Facing the Future of Holocaust Remembrance (pp. 8-9)

The American Society for Yad Vashem
25 Years of Dedication to Holocaust Remembrance (p. 10)
A t the writing of this article, an uneasy ceasefire is holding after an intense, month-long battle was waged between Hezbollah and Israel across the Israel-Lebanon border. The war—which many Jews in Israel and abroad viewed as a threat from those who challenge the very existence of the State—took many lives, and provided a platform for vehement criticism of Israel's actions by nations around the world. Closer to home, the entire country was gripped with trepidation and concern for the thousands of troops—including many of our fathers, brothers, sons and friends—and multitude of residents who endured weeks of unremitting missiles and fierce gunfire. For many, the feeling of anxiety and despair was often overwhelming.

The war in Lebanon was also a challenging time for Yad Vashem. On a personal level, many of the staff or members of their immediate families were drafted to the fighting; and sadly some shared in the losses and the casualties. And for those not personally affected, the war's influence was still felt in their professional work: from cancellations of planned visits and seminars to quickly arranged tours for families from the north of the country.

One exceptional visit came from the family of abducted soldier Eldad Regev. In an emotional meeting with Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev after many hours in the new Museum Complex, Eldad's parents expressed their gratitude for the strength the visit had given them, as well as the clarity of understanding that their painful situation was part of Jewish history—part of the struggle of every generation against those who determine to destroy our nation.

Not long after, Iran opened the infamous exhibit of cartoons mocking the Holocaust. "The alarming silence of the world indicates that the West has not yet understood that what is taking place is an attack on Western values and civilization," commented Avner Shalev. "History has demonstrated that silence in the face of evil statements begets evil actions." Shalev added that the passivity of most of the world's leaders to the looming Iranian threat illustrates the need to continue and expand Yad Vashem's work around the world in fostering understanding and educating about the Shoah. "Remembering what happened to us during the Holocaust will only unite and strengthen the Jewish nation in the future," he remarked.

Ignorance as a weapon

"We all know the saying: 'a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing,'" wrote Director of Yad Vashem's Libraries, Dr. Robert Rozett, in a recent newspaper op-ed entitled, "Ignorance as a Weapon." In discussing the perilous threat of Iranian President Ahmadinejad to Israel, the Jewish nation and world democracy as a whole, Rozett pointed out that Ahmadinejad and his advisors are unwilling to avail themselves of the readily accessible wealth of knowledge about WWII, the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel. Instead, they twist their "rudimentary and disjointed" information around and "wield their distorted understanding as a weapon against the Jews and the Americans." This kind of
behavior, he concluded, continues to demonstrate that educating about the Holocaust in our day and age is imperative, especially among those nations whose populations have had little or blatantly misleading exposure to such information until now. For its part, Yad Vashem is making initial inroads into certain countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which have not benefited from any systematic attempts to teach the history of the period (see “Teaching the Holocaust in China,” p.5), alongside its continuous expansion of Holocaust education programs and material in Europe, North America and several other democratic countries.

**Holocaust education in an atmosphere of conflict**

While there are unique challenges in teaching the Holocaust to any non-Israeli or non-Jewish group, this is magnified greatly when presented with an Arab audience, against the background of a regional conflict that has endured for more than half a century. “Although the waves of antisemitism escalate and recede in relation to political events and developments, antisemitism is increasingly becoming a constant in Arab thought and is linked, as in other places in the world, to broader processes that affect Arab societies,” explains Dr. Esther Webman, a leading authority on contemporary Muslim-Jewish Relations and research associate at the Stephen Roth Institute, Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. “There is, in fact, a strong correlation between the growing role of the Holocaust in Israeli and Jewish identity and the frequency of Arab reference to it. The rising international interest in the Holocaust—the establishment of an international task force on Holocaust education, remembrance and research, and the UN decision to designate 27 January as International Holocaust Remembrance Day—has only antagonized Arabs and Muslims. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that the usage of the Holocaust as a metaphor for Israeli deeds and the comparison of Zionism to Nazism was the most prominent motif emerging in the Arab discourse on the war in Lebanon.”

At the end of August, Head of the European Department Dr. Doron Avraham participated in a conference in Berlin entitled, “Strategies and Effective Practices for Fighting Antisemitism among People with a Muslim/Arab Background in Europe,” run by the International Study Group for Education and Research on Antisemitism, in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee (Berlin) and Politische Akademie der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, and supported by the Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility and Future.

Lecturing on the topic, “Holocaust in an atmosphere of conflict: Teaching Arab students in Yad Vashem,” Avraham explained: “Although many of the five hundred Arab students and educators who come to Yad Vashem each year are Israeli citizens, the Holocaust is by no means part of their history. It is a Jewish tragedy that seems to have no direct influence on them. Moreover, discussion about the Holocaust usually prompts them to raise the topic of their own tragedy, the Nakba, or ‘catastrophe’ of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. For some of these Arabs, while the Holocaust has some factual basis, they view it as a tool used by Zionists for manipulation of world sympathy.”

One might get the impression, Avraham suggests, that Arabs share the widespread trend of Holocaust denial. In fact, the majority of the Arab teachers and students who come to Yad Vashem know almost nothing about the Holocaust. Their inaccurate remarks about the event may appear antisemitic; indeed, when Islamist groups express them as part of their anti-Israeli agenda, they should be treated as such. But for some, the anti-Jewish attitude also derives from a more general Arab narrative of WWII and the history of colonialism.

When faced with these attitudes, said Avraham, it is our duty to find ways to create an open discussion with Arab teachers and students. Yad Vashem has thus created seminars and activities—including the first ever seminar for Jordanian educators recently held at the School—that deliver an historical overview of the events in order to acquaint them with the historical context, and that also discuss other victims of the Nazis, thus stressing the totality of the racist ideology and the dangers that racism creates. Positive aspects are also stressed, such as the role of Muslim Righteous Among the Nations, in order to “neutralize” some of the hostile feelings that these Arab participants bring with them to the seminars. While at the end of the course the participants are hardly adherents of Zionism, they do acquire some insights regarding one of the most formative events in Jewish history—inights that might facilitate a better understanding not only of the Israeli point of view, but also of the dangers the Jewish nation continues to face.
Holocaust Education Directions and Challenges The Fifth International Educators’ Conference

by Leah Goldstein

Can it be claimed that the Holocaust was a unique event in history? And if so, is it possible to learn any general lessons from this terrible period, to teach about its deep-rooted causes and global consequences, or even to help victims of other genocides put their own experiences into some kind of human context?

These were some of the challenging questions raised, discussed and debated at Yad Vashem’s Fifth International Educators’ Conference, which took place in June. Some three hundred participants from 21 countries worldwide attended the biennial event, which was organized by the International School for Holocaust Studies and Oranim Educational Initiatives Ltd., and supported by The Asper International Holocaust Studies Program at Yad Vashem.

The conference featured three main topics of discussion: educational uses of Holocaust art, literature, and film; educational implications of visiting Holocaust memorial sites and museums; and educational objectives regarding the uniqueness of the Shoah in the context of genocide. Panel presentations by keynote educators, scholars and historians were followed by moderated discussion groups and educational workshops connected to the day’s topic.

Prof. Lawrence Langer of Simmons College, USA, opened talks on the first day, discussing educational uses of Holocaust literature. Using the historical narrative as a background, he argued, the vast array of literature on the Shoah “helps us imagine what we cannot know...” [Holocaust literature] forces us to enter the narrative first as witnesses, then as participants, through the power of our imagination.” Dr. Stephen Feinstein of the University of Minnesota discussed how, portraying “fragments of information without trivializing the event,” Holocaust art has created “new levels of discourse in our community” and has even been used as historical evidence. Dr. Deborah Oppenheimer, Producer of the Academy Award winning film Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport, spoke of her moving journey in making the film. Oppenheimer opined that, as opposed to “the six million,” individual faces and stories give one an “entry point” into learning about the Holocaust that is different to all other material.

On the second day of the conference, guest lecturers Prof. Dr. Rita Süssmuth, Former President of the German Parliament and Chairperson of the German Society for Yad Vashem, Dr. Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, and Dan Napolitano of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gave fascinating insights into Holocaust commemoration in their respective countries. Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev also spoke, describing a visit to an actual site of mass murder as an “all-sensory experience” where “our imagination may allow us to move a little closer to the event itself.”

The fact that over a million people have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, he claimed, shows a changing attitude among the public, who wish to understand “what actually happened” and who realize the importance of the Holocaust to their lives today.

While museums are not authentic sites, most curators make a concerted effort to bring “pieces of authenticity” to their millions of visitors, the viewing of which allows them to build impressions which can also affect their future choices and social behavior. However, warned Shalev, this authenticity must be reinforced by a narrative based on objective and historical research, otherwise it runs the risk of “being rejected in the long term.” The Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem exemplifies this combination, placing the individual at the center of the narrative, thus allowing the visitor to identify more closely with the victims, and make their experiences relevant to his or her own life.

The final session was highlighted by the fascinating lectures given by Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, Atlanta, Prof. Ben Kiernan of Yale University, and Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem, Prof. Yehuda Bauer. Dr. Lipstadt demonstrated that the Shoah certainly has unique elements—it was a genocide of a people beyond its own borders, motivated neither by economic nor political motives, as exemplified by the Germans’ pursuit of their murderous policies even when this directly inhibited their own war campaign. Yet not allowing any comparison to other acts of genocide around the world prohibits us from recognizing warning signs of a similar event in the future, from teaching its history to students today, or from understanding its significance in the modern world. The “unprecedentedness” of the Holocaust, claimed Lipstadt, is indisputable, but we must be able to evaluate the individual elements of the period in order to teach others about the danger of future genocidal attempts, and help give expression to those who have already suffered through their own.

The closing session was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Israel Asper z’t, and chaired by Executive Director of The Asper Foundation Moses (Moe) Levy. Pedagogical Director of the International School Shulamit Imber and Prof. Irwin Cotler, Member of the Canadian Parliament, also addressed the participants.
Building Bridges of Understanding

Teaching the Holocaust in China

by Dr. Robert Rozett

The core events of the Holocaust happened far from China—geographically and culturally—and far from the consciousness of the 1.3 billion Chinese. Nevertheless, for one week early in July, in the sweltering heat of Kaifeng, the ancient capital and home of the vanished Chinese Jewish community, a handful of foreign educators and some 80 Chinese professors and graduate students entered into a dialogue about the history of the Holocaust and how to teach it.

The second conference on Holocaust Education in China was sponsored by the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research. The Chinese participants represented a variety of disciplines related to Jews or WWII, including Jewish history, Bible, International Relations and the harsh Japanese occupation of eastern China. In addition to this writer, there were educators from the London Jewish Cultural Center, the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine, Wannsee House, and the Holocaust Museum in Houston. Each brought his or her own perspective on the most important aspects of the topic to teach members of the largest nation in the world, most of whom know nothing about the events of the Holocaust.

Activities in Europe

Despite the hostilities in the North, the summer semester at the International School for Holocaust Studies was full of activity. For the first time, the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education in Europe hosted at Yad Vashem educators from Greece as well as teachers from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The Scandinavian group was organized in cooperation with the Danish Institute for International Studies, the Living History Forum from Sweden, the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism and The Center for Holocaust Studies and Religious Minorities in Norway. Educators from France, the UK, Germany, and Romania also visited Yad Vashem. All the seminar participants acquired historical knowledge, pedagogical and educational techniques especially suited to their countries’ needs, as well as books and materials to use with their students.

The First International ICHEIC Seminar for graduates of Yad Vashem seminars (2005) took place in September at the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The 27 participants from throughout Europe spent five days of intense discussion together with members of the School’s European Department. Topics included: “How to address the need to combat antisemitism with students in the classroom,” “The Holocaust in art and literature,” “Jewish women and children in the camps,” and “The educational use of visits to memorial sites.” They also toured the Auschwitz-Birkenau site and took part in a moving meeting with survivors.

New on www.yadvashem.org/education

Interactive Map:
Main Nazi Camps and Killing Sites

This new mini-site on the Yad Vashem website features an interactive map and list of the main Nazi camps and killing sites during the Holocaust, built through extensive research conducted at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and supported by the Claims Conference.

A collection of related items including video testimonies, research papers and photographs are also accessible, allowing students to deepen their research into specific areas within this wide-ranging topic.

New Lesson Plan: “Between the Worlds”

A new lesson plan for middle- and high-school students is now available online, based on the CD-ROM “Between the Worlds: Social Circles in the Theresienstadt Ghetto”—a journey into the world of Jewish children in Theresienstadt. “Between the Worlds” documents how Jews endured pain and loss in the ghetto during this difficult period, focusing on the various age groups and sub-cultures in the ghetto, including children, parents, men and women.

Lesson Plan and Activity:
Collecting Pages of Testimony

In this hands-on lesson plan, students learn about Yad Vashem’s Pages of Testimony, and prepare to fill them out together with survivors. As the survivor population diminishes daily, this task is particularly urgent, and helps strengthen the connection between students and the last remaining eyewitnesses to the Holocaust.

The author works in the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.
Advancing
Holocaust Education
for the
Ultra-Orthodox
Community

"Remember the Days of Old"

by Nava Weiss

The lectures opened up new vistas of thought; the tour was brief but fascinating, and the workshops familiarized us with a variety of ways in which to teach the Holocaust."

Participant in an educational seminar at Yad Vashem

While the quote above may seem relatively routine for a teacher participating in an educational seminar at Yad Vashem, it was not necessarily to be expected from this particular seminar, created especially for educators from the ultra-Orthodox population in Israel. It nevertheless points to a significant and positive development in the relationship between Yad Vashem and the ultra-Orthodox educational system, which began some six years ago with the opening of a special section in the International School for Holocaust Studies at the initiative of Yad Vashem Guardians Rudolph and Edith Tessler.

"The purpose of this section," explains Director of Teacher Training at the School Dr. Haim Gertner, "is to generate an educational dialogue and explore possibilities to accommodate the needs of its population. Our aim is to help integrate Holocaust education into the ultra-Orthodox system's existing Jewish history curriculum, based on the Biblical verse: 'Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.' (Deut. 32:7)"

This development has not been mono-directional. While Yad Vashem recognized the need to develop a curriculum suitable for the ultra-Orthodox public, teachers in the ultra-Orthodox community were looking for more extensive, structured and orderly Holocaust instruction in their educational institutions. A team of writers was thus formed, which included both Yad Vashem historians and educators, and teachers from the ultra-Orthodox sector. "We are doing our utmost to meet the needs of the ultra-Orthodox population," says Director of the School Dr. Motti Shalem. "We are not only developing our educational programs, but also using people who speak the same language as the members of this sector. We want them to learn about the Holocaust in a conscientious and serious manner."

One of the first accomplishments of the new section was the production of a groundbreaking and impressive monograph series entitled, "Years Wherein We Have Seen Evil." The series was dedicated by Rudolph and Edith Tessler in memory of the children of Sholomo and Esther Tessler and the children of David and Fradel Hoffman. It deals with historical events during the Holocaust period with an emphasis on how religiously observant individuals—and the observant public as a whole—experienced and coped during the Shoah. It comprises four books, each of which is accompanied by a videotape of survivor testimonies. The first two volumes of the series present the story of German Orthodox Jewry during the 1930s and the daily life of the observant Jew in the ghetto. Publication of the third volume, devoted to rescue efforts during the Holocaust, is now underway, while the fourth volume, on the Final Solution, will be published in the coming year.

In addition, the ultra-Orthodox section at the School holds teacher-training activities in the field of Holocaust instruction and enrichment for three different target groups: teachers in the ultra-Orthodox school system and Beit Yaakov seminaries; pirchei hora'a—seminary pupils in the Beit Yaakov institutions; and teachers and melamdim in the Talmudic Torah for boys. The section has also supervised and trained Talmud Torah teachers and pirchei hora'a to work cooperatively on activities for 10th Tevet—Tom Hakadish Hashalem (the General Day of Mourning)—as well as during the bein hametzarim period between 17th Tamuz and 9th Av.

In addition, cooperative activity with the Jerusalem Municipality’s Department of Ultra-Orthodox Education has resulted in the development of a training program based on brief summer courses for teachers and Talmud Torah melamdim. The program took place at Yad Vashem, and included historical workshops supplemented with didactic lectures and lesson demonstrations prepared specifically for grades seven and eight. The program included meaningful discussions of the place of Yad Vashem in ultra-Orthodox education, with the participation of Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan and School Director Dr. Motti Shalem. "Learning about the Shoah is very important to us," said Jerusalem municipality representative Rabbi Gershon Bint. "We will make every effort to ensure that it is a legacy for all of society, through established, critical and responsible activities towards this end."

In light of the extensive experience we have accumulated over the past few years, and in light of the significant expansion of our educational activities as a whole, the School intends to continue, deepen and expand our programs for the ultra-Orthodox sector over the coming years," concludes Shalem. "The educational activities will be implemented through increasing our cooperation with the different educational institutions and departments in the local municipalities, and with the aim of engaging schools that have yet to become involved."

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

www.yadvashem.org to view "With Sanctity and With Valour," an online exhibition on the world of Orthodox Jews during the Holocaust.
The Names Database

by Deborah Berman

After a lifetime of believing that most of her immediate family had been killed in the Holocaust, 75-year-old Hilda Shlick (née Glasberg) was reunited with her brother Simon Glasberg on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. The drama of the survivors' heartfelt reunion began to unfold after Hilda's grandchildren searched Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names in an effort to piece together the puzzle of their family's fate.

Several months ago, a family discussion revealed to Benny and David Shlick that their grandmother Hilda's maiden name was, in fact, Glasberg. Curious about their family's history, they headed straight to their computer and conducted a search of the online Names Database (www.yadvashem.org), which currently contains some 3.1 million names and brief biographies of Holocaust victims.

When they entered the name Hilda Glasberg, Benny and David were amazed to discover that somebody named Karol Weiner, claiming to be her older brother, had erroneously submitted a Page of Testimony in her name. After exhaustive searches, they tracked down Karol's son, Dr. Eric Weiner, who told them that his father had passed away in 1999, the year he submitted the Page of Testimony. More shocking to learn was that Hilda's parents and four brothers had in fact survived the Holocaust.

The Glasberg family — parents Henia and Benzioni Glasberg, sisters Bertha, Hilda and Pepi, and brothers Karol, Eddie, Mark and Simon — was separated when the Nazis invaded Northern Bukovina in 1941. Hilda escaped to Uzbekistan with her older sister Bertha, who posessed as Hilda's mother, while the others stayed in Romania, finding refuge in a basement. That was the last the Glasberg family knew of their whereabouts, until the recent reunion. Simon recounted his parents' pain for their daughters in vain throughout Europe and Israel after the war, and their grief when they ultimately concluded they had not survived. "We looked and looked and couldn't find them," related a tearful Glasberg at an emotional meeting at Yad Vashem, attended by many members of the media. "My parents used to cry whenever they remembered them."

"We started gradually explaining to Grandma that it was possible to find family members through the Internet," David Shlick continued. "We didn't want to overwhelm her. She said she didn't believe there was any hope for her family, because she had already looked for them many years ago. A few days later we told her what we had discovered, and that two of her brothers were now living in Canada." Hilda, who had emigrated from Estonia in 1998, says she is finding it difficult to digest the idea: "I never imagined that something like this could happen. I am overjoyed that after so many years I now find out that most of my family survived," she says.

Her brother Simon, who traveled to Israel for the reunion, could hardly contain himself after learning that his beloved sister Hilda, whom he had last seen as a young girl, was still alive. "Of course, I cried, the whole world cried," Glasberg related. "I waited 65 years to give her a kiss. I recognized her immediately. I couldn't stop kissing her. I am so happy that I have finally found the sister I loved." Hilda hopes to travel to Canada soon to visit her parents' graves and to see her other brother, Mark, who is not well enough to travel.

Accompanying Hilda and Simon on a tour of the Hall of Names, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev called upon the public to take advantage of the High-Holiday season, to delve into their family histories and check whether they have submitted Pages of Testimony for relatives killed during the Holocaust. Even as Simon Glasberg basked in the joy of seeing his sister again, he cautioned those in attendance to remember the victims of the Shoah. "We survivors, Hilda and I, call on younger generations of Jews never to forget us."

"I waited 65 years to give her a kiss" — Simon Glassberg (left) and Hilda Shlick, siblings reunited after 65 years.

Join the Names Collection Campaign

New Resources and Promotional Materials

- Posters (English, Hebrew or Russian) advertising the ongoing campaign to collect Holocaust victims' names may now be ordered free of charge. Place them in your community, together with Pages of Testimony. To order the posters, please send your name, mailing address and phone number, stating how many posters you require to: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il, with the subject header: "Poster Order."

- Guidelines on who may complete a Page of Testimony, and for whom, are now available online. Click on "Community Outreach Guide" on the Yad Vashem homepage (www.yadvashem.org) and then on "Materials Toolkit" for details.

- Photographs of memorial boards or Jewish tombstones bearing names of Holocaust victims in your communities' synagogues and cemeteries. Send digital photographs to central.database@yadvashem.org.il with the name of the synagogue or cemetery as well as your name, address and phone number. Printed photos may be mailed to Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, POB 3477, Jerusalem, Israel.

www.yadvashem.org for a short video of the Glasberg family reunion
for access to the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names
Longtime Friends, Strategic Partners

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson

On October 27, a ceremony honoring Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson of Las Vegas will take place at Yad Vashem in the presence of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Minister of Finance Abraham Hirshson, Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir, Nobel Peace Laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel, Head of the Opposition Benjamin Netanyahu and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance, Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson recently decided to become strategic partners of Yad Vashem. Their contribution will enable Yad Vashem to perform a quantum leap in its ongoing efforts to reach out and assume its role as world leader in Shoah education, commemoration, research and documentation.

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson are long-standing benefactors of Yad Vashem as well as other causes in Israel and Jewish communities abroad. The building of the new Museum of Holocaust Art at Yad Vashem was enabled by their generous support in memory of Dr. Adelson’s parents, Menucha Zamelson and Simcha Farbstein, and members of their families, who perished in the Holocaust.

Miriam Adelson was born and raised in Israel, with the shadow of the Holocaust ever present in her life. Her parents, Menucha and Simcha Farbstein, left Poland before the Shoah, but many members of their families missed the opportunity, and perished. “When I was young, I learnt that my mother, Menucha Farbstein (née Zamelson), lost almost her entire family. My father also lost beloved family members. I grew up feeling my parents’ pain,” Miriam poignantly recalls. Following the war, the Farbstins assisted their family members who escaped to Russia during the war, by bringing them from Europe and helping them rebuild their lives in Israel.

After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Genetics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Dr. Adelson worked in the area of biological research throughout her two-year service in the Israeli Defense Forces. After her military service, she continued her medical studies, graduating Magna cum Laude from the Tel Aviv University Sackler Medical School. Specializing in Internal and Emergency Medicine, Dr. Adelson became the Head Physician in each of these areas for the Rokach (Hadassah) Hospital in Tel Aviv. In 1986, Dr. Adelson began to develop a unique specialty in the areas of Chemical Dependency and Drug Addiction, and today heads both of the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Clinics for drug abuse treatment and research, one in the Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center in Israel and one in Las Vegas, Nevada, which have successfully treated thousands of heroin and cocaine drug addicts. Other clinics headed by Dr. Adelson and financed by the couple are soon to be opened.

Growing up in a poor immigrant family in Boston, Sheldon Adelson began to work after school hours selling newspapers on local street corners. After completing his US Army service, he began to seek his fortune in the business world, working as a mortgage broker, investment adviser and financial consultant. As an entrepreneur, developer and manager, Sheldon Adelson has created and developed to maturity more than 50 different companies, including COMDEX, the world leading computer expo, rendering him the foremost authority in mega-exhibitions. Always challenging the business status quo, Sheldon G. Adelson created Las Vegas Sands—the foremost company in its field that built “The Venetian” in Las Vegas, the largest and leading hotel in the world, as well as integrated resorts in Macau, China, and now also in Singapore—and today is both Chairman and CEO of the company.

“It is my hope that our donation, intended for safeguarding the continuity of Yad Vashem and its activities, expresses the importance that we afford both Holocaust remembrance and the commemorative enterprise as vital components in securing the future of the Jewish people, and the future of our children and grandchildren,” Sheldon Adelson remarked.

Sheldon Adelson has been granted many honorary degrees and other awards, and has been a guest speaker at various colleges and universities, including the University of New Haven, Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School, Tel Aviv University and Babson College, educating a new generation of business entrepreneurs.

“The challenges we face are especially relevant during these trying times in the history of the State of Israel,” said Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev. “It is not despite the situation, but because of it, that there is a great need for Jews around the world to connect to the legacy of the past and turn it into a driving power. Imparting the story and the significance of the Holocaust strengthens our moral fiber and is essential in shaping our resolve and endurance as individuals, as a state and as a nation. The Adelsons’ generosity will enable us to fulfill our existential and vital role.”
Yad Vashem has become a Jewish and world center, a focus of identity and a living, dynamic institution for Holocaust commemoration and education largely thanks to the friends and supporters who share in the endeavor to fulfill its goals. The donation of Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson represents a major and significant enhancement of Yad Vashem’s ability to fulfill its mission over the coming years. The Adelsons’ generous support will enable Yad Vashem to continue to be accessible to all members of the public from Israel and around the world, and to pursue its activities in various areas, thus ensuring the perpetuation of Holocaust remembrance for generations to come.

Yad Vashem will develop and significantly increase the use of state-of-the-art technologies to reach broad and varied audiences around the world. This will be achieved through cataloging and computerizing the knowledge and information already accumulated, and making them available via the Yad Vashem website. The website will make the institution’s vast document archive catalogue and other primary-source databases accessible to the public in a convenient and user-friendly manner. As a public service, Yad Vashem will also upload the various information resources it has developed, including encyclopedias, lexicons and maps. All of the aforementioned material, as well as the institution’s accumulated pedagogical experience, will enable Yad Vashem to maintain a “virtual school,” intended to serve as an online study center and information source for teachers, and as a forum for dialogue between education professionals the world over.

Education will remain a top priority for Yad Vashem in the coming years. The International School for Holocaust Studies—the first of its kind in the world—will continue to serve as a center for educational and professional knowledge and for pedagogical development. Emphasis will be placed both on training teachers and on fostering dialogue between educators. Special programs will be developed for coordinators and senior teaching professionals, to prepare them to serve as “ambassadors” in disseminating information and instructional tools among broader circles of educators. The number of students, soldiers and officers who participate in study days and tours at Yad Vashem will be increased, and special seminars will be held for public opinion-makers.

In order to serve the Holocaust History Museum’s millions of annual visitors, Yad Vashem will develop and expand its visitor guide services. To facilitate the tremendous global demand for accurate visual displays aimed at perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem will establish a special department for traveling exhibitions. The department will develop and produce exhibitions on a variety of topics, in a modular format capable of being adapted to different audiences and languages. In parallel, Yad Vashem’s Exhibitions Pavilion will serve as a venue for temporary topical and artistic exhibitions. The visitor public to these exhibitions will be expanded through widespread advertising, and cooperation and reciprocal contacts with Holocaust survivors, various associations and Second Generation organizations deepened.

Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research will nurture a young generation of scholars capable of serving as leaders in the field of Holocaust research. The Institute will provide a forum for global academic dialogue, and will grant an international award aimed at encouraging excellence in the field. The fundamental research on the Comprehensive History of the Holocaust will be completed, and a variety of materials from the Israeli research corpus developed over the decades will be translated from Hebrew into other languages.
The American Society for Yad Vashem

25 Years of Dedication to Holocaust Remembrance

In 1981, Eli Zborowski convened a group of Holocaust survivors committed to the cause of Shoah remembrance to form what is now the American Society for Yad Vashem. Throughout its illustrious 25-year history, the American Society has worked in close partnership with Yad Vashem in education, commemoration, documentation, special projects and the Yad Vashem Multiyear Development Plan.

Today the American Society for Yad Vashem boasts more than 40,000 members throughout the United States, all committed to the cause of Holocaust remembrance. The Society’s Officers, Executive Board and Board of Governors constitute over one hundred members who oversee its policies and programs, including outreach, education and fundraising.

In 1977, Eli Zborowski initiated a conversation with Yad Vashem on the need to memorialize all of the European Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust, a discussion that led to the establishment of Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities. Among the other special projects, funded by the American Society are the Memorial to the Jewish Soldiers and the Children’s Memorial. The American Society has also been one of the main supporters of the Yad Vashem Multiyear Development Plan. Campaign Chairman Joseph Wilf led the Society’s contribution to the construction of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, Holocaust History Museum, Museum of Holocaust Art, Exhibitions Pavilion, Synagogue, Learning Center, Visual Center, and more.

For almost a decade, the American Society has turned its attention to the third generation, grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, in the knowledge that the legacy of Holocaust remembrance and education must be passed on to future generations. The Young Leadership Associates (YLA)—a group of people in their 20s and 30s—consists of more than five hundred devoted and talented members who are actively involved in endeavors ranging from seminars for teachers to the development of Holocaust education legislation.

Over the next few years, the responsibility for leading the American Society will be transferred to the Second Generation, the children of the Society’s founders. Their profound commitment and dedication to the American Society and to Yad Vashem will help ensure that the Society will continue its essential work well into the 21st century.

Eli Zborowski: A Life Mission

One of Eli Zborowski’s most cherished childhood memories is sitting with his father in their Zarki home exploring the pearls of wisdom found in Pirkei Avot (The Ethics of the Fathers). That weekly interlude came to an abrupt halt in 1942 when the deportations to the death camps began. Soon after, Moshe Zborowski was murdered by the Poles. This thrust Eli, the oldest son, into his first of many lifelong leadership roles. During the war, he was a member of the Jewish Fighters Organization, serving as a liaison between ghettos and non-Jewish partisan units. The family—his mother, sister and younger brother—survived the war in hiding.

Following the war, Eli met and married Diana Wilf, a survivor from Drohobycz, Poland. For 57 years, until she passed from this life in the waning days of 2004, Diana stood by his side and was an equal partner in all his communal endeavors.

An initiator, a leader and a visionary, Eli can be credited with numerous “firsts” in the field of Holocaust remembrance. In 1963, he organized the first United States Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration. In 1970, he founded the first umbrella organization for all survivors. In 1974, he founded Martyrdom & Resistance, a periodical devoted to the Holocaust. That same year, the Zborowskis endowed the first academic chair in Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University in New York.

Eli Zborowski founded the American Society for Yad Vashem in 1981 and has served as its chairman ever since. In addition, he serves as a member of the Yad Vashem Directorate. He is Founder and Honorary President of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims; Vice President, World Federation of Polish Jews; Benefactor, Ephraim Wilf Foundation; Benefactor, Moshe Zborowski Gemilut Chasadim Fund-Free Loan Association; Trustee, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; and on the Executive Committee of the Claims Conference. He was one of six survivors—and the only American—to greet Pope John Paul II during his historic visit to Yad Vashem in 2000. He was appointed to the New York Permanent Commission on the Holocaust and to the United States Holocaust Council. He holds an honorary Doctorate from Yeshiva University. Eli is also Past Chairman of the American Zionist Youth Foundation; Past Chairman, Salute to Israel Parade; and Past President of the American Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Eli is the proud father of two children and seven grandchildren. This July, he married Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak, a child survivor from Czestochowa.
Gaining Another Perspective

The Yad Vashem Delegation to Poland, 2006

by Leah Goldstein

At the beginning of June, a delegation of 32 Yad Vashem employees (including the author of this article) left Israel for a six-day intensive study tour of Poland. Our guide was Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov, Director of the Study Seminars Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. The group comprised members of staff from almost every department in Yad Vashem, with a comprehensive combined knowledge. However, for all except two, it was the first visit to the country, and expectations, as well as concerns, were high. What would we gain, professionally and personally, from visiting the actual sites of mass murder, or from seeing for ourselves the cities and villages that once housed thriving Jewish populations? How would we feel walking through the forests where people we never knew were murdered in cold blood? Could Poland 2006 give us any closer understanding of the horrors our Jewish brothers and sisters experienced there over six decades ago?

Our trip incorporated many places—including Warsaw, Lublin and Krakow—as well as three death camps. In the cities, we toured the Jewish cemeteries, walked through areas that once enclosed the Jewish residents in ghettos, and visited numerous memorial sites and monuments that had been erected since the end of the war. In the smaller villages, such as Tykocin and Kotsk, we entered the ruins of synagogues and yeshivot, and crossed the market squares that have changed little in the past 70 years. Journeying from town to town, we noticed road signs to places we had only read about in books, and heard about the centuries of Jewish history that were destroyed in a few days, and the same question kept arising within us: “What would I have done?”

At the death camps—Treblinka, where nothing remains but a field filled with monuments to the 870,000 Jews murdered there; Majdanek, where one can literally walk through the entire “death factory”; and Auschwitz-Birkenau, which is now a national museum—we came slightly closer to imagining the terror experienced by the people who were brought there. While we were fortunate enough to be visiting so long after the murderous policies had ended, the ominous feeling of death that still lingers there is impossible to glean from any book or testimony. As many of us who have lost relatives—close and distant—at these places read out their names, it was almost as if time was standing still, and our voices were bringing their memories back to the present, if only for a fleeting moment.

Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov provided us not only with layer upon layer of factual information about the decimated communities and the events of the Shoah, but also with many personal testimonies from survivors she has met over the years. This undoubtedly raised our level of understanding, and the harrowing and emotional accounts we heard became seared in our minds. We also spent one evening with Mira Gruszczyńska, a Righteous Among the Nations, who relayed her story to us through our Polish guide. “Why did you help a girl you didn’t know, when the danger was so great?” we asked her. “Was there any point when you regretted the task you had taken upon yourself?” Her soft-spoken replies belied the steady determination in her eyes: “Never. It was the natural thing for me to do. It was my way of resisting the Germans.”

Our last day was spent at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the sheer size of the place, its meticulous design and the vast number of artifacts on display was overwhelming. After an exhausting 12 hours in both camps, emotions were high, and a spontaneous round of Israeli and Jewish songs on the bus back to the airport served to strengthen our crushed spirits and reinforce our commitment to Jewish continuity.

Arriving back in Israel as dawn broke the following day, many of the participants felt they had returned with more questions than when they left—some of which may be impossible to answer—but all had a yearning to learn more about what had happened on Polish soil during those terrible years. At a reunion a few weeks later, the benefits of the trip became even clearer: one participant described her enhanced guiding in the Holocaust History Museum; two described their stronger connection with Israel and Judaism; and another commented how she was finally able to discuss the topic with her children, who had made the journey some years earlier.

“We have no doubt that the trip to Poland deepened our understanding and feelings about the Shoah... From today, every book we read, every movie we watch, every account we hear, and every conversation we hold about the subject will be totally different,” participants wrote to Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev. “We also bonded together as a group, which added a unique value to the trip.”

The group thanked the administration for their assistance and their managers for their consideration during their absence from work, but the most special thanks went to Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov. “Inbal was a pillar of support during the trip,” the letter read. “Her vast knowledge and profound sensitivity imbued us the last request of those who perished: ‘Let our fate be a warning to you all.’”
Why Me?

Hersch Altman, On the Fields of Loneliness
Series Editor: Dr. David Silberklang; Managing Editor: Daniella Zaidman Mauer
Yad Vashem in association with The Holocaust Survivors’ Memoirs Project, 2006
188 pp., $21 (airmail included) / NIS 69

On the Fields of Loneliness is the remarkable memoir of a young boy who survived the murders of his father, mother, and three sisters as well as the destruction of his home and town, while evading his pursuers throughout the Holocaust. The youngest of four children and only son of an affluent merchant and Jewish community leader, Hersch Altman vividly depicts his early years in Brzezany, and recounts in vibrant detail the hardships his family endured during the Soviet occupation. He goes on to relate the brutality of the Nazi occupation; the intolerable life in the ghettos; the horrors of the Aktionen, and the ingeniously constructed bunker that eluded the Nazi soldiers and their dogs. He describes how each member of his family was killed and the many near-death encounters he faced and miraculously escaped.

The reader cannot help but share the author’s fears, sadness and loneliness in hiding—often completely alone—in barns, forests, fields and attics. The unanswerable question, “Why me, my God?” echoes throughout this gripping tale. However, a most impressive and instructive part of this memoir is how the young Hersch coped with successive personal losses. “One of [these coping mechanisms] was praying,” writes Prof. Shimon Redlich, Director of the Rabb Center for Holocaust Studies at Ben-Gurion University, in his foreword. “[Hersch] recited traditional prayers he was taught before the war, mainly from the Book of Psalms, and said Kaddish in memory of his family. But he also invented his own personal and private conversations with God. He was asking, complaining, accusing and pleading... Hersch even managed to have his bar-mitzvah celebrated in the midst of a forest. Another coping strategy was his memories of the ‘good years’ before the war and fantasies of being somehow reunited with his closest family.”

Redlich concludes that, “Along with the prevailing antisemitism among the local non-Jewish population, we also learn of human kindness, compassion and courage. This is one more proof of the fact that often numerous people and families were needed in order to save one Jewish life. The Poles—Michał and Zdzisław—and the Ukrainians—Ivan, Vladimir, and Pietro—were all instrumental in saving Hersch Altman. Thus, the story of a single Jewish youngster from Brzezany is not only a story of tragedy, loss and despair, but also a tale of survival and hope.”

The Holocaust Survivors’ Memoirs Project, an initiative of Nobel Peace Laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel, was launched through a generous grant from Random House Inc., New York.

Also New on the Shelf...

The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations: Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust—Europe (English Edition - two volumes), Editor-in-Chief: Israel Gutman
Yad Vashem, 2006, $92 (airmail included) / NIS 258 per volume

Over the past five decades, more than 21,000 people have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations—the highest honor bestowed upon non-Jews by Yad Vashem on behalf of the Jewish nation. The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations aims to reveal their individual stories as witnessed by survivors from across Europe.

This publication presents the concise stories of unique, unsung heroes in two volumes: the first, available now, includes narratives from Armenia, Austria, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA; the second, upcoming volume will include accounts from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Publication of this volume was made possible through the generous support of the Commission of European Communities and the Claims Conference.

Bernd Schmalhausen, A Man of Courage in an Inhuman Time: Berthold Beitz in the Third Reich
2006, 96 pp, 63 NIS

In July 1941, 27-year-old Berthold Beitz, arrived in the city of Borysław in eastern Galicia to take up the position of business manager in an oil refinery. During his tenure, the German-born Beitz witnessed at close-hand the abuse and deportation of the Jews. Unhesitatingly, he opposed the program of annihilation, and succeeded—often literally at the last minute—in rescuing several hundred Jews from the trains bound for Belzec. At the greatest personal risk, Berthold Beitz and his wife Else issued false work certificates for as many Jews as they could, clandestinely provided them with food, and even hid some in their own home. In recognition of his humane and courageous stance on behalf of the persecuted, Berthold Beitz was honored in 1973 as a Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem.

The English translation of this book was made possible through the generous support of Dirk, Robert and Daniel Ziff (USA).
Joseph (Tommy) Lapid Appointed Chairman of the Council

On 16 July, the government approved the appointment of Joseph (Tommy) Lapid as Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, replacing Holocaust survivor and former Chairman of the Knesset Prof. Szewach Weiss, after a seven-year term of service. Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev thanked Prof. Weiss for “having devoted his efforts and energy over the years to commemorating the Holocaust.”

Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, a Holocaust survivor, was born in 1981 in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. He arrived in Israel in 1948, built a career in journalism and went on to serve as Director of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. Lapid holds a law degree and served for seven years as a member of Knesset, including two years as Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister. He resides in Tel Aviv and is married to author Shulamit Lapid.

“As a Holocaust survivor I regard the transmission of the memory of the Holocaust—now and in the future, to young people and adults, in Israel and around the world—as a sacred obligation,” Lapid said upon his appointment. Avner Shalev added, “I welcome the decision to appoint to the position a public figure who views Holocaust commemoration as an important value to be strengthened in Israel and abroad.”

New Shoah-Related Lists Database Now Online

Yad Vashem recently launched a new database, indexed from over one million pages of Holocaust-related documentation, on its website (www.yadvashem.org). The Shoah-Related Lists Database, which comprises some 11,650 archival records, includes deportation lists, inventories prepared by Jews during the Holocaust, registers compiled by survivors at liberation, and lists prepared by various municipalities under Nazi rule. Some of the documents are records gathered by Red Army investigators after liberation, which until recently were stored in archives in the former Soviet Union. The lists are in 20 languages and are estimated to contain some five million names entries. They have been catalogued in a unified format, and may be searched in English.

Most of the lists in the Database are to be found in the Yad Vashem Archives, and some 10% are located in the archive of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The USHMM is also uploading the lists database, while on the Yad Vashem website a unique option to view most of the lists as scanned images is also available. However, due to the multilingual and often handwritten appearance of the records, it is not possible at this stage to perform a computerized search within the lists themselves.

“This is a revolution in public access to information,” said Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. “An integrated search of the new Shoah-Related Lists Database and the Central Database of Shoah Victims Names, which Yad Vashem uploaded to its website last year, can now shed further light on the fate of individual people during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem is investing a great deal of resources to bring the information located in our archives to homes around the world.”

Yad Vashem is especially grateful to the employees of Netvision Ltd. (Haifa) for their cooperation in this vital project, even while under threat of missile attacks emanating from southern Lebanon.

The program of identifying, cataloguing, and uploading information about Holocaust-related lists is supported by the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement under the supervision of the Honorable Chief Judge Edward R. Korman of the United States District Court, whose goal is to make available to the public the names of all those killed or targeted by the Nazis. The scanning of the lists is part of the process of digitization of the Yad Vashem Archives, supported by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference).

New on the Web www.yadvashem.org

Two new online exhibitions:

On One Clear Day — The Story of Jewish Wolbrom

On 5 September 1942, the Jews of Wolbrom, Poland, were rounded up by the Germans and their collaborators. By the end of the next day, a flourishing community of thousands of Jews had ceased to exist.

Through video clips, photos, stories and testimonies, “On One Clear Day” weaves together poignant memories of a vital community that had existed for over four centuries, its tragic fate during the Holocaust, and the determined efforts since the end of the war to remember and commemorate the people and their existence in that small town.

Connecting the Dots

suitcase inscribed with the words “Margarete Sara Katz, Magdeburg” provided the only clue as to the identity of its owners, who arrived at the Warsaw ghetto in May 1942.

Yad Vashem’s painstaking and determined efforts to recover their identities began with the suitcase, and have resulted in a remarkable exhibition—created to accompany the launch of the Shoah-Related Lists Database—comprising film clips, documents, Pages of Testimony and photos.

Audio Broadcasts and Podcast Downloads

This new lecture series features insights and perspectives of Yad Vashem’s researchers and historians, with further links to related exhibitions, suggested bibliographies and lexicon entries. Dr. David Silberklang, Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies and Israel’s representative on the Academic Working Group of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, begins the series by exploring various issues surrounding the Allied response to the Holocaust. Placing the Allies in the context of the “bystanders” in the Shoah, the lecture examines their responses and decision-making, including the question of the bombing of Auschwitz in 1944.
Events June – September 2006

25 June Assembly marking 66 years since the beginning of the Holocaust in Romania—the Dorohoi Pogrom of 30 June 1940 and the deportation of the region’s Jews to the death camps in Transnistria. The assembly was held in the Dorohoi Area Martyrs’ Forest, in the presence of Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Yafo Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Dr. Valeria Mariana Stoica, Knesset member Colette Avital, Sarah Shalev and Moshe Sharoni, Dorohoi Mayor Sergiu Lungu, Center for Holocaust Survivor Organizations Chairman Noah Flug, Association of Romanian Immigrants Chairman Ze’ev Schwartz, Dorohoi Area Survivors Organization Chairman David Shlomo, Society for the Advancement of Romanian Jewry Chairman Rabbi Yosef Wasserman and J.N.F. representative Michael Ben Abu. Assembly participants lit torches and laid wreaths.

2 July Commemorative assembly marking 65 years since the massacre of the Jews of Iasi and the Dorohoi Pogrom. The assembly, organized by the Memorial Foundation for Romanian Jewry, was held in the Beit Yaakov Yosef-Harav Zvi Gutman Synagogue and Community Center in Tel Aviv, in the presence of Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Dr. Valeria Mariana Stoica, Knesset Member Moshe Sharoni, 2006 Israel Prize Laureate Maestro Mendi Rodan, and Rabbi Efraim Gutman of the Romanian immigrant community.

18 July Ceremony posthumously honoring Ukrainian Righteous Among the Nations—the late Tatyana Minkowska and Nikifor Kurochka, the late Fania Dedek and the late Nestor Sniadanko. The awards and medals were presented to survivors by the Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations, Supreme Court Justice Yaakov Turkel, and by Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan. The ceremony was led by Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, and was attended by some 80 participants, including survivors Antonia Gruber, Binyamin Blitzer, Eliezer Art and Neli Zaslavsky, family and friends.

6 August Assembly marking 64 years since the murder of Janusz Korczak, Stefania Wilczynska and the children, in cooperation with the Janusz Korczak Association in Israel and the Jewish National Fund. The event was held at Yad Vashem’s Janusz Korczak Square, with the participation of International School for Holocaust Studies Director Dr. Motti Shalem, Polish Embassy in Israel representative Piotr Drobniak, Janusz Korczak Association Director-General Binyamin Anolik, former Association Chairman Dr. Eliezer Marcus, and Chairman of the Association’s Education Committee Batya Gilad. A wreath was laid by the artist Yitzhak Belfer, one of Korczak’s orphanage charges and a member of the Korczak Association. A member of the Machanot Ha’olim youth movement addressed the participants. The assembly was attended by some 60 participants, including former charges of Korczak’s, members of the Korczak Association, and members of Machanot Ha’olim.

17 August Annual memorial gathering for the Jews of Rhodes and Kos murdered in the Holocaust, in cooperation with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Jewish Heritage of Rhodes in Jerusalem. The event began with a memorial ceremony in Yad Vashem’s Hall of Remembrance, with the participation of Israel-Greece Friendship League Chairwoman MK Esterherina Tartman. The event continued with speeches by editor of The Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities: Greece Bracha Rivlin, Chairman of the Press Association in Jerusalem Yaron Enosh, Rhodes Foundation Chairman Mario Suriano, National Authority for Ladino and its Culture representative Zelda Ovadia, and Levana Dinerman of Tel Aviv University. Author Mathilda Cohen-Serano read an assortment of poems, and there was a screening of the moving documentary, “Who Are You Moshe Suriani?” Some one hundred participants attended the event.

19 September Charlotte Salomon: Life? Or Theater?—Symposium about the artist’s life and work, with the participation of Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan, Goethe-Institute Jerusalem Director Simone Lenz, Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar, art curator and scholar Dr. Gideon Ofarot, Museums Division Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar, and composer Ella Milch-Sherrin. The symposium concluded with a guided tour of the Charlotte Salomon exhibition, as well as a screening of several films about the artist in the Visual Center.

27 September Annual gathering marking 62 years since the liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto, and two hundred years of Jewish life in Lodz, by the Lodz Immigrants Association in Israel. The event was held at the Tel Aviv Museum with the participation of Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai, Lodz Mayor Dr. Jerzy Kropiwinski, and playwright Nava Semel. The artistic program included performances by tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov and the Yaldei David Halelu Girls’ choir. The event was attended by some five hundred survivors, and members of the next generations.

28 September Annual memorial ceremony marking 65 years since the murder of the Jews by the Nazis on Ukrainian territory—the massacres at Babi Yar, Bogdanovka, Drobitsky Yar and nearby areas—in conjunction with Amigour—management of assets, Jewish Agency Housing Project; the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption; the Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel; and the Jewish Agency. The event was held at Yad Vashem’s Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans, in the presence of Immigrant Absorption Minister Ze’ev Boin, Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski, Yad Vashem Council Chairman Joseph (Tommy) Lipat, Amigour Board of Directors Chairman Moshe Nativ and Director-General Yuval Frankel, and Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel Chairman David Levin.

Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel Chairman David Levin addresses participants at the annual memorial ceremony marking 65 years since the murder of the Jews by the Nazis on Ukrainian territory, at Yad Vashem’s Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans.
New Display:
Drawings of the Trial of Klaus Barbie, "The Butcher of Lyon"
by Yehudit Shendar and Keren Katsir-Stiebel

A new display of drawings by the French artist René Diaz of the trial of war criminal Klaus Barbie opened in the foyer of Yad Vashem's main auditorium on 17 October 2006. The opening coincided with a symposium focusing on the influence of the Klaus Barbie trial on Shoah remembrance in France, with the participation of Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who identified Barbie's hiding place in 1983, René Diaz, French Cultural Counsellor in Israel Prof. Tobie T. Nathan and Chairman of the French Society for Yad Vashem Dr. Richard Prasquier.

Klaus Barbie was born in 1913 in Bad Godesberg, Germany. He joined the Nazi Party in 1932, and the S.S. and the S.D. in 1935. When the Germans invaded southern France in 1942, Barbie was appointed head of the Gestapo in Lyon, where he commanded operations involving the arrest, torture, murder and deportation of thousands of Jews and underground fighters. Barbie's inconceivable cruelty earned him the infamous title "the Butcher of Lyon." After the war, Barbie worked as an agent for American counter-intelligence in Germany. In 1951, he immigrated to Bolivia and settled in the capital, La Paz, adopting a false name, Klaus Altmann. In 1952 and 1954, Barbie was tried in absentia in France, and found guilty both times. In 1971, Nazi hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld tracked him down. Unfortunately, requests for extradition were denied several times. Only in 1983 was Barbie successfully deported from Bolivia to France. He was charged with crimes against humanity, crimes for which the statute of limitations does not apply. They included responsibility for: the February 1943 raid on the General Union of French Jewry, during which 85 Jews were arrested and transported to Auschwitz; the deportation of 44 Jewish children hiding in the village of Izieu, near Lyon; and the last transport of Jews from Lyon to Auschwitz in 1944. Barbie was also accused of deporting 842 members of the French underground (the Résistance)—half of whom were Jewish—from Lyon, as well as for the torture and the murder of Jean Moulin, a prominent member of the Résistance.

On 4 July 1987, Klaus Barbie was found guilty of crimes against humanity, and sentenced to life in prison, the maximum penalty permitted under French law. In 1991, Barbie died of cancer, in prison.

The drawings on display are part of a larger collection belonging to René Diaz, which he drew for over eight weeks at Barbie's trial in 1987. With his unique ability to "capture the moment," Diaz succeeded in relaying the intensity of the facial expressions, the dramatic hand movements and the deep feelings of each witness as the drama unfolded around him. The drawings were previously displayed at the Musee de la Déportation et Résistance de Lyon. After the exhibition closed, Diaz generously donated them to the Museum of Holocaust Art collection at Yad Vashem.

Yehudit Sendar is Senior Art Curator, Museums Division, and Keren Katsir-Stiebel is Collection Manager, Museum of Holocaust Art.

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News from the Research Institute

Two new conferences this winter: Justice and the Holocaust

by Elliot Nidam-Orvieto

Prof. Arieh Kochavi of Haifa University. Prof. Michael Marrus, Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto, will give the keynote address.

The Conference is made possible through the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

The Holocaust and Medical Ethics

The International Institute for Holocaust Research and the Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion – The Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa are planning a scholarly conference on the subject of "The Holocaust and Medical Ethics." The conference is scheduled for 24-26 January 2007.

The conference will provide prominent scholars and young researchers in the field a venue to discuss various issues on the topic, including: Medical Ethics, Eugenics and Euthanasia; Medical Schools and the Teaching of Medical Ethics; Nazi Medical Experiments; and Jewish Doctors in the Ghettoes.

For more information on the two conferences, please visit the Yad Vashem website (www.yadvashem.org), or Tel: +972-2-644 3480.

The author is Academic Advisor to the Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research.
The Last Survivor of Chelmno
Shimon Srebrnik, a*7

Shimon Srebrnik was born in Lodz in 1930. A few months after witnessing his father’s murder on the streets of the Lodz ghetto in 1943, Shimon was deported to the Chelmno extermination camp. At the camp, he was forced to pull gold fillings from the teeth of victims, and given various other sorting tasks. His legs were fettered with a 40cm-long chain, which he and the other prisoners were kept in day and night to prevent them from escaping. In January 1945, as the Red Army approached, the Nazis destroyed the camp. They then forced the remaining prisoners—Srebrnik among them—to lie down, and shot them in the back of the neck. The bullet intended to kill Srebrnik exited through his mouth, but he remained conscious. After the Nazis left, he crawled to the stable of a Polish farmer, where he collapsed. A Red Army physician gave him a few hours to live but, to the doctor’s astonishment, Srebrnik recovered.

In 1978, while filming his documentary (Prinz), Claude Lanzmann chose Srebrnik as one of his main witnesses. The scene with Srebrnik sailing in a boat and singing the songs he sang to the Nazis in Chelmno has become indelibly inscribed in the memory of millions of viewers. During the filming, Srebrnik met with the same Polish farmer, who produced the chains that had been removed from Srebrnik’s legs 30 years earlier. Srebrnik donated them to Yad Vashem, and they can now be viewed in the Holocaust History Museum, along with his filmed testimony, which may also be seen on the online Video Testimony Resource Center (www.yadvashem.org).

Shimon Srebrnik, a dear friend, the last of the three survivors of the Chelmno extermination camp, passed away in August, leaving a wife, two daughters, and grandchildren. May his memory be blessed.

Annotator of the Lodz Ghetto Chronicle
Arie Ben-Menachem z"l

Arie Ben-Menachem (Prinz) was born in Lodz in 1922. During the war, he befriended the photographer-artist Mendel Grossman, whom he assisted in his clandestine efforts to document life in the Lodz ghetto. They photographed scenes of daily life—people at work in the “resorts” (factories), hungry children, the abuse, the executions and the deportations—and Arie used some of the images to create a unique personal 18-page album.

When the ghetto was liquidated, Arie ended up in concentration camps in Poland and Germany, and his album was smuggled away. Although he was unable to determine the fate of the original album, copies of the individual sheets, published in various books, reached him after the war, and he managed to reconstruct the entire work.

Arie fought in Israel’s War of Independence and then settled with his family in Israel. His extensive personal library contained thousands of books on the Holocaust in general, and on the Lodz ghetto in particular. He was always willing to share his library and his vast personal knowledge with researchers and students. With his friend Yosef Ray, he translated and annotated the Lodz Ghetto Chronicle (Yad Vashem, 1986-1989), a unique and highly important research source. He also helped prepare a book on the Righteous Among the Nations in Poland.

On 19 July 2006, Arie Ben-Menachem was buried in Israel. He is mourned by his family and his many friends and admirers. May his memory be blessed.
Friends
U.S.A.

Benefactors
Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein of Long Island (left) arrived in September for a special visit of the Yad Vashem campus, and were joined by Marilyn’s mother Harriet Becker and friend Annette Goldstein. Pictured: Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein in front of Yad Vashem’s Synagogue, endowed through their generosity, together with American Society for Yad Vashem Development Director Shraga Mekel (right).

In July, Yad Vashem Guardians Dr. Rochelle and Dr. Robert Cherry of New York (right, in front of the Donors Wall in the Square of Hope) took a special tour of the Yad Vashem campus.

Nathan Shapell and daughter Vera Guerin of California (3rd and 4th from left) visited Yad Vashem in June and toured the new Museum. Nathan Shapell recently became a Yad Vashem Benefactor.

Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev presented Hannah and Bernie Rubinstein of California (above, left) with the Yad Vashem key during a June ceremony honoring their decision to become Yad Vashem Builders.

CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Lee Wunsch visited Yad Vashem in July (center, along with Rabbi David Rosen of Houston, left, and friends, accompanied by Deputy Director of International Relations Sari Granitza, 2nd from left). The Houston Federation is planning a large mission to Yad Vashem for February 2007.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Scott Berric of New York (right) came to Yad Vashem in July for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum led by Yad Vashem guide Dina Shefet.
AUSTRALIA

Jacob and Rita Weinberg (2nd and 3rd from right), and Rita’s mother Ruth Shell (left) of Sydney visited Yad Vashem in July. Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda (right) and David Metzler (2nd from left) hosted them during their stay.

CANADA

In a moving show of support to Israel during its war in the north, Harry and Sara Gorman of Toronto came to Israel with their entire family, including their children and grandchildren, in August (pictured at the exit of the Holocaust History Museum, overlooking the hills of Jerusalem).

HONG KONG

Robert and Chantal Miller (right) of Hong Kong visited Yad Vashem in June and toured the Holocaust History Museum, accompanied by the Director of the English Desk David Metzler (left).

RUSSIA

In April, Yad Vashem supporter Mikhail Bezlianski visited the Montparnasse Deportée exhibition at Yad Vashem, where two of the artworks displayed—one by Michel Kikoine (pictured) and one by Henri Epstein—were generously loaned to the exhibition from Mr. Bezlianski’s private collection. Mr. Bezlianski is currently sponsoring the publication of the Carol Deutsch Portfolio—a series of illustrations of the Bible painted in 1941-42 while Deutsch and his family were in hiding from the Nazis.

In June, David Cynamon and family of Toronto came for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem.

Executive Director of the Asper Foundation Moses (Moe) Levy delivered a speech at the closing session of the Fifth International Conference for Educators at Yad Vashem in June (see p. 4), in memory of Dr. Israel Asper.

HONG KONG

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RUSSIA

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Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Nachman Zonabend z"l of Sweden, a friend of Yad Vashem who contributed greatly to Holocaust remembrance. At great personal risk, Nachman rescued thousands of documents and photographs from the Lodz ghetto, and passed them on to Yad Vashem. He also donated artworks created by eminent artists from Lodz to the Museum of Holocaust Art. May his memory be blessed.
MEXICO

In August, David and Liz Dichi and family traveled to Yad Vashem for the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the Square of Hope. The Dichis recently became Yad Vashem Builders.

SPAIN

Michel Eljarrat (2nd from right) and his wife Estrella (center, left) were joined by their sons and family during their April visit to Yad Vashem. Michel and Estrella’s contribution to Yad Vashem was recognized in a ceremony and with the unveiling of a plaque in the Square of Hope.

CHILE

On 31 May, David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein (5th and 6th from left, with Avner Shalev, 4th from left, and Shaya Ben Yehuda, left), and family of Santiago, Chile inaugurated the new VIP Pavilion with the affixing of a mezuzah. The Pavilion, donated by David and Sara, is located adjacent to Warsaw Ghetto Square.

David is President of the Chilean Society for Yad Vashem and sits on the International Board of Governors of the American Society for Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem welcomes David and Sara to its family of Benefactors.

PERU

Isaac and Bella Galsky (3rd and 4th from right) and friends arrived at Yad Vashem in April to take part in a ceremony at the new Synagogue. They were hosted by Director of the Iberoamerican Desk Perla Hazan (left).

Yad Vashem appreciates the generosity of its friends in supporting its mission of Shoah commemoration, documentation, research and education. 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:
USA: American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor
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Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 1-212-220-4304

Canada: Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
970 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 211
Toronto, ONT M6A 3B6
Tel: 1-416-785-1333

UK: Yad Vashem UK Foundation
6 Bloomsbury Square
London, WC1A 2LP
Tel: 020-7543-5402

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.
From the online exhibition:

On One Clear Day –

The Story of Jewish Wolbrom (p. 13)