The writer is the Director and Senior Editor of Yad Vashem Publications.

www.yadvashem.org for an online guide to planning a visit to the new Museum.
"Etched voices"

New Exhibitions Pavilion

Leon Englicken (1919-1998)
Treblinka, 1967, Oil on canvas
Gift of the artist, Collection of the
Tad Varden Museum of Holocaust Art
Based on a thematic approach to the Shoah, the exhibition is divided into three central responses: trauma and outcry; memory and alienation in the context of Jewish and Israeli identity; and a basis for discussing the place of the Shoah in shaping history and culture. Although the exhibition clusters along thematic lines, the display also provides visitors with a chronological journey as these responses developed broadly over time.

The exhibition opens with the artwork of Mordechai Ardon. In this section the works express suffering, anger, rage, displacement—reflecting the reaction of artists, survivors and others of their generation, immediately after the Shoah. A central group in this section deals with the twisted human body as an expression of suffering.

The second section opens with a Yigal Tumarkin artwork from the mid-1960s, when he was regarded as the avant-garde Israeli artist relating to the Shoah. This section, concerning the shaping of memory, is divided into different layers of memory and consciousness, including the artist's attempt to experience the Holocaust through the individual, the collective experience of suffering and remembrance, and the relationship to both place and objects.

The third section opens with the artwork of Moshe Gershuni, who already in the 1980s gave expression to some of the issues characterizing the current debate in Israel regarding victims and perpetrators, Israeli and Jewish heritage, and the language of remembrance, symbolism, and identity. This section is comprised primarily, though not exclusively, of young artists concerned with questioning the existing iconography of the Shoah—examining the basic concepts of evil, victims, and perpetrators.

Yehudit Shendar is the Senior Art Curator in the Museums Division, and Sorin Heller is a Guest Curator of the "Etched Voices" Exhibit.

Displays Contemporary Art

by Yehudit Shendar and Sorin Heller

To accommodate the exceptional exhibitions Yad Vashem wishes to present to its many visitors, and to display much more of its extensive art and artifacts collections—including contemporary art—on a wide range of Holocaust-related subjects, Yad Vashem’s new Exhibitions Pavilion opened in May in the presence of Minister of Housing and Construction Isaac Herzog MK and donors Rochelle and Henryk Schwarz, and Tina and Steven Schwarz (USA). A major component of the new Museum Complex, the 700-sq. meter Pavilion enables Yad Vashem to mount major interdisciplinary exhibitions and display large-size art works, sculptures and installations.

Speaking at the inauguration, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev noted that Yad Vashem is currently grappling with the “central challenge of how to make remembrance of the Holocaust relevant to young people... In order to maintain our audience—which includes millions of young people—we must be dynamic. The Exhibitions Pavilion allows us to do that.”

The opening exhibition in the new Pavilion is “Etched Voices,” a unique collection of artworks presenting the evolving portrayal of the Holocaust since the end of WWII. The exhibition comprises 130 works from some 70 renowned Israeli and international artists representing a variety of artistic disciplines—painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, installation art and video art. These works portray an ongoing discourse on the Shoah in Israeli art through the years. From artists who experienced the Holocaust or lived during that period, to leading and avant-garde artists in Israel and abroad whose viewpoint offers a broader perspective, the exhibition provides a basis for a comprehensive philosophical discussion on the nature of art, its function in society and the connection between art and history.

Roy Strausberg (b. 1950)
Black Train with Chimneys II, 1997, Clay
Gift of the artist, Collection of the Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust Art
For millennia, synagogues have been central to Jewish life. Such was the faith of European Jewry, that even the smallest communities had not just one, but several synagogues—some as grand as temples, others more modest, built of wood or stone. The Nazis were fully aware of the symbolic importance of the synagogue and made a special point of targeting them for destruction. Many thousands of synagogues and study-houses were demolished by the Nazis during the Holocaust; on Kristallnacht alone more than one thousand synagogues were burned, often after being looted of their sacred ornaments.

There is no more fitting memorial to the destroyed places of worship of European Jewry than a synagogue in the heart of Yad Vashem. The Nazis demolished synagogues, entire Jewish communities and six million Jews, but never destroyed the Jewish faith. Inaugurated on 8 June in the presence of Minister of Housing and Construction Isaac Herzog MK and donors Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein (USA), the new Yad Vashem Synagogue—part of the new Museum Complex—offers a place for visitors to recite kaddish (the mourner’s prayer), to gather in silent prayer or join a traditional prayer service, or to hold memorial services for lost communities.

Designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie and the interior design firm Tamuz, the 210-sq. meter circular building fuses past with present, using traditional and modern concepts. Ritual artifacts rescued from destroyed places of worship adorn the Synagogue in commemoration of the glorious past of European Jewry. The artifacts are displayed in specially designed and illuminated niches around the Synagogue’s circular outer wall. They include three Torah Arks from Romania (one of the Arks was discovered being used as a clothes closet in a local Romanian’s home), as well as various other Judaica from other European countries. The main functioning Torah Ark’s facade is from Barlad, Romania. There is also the Torah Ark of the Apple Merchants Association Synagogue in Iasi, and the parochet (Torah Ark curtain) from Cluj. In addition, there are ritual articles from other countries, including stained-glass from the Dobris synagogue (Czechoslovakia)—now used as the municipality building; a Torah scroll wrapped in a coat, brought by survivors back from Transnistria to Czernowitz at the end of the war; a wall lamp from Przeworsk (Poland)—where the Jewish community and its synagogues were completely annihilated; and various synagogue ornaments found in non-Jewish homes.

The inauguration ceremony included the dedication of a Torah Scroll that survived the Holocaust. The Scroll was discovered in a barn in Wengrow, near Lublin (Poland), by a Polish farmer who gave it to an Israeli visitor during the Communist era. It was restored with the generous help of Allan and Sylvie Green (France).

The Arks displayed in the Synagogue were brought to Yad Vashem with the support of the late Prof. Nicolae Cajal, then President of the Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania, and with the full backing of the Romanian Government. In 1998, Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar and Senior Artifacts Curator Haviva Peled-Carmeli went to Romania to trace what remained of a once-thriving Jewish community. They journeyed across the country, visiting synagogues in Bucharest, Barlad, Radauti, Cluj, Timisoara, Iasi, Dorohoi and Constanta. There they found...
a wealth of Judaica and synagogue furnishings both in private homes and in synagogues hermetically sealed since the Holocaust.

Recalls Peled-Carmeli: “During a visit to Yad Vashem by the Prime Minister of Romania, accompanied by Prof. Caial, the Prime Minister asked us how we set about bringing personal artifacts to Israel. We explained the shipping process, and then made a request to come to Romania to search for ritual artifacts from destroyed communities.

“In all, we spent about 20 days traveling all over Romania and Transylvania. We found about 10 Torah Arks—or, more precisely, parts of Arks—which we pieced back together like a puzzle, as well as bimah (prayer lecterns) and other related objects. We submitted the entire list to the Prime Minister, who told his government: ‘We should permit them to take the Arks because here they will disintegrate; at Yad Vashem even a stuffed bear is treated like the Mona Lisa.’”

The remnants—discovered in various states of disrepair—arrived at Yad Vashem in November 1999. There, several of Israel’s most distinguished restorers—Dudu Shinhav, Eliyahu Matzkin, Alexandra Borushik and Varda Gross—labored to piece them back together. In keeping with Yad Vashem’s restoration policy, they endeavored not to add any new parts, since what is missing bears witness to the extent of destruction wrought upon the Jewish community. Where parts had to be added, they were painted a different color so their addition would be clear.

“The Yad Vashem Synagogue—a functioning place of worship—will serve as a memorial to the destroyed places of worship of European Jewry,” said Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. “It will be a testimonial to the faith, the rich spiritual world of European Jewry and the extraordinary will of the Jewish people to survive, to remember and to rebuild.”
Sixty years after the end of WWII, Europe is exploring its past, evaluating the present and preparing for the future. Growing interest in the Holocaust, the demand for curricula and pedagogical training, and the willingness to begin formal Holocaust education in schools has led to an urgent need for the establishment of an educational and training network on the subject throughout Europe.

In early March, a new department began operating in the International School for Holocaust Studies—the European Department. The purpose of the Department is to expand Holocaust education on the Continent, primarily in formal educational settings. Most of the Department’s activities are funded by generous contributions from the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), which has pledged support for these activities over the next 10 years.

Activities of the European Department will focus on two main spheres: training teachers in Holocaust education, and preparing curricular materials for teachers and pupils in countries throughout Europe.

**Teacher training: providing the tools**

The European Department’s activities seek to reinforce educational approaches already used successfully by the School in Israel and around the world. This primarily means teaching about the Holocaust in a systematic, age-appropriate and coherent manner. The courses run by the School abroad are thus designed not only to teach specific topics from a historical point of view, but also to expose teachers to pedagogic methods and teaching techniques borrowed from a variety of other disciplines such as history, religion, art and literature. They also provide educators with the tools they need to cope with issues that may prompt unexpected questions or uncertainty, such as: How were such horrific crimes allowed to happen? How was the human image protected? and What happened to faith during the Holocaust?

The training courses are designed according to a specific format based not on a one-time encounter, but rather initial meetings with the teachers in their own environment, a two-week seminar at Yad Vashem, and a follow-up seminar back in their native country. The courses are also geared to those working in memorial sites, museums and research institutions whose ongoing work involves educational activity.

**Curricula development: unique programs**

Aside from professional training, the Department develops curricular material for teachers and pupils abroad. Although the Holocaust is an event of worldwide significance, treatment of the topic—especially within the education system—almost always reflects the attitude and history of the country in which it is taught. Thus while some of the programs have a specific format based on a particular issue, while others are broader and include several lessons on different topics. In addition, comprehensive programs are in production, which will combine Holocaust education while focusing on various topics, such as an online lesson plan on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, and a general online course for teachers from Poland, slated for 2006.

This year the Department will also begin uploading courses for teachers overseas, and for the first time provide a distance-learning format similar to that already used by Israeli teachers. Yet despite technological advances and the growing use of the Internet, there is still a demand for more conventional teaching materials, such as workbooks and guides for teachers and pupils. As such, the Department continues to produce a wide range of curricular materials for teachers from abroad in their native language.

**Activities and seminars continent-wide**

Although relatively new, the Department has already conducted several training courses, including a seminar for directors of memorial sites and heads of local authorities (where the memorial sites are located) in Hungary. The first seminar of its kind, it advanced the relationship between designing memorial and remembrance sites and Holocaust education, both locally and nationally. The Department also organized a seminar for Russian teachers, who visited Yad Vashem for the first time and learned innovative teaching methods. A course was also held for Austrian teachers and police officers at the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp.

Throughout 2005 there will be seminars for teachers from other countries, including Belgium, England, Lithuania, Romania, Germany, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia, the Ukraine and Greece.

The author is Head of the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.
Echoes and Reflections

New Ten-Lesson Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust for North America
by Richelle Budd-Caplan

Educational experts have long realized that first-person testimony is a unique and effective way for studying the past. This fall, "Echoes and Reflections"—a new curriculum highlighting the visual testimonies of 25 Holocaust survivors and other witnesses—will be initiated in schools in North America. The comprehensive ten-lesson program is the fruit of a unique partnership between Yad Vashem, the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and includes innovative strategies to foster anti-bias education. Combined with rare archival materials, it will provide an engaging educational experience for junior and senior high school students across the United States.

The curriculum combines the pedagogical experience of all three organizations, incorporating the historical expertise and vast archival holdings of Yad Vashem, the national outreach network of the Anti-Defamation League, and the unmatched visual history resources of the Shoah Foundation. This multi-layered multimedia course—already field-tested in four cities—focuses on the history of the Holocaust within the context of contemporary issues such as cultural diversity, intolerance and genocide.

The combined resources of the three partner organizations—each leader in different aspects of Holocaust and anti-bias education—will expand the potential impact and reach of this unprecedented program, explains Pedagogical Director of Yad Vashem’s International School of Holocaust Studies Shulamit Imber. She describes the program as “a vital addition to the tools available to teachers and students in Holocaust education, as well as its relationship to society.”

Businessman and hi-tech entrepreneur Yossi Hollander is supporting the development of “Echoes and Reflections,” launched this month in Los Angeles in the presence of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, ADL National Director Abe Foxman, and President and CEO of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation Douglas Greenberg.

The author is Project Manager of “Echoes and Reflections” and Head of International Relations at the International School of Holocaust Studies.

Guides for the March of the Living
by Dr. Doron Avraham

In early May, the annual March of the Living—for years an inseparable part of Holocaust Remembrance Day events—took place in Poland. This year, the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII, an unprecedented number of people (about 18,000 from around the world) participated in the March, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

In preparation for the March, the International School for Holocaust Studies’ European Department produced all the educational material that accompanied the event. The series of study units—tailor-made for both participants and guides—enabled them to orient themselves at the sites visited and understand their history. The series included a general background on the Holocaust in Europe, chronologically and geographically, as well as a unit dealing specifically with Poland, including a survey of its prewar large Jewish communities and their fate during the Holocaust. The material was produced in seven languages—English, French, German, Polish, Hungarian, Spanish and Russian—and was designed specifically for the requirements of the various participants in the March this year.

For the first time ever, the School also trained dozens of guides in five languages to lead the participants. “Training the guides is a critical factor for the success of the educational element of the trip to Poland,” noted School Director Dr. Motti Shalev.

Four thousand participants concluded the March of the Living with educational activities at Yad Vashem, where the story of the Holocaust was connected to the “Return to Life” of Holocaust survivors and the establishment of the State of Israel.

The author is Head of the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Events at the International School for Holocaust Studies
April – June 2005

A symposium on the eve of Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day was held on “Repercussions of Identity—Personal and Collective Memory.” The event, moderated by Emanuel Halperin and broadcast live on national radio, featured representatives from a variety of fields, and was held in the presence of a diverse audience including many teenagers. The next day, the School hosted over 2,000 young people from around the country in a variety of workshops, activities and tours of the new Museum Complex. Other Remembrance Day events included “Musica—Young People Make a Connection with the Holocaust” with the participation of some 500 youth, educators and survivors; an encounter project involving the Ohn School (for pupils with cerebral palsy) and Shenkar College; and a joint project with Ascola-Meimad College. The creative works from these projects, based on this year’s theme, “The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life,” were exhibited in the School.

In May, the new multimedia Learning Center (“Reflections After the Holocaust”) was inaugurated as part of the new Museum Complex (see p. 14). Also during May, over 2,500 senior Air Force soldiers and officers participated in several study days, with lectures and testimonials from Holocaust survivors. In addition, Witnesses in Uniform study days and preparatory activities were held for IDF delegations traveling to Poland. Over 1,600 March of the Living participants visited Yad Vashem, and the summer wave of birthright Israel got underway, with several thousand students from around the world touring the new Museum.

During April-June, the School held study days for heads of education departments, inspectors, school principals and literature teachers. In addition, dozens of preschool and student teachers from around the country attended training sessions. There were also training courses for educators from abroad, including teachers from Belgium, France, Hungary, Austria, Romania and Great Britain. The international summer seminar was held at the end of June.
After the panel discussion I found the tent where survivors were gathering according to their birthplace. An elderly lady approached the Italian table. When she heard my name she told me—while wiping away her tears—that she was in the same barracks as my mother in Bergen-Belsen. If I had come to this gathering just for that moment alone, it would have been worth it.”

So wrote Shoshana Evron from Kibbutz Sa’ad, born in Italy and hidden in a monastery in Florence during the war. (Shoshana’s mother, Chana Cassuto, survived Auschwitz but was killed during Israel’s War of Independence.) This is just one example of the emotions experienced by the thousands of survivors and their families who participated in the “Generation to Generation” Gathering at Yad Vashem on 8 May.

The Gathering was held in conjunction with the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel and assisted by the Claims Conference. Some 11,550 people from Israel and abroad attended this unique event, including 9,500 Holocaust survivors and their families, as well as 2,000 Israeli pupils, youth and soldiers. Yad Vashem was closed to the public, with staff on site to welcome and escort the survivors and answer their questions.
The Gathering was highlighted by 16 educational panel discussions entitled, "The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life." Moderated by members of the second generation, discussion participants included ghetto and camp survivors, former hidden children, partisans, underground fighters, Righteous Among the Nations and others. These educational activities took place throughout the campus, in front of an audience of survivors and their families, school pupils, young people, soldiers and officers. After the Gathering, the Ministry of Education's Youth and Social Administration wrote: "The students and the student council representatives returned to their schools moved and enthusiastic, filled with stories and pictures, and extremely grateful for their experiences on that day."

In a large tent specially erected in Warsaw Ghetto Square, spontaneous meetings between survivors from various towns, camps and ghettos took place. Participants filled out Pages of Testimony in memory of lost family and friends, and donated photographs, artifacts and archival material to Yad Vashem. In addition, private individuals presented diaries, and books published by Yad Vashem and Moreshet were on display. A bulletin board was set up to find relatives and acquaintances. Throughout the day memorial services were conducted in the Hall of Remembrance, as well as meetings of landesmannshaft organizations.

At 11 a.m., the entrance plaza filled with over 1,000 people for the dedication ceremony of the Wall in Tribute to the Survivors, devoted to Holocaust survivors who have carried the memory of the Shoah with them throughout their lives. Participating in the ceremony were donors Gale and Ira Drukier (USA), Natan Sharansky, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski.

Throughout the day, participants toured the new Holocaust History Museum for the first time. "I recreated my journey and retraced my footsteps," wrote Penina Gurwitz in the visitors' book. Mark Dekelbaum recorded: "Yad Vashem is doing wonderful work in keeping the story of the Holocaust alive and relevant. Thank you."

In the afternoon several discussions were held on the topic, "The Image of Holocaust Survivors in the Works of Second Generation Artists." An evening of "Songs from my Father's Home" was held later on in the Valley of the Communities, moderated by Benny Hendel, with the participation of Dorit Reuveni, Orah Zitner, Cantor Asher Heinowitz, and hundreds of conference participants from abroad.

In the weeks leading up to the Gathering, interest was so high that registration had to be limited. Additional dates to host other Holocaust survivors were set, and another 540 participants attended Yad Vashem on two separate occasions, at the end of May and the end of June.

The author is Director of the Commemoration and Public Relations Division.
When the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names was uploaded onto the Internet in November last year, Yad Vashem announced an International 11th Hour Campaign to gather as many additional names as possible, “before the generation that best remembers them is no longer with us.” A call on individuals, families and communities worldwide went out to help in this “race against time.” The response has been astonishing: in the first six months since the upload of the Names Database, over five million visits to the site have been recorded, with some 87.5 million pages viewed. People from 186 countries all over the world have visited the site including, most recently, the Solomon and Seychelles Islands, and Yemen.

In the United States, two particular names-gathering projects have made a tremendous impact on the collection effort, as well as on their own communities. Beginning with broad newspaper and radio coverage of the names equally positive, one of them calling the experience “powerful—a huge success.”

A different kind of model was employed by Shir Ha-Ma’alot, a URJ (Reform) synagogue in Irvine, California. The community of 550 member families initiated a grassroots project that yielded 150 previously unregistered names. The project was inspired by congregation member Yossie Hollander, the son of Holocaust survivors. A philanthropist and hi-tech entrepreneur, Hollander has played a vital part in uploading the Names Database to the Yad Vashem website. From the beginning of January until 5 May (Holocaust Remembrance Day), the synagogue’s Rabbi Richard Steinberg, its administrator Pat Cantor and two congregants who volunteered to coordinate the campaign (Wendy Hirsch Gary and Toni Rios) implemented a number of promotional measures, including weekly sermons and announcements on the topic; printed material, video displays and question-and-answer sessions; a weekly online news bulletin with links to the website and contact information; a phone outreach campaign; and a direct e-mail appeal from the Rabbi to all the congregants prior to Holocaust Remembrance Day calling for the urgent submission of names. All the materials used were provided by Yad Vashem or created by the congregation.

The project stimulated discussion about the subject with families and friends of all ages, a Bar-Mitzvah girl dedicating her sermon to the Names Project, a feature in a local newspaper, and the creation of a Memorial Board, displaying the names collected inscribed on six pieces of stained glass (representing the six million victims) created by congregation and artist Linda Wisecup.

Said Rabbi Steinberg: “The Names Project became a sacred obligation of our congregation. When we read the names before Kaddish at our Remembrance Day Memorial Service—these names that had never been read before or even remembered before that moment—we were moved beyond words that we had participated in the recovery of Jewish history. Our little shul celebrated and memorialized lives that would have otherwise been lost forever. The only way for us to be fully Jewish in the future is for us to actively recover and remember the past.”

The Names Database
Collecting Names, Memorializing Lives

A free resource pack for individuals/organizations who would like to initiate a grassroots campaign will soon be available. Please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il

The author is Marketing Manager for the Online Names Database.
Our daily existence was tied to two components: giving up our Jewish identity and silence... Silence became deeply ingrained in all hidden children.”

*Nechama Tec, a hidden child survivor*

From the Nazi perspective, Jewish children were useless as slave laborers, yet represented a threat of Jewish continuity. The fate of some 1.5 million Jewish children under Nazi rule, therefore, was automatic death. Yet miraculously, some children managed to defeat their foes by going into hiding: either under assumed identities with non-Jewish caretakers, or with their parents, in camps, ghettos, and forests. For the entire period, these children were forced to remain silent, either to conceal themselves, or at least to keep quiet. I understood that I had been lucky.

Long after their liberation, however, silence continued to dominate the emotional and cognitive world of child survivors, a phenomenon that psychiatrist and child survivor Robert Krell calls “secondary silencing.” In new research featured in the upcoming *Yad Vashem Studies* (Vol. 33), Sharon Kangisser Cohen, adjunct professor in the School of History at the University of New South Wales, interviews child survivors of the Holocaust about their experiences, and asks why—for most of their adult lives—they remained silent about their pasts. Kangisser Cohen concludes that the silence of hidden child survivors in their postwar environment is based on four main issues: learned silence, a hierarchy of suffering, a conspiracy of silence, and elected silence.

During the war, to hide their Jewish identity, children learned silence as a survival technique, a behavior difficult to unlearn even in the postwar environment. More significantly, many of them felt that after the war their experiences did not merit an audience because of the hierarchy of suffering, which validated—to a greater or lesser degree—the traumatic nature of different types of experience. The hidden children were not usually perceived as Holocaust “survivors,” and so they ceased to identify themselves as such.

Ariala was six years old when the war broke out, and went into hiding, alone. After returning home following liberation, she found that adult survivors, including her own father, were not willing to listen to her experiences during the war: “I wanted to speak with my father about it, to tell him that even if I had not been in the camps, I was beaten and that it had been difficult for me too,” she explains. “But my father said: ‘Keep quiet, you could have been like Elianne [Ariala’s cousin]. You also could have been in a camp, in a crematorium and everything.’ Therefore, I kept quiet. I understood that I had been lucky.”

For those children who immigrated to Israel after the war, a further challenge awaited them. Collective memory of the Holocaust in Israel dictated that certain narratives of survival were heard, while others were silenced. Ruth, a child survivor who spent the war years in hiding with her family, recalls: “I didn’t feel that I was a… ‘survivor.’ I always thought that a survivor was somebody who had been in Auschwitz. I didn’t consider myself a survivor of the Holocaust.” Consequently, their stories were notably absent from public discourse. Particularly powerful in this conspiracy of silence were the many well-meaning adults who felt that by “forgetting” the past, the children in their care would adjust more easily to their new lives.

Indeed, some child survivors themselves welcomed silence as it enabled them to become part of the “normal world” and pour their energies into rebuilding a new life. Thus, they themselves elected silence, in order to aid their own absorption and integration. Ehud, a hidden child survivor, explains that the hidden children “had the need to deny, to forget what once was, and to become a new person, in a new period.”

Kangisser Cohen concludes that for most hidden child survivors of the Holocaust, their identity as survivors and their relationships to their pasts were largely constructed in response to the values, judgments, and guidance of their postwar environment. As the prevalent response of both the adult survivor community and the adult community at large was not to recognize, validate, or legitimize their suffering, it would take the majority of hidden children more than half a century to give voice to their traumatic past, and for them to identify publicly as Holocaust survivors.
Names Database Part of Berlin Memorial

Responding to a request from the founders of Berlin’s new Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe, Yad Vashem has developed a German interface for the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names, enabling visitors to the memorial to explore the website from a special foyer dedicated to the Database and Yad Vashem. Officially opened on 10 May, the memorial comprises 2,711 concrete stelae of varying heights covering some 19,000 sq. meters, and includes an underground information center with four subject rooms. One of these rooms is dedicated to the names of Jews killed in the Shoah, with short biographies (including birth dates and circumstances of death) of some of the victims projected on its wall.

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev attended the opening ceremonies of the new memorial, along with the Director of the Memorial Foundation Bundestag President Wolfgang Thierse, President of the Central Council of the Jews in Germany Dr. h. c. Paul Spiegel, memorial architect Prof. Peter Herman, Holocaust survivor Sabina van der Linden (née Haberman), and Chairperson of the Association for the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe Lea Rosh.

Shalev noted the significance of integrating the Names Database in the Memorial, imbuing remembrance with “a personal-human perspective.” Since its opening, some 1,200 enquiries a day have been made to the Database. Yad Vashem hopes this encouraging example will lead to similar interfaces being established in other sites worldwide.

New Learning Center Inaugurated

On 8 May, the new Learning Center, otherwise known as “Reflections After the Holocaust,” was inaugurated in the presence of Minister of Health Danny Naveh MK and donors Sam and Stella Skura (USA). Part of the new Museum Complex, the Center is designed for visitors to embark on a journey of personal inquiry, dealing with basic questions such as: What makes the Holocaust a unique event? What happened to the concepts of good and evil after the Holocaust? and Why did the Allies not bomb Auschwitz? At individual terminals or in a group conference area, visitors can see, hear and read opinions from an array of survivors, researchers, thinkers and others.
Events April – June 2005

4 April Ceremony honoring Righteous Among the Nations (the late) Piotr Komarnicki and Jan and Apolonia Omarnicki from Poland; (the late) Zofia Swierczyńska from Poland; (the late) Jozef and Anna Karasek from the Czech Republic; and (the late) Punczuk Francieczek from Yugoslavia. Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Prof. Szewach Weiss awarded the certificates and medals to family members of the rescuers. Attending the ceremony were a representative from the Polish Embassy, the Ambassador of Serbia and Montenegro in Israel, the Czech Consul, and some 150 people from Israel and overseas.

11 April Ceremony honoring Righteous Among the Nations (the late) Major Karl Plagge from Germany, who rescued Jews as an officer serving in the German Wehrmacht, and employed primarily Jewish labor in his military vehicle repair shop. The certificate and medal were awarded by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev to the president of the University of Darmstadt, the town where Plagge was born, since he has no surviving relatives. The ceremony was attended by the German Ambassador to Israel, and some 150 people, including Holocaust survivors from Vilna rescued by Plagge.

13 April Event at Yad Vashem honoring Righteous Among the Nations and their families living in Israel, organized by Bank Leumi. The event was held in the presence of Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski and attended by some 50 Righteous Among the Nations and their spouses.

4 May Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day opening ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square, in the presence of Israel’s President and Prime Minister, Knesset Speaker, Chief Rabbis, Ministers, State Comptroller, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad and Righteous Among the Nations.

5 May Wreath-laying ceremony for Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day in Warsaw Ghetto Square, attended by the President of Israel, Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, IDF Chief of Staff, Chief of Police, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, public officials, members of survivors’ and veterans’ organizations, pupils and delegations from all over the country. Other Remembrance Day events and ceremonies at Yad Vashem included: “Unto Every Person There is a Name”—the recitation of names of Holocaust victims in the Hall of Remembrance; a concert with the Israeli Opera entitled, “Letter to Warsaw,” a memorial ceremony for Veterans of the French Jewish Underground; and a ceremony for youth movements in the Valley of the Communities, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education’s Information Center, Youth and Social Administration, and Youth Movement Council.

9 May VE Day Ceremony marking the Allied victory over Nazi Germany held at the Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans, in the presence of Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz MK, Minister of Immigrant Absorption and Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni MK, and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, along with 1,400 participants, including IDF representatives, some 1,000 WWII veterans (mostly immigrants from the FSU), representatives of the Demobilized Soldiers’ Union, representatives of the Allies, ambassadors and military attaches from Allied nations, 150 soldiers, 400 pupils, and 350 participants from the “Generation to Generation” Gathering of Holocaust survivors and their families.

9 May State Event marking the Allied Victory over Nazi Germany held at the Armored Corps Memorial Complex at Latrun, in the presence of the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, IDF Chief of Staff, Natan Sharansky, and representatives of the Jewish Fighters. Among the approximately 8,200 attendees were veterans, Holocaust survivors, partisans, soldiers, participants from the March of the Living, and youth. Participating artists included Shlomit Aharon and Yegevny Shapovalov, Boris Yuropov and Ludmilla Edelman, IDF bands, the Israel Police Band conducted by Commander Menashe Lev Ran, and the Youth Movement Choir under the musical direction of Gilad Lerer.

30 May Scholarship Award Ceremony of the International Institute for Holocaust Research in the presence of Yad Vashem’s chief historian Prof. Dan Michman, representatives from the foundations donating the scholarships, scholarship recipients and their families.

1 June Ceremony honoring Righteous Among the Nations (the late) Zofia Wroblewska-Wiewiorowska from Poland, and (the late) Albertus and Margaretha Haverkort from Holland. The certificates and medals were awarded by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Prof. Szewach Weiss to the families of the rescuers in the presence of the Polish Consul in Israel.

5 June Study evening marking the publication of Guarded by Angels – How My Father and Uncle Survived Hitler and Cheated Stalin by Alan Elsner (published by Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Survivors’ Memoirs Project), with the participation of Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, Prof. David Cesarani, Eugene Elsner, Mark Elsner and the author.
Institute Strengthens International Cooperation to Expand Research

Among its conclusions in last year's final report, the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania recommended "encouraging academic cooperation on issues relating to the Holocaust." Having hosted a group of young Romanian researchers from the Goldstein Goren Center for Hebrew Studies (University of Bucharest) and the Dr. Moshe Carmilly Institute for Hebrew and Jewish History (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj), the International Institute for Holocaust Research convened its seventh annual workshop with researchers from abroad, entitled: "Antisemitism, Fascism, Holocaust: History and Interpretation." The workshop, held in early June, featured lectures on a range of related topics, including "Antisemitism in Romania as Reflected in the Romanian Antisemitic Newspapers in the 1930s;" "Representations of the Holocaust in Romanian Historiography and Literature;" "Religious Antisemitism from the Perspective of the Holocaust;" and "Contesting Memories of Fascism in Post-World War II Europe."

In May 2004, a group of young Israeli researchers flew to Austria to participate in a workshop on the Holocaust with colleagues from the Universities of Vienna and Salzburg. The event was reciprocated this June when a group of Austrian researchers were invited to a workshop at the Institute entitled: "New Aspects in Holocaust Research." The Austrian participants, led by Prof. Gerhard Botz of the University of Vienna and Prof. Helga Embacher of the University of Salzburg joined their Israeli counterparts in discussions on numerous new and wide-ranging topics on the Holocaust, including "Dienstboten-Emigration (Refugees as Domestics in England);" "Fertility Experiments in Auschwitz-Birkenau;" and "Public Health and Racial Hygiene in National Socialist Vienna, 1938-1945."

The Institute continues its international cooperation with plans to host researchers from Belgium and the Netherlands in the fall.

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

Sol Silberzweig, Mama, It Will Be Alright
Yad Vashem, 2005, 178 pp., $24 (abroad, airmail included) / 85 NIS

Sol (Szulem) Silberzweig epitomizes the Jewish fighter and survivor. His astonishing autobiography tells of his heroic actions in the Warsaw ghetto where he managed to save family members; his survival through seven concentration camps; his enduring romance with childhood sweetheart Gittel (Gloria); and later his fight with the American Unions to establish his successful fur business in the United States.

Sol was determined to leave a written record of his life for his family and the Jewish people. Sadly, he passed away during the final stages of writing the book. It has now been published in his and his wife's memory, and as a memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

"I recommend this volume, for I believe in the overall importance of survivors' testimonies. Due to their experience, they carry a unique weight of authenticity," said Nobel Laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel. Sol and Gloria Silberzweig are Benefactors of Yad Vashem.
Friends WORLDWIDE

U.S.A.

Member of the Executive Committee of the American Society for Yad Vashem Melvin Jules Bukiet (right), presented active board member of the Young Leadership Associates Adina Schainker Burian (left), and Dr. Romana Strochlitz Primus (center), with the American Society for Yad Vashem Achievement Award at the Society's Fifth Annual Spring Luncheon. The luncheon paid tribute to Diana Zborowski, wife of American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski.

Representatives of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation toured the new Museum in April and met with Avner Shalev to discuss the history and future of Yad Vashem and Shoah remembrance. Left to right: Itzhak Shavit (VP of UJC Overseas Supplemental Giving); Donn Weinberg; Felice Friedman; Darrell Friedman; Barry Schloss; Judge Ellen Heller; Arnon Mantver (CEO of JDC Israel); Shale Stiller (President and CEO of the Foundation); Rita Schloss.

UNITED KINGDOM

Chairman of the Yad Vashem UK Foundation Ben Helfgott (right, with Avner Shalev) dedicated the Teachers' Garden together with members of the Forty Five Society in England (of which he is also Chairman), in memory of their loved ones who perished in the Shoah.

Phyllis and William Mack of New York (right, at the Benefactors' Wall with Cheryl and Michael Minikes) toured the new Museum and received an overview of the plans for the renovation of Warsaw Ghetto Square, which they are supporting together with the Mitzner family of Houston.

Barbara Kort (right) and Susan Kort Wasserman (center) dedicated the Entrance Park at Yad Vashem, endowed in memory of their husband and father Dr. Fred Kort z'l.

Shoah survivor and former West Coast Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem. Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (left) presented them with a gift.

Mark Hasten of Indianapolis (front right) visited Yad Vashem together with his family in May.

Left to right: Allan Morgenthau, Rosalyn Springer, Diana Morgenthau and Jackie and Michael Gee visited Yad Vashem to dedicate the "The Last Jews" Gallery in the new Holocaust History Museum, endowed by the Archie Sherman Charitable Trust UK.
Larry and Judy Tanenbaum of Toronto visited the new Hall of Names.

Heather Reisman (left) and Gerald Schwartz (center) of Toronto toured the new Museum at Yad Vashem with Avner Shalev in May.

Yad Vashem supporters Stephanie (right) and Marcos (left) Fastlicht, in the new Museum, together with their son Jeffrey Fastlicht and sister-in-law Monica Dorenbaum Fastlicht.

MEXICO

HAIME FELDMAN (center), LEON FELDMAN (2nd from right) and family receive an explanation on the new Museum from Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda.
AUSTRIA

Yad Vashem friend and supporter Fini Steindling (right) toured the new Museum with Austrian State Secretary for Arts and Media Franz Morak (left) and a delegation from Austria.

GERMANY

Director of the International Relations Department Shaya Ben Yehuda (left) presented a gift to Marysha Gertler (2nd from left), Idessa (3rd from left) and Emmanuel Trink and Zacharias (right) and Candida Gertler and their children, at the dedication of a classroom endowed in memory of husband and father Moritz Mordechai Gertler z'l, and in memory of his family who perished in the Shoahs.

Dr. Heinz and Mrs. Deichman received a guided tour of the new Museum from Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate Irena Steinfeldt (right).

ISRAEL

During a visit to Yad Vashem in April, David and Stephanie Azrieli and family toured the new Holocaust History Museum as well as the Book and Resource Center, which was established through the generosity of the Azrieli family.

VENEZUELA

Left to right: Enrique Nessim, Director of the Ibero-American Desk Perla Hazan; Americo Kugler; Eva Zucker Kugler; Marianne Beker; Kathi Nessim; and Francine Szteinberg (Colombia) visited Yad Vashem in May. During the visit the Kuglers dedicated a plaque in memory of Eva’s parents and Enrique’s grandfather.

Yad Vashem supporters Klara and Hilo Ostfeld (4th and 5th from left) in the Visitors Center, together with (left to right) former Israeli ambassador to Venezuela and Spain Herzl Inbar, Enrique Mujica, Perla Hazan and Carmela Inbar.

Yad Vashem appreciates the generosity of its friends in supporting its mission of Shoah commemoration, documentation, education and research. Together we can continue our journey, ensuring Jewish continuity and conveying universal aspirations for understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect between people everywhere. Yad Vashem would be honored to welcome you into its circle of friends and supporters.

To make tax deductible donations:
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6 Bloomsbury Square
London, WC1A 2LP

For information on societies in other countries, or to donate online, please visit: http://www.yadvashem.org and click on “Friends of Yad Vashem.”

Donations may also be sent to: International Relations Division, Yad Vashem, PO Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel.