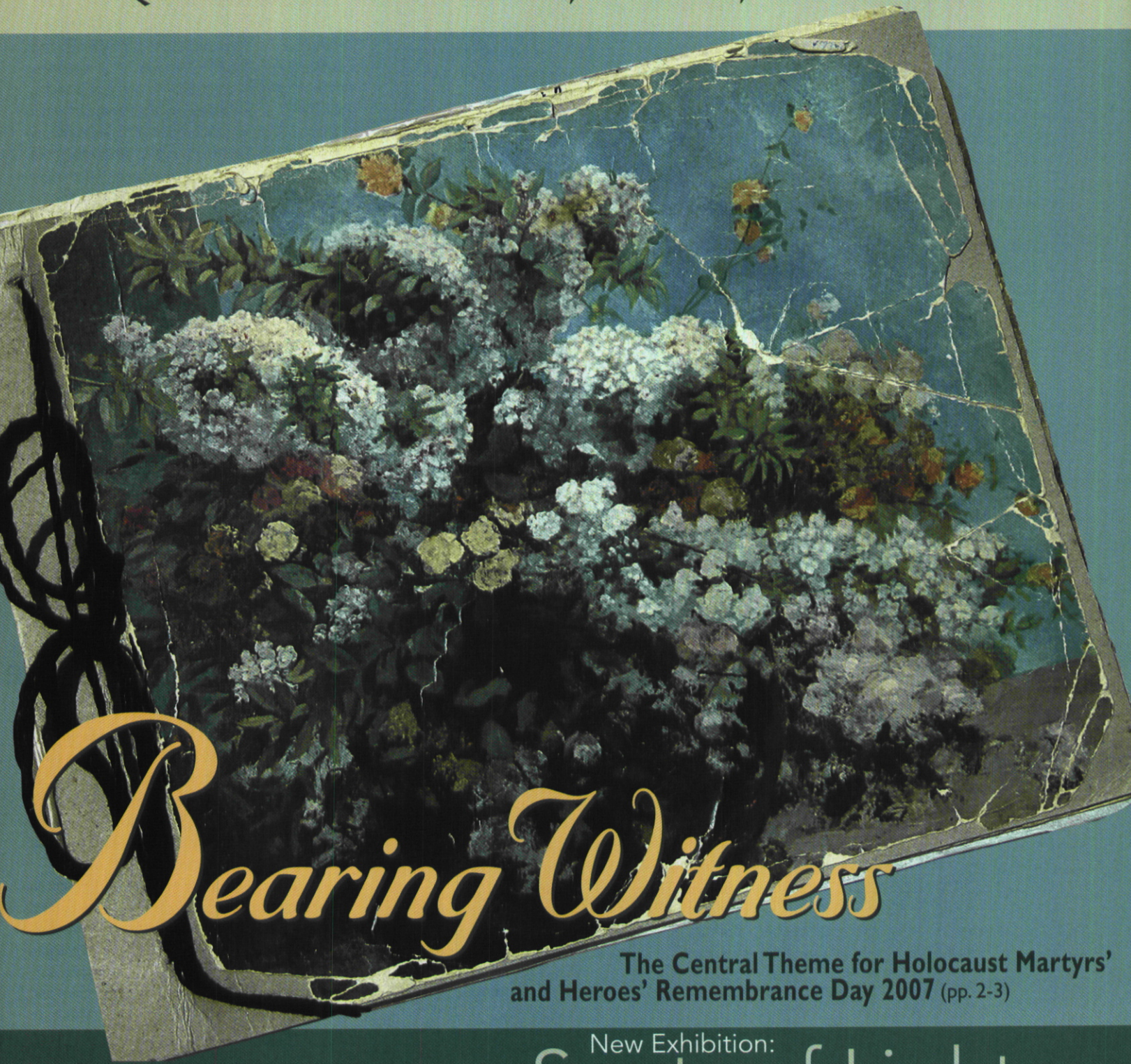


# JERUSALEM Yad Vashem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 45, SPRING 2007



## *Bearing Witness*

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2007 (pp. 2-3)

New Exhibition:  
**Spots of Light**  
To Be a Woman in the Holocaust (pp. 6-7)



Published by:



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## Editorial

Experience has taught us that focusing on the story of one particular person, or group of people, engenders the greatest understanding and sympathy.

The permanent exhibition in the Holocaust History Museum is strongly based on this principle, presenting hundreds of individual stories within the historical narrative. The temporary exhibition on Jewish women during the *Shoah*, opening this month at Yad Vashem, is an essential addition to this enterprise (see "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust," pp. 6-7). Their varied responses to a range of extreme difficulties give us a more complete appreciation of the unique plight of women at that time.

This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day is focusing on the topic of witnesses and testimonies; how even during the darkest days of the Holocaust, those experiencing such unimaginable hardships had the astonishing foresight to note down, with pen and brush, what was happening to them (see "Bearing Witness," pp. 2-3). This was a crucial task: one that not only helped them maintain their own humanity, but also would serve to fight against future attempts to deny their experiences and their losses. This special issue looks back at more than half a century of Yad Vashem's efforts to gather, sort and document these testimonies, to integrate them in education and research endeavors, and to make them accessible to the largest audience possible—so that future generations may know.

Cover: Album of poems and paintings created by 17-year-old Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger from Czernowitz, Bukovina, for her 18-year-old boyfriend Leiser Fichman. The album and its story is displayed in the new exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust" (see pp. 6-7).

by Dr. Bella Guterman and Dr. Robert Rozett

“ There is much talk about keeping a journal. Everyone believes there is a great deal that needs to be documented, things that don't happen in normal life... I sometimes want to take a pencil and do something with it, record some of what lies in the depths of my heart, a relentless force deep within my soul which lays beneath my consciousness.”

Excerpt from a diary by a young female prisoner in a forced labor camp during WWII

Long before liberation, the Jews who experienced the Holocaust yearned to describe their experiences in writing. Throughout the war, many of those trapped in ghettos and camps, in hiding and in the forests, recorded their feelings on scraps of paper often acquired at great personal risk. As their world crumbled around them and they were hunted and murdered in their millions, their personal writing and creative endeavors never ceased.

The act of writing also served as a form of escape, a temporary release from the killings and the torture, from the walls surrounding them and the crematoria whose smoke billowed relentlessly into the skies above. It brought comfort and reassurance that they remained human, and gave them the emotional strength to continue for yet another day. On discovering a hiding place after being pursued for several long months, one survivor testified: "Once again I was able to write and write, I just hoped I didn't run out of paper... the paper and pencil allowed me to disassociate myself, to get away, and remember, even for a few hours, who I used to be..."

Often, their statements also served as a last will and testament, directed at those living outside the danger. Together with his friends and colleagues in the Warsaw ghetto, the young historian Emanuel Ringelblum laid the foundation for organized

## The Central Theme

documentation during WWII by establishing the "Oneg Shabbat" Archives. Through letters and diaries, as well as literary works and daily journals, the authors understood the importance of recording in great detail the events they witnessed, thus enabling the world—and future generations—to learn about the horrors they experienced.

With the war's end, many survivors felt an immediate need to give testimony, to tell about the pain and suffering they went through, so it would never be forgotten or denied. They began by giving detailed accounts to spontaneously organized local committees, in refugee camps and before commissions of inquiry working to investigate the war crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators. In bulletins, newsletters and

Members of the historical committee gathering testimony from survivors in the Leipheim DP camp, Germany, after the war



# Bearing Witness

for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2007

newspapers published soon after liberation, they told about life in the ghettos and the camps, about the invaders, about the aid bestowed upon them by their Jewish comrades and non-Jewish rescuers, and about the nightmare death marches and the dreamlike moments of freedom. Testimony after testimony, the foundation was slowly laid for the archives that would document one of the greatest tragedies in recorded history.

In the wake of the early war trials, whole life stories began to emerge. As early as 1945, more than 30 survivors' diaries were printed, with over 5,000 published since. To date, tens of thousands of written, audio and video testimonies have been recorded, thanks to the initiative of several individuals and organizations

devoted to perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust, including Yad Vashem, which has the largest collection of survivors' testimonies; the CDJC; and the Shoah Visual History Foundation. Each of these testimonies adds one more fragment of information about the Holocaust, one more piece in a picture of unimaginable cruelty and mass murder. The personal stories present the Jews as human beings, restoring their identities as well as touching their audience and enabling others to sympathize with their terrible plight. Although we cannot hope to "understand," these accounts help illustrate the sights, smells and fears the victims experienced, and offer us insights into their all-too-human responses.

Personal testimonies have now become an influential and relevant genre in Holocaust, Jewish and Israeli literature, motivating generation after generation to partake in the act of remembering Holocaust victims. Survivors who relate their personal testimony to young people and educators from around the world are partners in perpetuating that memory, as well as that of the rich Jewish culture that was almost completely destroyed. Those of us who listen to them and publish their stories are no less involved in preserving this chain of memory: "Bearing witness, so they will know, until the last generation."

*Dr. Bella Gutterman is Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications, and Dr. Robert Rozett is Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries.*



# Bearing Witness

## The Collection and Use of Testimonies at Yad Vashem

by Leah Goldstein

As the foremost authority on the Holocaust, Yad Vashem has spent more than half a century gathering testimonies from witnesses—men, women and children—who experienced the events first hand. These testimonies take many forms: written diaries, letters and works of art from the time of the Holocaust, as well as verbal testimonies given years or even decades after the end of the war.

At Yad Vashem, witness and survivor testimonies are used in educational programs, museum exhibitions, publications and research studies, and in honoring non-Jews as Righteous Among the Nations. Survivors also continue to play a crucial role in speaking to groups of students, soldiers and educators, supplementing the narrative with personal anecdotes, thus allowing their audiences to sympathize more deeply with the plight of those swept up in the horrors of the Holocaust.

### Collecting, Preserving and Digitizing Testimonies

The campaign to give and collect survivor testimonies began during the *Shoah* itself, with underground archives established in the main ghettos, such as Warsaw and Bialystok, by men and women with a strong historical

awareness. When the war ended, testimony-gathering centers were established in many locations, including Lublin (the Historical Committee), Paris, Bratislava and the American Occupation Zone (the Committee of Liberated Jews). The first testimonies about the Holocaust were heard in *Eretz Israel* during the war itself, from refugees who arrived there from Europe and other countries. By the time Yad Vashem was established in 1953, some 15,000 testimonies had already been gathered, forming the basis of its future archive collection, research, education and documentation activities.

One of the first departments to be established at Yad Vashem was the Oral History Section, part of the Archives Division. To date, this department has collected some 45,000 written, audio and filmed testimonies documenting the personal stories of the survivors, and through them, those of the families and communities destroyed during the *Shoah*. Last year, it widened its activities and scope by allowing aging and often ailing survivors, unable to get to one of the many studios dotted around the country, to be filmed in their own homes. In the past year alone, 880 personal interviews were conducted with such survivors, many of which have added unique insights and information never before revealed about the Holocaust. Other projects undertaken in recent years by the department include: a special testimony center established in cooperation with Ginzach Kiddush Hashem for the benefit of the ultra-orthodox population; and the translation of testimonies from different languages—including most recently Serbo-Croat—thus widening their accessibility to the wider population. In the coming months, testimonies in Judeo-Spanish (Ladino) will also be recorded, increasing our knowledge about the fate of the Spanish-speaking Jewish population during the Holocaust. In addition, the department has begun to film group testimonials, as well as survivor reunions, moderated by professional interviewers. These testimonies are often given in the presence of family members—spouses, children and grandchildren—thereby strengthening the intergenerational connection and dedication to Holocaust remembrance for years to come.

Yad Vashem is now in the process of **digitizing the tens of thousands of video and audio testimonies**, in all their different formats, in order to ensure their preservation as well as make them more easily accessible to the general public. This project is made possible through the generous support of the Legacy Heritage Fund of New York and Jerusalem, honoring the life work of Bella and Harry Waxner z"l of Columbus, Ohio. It is expected to be completed toward the end of 2008.

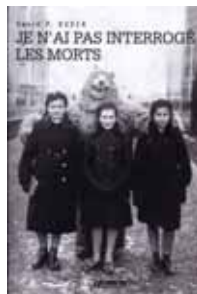
### Creative Works

Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art houses over 10,500 works of art that express a different kind of testimony. Creating art during the Holocaust meant risking one's life at a time when the materials needed were almost non-existent, and many of the artists were on the verge of collapse—physically and mentally—without access to even the most basic essentials of daily life. The works produced despite these conditions thus express an awesome creative and testimonial power: the artists who produced them knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to express all they wished to say to the world and future generations, in a few lines etched on paper.

Yad Vashem's Visual Center is also working hard to encourage the creation of cinematic works using witness testimonies. Last year's Yad Vashem Chairman's Award, endowed by Leon and Michaela Constantiner, for artistic achievement in Holocaust-related films at Jerusalem's International Film Festival went to "Nina's Journey," a deeply personal and compassionate film directed by Lena Einhorn. Brilliantly acted and directed, "Nina's Journey" interweaves three genres that are characteristic of Holocaust film—personal testimony, archival footage and dramatic re-enactment. By juxtaposing the three, the director underscored, yet also transcended, the limitations of each, achieving a synergy that gave her film a rare degree of truth and emotional power.







## Research on Testimonies over the years

Academic scholars researching the topic of testimonies have taken advantage of fellowships at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research in order to broaden their studies and gain access to vital archival information. Dr. Rita Horvath of Israel's Bar-Ilan University and Hungary's Eotvos Lorand University recently joined the Institute in order to enhance her investigations on different Jewish survivors' testimonies taken by the various large-scale historical/memorial projects initiated and conducted by *She'erit Hapletah* in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust. Her research reveals much—not only about the nature of Holocaust testimonies—but also about the ways in which they can serve as sources of historical, literal, psychological, anthropological and linguistic research. "The Yad Vashem Archives," says Dr. Horvath, "holds the most complete collection of Holocaust testimonies, and I found the Institute a special, warm and intellectually stimulating working environment."

Alan Rosen is currently writing a book on the contribution to the study of the Holocaust by David Boder, a Latvian Jewish émigré to the United States who traveled to Europe in the summer of 1946 to interview 120 displaced persons. Boder conducted his interviews in nine languages, using a wire recorder. Rosen is attempting to decipher how Boder's postwar interview project—and the ongoing task of transcription that followed—compel us to revise the history of Holocaust testimony. "My Institute fellowship enabled me to review material from other early postwar interview projects—especially those that, beginning in the 1950s, recorded interviews with survivors—as well as to study the evolution of victim testimony, particularly at Yad Vashem," explains Rosen. "In addition to the use of material from the archives and library, I benefited greatly from discussions with Yad Vashem staff."

## Names Collection: A Personal Mission

The project to redeem the name of every single Holocaust victim is also, of course, a form of personal testimony by the people who submit the names. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has collected over 3.1 million names, with some two-thirds recorded by relatives and friends of the deceased on Pages of Testimony—official forms stating the victim's name and a few biographical details—which are then stored in Yad Vashem's Hall of Names and the online Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names.

Many survivors have partaken in this vital mission, submitting single names or those of whole families—as many as they can remember—in order to memorialize them for posterity. But for Michal Beer (77) of Tel Aviv, this has become a life mission: to date, she has single-handedly submitted over 450 Pages of Testimony to Yad Vashem, memorializing all the people she knew who perished during the *Shoah*.

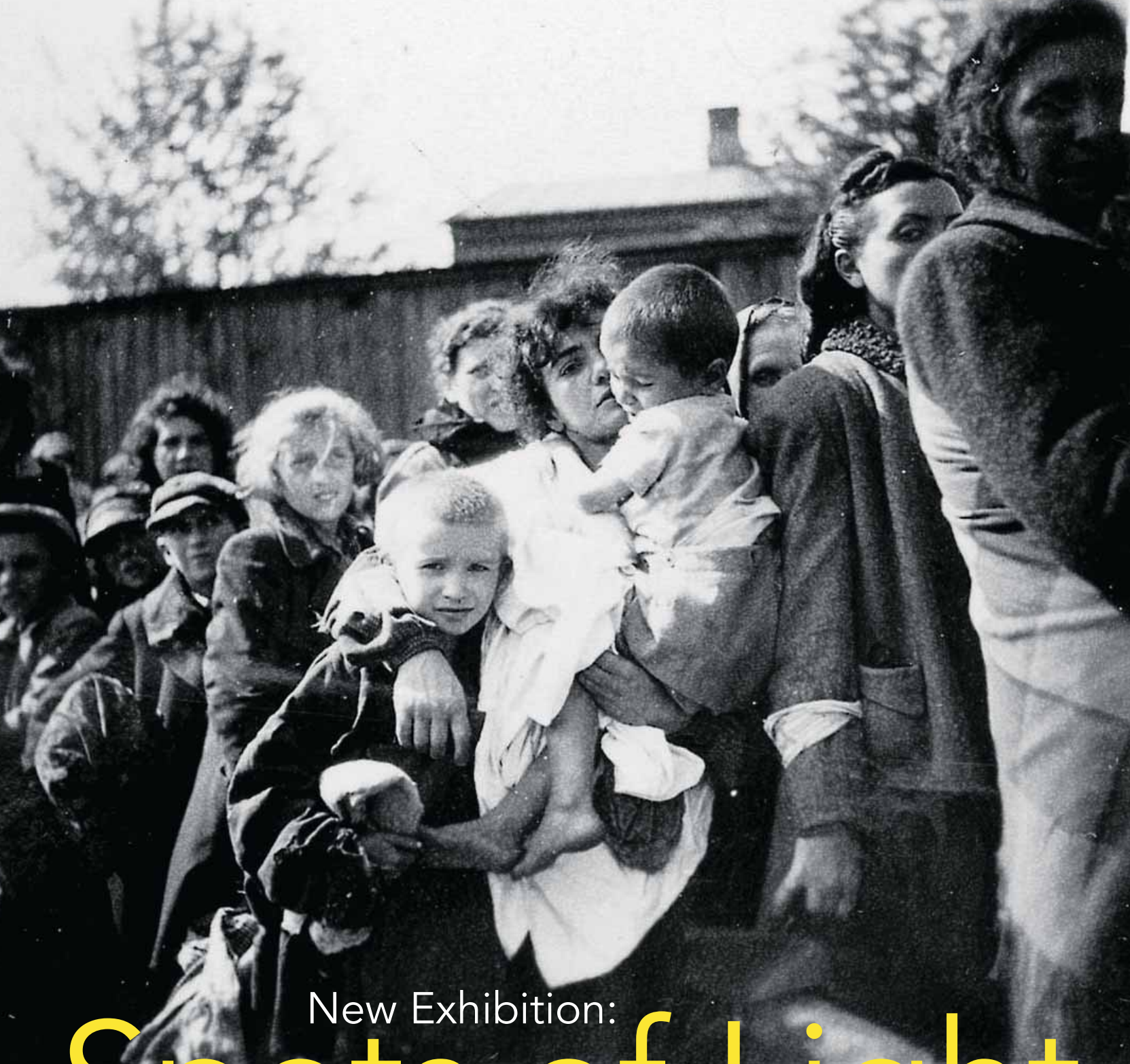


Photograph of Michal Beer (left) and her friend Ruth Weisz in an album made for Michal for her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday in Theresienstadt by her mother.

Born Maud Shtecklmacher in 1929 to a prominent family in Czechoslovakia, her future looked bright. But the dark clouds of WWII stripped Maud of a normal childhood, sending her instead to Theresienstadt where—though she, her sister and her mother miraculously survived—she witnessed the death and deportations of her father and 70 other members of her extended family.

Michal has a near photographic memory, recalling in remarkably vivid detail hundreds of *Shoah* victims from her hometown of Prostejov. "I relive it all the time. I came so close to death myself; my suitcase was sent to Auschwitz, but I remained. I am a witness," she says. Immediately following the war, she felt compelled to submit names to Yad Vashem. "I was living on a remote *moshav*. I was poor, with a small infant, but the moment I found out that Yad Vashem had opened offices, I submitted the names of my closest family and friends." Although many names already appear on various archival lists, Michal says she will not rest until she has personally submitted a Page of Testimony for each and every person she remembers.

"My son often asks me why I need to be so obsessed with names all the time—so many names. I tell him every name is a person, every name is a soul," explains Michal, who chalks up her stubborn determination to her desire to do something for her childhood friends who died so long ago, but whose memories continue to pursue her. "When a plane flies overhead, or I see skyscrapers, I think of my friends," she says. "Every summer morning, on my way home from swimming, I stand on a hilltop high above the sea, and I think about them—my friends—who never saw these things, who were not allowed to live."



New Exhibition:

# Spots of Light

To Be a Woman in the Holocaust



“Spots of light pressed into this dark matter”

Excerpt from *The Complete Poems So Far*, Dalia Rabikovitch Hakibbutz Hameuchad, Tel Aviv 1995

The Holocaust was an historical event—an act of murder and violence that the Nazis and their accomplices unleashed against the Jewish people, paved with horrifying brutality. In certain respects however, men, women and children followed different paths to death. “Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust” attempts to reveal the human story that lurks behind the historical account, giving special voice to the unique experiences of the millions of women who were targeted, pursued, abused and murdered during the *Shoah*.

Nazi ideology viewed women generally as agents of fertility and, accordingly, targeted the Jewish woman for extermination, in order to thwart the rise of future generations. For their part, Jewish women in Europe at that time inhabited a largely conservative and patriarchal society, with men heading the household and women discharging traditional roles at home or helping to make a living. In place of external leadership roles, Jewish women assumed those that called for the “affirmation of life:” the attempt to survive and keep others alive, in whatever situation they found themselves.

“Spots of Light” does not retell in detail the horrors these women experienced during the Holocaust, except as background information to the goal of the exhibition: the broad and diverse range of actions and responses of Jewish women to their devastatingly extreme circumstances. Some of these responses were unique; others turn out to have been typical of many. Torn between dual commitments—to their families (husbands and children) and their elderly parents—they often also assumed responsibility for other needy groups, looking out for themselves in only the most extreme cases.

Emanuel Ringelblum, the historian who established the “Oneg Shabbat” Archives in the Warsaw ghetto, wrote in his diary: “The future historian will have to dedicate an appropriate page to the Jewish woman in the war. She will take up an important page in Jewish history for her courage and steadfastness. By her merit, thousands of families have managed to surmount the terror of the times.”

Jewish women in the Holocaust: applied their intellect in places that deprived them of their minds and brought strength to places where none was to be found. And in places where they and their families were not given the right to live, they walked each step towards death imbuing every additional moment of life with meaning and significance.

We wish to hear their voices and tell their stories.

*“Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust” opens at Yad Vashem’s Exhibitions Pavilion on 6 April 2007.*

*The exhibition is generously supported by: Eduardo and Linda Achar (Mexico), the Steindling Family, In Memory of Catharina Van Den Berg-Bruecker (Netherlands), the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, Circle of Friends of Yad Vashem in Switzerland, Helen Segal (Sweden-Israel), the Braginsky Foundation (Switzerland), Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Foundation (Germany), Leumi (Israel), Rolf Becker (Germany), the State of Saxony (Germany), Miriam Gertler (Germany), Israel Weißbort (Germany), Circle of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein, Naomi Warren, Joy and Benjamin Warren (USA), Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria, and Circle of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany.*

*The author is Director of the Museums Division at Yad Vashem, and Chief Curator of the exhibition, “Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust.”*



*Opposite page: Women and children during the deportation of the Jews of Szydlowiec to the Treblinka death camp, September 1942*

*This page, left to right: Bra secretly made by Lina Beresin in the Stutthof concentration camp*

*A pocket calendar Hilde Grünbaum received in Auschwitz-Birkenau from her counselor Anne Borinski. The calendar includes quotes in Hebrew and German from Pirke Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) and the Shacharit (morning) prayers.*

*A bookmark made by Anne in Auschwitz-Birkenau for Hilde’s birthday. The bookmark is embroidered with a lily, the symbol of the Maccabi Hatzair Zionist youth movement, and a dedication to Hilde that includes her birth date.*

## New Learning Program: Women in the Holocaust

by Yael Richler

In recent years, it has become increasingly apparent that instructional approaches focusing on different population groups have the power to produce a fuller, clearer and more complex picture of the Holocaust, enhancing our understanding of the human suffering, as well as the dilemmas that characterized the period. As part of this educational trend, the International School for Holocaust Studies, supported by Victor and Masha Cohen of Mexico, has developed a new learning program for high schools devoted to the fate of women during the Holocaust.

The four-lesson program (currently in Hebrew, but planned to be translated into English) not only examines what happened to women during the Holocaust, but also the unique difficulties they faced and how they coped with them. Based on analysis and the perusal of testimonies, recollections and photographs,

the program aims to encourage pupils to think laterally and engage in independent study.

The program is modular, allowing the lessons to be selected individually. The first lesson is a general discussion of the importance of women’s experiences in the Holocaust, and the other three deal with Jewish women in Germany before the war, motherhood in the ghettos, and the religious woman during the Holocaust. The lessons may also be used to supplement material covered in history classes, or even incorporated into gender or education studies.

*The author is Head of Hebrew Curriculum Development in the International School for Holocaust Studies’ Teacher Training Department.*

## Program for Holocaust Remembrance Day

Training at the School Dr. Haim Gertner. "However, this option does not reflect the new study kit's innovative nature. The posters are meant to be used as the basis for additional creative work on the part of pupils, inspired by their encounter with the content of the posters. The pupils are guided in the design of posters of their own, drawing on a varied collection of written and visual sources. Conscious and creative activity enables the children to become partners in the learning and creative process, and promotes a meaningful emotional response to the material."

The mounting of a combined exhibition—using both the posters designed by Yad Vashem and those produced by pupils—on the walls of the classroom or school corridor, represents a continuation of the educational process initiated by the kit activity. The materials employed are appropriate for grades four to six, and the use of posters designed by the children themselves ensures that their feelings and attitudes toward the material become an inseparable part of the new learning environment that has emerged. The exhibition may be enlarged and expanded each year, providing a flexible framework for classroom, grade-wide or school-wide activity.

"The kit allows me to put aside what I have taught until now, what I have always felt compelled to say," says one teacher who took part in a preview of the program. "It lets me discuss with my pupils the things that really matter about the Holocaust."

*The author is Head of Hebrew Curriculum Development in the International School for Holocaust Studies' Teacher Training Department.*

by Jonathan Clapsaddle

## "Bearing Witness:" New Website for Holocaust Remembrance Day

In advance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the International School for Holocaust Studies has uploaded a special mini-site featuring suggestions and guidelines for Remembrance Day ceremonies, prayer passages and names of Holocaust victims to read out loud, lesson plans, original photographs, and a range of educational links, in several languages. Perhaps most significant, however, are the survivor testimonies, which, in keeping with this year's Remembrance Day theme, allow students and teachers alike to hear about the daily struggles of the individual people, families and communities during the *Shoah*. Viewing the testimonies encourages discussion of both educational and more universal questions, all of which undoubtedly touch the hearts and lives of students today.

## "Echoes and Reflections:" Additional Chapter on Postwar Zionism

"Echoes and Reflections" is the International School's accompanying website to the similarly-named teaching unit developed in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League and the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. The unit is a multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust for US students, with an accompanying DVD/VHS of visual history testimonies from survivors, rescuers and liberators.

Due to increased global interest in the Holocaust's aftermath and postwar Zionism, the "Echoes and Reflections" website ([www.echoesandreflections.org](http://www.echoesandreflections.org)) has added a chapter entitled: "Survivors, Zionism and the State of Israel." The new chapter includes a scholarly background article, encyclopedia entries, original photographs, documents and letter extracts, as well as links to additional information on the topic.

## New Literature Lesson Plan: Noah the Water Carrier and Other Stories

The tragedy of the Holocaust cast an overwhelming shadow over the preceding period in European history, and tends to obscure the vibrancy that pulsed through prewar Jewish life in Poland. This multidisciplinary lesson plan uses the book *Noah the Water Carrier and Other Stories* by Joe Lumer to gain insight into this fascinating—yet still often overlooked—aspect of the Holocaust narrative.

*Development of educational material on the Yad Vashem website is supported by grants from the Claims Conference and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.*

## Hungary Signs Agreement on Education and Names Recovery

During his tour of Yad Vashem in January, Hungarian Education and Culture Minister Dr. Istvan Hiller signed a new bilateral agreement outlining plans for continued cooperation with Yad Vashem in Holocaust education, as well as advancing the Names Recovery Campaign in Hungary.

The agreement outlines plans for holding seminars for Hungarian educators in Israel and in Budapest, run by members of the International School's European Department and the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education in Europe, as well as a special conference in Hungary for graduates of previous seminars held at Yad Vashem.



*Hungarian Education and Culture Minister Dr. Istvan Hiller (right) and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (left) sign an Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in Education and Names Recovery between Yad Vashem and the Hungarian Education Ministry.*

The agreement also includes plans for a campaign to recover names of Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust, through the collection of Pages of Testimony, private documents from Hungarian families, and material from Jewish community archives. The project is supported by the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah.

In February, Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. Kinga Góncz also visited Yad Vashem. Dr. Góncz toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial, and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.



# With Our Own Eyes

by Yael Richler

The posters that cover the walls of school classrooms and corridors frequently serve as an additional channel for the transmission of information, creative expression, and dialogue between teachers and pupils as well as the pupils themselves. School walls change their content and character throughout the year, in line with calendar highlights, current events and specific issues that the school has taken upon itself to address; thereby also functioning as educational exhibitions.

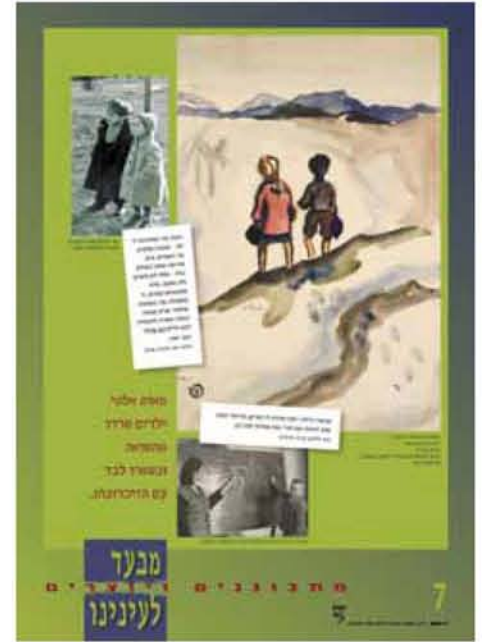
Many schools use posters to herald the approach of Holocaust Remembrance Day or as the basis of exhibitions on the Holocaust. Unfortunately, however, nearly all existing poster kits in Israel are intended for the higher grades, rather than elementary schools. The displays are therefore unsuited to the cognitive and emotional level of younger pupils; in some cases these children are exposed passively, on a daily basis, to shocking images that may leave them either appalled or eventually apathetic. In order to meet the unique needs of

elementary school pupils, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies has produced a new poster kit intended for elementary schools.

"With Our Own Eyes: Seeing and Creating" reflects the International School's educational approach, and consists of seven posters that focus on the lives and world of children before the war, how they felt and coped during the Holocaust, and the rehabilitation process they underwent after liberation. The posters combine texts written by children about their experiences during the Holocaust with photographs and artworks that relate to various issues, such as how Jewish children lived before the Holocaust and during the early Nazi period, the yellow star, the ghetto, the deportations, and the return to normal life. The posters are accompanied by activity instructions, suggested topics for classroom discussion, and sourcebooks for creative activity with the children.

"The posters may be used as they are, to mount an exhibition," explains Director of Teacher

## New Elementary School



## A Meeting of Minds The Second ICHEIC Forum at Yad Vashem

At the end of February, the International School for Holocaust Studies hosted the Second International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) Forum, with the participation of delegates from Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Croatia, Lithuania, Russia, UK, Ukraine, France, Greece and Hungary. The annual forum allows the School's educational staff to meet with its international partners to discuss the status of Holocaust education on the continent, as well as new educational programs being developed at Yad Vashem. Participants also present details of educational advances in Europe and projects created by graduates of Yad Vashem seminars that are already being used in the classroom.

This year's participants hailed from organizations actively involved in Holocaust education, including the Hungarian Ministry of Education, the Danish Institute for International Studies, the International Task Force Greek Delegation, the Croatian Ministry of Education, the National Institute for Pedagogical Research

in France and the Swedish Committee Against Antisemitism. The School was also delighted to welcome Dr. Annette Koren of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, who presented her findings evaluating the 2005/2006 seminars held at Yad Vashem.

During the forum, participants were exposed to workshops on a wide range of subjects, including "Shoah and Genocide" and "Antisemitism," as well as survivor testimonies, and tours of Yad Vashem's Visual Center and Exhibitions Pavilion. Each delegate provided examples of national educational initiatives, while Director of the Terezin Memorial Dr. Jan Munk and Holocaust Education Coordinator at the Imperial War Museum in London Paul Salmons gave detailed updates on the important work of their institutions.

"It is crucial for colleagues from all over Europe to meet outside their own countries, and share ideas and knowledge," commented Yvonne Schuchmann, from the Hungarian Ministry of Education. "It was fascinating to have educators, researchers and government representatives from across the continent gathered around one table, learning about new approaches and contributing to the advancement of Holocaust education."

"I learned a lot from the Forum," stated Otto Ruehl from the Danish Institute for International Studies. "As a member of the International Task Force (ITF), one of the most important parts of the Forum was the individual presentations on each country's educational activities, similar to the methods used in ITF meetings." "This Forum made me realize how crucial it is to work together," concluded Benoit Falaise of the National Institute for Pedagogical Research in France (INRP). "We can achieve this goal by forming a European network, allowing us to share experiences, practices and teacher training methods."



Dr. Annette Koren of Brandeis University presents her findings to participants at the Second ICHEIC Forum at Yad Vashem.

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



# Torchlighters

## 2007

### ▼ Mordechai (Motke) Wiesel



Mordechai (Motke) Wiesel was born in 1929 in Satmar, Transylvania, to a family of eight.

When the Germans invaded Hungary in 1944, Motke's father sent his three sons to work on an agricultural farm. Meanwhile, the Jews were herded into the city's ghetto; after a few weeks, the boys were taken to the ghetto as well. Motke and his family were put on the second transport to Auschwitz, in crowded, oppressive conditions. He and his twin brother Meir managed to find a space to breathe near a small crack. They reached Auschwitz on their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, where they were herded off the train and beaten. At the first *selektion*, Motke and Meir were separated from their parents and siblings, whom they never saw again. As they drew towards the infamous camp gate, Meir naively asked: "How long do you think we will have to work here before we are freed?"

After a week, the twins were sent to the Plaszow camp, near Krakow, where they worked in Oskar Schindler's pig farm and as apprentice builders. They were then taken to Gross-Rosen and from there to the Langenbielau Sportschule, near Reichenbach. The brothers always looked after each other, sharing stolen food or the remains of that reserved for the dogs. In one camp, Motke persuaded his brother to cut his hands in a "work accident" in order to avoid certain death on a machine he was forced to work.

After liberation in May 1945, they went to live in vacated houses in Reichenbach, where they regained their strength. Back in Satmar, they discovered that only their elder brother had survived. Nothing is known about the rest of the family.

With the help of the *Bricha* (escape) operation, the brothers were smuggled into Austria and from there to Italy. Motke succeeded in reaching *Eretz Israel* in 1947, and made his way to Kibbutz Sde Nahum, where Meir awaited him. Meir was killed fighting in the War of Independence. Motke later fulfilled his dream of becoming an officer in the "Jewish" army.

In 1952, Motke married Esther. The couple has two children and eight grandchildren.

### ▼ Zanne Farbstein



Zanne Farbstein was born in 1926 in Bardejov, Slovakia to a family of six. Her first memory of the war is the sudden entry of German soldiers into her family home on *Shabbat* eve, after which there remained

a solid German presence in the town. Zanne's father's business was confiscated, and her two older brothers were sent to a military labor camp.

In March 1942, all girls aged up to 25 were ordered to gather in a school. Zanne and her two sisters, Edith and Sarah, were escorted by their father, who tearfully gave each of them a corona coin as a good-luck amulet. They then joined a thousand other girls on the first transport to Auschwitz, where they were ordered to leave their possessions on the train, including their treasured amulets.

After a few months, they were sent to the newly built Birkenau camp, where they endured hard labor, acute hunger and disease. Zanne survived the *selektions* because of her Aryan looks, and managed to obtain the "desirable" jobs of sorting confiscated clothes and other possessions. On one occasion, Zanne found her father's *tallit* (prayer shawl), and understood that he had been murdered. The three sisters stayed together, looking after each other and sharing the food they managed to acquire. One day, Edith, sick and exhausted, suggested exchanging her good shoes for Zanne's threadbare ones. The symbolism was clear: Zanne and Sarah never saw Edith again.

On 18 January 1945, the women were sent on a death march to Germany. Through the snow and rain, Zanne had to support her ailing sister. After the German guards abandoned the prisoners in a small town, the sisters continued on to the American Zone, where they met soldiers from the Jewish Brigade. They then travelled to Prague and Bratislava, where they learned that two of their brothers had survived. They returned to their birthplace, where the four were reunited. The fates of Zanne's grandfather, grandmother and younger brother remain unknown.

In 1949, the extended family immigrated to Israel with the help of the JDC. Zanne and her husband Moshe have two children and five grandchildren.

### ▼ Yaacov (Jacki) Handeli



Yaacov (Jacki) Handeli was born in 1928 in Salonika, Greece, to an affluent family of six, whose roots in Salonika dated back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1941, the Germans entered Salonika. They implemented anti-Jewish laws, and turned the Baron Hirsch quarter of the city into a ghetto, into which Jacki and his family were marched, in a humiliating parade. Two weeks later, the family was deported to Poland, with some 85 people crammed into each wagon. After a week, the food and water ran out. Every time the train stopped, the Germans would remove the bodies of those who had died and rob the others of their possessions. It was then that Jacki learnt his first sentence in German: "You won't need this any more."

The train arrived at Auschwitz, and the prisoners were sent to the first *selektion*. Jacki and his brothers Yehuda and Shmuel saw their parents and sisters for the last time, and were then taken immediately to carry out different tasks in the camp. Like the other refugees from Salonika, they were unable to speak to the Germans or with other Jews in the camp because they did not know Polish, German or Yiddish. After his two brothers perished, Jacki was taken under the wing of Salonika boxer Jaco Razon, who helped him survive the terrible conditions in the camp.

In January 1945, the prisoners were sent on a death march. Jacki remembers the snow-covered road stained with the blood of those who had been murdered, the march to the Gleiwitz camp, and then onwards to Dora-Mittelbau in open coal trucks, exposed to the cold and the rain, without food or water, until they reached Bergen-Belsen, where they remained until liberation by the British.

In 1947, Jacki immigrated to *Eretz Israel*. He volunteered in Mahal and fought in the War of Independence. Jacki is the sole survivor of his family. He and his wife Rachel have two children.



## David Gur



David Gur was born in 1926 in Okany, southeastern Hungary to a family of four. In 1938, the Hungarian regime began to implement anti-Jewish laws. David's father lost his business license and the family's

economic situation worsened.

Imbued with the spirit of Zionism, David went to Budapest to learn a useful trade for living in *Eretz Israel*. While working as a building apprentice for a Jewish contractor, he began to take part in the underground activities of Hashomer Hatzair, which included helping refugees arriving from neighboring countries. In March 1944, the German invaded Hungary, and the underground created a united defense committee whose wide range of forging and other rescue activities resulted in the saving of thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish lives. David joined a cell in charge of forging documents. One day, he and his friends were caught by Hungarian detectives. Though they quickly swallowed the forged documents, the equipment in their suitcases gave them away. After a brutal investigation, during which one of them died, the rest of the group was taken to the military prison in Budapest. David was among those scheduled for execution, but to their surprise, the prisoners were transported instead to the Swiss consulate building, where they were freed, thanks to the bribing of a senior prison warden by the underground.

After the war, David discovered his father had perished in Auschwitz, but his mother and sister had survived. He became a member of the Hashomer Hatzair leadership, representing the movement in various institutions. He also took part in underground activities of the Hagana. In 1949, when the Zionist movement was prohibited by the Communist regime, David commanded the last *Bricha* (escape) operation, helping smuggle members of Zionist youth movements through Czechoslovakia and Austria to *Eretz Israel*. In 1949, he immigrated to Israel. He graduated the Technion and became a building engineer.

In 1985, David helped found the Association for Research into the Zionist Youth Movements of Hungary, where he remains active. He and his wife Naomi have three daughters and 10 grandchildren.

## Manya Brodeski-Titelman



Manya Brodeski-Titelman, an only child, was born in 1932 in Zhabokrich, in the Ukraine.

In July 1941, the German army entered the town, followed by the Romanian army. The Jews were ordered

to gather in five cellars where the Romanian soldiers proceeded to shoot them. Manya lost consciousness. When she awoke, she saw that her mother had been killed. Her father had survived.

Manya and her father hid in the cellar until nightfall. They then escaped to the forest but after a week, starving and cold, they returned. A few days later, they were herded into the town ghetto, where they lived under grueling conditions in one apartment with several other families.

One day, the police ordered both adults and children back to the cellars to remove the bodies of those killed in the massacre. The bodies were in a terrible state of decomposition, and the horrified prisoners were forced to bury them in a mass grave. Manya identified her mother's body by the red boots she had been wearing. She and her father managed to bury her in a grave near their house.

During this period, thousands of Jews from Bessarabia were being herded to the nearby River Bug, where they were murdered. Manya's father would throw boiled potatoes to them across the ghetto fence, and even bring survivors to their home.

Towards the end of the war, the Romanians gathered all the Jews in the main square of the town, planning to kill them. Suddenly, a group of German soldiers arrived and warned the Romanians that the Russian army had arrived. The Romanians fled. To the Jews' astonishment, the German soldiers turned out to be partisans in disguise.

In 1980, Manya and her family immigrated to Israel. In 2003, she was among a group that erected a memorial tombstone on the site of her town's mass grave.

In March 2007, Manya's husband Boris, a Holocaust survivor and soldier in the Red Army, passed away. She has two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## Ya'akov Janek Hollaender



Ya'akov Janek Hollaender was born in 1929 in Krakow, Poland, to a family of five.

In 1940, the Jews were exiled from the town, and Janek's family was forced to sell their property in

order to survive. In 1942, they were taken to the Krakow ghetto, where Janek and his parents were separated from his two brothers. With rumors of an imminent *Aktion*, they hid themselves in a basement, where Janek's father had placed a special lock on the door so it could not be opened from the outside.

Janek recalls their subsequent imprisonment in Plaszow with utter dread, because of the atmosphere of terror created by the camp's commander, Amon Goeth, who regularly shot randomly in all directions. Janek and his brother Benek were later sent to Starachowice, and then to Auschwitz, where they looked after each other to the best of their ability. In the winter of 1944, the prisoners were marched to Mauthausen. Benek had difficulty walking because of a leg injury sustained while selling coal in Rideltau. Urged on by Janek, he managed to reach the camp, but collapsed, and Janek never saw him again.

In April 1945, the prisoners were taken on a death march to Gunkirchen. As news spread that the Germans had fled, Janek, weighing just 33 kilograms, managed to crawl out of the camp. He was taken to the Red Cross hospital, where he met soldiers from the Jewish Brigade. He decided to travel with them to Italy, joining a group of Jewish war orphans that was sent to a "Youth Aliya" camp in Selvino. There some 800 youngsters were trained for life in *Eretz Israel*. Meanwhile, Janek learned that his father had been murdered in Auschwitz, his mother had died in Plaszow, and his brother Dolek had been shot in Bergen-Belsen, just three days before the war's end.

In 1947, Janek arrived at Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon. After fighting with the Palmach's Harel Brigade, he helped found Kibbutz Tse'elim in the Negev, along with other former children from Selvino. Today Ya'akov Janek is a well-known composer, musical arranger and choir conductor.

In 1955, Janek married Devorah. They have two children and one granddaughter.



# Highlights of Yad Vashem's Activities

## Holocaust Education

- Some 187,000 pupils from Israel and abroad and 1,735 groups of Israeli soldiers participated in seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies and at the School's branch in Givatayim (Beit Wolyn). Some 750 classes of Israeli students made use of the School's four mobile unit programs.
- Approximately 23,000 Israeli educators attended over 760 teacher-training days at Yad Vashem and nationwide. 26 seminars were conducted for 800 participants in a yearlong course given by the School, and a workshop was held for survivors on how to give testimonies in front of audiences.



- The Fifth International Educators' Conference was held at Yad Vashem in June 2006, with the participation of some 300 educators from 21 different countries.

- With support from the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), some 1,600 educators from abroad—most of them not Jewish—took part in 22 seminars at Yad Vashem, and a further 22 seminars were held across the continent, including those held for the first time for educators from Greece, Finland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

- 4 seminars were conducted for Jewish educators and 2 for educators from countries outside of Europe, as well as 39 teacher-training days for Jewish educators from abroad, with a total of over 1,000 participants.

- The School produced special guidelines for International Holocaust

Remembrance Day, which were translated into 11 languages and uploaded to the Internet, including the Yad Vashem and the UN websites.

- A wide range of educational material in 13 languages—some of which supported by ICHEIC—was uploaded to the School's mini-website, including educational units, lesson plans, ceremonies, projects prepared by seminar graduates, online journals, interactive maps, sub-sites for special events and different teachers' forums. 2 online courses for educators in English were also uploaded, in addition to the existing Hebrew-language course.

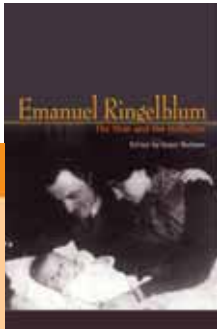
- 5 international videoconferences were conducted at the School between staff members and students, teachers, ex-servicemen and survivors from Australia, Italy and the USA.

## Research and Publications

- The International Institute for Holocaust Research held 5 seminars and 14 research workshops, as well as an international conference marking 60 years since the Nuremberg Trials, entitled: "Justice and the Holocaust: Post-War Trials—Representation, Awareness, and Historiography."

- 9 senior researchers from Israel and abroad were hosted at Yad Vashem, assisted by fellowship grants by the Research Institute, which also granted 17 awards to masters and doctoral students. The annual Jacob Buchman Foundation Memorial Prize was awarded to Hanoch Bartov and Prof. Shlomo Aharonson.

- 45 new books were published by Yad Vashem, including 10 new memoirs in Hebrew and 6 in English, translations into French, Spanish and Russian of the Yad Vashem Museum Album *To Bear Witness*, and Volume 34 of *Yad Vashem Studies*.



## Documentation, Photographs, Testimonies, Names and Books

- 3,366,725 pages of Holocaust-era documentation were received by Yad Vashem. To date, Yad Vashem's Archive contains some 68 million pages of documentation.

- Over 415,000 names from Pages of Testimony, archival lists and other documentation were added to the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, accessible online. The Names Database now contains more than 3.1 million names of Holocaust victims.

- A new *Shoah*-related Lists Database was uploaded to Yad Vashem's website.

- Over 40,500 new Pages of Testimony were added to Names Database, including 10,600 Pages in Russian since the Names Collection campaign in the Russian-speaking sector was launched



in May 2006. The Names Database now contains close to 2.1 million Pages of Testimony (two-thirds of the total number of names in the Database).

- The Hall of Names staff processed some 8,200 public submissions of additional information for Pages of Testimony.

- 3,024 photographs were added to the Photo and Film Archives, and 3,681 photographs to the Hall of Names. Yad Vashem currently houses some 300,000 photographs and, in addition, over 120,000 photographs attached to Pages of Testimony.

- 880 new Holocaust survivor testimonies were filmed and recorded by the Oral History Section, Archives Division, which also launched a campaign

# in 2006

to film survivor testimonies in their own homes. The Archives currently house some 45,000 video, audio and written testimonies.

- Some 3,800 book titles were acquired by the Yad Vashem library. To date, the library holds over 112,000 titles in some 50 languages.

- 25,000 public inquiries were answered by the Reference and Information Services Unit. The Unit also assisted over 11,500 members of the public in the Library and Archives Reading Room, and answered some 6,000 written enquiries.

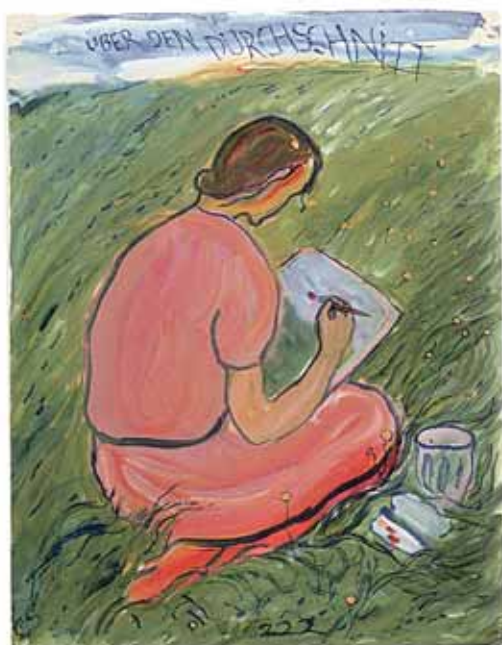
- In its first year of operation, the Visual Center added information on some 2,000 films to its film catalogue, and made an additional 400 movies available for public viewing. Today the public



has access to some 1,400 films via personal screens, from a total of some 5,000 known titles on the subject of the Holocaust, from a range of different genres.

- The Visual Center also held a number of programs within various film festivals in Israel, special screenings at Yad Vashem, symposia, and a specialist conference in conjunction with the International Institute for Holocaust Research. In addition, the Visual Center awarded the first “Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award” for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust-Related Film during the International Film Festival in Jerusalem.

## Art works and Artifacts



collection of drawings by the French artist René Diaz of the trial of war criminal Klaus Barbie was displayed in the foyer of Yad Vashem’s main auditorium.

- 858 artifacts and 148 works of art were added to Yad Vashem’s Museum’s Division. The artifacts collection now holds some 25,000 items, and the art collection comprises over 10,500 pieces.

- 3 art exhibitions were held in the Exhibitions Pavilion – “Charlotte Salomon,” “Montparnasse Déporté” and “Samuel Bak.” A

## Righteous Among the Nations

- 450 individuals were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. To date, more than 21,750 individuals have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.



## Events, Ceremonies and Public Relations

- In 2006, the number of visitors to Yad Vashem reached 830,000, including 18,000 organized groups.



- In addition to the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, the Commemoration and Public Relations Division held some 75 events and 186 memorial services. The Division also conducted 521 guided tours for guests of Yad Vashem out of the 3,181 tours that took place across the site for more than 59,000 visitors.

- Some 4.5 million visitors from 215 countries surfed the Yad Vashem website, which was uploaded with 5 new virtual exhibitions, a new video testimony resource center with dozens of survivor testimonies, as well as various audio broadcast and podcast downloads of lectures given at Yad Vashem.

- Part of the Yad Vashem website was translated into Russian, including the homepage, the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names and links to various educational materials on the site. The Yad Vashem website won the “special category” award in the People and Computers WebAwards 2006 for outstanding websites.





# Finding Human Kindness

## Mordecai Paldiel, *The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations: Rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust*

Yad Vashem: The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority  
HarperCollins, USA, 2007

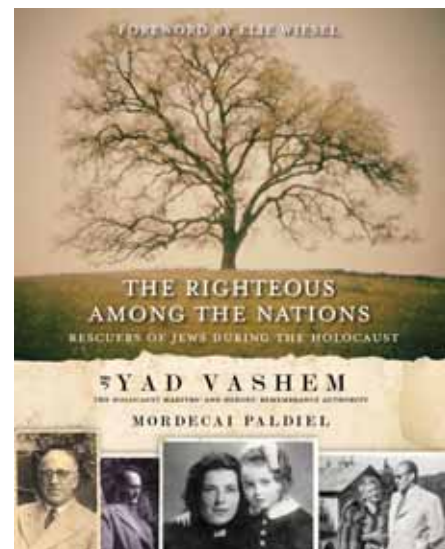
**T**ruth is indeed stranger than fiction. Within the inferno that was the Holocaust, many ordinary citizens risked their lives to save Jews, without expecting any reward or compensation. These are the "Righteous Among the Nations," the moral heroes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This book contains some 150 of the most moving and riveting of their stories, based on the documentary evidence in the Yad Vashem archives, amalgamated by Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, who directed Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department for over 24 years (see p. 16).

"It is hard to say whether the nations of Europe could have saved the Jews among them," writes

Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Israel Gutman in the introduction. "Nonetheless, there were people whose soul and conscience were dear to them and who could not reconcile themselves to the existing situation... These people who swam against the current in those dark days were like sparks of light in a murky sea, seeing their mission as an overriding duty."

Heroism comes in many forms—some of them surprising—as this book movingly documents. The volume is amply illustrated and includes a detailed index of rescuers and rescued, along with the places that were the background to their astonishing activities.

"These stories should be read," remarks Prof. Elie Wiesel in the foreword to the book. "They enable us to understand that it was indeed possible—more than we tend to believe—to lend a hand to the persecuted... to prevent the enemy from killing and death from running rampant... to disrupt what appeared to be an omnipotent reign of terror. All that was necessary was to will it. A gesture, a hint of compassion, a spark of humanity sufficed..."



Read this disturbing and gripping book. It helps us renew our faith in mankind."

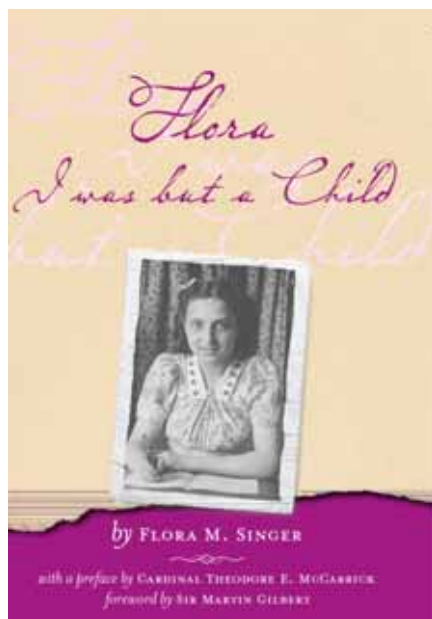
## Flora M. Singer, *I Was But A Child*

Series Editor: Dr. David Silberklang; Managing Editor: Daniella Zaidman Mauer  
Yad Vashem in association with The Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, 2007  
188 pp., \$21 (airmail included) / NIS 69

**I** *Was But A Child* is the story of a young Jewish girl who spent the war years hiding in convents in Belgium, together with her two sisters, under the watchful eye of Père Bruno, a Benedictine Monk and today a well-known Righteous Among the Nations.

Their life in hiding depended entirely on devoted and continual care, as well as constant vigilance. In his preface to the book, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, D.C. (ret.) calls Flora "a courageous and remarkably blessed young woman who... found so much human kindness in the midst of overwhelming fear and hatred, it enabled her to rejoice in the goodness of special people. Her inner strength and her trust in good people come through these pages as a song of hope amidst a background of evil."

In these pages, acts of good triumph over the real evil and are a tribute to those who took great risks to thwart the Nazi will. But they also show how, in the immediate aftermath of the defeat of Nazism, the survivors struggled in a world that did not automatically want to help them, or even knew how. The pages describing post-war Europe and her journey to the United States, the reunion with her



father, and the time spent working in New York's garment district are poignant. Yet Flora Singer appreciates her good fortune amid all the dangers she encountered. Today she is able to visit the graves of both her parents: "I am at peace," she says. "No one killed them. They did not vanish without a trace, like millions of the *Shoah's* victims. I know where they are buried and they rest in peace."

In her later years in America, Flora Singer became an active volunteer at the United States Holocaust

Memorial Museum, where she was a compelling speaker who eloquently shared her extraordinary experiences with a range of audiences. She is also Co-President of the Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Washington, a longtime supporter of Yad Vashem.

In his foreword to the book, renowned historian Sir Martin Gilbert notes: "No Holocaust story is the same as any other. Each person's experience adds something to our knowledge of that terrible time, and Flora Singer has written a memoir of the utmost charm and sensitivity... It is important she has now written down these memories so that they shall live after her. In addition to being an inspiration, hers is a great adventure story and a story of great love—the love she had for her parents and her sisters."

*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.*

## New Director of Yad Vashem Publications

**I**n February, Dr. Bella Gutterman completed her role as Director of Yad Vashem Publications. Dr. Gutterman will continue in her capacity as Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications. Yad Vashem takes this opportunity to wish the new Director, Gabi Hadar, much success in her challenging role.





# 27 January

## Global Events and New Developments

by Leah Goldstein

**T**he Second International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust saw a number of important events and significant developments in Holocaust remembrance worldwide.

Following Yad Vashem's symposium last December on Holocaust Denial, a new **mini-site in Farsi** was uploaded to the Yad Vashem website



in January. The information on the site is based on the Yad Vashem album *To Bear Witness*, translated and edited by the esteemed Israeli commentator on Iran, Menashe Amir. The material includes 20 chronological chapters about the Holocaust—from the Nazi rise to power to the post-war trials—illustrated by dozens of photos. The site also contains material about Yad Vashem and its activities, as well as a poem by Abramek Kopolowicz, a Jewish boy murdered in Auschwitz at the age of 14. Reactions from the Farsi-speaking world were swift, and extremely positive. Some 25,000 people visited the site in the first quarter of 2007, including over 10,000 from Iran (compared with a total of about 3,000 visits from Iran to the Yad Vashem website in the whole of 2006).

"What a wonderful way to deal with the hate pouring out of Iran," said one visitor. "I am sure

many people in the Middle East do not know how horrible [the Holocaust] was. Your efforts can help change their prejudiced views." "Your site uses very simple

and unbiased language to describe a very disturbing and horrific chapter of human history," wrote an Iranian living in the UK. "I am sure everyone who visits it will come away with a firm belief that we must all work hard, shoulder to shoulder, to stop the same happening to our children and future generations."

On 26 January, the **United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution condemning Holocaust denial**. In a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said, "It is fitting that on the eve of the second annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the international community has expressed its abhorrence of Holocaust denial of all kinds, and its intention to fight against this destructive phenomenon. In a world where Holocaust denial has gained momentum, it is essential that the UN's moral voice be heard on this issue."

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was marked at the UN Headquarters in New York with a ceremony in the General Assembly Hall on 29 January, as well as the launch of a **new mini website**, developed by Yad Vashem and the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education at the University of Southern California (SFI). Accessible from Yad Vashem's homepage ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)), the website features four SFI testimonies, augmented with a plethora of primary source materials, including original artifacts and photographs, authentic diary and letter extracts, encyclopedia and lexicon entries, and educational resources and briefing notes from Yad Vashem's comprehensive databases.

Yad Vashem initiated a number of exhibitions in Israel and around the world, including an **exhibit on modern antisemitism**, which opened at the Prime Minister's Office on 28 January. The exhibit is part of a traveling exhibition that will open in Germany in the summer of 2007, reflecting the

expressions of antisemitism found in the media and the violence targeting Jewish individuals, organizations and symbols in Europe today.

A concise version of the "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell" exhibition, displayed at the UN last January, opened in the Saxony State Parliament, in the presence of the President of



Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (left) guides Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (right) through Yad Vashem's exhibit on modern antisemitism, displayed at the Prime Minister's Office to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

the German Parliament, Chairperson of the German Friends of Yad Vashem Prof. Dr. Rita Sussmuth, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, and other officials (see p. 22). The exhibition was also displayed in the Montpellier City Hall. Yad Vashem's "No Child's Play" exhibition was displayed at the UN center in Vienna supported by the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria, as well as in France's CERCIL (Center for the research and documentation of the internment and deportation of the Jews of the Orleans region).

On 24-25 January, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research held an **international conference on "The Holocaust, Medicine and Medical Ethics"** at the International School for Holocaust Studies' branch in Givatayim (Beit Wolyn). The conference, held in cooperation with the Technion-The Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa and supported by the Gertner Center of International Holocaust Conferences and the Claims Conference, hosted scholars from Israel, the United States and Germany who addressed a variety of topics including: Nazi medicine, Jewish physicians during the Holocaust, current educational programs on medical ethics, new research on the Holocaust and medicine, and ideas for the future of medical education and ethics.





## “A Journey of Discovery” Righteous Department Director Retires after 24 Years

**D**r. Mordecai Paldiel, Director of the Department for the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, has retired after more than 24 years of service. He has been succeeded by Irena Steinfeldt, formerly Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

“When I began my job here in November 1982, Yad Vashem had already honored some 4,000 gentiles as Righteous Among the Nations,” remembers Paldiel, himself rescued as a young child. “Nobody believed we would recognize many more—that these were the few examples of compassion during the *Shoah*—but the number kept increasing, and today it stands at close to 22,000. My work here has been ‘a journey of discovery,’ of ordinary people from all walks of life who risked their lives to save Jews, and of whom the world was mostly unaware.”

Despite the fear that accounts of the Righteous would “override” the horrors of the Holocaust, Paldiel believes just the opposite: “The stories of the rescuers are not only important in of themselves, they actually strengthen the Holocaust narrative by emphasizing the dangers the Jews were in and their extreme desperation. They also give credence to survivor accounts, thereby dealing a mighty blow to Holocaust deniers.”

Over the years, the motivation behind the acts of extreme bravery and kindness on behalf of the rescuers has fascinated Paldiel. “Many sociologists, psychologists and historians have tried to find a common denominator among these people: be it a loving family life, extreme social awareness, or even a sense of adventure,” he explains. “But most people display some or all of these qualities, and most people did not help.” Paldiel believes not in a common incentive, but rather in

a common *decision*, a split-second resolution to help somebody whose life was in imminent danger. “These stories almost all begin with an ‘eye-to-eye’ contact with the victim, or the viewing of a situation so repugnant that the rescuer felt compelled to act. He or she then learnt how to further avoid detection and how to overcome the fear of putting his or her own life at risk.”

Paldiel has an interesting theory regarding the role of the Righteous, as opposed to the murderers. “The Holocaust is the story of ‘murder incorporated,’ with directions for industrialized killings coming from above, from people who never even bloodied their hands. Most of the perpetrators later claimed they were ‘only carrying out orders,’ and although this does not excuse them, it is true. On the other hand, the rescuers were examples of the complete opposite phenomenon: people who made private, individual decisions—against the prevailing socially accepted norm—and displayed the ultimate form of humanitarianism without expectation of reward or public acclaim.”

With a strong memory of detail and a remarkable talent for storytelling, Paldiel radiates warmth and concern. “Since the designation of Righteous Among the Nations relies on first-hand testimonies, I sadly believe we have very little time left—perhaps a few years—to gather any remaining evidence of these incredible humanitarian stories. I wish my successor much success in her role, but most of all, I hope she is as inspired by what she discovers as I have been.”



*Dr. Mordecai Paldiel*

## French Righteous Honored at Paris Pantheon

**O**n 18 January, French President Jacques Chirac unveiled a plaque in the Panthéon in Paris, in honor of French Righteous Among the Nations. The official state ceremony, which was broadcast live on French television, was held with the participation of President of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah Simone Veil, who initiated the tribute, and in the presence of French Holocaust survivors and the Righteous who came to their aid, the heads of French Jewish communities, dignitaries of the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Paris, Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev, and Director of the French, Benelux, and Scandinavian Desk in Yad Vashem’s International Relations Department, Miry Gross.

During the ceremony, President Chirac stressed the event’s importance: “We want to remember our past, and enrich both the present and the future. As is written in the Talmud, ‘He who saves one life, it is as if he saved an entire universe.’ We must understand the full meaning of this saying: by saving one person, each Righteous saved all of humanity. You may be proud and certain that this memory will endure for all generations.”

“The French Righteous Among the Nations thought that they were only of marginal historical importance,” said Simone Veil. “In fact, they were the ones who wrote it. Of all the voices of the war, theirs is the one that has not been heard: barely a whisper, which we have usually had to seek out. The time has come to hear them, and to express all of our esteem and gratitude.”

The title of Righteous Among the Nations is granted by Yad Vashem to non-Jews who endangered their lives, for no reward, in order to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem has so far recognized nearly 22,000 Righteous Among the Nations, 2,646 of whom are French.



*Left to right: Yad Vashem Benefactor Maxi Librati, Director of the French, Benelux and Scandinavian Desk Miry Gross, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev*



## Dr. Moshe Beisky, z”l

**Y**ad Vashem expresses its sorrow over the passing of Dr. Moshe Beisky, retired Supreme Court Justice, member of the Yad Vashem Council and former member of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

Moshe Beisky was born in 1921 in the town of Dzialoszyce, Poland, and spent the Holocaust years working for the underground resistance as well as in the camps. He was rescued thanks to the help of Righteous Among the Nations Oskar Schindler. He immigrated to Israel in 1945 and fought in the War of Independence, after which he studied Law in Israel and France. In 1979, he was elected to the Supreme Court where he remained until 1991.

During his lifetime, Moshe Beisky worked continuously for the cause of Holocaust survivors: from 1966 he was a



*Dr. Moshe Beisky, z”l*

member of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, serving as its president from 1970-

1995. He also served as president of the Zionist Supreme Court and as chairman of the “Massuah” Institute for the Study of the Holocaust. May his memory be blessed.



## ► The Names Database by Cynthia Wroclawski

### “Names Recovery Month” to focus on grassroots efforts worldwide

This year, the Hebrew calendar month of *Nissan* (March-April 2007) has been designated Holocaust **Names Recovery Month** by Yad Vashem. The month of *Nissan* includes Passover and Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel—both of which are manifested with the communal Jewish responsibility of remembrance.

Names Recovery Month will be marked by the simultaneous spearheading of individual names recovery drives in Jewish communities around the world. This is a grassroots effort that can only succeed with the volunteer participation of activists committed to recovering as many names as possible. As such, Pages of Testimony and posters publicizing the campaign have been widely distributed to Jewish communal venues in Israel, America, Europe, Australia, South America, South Africa and the Former Soviet Union, encouraging people to investigate whether or not the names of the Jews they know of who were murdered during the *Shoah* have been officially recorded at Yad Vashem.

Outreach efforts are also expanding to Hungary, the origin of an estimated 600,000 Holocaust victims (including surrounding areas in Romania, Slovakia and Serbia). The Names Database currently holds over 300,000 records of names of Jewish victims from this extended region, the majority of which are drawn from archival lists, yet Yad Vashem has so far received only 4,500 Pages of Testimony submitted by victims' relatives residing in present-day Hungary. With the support of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, Yad Vashem is partnering with the local Jewish communities (which in total number some 80,000-100,000 members, mostly survivors or their descendants) and organizations to encourage them to fill out Pages of Testimony and donate other relevant documents in their possession to Yad Vashem.

Among the Russian-speaking population, the campaign is being expanded in Latvia, Lithuania and Crimea, as well as in Germany and the United States, in the continued effort to recover the names of victims from the Former Soviet Union. At the same time, the Ministry of Absorption in Israel is

encouraging the Russian-speaking immigrant population to fill out Pages of Testimony through its community absorption activities.

In addition, a positive response has been registered from various communities within the *Torah* world, calling upon members to fill out Pages of Testimony to commemorate *Kedoshai HaShoah* (Holocaust martyrs). Here, the project is also focusing on documenting names of victims recorded on memorial plaques, *matzevot* (tombstones), and those recorded in *Seforim* (writings on *Torah* and *Halachah*).

*The author is Outreach Manager for The Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project.*



After 65 years, Daniel Avidar from Israel (right) was reunited with his cousin Masha Finestein from Poland (center). Masha found Avidar through the online Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names. Shelly Israel from the USA (left), Masha's cousin on her mother's side, also succeeded in locating Masha through the Yad Vashem website, with the help of Patricia Wilson (second from left), who researches family roots. Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham (second from right) was present at the emotional reunion.

### New at the Museum: Audio Guide by Vivian Uri

In February 2007, Yad Vashem began offering visitors to the Holocaust History Museum a new personal audio guide service. The service provides explanations for some 80 displays at the Museum, as well as professionally narrated background information, original music selections, historical summaries and speeches from the Holocaust period, and survivor testimonies. The audio guide may be rented at the Visitors' Center, near the information and group tour desks, for a fee of 15 NIS per person. Groups may rent the audio guide at a discount rate of 12 NIS per person.

The new Audio Guide was made possible by the generous support of: Region Île de France; S.D. Fürst Hans-Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein; Liechtensteinischer Bankenverband; Liechtensteinische Industrie- und Handelskammer; H.E.M. - Stiftung Vaduz; Prinz Michael von und zu Liechtenstein; The State of Saxony, Federal Republic of Germany; Josef and Zofia Landau and Family (Venezuela); and Mikhail Beziliansky (Russia). The service is currently offered in Hebrew, English and French. Other languages, including Spanish, Arabic and Russian, will be added soon.

*The author is Director of Yad Vashem's Visitors' Center and Tourism Marketing Department.*

### Israel Prize to Designer of Jubilee Symbol

Yad Vashem warmly congratulates Professor Yoram Vardimon, Dean of the Design Faculty at the Shenkar College of Engineering and Design, for receiving this year's Israel Prize in the area of Design. Professor Vardimon designed Yad Vashem's Jubilee symbol (pictured) and its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo, as well as the signs for the new Museum complex, which opened two years ago.



### Yad Vashem Museum: “One of the Next Seven Wonders”

The Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem has been named as “One of the Next Seven Wonders” by *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine*. In its annual tribute to world architectural achievements, esteemed architect Moshe Safdie's Museum building featured as one of the “seven showstoppers” of 2006, with photographs of its interior as well as its balcony overlooking modern-day Jerusalem.

# RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



**British Foreign Minister Margaret Beckett** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 7 February, guided by Senior Art Curator of Yad Vashem's Museums Division Yehudit Shendar.



**The Archbishop of Paris Mgr. Armand André Vingt-Trois** visited Yad Vashem on 14 February together with members of the French Catholic clergy. His tour of the Museum Complex included a visit to the Learning Center—Center for Major Questions Arising from the Holocaust.



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 21 January, **Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Alexandr Vondra** toured the Book and Resource Center. Mr. Vondra was guided by Shira Strachova.



On 21 January, **Canadian Foreign Minister Peter G. MacKay** (center) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Senior Art Curator of Yad Vashem's Museums Division Yehudit Shendar (left).



**President of the German Bundestag Dr. Norbert Lammert** visited Yad Vashem on 3 January. Guided by then Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Irena Steinfeldt, Dr. Lammert's tour included the new Synagogue.



On 12 March, some 10 **Sudanese refugees**, who arrived in Israel due to the crisis in Darfur, visited Yad Vashem. Their visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett**.

## Events January-March 2007

**11 January Danek Gertner Ph.D. Scholarship** awarded to Rachel Berger for her study entitled: "The Influence of the Holocaust on Visual Art Produced by 'First-Generation' Israeli Artists." The ceremony was conducted in the presence of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies Prof. David Bankier, and Rita and Bob Brainin, representing the Gertner family. Rachel Berger delivered a lecture entitled, "Silent Reflections: Testimony, Remembrance and Response—the Holocaust in Israeli Visual Art."

**23 January** Lecture on "Arabs and the Holocaust: Past, Present and Alternative Futures," by Dr. Robert Satloff, Executive Director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and author of *Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust's Long Reach into Arab Lands*.

**6 February** Tribute to Holocaust survivors from Emek Hefer on the completion

of a project in which 90 testimonies were collected documenting their Holocaust experiences, as well as their unique contribution to Emek Hefer. The moving event included addresses by Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan, Beit Terezin [Theresienstadt] Director Anita Tarsi, Emek Hefer Documentation Center Director Gerard Lafond, and Yaakov Gutterman, who spoke on behalf of the survivors.

**25 February** Memorial assembly marking 65 years since the drowning of 769 Jewish refugees on the "Struma," at the Struma Museum and Synagogue in Be'er-Sheva, in the presence of Be'er-Sheva Mayor Yaakov Turner, Romanian Chief Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, an Israel Navy representative, Director of the Romanian Cultural Institute, Israel, Madja Aksentziog, Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan and, representing the bereaved families, Museum Director Baruch Tractin. Struma Museum and Synagogue Chairman Arie Reiter moderated the event.



# Yad Vashem Benefactors

## Rosalie and Tobias Berman

**R**osalie and Tobias Berman are residents of both Jerusalem and New York, where they are active members of Bet Knesset Yeshurin, the Young Israel of Forest Hills and the broader Jewish community. They are benefactors of Yeshiva University and Tobias serves as Chairman of the Management Committee of Y.U. in Israel. Rosalie and Tobias are the proud parents of three children; Alex and family in Raanana, Ari and family in Manhattan, and Cheryl and family in Beit Shemesh. Through their generosity they have made possible some of Yad Vashem's chief publications in English, including the Yad Vashem Album *To Bear Witness* and *The Wolfsberg Machzor*. They recently became Benefactors of the Holocaust History Museum.



## Susanne and Jan Czucker

**S**usanne and Jan Czucker are both Holocaust survivors of many concentration camps; Jan was born in Berehovo, Czechoslovakia and Susanne was born in Budapest, Hungary. The couple met in America and married after the war. They moved to Los Angeles in 1962, where they became active in the California Jewish community, taking on leadership positions in many philanthropic endeavors. They are major supporters of several day schools, *yeshivot*, hospitals and other organizations, such as the U.J.A. and Israel Bonds. They recently endowed Yad Vashem's "Bridge to a Vanished World," leading to the entrance of the Holocaust History Museum, and they are Benefactors of Yad Vashem's Eternal Fund.



## Nathan Shapell z"l

**Y**ad Vashem expresses its great sorrow over the recent passing of **Nathan Shapell z"l**, a longtime friend and recent Benefactor of Yad Vashem. Born in Poland, Nathan Shapell survived both Buchenwald and Auschwitz, where most of his family members, including his mother, were murdered. After the war he found himself in Germany where he dedicated himself to helping thousands of displaced Holocaust survivors. In 1952, Nathan Shapell, his wife Lilly and daughter Vera immigrated to the US where Nathan set up a successful business with his brother and brother-in-law.

Nathan Shapell was a major philanthropist of many important causes, including Holocaust remembrance. In 1991, President George H. W. Bush appointed Nathan to the United States Memorial Holocaust Council, and in 1993, he became a Founder of the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. He chronicled the early years of his life and survival of the Holocaust in his book, *Witness to the Truth*. Along with daughter and son-in-law Vera and Paul Guerin, Nathan Shapell endowed Yad Vashem's "Bridge of Life," and created a fund to support teacher-training programs at the International School for Holocaust Studies, as well as IDF soldier visits to Yad Vashem. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as his brother David Shapell and brother-in-law Max Webb. May his memory be blessed.



## New on the Web [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

### Two New Online Exhibitions: "Let the World Read and Know"

#### Witness to the Holocaust: The "Oneg Shabbat" Archives

**T**he "Oneg Shabbat" Archives is the world's most significant collection of sources documenting the Holocaust. The diaries, photographs, clandestine newspapers, monographs and letters are of inestimable historical value, recording the creativity, struggle and destruction of Polish Jewry during the *Shoah*.

The founder and director of the Archives was Emanuel Ringelblum, the historian, educator, social activist and visionary who gathered together writers, teachers, cultural leaders, scholars and communal workers secretly on Shabbat (Saturday) afternoons, hence the name *Oneg Shabbat* (Sabbath pleasures). Under unimaginably adverse conditions, the members of "Oneg Shabbat" gathered together a wealth of information detailing the terrible events of that time as well as the spiritual heritage of the generations murdered with such cruelty.

The new online exhibition "Let The World Read and Know" provides a glimpse of the workings of "Oneg Shabbat," and especially Emanuel Ringelblum, through a selection of the photos, documents, journals, diaries and more that were preserved hidden under the soil of the ghetto. In addition, viewers may watch moving film images that tell the story of "Oneg Shabbat," as well as the heartrending words of Warsaw ghetto survivor and world renowned Holocaust scholar, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Israel Gutman.

### Flickers of Light Righteous Among the Nations in Auschwitz

**“**If I were to fail, to turn away and thus permit the death of this person whom I could perhaps save, only because I was in danger myself, I would be committing the same error as the entire German people...The people who ordered and implemented these horrible deeds were not so many. But infinitely many others let it happen, because they lacked the courage to prevent them.”

From the testimony of Dr. Ella Lingens, a Righteous Among the Nations, and a prisoner in Auschwitz

Auschwitz, where over one million people—most of them Jews—were killed, has become a symbol not only for the Holocaust but also for evil itself. For the Jewish people, it is the largest Jewish cemetery in the world, a graveyard without graves. And yet, even within the horror that was Auschwitz, flickers of light emerged—remarkable acts of solidarity and humanity among the camp inmates despite the total dehumanization that was an inseparable part of camp life. Among them were non-Jews, who at risk to their own lives, sought to ease the pain by giving aid to and rescuing their Jewish compatriots, and thereby proving that even surrounded by brutality and murder, people could choose not to remain indifferent. The new online exhibition *Flickers of Light* highlights six of these astonishing stories.

# W Friends WORLDW

## U.S.A.

Yad Vashem Benefactors and longtime friends, the **Halpern family** recently entrusted a scroll to Yad Vashem containing the names of the Jews of Chorostkow who perished during the *Shoah*. Chorostkow was the town in Poland from which **Sam Halpern**, **Arie Halpern z"l**, and **Eva Halpern** (*née* Krenkel) originated.

Pictured, left to right, front row: International Relations Division Deputy Director **Sari Granitza**, **Bella Savran**, **Gladys Halpern**, **Sam Halpern**, **Eva Halpern**; back row: **George Savran**, **Henry Stein**, **Sherry Stein**, International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



On a snowy day in December, the **Semler family** of St. Petersburg, Florida gathered at Yad Vashem to celebrate the *bar mitzvah* of Ben Semler.



Left to right: Director of the English Desk **David Metzler**, grandparents **Betty** and Ambassador **Mel Semler**, family friends **Jimmy** and **Chaya Aviram**



**Rachel Rudin** (left) of New York visited the Holocaust History Museum in October during a special tour of Yad Vashem.

The **Kalimian family** recently celebrated the *bar mitzvah* of **Brian Kalimian** (center, in the new Synagogue with his parents **Mark** and **Keren Kalimian**) at Yad Vashem.



Longtime Yad Vashem supporters **Doree** (far right) and **Charles Greenberg** (center) visited Yad Vashem in December with their family to celebrate the *bat mitzvah* of granddaughters **Lynn Greenberg** (far left) and **Hillary Winnick** (second from right).



Atlanta residents **Michael Morris** (right) and **Renee Werbin** (foreground), president and publisher of *travelgirl* magazine respectively, visited Yad Vashem with a group of Baptist ministers for a special tour of the campus.

Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Jack Werber, z"l**, a survivor from Radom, Poland whose acts of heroism saved the lives of some 700 Jewish children who arrived at Buchenwald in late 1944. At great personal risk, he arranged for the children to be hidden in various barracks as well as for their false working papers, and even managed to set up an underground school teaching them Jewish history, music and Hebrew.

Jack Werber is survived by his wife Millie, also a survivor from Radom, and their sons David and Martin and their families. May his memory be blessed.



In February, **Millie Werber** (left), a Holocaust survivor from Radom, visited Yad Vashem with her son **Martin Werber** and his family. Millie Werber is the widow of **Jack Werber z"l** (see obituary, left).



The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and its 2007 "Connection Mission" visited Yad Vashem in February for a full day of lectures, tours and workshops. **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** addressed the 240 participants, who then toured the Museum and received an insider's view of the work being done on the Yad Vashem campus. Top: Yad Vashem "Builder" **Benjamin Warren** (left) with **Fred and Velva Levine** in the Hall of Names; Bottom: the Connection Mission conclude their visit with an emotional ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



During his visit in February, Yad Vashem "Builder" **Aaron Ziegelman** (right, in the Hall of Names with International Relations Division Deputy Director **Sari Granitza**, left, and Outreach Manager of the Names Recovery Project **Cynthia Wroclawski**, center)

filled out Pages of Testimony for his family members who perished in the *Shoah*.

A delegation of **The Board of Deputies of British Jews** came to Yad Vashem as part of a solidarity mission in January 2007. Vice President **Flo Kaufmann** (left) placed a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance in a moving ceremony at the end of their visit.



## UNITED KINGDOM

**Lord Michael Levy** and his wife **Gilda** came to visit Yad Vashem in December for a tour of the Holocaust History Museum.



**The Anglo-Israeli Association** came to visit Yad Vashem in January for a tour of the Museum and the Valley of the Communities.

Left to right: **Miles Park**, **Mrs. Park**, Yad Vashem guide **Rita Silber**, **Ruth Saunders**, **Lady Anderson**, **Lord Anderson**, **Sir Timothy Sainsbury** and **Lady Sainsbury**



## AUSTRALIA



In January, **Henry** and **Janette Lanzer** (center) came for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem,

hosted by International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) and Director of the English Desk **David Metzler** (left).

**Mark and Rosanna Leibler** with grandchildren **Arie** and **Michelle** came to Yad Vashem in December. Mark Leibler is Chairman, World Board of Trustees of Keren Hayesod-UIA.



Executive Director of the Orion Foundation **Jeremy Dunkel** (right, with International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**) toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust Art Museum. The Orion Foundation supports the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Desk.

# WORLDWIDE Friends

## GERMANY

The Saxony State Parliament in Dresden commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 28 January with a special ceremony. Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Joseph (Tommy) Lapid** (right) addressed the assembly, and Chairperson of the German Friends of Yad Vashem **Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth** opened the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell."

Left to right, front row: Vice President of the Saxony State Parliament **Andrea Dombois**, Chair of the German Circle of

Friends Prof. Dr. **Rita Süßmuth**, Minister of State **Thomas Jurk**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Joseph (Tommy) Lapid**, Ms. **Iltgen**; President of the Saxony State Parliament, **Erich Iltgen**



## AUSTRIA

This year's guest of honor at the Fourth General Assembly of the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** on 7 March was Austrian Minister of Justice **Dr. Maria Berger**.

Top, left to right: **Fini Steindling**, **Arik Rav-On**, **Klaus Luger**, **Wolfgang Schimböck**, **Dr. Maria Berger**, **Eytan LevOn**, **Dr. Rolf Steininger**, **Thomas Stelzer**, **Gunther Trübswasser**;

Bottom: Yad Vashem's "No Child's Play" traveling exhibition, which opened in Linz, Austria.



## SPAIN

**Raymundo** and **Milca Botbol** (right) were accompanied by International Relations Division Deputy Director **Sari Granitza** (left) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

On 29 January, an official ceremony commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day was held in the Principality of Liechtenstein in the presence of members of the Princely House as well as government officials.

Top, left to right: **H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein**, President of Parliament **Klaus Wagner**, Prime Minister **Otmar Hasler** and **Ms. Hasler**; background: **H.S.H. Prince Wolfgang of Liechtenstein**, Ambassador **Roland Marxer**, Members of Parliament



Bottom, left to right: President of the Liechtenstein Friends of Yad Vashem **Markus Büchel**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cultural Affairs **Rita Kieber-Beck**,

Director of the Jewish Museum Hohenems **Hanno Loewy**, Director of the Swiss and German-speaking countries Desk **Arik Rav-On**,

Representative of the Youth Initiative Colorado against Racism and Right-Extremism **Benjamin Quaderer**



## NETHERLANDS

In February, representatives of the **Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund** visited Yad Vashem for a guided tour of the Museum. The DJHF supports teacher training and seminars for educators from Eastern European countries.

Left to right: DJHF Treasurer **Rob Wurms**, Executive Director **Muriel Leeuwin**, Secretary **Gidi Peiper**, Yad Vashem representative **Nannie Beekman**





# IDE

## CHILE



On 28 December 2006, Yad Vashem's new VIP Pavilion, endowed by **David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein** of Santiago, was inaugurated in a moving and memorable ceremony.

Left to right: **Puppy Feuerstein Gaon, David Gaon, Sara Marysia Feuerstein, David Feuerstein, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** (who addressed the audience), **Elie Horn, Sussy Feuerstein Horn**

## VENEZUELA



**Carlos Brender** of Venezuela (right, with International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**) attended the unveiling of a plaque in honor of Mr. Brender's parents.

## Special Seminar for Iberoamerican Friends of Yad Vashem

From 25 February – 3 March, members of Yad Vashem's Friends Societies in Spain, Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela participated in a weeklong seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Among the many workshops and lectures, the participants, hosted by Director of the Iberoamerican Desk **Perla Hazan** (front, left), visited the Knesset with Minister Rabbi **Michael Melchior** and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev** (center).



## MEXICO

**Marcos and Vivian Metta** of Mexico (left), who participated in the recent Seminar for South American Friends of Yad Vashem, attended an unveiling of the plaque in honor of their parents **Carlos and Teresa Metta and Salomon z"l and Fortuna Saade** at the International School of Holocaust Studies, accompanied by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev** and Director of the Iberoamerican Desk **Perla Hazan** (right).



Yad Vashem "Builders" **Moises and Vivian Becker** of Mexico recently visited Yad Vashem.



## BRAZIL



**Jayme and Stela Blay** (left, with International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**) received the Yad Vashem key in honor of them becoming Yad Vashem "Builders."

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, 42<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10110  
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.

