

JERUSALEM Yad Vashem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 46, SUMMER 2007



Yad Vashem Chairman:
**“Fulfill
Obligations
to Survivors”** (p. 3)

Diary of a Teenage Girl

Rutka's Notebook (pp. 6-7)

Published by:



The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority

Chairman of the Council: Joseph (Tommy) Lapid

Vice Chairmen of the Council: Dr. Yitzhak Arad
Dr. Israel Singer
Professor Elie Wiesel

Chairman of the
Directorate: Avner Shalev

Director General: Nathan Eitan

Head of the
International Institute
for Holocaust Research: Professor David Bankier

Chief Historian: Professor Dan Michman

Academic Advisors: Professor Yehuda Bauer
Professor Israel Gutman

Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate:

Shmuel Aboav, Edna Ben-Horin, Chaim Chesler,
Abraham Duvedevani, Oded Eran, Stefan Grayek,
Moshe Ha-Elion, Yehiel Leket, Tzipi Livni, Linda
Olmert, Adv. Dov Shilansky, Effi Shtensler, Baruch
Shub, Amira Stern, Professor Jochanan Stessman,
Adv. Shoshana Weinsahl, Eli Zborowski, Dudi
Zilbershlag

THE MAGAZINE

Editor-in-Chief: Iris Rosenberg

Managing Editor: Leah Goldstein

Editorial Board: Yifat Bachrach-Ron
Deborah Berman
Susan Weisberg
Cynthia Wroclawski
Estee Yaari

Editorial Coordinator: Lilach Tamir-Itach

Language Editor: Emma Sass

Translated by: Sagir Translations Inc.

Assisted by: Alexander Avraham, Professor
David Bankier, Rachel Barkai, Shaya Ben Yehuda,
Dalia Cohen, Limor Karo, Osnat Levy, Ayala Peretz,
Dorit Novak, Dana Porath, Elli Sacks, Amanda
Smulowitz, Hillel Solomon, Malka Tor, Elana Weiser,
Jeremy Zauder

Photography: Yossi Ben David, Isaac Harari, Effi Neumann

Production: Dfus Kal

Design: Stephanie & Ruti Design

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

Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine
P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel
Tel: 972-2-6443413, Fax: 972-2-6443409
yv.magazine@yadvashem.org.il
www.yadvashem.org
ISSN 0793-7199

©Articles appearing in this issue may be reprinted
with proper acknowledgement.

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

the Claims Conference

and the Jewish Agency for Israel



Contents

End the Genocide in Darfur	2
Yad Vashem Chairman: "Fulfill Obligations to Survivors"	3
Expanding Frontiers	4-5
Adelson Fund enables growth in education and outreach	
New Publications	6-7
Diary of a Teenage Girl: <i>Rutka's Notebook</i>	
The "Final Solution" in <i>Eretz Yisrael</i>	8
New study reveals secret Nazi plan for the <i>Yishuv</i>	
"Who Am I Really?" Krakow Orphanage "Children" give testimony at Yad Vashem	9
New Research Project:	10
The Chronicle of Deportations	
Art	10-11
The Portrait and the Maiden	
New Charlotte Salomon acquisition for the Art collection	
Education	12-13
More Than Just Knowledge	
Using contemporary art to teach the Holocaust	
Closing a Circle	14
Rescuer and survivor meet thanks to the Names Database	
Rescuer of Hundreds of Children Awarded	15
Honorary Citizenship	
News	16-19
Friends Worldwide	20-23



Editorial

“Bearing Witness”—the theme for this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day—continues in this edition with many moving stories and newly discovered artifacts that reveal previously unknown facets of the *Shoah*. The diary of Rutka Laskier (see pp. 6-7) has piqued world interest as the young girl’s dreams, hopes and fears are disclosed to the public after more than 60 years. The visit to Yad Vashem by the “Krakow Orphanage Children” and their captivating and moving group testimony has helped build a more detailed picture of the experiences of young children during the Holocaust (see p. 9). And the latest addition to the Art Museum collection of a delicate portrait of a young Jewish girl saved during the war tells a story of human kindness and tragedy in just a few fine lines (see p. 11). In addition, over the past year, the generous support of the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation has allowed Yad Vashem to expand and enrich its educational and outreach programs across the board (see pp. 4-5).

With all these new developments, Yad Vashem continues to nurture its special relationship with those who are still able to bear witness—the survivors. As they continue to give testimony to the events they endured over six decades ago, we persist in bringing their needs and their legacy to the attention of our policy-makers, our fellow Jews, and our youth (see p. 3).

Cover: Two youth group representatives accompany Holocaust survivor Yehiel Frenkel at the Remembrance Day Youth Movements Ceremony, April 2007.

End the Genocide in DARFUR

On 29 April, “Global Day for Darfur,” Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev sent a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urging him to do everything in his power to stop the genocide in Darfur. “It is not sufficient for the international community to issue condemnations and statements via the United Nations, while this Khartoum-sponsored genocide is taking place,” they wrote. “Concrete steps must be taken; we must do everything to ensure that the Security Council sends troops to Darfur to restore security. Every day that passes adds thousands of names to the list of dead.”

For more than three years, an unrestrained genocide has been taking place in Darfur, under the sponsorship of the Khartoum government. Since the beginning of the crisis, some 400,000 men, women and children have been murdered, and some 2.5 million people displaced from their homes. Tens of thousands of women have been raped, and many thousands of sick and wounded have died due to lack of medicines. The aid sent by humanitarian organizations to Darfur does not always reach those in need, and even that which arrives is often not enough.

Lapid and Shalev reminded the Secretary General of their discussion during his recent visit to Yad Vashem. “As the heads of the Jewish people’s central organization for commemorating the Holocaust—a genocide that took place while the world stood silently by—we feel a special obligation to sound the alarm on Darfur. In order to uphold the values and commitments spelled out in the UN Charter, we urge you to use the full moral authority of your office to do everything possible to put an end to the horrific crimes taking place in Darfur,” they stressed.

In March, refugees from Sudan visited Yad Vashem at the initiative of the Committee for the Advancement of Refugees from Darfur in Israel. During their visit, Yad Vashem called again on the Israeli government to act towards a resolution of the problems faced by refugees from Darfur and southern Sudan who have arrived in Israel.



Yad Vashem Chairman: “Fulfill Obligations to Survivors”

by Leah Goldstein

At the Youth Movements Ceremony on Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day this April, Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev called upon the Israeli government to “fulfill its obligations to the Holocaust survivors living in our midst.”

Under the title “Bearing Witness”—the central theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2007—the youth movements saluted the Holocaust survivors for their contribution to the founding and strengthening of the State of Israel. The assembly—organized jointly by the Education Ministry, the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, and the “Generation to Generation” organization—was held at Yad Vashem’s Warsaw Ghetto Square in the presence of the Director General of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Shmuel Aboav. Participants included, for the first time, hundreds of Holocaust survivors, alongside scores of Israeli youth.

Shalev opened his speech with a quote from the testimony of Israel Aviram, a Holocaust survivor from Lodz, Poland: “I simply can’t imagine how

my life would have turned out without the youth movement [in the ghetto],” Aviram said. “During those two hours in the ‘ken,’ two or three times a week, I wasn’t hungry. I didn’t remember the hunger. That is, if all the people in the ghetto were hungry seven days a week, 24 hours a day, we in the movement—three days a week at least—were hungry for only 22 hours a day...”

Shalev addressed the youth movement members directly, reminding them of their responsibility “to remember, to show solidarity, to embrace the survivors and to tell them that you will continue bearing the torch.”

Concluding his address, the Yad Vashem Chairman honored all the survivors “who chose to start their lives over in *Eretz Yisrael*. Those who took part in the founding of the State, who fought in Israel’s wars and who were fundamentally involved in shaping the fabric of life here.” After calling upon the Israeli government to assist the survivors in their twilight years, Shalev continued, “It is my hope that Israeli society will learn from the passion for life that the survivors have exhibited over the

years since the Holocaust until today, from the spiritual resilience and creative and practical strength of these survivors, who went through hell and emerged victorious. Once again we affirm, here on the Mount of Remembrance, our promise to the survivors that we will do everything possible to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust in a meaningful way.”

The day before Holocaust Remembrance Day Eve, Shalev addressed a large crowd at the “Embracing Holocaust Victims” rally held in Tel Aviv. Once again, he called on the government to deal with the dire poverty faced by many survivors. And in mid-June, Shalev turned to the Finance and Welfare Ministries to find, without delay, the fastest and most effective path to assist the elderly survivors. “These people, who endured the very worst, who lost their families and still chose life: who came to Israel, built the State and fought her wars—they deserve to receive the government’s help in ensuring their dignified existence,” he said. “Time is working against us: we must resolve this issue as quickly as possible.”

EXPANDING FRONTIERS

Adelson Fund

by Arie Zuckerman and Guy Rakover

Last summer's munificent contribution of Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson has enhanced and expanded all aspects of Yad Vashem's various outreach and educational activities. From the International School for Holocaust Studies to the Research Institute, from seminars to educational materials and resources, Yad Vashem's capacity to teach about the Holocaust and convey its legacy has grown in leaps and bounds.

Educators from abroad benefit from increased seminars and multimedia teaching materials

Through the resources provided by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, more educators from countries worldwide will be attending courses at the International School for Holocaust Studies, expanding Yad Vashem's sphere of influence and channels of communication. Special seminars for teachers visiting Israel from South America, as well as UN Information Center staff and Hungarian journalists, for example, and additional courses in Hungarian, French and Italian have all been made possible through the Adelson Fund, with rewarding success.

One seminar participant described her school's enriched Holocaust education program as a direct result of her visit to Yad Vashem: "Attending the course at Yad Vashem and learning from such knowledgeable teachers and professionals provided me with the right approach to take with students, as well as what is appropriate or not to teach. The knowledge and confidence I gained has helped me carry forward my mission of imparting this information to the next generation. So, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all again for your efforts in providing a meaningful program that I know impacted the lives of so many."



In addition to bringing more educators to Yad Vashem, the development of educational materials has significantly increased. Through investment in research, for example on deportations and on the Righteous Among the Nations in France, an increased number of studies and materials are being made available to the public at large, providing an invaluable resource for Holocaust education. Educational films shot on location in Europe telling the stories of survivors, as well as the expanded recording of filmed testimonies, will undoubtedly serve as an invaluable resource for Holocaust education for generations to come. Moreover, the expansion of the library, archives and video resources provides invaluable information on the complex topic of the Holocaust, and supports seminars and guides in their education of teachers, students, soldiers and the public at large.

Creative programs for different sectors

In addition to the hundreds of thousands of students, soldiers and officers who attend a range of seminars at Yad Vashem, the International School for Holocaust Studies welcomes students from On School for children with cerebral palsy and motor-skill deficiencies to participate in "Meeting of Worlds: The Holocaust and Us." Comprised of a series of educational and creative sessions at the International School and On School, the project encourages students to find personal identification and meaning with the Shoah. The project culminates with an exhibition of the students' artwork on "What does the Holocaust mean to me?" at the International School.



enables growth in education and outreach

Guided tours attract more visitors

In-depth educational tours of the new Museum Complex have unquestionably attracted more international and local groups to the campus, providing them with an educational and emotional experience. Two temporary exhibitions—works of art by Samuel Bak and an exhibit on women in the Holocaust—have benefited in particular from the participation of the Adelsons supporting their display, as well as for their worldwide tour as traveling exhibitions this fall. In addition, increased cataloguing and research activities backed by the Fund will make more of the artworks and artifacts from the Museum collection available to the public at large, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the facts of the Holocaust and the stories of those who lived during that time.



Online materials reach worldwide audience



For those unable to travel to Jerusalem, development of Yad Vashem's website has now expanded its outreach capabilities thanks to the Adelsons' generous input. Through online lesson plans, suggestions for Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, educators' forums and virtual exhibitions, more teachers, students and members of the public around the globe have access to the vast well of information available at Yad Vashem.

Clearly, the generous contribution and ongoing support of the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation has ensured the continued expansion and enhancement of Yad Vashem's educational and commemorative activities for many years to come.

Arie Zuckerman is Director of the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation Project at Yad Vashem, and Guy Rakover is the Interdepartmental Coordinator.



by Ayala Peretz

“ 20 February, 1943: I have a feeling that I'm writing for the last time. There is an Aktion in town. I'm not allowed to go out and I'm going crazy, imprisoned in my own house... The town is breathlessly waiting in anticipation, and this anticipation is the worst of all... I wish it would end already! This torment; this is hell. I try to escape from these thoughts, of the next day, but they keep haunting me like nagging flies...”

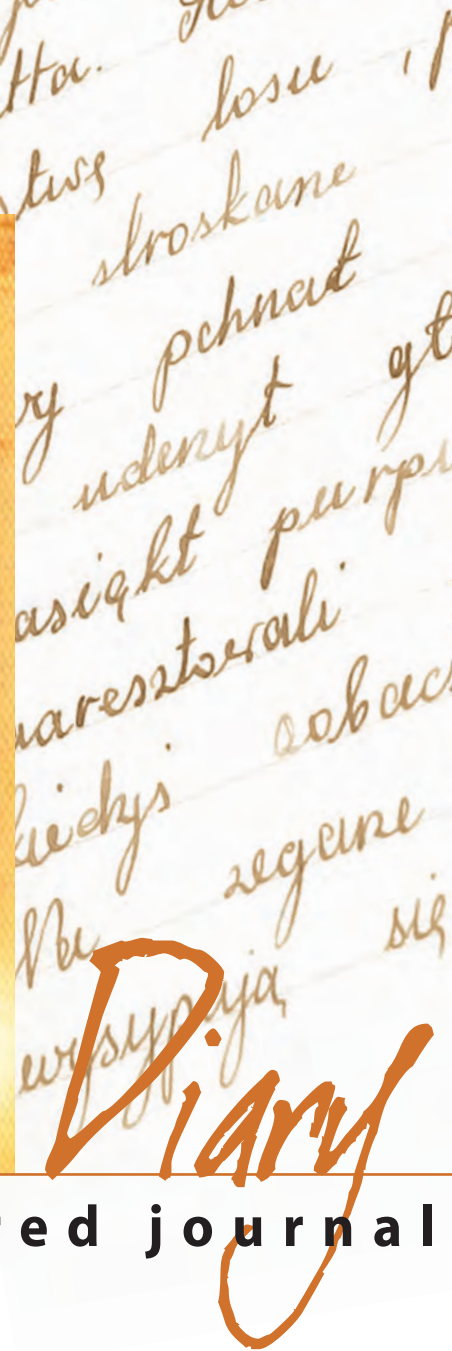
From *Rutka's Notebook: January-April 1943*

While forming a chilling human and historical document, Holocaust diaries have great documentary value for the understanding of the period from the viewpoint of those who experienced it—as an illustration of life in the ghettos, in camps or in hiding, as well as in battling Holocaust deniers. The best-known diary is, of course, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank, through which millions of readers were exposed to Anne's emotional experiences during the Holocaust. However, her journal was not an isolated phenomenon. Many people wrote diaries during the war; some sought to bear witness while others tried to alleviate their suffering through self-expression. Current events come together with individual experience, and moments of terror and despair as the authors await death are described along with instants of fragile hope.

Over the past half century, Yad Vashem has invested much effort in finding lost diaries, and their publication is a particularly emotional event. Some were brought to archives by the surviving authors, some retrieved by families or friends, and others were discovered by chance.

On 4 June, an historic gathering took place at Yad Vashem, with the publication of Rutka Laskier's diary, by Yad Vashem, in English and Hebrew, under the title: *Rutka's Notebook: January-April 1943*. The original diary was presented to Yad Vashem for safekeeping by Rutka's friend Stanislaw Sapinska, who had traveled from Poland to attend the ceremony, held in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to Poland David Peleg, Rutka Laskier's sister Dr. Zahava (Laskier) Scherz, (who lives in Israel) and Chairman of the Zaglembe (Poland) World Organization Avraham Green.

Like many other girls her age, Rutka Laskier, a young girl from Bedzin, Poland, kept a diary. But Rutka's diary was different: it recorded her thoughts, feelings and ideas during her incarceration in the town's ghetto in 1943. The Laskiers had been moved into a house belonging to the Sapinska family, which had been confiscated by the Nazis when the ghetto was established. Stanislaw Sapinska would occasionally go to check on their house, and the two girls soon became friendly. As the outside world slowly closed down on her, Rutka told



Newly discovered journal

Stanislaw that she feared she would not survive, and Stanislaw offered to hide the diary in the basement under one of the floorboards. At the end of the war, Stanislaw returned to the house and found the hidden diary. The last entry is from 24 April 1943: days later Rutka Laskier was killed in Auschwitz at the age of 14.

Since the end of the war, Stanislaw kept the existence of the diary secret, but last year she was persuaded by her family to expose the world to its heartbreaking contents. Rutka wrote about war, and about love, but her longings are interspersed with descriptions of the horrors taking place around her. Her diary represents tens of thousands of adolescent boys and girls who lived and died during the Holocaust. These few sheets of paper—some 60 handwritten pages in a notebook—reflect the entire universe of an adolescent Jewish girl in the shadow of death.

Another gifted youth who expressed himself

on paper was Avraham Cytryn. Cytryn's short fiction and poems were published in English as *Youth Writing Behind the Walls: Avraham Cytryn's Lodz Notebooks*. The family was deported on the last transport from Lodz to Auschwitz, but Avraham's sister Lucie survived, and retrieved the notebooks from their hiding place. When Lucie published the notebooks 50 years later, she added her testimony about the events that her late brother had described so skillfully.

Further descriptions of Lodz were detailed by the gifted journalist, essayist and Yiddishist Josef Zerkowicz. After the Lodz ghetto was liquidated, Zerkowicz was deported to Auschwitz, where he was murdered. However, he left behind 27 notebooks of a diary: *In Those Terrible Days: Notes from the Lodz Ghetto*, is a selection of these writings.

A different type of memoir is the diary of the late Dr. Baruch Milch, *Can Heaven be Void?*, edited and with a foreword by his daughter, Shosh

smutne
 zgrybiatego
 Tu, ptaasz kamien
 kowi. wystajzey jakas kobieta
 merz kto wie czy go jeszoz
 jej... byz pizta Na ulice
 robotnicy szopawi. Ze odzywione b

of a Teenage Girl

published by **Yad Vashem**



Rutka Laskier's friend Stanislaw Sapinska (left) with Rutka's sister Dr. Zahava (Laskier) Scherz at the launch of Rutka's Notebook at Yad Vashem

Milch-Avigal. Milch first wrote the diary in Polish while in hiding in Galicia, and then again in Haifa in Hebrew. The two versions were integrated into a third story by his daughters, "layer upon layer... interlocking perspectives and points of view."

An entirely different sort of diary—written years after the events and incorporating into a seamless narrative archival information obtained much later—contains both the personal story of a Jewish community leader and the history of Romanian Jewry in the modern age. In *Wilhelm Filderman: Memoirs & Diaries, Vol. I: 1900-1940*, edited by Jean Ancel, Filderman has left us an "authentic, direct, unforgettable, critical and ironic description of the members of the Romanian establishment whom he encountered over a period of two decades." He does not write a daily journal; instead his words read like a narrative, a story that incorporates official documents and their implications

for the Jews.

Many academic research studies, fiction and memoirs have been documented about the Holocaust, many documentary films and filmed testimonies have been produced, but there is no doubt that an authentic diary, which the reader can peruse quietly, penetrates deeply and gives an acute sense of personal loss. As the reader touches the document, the diary has the rare power of reviving what is already gone.

The author works in marketing and distribution of Yad Vashem Publications.

For the complete Yad Vashem Publications catalogue and orders:
 Yad Vashem Publications, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel
 Tel. +972-2-644-3511, Fax +972-2-644-3509
publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il

The "Final Solution" in Eretz Yisrael

New study reveals secret Nazi plan for the Yishuv

by Dr. David Silberklang

Historians have long understood that a Nazi conquest of North Africa would likely have led to the murder of the Jews in Mandatory Palestine. This is evident from Nazi ideology, much circumstantial evidence, widespread Arab sympathy for Nazi Germany, and the outspoken identification of the *mufti* of Jerusalem (then living in Berlin) with the Nazis as allies against the Jews and the British. However, no specific Nazi plan for the murder of the Jews in the *Yishuv* and the Middle East had actually been uncovered—until now.

In their article in the latest edition of *Yad Vashem Studies* (Vol. 35, no. 1), "Elimination of the Jewish National Home in Palestine": The Einsatzkommando of the Panzer Army Africa, 1942," Klaus-Michael Mallmann and Martin Cüppers tell the hitherto undocumented story of Nazi plans to murder the Jews of the Middle East. As Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps advanced across North Africa and began planning the invasion of Palestine from its Egyptian base, SS-*Obersturmbannführer* Walter Rauff began organizing the special Einsatzkommando that would follow Rommel's troops in order to murder all the Jews living there.

Rauff flew to Tobruk—an Italian military fort in northeastern Libya near the border with Egypt—on 20 July 1942, to place his Einsatzkommando Egypt under Rommel's command and receive his initial instructions. Nine days later he flew to Athens with his 24 man unit—seven officers and 17 non-commissioned officers and men—in order to prepare for their assignment in Palestine following Rommel's expected victory in Egypt. The cooperation agreement between the Wehrmacht and the SS for Rauff's assignment was the same as had been working so well in the USSR, and based on which more than a million people had already been annihilated.

The importance of the job seems to have influenced the appointment of a man of Rauff's stature to this command. Rauff had been closely connected to the murder of Jews, having served as the supply officer for vehicles and ammunition for the Einsatzgruppen in the USSR and having overseen the development of some 20 gas vans used in the USSR and Serbia in 1941-42. Some of the other officers and men had completed SS and police courses on colonial rule, and had expertise in the Middle East and in developing ties with local Arab collaborators. Some also had earlier Einsatzkommando experience.

The small size of this Einsatzkommando reflected the experience the Einsatzgruppen had garnered in using small forces to oversee larger local units of collaborators in the murder of massive numbers of people. The Nazis fully expected widespread local Arab participation in the murder of the Jews of Palestine. They had been receiving reports for years about the admiration of Arabs and other Muslims in the Middle East for Nazi Germany and its ideals, and during the war, the Germans believed that Arabs in Palestine and the Middle East were anticipating a German victory that would bring the end of the Jews there. SS foreign intelligence chief Walter Schellenberg noted in 1942 the Arabs' "hope that 'Hitler will come' to drive out the Jews. Field Marshal Rommel has become a legendary personality. Thus it is that Arabs today long for a German invasion and repeatedly ask when the Germans will arrive."

Rommel and the Nazi leadership expected an easy time in El Alamein, to be followed by an

unimpeded invasion of Palestine. But the British victory at the second battle at El Alamein in early September 1942 postponed any German conquest of Egypt and invasion of Palestine, and Rauff's unit was returned to Berlin that month. On 9

May, days before the Axis surrender in Africa, it was transferred to Naples, and then served in Corsica and northern Italy. But for the Jews of *Eretz Yisrael*, it had been a very close call indeed. The invasion army had been raised, the mobile murder unit was ready, and the collaborators were expected to emerge without much difficulty. Rommel's defeat in North Africa and the German failure to conquer Mandatory Palestine led to the unrealized Nazi plans for the Jews living there remaining obscure to historians. Yet, based on Mallmann's and Cüppers' research, we can now say without a shadow of doubt that El Alamein and the second Allied front that opened up in November 1942 in North Africa rescued the 500,000 Jews of the *Yishuv*.

The publication of Yad Vashem Studies Vol. 35 was made possible through the generous donation of The Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture.

The author is Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies.

International Conference on North African Jewry during WWII

Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research and the Ben-Zvi Institute-The Center for Information, Documentation and Research On North-African Jewry During WWII are planning an international conference entitled, "North African Jewry During the Second World War—New Approaches." Scheduled to take place on 28-30 April 2008 at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the conference will feature a wide range of topics related to the subject. Papers presented at the conference will subsequently be published in a comprehensive volume on the topic.

For more information, please contact: research.institute@yadvashem.org.il



Bearing Witness

by Nava Gibori

In early May, some 50 Krakow Orphanage Children gathered in the Yad Vashem Auditorium. Though they have all now reached retirement age, this is exactly how they still define themselves—"the orphanage children." With smiling faces, and accompanied by supportive family members, they traveled from across the globe to Jerusalem for a gala reunion, in order to bear witness to a story yet to be told.

The initiative for holding the event came from Malka Tor, head of Yad Vashem's Oral History Section in the Archives Division, and Elisheva Pat, one of the Krakow "children." In a previous conversation, it emerged that Elisheva belonged to a group of children that had immigrated to Israel from Poland in March 1957, all of them former residents of the Krakow Orphanage and all of them the bearers of personal testimonies that had yet to be documented. In the context of Yad Vashem's special relationship with survivors and its efforts to collect testimonies, the idea emerged of inviting the "children" to an event marking the 50th anniversary of their *aliya*, and of holding a group discussion about the past.

It became clear that the story of the Krakow Orphanage Children is a unique, dramatic and moving one: an experience that crystallized during the war and united them forever in a shared fate. They were all very young—the "oldest" among them only four or five at the outbreak of the war and the youngest born during the actual period of military activity, deportations and shattered families.

The main thread of the narrative begins with the children's flight to the Soviet Union at the beginning of the occupation, the hungry war years and periods of residence in different orphanages. It continues through the Polish forests, a succession of hiding-places, survival amid a hostile rural population and hard agricultural labor. The more fortunate ones were placed with loving Christian families, which sheltered them at great personal danger. Most of the children never saw their parents again; they forgot about their past lives, their names and their families. Most were also unaware, until the war's end, of their Jewish origins. For some, the past remains a mystery to this day. The passing years have done nothing to dissipate the mist of uncertainty regarding their identity, or to heal the wounds.

The purpose of the meeting at Yad Vashem was to try and revive the participants'



Krakow Orphanage "children" tour the Holocaust History Museum after giving a unique group testimony at Yad Vashem.

“Who Am I Really?” Krakow Orphanage “Children” give testimony at Yad Vashem

memories—both general and personal—in order to build a story of the Holocaust childhood experience by means of a testimonial mosaic. The main topics discussed at the reunion were the strong sense of comradeship that still endures among the “children,” the sense of mutual responsibility and concern, and the way in which they function as “family” in times of joy and sorrow. The orphanage and the important role it played in shaping the children's identity were additional focal points of the discussion. The caregivers and teaching staff—themselves Holocaust survivors—made it their mission to usher the children safely to adolescence and to undertake, with sensitivity to their orphan state and years of suffering, the long process of rehabilitating the children and restoring them to the Jewish world.

Listening from the audience were the participants' spouses and children, who had come to share in the poignancy of the occasion. It emerged that it is still difficult for the survivors to communicate their past—to talk about the periodic upheavals, the separations, the changes

and the transitions they were compelled to undergo during the war. It is hard for them to talk about their fragmented identity, their life under assumed Christian identities and their subsequent return to the Jewish people. It is especially challenging for those for whom the circle has not yet closed; who still don't know who they are.

Someone spoke of the “legacy” of the war, of multiple names—those they were born with, those given to conceal their origin, those they received after the war, and those they chose for themselves. “Who am I really? It's not easy,” said Ella, who came from Toronto. “It will never be easy.”

After the meeting, the “children” departed for a guided tour of the Museum. I left the event with the voice of one of the participants still echoing in my head: “Despite our life story and the horrors of the war—despite being orphans—everyone grew up to be exemplary individuals. We've all raised families, we've all succeeded: we are all human beings.”

The author writes scripts and biographies, and works as an interviewer for the Oral History Section at Yad Vashem.

by Elliot Nidam-Orvieto

The International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem has begun preparations for a groundbreaking chronicle on the deportations of Jews to ghettos and camps across Europe during the Second World War. The finished account is expected to be used as an important aid in historical, educational and personal research, especially for relatives to discover more about the fates of their loved ones.

“This research has never been undertaken before on such a comprehensive scale,” explains Prof. David Bankier, Head of the Research Institute. “The results will be vital to historians aiming to understand more completely the machinery of destruction employed against the Jews, the different agencies involved, and the level of collaboration by local train companies. More importantly, we hope eventually to set up a database of information, accessible to the general public, that can trace the date and destination of individual victims who were deported to the East.”

On 22 April, the Institute was honored to welcome Dr. Alfred Gottwaldt, guest researcher from Germany, who lectured on the topic of deportation trains in the Third Reich. Co-author of a book with Dr. Diana Schulle of the Bundesarchiv (Federal Archives of Germany) that contains a full list of the different deportation patterns, destinations and trains used during World War II in the “Greater German Reich,” Gottwaldt was the first person to organize the display of a box car in the German Technical Museum (1988). Originally intended to explain the role of German Reichsbahn services in the mass murder of Jews after 1941, the display has served as a model for more than 20 other museums and memorial sites worldwide.

New Research Project:

The Chronicle of Deportations



Lodz, Poland, 1942: Jews being deported

In his lecture, Gottwaldt explained how his research led him to conclude that the mass murder of German Jews was conducted in many small steps to enable SS and police to implement such a massive “program” in addition to their warfare and other commitments.

“About half of the Jews killed in WWII were murdered near their hometowns, in particular in Russia. However, the killing squads used in those countries would not have been feasible in Germany and West European countries and so, by the end of 1941, German authorities decided to change their techniques,” he says. “Instead of bringing the killing squads to the Jews, the victims were to be transported to killing sites in Eastern Europe (and within Poland). Thus transportation became an integral part of the annihilation process and needs thorough understanding.”

Many elements of the deportation process were tested first of all in Germany, and the roles of both the railwaymen and policemen planned step by step. Deportation trains for families, elderly Jews and workers were planned one after the other and were originally sent from the Greater German Reich to different destinations such as Lodz, Minsk, Kowno, Riga, the Lublin District with Warsaw and Treblinka, and Maly Trostinez. Eventually all transports from Germany were sent to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.

“Trains were the most common means; only very few deportations were conducted by car or by boat,” continues Gottwaldt. “The main function of our research is to produce more accurate information so people can know where the trains with their family members were sent. Precise transport data will also enable us to achieve a better understanding of Himmler’s and Heydrich’s decision-making processes.”

Gottwaldt praised the staff at the Institute for the assistance and hospitality he received during his visit: “I was deeply impressed by the vast amount of documents from Eastern Europe and Russia in the YV archives that I could use in my research,” he said. “I eagerly await feedback from other research students that will enrich the discussions we conducted during my stay.”

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

Art

by Yehudit Shendar and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

“I was in Juan-Les-Pins, near Villefranche, on holiday with my mother, in 1939. We happened to meet Mrs. Moore (who was my godmother) in the street the day after war was declared. Mrs. Moore said she was returning to the U.S. and would be glad to take me with her, to which my mother gratefully agreed, for my safety. I was handed over there and then, in my bathing suit (and no clothes!)”

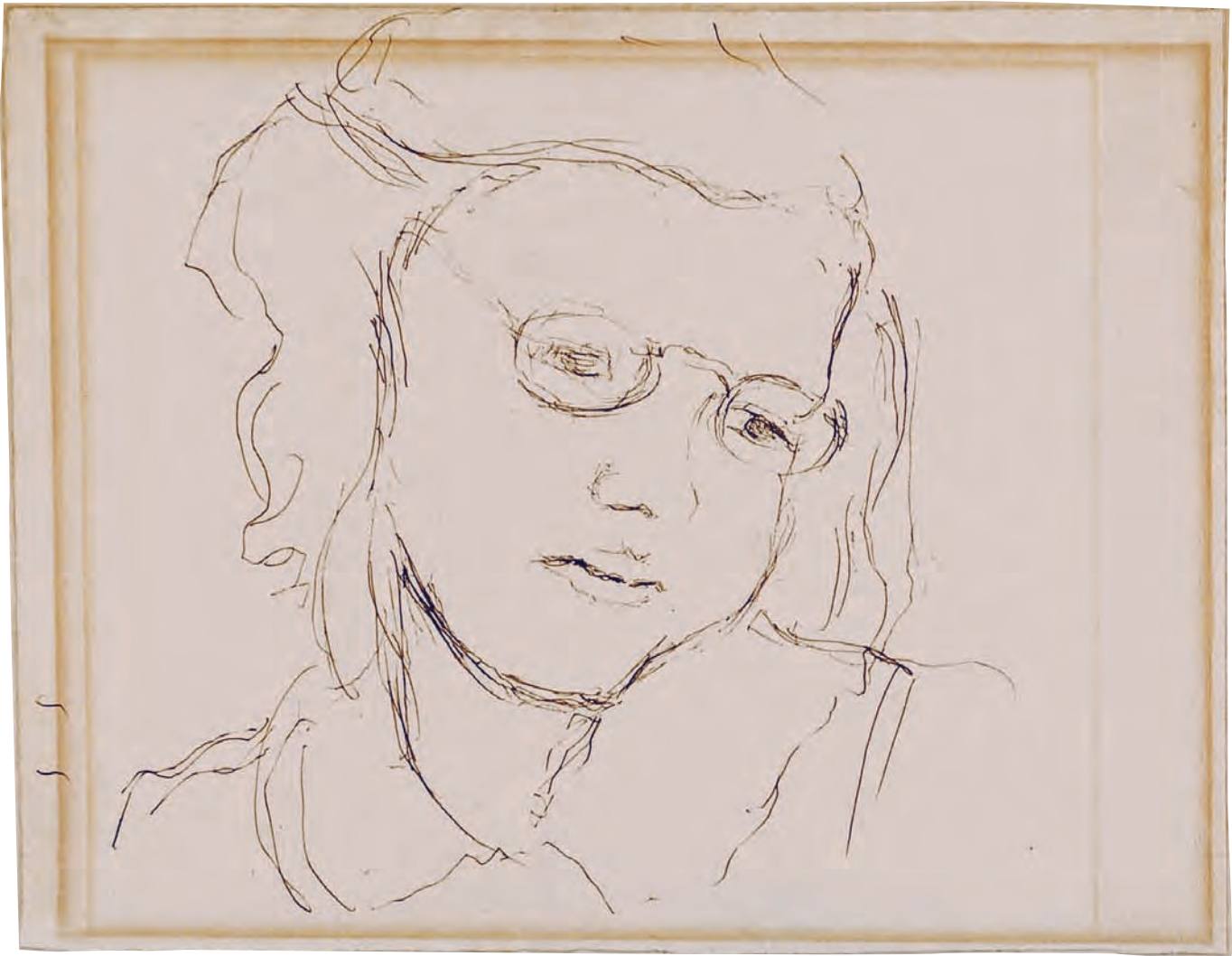
So related Valerie Kampf (*née* Page), in a letter to Yad Vashem that recollects her placement, aged seven, with Otilie Moore. Valerie was a British citizen, while Otilie was a colorful American millionaire of German origin who resided in Villefranche. Otilie’s offer was accepted with alacrity by Valerie’s mother, who was deeply concerned about her daughter’s safety. She then returned to England, where she became an officer in the WRENS (women’s naval corps).

Valerie was the first child to find asylum on Moore’s French estate, which soon became a haven for many other refugees. Among them were Jewish orphans, pregnant Jewish women, and the Grunwalds of Berlin—grandparents of the young artist Charlotte Salomon—who had met Mrs. Moore on one of their vacations and had moved to the estate after Hitler’s rise to power. The Grunwalds had been in Villefranche for some time when, in January of 1939, and under the pretext of visiting her sick grandmother, Charlotte left Berlin and joined her grandparents.

After the German occupation of France, Otilie Moore became increasingly worried about the children’s safety. Despite immense difficulties, she succeeded in obtaining visas to the U.S. for most of the youngsters under her protection. In late September 1941, she packed 10 of her charges into her luxury Ford station wagon—her daughter, her nephew, Valerie Page, seven other children (six of whom were Jewish), and her poodle, Martini. The older children crowded together on the seats, with two babies lying in cradles hung from the car ceiling, while towing the huge load of suitcases behind. The trip took 10 days, during which the travelers crossed the Spanish border and continued on to Portugal. Mrs. Moore and the children then set sail on the *Excalibur*, bound for the safe shores of New York City.

In the period before the German occupation, and enchanted with Otilie’s estate, Charlotte had painted the villa and its fruit trees against a Mediterranean background. Among the works that have survived from that period is a portrait of eight-year-old Valerie, a stylistically austere drawing that nevertheless conveys the tenderness and affection that Charlotte felt for the child. A fine pictorial line binds the young, withdrawn painter to the bespectacled, lonely girl, in temporary exile from home and family.

Charlotte and Valerie were fated never to meet again, for Charlotte stayed behind in France. In 1943, she was deported to Auschwitz, where she was murdered at the age of 26. The girl captured for posterity by Charlotte Salomon is now one of the last witnesses able to tell us



*Charlotte Salomon (1917-1943),
Portrait of
Valerie, aged 8,
Villefranche,
ca. 1940
Ink on paper,
Gift of Barbara
and Lewis Shrensky,
Washington D.C.*

The Portrait and the Maiden

New Charlotte Salomon acquisition for the Art collection



Ottilie Moore (center) with Valerie Page (sitting, third from right) and the other children she rescued, New York, 1943-1944

first hand about the young Jewish painter who lived, for a time, in Villefranche. All that remains from this intimate encounter is a modest but sensitive portrait.

During a meeting in New York with Yehudit Inbar, Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division, Valerie talked about her special acquaintance with Charlotte. This resulted in the initiative to acquire Charlotte's works for Yad Vashem's collection, a process finalized with the arrival of this portrait at the Museum of Holocaust Art. The art works that Charlotte produced while residing at Ottilie Moore's villa—most of which are now part of the Yad Vashem collection and can be viewed in its permanent art exhibition—provide a rare glimpse into life at an estate that became a sanctuary for destitute refugees. They also tell the wonderful story of the eccentric, impulsive, resourceful and courageous American woman who opened her doors—and her heart—to those in need.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Barbara and Lewis Shrensky, whose generosity made this acquisition possible.

Yehudit Shendar is Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division, and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg is a curator in the Museums Division.



More than

Using contemporary art to teach the Holocaust

by Masha Pollak Rozenberg

On Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day in April, the International School for Holocaust Studies organized a variety of artistic displays, including a modern dance performance by the Open Community Center, *Mu-Zika—Youth Touching the Holocaust*, and a poster exhibition from the “Meeting of Worlds” project. In a special interview, School Director Dorit Novak explained why and how Yad Vashem uses contemporary art to enrich Holocaust instruction.

In recent years, the International School for Holocaust Studies has been using artistic methods and creative works to teach the Holocaust. What is the pedagogical foundation for this method, and how do these tools promote the learning process?

First of all, we teach the Holocaust by providing the necessary information for understanding the topic, but knowledge isn't the only element. Education is more than just knowledge. People have different ways of learning, and educational goals can be achieved using many different paths: visual, auditory, and cognitive. The more paths we have access to, the more meaningful the experience becomes, and the longer it will be retained. Our goal is not only to produce a learning process, but also an experience, and art provides this dimension. On the other hand, the artistic experience alone is insufficient; it must be based on concrete knowledge.

Over the last five years, our staff has been developing new and different educational tools to complement conventional teaching methods. We have chosen to employ a wide range of media, including music, painting, photography and dance. These educational efforts are exemplified by *Mu-Zika—Youth Touching the Holocaust*. In this project, teenagers involved in a range of artistic fields participate in a learning process that culminates in the creation of musical and theatrical productions—personal artistic interpretations of what they have learned. The School also runs a number of artistic projects, such as “Meeting of Worlds,” focusing on a learning process through which participants of differing levels of physical disability enrich their knowledge of the Holocaust and then make posters that reflect their own personal statements.

What about the wider public?

The projects aren't important merely as a creative opportunity for a group of young people; the aim is to display the products to a wider audience. Exhibiting

the creative works in the school enables visitors to encounter contemporary expressions regarding the Holocaust. Dozens of artists take part in the learning and creative process, and the products are viewed by hundreds of people. I am certain these exhibitions afford the audience a different kind of encounter with the subject matter.

In education we never know what will hit the target, what each person will take away and conserve over time—a story, a picture, a work of art, or a song. Others find it easy to connect with dance, photography and film. The dance ensemble that performed for the first time on Holocaust Remembrance Day attracted large crowds and aroused emotional responses among the spectators.

How do these special kinds of activity fit in with the School's seminar programs?

First, we try to give pupils a foundation of the basic facts of the Holocaust. We encourage them to form their own opinions and take a critical view of what they have learned. Artistic expression is just a part—one element—of our study day programs, which also include tours, workshops and encounters with Holocaust survivors. The poster, photography and dance activities are only part of the educational continuum.

What makes these activities at Yad Vashem possible?

None of the projects—*Mu-Zika*, “Meeting of Worlds,” “Reflections” (a photography exhibition) and others—could exist without the financial support that we have received by, among others, the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation and the Claims Conference. This support enables us to run the programs and exhibit their end products to an international audience. Of course, we also need personnel capable of turning these donations into artistic activity, and the School staff is renowned for its initiative and creative thinking.

What are the School's future plans? Are there new projects in the offing?

We are always working to expand our repertoire of instructional tools. There are already some new projects in the initial stages, in film and photography, for example, such as the one to produce testimony films. For us, this is a new and challenging endeavor. There are always changes and new ideas, and these will certainly be developed to their fullest extent for future students and teachers alike.

The author is Head of High School Programs at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



Just Knowledge

Modern dance performance in the Family Plaza by the Open Community Center on Holocaust Remembrance Day

New on



www.yadvashem.org/education

by Jonathan Clapsaddle

The Top 60

Over the last few months, the International School for Holocaust Studies has chosen 60 of the central encyclopedic entries about the Holocaust and amalgamated them into a special new subsite offered in English, Hebrew and Spanish. The entries featured were chosen from the most frequently investigated concepts among Internet surfers, and include the most commonly requested topics in the teaching, learning and research of the Holocaust. Covering central characters and events, different countries, ghettos, camps and other basic concepts, all the entries have undergone fine-tuning and editing and have been supplemented with hundreds of relevant photographs.

Broadcasts of International Conference Lectures

A new video page covering the Fifth International Conference for Educators last summer was recently launched on the School's subsite. Featured are full video lectures given by all the main speakers, including world-renowned scholars in the fields of Holocaust history and education. Also included are workshop abstracts of the activities that took place at the School over the course of the Conference's three days.

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

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

Activities in Europe

Strengthening Interfaith Relations: British Clergy at Yad Vashem

by Lisa Oren

The European Department's summer semester has seen seminars held for educators from Lithuania, Poland, Austria, France and Germany; journalists from Hungary; and for the first time, a seminar for British clergy, run in partnership with the Council of Christians and Jews.

The 22 participants—the majority of whom lead Anglican Church congregations and deal with interfaith issues—were seeking to deepen their understanding of the events of the Holocaust. In describing their reasons for taking part in the seminar there was mention of the necessity for Christian clergy to understand the various issues raised by the Holocaust and its implications for teaching, as well as for interfaith relations. A further motivation was the incomparable resource for the participants in seeking to bear witness to past and present relations between Christians and Jews.

The unique seminar, which featured high caliber speakers including Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Rabbi Benjamin Lau and Rabbi David Rosen, dealt with both



Jewish-Christian relations and the Holocaust. Topics studied during the seminar included "The Church and the Holocaust," "Theological Reflections after the Holocaust," "The Longest Hatred Today: Antisemitism and the 21st Century," and "Jewish-Christian Relations Today," while one of the highlights was the participation of the group in the "Unto Every Person There is a Name" ceremony on Holocaust Remembrance Day, where each member read out names of Holocaust victims in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance.

Participants described the seminar as a "life-changing" experience, lessons from which they pledged to take further into their work. "This course should be required for all persons in training for Christian Ministry," commented Reverend Luis Rodriguez. "This seminar has given me not only sound factual resources to enhance my teaching of the subject in England, but also fresh insights into the humanity—the strengths and failings of the victims, perpetrators and survivors," concluded Reverend Paul Drummond Baird.

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

▶ The Names Database

by Yifat Bachrach-Ron

This February, Yad Vashem received a request from Peter Krans, representing a Mr. Opdam of the Netherlands, for assistance in locating a woman by the name of Yehudith Heymans. “Peter wrote to us that Mr. Opdam had rescued Yehudith when she was a baby and had recently identified her by means of the Page of Testimony she filled out for her father (Yaacov Judema Van Amerongen) that is now located in Yad Vashem’s online Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names,” relates Rima Lerman, who works in

Opdam: “It was very quiet on the other end of the phone. He almost had a heart attack; he’s an 86 year-old man! I couldn’t wait to meet him. Two weeks after our conversation, I went to Holland.”

Jan Opdam lives in Borger, a small town in northern Holland. “Our meeting was indescribable,” Yehudith continues. “In the bitter cold, an elderly couple

food rations distributed to citizens during the war. “Mr. Opdam would steal coupons for me, so that I could survive,” explains Yehudith.

The story actually began in May 1989 when Yehudith came to Yad Vashem with her son Oren, then a soldier:

“Together we filled out Pages of Testimony for my parents and brother. The image of my son in an IDF uniform helping me fill out the Pages is still etched in my memory,” Yehudith recalls.

Closing a Circle

Rescuer and survivor meet thanks to the Names Database

the Hall of Names. A few days later, Rima obtained Yehudith’s telephone number and informed her of Opdam’s request.

“I was very anxious, I didn’t know how to handle it,” recalls Yehudith. “I knew of another family that had hidden me, but I knew nothing about the Opdams. I never knew my parents. When I was a baby, they left me outside in the freezing weather with a warm bottle in my diaper so I wouldn’t die of cold.” A day after she received the call from Yad Vashem, Yehudith phoned

came out to greet us. There were hugs and kisses. He looked at me and said: ‘You know what? You look just like your mother. Exactly the same face.’ And then he continued, ‘But you act like your father; he was also energetic and spontaneous.’”

Yehudith learned that the Opdams, who had been her parents’ neighbors before the war, not only brought her to a safe place, but also did everything they could to keep her alive. Due to her Jewish status it was impossible to obtain the



Top: Jan and Bella Opdam, who rescued Yehudith Heymans as a baby during WWII
Bottom: Yehudith Heymans as a young girl during the war

“I was so proud at that moment; all the painful scenes of my life passed before my eyes, and I felt as though a circle had been closed.”

And thanks to those Pages of Testimony, Jan Opdam and the baby he saved were able to meet once again.

Names Collection: Volunteer Feedback

Ingrid Rockberger – President, JFRA (Jewish Family Research Association Israel)

“As president of one of Israel’s genealogical societies, I understand it is vital for family research that as many Pages of Testimony as possible are submitted to Yad Vashem. These documents are essential to help researchers ascertain the fate of family members—and in some rare cases, actually locate survivors and bring about reunions. It is an honor and a privilege for me to be of assistance.

“In addition, most Holocaust victims have no grave, so recording their names at Yad Vashem means that there will be a permanent record of their existence. For me personally, this is my contribution to the memory of the Holocaust victims and to the history of the Jewish people.”

Regina Szwadzka, Director, International Services, American Red Cross Holocaust Tracing Program

“Helping document missing names from the Yad Vashem Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names is like building a memorial. I hope future generations will use this memorial to learn and remember the Holocaust and its victims. It is vital to let as many people know about this project as we possibly can. Every piece of new information about lost family members and friends is crucial, and can have a powerful impact on generations to come.”



Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to a volunteer in the Names Recovery Project during a visit to the Ukraine, accompanied by businessman and hi-tech entrepreneur Yossi Hollander, supporter of the project (second from left) and Boris Mafzir, Manager of the *Shoah* Victims Names Recovery Project in the FSU (right).



Rescuer of Hundreds of Children Awarded Honorary Citizenship



by Irena Steinfeldt

In April, some 160 Holocaust survivors participating in the International Conference of Children Hidden in Belgium During the *Shoah* were privileged to witness the conferring of honorary Israeli citizenship on Andrée Geulen-Herscovici, a Belgian Righteous Among the Nations. At the end of the ceremony—in the presence of Belgian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Danielle del Marmol, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Yvette Blaiberg Graubart, Director of the Belgian Friends of Yad Vashem—the survivors gathered around the tiny bright-eyed woman, enveloping her in love. Even after so many years, she remembered each and every one. Zvi Novak, who was 13 when his father entrusted him in the hands of a Belgian family, related how, many years after the war, his friend introduced him to Madame Geulen during a visit to Brussels with his wife. Until that point, Novak had never heard of Geulen. She asked his name, and when he answered, she looked at him for a long time. “1059,” she finally whispered. That was his number on her coded list, and that is how Novak discovered that it was Geulen who had made sure he was well taken care of by the Belgian family after his parents were sent to Auschwitz. As they spent more time together, Novak was able to fill in other vital missing details of his life.

When Belgium was occupied by the Germans in 1942, Andrée Geulen was a young teacher. While many Belgians stood idly by during the persecution of the Jews, Geulen decided to act. “I understood that my pupils didn’t need more French lessons; they needed someone to defend their lives,” she explains. She joined the Jewish rescue organization, the Committee for the Defense of the Jews, and for more than two years, placed hundreds of Jewish children with Christian families and in monasteries, putting herself in mortal danger time and time again. She continued to visit the children, making sure all their needs were being met. In secret, she also kept a record of their original names and assumed identities so that upon liberation she could continue her work, albeit in reverse—locating the children and, where possible, returning them to their families.

Twenty-six years after she was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations, Andrée Geulen took part in the official state ceremony marking Holocaust Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem, and visited the Holocaust History Museum—where part of her Holocaust-era list of names is displayed. But the ceremony at which she was giving honorary citizenship was the pinnacle of her visit.

Speaking on behalf of those present, Zvi Novak summed up their feelings towards her. “Madame Geulen, we bestow upon you and all those who were part of your brave enterprise our esteemed thanks and recognition. I am here with my wife, my children and my grandchildren—and I am grateful that they too understand what you did for them.”

The author is Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department.



Belgian Righteous Among the Nation and Honorary Israeli Citizen Andrée Geulen-Herscovici (left) with survivor Henri Lederhandler next to the display of her story in the Holocaust History Museum

New Righteous from Norway, the Netherlands, Poland

At the beginning of June, Yad Vashem was honored to host three Righteous Among the Nations ceremonies. The first, on 3 June, posthumously recognized Per Faye-Hansen of Norway for his efforts in hiding Jews in Norway and assisting in their escape to Sweden. His daughters Gro Weneske Faye-Hensen, who resides in Israel, and Kari Danielsen from Norway received the medal and certificate on behalf of their late father.

On Wednesday 6 June, a ceremony posthumously recognizing five Dutch Righteous Among the Nations took place in the Yad Vashem Synagogue in the presence of their children, as well as survivors. Those honored were: Albartha and Klaas Crum, who hid the Cohen Paraira family for a year and a half in their home in Rhenen; Dirk Kroon, who sheltered Jews in his apartment in Soest, and as a member of the Westerweel resistance group helped other Jews as well; and Klaas and Hendrika van der Knoop, who protected Jews in their home throughout the war.

The following day, Jan and Maria Michalowski, Tadeusz and Wladyslawa Korsak, and Maria Burdowa were posthumously honored as Righteous Among the Nations for hiding Jews during the Holocaust. Children and grandchildren of the Polish couples and nieces of Burdowa arrived from Poland to accept the medals and certificates on behalf of their late parents and aunt. Also attending the ceremony were Polish Ambassador to Israel H.E. Agnieszka Magdziak Miszewska and survivors rescued by those honored.



Andrzej Michalowski (left) accepts the Righteous Among the Nations certificate for his late parents Jan and Maria Michalowski from Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt.

ICHEIC Claims Process Concluded by Leah Goldstein

“Soon after the Germans invaded Hungary, my father was arrested by the S.S. and deported to Auschwitz. My older brother had already been conscripted for forced labor by the Hungarian army. My mother wrote to him from the ghetto, telling him that my father had a life insurance policy, and that if he survived, he should retrieve it after the war. My brother did survive, and went back to find the policy, but our safe had been blown up and nothing remained. My mother’s letter is the only proof that my father once owned a life insurance policy...”

So relates Holocaust survivor Moshe Sanbar, former Governor of the Bank of Israel and a pillar of Israel’s economy. The former chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Claims Conference, Sanbar served until recently as a Commissioner on ICHEIC—the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims—established in 1998, and charged with “expeditiously addressing, at no cost to claimants, the issue of unpaid insurance policies issued to victims of the Holocaust.”

In an interview conducted for this magazine, Sanbar described the intricate and complex processes and decisions involved in this enormous enterprise. “It all began with the US National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) recommendation that individual states in the US revoke the licenses of insurance companies with whom Jews had taken out life insurance policies before the *Shoah* and who now refused—for different reasons—to pay what was due to their heirs. That was their incentive to cooperate,” he explains. In the end, six major insurance companies—Alliance (Germany), Generali (Italy), Axa (a French conglomeration) and three from Switzerland—also representing their daughter companies during the ‘Holocaust era’ and today, came on board. Partnering with ICHEIC on the Jewish side were the State of Israel (represented in turn by Bobby Brown, Biny Shalev, Shavit Matias, Arie Zuckerman and Aharon Mor), the Claims Conference, which Sanbar represented, and the World Jewish Restitution Organization, represented in New York by Roman Kent. The World Jewish Congress also played a major part in the negotiations.

Chaired by former US Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger, the Commission conducted an extensive worldwide outreach campaign to encourage possible plaintiffs to file claims. At the same time, Yad Vashem provided logistical

assistance in order to move the project forward as quickly and smoothly as possible.

“The root of the problem stemmed from the heirs’ inability to prove the basic details generally required to bring a claim, and certainly the amount due,” continues Sanbar. “Thus the strangest situation was created: the defendants (the insurance companies) were required to help the plaintiffs build and bring the claims against them. A mutually agreed system was established and this “unworkable” situation was resolved. Comprehensive research was also undertaken in order to value the prewar policies, in different currencies, in today’s dollar terms. In addition, the commission overcame problems connected to the nationalization of Eastern European insurance companies during the Communist era, as well as a whole host of other complicated issues.

The insurance companies also paid ICHEIC for policies for which no heirs could be found. This led to the establishment of the “Humanitarian Fund,” which paid \$1,000 to any person whose claim seemed reasonable, but who had no physical proof. 80% of the remaining monies was distributed to needy survivors, and the rest went towards research, education and commemoration activities, including at Yad Vashem, where the International School of Holocaust Studies’ European Department was able to significantly expand its tailor-made teacher training seminars, and the development of interdisciplinary study material and lesson plans for teachers and students across the continent.

On 31 March 2007, ICHEIC announced that its claims and appeals processes had concluded, having distributed some \$250 million in awards to more than 48,000 Holocaust survivors and their heirs, and a further \$150 million through the Humanitarian Fund. “I fully recognize that no amount of compensation can redress the suffering inflicted during the Holocaust,” Chairman Eagleburger said in a press release. “Nevertheless, I believe that ICHEIC has achieved its goal of bringing a small measure of justice to those who have been denied it for so long.”

“In my opinion, ICHEIC was the most complex and most successful restitution process for Holocaust victims,” Sanbar proudly concludes. “This compensation was a long time in coming, and was very welcome indeed.”



ICHEIC Commissioner and Holocaust survivor Moshe Sanbar

Senior delegation from ITS/Arolsen at Yad Vashem

At the end of May, Yad Vashem was honored to welcome a delegation from the International Tracing Service (ITS) International Commission. The delegation comprised three ITS senior archival and technical professionals—Head of Section Archives and Historical Research at the ITS Udo Jost, ITS Director Reto Meister and IT-System Administrator Michael Hoffman. Together with Yad Vashem staff, the group explored the best methods to facilitate the opening of the vast and complex collection of Holocaust-related documentation at Bad Arolsen to historians and researchers. In addition, Yad Vashem shared its experience in digitizing archival information and making it user-friendly.

The visit followed the decision earlier in the month to transfer digital copies of the Bad Arolsen Archives to member states of the International Commission. The transfer will allow the 11 member states—France, Greece, Luxembourg, Belgium, Italy, the United States, Poland, Germany, Holland, the United Kingdom and Israel—to prepare for the opening of the Archives, which will occur once they have all ratified the relevant agreements adopted in May 2006. Israel will receive the information via Yad Vashem, whose experts will study the material and evaluate the requirements necessary to make the information accessible. Yad Vashem’s Archives currently contain some 70 million pages of documentation—including 20 million pages scanned from the ITS in the 1950s.

Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev welcomed the exchange of ideas. “I am delighted to welcome Messrs. Meister, Jost and Hoffman to Yad Vashem, and am pleased that the fruitful discussion taking place will help facilitate

the transfer of material from Bad Arolsen to Yad Vashem. At this critical juncture, we are assessing the ramifications of bringing the Bad Arolsen Archives here, and preparing accordingly. The ITS decision to transfer material on embargo will assist us in continuing to ensure that researchers and survivors receive the information they need in a timely and efficient manner. In the coming weeks, we plan to send our experts to Bad Arolsen to study the materials and systems there, which will also facilitate the eventual transfer of material to Yad Vashem.”

ITS Director Reto Meister thanked Yad Vashem for the invitation to come to Jerusalem to gain a better understanding of the workings of Yad Vashem’s archive and information systems. “It’s always valuable to understand our partner’s experience and goals,” he explained. “More than any other place in the world, Yad Vashem is the natural repository for this material. Ultimately, our visit here will allow the material in Bad Arolsen to be put to the best and widest use possible.”



Left to right: ITS delegation members Udo Jost and Reto Meister and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev look over a map of Bergen-Belsen during working meetings at Yad Vashem.

April-June 2007 Events

15-16 April Yad Vashem welcomed thousands of visitors during **Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day**, including Holocaust survivors and members of the next generations. Some 2,500 participants—most of them survivors from Israel and abroad—attended the official opening ceremony, held in Warsaw Ghetto Square. It was followed by a discussion in the auditorium on the theme of “And You Shall Tell Your Children—The Story of the *Shoah* Between History and Remembrance,” with the participation of Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Rabbi Dr. Benny Lau, poetess Agi Mishol, Adv. Ronal Fisher, and Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, after the sounding of a two-minute siren, 120 wreaths were laid at the foot of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Monument, representing governmental, survivor and fighter organizations and the general public. Additional ceremonies held during the day included: “Unto Every Person There Is a Name”—the recitation of Holocaust victims’ names in the Hall of Remembrance; memorial ceremonies for Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust and for former members of the Jewish Resistance in France; a film screening in the Visual Center (see p. 19); and the annual Youth Movements Ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square, held for the first time with the participation of hundreds of Holocaust survivors (see p. 3). In the evening, the “Generation to Generation” Organization held an assembly entitled, “Finding the Strength,” at the International School for Holocaust Studies’ branch in Givatayim (Beit Wolyn), and a concert, “In Memory,” was held at the Targ Music Center in Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Beit Terezin ensemble.



18 April “Unto Every Community There Is a Name:” evening of solidarity with Sephardic communities of the Balkans annihilated during the Holocaust, at Beit Wolyn. Speakers included Yad Vashem Council Chairman Yosef (Tommy) Lapid, Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Chair Noach Flug, National Authority for Ladino Culture Chair Moshe Shaul Sagan, Organization of Greek Concentration Camp Survivors in Israel Chair Moshe Ha'Elyon, former Organization of Yugoslavian Immigrants Chair Miriam Aviezer and Macedonian Immigrants’ Next Generations Chair Moshe Testa.

1 May Memorial ceremony and general assembly of the Organization for Perpetuating the Memory of the Victims of Landsberg-Kaufering-Dachau, moderated by Society Chairman Uri Chanoch, with the participation of Society members.

3 May Annual lecture of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, on “The proliferation of ghettos and the methods employed in their operation under the Nazi regime: trying to answer questions that have not yet been asked,” by Yad Vashem’s Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman.

9 May Official ceremony marking the Allied victory over Nazi Germany, at the Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans (right), with the participation of some 1,000 soldiers and members of the Diplomatic Corps



representing the Allied armies. Ceremony participants were addressed by Avner Shalev, Immigrant Absorption Minister Ze’ev Boim, Veterans Organization Chair Avraham Greenfeld, and Organization of Liberated Soldiers in Israel representative Esther Herlitz. The Israel Police Orchestra, conducted by Commander Menashe Lev-Ran, performed at the ceremony with the participation of soloists.

16 May Event marking 64 years since the liberation of Tunis, including a memorial ceremony in the Valley of the Communities. Participants were addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor Eli Yishai (right), Avner Shalev, and former Israeli Ambassador to France Nissim Zvili. Interludes included songs performed by Corinne Alal, liturgical poetry by Yuval Teib and a reading on the liberation of Tunis by the journalist Emmanuel Halperin. The event was moderated by Tunisian Jewry scholar Claude Sitbon.



20 May Annual gathering of Carpatho-Russian survivors and immigrants and members of the next generations in Israel in the Yad Vashem Synagogue. Opening remarks were delivered by Carpatho-Russian Survivor Organization Chair Tuvia Klein. Speakers included Prof. David Weiss Halivni of Bar-Ilan University and Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett.

28 May At the International Institute for Holocaust Research scholarship award ceremony, 16 scholarships were distributed to graduate students at Israeli universities. Speakers included Prof. Dan Michman and endowments representative Prof. Boaz Shoshan. Ruth Ebenstein gave a lecture entitled, “The Haredi Media and the Holocaust: Jewish Narrative, Israeli Narrative.”

29 May “Group of 131” gathering (a group of 131 children from Kovno who were deported together to Auschwitz), and group discussion captured on film. Avner Shalev welcomed the participants, and event organizer Daniel Chanoch and fellow survivor Moshe Kravitz described the children’s journey with the aid of a multimedia presentation. The gathering concluded with a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance—at which the surviving “children” recited the names of 90 of their murdered companions—and the submitting of Pages of Testimony.

29 May Lecture by Polish Righteous Among the Nations Prof. Vladislav Bartoszewski entitled, “Poland’s Attitude Toward Jews and Israel after the Second World War and the Holocaust.”

18 June Seminar on the Holocaust of Sephardic Jewry, in the presence of the fifth President of the State of Israel and Chairman of the National Authority for Ladino Culture Yitzhak Navon (right).



Lecturers included historians Dr. Gideon Greif and Dr. Avraham Milgram, and Dr. Miriam Reiner of Bar-Ilan University. Participants also viewed a performance of “Why Didn’t You Come Before the War?” based on the book by Lizzie Doron, and received a guided tour of the Museum.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 26 March, UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** (second from left) toured the Learning Center, accompanied by Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev** (left), Chairman of the Council **Joseph (Tommy) Lapid** (second from right) and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies **Dorit Novak** (right).



US Secretary of Defense **Robert M. Gates** (right) was accompanied by **Avner Shalev** (left) and Minister of Defense **Amir Peretz** (center) during his visit to Yad Vashem on 19 April.



On 1 April, German Chancellor **Dr. Angela Merkel** (center) visited Yad Vashem accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs **Tzipi Livni** (left) and Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev**.



Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (left) guided **Foreign Minister of Singapore George Yeo** (center) through the Holocaust History Museum on 29 April.



Guided by Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar**, **Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 20 March.



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 12 June, **Netherlands Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen** (center) was guided by **Nannie Beekman** of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations (left).



On 29 May, **European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett**.



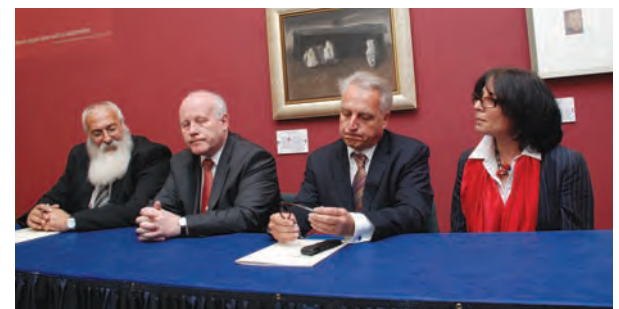
On 9 May, the **Hon. Fausto Bertinotti**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Italy, visited Yad Vashem and toured the Holocaust History Museum.

Photo: Luigi Roffit (Foto Lucarado)

Dresden-Yad Vashem Art Agreement

During the visit of Prime Minister of Saxony **Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt** to Yad Vashem on 2 May, an agreement between Yad Vashem and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (SKD—The Dresden State Art Collections, encompassing 12 art museums) was signed on cooperation in the arts. The agreement indicates the parties' intention to create a unique exhibit that will display masterpieces from the Dresden collections in a "dialogue" with artworks from Yad Vashem's 10,000-piece collection of works created during the Holocaust.

Dr. Milbradt also presented Yad Vashem with financial support for the "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust" exhibit, currently running in the Exhibitions Pavilion.



Left to right: Yad Vashem Director-General **Nathan Eitan**, Prime Minister of Saxony **Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt**, Director of the Dresden State Art Collections **Prof. Dr. Martin Roth**, Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar**

Yad Vashem Benefactors

Bernard Aptaker

Bernard Aptaker, the eldest of three brothers, was born in Zakrzówek, Poland in 1926 to parents Nuchym and Sura (*née* Rojzner). With the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1938, the family went into hiding with the help of local friends and business associates, but eventually was forced into the Krasnik ghetto. In November 1942, Bernard, his father and middle brother Stanley were selected for forced labor and sent to the Budzyn concentration camp. His mother and little brother Moshe were condemned to death.



Nuchym Aptaker and his two remaining sons survived Budzyn together and later the Wieliczka and Flossenburg concentration camps, as well as an horrific death march from Flossenburg to Dachau. They were liberated by Allied forces in April 1945.

After the war, Bernard worked for the US Counter-Intelligence Corps until 1947, when he and his remaining family immigrated to the United States. He worked in many small jobs and as a dance instructor before launching a successful real estate business in Houston, Texas. Today, Bernard supports many philanthropic causes including the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Anti-Defamation League and Yad Vashem, where he is the donor of the Warsaw Ghetto Square Garden.

Max Mazin

Max Mazin is a Holocaust survivor, born in 1923 in Gorodeya (then Poland, now part of Belarus). His father Zeev, mother Sofia (*née* Brodovka), and sister Ida were all killed in the *Shoah*, while he and his brother Shaul survived.



After the war, Max moved to Spain where he married, established a beautiful family with four children and grandchildren, and became a successful businessman. Ever since, he has been an energetic leader of the Spanish Jewish community, serving as President of the Jewish Community of Madrid (of which he is still Honorary President) from 1952-1970, as well as President of B'nai B'rith Spain since 1977.

In 1968, Max built the first new Jewish synagogue in Spain since the 15th century. He is the founder of the Association for Jewish-Christian Friendship. In 1999, the King of Spain conferred on Max Mazin the "Orden del Mérito Civil," in recognition of his public and social work.

Shaul, Max and Atara Mazin are longtime supporters of Yad Vashem, with Max serving as the Honorary President of the Spanish Friends of Yad Vashem. They are donors of the Soldiers' Garden and the Garden of the Hall of Remembrance.

New at the Museum: Daily Tours

A new service has recently been introduced for visitors to the Holocaust History Museum—daily tours in English and Hebrew. The tours start from the Visitors' Center every day at 11:00 and last approximately two-and-a-half hours. The cost of the tour is 30 NIS per person (including earphones), and there is no need to reserve a place in advance. The tours are intended for groups of 20-30 people; additional groups are organized on site as needed. Tours in French are currently being prepared.

Bearing Witness: Testimony in Film

by Liat Benhabib

Yad Vashem's Visual Center marked Holocaust Remembrance Day 2007 with a screening of new films that place survivor testimonies at the center of the narrative.

The event's opening film, *I Just Wanted to Live*, directed by Mimmo Calopresti, is the story of nine Italian Auschwitz survivors, based on testimonies submitted to the U.S.C. Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. *Nina's Journey*—winner of the 2006 Yad Vashem Chairman's Award—tells the story of Nina Reimitz-Einhorn and her survival during the war years. Nina's daughter, director Lena Einhorn, interwove her mother's personal testimony with dramatic re-enactment and authentic archival material. After the screening, Dr. Aharon Feuerstein engaged the audience in a discussion of the challenge posed by non-documentary films about the Holocaust.

The highlight of the event was an encounter with Minia Rubin and Lena Bar, the main figures in *The Cemetery Club*. Director Tali Shemesh, Minia's granddaughter, spent five years documenting the members of the "Mount Herzl Academy," a group of elderly citizens who meet among the graves of the



From the film *The Cemetery Club* (Tali Shemesh)

nation's dignitaries to eat lunch and talk about philosophy, poetry and the fate of the Jewish people. In the background is the story of Minia and her sister-in-law Lena, who, like many of the "Academy" members, survived the Holocaust and came to Israel to build new lives. In her quest to uncover family secrets, Shemesh has created an intimate, bittersweet portrait of the Holocaust generation still with us today.

Yad Vashem Chairman's Award Nominees 2007

At the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival in Jerusalem on 14 July, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and donors Leon and Michaela Constantiner will award the second annual "Yad Vashem Chairman's Award" for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust-Related Film to a film produced within the past year that brings extraordinary cinematic expression to a unique Holocaust-related story.

The prize has seven nominees: *Steal a Pencil for Me* (Michèle Ohayon, USA); *Spell Your Name* (Sergey Bukovsky, Ukraine/USA); *Miss Universe 1929 – Lisl Goldarbeiter*, *A Queen in Wien* (Péter Forgács, Austria/The Netherlands); *The Rape of Europa* (Richard Berge, Nicole Newnham, Bonni Cohen, USA); *The Last Train* (Dana Vávrová, Joseph Vilmaier, Germany/The Czech Republic); *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal* (Richard Trank, USA); and *As Seen Through These Eyes* (Hilary Helstein, USA).

The author is the Director of Yad Vashem's Visual Center.

by Vivian Uria

Over the last few months, Yad Vashem has witnessed a significant rise in its number of visitors. Over 20,000 visitors came to Yad Vashem during the Passover holiday, an increase of 25% over the previous year. On Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem welcomed over 17,000 visitors, almost double the number of visitors from the year before.

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

CANADA

Holocaust survivor **Joseph Lebovic** (left) and Canadian Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** lay the first memorial wreath on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.



The Government of Ontario and the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** honored ten Holocaust survivors. Left to right, and top to bottom, honorees in bold: **Sigmund Soudack**, Consul General of Israel Ya'acov Brosh, **Harold Rotman**, **Simcha Simchovitch**, Canadian Society Chairman Hank Rosenbaum, **Joe Gottdenker**, Premier of Ontario The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration The Hon. Mike Colle, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services The Hon. Monte Kwinter, **Jack Buchman**, **Henry Waks**, **Sidia Cowen**, **Goldi Steiner**, **Faigie Libman**, and **Sala Goldhar**

UNITED KINGDOM



This year's Remembrance Day Ceremony at Logan Hall, London recognized **Brigadier Glyn Hughes**, the most decorated British military doctor of WWII, for his efforts in saving the lives of Bergen-Belsen inmates. Pictured, standard bearers of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX)

CHILE

David Feuerstein, President of the **Chilean Friends of Yad Vashem** (left), with Chilean President **Michelle Bachelet**, at a commemoration ceremony in Santiago



NETHERLANDS



Director of the French and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross** and Chairman of the **Dutch Friends of Yad Vashem** **Joop Levy** lay a wreath at Yad Vashem.

AUSTRIA



Günther and **Ulrike Schuster** of the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** lay a wreath at Yad Vashem.

GERMANY

Rose Landschaft, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, re-kindles the flame in the Hall of Remembrance.



U.S.A.

Mark Moskowitz (right) lays a wreath at Yad Vashem on behalf of the **Second Generation of Survivors of the American Society for Yad Vashem**.



Tobias and **Rosalie Berman** lay a wreath at Yad Vashem.



SPAIN



Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski (Cultural Director, **American Society for Yad Vashem**, left), **Eli Zborowski** (**American Society** Chairman) and Eli's granddaughter **Tamar Guttman** (right) at the official state ceremony at Yad Vashem

Spanish Ambassador to Israel **H.E. Eudaldo Mirapeix** and **Anna Salomon** lay a wreath at Yad Vashem.

MEXICO

Mexican friends at Yad Vashem's official state ceremony with Mayor of Jerusalem **Uri Lupolianski** (center). Left to right: **Velia Oynik**, **Elias Mekler**, **Selik Wengrowsky** (Israel), **Bronia** and **Mordko Sigal**. Not pictured: **Perla Jinish**, **Monica Fastlicht**, **Silvia Krumholtz** and **Lucille Kreimerman**.



W Friends WORLDWIDE

USA



In May, Yad Vashem hosted the launch of the Hebrew version of *My Grandfather's Brother's Son*, by author **Deborah Steiner Van Rooyen** (right). The ceremony included screened interviews with the book's protagonist **Yona Steiner** and his wife **Rivka Steiner** (center). Pictured: the author presenting a copy of the book to Deputy Minister of Defense **Ephraim Sneh** (left).



Yad Vashem Benefactor and Holocaust survivor **Gladys Halpern** (left), and **Rita Levy** (right), daughter of survivors

Sima and the late **Nathan Katz**, z"l, were each presented with the **American Society for Yad Vashem Achievement Award** at the Society's Seventh Annual Spring Luncheon (pictured with American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**). This year's luncheon, held at the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan, was chaired by **Adina Shinker Burian**. The guest speaker was noted Jewish author **Kevin Haworth**.

Benefactors and Synagogue donors **Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein** visited Yad Vashem in May for a special tour of the campus together with their friends **Toby and Jerry Pollak**.

Left to right: **Barry Rubenstein, Avner Shalev, Marilyn Rubenstein, Toby Pollack, Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan, International Relations Division Deputy Director Sari Granitza, Jerry Pollak**



On 27 June, Yad Vashem held a ceremony dedicating the Warsaw Ghetto Square Garden, established through the generous gift of **Bernard Aptaker** of Houston, Texas in memory of the **Aptaker and Rojzner families** murdered in the *Shoah*, and in memory of **Murray (Nuchym-Majer), Sarah (Sura-Metsa) and Moshe Aptaker, z"l**. Speaking at the ceremony were Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev**, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League **Abraham Foxman**, Israeli Minister of Public Security **Avi Dicter**, the donor and honoree **Bernard Aptaker**, and noted author and journalist **Mickey Herskowitz**.



Left to right: **Shaya Ben Yehuda, Avner Shalev, Bernard Aptaker**



In May, an international delegation of leaders from the Syrian-Jewish community visited Yad Vashem for a special tour of the new Museum Complex.

Left to right: **Shimon Avital**, Director of the Iberoamerican Desk **Perla Hazan, Mrs. and Mr. Jaime Ades, Alberto Saba, Isaac Saba, Jeffrey Sutton, Jack Avital, Moises Saba**

During their tour of the campus in March, **Fred and Tami Mack** and family visited the Warsaw Ghetto Square, renovated through the generosity of the **Phyllis and William Mack Family**.



Recent Benefactors **Jan and Susanne Czucker** (left) of Los Angeles visited Yad Vashem in May for the dedication of the *Bridge to a Vanished World*, which leads from the Visitors Center to the entrance of the Holocaust History Museum. The Czuckers are joined, on the bridge they endowed, by Minister of Welfare and Social Services **Isaac Herzog** (second from right) and Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman **Avner Shalev** (right).



During their visit to Yad Vashem in June, Chairman of the Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation and Taglit-birthright pioneer **Michael H. Steinhardt** (right) and his wife **Judy Steinhardt** toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Director of Seminars for Educators from Abroad **Ephraim Kaye**.

WORLDWIDE Friends



During his visit to Yad Vashem in March as part of the CJP-Boston Mission, former NFL Commissioner **Paul Tagliabue** (left) lit a memorial candle in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Left to right: **Paul Tagliabue**, his wife **Chan Tagliabue**, New England Patriots owner **Robert Kraft**, Combined Jewish Philanthropies President **Barry Shrage**



In June, **Michael Bohnen**, Director of Jewish Philanthropy of the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation (see pp. 4-5) visited Yad Vashem and viewed the current exhibition, "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust."

Philanthropist **Jeffrey Sudikoff** (left) led a delegation of California businessmen on an emotional tour of Yad Vashem in May.



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Moshe Lifshitz ז"ל**, husband of Cheryl Skura Lifshitz, member of the Board and Executive Committee of the American Society for Yad Vashem, and son-in-law of Yad Vashem Benefactors Stella and Sam Skura. He is survived by his beloved wife Cheryl and their two daughters Iris and Ilana. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the entire Skura and Lifshitz families. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

CANADA

In May, Yad Vashem paid tribute to Benefactors **Fran and Ed Sonshine** of Toronto (right, with Avner Shalev) in recognition of their generous contribution to the Holocaust History Museum. At the dedication ceremony Ed said: "We wanted to make sure to do something specific with [the Holocaust], to attach our names to it ... it was very, very special for us to be able to help support the unbelievable work that Yad Vashem does, as more than a museum."



Gail Asper of Winnipeg came to Yad Vashem in June for a guided tour of the current exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be A Woman during the Holocaust." As a result of the generous support of the Asper Foundation,



major efforts have been made over the past few years to promote Holocaust education around the world.

Czech Mate: A Life in Progress, by Thomas O. Hecht, a new biography published by Yad Vashem, was launched in Montreal in June at two events featuring the author. **Tom and Riva Hecht** have also endowed a teacher scholarship fund sponsoring Canadian educators participating in seminars at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.



Left to right, in the pre-launch of *Czech Mate* in Montreal: new Executive Director of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Yaron Ashkenazi**, Director of Yad Vashem's English Speaking Desk **David Metzler**, **Riva and Tom Hecht**, Director of International Seminars for Educators in English at Yad Vashem **Ephraim Kaye**

SPAIN



Edith Toledano (third from left) visited Yad Vashem with a group of friends, hosted by **Perla Hazan**. Ms. Toledano is the daughter of Yad Vashem supporters **Mauricio and Esther Toledano**.

IDE

AUSTRALIA



Left to right in the Family Plaza: Joe Siegel, Sam Sokolski, Helen Sokolski, Jeffrey Appel, Sue Appel and David Freedman who came from Melbourne for an extended tour of Yad Vashem in April 2007.



Melbourne *bat-mitzvah* girl Ellie Searle visited Yad Vashem with her family last summer and was so affected by what she learned, she asked guests to her *bat-mitzvah* to donate to the Australian Friends of Yad Vashem in lieu of gifts. She raised more than \$9,000 for Yad Vashem.

Left to right: Jessie, John, Ellie, Johnny Baker (President of Australian Friends of Yad Vashem), Jake, Ginette and Rebecca Searle

GERMANY

On 2 May, the German Friends of Yad Vashem hosted its Assembly and General Elections. Pictured, Director of the German-speaking Desk Arik Rav-On (far left) and Shaya Ben Yehuda (far right) with the newly elected board, left to right: Rainer Bürkle, Hans Scholz, Dr. Bernhard Blohm, Josef Grotte, Hinrich Kaasmann, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Hildegard Müller (Chairwoman of the Board), Daniel Abele, Anton F. Börner, and Peter Sauerbaum. Not pictured is board member Horst Dahlhaus.



In April, Yad Vashem hosted a special gathering for the donors of its newly opened exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust."

Left to right: Fini Steindling (Austria), Charlotte Knobloch (Germany), Dr. and Mrs. Josef Bollag (Switzerland)

UNITED KINGDOM



Left to right: Philip Morelle, Shaya Ben Yehuda, Steve Morelle, Avner Shalev, David Metzler

In April, Yad Vashem honored Steve and Philip Morelle, Supporters of the Holocaust History Museum with a dedication ceremony and unveiling of plaques.



In a moving visit to Yad Vashem for Holocaust Remembrance Day, Brian, Sam, Stella and Irit Anderson lit candles next to the memorial plaque dedicated in memory of their family members who perished in the Holocaust.

VENEZUELA

Yad Vashem Trustees Jacobo and Raquel Szkolnik of Venezuela attended the unveiling of the plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope, together with Director of Iberoamerican Desk Perla Hazan.



MEXICO



Bronia and Mordko Sigal of Mexico with Perla Hazan during their recent visit to Yad Vashem

During their recent visit to Yad Vashem, Jacobo Bayon and Cecilia Gorodzinsky-Bayon toured the new Synagogue with Perla Hazan. Mrs. Bayon is the daughter of Yad Vashem Trustees David and Malka Bashe Gorodzinsky.



The Portrait and the Maiden

New Charlotte Salomon acquisition for the Art collection (pp. 10-11)

