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Photography: Yossi Ben David, Isaac Harari, Effi Neumann

Production: Dfus Kal

Design: Stephanie & Ruti Design

This magazine was published with the assistance of Canit Hashalom Investments LTD.

Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine

P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel
Tel: 972-2-6443413, Fax: 972-2-6443409
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www.yadvashem.org
ISSN 0793-7199

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Yad Vashem's activities are supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport

the Claims Conference

and the Jewish Agency for Israel

by Leah Goldstein and Deborah Berman

Following the pseudo-academic conference held in Tehran in early December "to examine the scientific evidence supporting the Holocaust," denunciations, condemnations and rebuttals were widely reported in the Western media, putting the Iranian leader and his racist sympathizers worldwide on the defense. At a symposium convened later that week at Yad Vashem by Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev entitled, "Holocaust Denial: Paving the Way to

described Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial campaign as a premeditated strategy to pave the way for a justification of a Jewish genocide. "Claiming the Holocaust was a myth is part of an attempt to deny the legitimacy of the State of Israel as a safe haven for the Jews after the Holocaust," he warned. "As long as the world remembers the Holocaust, it will resist an attempt to perpetrate another genocide."

But beyond understanding the threat, the goal of

Holocaust Denial: Paving the Way to Genocide

Genocide," the Tehran conference was exposed as nothing less than an insidious advance in Iran's agenda of demonizing the Jewish people and advocating its ultimate goal: the destruction of the State of Israel.

"Holocaust denial in Muslim countries is embedded in radical Islam, and one has to understand that context if one wants to deal with denial and with the new genocidal threat posed by the Iranian regime," explained Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer to an audience of 40 ambassadors and representatives hailing from five continents. Following a gripping video presentation of the proliferation of antisemitic fabrications and Holocaust denial in Iran, President of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) Yigal Carmon

the symposium was to motivate the international community to act against this alarming campaign. Avner Shalev called for global opposition to the Iranian platform and conveyed Yad Vashem's intentions to adopt a more proactive stance on the issue. "We must reach out to the Islamic population in Europe and America, and view them as bridges between worlds," he stated. "Yad Vashem plans to promote education and outreach to moderate elements in the Islamic world, including the uploading of material in Arabic and Farsi to the Yad Vashem website."

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid reminded the audience that he is a Holocaust survivor, and addressed Europe's responsibility for what happened 60 years ago, and what is happening now. "If Europe missed the opportunity to understand what Hitler was promising," he cautioned, "then Europe should believe what the Iranian President is saying now. He means business."

Perhaps the most touching remarks were offered by Rita Weiss, a Holocaust survivor who lost 48 members of her family in Auschwitz. Calling the Iranian President's attempts to question the historical veracity of the Holocaust "a personal affront," an emotional Ms. Weiss stated, "I am the only one who survived and managed to emerge alive—an orphan my whole life. I ask you, diplomatic representatives, did all my family just disappear? They have no graves, no one buried them; they became smoke and ashes."

"We didn't believe Hitler when he said in *Mein Kampf* that he would destroy the Jews, but he did it; he put it into practice. President Ahmadinejad has threatened the same, and I believe him," Weiss warned.

Speaking on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Cameroon H.E. Mr. Henri Etoundi Essomba voiced staunch support of Israel, explaining that the countries in attendance opposed and condemned the comments of Iranian despots regarding the Holocaust. "Our objective in being here today is to listen and leave here more strengthened than we have been in the past," he told the group. "We will continue to stand by the State of Israel and support her in the battle against antisemitism and Holocaust denial."



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Front cover: Samuel Bak (b. 1933), *Portrait with a Star*, 1973
Oil on canvas, Collection of the artist

Back cover: Samuel Bak, *Self-portrait*, 1945
Sanguine on paper, Collection of the artist

www.yadvashem.org



for online video lectures
delivered at the symposium



Safeguarding the Future

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Honored at Yad Vashem

by Leah Goldstein

On 27 October, a tribute ceremony honoring Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson of Las Vegas as strategic partners of Yad Vashem took place in the presence of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir, Nobel Peace Laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel, Head of the Opposition Benjamin Netanyahu, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev.

Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance, 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 z"l, and members of their families, who perished in the Holocaust. Their recent \$25 million 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 Holocaust education, commemoration, research and documentation.

In his address, **Prime Minister Ehud Olmert** thanked the Adelsons on behalf of the people and government of Israel for their significant donation, and spoke of their tireless fight "for the basic principles of justice for the Jewish people, and for the future of the State of Israel." Their



actions, he stated, were extremely important in displaying the "degree of determination and generosity that can join together all people of conscience for a better Jewish future."



Nobel Prize Laureate Prof. Elie Wiesel lamented the tragedy of humankind during the *Shoah*; how the world stood idly by while thousands of Jews were being murdered on a daily basis. Describing Yad Vashem as "the sanctuary of human memory," he praised the Adelsons for their "intent, action and commitment to their people and what is noble in humanity," and called their gesture a "moral inspiration to all those who should feel as you do."

Minister of Education, Prof. Yuli Tamir focused on the responsibility of the next generations to "carry the torch of remembrance and deliver it to our children... We need to talk about the unspeakable," she said. "It is not only for us to remember; it is also important that the world learns what can happen when people forget their humanity."

"It is no accident," stressed **Benjamin Netanyahu MK, Head of the Opposition**, "that those who want to destroy Israel deny the Holocaust. Therefore, we have a duty to believe those who state their genocidal intent against us, and to prepare ourselves fully for the danger ahead." Yad Vashem, he continued, is "fundamental" to the idea of "connecting the memory of the past with lessons for

the future," something, he asserted, the Adelsons see as a personal imperative.

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev extolled the actions of the Adelsons in recognizing their part in the chain of Jewish continuity, in caring about the past by helping disseminate the legacy of the *Shoah*, and in committing themselves to taking any step to ensure the future of the Jewish people. He promised to "follow their lead, and do everything we can to ensure excellence in Holocaust research, education and commemoration," and thanked them for allowing Yad Vashem to strengthen and widen its activities over the coming years.

Sheldon G. Adelson thanked all those present, as well as the staff at Yad Vashem, and spoke of his "awe and honor" on visiting the campus. He described the privilege he and his wife felt to be able to contribute to the continuity of the Jewish people, and pledged never to forget the Holocaust. **Dr. Miriam Adelson** recalled the pain of her parents who lost so many beloved members of their families, and her initial exposure to survivors' testimonies during the Eichmann trial. "I remember the Holocaust every day," she said, "and that makes me, I hope, a better, deeper person." At the dedication of the Museum of Holocaust Art two years ago, she explained, she felt the presence of her parents as she closed a circle. However, she warned, today she feels more acutely the threat of a future holocaust, and thanked her husband for supporting her, and Yad Vashem for its vital work in *Shoah* remembrance and education.

Teaching *OUTSIDE* the BOX

Yad Vashem Education Awards 2006

by Dalit Danenberg

“ One teacher, one class, one chalkboard, one method, and a closed door... The moment you discard this formula, meaningful learning begins. This is true for all subjects, and it’s also true for the Holocaust.”

Roni Weinberg, Principal, Manor Kabri Junior High School, Kibbutz Eilon – “Outstanding Educational Program” prizewinner, 2006

On 6 November, the auditorium in Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies was filled to capacity with students, teachers and Holocaust survivors attending the annual Yad Vashem Education Awards ceremony, in the presence of Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir, the families of the award donors, and representatives



Japanese educator Fumiko Ishioka (left) with George Brady, brother of Holocaust victim Hana Brady, the subject of the prizewinning book, *Hana’s Suitcase: A True Story*

of the Canadian Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The palpable excitement at the ceremony reflected the special character of this year’s group of prizewinners—educators who have all found unique ways of teaching the Holocaust to children, and for whom education is their life’s calling. Attesting to their dedication were the many students and their families who came to honor their teachers.

Mevo’ot Elementary School in Be’er Tuvia is likewise devoted to finding creative ways of integrating knowledge and emotion into Holocaust instruction from a young age. Sixth-graders at the school decided that their “ethical legacy” for younger pupils would be the establishment of a Holocaust museum and study center. Pupils, parents and teachers—in essence, the entire community—headed by Principal Chaya Avtalyon, mobilized for the task. The resulting museum,

On the Path to Remembrance, earned the school Yad Vashem’s Educational Achievement Award. Guided by the sixth-grade students, the exhibit provides an emotionally compelling sense of connection between today’s pupils and the children of the Holocaust era.

The Excellence in Holocaust Teaching Award was conferred to Marsha Goren, an English teacher at the Ein Ganim Elementary School in Petach Tikva. During her more than 30 years of teaching, Goren developed an entire website around the experiences of her mother, Sonia Frenkel z”l, a survivor of both Majdanek and Auschwitz. The site serves as a forum for dialogue with 32 other schools worldwide, with Israeli students telling their families’ stories and students abroad responding with their thoughts. Winning the Yad Vashem award represents an experience of a lifetime for Marsha: “The fact that the students and their parents came to the ceremony will deepen the impression made on them by their exposure to the Holocaust, and inspire them to keep learning about it in the future,” she said.

The heart-wrenching story of Hana Brady as retold in *Hana’s Suitcase: A True Story* (published by Shoken in Hebrew), is this year’s winner of the Children’s Holocaust Literature Award. The book, written by Canadian radio producer Karen Levine, relates the incredible tale of how a Japanese teacher, Fumiko Ishioka, pieced together the details of Hana’s life—and her death in Auschwitz at the age of 13—from one small, battered suitcase. The intercontinental quest turned the Holocaust into a tangible experience for Fumiko’s students, who ended up helping Hana’s brother George find out what happened to his younger and only sister more than half a century after they were separated in Theresienstadt. Translated into over 20 languages, the book is used to introduce children around the world to the subject of the Holocaust.

George Brady, his daughter Lara, and Fumiko Ishioka, Director of the Holocaust Educational Resource Center in Tokyo, flew in especially to attend the award ceremony. “There can be no solace for the loss of a sister,” explained George. “Nevertheless, the fact that Hana’s life and death has become the subject of a book that serves as

such an important educational tool represents hope for the future.”

The award for Outstanding Educational Program on the History of the Jews in France during the Holocaust was presented to Rose-Lyne Barbè of the Rabin Junior High School in Jerusalem. Barbè has developed an educational project through which groups of pupils from her neighborhood in Jerusalem are put in contact with members of the Jewish community in Lyons, enabling the students to learn about Jewish life in France before the Holocaust, the Jews’ suffering during the war, and their efforts to survive and rebuild their lives afterwards. At school, the pupils read survivor testimonies, and during their visit to Lyons they conducted interviews with survivors, thus perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust in France.

Prizes were also awarded to students for outstanding matriculation papers: Chana Kupetz from the Neve Chana High School in Alon Shvut for her paper on “The attitude of the Polish people to the Jews of Warsaw during the deportations of the summer of 1942;” Talia Kirsh from the Horev Girls High School in Jerusalem for her paper on “The Kindertransport;” and Elior Cohen from The University High School in Jerusalem for his paper on “Jewish Scouts in France during WWII and the Holocaust, 1939-1945.”

The Yad Vashem Educational Awards are enabled through the generous support of: the Chuno and Blima Najmann Foundation; the Estate of Sarah Brand in memory of Bruno Brand; the Luba and Mark Uveeler Foundation; the Foundation in Memory of the Members of the Golderbitter and Gifman Families Who Perished in the Holocaust, established by Many and Gershon Bergson; the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah; and the Aloumim Association.

The author is Yad Vashem Education Awards Coordinator at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

New Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies

Dorit Novak has been appointed Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, succeeding Dr. Motti Shalem, who has led the School since 1994.

The International School for Holocaust Studies, established in 1993 with the endorsement of then-Minister of Education Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, is a unique and trailblazing institution, and is a primary part of Yad Vashem's activities.

During his tenure at Yad Vashem, Dr. Shalem developed the School's three main avenues of work: teacher training; student seminars, and the production of lesson plans and educational material in many languages. He also oversaw the establishment of the European Department as well as the expansion of the pedagogical use of the Internet through multilingual online courses and educational networks. Similarly, under Dr. Shalem's leadership, a number of partnerships were established with various bodies, such as the OSCE, ICHIEC, the Council of Europe and the IDF. Dr. Shalem also initiated programs that, for the first time, brought young people from diverse backgrounds closer to the study of the Holocaust, including members of the Arab sector, the ultra-Orthodox sector and at-risk youth.

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev praised Dr. Shalem's work, pointing out his "fundamental contribution to the development of the International School for Holocaust Studies and its work in Israel and around the world, as well as its unique educational approach. I wish him luck and success in all his future endeavors."

Dorit Novak holds an MA in Education. Until recently, she was manager of the "welfare to work" pilot administration in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labor. Prior to that, she served as development and employment head of the cooperative project run by Israel's Ministry of Trade and the Joint Distribution Committee. Novak established and ran the countrywide educational program, "Haznek," that is today supported by Discount Bank. During her military service, she served in various educational capacities, including head of the Hasbarah and culture branches.

In wishing her success in her new position, Avner Shalev said: "I am confident that Dorit's vast experience in administering educational frameworks will contribute to her ability to lead Yad Vashem's educational activities, supported by the dedicated staff at the School."

Activities in Europe

The fall semester saw a renewal of seminars both at Yad Vashem and abroad supported by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). These seminars welcomed educators from the **Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Poland**, where staff presented educational units and led pedagogical discussions. Positive feedback was received from many participants, with those who came to Jerusalem expressing their appreciation for being exposed to both Yad Vashem and Israel in this manner.

The Second Annual International ICHEIC Forum at Yad Vashem will be held in February. This Forum is held once a year for Yad Vashem's European partners, who work closely with the School staff in the organization of seminars both locally and abroad. This year, the Forum will focus on goals and resources in the creation of a network of educators within the framework of the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education. It will give participants a platform in which to describe Holocaust educational activity in their own countries and express views on Holocaust education stemming from personal experience. Participants will also be updated as to the types of initiatives created by former participants in Yad Vashem seminars.

Benjamin Meed, z"l

Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Benjamin Meed z"l**, survivor of the Warsaw ghetto who devoted his life to helping other Holocaust survivors. Born in February 1918, Meed spent the war years working as a forced laborer for the Nazis, using every possible opportunity to help smuggle Jews out of the ghetto. Together with his wife Vladka, Meed dedicated his life after the war to strengthening the voice of survivors and helping them reunite with scattered family members and friends. In 1981, he set up the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, serving as its president until his death in October 2006.

In 1989, Benjamin and Vladka Meed initiated the annual Yad Vashem summer seminar for middle- and high-school teachers from the USA. For 15 years, the couple traveled with the groups to Jerusalem, and also accompanied them to Poland, where they gave first-hand testimony of their experiences during the Holocaust. These seminars help ensure that the story of the Holocaust continues to be told through the next generations. Yad Vashem will remember Benjamin Meed z"l as a giant in promoting Holocaust education and remembrance. May his memory be blessed.

by Tamara Wassner

New on  www.yadvashem.org/education

"At the Edge of the Abyss" – "Final Solution"

The International School for Holocaust Studies has recently uploaded the second section of *At the Edge of the Abyss: the Holocaust of European Jewry*, the remarkably successful online course for educators, Holocaust resource center administrators and students, supported by the Claims Conference. "Final Solution" explores how the idea of exterminating the Jews evolved, and its implementation throughout Europe. By way of several case studies, the program reviews the various phases of the Final Solution, including: the Nazi camp system; different aspects of imprisonment and survival in the camps; and the role of the murderers and perpetrators.

Each independent section in the course is comprised of 10 fortnightly lessons, presented through texts, photographs and testimonies, in addition to documents from Yad Vashem's Archives, some of which have been translated into English for the first time. The historical work is largely source based, requiring a solid level of critical thinking and assessment. Students will gain a high level of knowledge on the subject, as well as training in using sources and historiography in approaching historical discourse.

For more information please email: tamara.wassner@yadvashem.org.il

The author works in the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Special New Website for UN

In advance of the second International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 27 January, Yad Vashem and the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute (SFI) have launched a joint website featuring multi-media resources about the Holocaust. The website was specifically designed for the United Nations Holocaust Outreach Program and will serve UN information centers staff across the globe, enabling users to enhance their understanding about this watershed event in world history.

Accessible from Yad Vashem's homepage (www.yadvashem.org), the new website features four SFI testimonies, augmented with a plethora of primary source materials from Yad Vashem's vast archives and comprehensive databases, including original artifacts and photographs, authentic diary and letter extracts, encyclopedia and lexicon entries, educational resources and briefing notes. The website is due to be launched on 29 January by UN Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Relations Shashi Tharoor during the main commemorative event of the General Assembly in New York.

"UN Resolution 60/7, adopted on 1 November 2005, is historic in its support of Holocaust remembrance and education," commented Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. "Yad Vashem, whose very mandate is based upon these commitments, is pleased to be able to take part in this international project, providing the United Nations' outreach program with educational resources produced for their worldwide information centers by our experts in the field."

■ ■ ■

In addition to the new website, the International School for Holocaust Studies has placed numerous educational materials in English, Italian and German on the Yad Vashem website (www.yadvashem.org/education), for teachers and institutions around the world to download and use for memorial ceremonies and lesson plans to mark this important day.

27 January

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Online International Holocaust Memorial Day Guidelines — Now in 11 Languages

On 27 January 2006—the first UN-declared International Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yad Vashem and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights launched a new set of guidelines for educators on how to prepare for Holocaust Memorial Days. Successful cooperation between Yad Vashem and its many international partners—including the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Belgian Foreign Ministry, the Italian Ministry of Education and the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture—has resulted in these guidelines being translated into 11 languages, accessible from a number of websites, including Yad Vashem's (www.yadvashem.org/education). Over the past year, the guidelines have been downloaded from the Yad Vashem website in great numbers, and have also been distributed to educators attending intensive teacher-training seminars at Yad Vashem as well as in their own countries.

Special Session of the Ministry of Education at Yad Vashem

On 24 January, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies will host a special session of the Ministry of Education administration, headed by Ministry Director-General Shmuel Aboav. The first part of the session will be dedicated to International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev will speak at the opening of the session.

"The Holocaust, Medicine and Medical Ethics" Conference Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

From 24-25 January, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research in cooperation with the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion – The Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa will be holding a scholarly conference on the subject of "The Holocaust, Medicine and Medical Ethics." Scholars from Israel, the USA and Germany will lecture on a variety of topics, including: The Teaching of Medicine in Nazi Germany; Eugenics and Euthanasia; Nazi Medical Experiments and Dilemmas of Jewish Physicians in the Ghettos; and Medical Schools and the Teaching of Medical Ethics today.

The Conference is being held through the generous support of the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences and the Claims Conference. For more information, please call: +972-2-644 3480.

"Genocide Since the Holocaust" Special Visual Center Program for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On Sunday 28 January, Yad Vashem's Visual Center will present a special program marking the Second International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The program, entitled "Genocide Since the Holocaust," will present incidents of genocide and ethnic cleansing since the end of WWII, in an effort to understand how and why such crimes are committed, and perhaps glean from that knowledge the wisdom necessary to prevent similar atrocities in the future.

The Center will screen films on Rwanda, Cambodia and Sarajevo, as well as short testimonies from Darfur, including: *Guernica* (1978), *Hotel Rwanda* (2004), *The Killing Fields* (1984) and *Witnessing Darfur-Genocide Emergency* (2005).

by Leah Goldstein

Marking 60 years since the Nuremberg Trials, the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem held an international scholarly conference on 19-21 December entitled, “Holocaust and Justice: Post-War Trials—Representation, Awareness, and Histiography.” Conference sessions featured wide-ranging subjects related to the topic, including the interaction between politics and punishment; justice via the media; trials of Jewish and non-Jewish *Kapos*; and the Nazis’ permissible and illicit use of law within the German legal system.

The latter subject was presented by Michael J. Bazylar, Professor of Law at Whittier Law School, California, and current postdoctoral research fellow at the Research Institute, during a session honoring Simon Wiesenthal, z”l.

In an interview conducted before the conference, Prof. Bazylar explained the importance of this subject, and its relevance to the challenges faced by world democracy today:

The “Nuremberg legacy” forms an important part of modern international law, and the trials are celebrated today as triumphs of justice. Imperfect as they were, the prosecutors and judges at Nuremberg appear to have done a fairly decent job of delivering justice towards the defendants at the dock.

Imperfect? What was lacking?

A critical component in the success of the Nuremberg trials was the independence of the American, British and French judges and prosecutors in handling the proceedings. The



Prof. Michael J. Bazylar: trying to reconcile “how the Holocaust could simultaneously have been both legal and criminal.”

Western prosecutors knew that they had to prove their case for each defendant, with no assurances that a verdict of guilty was a foregone conclusion; the Western judges, likewise, saw their role as impartial arbitrators. However, to the great chagrin of Chief Prosecutor Robert Jackson, Soviet judge Iona Timofeevich Nikitchenko announced before the start of the trials: “We are dealing here with the chief war criminals who have already been convicted and whose conviction has been already announced by both the Moscow and Crimea [Yalta] declarations.... The whole idea is to secure quick and just punishment for the crime.” He then famously added: “If... the judge is supposed to be impartial, it would only lead to unnecessary delays.”

In your research, you discuss a phenomenon known as “legal barbarism.” Can you explain?

A major goal of the Western prosecutors and judges at Nuremberg was to demonstrate their judicial independence, in contrast to the wholesale

corruption of the legal system in Germany during the Nazi era. The sad fact is that legal sophistication did not inoculate German law and legal actors—judges and other judicial officials, lawyers, and law professors—from actively participating in the perverse changes being made to the German legal system during the Nazi era, including the legal exclusion of Jews from the concept of “citizen,” and the Nuremberg Race Laws, which gradually transformed the non-citizen Jew into a subhuman not worthy of life. By the time the gas vans came and the human slaughter factories were built in Auschwitz and the other death camps, the murder of the six million Jews and other persecuted minorities had been engineered completely within the framework of German law through this system of “legal barbarism.”

At the so-called “Justice Trial” at Nuremberg in 1946, the defendants—German judges and justice ministry officials—offered as their lead defense the point that they were now being prosecuted for acts that were perfectly legal under German law. The American judges hearing the case rejected that argument, finding that Nazi Germany was a criminal state whose laws could not be given the label of legality.



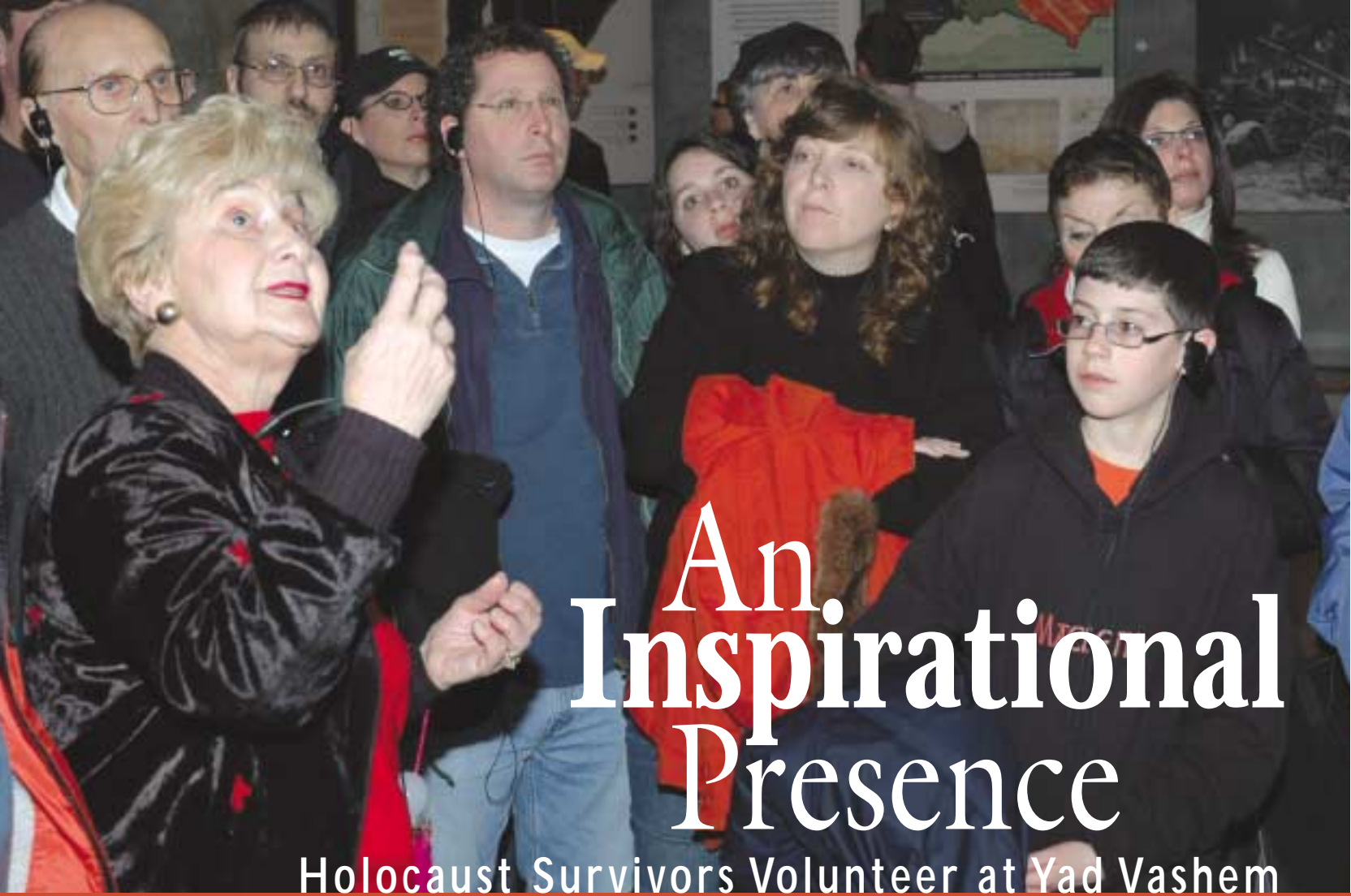
Justice on Trial

the other hand, the internal threat in the United States, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Israel and other liberal democracies throughout the world from both homegrown and foreign terrorists is real, and so legal measures must be taken to protect against this threat.

However, it is a well-known adage that democracies are precarious institutions, and that constant vigilance must be maintained to preserve such democracies from undue government encroachment. Remembering the sorry behavior of German judges and lawyers during the Nazi era can play an important role in ensuring that today’s democracies—faced with the threat of terrorism—do not transform themselves into legal tyrannies. With the threat of future 9/11-style terrorist attacks still looming large, a final evaluation cannot be made about whether legal actors in today’s liberal democracies will continue to handle themselves more responsibly than how German legal actors conducted themselves between 1933-45.

The Conference was made possible through the generous support of the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences and the Gutwirth Family Fund.





An Inspirational Presence

Holocaust Survivors Volunteer at Yad Vashem

Rena Quint (left): Telling the story from a personal perspective. Pictured: guiding an "Emunah" group from Canada through the Holocaust History Museum

by Yifat Bachrach-Ron

Though the Holocaust is a painful part of their days, and often haunts their nights, they come religiously, one or more times a week, to volunteer at Yad Vashem. They may be found cataloging, translating, editing documents, giving guided tours, assisting with the completion of Pages of Testimony, recording testimonies, manning the information desk, or talking about their Holocaust experiences to various audiences.

What motivates these survivors—despite the understandable difficulty involved—to occupy themselves so intensively with the Holocaust? The answer is twofold: most regard their work at Yad Vashem as a mission; for some, it also serves as a tool for coping with the pain.

Today, some 150 volunteers—many of whom are Holocaust survivors—spend at least part of their days at Yad Vashem, in all departments and fields. While it is impossible on these pages to profile every one, this article is dedicated to Yad Vashem's entire volunteer staff.

"The volunteers are an inseparable part of Yad Vashem," says Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. "We can only salute those survivors who have chosen to dedicate their lives to perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust, despite the emotional difficulty of coping with the memories. Their work represents a significant contribution to the task of Holocaust commemoration and education."

Visitors to the Hall of Names in the Holocaust History Museum may encounter **Rabbi Joseph Schachter**, who has been volunteering at Yad Vashem since 1986. "One day I came to visit Yad Vashem and went into the Hall of Names to do some genealogical work on my family," he explains. "I saw the piles of papers and the huge amount of work that needed to be done, and realized I wanted to help out." Born in Vienna in 1931, Schachter and his family fled to Belgium when his hometown was occupied by the Nazis. They then moved to France and, in 1941, managed to reach the US, where he eventually received rabbinical

The Pioneer Volunteer

For nearly 30 years, **Sabine Elzon**—who celebrated her 95th birthday last August and "retired" from volunteer work last year—helped classify thousands of Pages of Testimony in the Hall of Names. Born in Poland and educated in France, Sabine and her husband were active in the French underground in Lyons during WWII. She helped rescue Jewish children by hiding them, and also fought in the resistance movements. She vowed that after the war, if she survived, she would act on behalf of those murdered by the Nazis.



"For us, Sabine was not just a volunteer, but rather a preserver of the memory of those who perished," says Hall of Names Director Alexander Avraham. "She

came out of 'there' with renewed strength and became an inspirational presence for all of those who work here."

ordination. In 1972, Rabbi Schachter came to Israel. He has been volunteering full time at Yad Vashem since his retirement 10 years ago, helping visitors to complete Pages of Testimony and search the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names.

"The most important thing I can do is encourage someone to fill out a Page of Testimony," he says. "My most poignant memory is of an elderly lady who came a few years ago. Due to Parkinson's disease, she couldn't fill out the Page herself, so I helped her. After writing the first and last names, we came to the box for the age of the victim. 'Two and a half,' she whispered. Afterwards, she took out a picture of a little girl. 'What is your relationship to this girl?' I gently asked. 'She is my daughter,' she replied. It was a heart-rending moment to realize that it had taken this woman over 50 years to fill out a Page of Testimony for her young daughter who was murdered in the Holocaust. I will never forget it."

Rabbi Schachter is also responsible for updates made to Pages of Testimony, in response to requests from visitors to the online Names Database. "To paraphrase Descartes: 'I make corrections, therefore I am.' Precise details are crucial in order for people to find the specific victim in the computerized database, as well as

she remained until liberation. Her entire family was murdered in the Holocaust, and throughout the war years, various women took her under their wing. "I had six mothers," recalls Rena. She was eventually transported to Sweden, from where she emigrated to the US, together with her adopted family.

"I cherish the hope that during one of my tours, someone will say to me, 'I knew your parents,' but it never happens," she explains. "The fact that I survived is a great privilege, but it's also a tremendous responsibility. I'm afraid that in the future the Holocaust will become just another historical episode; that's why it's important that the story be told from a personal perspective: numbers alone have no meaning."

Shoshana Shtark: Passing on the memory of the Holocaust to the younger generations.



memories. However, with time I realized that my work here was helping pass on the memory of the Holocaust to the younger generations, and this helped me greatly," she says.

"Shoshana couldn't sit still for one minute," recalls Museums Division Director Yehudit Inbar. "While manning the desk, she would also sew identifying numbers onto objects from our collection. She is exceptional for the warmth she radiates as well as her diligence, and we wish her many more years of health and happiness."

Moshe Abeles, a Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor, has been volunteering in the Yad Vashem Library for 13 years, marking and classifying books. He recently began to help type in names in the Names Database. "I was always interested in the Holocaust," he says. "I would buy every new book that came out on the Holocaust immediately, so I decided that when I retired, I would volunteer at Yad Vashem. My work gives me a great deal of satisfaction because I'm doing something to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and, ultimately, of the members of my family who were murdered in Auschwitz."



Rabbi Joseph Schachter: Encouraging people to fill out Pages of Testimony.

to ensure the preservation of his memory. I'm privileged to do this work."

Rena Quint has been coming to Yad Vashem for over 20 years, up to four times a week, rain or shine, to give guided tours to groups of teens and adults from around the world and occasionally to give testimony as well. Born Fredzia Lichtenstein in Piotrkow Trybunalski, Poland, Rena was six years old when the Nazis occupied Poland. She fled the ghetto with her father to a men's work camp in Czestochowa, disguising herself as a boy. She escaped from the camp and was ultimately deported to Bergen-Belsen, where

Sometimes volunteering is a family affair. "When I retired, I looked for a place to volunteer, and I followed my wife to Yad Vashem," says **Josef Mittelmann**, who works in the Archives. "The work here touches on my past. Once I catalogued a file containing a list of people from the area where I lived in Slovakia—people I knew personally." Josef is a relatively new volunteer compared with his wife **Ruth Mittelmann**, who has been at Yad Vashem since 1988. A survivor of the Ravensbrueck camp, Ruth was born in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 1925: "When I started volunteering here I 'took the bull by the horns,'" she explains. "The work here helps me cope with the Holocaust and the painful memories." Working alongside Ruth are **Yona Shalgi**, **Orna Sharon** (both Holocaust survivors), and **Dora Ofer**, all as text translators for the Museum of Holocaust Art.

A few months ago, Slovakian-born Auschwitz survivor **Shoshana Shtark** bid farewell to Yad Vashem, after many years of translating and selling catalogues in the Museum. "When I first began volunteering at Yad Vashem it was very difficult," she recalls. "It was the first time I'd entered a place that contained part of my past and my



Moshe Abeles: Working to preserve the memory of the Holocaust as well as members of his family.

"I am fulfilling a duty!" exclaims **Israel Aviram**, who has been coming to the International School for Holocaust Studies every week for more than a decade to talk about his Holocaust experiences. His audiences are mainly IDF delegations to Poland, and he sometimes joins their mission as a first-hand witness. "Why did I survive? Only to talk! Despite the fact that every testimony is exhausting and I'm sometimes unable to sleep the next night, I will go on giving my testimony for as long as I can."

New Exhibition

An Arduous Road

Samuel Bak

60 Years of Creativity

by Leah Goldstein

On 8 December, an exhibition entitled “An Arduous Road: Samuel Bak—60 Years of Creativity” opened in Yad Vashem’s Exhibitions Pavilion, in the presence of Ambassador of Lithuania H.E. Mrs. Asta Skaisgiryte Liauskiene, celebrated author Amos Oz, renowned artist Samuel Bak, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Senior Art Curator of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division Yehudit Shendar.

“The interconnected journey of the artist and his burden are not unique to the life of Samuel Bak,” explains Yehudit Shendar. “Bak’s work is a paradigm for survivors’ narratives—the men and women who undertook life’s journey after coming face to face with death and its horrors. They carry within them a load that is both personal and collective—the story of the Holocaust of European Jewry. On reaching Israel in 1948, Bak, like his surviving brethren, first donned the mantle of silence, seeking assimilation into Israeli life. This veneer of silence was gradually shed in a journey that encompasses countries and continents; until he reached the moment he could no longer carry the weight inside him. At that instant, another road began, a road into the depths of his identity; a road that culminated with a head-on encounter with the realization that the burden is an integral part of himself and, therefore inevitably, the crux of his work.”

Samuel Bak was born in Vilna, Lithuania in 1933, and began to draw at an early age. His drawings were first displayed in the Vilna ghetto in 1943. Bak recalls: “The artists of Vilna who had survived the numerous executions were about to exhibit their works, and a respectable group of my sketches took up an entire wall. My parents and I, holding hands, crossed the square, which looked like a malodorous garbage heap. The ground was strewn with hundreds of refugees driven out of the smaller ghettos near our city. One could hardly distinguish between them and their ragged possessions. Some sat on their suitcases, others were standing, and many were lying on the ground, as if their souls had fled. This was my very first exhibition, but these creatures, so sunken in their misery, did not care about that one bit. In two more days, they would be shot to death in the forest of Ponary...”

“We went through the door, but the putrid smell oppressing the courtyard still haunts me. The memory of that odor has haunted me and caught up with me at most of my exhibitions. Art, life, suffering, and death—the artist’s soul. Looking back, I learned many things from that moment. But at the time, I just seized my father’s hand once more, perturbed and heartsick at the fate of the crowd outside. They, it seemed, would never see my drawings.

“But perhaps now they can. And my knowledge that this might be possible is the only *tikkun* (correction of the world) I have to offer—to them and the millions of dead Jews in whose memory this holy place [Yad Vashem] was built.”

Bak’s grandparents were murdered at Ponary, and his father was killed just a few days before the Russians liberated Vilna. After the war’s end, he arrived at the Landsberg DP camp in Germany. Bak emigrated to Israel in 1948, and attended the Bezalel Academy of Art, refining his skills under such celebrated artists as Steinhart, Ascheim and Ardon. In 1956, he continued his studies at l’Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Since then he has lived and worked in Rome, Israel, New York, Paris and Lausanne, before finally settling in Weston, Massachusetts.

“There is no artist that portrays collective memory better than Samuel Bak,” said Amos Oz at the opening of the exhibition. “I not only see his works, I also feel, smell and hear them... for shed upon them is a light not of this world, a light unlike both natural and artificial light: a light in of itself – the light that Samuel Bak created to illuminate his world of nightmares.”

In advance of the exhibition, Bak reflected upon his life: “To tell the truth, I am still stunned by the fact that my long and exhausting journey pursuing my art has ended at a finishing line, which could not have any greater meaning for me, here in this exhibition at Yad Vashem... I don’t know if there is any place on earth that is more appropriate for exhibiting my work. These paintings have been my home during the different chapters of my life and my experiences. If this is not a homecoming, then I don’t know what is.”

An Arduous Road: Samuel Bak—60 Years of Creativity

Curator of the Exhibition: Yehudit Shendar; Assistant Curator, Keren Katsir-Stiebel

The exhibition was made possible with the generous support of the Pucker Gallery (USA), the Ann Bronfman Foundation (USA), the Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation (USA), Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson (USA), Dr. and Mrs. Gary Stein of the Millstein Charitable Foundation (USA), Mr. Edgar Bronfman (USA), the American Society for Yad Vashem, the Solomon Family Charitable Trust (UK), and Dr. André and Carolynne Bollag (Switzerland) (see p. 19).



Left to right: Donor of the Exhibitions Pavilion Steven Schwarz, Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda and the artist Samuel Bak at the opening of the exhibition

Samuel Bak (b. 1933), Thou Shalt Not Kill, 1970 Diptych, Oil on canvas, Gift of the artist



Yad Vashem: Moshe Safdie – The Architecture of Memory

With articles by: Joan Ockman, Moshe Safdie, Avner Shalev, Elie Wiesel
2006, \$71 (airmail included) / NIS 269



Almost half a century after its first building was erected, the Yad Vashem campus on Jerusalem's Mount of Remembrance has grown into an inspiring blend of beautifully designed buildings, poignant memorials, tranquil gardens and thought-provoking sculptures. Development of the site culminated in the spring of 2005 with the inauguration of the new Museum Complex—with the Museum of Holocaust History at its center, planned by Moshe Safdie. Through striking images and explanatory texts, this impressive book explores the relationship between architecture and commemoration, and discusses the work of one of today's leading architects. Its publication was supported by a generous grant from Banque Safdie.

Safdie wins Prize for New Museum Building

Renowned architect Moshe Safdie's plan of Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum building recently won first prize in Israel's "Architecture Project of the Year." The prestigious annual award is bestowed by the *Architecture of Israel Quarterly Magazine*, the Israel Association of United Architects, and the European Union in Israel.

Buchman Prizes awarded to Bartov and Aharonson

In an official ceremony held on 23 November at Yad Vashem the Jacob Buchman Foundation Memorial Prize, represented by Ms. Rosine Bron, was awarded to author Hanoch Bartov for his book *Beyond the Horizon, Across the Street*, recently published (in Hebrew) by Zemora Bitan, and to Prof. Shlomo Aharonson for his book *Hitler, the Allies and the Jews*, published by Cambridge University Press.

The Buchman Foundation was established in 1988 in Paris by Jacob Buchman, in memory of his wife and daughter Esther and Chanalé Buchman, who perished in the Holocaust. The annual Buchman Foundation Memorial Prize in Israel is conveyed by Yad Vashem under the auspices of the Fondation du Judaïsme Français to writers, artists and scholars for Holocaust-related works. Past winners include: Prof. Aharon Appelfeld, Alona Frankel, Ida Fink, Prof. Dina Porat, Lizzie Doron, Amir Gottfreund and Itamar Levin.

Hitler, the Allies and the Jews is the culmination of five years of research, and the elaboration of an original thesis published by Prof. Aharonson in the early 1980s. "Aharonson's unique contribution to the field is his elucidation of the roles played by both the Nazi Axis and the Western Allied intelligence services during the Holocaust," the award panel wrote. "The picture painted by the author is a detailed and insightful one, since he does not limit himself to just one aspect of the issues that he addresses, but rather analyzes historical processes from different angles while maintaining an impressively broad perspective."

In reference to *Beyond the Horizon, Across the Street*, the judges wrote: "The book is worthy of the Prize for its own sake—for the original story it tells, its unique style, the insights it offers, the moral pathos that drives it, and the unusual light it sheds on the Holocaust. The Prize is therefore awarded to Hanoch Bartov for this recent book, with the Committee's implicit recognition of earlier works by the author, which collectively constitute an important contribution to past and present Holocaust literature."

Secret Intelligence and the Holocaust

Edited by David Bankier, Yad Vashem in association with Enigma Books,
2006, NIS 175



When, how and from whom did the Allies find out about the Holocaust?

This fundamental collection is the product of research conducted by scholars from a variety of countries and institutions, using intelligence records declassified by the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act in the United States and by the British government. The chapters scrutinize this sensitive issue and shed new light on the realities of codebreaking during WWII, as well as the level of understanding of what was taking place in Nazi-occupied Europe.

New in "Search and Research: Lectures and Papers"

Aspects of Jewish Welfare in Nazi Germany

Guy Miron, Jacob Borut, Rivka Elkin, Series Editor: Dan Michman,
2006, \$5 (airmail included) / NIS 19



The Jewish welfare system under the Nazi regime played a major role in the life of the Jewish community, until its very end. This volume includes articles entitled: "The German and the German-Jewish Welfare Systems, and the Nazi Policy of Oppression" by Guy Miron; "A Historical Perspective on Jewish Welfare Activity in Germany" by Jacob

Borut; and "Some Remarks in the Wake of My Book *The Heart Beats On*," by Rivka Elkin.

Persecution, Indifference, and Amnesia – The Restoration of Jewish Rights in Postwar Italy

Ilaria Pavan, Series Editor: Dan Michman, 2006, \$5 (airmail included)/
NIS 19



In researching Italian Jewish contemporary history, Ilaria Pavan deals with the sensitive issue of the restitution of Jewish property in Italy during the immediate post-war years. She describes the arbitrary return of assets, and the enormous obstacles on the road to restitution created by the reconstruction policies, including the obscuring of the antisemitic role played by local officials in the past.

The Shaping of the Holocaust Visual Image by the Nuremberg Trials – The Impact of the Movie "Nazi Concentration Camps"

Yvonne Kozlovsky-Golan, Series Editor: Dan Michman, 2006, \$5
(airmail included)/ NIS 19



Following her doctorate in Film and American Legal History, Kozlovsky-Golan's research interests remain with history and cinema, the memory of the Holocaust and its penetration into the world's consciousness through film, and the representation of the Holocaust survivor in Israeli cinematic fiction.

Elie Wiesel: Yad Vashem is our “compass and conscience”

Calling Yad Vashem the “compass and conscience” of Holocaust remembrance, Prof. Elie Wiesel delivered a moving address at a special session of the Yad Vashem Council on 26 October. The session, headed by Chairman of the Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, was attended by dozens of Council members, including former Knesset members, retired judges, reserve generals, authors, academics and thinkers, many of whom are Holocaust survivors. Council Vice-Chairman Prof. Wiesel was joined on the panel by Prof. Dina Porath, Head of Tel Aviv University’s Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Racism and Antisemitism, as well as Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev, and outgoing Council Chairman Prof. Szewach Weiss.

Lapid opened proceedings by thanking Prof. Weiss for all his dedicated efforts as Council Chairman. Shalev echoed his sentiments, emphasizing Weiss’ willingness to help Yad Vashem in any way possible, and wished him success in his continuing work for the sake of Holocaust commemoration. In reply, Prof. Weiss described Yad Vashem as the “home of Holocaust remembrance” as well as his “personal abode,” and commended the choice of Lapid, a Holocaust survivor and well-known public figure, as the new Chairman.

Lapid also spoke about the dangers of silence in the face of genocidal threats, comparing the statements emanating from Iran to those made by the Nazi party in the early 1930s. Even more sinister, he continued, was the growing peril of Islamic fundamentalist terrorist groups, since they have “no address” and “know no boundaries.” Yad Vashem, he concluded, must continue to use all the educational and technological expertise at its disposal—to remember the past, and also to warn about the future—and pledged to do all he could to help it play this vital role.

Prof. Elie Wiesel’s address was received with enthusiasm and respect. He spoke about his fear over the “banalization” of the *Shoah* and warned against the growing legitimization of Holocaust denial, calling for the “global ostracism of any government that openly calls for the destruction of another nation.” However, he reminded those present, we can learn from history that any nation that pursued the Jews ultimately fell, while the Jewish nation has always survived.

Prof. Dina Porath gave a fascinating lecture on the “new antisemitism”—cloaked in anti-Zionism—initiated and fuelled by Muslim immigrants in Europe and supported by those on the extreme anti-American, anti-globalization left. She ended on a note of cautious optimism, mentioning the few but significant voices of objection from the Arab world to this dangerous phenomenon, and called for additional seminars and educational initiatives worldwide, led by Yad Vashem.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion.

Claims Conference Honored for Partnership and Support

In a tribute ceremony on 29 November, Yad Vashem honored its longstanding friends and partners at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) for their steadfast support of Yad Vashem’s activities for more than 50 years.

Attending the ceremony were Minister of Pensioner Affairs Rafi Eitan, President of the Claims Conference Dr. Israel Singer, Executive Vice President Gideon Taylor, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, and members of the Claims Conference Board of Directors. Singer Shuli Natan provided the musical interlude.

Yad Vashem and the Claims Conference are now intending to enter into a new strategic partnership that will allow Yad Vashem to embark upon large-scale commemorative and educational projects. “As the importance of passing on the legacy of the Holocaust grows over time, and with a view to the coming years when the eyewitnesses will no longer be among us, we must look towards securing Holocaust remembrance for future generations,” said Avner Shalev. “By supporting Holocaust education, research and documentation, the Claims Conference is fulfilling the last wishes of the Holocaust victims, expressed in the many letters and messages they left behind.”



Left to right: Executive Vice-President Emeritus of the Claims Conference Saul Kagan, Claims Conference President Dr. Israel Singer, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Center for Holocaust Survivor Organizations in Israel Noah Flug, Executive Vice President Gideon Taylor, Executive Committee Chairman Moshe Sanbar and Claims Conference, Israel representative Avraham Pressler at the ceremony honoring the Claims Conference at Yad Vashem.

New on the Web



www.yadvashem.org

Reading Between the Lines

“Reading Between the Lines” is a new online feature devoted to highlighting items in the vast Yad Vashem Library collection, as well as issues relating to publications about the Holocaust. The series begins with an article by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett on *The Anti-Anti*—a series of flashcards produced in Germany in the late 1920s/early 1930s to help the Jewish population respond to increasing antisemitic incitement and gratuitous scrutiny of their loyalty to the Weimar Republic.

New Podcasts

Over the past few months, a number of new podcasts have been uploaded to the Yad Vashem website. Two are delivered by Professor Walter Zwi Bacharach—a Holocaust survivor and renowned researcher affiliated with the International Institute for Holocaust Research. In “The Holocaust Reflected

Through Personal Experience,” Bacharach focuses on the honest and direct emotions expressed by the victims, and how they maintained their human dignity, as typified in the examples contained in his fascinating book, *Last Letters from the Shoah* (2002). In “The Protocols-Fueling Antisemitic Myths and Lies,” Bacharach explains how traditional antisemitism has had to change its content and its allegations against Jews and the State of Israel.

The lecture on “Contemporary Antisemitism” is given by Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of Yad Vashem’s Libraries. Rozett explains how and why traditional forms of antisemitism have continued to flourish, especially since the dawn of the 21st century. He also focuses on Holocaust Denial, a phenomenon that began in the West but has emerged as a mainstream idea in much of the Arab/Muslim world today.

Additional podcasts now online include lectures delivered at the recent symposium, “Holocaust Denial: Paving the Way to Genocide” (see p.2), and from the “Holocaust and Justice” conference (see p.7).

Jewish Genealogists Join Names Recovery Project

Jewish Genealogists around the world have partnered with Yad Vashem's *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project in a successful grassroots campaign that includes a network of over one hundred local JewishGen chapters in North America.

Boca Raton, Florida resident Donald Hirschhorn (79), a retired businessman and long time genealogy activist who volunteered to spearhead the program, says he feels the project is a personal obligation: "We owe it to those who left us," he explains. "They deserve to be remembered."

In addition to memorializing Holocaust victims, Hirschhorn stresses an important secondary function of the Pages of Testimony. "The Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County has discovered that Pages of Testimony are also a source for finding family connections. It is not uncommon that people are reunited through this important project; they sometimes find relatives by tracing the person who submitted the Page."

Despite the emotionally somber nature of his work, Hirschhorn conveyed the rewarding feeling he experiences as a result of his effort. "No matter how difficult it is for Holocaust survivors to fill out the Pages of Testimony, when they have finished they often make a switch, and say, 'I just wanted to thank you for taking the time to do that,'" he explains. "This project is immensely important—for them and for us."

To learn how to volunteer for the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project, please visit the Community Outreach Guide: www.yadvashem.org/names/whyCollect

The Names Database – Facts and Figures, 2006

- **Over 300,000 names records added** to the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, which currently holds more than 3.1 million names of Holocaust victims. These new names originated from Pages of Testimony and various names lists, including records from the Soviet Extraordinary Commission to Investigate Nazi Crimes (1943-46).
- **More than 27,000 new Pages of Testimony received**, including some 12,500 from the Russian-speaking sector.
- **Almost 3,000 new photos of Holocaust victims received**, and will be added to the Names Database.
- **More than 4,000 updates to information** already recorded on Pages of Testimony made, stemming from direct requests to Yad Vashem's Hall of Names.

News From the Visual Center

The Cinema as Witness: Special Visual Center program at the 2006 Jewish Film Festival

As part of the Jewish Film Festival that took place in Jerusalem in December, the Visual Center held a program of screenings and discussions on the subject of cinematic memory and the Holocaust.

The session on the film *Night and Fog* (Alain Renais, France, 1955), commemorating 50 years since its release, was held under the auspices of the French Embassy in Israel, and focused on Holocaust remembrance in France. Participating in the discussion, led by Dr. Aner Preminger of the Sapir College for Film and Television, were Dr. Janine Franck (Tel Aviv University), Prof. Gavriel Motzkin (Hebrew University), and Dr. Manuela Consoni (Ben-Gurion University). The panel's underlying assumption was that Renais "...created a unique, innovative and ground-breaking film which affected every successive cinematic attempt at dealing with the Nazi terrors."

James Moll's *Inheritance* (USA, 2006) describes an extraordinary encounter between the daughter of S.S. Colonel Amon Goeth (commander of the Plaszow Camp depicted in the film *Schindler's List*), and Helen Jonas-Rosenzweig, a survivor of the camp, who had been forced to work at Goeth's mansion. The screening of the film concluded with a lecture by Prof. Dan Bar-On (Ben-Gurion University) on the psychological and moral impact of the Holocaust on the children of Nazis.

New Collections and Films

During its first year of activity, the Visual Center collected more than two hundred films, including personal memoirs, documentaries and feature films. Especially noteworthy were entire collections deposited at the Center by highly-acclaimed filmmakers, including Hungarian director **István Szabó**, who donated his Holocaust-related films as a gesture of appreciation after a visit to the Visual Center; prizewinning Dutch director and producer **Willy Lindwer**, whose 21 films are available for viewing at the Center; and Hungarian filmmaker **Péter Forgács**, who has fashioned poetic works of art from original archival footage viewed for the first time in his films.

An additional collection soon to arrive at the Center is that of award-winning British documentarian **Rex Bloomstein**, whose work is well known for its historical accuracy, sensitivity and humanity. Bloomstein has produced a number of important series, including "Auschwitz and the Allies" (1982) for the BBC, and "The Longest Hatred" (1993) for Thames Television. His latest film, *KZ*, was nominated for the 2006 Yad Vashem Chairman's Award for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust-related film.

Liat Benhabib is Director of the Visual Center; Mimi Ash is the Center's Acquisitions and Special Projects Coordinator.

Shmuel Spector, z"l

On 26 November, a commemorative event was held in memory of Dr. Shmuel Spector z"l, a Holocaust survivor who devoted over 50 years of his life to work at Yad Vashem. Event participants included Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Israel Gutman, Yad Vashem Publications Director and Chief Editor Dr. Bella Guterman, and Dr. Spector's son, Avi Spector. Dr. Spector's colleague, Deputy Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council and former Directorate Chairman Dr. Yitzhak Arad, gave a lecture in Dr. Spector's memory entitled: "The Role of the Jews in Developing Armaments in the Soviet Union during WWII."



Shmuel Spector was born in 1924 in the city of Kostopol, Poland. He spent the war years as a refugee in the USSR, emigrating to Israel in January 1946 on the Enzo Sereni, a *ma'apilim* (illegal immigration) ship. In Israel, Spector studied to be a teacher, but in August 1955, he began what would become a lifetime's work at Yad Vashem. His first position was Deputy Director of the Library; five years later, he was appointed Secretary General of Yad Vashem, a capacity in which he served for 20 years. In 1980, Spector was appointed Director of Yad Vashem's Center for Holocaust Studies in Givatayim (Beit Wolyn). During this period, he also completed his doctoral thesis, which was published in book form as *The Holocaust of the Jews of Wolyn, 1941-1944* (Hebrew). In 1986, Dr. Spector assumed responsibility for the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities* project, which he continued to direct and serve as its chief editor even after his retirement in 1990. In 2002, Dr. Spector ended his official work at Yad Vashem, but continued to contribute entries to the as yet unpublished *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities: Ukraine*.

Dr. Shmuel Spector z"l will be greatly missed by all who had the honor of knowing and working with him. May his memory be blessed.

Events – September-December 2006

26-28 September “Let My People Live!” International conference and memorial commemorating the 65th anniversary of the September 1941 Babi Yar massacre, in which some 34,000 Jews were systematically murdered over the course of 48 hours. The event was organized and sponsored by the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, the Ukrainian government and Yad Vashem, and initiated by European Jewish leader and business magnate Vyacheslav Moshe Kantor (right), founder and President of the World Holocaust Forum. President of Israel Moshe Katzav and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko were among the leaders who addressed the gathering of some one thousand dignitaries and clergy from 41 countries, including survivors of the massacre, witnesses and Righteous Among the Nations.



16 October Annual assembly marking the deportation of Italian Jews, dedicated to the memory of the Jewish partisans in Italy, in cooperation with the Association of Italian Immigrants in Israel and the Italian Jewish Cultural Society. Participants gathered for a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, after which they were addressed in the auditorium by Italy’s Acting Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Davide La Cecilia; the editor of Yad Vashem’s *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities: Italy*, Dr. Bracha Rivlin; Association of Italian Immigrants Chairwoman Claudia Amati; and Italian Jewish Cultural Society Chairman Vito Eno. Dr. Yael Nidam-Orvietto gave a lecture entitled “The Jewish Partisans in Italy,” and Dr. Tullio Sonnino’s film about Italian-Jewish partisan Eugenio Calò was screened. 250 people participated in the event.

25 October Memorial assembly for the Jews of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia who perished in the Holocaust, in cooperation with the Jerusalem branch of the Association of Lithuanian Immigrants and the Jerusalem Municipal Absorption Authority’s *Beit Kehillot* (New Immigrant Community House), in the presence of Association of Lithuanian Immigrants Chairman Yosef Melamed, Simon Wiesenthal Center in Israel Director Dr. Efraim Zuroff, *Beit Kehillot* Director Larissa Yanovsky, Jerusalem Absorption Authority Director Pini Glinkevich, and Dr. Bracha Rivlin from Yad Vashem. The assembly was led by the Chairman of the Organization of Baltic Countries, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia David Hait, with tens of former inmates of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian ghettos.

29 October Ceremony honoring Dutch Righteous Among the Nations Jan Schep, a population registry clerk in Zeist, the Netherlands, who issued false identity cards to Jews and non-Jews seeking to



Left to right: Hank and Jan Schep, sons of Righteous Among the Nations Jan Schep; survivors Zvia Caspi and Shulamit Navon

avoid capture by the Nazis, attended by the Schep family of the Netherlands and France and the families of survivors Zvia Caspi and Shulamit Navon. Chairman of the Righteous Among the Nations Committee, former Supreme Court Justice Yaacov Turkel, and Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev presented the certificate and medal to Schep’s sons, Hank and Jan. The sons also received a personal facsimile card for Jan Schep from among Red Cross documents found in the Yad Vashem Archive from the Arolsen Collection in Germany. The ceremony was led by Righteous Among the Nations Department Director Dr. Mordechai Paldiel.

7 November General Assembly of the Aloumim Association—children who lived under assumed identities in France during the Holocaust, in the presence of some 250 members of the Association, Mayor of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, Francis Valla, members of a delegation on an official visit to Yad Vashem for a ceremony at the monument dedicated to the residents of the town—Righteous Among the Nations—who saved the lives of Jews fleeing the Nazis, and Holocaust survivors who found refuge in Le Chambon. Uriel Feinerman, representative of the second generation, delivered a lecture accompanied by film clips.

9 November Annual memorial assembly marking 68 years since the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, with the Association of Central European Immigrants. Addressing participants were: Dvora Haberkfeld, Director of the Association of Central European Immigrants; Avraham Frank, a veteran member of the Association; Director of the Archives Division Dr. Yaacov Lozowick; and Director and Chief Curator of the Open Museum at the Tefen Industrial Park Ruth Ofek. The ceremony was attended by some three hundred people, including Association members, officers from the Machve Alon military school, and members of the German organization Ot Hakapara Ve-HaShalom.

7 December Memorial evening for the martyrs of Czestochowa, marking 64 years since the liquidation of the Czestochowa and neighboring communities, in cooperation with the Association of Immigrants from Czestochowa and members of the second generation, at Beit Zionei America in Tel Aviv. Speakers at the event included Association Chairman Aryeh Edelist, Adv., and Leah Roshkovsky, who delivered a lecture entitled, “When the Gates Opened—The Process of Coming Back to Life.”

10 December Event marking 64 years since the start of the Nazi roundup of Tunisian Jews, with the participation of David Tal MK, Righteous Among the Nations Department Director Dr. Mordechai Paldiel, and Tunisian Jewry scholar Claude Sitbon. Some 250 people attended the event.

19 December Screening of the film *La Maison de Nina* (France, 2005), with the participation of the Aloumim Association, at Yad Vashem’s Holocaust Educational Center, Givatayim (Beit Wolyn) in the presence of representatives of the French Embassy in Israel. The film—which received an honorable mention in the 2006 Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award competition—tells the stories of children in a French orphanage and the orphanage’s housemother, Nina, towards the end of WWII. The screening was preceded by the lighting of the fifth Chanukah candle and remarks by Aloumim Association Deputy Chairman Eddie Palatzi, Aloumim Educational Projects Coordinator Dora Weinberger, Director of Beit Wolyn Frumi Shchori and Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 22 November, **Foreign Minister of Moldova Andrei Stratan** toured the Hall of Names in the Holocaust History Museum, accompanied by Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham.



United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour (right) visited Yad Vashem on 22 November, accompanied by Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies **Dr. David Silberklang** (left).



Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado visited Yad Vashem on 20 November, accompanied by **Dr. Avraham Milgram** of the International Institute for Holocaust Research.



On 3 December, **Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Ursula Plassnik** (second from left) toured Yad Vashem, accompanied by Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate **Irena Steinfeldt** (left). During her visit, she met Austrian volunteers at Yad Vashem **Daniel Schuster** and **Lukas Meissel** (right).



Foreign Minister of the Republic of Serbia Vuk Draskovic (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 5 November, accompanied by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (left).



French presidential candidate Ségolène Royal (center) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 4 December, accompanied by Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate **Irena Steinfeldt** and members of the French Parliament.

Yad Vashem Benefactors: David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein

When David Feuerstein escaped from a Nazi forced labor brigade in 1943 and joined the Polish underground resistance, he swore that if he survived, he would dedicate his life to telling the story of the Holocaust and making sure the world would never forget. Henceforth, his life has been one long fulfillment of that oath.

David Feuerstein was born in Poland in 1925, and raised in Sosnowiec. In June 1941, he was taken to a forced labor camp in Silesia, and in March 1942 imprisoned in Auschwitz-Birkenau. In May 1943, he was taken as part of a forced labor brigade to dig through the remains of the destroyed Warsaw Ghetto. He escaped and joined the Polish resistance, where his bravery won him the recognition of his compatriots, and later a decoration by the Polish government. Of his immediate family, David's parents and three younger siblings were murdered in Auschwitz on the 9 Av, 1943. Only he and his younger brother, Jose, survived.

After the war, David married Sara Marysia (*née* Zucker), also a survivor. They settled in Argentina, where their first daughter was born. Two years later they moved to Chile, where they set up a successful business and where their second

daughter was born. Today they are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Since 1970, David has been singularly dedicated—in the national and international arenas—to preserving the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the *Shoah*. He is currently President of the Chilean Society for Yad Vashem (established in 1983). In 1998, he established the *Yom Hashoah* Prize, recognizing Chilean citizens for their outstanding work in preserving the memory of the Holocaust, and for their respect to the principles of tolerance and civil rights. In 2004, he donated a memorial monument to the martyrs of the Holocaust, which stands in the Estadio Israelita of Santiago.

David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein are Benefactors of the Valley of the Communities and have recently endowed Yad Vashem's new VIP Pavilion.



W Friends WORLDWIDE

U.S.A.

The **American Society for Yad Vashem** held its 25th Anniversary Tribute Dinner on 19 November at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, with over 1,200 guests, including diplomats from more than 35 countries. Former Chief Rabbi of Israel and Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Jaffa **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** was the distinguished guest speaker. The program was presided over by Dinner Chairs **Ira Mitzner** and **Marilyn Rubenstein**.

This year's recipients of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award were **Dr. Miriam** and **Sheldon G. Adelson**, Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance and the donors of Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art building. A special **Yad Vashem Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**, for his outstanding vision and leadership.



On 16 October, "The David and Fela Shapell Family Shoah and Heroism

Study Center for Youth" was inaugurated at the International School for Holocaust Studies, in the presence of Yad Vashem Benefactors **David** and **Fela Shapell**, their son **Ben**, and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**. The Center offers a wide range of educational programs and seminars to thousands of students from Israel and overseas, exploring the meaning of moral and spiritual heroism, and encouraging Jewish continuity.

Four generations of the **Belz/Groveman/Weiner** family, Yad Vashem Benefactors and steadfast friends, visited Yad Vashem in November to attend the *bat mitzvah* ceremony of Elly Katz. Pictured, left to right, in the new Synagogue: **Marilyn Belz**, **Ilan Weiner**, **Ariel Weiner**, **Elly Katz**, **Jack Belz** and **Jan Groveman**



Correction: In volume 42, a photograph of **Shrub Kempner** and **Bruce Ramer** appeared in "Friends Worldwide" with a mistaken caption. Their delegation was, in fact, from the **American Jewish Committee**. We apologize for the error.



Left to right: **Ariel Zborowski**, **Eli Zborowski**, **Dr. Israel Singer**, **Sheldon G.** and **Dr. Miriam Adelson**, **Elizabeth Zborowski** and **Murry Zborowski**



Left to right: **Eli Zborowski** and **Avner Shalev**



Left to right: **Eli** and **Elizabeth Zborowski**, **Elizabeth** and **Joseph Wilf**



Barry Rubenstein and Dinner Chair **Marilyn Rubenstein**



Mindy Mitzner and Dinner Chair **Ira Mitzner**

In November, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Dr. Felix** and **Ruta Zandman** visited Yad Vashem for a special tour of the campus along with the Board of Vishay Intertechnology.



In October, **George** and **Barbara Hanus** of Chicago visited Yad Vashem and toured the Museum. The Hanus' "Jewish Broadcasting Network" and "World Jewish Digest" provide a forum for informing the public about Yad Vashem's work. The Hanus family recently became Yad Vashem "Builders."

WORLDWIDE Friends



In October, **Geraldine Schottenstein Hoffmann** (right) and **Martin Hoffman** of Columbus and **Leonard and Hedy Rabe** (left) of Cleveland visited the Holocaust History Museum for a special tour, following which Hedy Rabe recorded her personal testimony and entrusted it to the Yad Vashem Video Archives. Earlier this summer, Geraldine's son **Jay Schottenstein** and his family also visited the Museum.



Yad Vashem supporter and Holocaust survivor **Abe Besser** (center) and **Marlene Gallenter** (right) of Atlanta received a special tour of the Museum during a visit to Yad Vashem.



Yad Vashem supporters, **Dr. Mark Hasten** (left) and brother **Hart Hasten** visited the Mount of Remembrance in November, along with the management leadership of First National Bank & Trust, Indiana. The group participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.

Yad Vashem Guardians **Mark and Deede Honigsfeld** and family (pictured in the Square of Hope) visited the Holocaust History Museum in August.



UNITED KINGDOM

On 30 November, **Professor Elie Wiesel** (center) was awarded an honorary knighthood by Her Majesty the Queen, in recognition of his services to Holocaust education. At a ceremony in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, the award was presented by Foreign Secretary **Margaret Beckett** (left) in the presence of **Marion Wiesel** (right), other family members and close friends.



Following the presentation, Professor Wiesel, Vice-Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, was the guest of honor at a special dinner hosted by the Yad Vashem UK Foundation. Pictured, left to right: Life President, Yad Vashem UK **Simon Reiss**; **Elie Wiesel**; Director, Yad Vashem's English Desk **David Metzler**; Life President, Yad Vashem UK **Ben Helfgott**; and Chairman, Yad Vashem UK **Jeffrey Pinnick**



CANADA

In November, **Sara and Barry Zagdanski** led a Leadership Mission of close to 60 people from Toronto to Israel under the auspices of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem**, State of Israel Bonds and the Canadian Zionist Cultural Association. One full day was spent at Yad Vashem. Pictured, left to right: **Avner Shalev**, **Sheldon Libfeld**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **Barry Zagdanski** and **Miguel Singer**



As the Canadian Leadership Mission concluded their day at Yad Vashem, **Stan Moneta** (left) was shown the original card-file documenting his father's internment in the Mauthausen concentration camp. A copy of this record was presented to the Moneta family by **David Metzler** (right).



Senator **Leo Kolber** (second from right) from Montreal and **Ronit Gandell** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum in November together with Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate **Irena Steinfeldt** (right) and **Rita Silber** (second from left).

On 7 December, Yad Vashem held a special preview of its latest exhibition, “**An Arduous Road: Samuel Bak—60 Years of Creativity**” (see pp. 10-11). In attendance were the artist and his wife, as well as several key supporters of the exhibition:



Left to right: **Dr. André Bollag** and **Carolyn Bollag** of Switzerland, and Exhibition Curator **Yehudit Shendar**



Left to right: **Bernie Pucker**, Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate

Avner Shalev, **Matthew Bronfman** and **Stacey Bronfman**



Left to right: **David Solomon** and **Sir Harry Solomon** of England, and **Samuel Bak**

IDE

MEXICO



Members of the **Centro Deportivo Israelita** from Mexico were hosted by Director of the Iberoamerican Desk, **Perla Hazan** (fifth from right) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



Yad Vashem supporters **Victor** and **Masha Cohen** (fourth and sixth from left) from Mexico, together with their sons and daughter, met with **Avner Shalev**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and **Perla Hazan** during a recent visit to Yad Vashem.

SWEDEN

Hans Wiener and daughter **Marion** from Stockholm visited Yad Vashem in November, exploring the Yad Vashem Archives and meeting representatives of the International School for Holocaust Studies, where the Wiener family is involved in a Swedish study seminar on the Holocaust.



AUSTRALIA

Yad Vashem Benefactors **Baba** and **Andor Schwartz** from Melbourne (right, with **Shaya Ben Yehuda**) paid an emotional visit to Yad Vashem in December. Endowed by the Schwartz family, the recently completed Path of Remembrance and Reflection stretches from Warsaw Ghetto Square to the Valley of the Communities.



BRAZIL



Nessim Hamoui from Brazil (second from right), publisher and editor of Yad Vashem’s magazine in Portuguese, recently visited Yad Vashem and met with Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), Director of the Iberoamerican Desk

Perla Hazan (left), Spokesperson and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine* **Iris Rosenberg** (center) and Managing Editor of the Magazine **Leah Goldstein** (second from left).