

YAD VASHEM JERUSALEM

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Yad Vashem
Honored
with Prince
of Asturias
Award for
Concord (p. 4)

Yad
Vashem to
Dedicate
Israel's 60th
Year to the
Contribution
of Holocaust
Survivors to
the State
(pp. 2-3)

From Father to Daughter

The Illustrated Bible of Carol Deutsch (pp. 10-11)

YERUSALEM Yad Vashem

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Cover: Carol Deutsch (1894 – 1944), "In her mouth
was an olive leaf" (Genesis 8:11), 1941-1942

by Yifat Bachrach-Ron

“ During the coming year, the story of the survivors will take center stage. We will tell of their fierce determination to live, as well as their enormous contribution to the establishment and development of the State of Israel,” Yad Vashem Directorate Chairman Avner Shalev recently told hundreds of Holocaust survivors. The addressees were all participants in the “Bearing Witness” project, invited to a special event held in their honor at Yad Vashem in advance of *Rosh Hashanah*.

Shalev thanked the participants for their willingness to summon the inner strength to recount their painful personal experiences many times a year. “You decided to believe both in man and in God—each one of you in your own way—and to continue to claim life. That is a tremendously powerful message, and yet it is not patently obvious. That is who you are.”

For their part, the survivors spoke of the importance of Holocaust education for the next generations, and the centrality of testimony in the learning process. “Just a short time [after liberation] I felt that I was carrying a mission on my shoulders: to tell the story,” related Hannah Bar Yesha. “It just wasn’t possible that I survived for no reason. Someone charged me with the duty to tell what happened. This mission has given me tremendous strength.”

To mark Israel’s 60th anniversary year, Avner Shalev recently announced that, over the course of the coming year, Yad Vashem is planning to highlight the efforts and contributions of survivors to building the State.

Yad Vashem Granted NGO Status at UN

Illustrating its growing relationship with the United Nations, at the beginning of August Yad Vashem received NGO status at the UN’s Department of Public Information (UN/DPI). Affiliation with the Department of Information will enable Yad Vashem to continue its efforts to disseminate accurate and comprehensive information about the Holocaust around the world.

Over the past several years, Yad Vashem has been working with UN/DPI on Holocaust education and information projects, including building a website for UN centers around the world as part of last year’s International Holocaust Remembrance Day events, in conjunction with the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education and the CDJC in Paris. Electronic resources in Spanish are currently being developed in cooperation with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Yad Vashem has also presented temporary exhibits at UN headquarters in New York. In January 2005, marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Yad Vashem created a special traveling exhibit, “Auschwitz: The Depth of the Abyss.” In 2006, Yad Vashem’s “No Child’s Play” exhibit was displayed in the Visitors’ Lobby of the UN.

A special forum for UN staff members from Europe and Asia will be held in October at Yad Vashem. The forum aims to deepen the UN personnel’s knowledge of the Holocaust, as well as provide material, ideas and information for preparing projects and activities that will enable implementation of UN resolution 60/7 to annually commemorate the memory of the victims of the Holocaust (on January 27) passed two years ago.

“We are very pleased to be working so closely with the UN’s Department of Public Information over the past year in an effort to promote our common goal of Holocaust awareness and remembrance,” said Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. “It is only natural that as we plan the first-ever seminar for UN Information Officers from many nations in Asia and Eastern Europe, we should formalize our association by being granted NGO status. I look forward to further cooperation in the field.”

In the coming months, a special exhibition entitled, “My Only Homeland: Holocaust Survivors in Israel” will be launched at Yad Vashem, dedicated to the influence of Holocaust survivors in both the public and the private spheres. The exhibition will focus on a number of initiatives taken by survivors over the years, including the shaping of Holocaust remembrance and legislation; building museums; publishing *Yizkor* (community remembrance) books and personal memoirs; a unique photographic project of Holocaust survivors and their families; and the shaping of the Israeli national identity, including Israeli symbols and trademarks designed by survivors, such as the familiar “Srulik” character created by caricaturist Kariel Gardosh.

In addition, Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research will hold an international academic conference on the theme, “The Holocaust,

Yad Vashem to Dedicate Israel’s 60th Year to the Contribution of Holocaust Survivors to the State

the Survivors, and the State of Israel.” The keynote address, to be given by Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, will focus on the question, “Did the Holocaust lead to the establishment of the State?” Yad Vashem will also host a special gathering of Holocaust survivors and their families, in conjunction with the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel. An international conference of educators, as well as a large cantorial concert in



Holocaust survivor Asher Oud addresses participants at the 2006 Holocaust Remembrance Day Youth Movements Ceremony in Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities



Minister in charge of Israel’s 60th anniversary events Rubama Avraham Balila visited Yad Vashem in September and held a working meeting where she was presented with Yad Vashem’s plans for marking the upcoming year.

Warsaw Ghetto Square will take place, and Yad Vashem will publish a comprehensive and unique album, dedicated entirely to Holocaust survivors.

The Itzkovitch Report on the economic situation

of Holocaust survivors, prepared in consultation with Yad Vashem, was recently presented before the Israeli government at the behest of Minister of Welfare Itzhak Herzog. In addition to various benefits and tax abatements, the report also recommended that survivors be afforded the appropriate respect and appreciation they so rightly deserve.

“Survivors linked the rehabilitation of their own personal lives to the national effort,” explains Shalev. “In very short order they assimilated into every conceivable field of Israeli endeavor: they enlisted in the army, built new neighborhoods, developed agriculture and industry, engaged in the arts and sciences, integrated into academia and jurisprudence, and affected politics and sports. They integrated themselves into the country and built up this land, and continue to lead it forward. They represent an asset beyond all others, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.”

Yad Vashem Honored with Prince of Asturias Award for Concord

On the eve of *Rosh Hashanah*—the Jewish New Year—Yad Vashem was honored with the news that it had received the international Prince of Asturias Award for Concord. This prestigious annual award is bestowed by Prince Felipe, son of King Juan Carlos, upon “the person, persons or institution whose work has made an exemplary and outstanding contribution to mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence amongst men, to the struggle against injustice or ignorance, to the defense of freedom, or whose work has widened the horizons of knowledge or has been outstanding in protecting and preserving mankind’s heritage.”

This year, 47 candidates from 28 countries competed for the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord. Yad Vashem’s nomination was proposed by German chancellor Angela Merkel, and supported by eminent public figures from around the world, including former Mexican president Vicente Fox Quesada, former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, former European Parliament president and 2005 Prince of Asturias Award laureate Simone Veil, German parliamentarian Joschka Fischer, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, US senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Holocaust researcher and Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld and Israeli president Shimon Peres. In her letter of candidature, Chancellor Merkel said: “Yad Vashem is a unique place; a memorial and place for commemorating, a cultural and education center... Yad Vashem is also a place for hope: the hope for reconciling and understanding, for tolerance and humanity, for peace and good coexistence.”

Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev expressed his appreciation to the Foundation and the jury for recognizing the work of Yad Vashem. “I am deeply moved, and very proud, that Yad Vashem has been honored with the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord,” he said. “My sincere appreciation goes to the Prince of Asturias Foundation for this singular honor. This prestigious international award recognizes that the memory of the Holocaust—the systematic murder of the Jews that took place in the heart of Europe—has profound significance for the coexistence of the family of nations, today and through the ages. The receipt of the Prince of Asturias Award inspires us to continue in our efforts to build a better future through our confrontation with the past, and emphasizes the awesome responsibility that Yad Vashem bears. As the generation of the witnesses to these horrors dwindles, Yad Vashem will continue to transform their memory into building blocks for a better world—one characterized by tolerance and mutual respect amongst all peoples.”

The Award will be presented on 26 October in Spain, in the presence of the Spanish royal family. Previous winners of the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord include: UNICEF, Médecins sans Frontières, King Hussein of Jordan, Stephen Hawking and J.K. Rowling.

First-ever International Holocaust Conference in Spain

In line with the rising quest for knowledge about the Holocaust in the Spanish-speaking world, the International Institute for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, headed by Prof. David Bankier, organized the first-ever international conference on the Holocaust in Spain from 24-26 September.

Under the heading, “The Holocaust and its Significance Today,” the conference—supported by the Marc Rich Foundation for Education, Culture and Welfare (Switzerland)—took place at the CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas – The High Council for Scientific Investigations) in Madrid, the largest public multidisciplinary research body in Spain. The conference, held in partnership with Casa Sefarad-Israel, featured prominent experts in the field from Israel, Spain, Germany and Belgium, who held round-table discussions and workshops covering a range of topics, including: “The Singularity of the Holocaust;” “Why does Spanish Historiography Ignore the Holocaust?” and “Spanish Refugees and Jewish Refugees: the Case of Mexico.”

During the conference, a special pedagogical workshop dedicated to Spanish teachers also took place. The workshop was run by Mario Sinay of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, and included presentations of the School’s didactic material available in Spanish.

The Names Database

Next Generation discovers family of descendants lost in the Holocaust



After embarking on a journey of discovery to Poland in search of family roots, Arnie Perlstein from the United States and his son Ethan (right) searched the online Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names and

discovered a Page of Testimony commemorating Arnie’s (maternal) great aunt. The page was submitted to Yad Vashem in 1996 by Yoav Harel from Israel (left), who turned out to be Arnie’s second cousin. Yad Vashem staff member Limor Bar-Ilan (center) assisted in bringing the families together and guided them at Yad Vashem this summer. Nurit Mittlefehldt, Yoav’s sister, was overjoyed. “For someone whose family only ever consisted of a father, mother, brother and sister, finding new family members is the greatest gift I could ask for.”

Appreciation for Names Recovery Efforts



Thirty-five members of Congregation Shir Ha-Ma’alot (Irvine, CA)—one of the first synagogues to pilot a names collection campaign in 2005—came to Yad Vashem this July. During the visit, Cynthia

Wroclawski, Outreach Manager of the Names Recovery Project presented Rabbi Richard Steinberg (left, with synagogue congregants and Cantor Arie Shikler, right) with a certificate of appreciation for the outstanding efforts of the synagogue membership to collect the names of Shoah victims. Synagogue member Toni Rois, who was unable to attend, was also honored for her leadership role in this undertaking, which so far has resulted in the submission of over 200 Pages of Testimony.

Australian efforts pay off



The Australian Friends of Yad Vashem organized a special Names Registration Day in June. Fifteen recently returned “March of the Living” participants volunteered to assist 31 individuals who attended the event. In total, 215 Pages of Testimony

were submitted, and a further 50 in the days following. The Names Recovery Project continues in Australia with further Registration Days being planned.

Pictured, left to right: Ellie Braitberg and Mulia Bereszowski. Mulia spent four hours at the Registration Day and managed to name complete class photos from before the war.

“Recording the Names” International Workshop



Thirteen participants from six eastern and southern European countries attended the Fourth International Workshop on Documenting and Commemorating Holocaust Victims’ Names

held at Yad Vashem in September. During the workshop, co-sponsored by the Zantker Charitable Foundation Inc., representatives from Holocaust Museums and documentation and research centers and institutes presented paradigms for collecting and computerizing names of Holocaust victims, and discussed the establishment of standards and formats of data and knowledge exchange. Pictured: Prof. Ruvin Ferber (second from left), University of Latvia, and Inna Gerasimiva, The Jewish Museum, Minsk, receiving certificates of appreciation from Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham (right) and Cynthia Wroclawski, Outreach Manager of the Names Recovery Project (left), for their outstanding work in collecting and documenting Shoah victims’ names from their communities.

by Sara Berkowitz

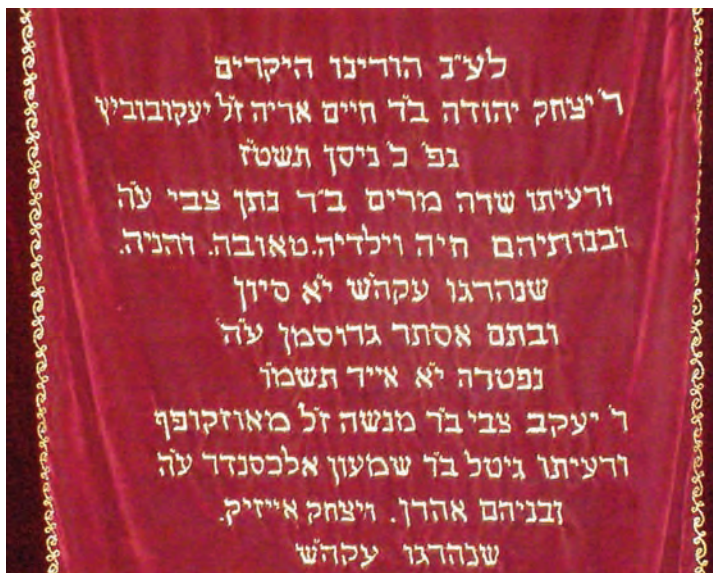
Throughout the generations, the Jewish nation has always commemorated its lost and beloved. But in the case of those who died in the Holocaust, most of whom have no grave or tombstone to bear their memory, the need to remember Holocaust martyrs—*Zichron Kadoshei Hashoah*—has become one of acute importance.

Over half a century ago, Yad Vashem initiated its mission to commemorate and recover the identities of each of the six million *Shoah* victims. While over two million victims have been memorialized on Pages of Testimony, throughout the years many other ways of remembering family members or friends murdered

Thus the project developed into a national 11th-hour effort to collect as many names as possible. Yad Vashem Directorate member Rabbi Dudi Zilbershlag, prominent businessman, publisher and philanthropist, suggested utilizing the help of “Maftach,” an organization headed by Rabbi Herschel Klein that seeks suitable employment opportunities for the ultra-orthodox population. “Maftach” (Key) was established by “Tevet”—a mutual project of the Joint (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and the Government of Israel.

The 10 candidates thus recruited began their investigative work in Tel

New Initiative in Names Recovery: “Zichron Kadoshei Hashoah”



Left: Parochet (Torah Ark curtain) from the Agudat Re'im Study Hall

Right: Dedication page from Safra Chadta – Encyclopedia of Jewish Festivals and Holidays

during the Holocaust have been used by individuals: names were written on memorial plaques, scrolls and in *Tizkor* books; monuments for destroyed communities were built; books were written and dedicated to the memory of Holocaust victims; and tombstones were engraved with the names of family members who had lost their lives.

“We realized that many names may be lost forever if they are not retrieved from these various means of commemoration,” explains Cynthia Wroclawski, Outreach Manager of the *Shoah* Victims’ Names Recovery Project, currently supported by hi-tech entrepreneur Yossie Hollander. “We therefore decided to focus on collecting names from memorial plaques, religious artifacts, tombstones and books, especially *Sefarim Toraniyim* (religious manuscripts). In the next stage, these names will be crosschecked on the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names, and those missing recorded for perpetuity.”

Equipped with digital cameras, a pilot crew went to synagogues and began to photograph the plaques, *Parochet* (Torah Ark curtains), books and various other objects on which dedications to Holocaust victims appeared. The pilot yielded thousands of names, many of which had not been previously recorded in the Names Database. The urgency of the project also became clear: due to renovations in a number of older buildings, many of the memorial plaques had been previously removed. Some of the synagogues had already been closed down, making the danger of losing the names even more critical.

Aviv, Haifa, Bnei B’rak and Jerusalem, and so far the campaign has resulted in the retrieval of more than 50,000 names. With time, they hope to reach every synagogue and cemetery in Israel. “The enthusiasm of so many people we meet is really encouraging,” said one staff member. “They wish to help us in any way possible, whether it is to hold the artifact so that the names can be clearly photographed, or to run home to find a book or a document to share with us a piece of whatever memory they may have of loved ones who died so tragically.” Furthermore, the earnest cooperation offered by organizations such as Ganzach Kiddush Hashem, a religious Holocaust archive headed by Rabbi David Skolsky, as well as many other individuals involved with the project, is tremendously valued.

“Sometimes the work can be unusual, whether climbing to get a better shot of a small plaque on the high ceiling of a synagogue chandelier or walking through graveyards in the searing sun checking the tombstones for possible names of Holocaust victims,” said another project worker. “Nevertheless, I feel so privileged to be part of this unique and special national mission to ensure that no Holocaust victim is forgotten.”

The author is Communities Outreach Coordinator, the Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project.

by Dr. Haim Gertner, Rachel F. Wanetik and Stephanie Kaye

Over the summer months, the International School for Holocaust Studies saw record-breaking activity in the field of teacher training:

Seminars for European Educators: "Values and concepts that affect us all"

A series of seminars for European educators was conducted over the summer, as part of the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education in Europe, run by Yad Vashem since 2005. Over 160 participants—including Hungarian journalists, French, British, Belgian, Spanish, Croatian, Lithuanian, Romanian, Scandinavian and Polish educators, as well as the 13th group from Austria—attended specialized courses and workshops during June-August 2007, all seeking to learn effective ways to educate their students about the Holocaust in their respective countries.

In addition, 64 participants from over 15 countries—including Liechtenstein, Greece, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Italy, Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark—attended two international graduate seminars, held by the European Department for alumni of previous courses at Yad Vashem. "The lessons we are learning go beyond the Holocaust," said Olexander Voitenko, from Ukraine. "The issue is values and the destruction of those values. We need to educate the students at younger ages because these concepts affect us all."

Graduate Seminars: "Diverse teaching techniques"

The graduate seminars presented a wide variety of topics and discussion groups, including a well-received panel discussion on "Theology and the Holocaust," with guest lecturers Rabbi Prof. Yehoyada Amir of the Hebrew University, Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway of Al-Quds University, Fr. Michael McGarry of the Tantur Ecumenical

Institute and Hieromonk Jovan Culibrk from the Jasenovac Committee of the Serbian Orthodox Church. "History and Memory" day concluded with survivor testimonies, which focused on lost identities.

International and Jewish Educators: "Teachers come with willing hearts"

Over the summer, the Department for Seminars in English and the Jewish World ran a record-breaking eight seminars for 250 educators from countries around the world,

Teachers participating in the Summer 2007 Seminar for Lithuanian educators



Educating the Educators

Participants were grateful to have access to such valuable primary accounts and plan on bringing pictures and commentaries of the speakers back to their classrooms. Dijana Dijanic, a public school history teacher in Croatia concluded: "My students are very inquisitive. This seminar has provided me with more diverse techniques for educating them about the *Shoah*."

including the FSU, Italy, Hungary, North America, France and South America. Some seminars were in the language of the country while the International and Jewish Educators seminars, as well the the Vladka Meed seminar, were conducted in English and included both Jewish and non-Jewish participants.

The central defining theme of all the courses was Holocaust and antisemitism education. Participants toured Israel, met survivors, learned

Echoes and Reflections: First Summer Institute at Yad Vashem

by Richelle Budd-Caplan

teaching methods based on Yad Vashem's educational philosophy, and heard lectures from the pre-eminent scholars in the field. Programs ran from 10-20 days each and without exception, educators left Yad Vashem with new materials and new visions for the classrooms and students. "I feel more of an attachment to the land, to the people of Israel, and to Judaism itself having spent these few weeks with you," wrote one participant. "I know that I will become a better instructor of Holocaust education."

"There is no question that a summer such as this is a tremendous challenge to the staff here, both physically and emotionally," says department Director Ephraim Kaye. "Some teachers are here for the first time and find the experience daunting. However, when we receive such positive feedback, we could not feel more satisfied. Our driving force is our commitment to the teachers who come with willing hearts, ready to learn," he concludes. "Thus are all our efforts repaid one hundred fold."

Second National Teachers Conference: "Opening a window to new questions"

For Israeli educators, the Second National Teachers Conference was the highlight of the academic year, with more than four hundred teachers gathering at Yad Vashem from across the country. For three days the participants—who represented a range of teaching backgrounds such as History, Literature, Judaism, Language and Art—attended lectures, seminars and workshops conducted by leading experts in the field and Yad Vashem specialists on subjects connected to the main theme: "Shoah and Identity." Topics included "Questions of Identity During the Holocaust," "The Holocaust as a Component of Israeli Identity," and "Shoah and Identity in Current Israeli Literature."

Participants were thrilled with both the content and the organization of the conference: "As a human being, a parent and of course a teacher, this conference opened a window to new questions I'd never thought of," said one of the participants. Agreed another, "I have been teaching for 40 years, and I've never experienced training as good as this."

Dr. Haim Gertner is the previous Director of Teacher Training, Rachel F. Wanetik is European Department Coordinator, and Stephanie Kaye is Coordinator of Seminars for Educators from Abroad at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

More than 40 educators from across the United States came to Yad Vashem in July to participate in a special seminar focusing on the *Echoes and Reflections* multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust. Organized in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education (SFI), the *Echoes and Reflections* Summer Institute sought to enhance and supplement the seminar participants' understanding

of key content in the curriculum through tours of the Yad Vashem museum complex and meetings with world-renowned researchers and pedagogical experts. *Echoes and Reflections* was jointly developed by the ADL, SFI and Yad Vashem (www.echoesandreflections.org). Since its launch in July 2005, several thousand teachers have been trained on how to use this resource material in their classrooms.

The Summer Institute's opening ceremony took place in Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities, with the participation of the curriculum's benefactor Yossie Hollander, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, National Director of the ADL Abraham H. Foxman, and Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. "The *Echoes and Reflections* project serves as a model of how three major international organizations can come together and create path-breaking educational materials, combining the best pedagogical tools, visual history and historical accuracy," said Avner Shalev. "As misinformation about the Holocaust and antisemitism spread through the Internet, it is vitally important that teachers have the tools to provide accurate information in the classroom and beyond."

During the weeklong seminar hosted by the International School, participants had an opportunity to listen to survivor testimonies (including one from Abraham H. Foxman), tour the Yad Vashem campus, focus in depth on lessons covered by the *Echoes and Reflections* curriculum, review new educational methods and expand on other relevant topics.

Participants were enthusiastic about the Institute. "What a great way to learn!" remarked William Howe, an education consultant for multicultural education, gender equity and civil rights at the Connecticut State Department of Education. "Our lecturers have been first rate and the invaluable knowledge gained will add great credibility to our work on Holocaust education in the future." Jenny Betz, Project Director at the WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute, and an *Echoes and Reflections* trainer (ADL, Los Angeles) noted, "Although the subject matter was emotionally heavy, I always felt safe and at home while at Yad Vashem. This program was a long time in the making, and to me, ended up perfect."

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

New on  www.yadvashem.org/education

Teacher Training Online

By Na'ama Shik

Over the past few years, the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies has invested numerous resources in its online teacher training courses, which have been greeted with much enthusiasm by teachers around the world. The latest courses—planned for the coming academic year—expand on this popular method of learning, and include a repetition of the already successful Hebrew-language course: *Where Memory Ends, Imagination Begins – the Holocaust through the Prism of Hebrew Literature and Poetry*. This unique course looks at the Holocaust through works of prose, poetry and drama produced by veteran Israelis, Holocaust survivors and the next generations, providing a framework for discussion of major issues related to Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust.

Two new courses are currently being prepared for early 2008. *The Holocaust in Israeli Society* (currently in Hebrew only) will honor the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding, and is devoted to the role of survivors in Israeli society. The second curriculum, in Hebrew and English, will focus on the topic of children during the Holocaust. Topics planned for discussion will cover the spectrum of children's wartime experiences and will, naturally, relate to such issues as family, parenting, and teaching during the Holocaust period. As with other online courses, both new programs will draw extensively on Yad Vashem's archival material, with a special emphasis on the voice of the individual, including survivor testimonies.

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

The author is Director of the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



Photo: courtesy William Howe

“ We Germans started World War II and therefore we are guiltier than others of having brought immeasurable suffering upon humankind. In malicious revolt against the will of God, we murdered millions of Jews. Even those among us who opposed this and survived did not do enough to prevent the sin. Peace has not yet come because we have not been active enough in reconciliation.”

From “We Are Seeking Peace,”
Evangelical Church Synod, 1958

measure for Germany’s actions during the war. (Kreyssig had been removed from his judgeship for publicly protesting the “euthanasia” program.) His idea was to send young volunteers to do good deeds in victim countries, beginning with Poland, the USSR and Israel. Though they knew this was at best an incomplete gesture, Kreyssig and his colleagues saw the efforts as a step towards reconciliation, and then to peace. Further, the religious connotation of the organization’s name was also meant to rectify the lengthy tradition of

volunteers and promoting their activities nationwide.

However, the 1967 Six-Day War changed much of their early identification with Israel. The organization was now faced with the dilemma of trying to balance its commitment to the country with the impact of “pacifist” leanings, influenced by the German Left, which increasingly identified with the Palestinian cause. As such, ARSP activities broadened to include what it viewed as “victims of oppression.” In Israel, projects for the Arab

Confronting

New research on German efforts at reconciliation since WWII

A visitor to Yad Vashem, senior citizen residences or other institutions in Israel might find young Germans hard at work. Many of these volunteers come through *Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste* (Action Reconciliation Service for Peace; ARSP), established in Germany after WWII. In an eye-opening article in the new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (Vol. 35, no. 2), Israeli historian Lilach Marom tells the story of this unique organization and its decades of activity in Israel. It is a complex story filled with tense periods and challenging issues, alongside a deep yearning to atone for the past.

The ARSP was founded by Lothar Kreyssig, a Lutheran minister and former judge in Nazi Germany, with the goal of atoning in some



German students Vitali Markov and Fritzi Haller with Holocaust survivors they befriended while volunteering at Yad Vashem

Christian enmity for Judaism. Thus, its leaders also played a role in the first efforts at Christian-Jewish dialogue.

Although the organization was founded in 1958, Israel’s reluctance to host German volunteers delayed their arrival until late 1961, in the wake of the Eichmann trial. Many of these early volunteers had been children during the war, and now sought to make penance for their parents’ actions. Their first activities revolved around construction, and later social action, helping survivors and other disadvantaged communities. Their presence on *kibbutzim* around the country sparked a range of feelings among the Israeli public, foremost the survivors, whose reactions varied from cautiously welcoming to overtly hostile. However, their presence was facilitated by members of the *Freundeskreis* (friendship circle)—a group of Israeli intellectuals of German origin, who aided the ARSP by hosting

population were undertaken, while the organization became more critical of Israeli policies. The notion of “the victims’ victims” offended many Israelis as well as the ARSP’s early supporters, and resulted in mounting tension.

The 1980s saw greater organizational moderacy, reflected in the profile of its new volunteers, many of whom simply sought personal development and an acquaintance with new cultures. At the same time, the ARSP also played an important role in shaping the German agenda regarding its Holocaust past. However the first Gulf War and German reunification caused another major problem for the ARSP. Caught between its commitment to Israel and the German peace movement’s opposition to the American-led attack on Iraq, the organization decided to bring all its volunteers in Israel home. This sparked a profound crisis within the organization and with its Israeli interlocutors, which only recently



resolved itself through a new emphasis on the multinational volunteering model (the first Israeli began his volunteer duty in 2002).

Despite its rocky history, Marom points out that the ARSP has had a very positive long-term effect on its thousands of volunteers. A 1990s study revealed a heightened commitment to social justice and tolerance among ex-volunteers, as well as greater sociopolitical awareness. A large number also fostered a continuing relationship with the organization

and its activities, significantly influencing many of their career choices. For those who volunteered in Israel, their continued close relations with the country and involvement in Jewish-Christian groups, their political and social involvement regarding the Middle East conflict, and their devoted activity at Holocaust remembrance and commemorative sites are especially noteworthy. A few even converted to Judaism or took up permanent residence in Israel.

How the organization will develop in the future cannot be predicted, but its ability to constantly renew its mission has resulted in an undeniable impact on reconciliation between the two peoples. Moreover, the contribution of its volunteers to society is palpable and, for the foreseeable future, the organization shows no sign of slowing down.

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

the Past



Denis Maier: Friends envious of the chance to volunteer in Israel

by Dr. Noa Mkayton

For years they have been part of the team of the International School for Holocaust Studies: volunteers at the desk for German-speaking countries. At home they are often politically active, fighting extreme radicalism, antisemitism and xenophobia, and participating in the political life of their respective universities. For some, the Holocaust has fascinated them ever since school, and Yad Vashem is often not the first memorial site they have visited.

But for many of the young students, the decision to come to Israel is not always wholeheartedly supported. Manja, who came from Berlin last summer explains: “My friends understand or share my interest in Israel and the remembrance of the Holocaust, but some asked if I was scared, especially during the war with Lebanon. However the information we sent to Germany comforted them.” Adds Denis Maier from Freiburg University: “My friends were envious I had a chance to volunteer in Israel.”

German students volunteer at Yad Vashem

In addition to reassuring their families and friends, the students have to find ways to finance their trip. Some are lucky. The Rotary Club awarded Eva’s excellent final exam results with a special scholarship. Manja managed to get financial aid from the *Hans-Boeckler-Foundation*, and Vitali from Konstanz University is supported by the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* (Students’ Foundation by the German People). Nina, from Aachen, took a loan from her parents, but most of the students, like Denis, had to work to support their stay.

So what do the young academics take home from Yad Vashem? Nina muses, “I have hardly ever had the feeling of doing such a satisfying job. Working to keep the memory of the *Shoah* alive, to struggle to give the victims a name, to debate how to accomplish all this is very important to me. As a German I felt challenged by the change of perspective, from the collective remembrance of a nation of perpetrators to the deeper insight of that of the victims. Moreover, you have a more direct confrontation: in Yad Vashem, non-Jewish seminar participants are faced with the memory of the survivors. The resulting discussions and conflicts were a real didactic experience for me.”

Manja also highlights this change of outlook. “The Valley of Communities showed me the magnitude of the expulsion and murder of the Jews. The stones that mark the extinction of the Jewish community of my hometown of Berlin had an especially strong impact. Once, a young Jew from the US asked me to take a picture of him next to the ‘Berlin stone,’ and he put on a *kippa* just for the picture. At that moment, I felt that Jews all over the world—even three or four

generations after the *Shoah*—still feel the pain of the loss. I, too, feel sad and sometimes angry, but I don’t feel the pain of personal loss. That is something completely different.”

The experience has helped Eva enrich her academic studies, finding a topic for her final thesis. Apart from that, she believes, Yad Vashem offers a whole new angle with its focus on the individual story of the victims. “Since my time at Yad Vashem, I feel even more sensitive when it comes to antisemitism and racism.” For Anika, whose internship was part of the *Action Reconciliation Service for Peace* [ARSP – see main article], the encounters with survivors were invaluable. “It’s so impressive, how they find the strength to talk to people about their past,” she says. “And it was remarkable to meet them personally, to see them in their daily life. These were inestimable moments and a precious experience.”

On a practical level, the volunteers help the European Department by conducting archive searches, editing, translating, and helping organize the many seminars.

However, for everyone—the staff at the School, the survivors that visit, and the European educators who attend the seminars—the benefits are far greater: young Germans who can combine idealism with reason, open-mindedness with critical judgment, personal contact with academic reserve. As one student summed up, “In order to find a connection with yourself, you have to meet others, and if you meet others, the most important thing is to give... and you have to give a lot, and listen.”

The author is Head of the Desk for the German-Speaking Countries at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

by Yehudit Shendar and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

Under assumed identities, two-year-old Ingrid Deutsch and her grandmother, Regina Braunstein, had spent 18 months in hiding with a Catholic family in Florenville, a town in the Belgian province of Luxembourg. The two had had no word of Ingrid's parents, Fela and Carol Deutsch, for over a year. In the last postcard he sent, for Ingrid's fourth birthday in the winter of 1943, Carol had written, "Father is very proud that his Ingrid is being such a good, sweet little girl. Love and kisses, Daddy." Carol and Fela were detained by the Gestapo and sent to the Mechelen transit camp.

From Father to Daughter

The Illustrated Bible of Carol Deutsch



Above: Carol Deutsch (1894-1944),
Ornamented wooden box
for storing Bible illustrations,
Antwerp, 1941-1942

Opposite: Carol Deutsch (1894-1944),
"A ladder set up on the earth"
(Genesis 28:12), 1941-1942

Ingrid and Regina returned home to Antwerp in early 1945, after Belgium had been completely liberated from German occupation. A long time passed before they obtained information about Ingrid's parents. The tidings were bitter: Fela and Carol Deutsch had been deported on Transport B22 in September 1943 from Mechelen to Auschwitz, where Fela was murdered. Carol had been transferred to Sachsenhausen and from there to Buchenwald, where he had died of exhaustion in December 1944.

When Regina and her granddaughter arrived at their apartment on Consciencestraat, they discovered that the Nazis had confiscated their furniture and valuables as part of the *Möbelaktion*, a campaign of systematic looting designed to transfer stolen Jewish property to German hands. However, miraculously one item was left untouched: a large, meticulously crafted, wooden box adorned with a Star of David and a seven-branched *menorah*. The box's Hebrew and English inscription testified to its contents: a collection of biblical illustrations labored over by the artist Carol Deutsch during a period of 12 months between 1941 and 1942. Under the stressful conditions of curfew and persecution, the artist had produced an oeuvre that proudly affirmed his Jewish identity—a patrimony he devoted to his young daughter.

The 99 strikingly painted gouaches depict the biblical scenes with a unique iconography and palette, reflecting the artist's boldness and originality. The illustrations combine Art Nouveau ornamentation with stylistic influences of the Bezalel School, echoes of Deutsch's 1936 visit to the Land of Israel. In contrast to many other European artists, Deutsch places his biblical figures in their native settings, illuminated by the special light of the Holy Land.

Carol Deutsch was a disciple of the well-known Belgian painter James Ensor, and was particularly noted for his portraiture and townscapes executed in a naïve style. In his youth, Deutsch had received an Orthodox Jewish education. Before the German occupation, he had served as president of the Jewish community in the seaside resort of Oostende, on Belgium's northern coast. Recently tracked-down

letters suggest that Deutsch, in the framework of his official duties, doggedly strove to preserve Jewish tradition and strengthen Jewish education.

The biblical series found in the Antwerp apartment was Deutsch's most significant work on Jewish themes. The paintings abound in subjects, symbols and motifs drawn from Jewish sources, and reflect a deep commitment to the tradition of Torah study at the literal, exegetic and mystical levels.

The biblical illustrations Deutsch bequeathed to his daughter exhibit exceptional vitality and constitute a stalwart expression of defiance to everything for which the Nazis stood. This father's intimate and intellectual bequest to his daughter, donated to and displayed at Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art is thus instilled in the collective legacy. Here, visitors can appreciate the illustrations' artistic quality first hand and grasp the power of the Jewish spirit and tradition that inspired them.

Yad Vashem will soon be publishing a luxurious portfolio of Deutsch's biblical illustrations, with the generous support of Mr. Mikhail Bezelianski.

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



12 Million ITS Documents Transferred to Yad Vashem

On 20 August, some 12 million documents from the Red Cross International Tracing Service (ITS) archives at Bad Arolsen, Germany were transferred to Yad Vashem. The material was handed over by Michael Hoffmann, IT System Administrator of the ITS (below left), to Michael Lieber, CIO of Yad Vashem (right). This follows a decision by the ITS International Commission to permit the transfer, on embargo, of material to archives in the member states, to allow them to prepare the groundwork for making the material available to the public. The embargo will be lifted only when all 11 member states have completed the ratification process.

The documents primarily include material describing concentration camp prisoners: personal records of various prisoners in the Nazi camps, as well as lists prepared within the camps themselves, including transfer records, personal prisoner accounts, and details of the sick and the dead. In total, the ITS archives contain information on some 17.5 million individuals. Copies of some 20 million pages of documentation from Bad Arolsen have been contained in Yad Vashem's Archives since the 1950s.

“Over the years, Yad Vashem has amassed a great deal of experience and knowledge in digitizing archival information and making it user friendly,” said Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem. “However, the material we have now received is complex and vast, taken from a number of camps, which is organized in complicated and varying ways. We expect it will take a lot of resources to sift through and catalogue the material. As a first step, we are checking which material supplements or compliments that which Yad Vashem already received from Bad Arolsen.”

Digital copies of more material are expected to arrive at Yad Vashem towards the end of this year, as well as in 2008 and 2009.



Antisemitism/Anti-Zionism Exhibit Opens in Berlin

A new exhibit on current antisemitic trends opened at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin on 1 August 2007. Produced by Yad Vashem and the Center for Antisemitism Studies at the Technical University of Berlin, and supported by the German Center for Political Education (Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung), “Antisemitism? Anti-Zionism? Criticism of Israel?” explores current antisemitic trends in Europe. The exhibit comprises some 45 panels divided into 13 chapters, beginning with a



Photo: Michal Milosnki

review of the diversity of Jewish life and a brief history of antisemitism, and then focusing on examples of antisemitic expressions over the past decade. “Classic” religious-based antisemitism of the extreme Christian right is presented side by side with the newer antisemitism that is often mixed with extreme anti-Israel sentiment and the violent language of Islamists and the radical left. The trivialization and denial of the Holocaust—now a mainstay of antisemites—and its use as a rhetorical weapon are examined as well. The exhibit also looks at current expressions of antisemitism in the European media through caricatures and photos, together with violent antisemitic attacks on the continent.

Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office Gernot Erler addressed the opening ceremony, together with Prof. Wolfgang Benz, Director of the Center for Antisemitism Studies at TU Berlin, and Director of the European Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Doron Avraham. In advance of the opening, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev said: “This exhibit is timely and important, and its display in Germany is significant. The exhibit illustrates how, 62 years after the Holocaust, antisemitism in Europe still exists, and that these insidious beliefs are alive and well, albeit in a new form. We must remain vigilant as antisemitism—whether classic, or in its current anti-Israel manifestation—attempts to make inroads and influence the young and the uninformed. Only through awareness and education can we hope to combat this alarming phenomenon. That is why I am pleased that this exhibit will travel throughout Germany, and hopefully to other countries in Europe as well.”

by Liat Benhabib

Steal a Pencil for Me – Winner of the Yad Vashem Chairman's Award, 2007

At the Jerusalem Film Festival's concluding ceremony in July, director Michèle Ohayon (left, with Avner Shalev and Lia van Leer, Founder and Director of the Jerusalem Cinematheque) received the Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award for a Holocaust-related film, endowed by Michael and Leon Constantiner, for her film *Steal a Pencil for Me* (2007).

The film tells the love story of Jack Polak, a 32-year-old unhappily married accountant, and young Ina Soep, through the intimate and sensitive letters they secretly sent to each other during their incarceration in the Westerbork Transit Camp. The couple's healing process after the war reveals their resilience. “I'm a special Holocaust survivor,” says Jack. “I was in the camps with my wife and my girlfriend. And believe me, it wasn't easy.”

“The expression of simple feelings in such a terrible reality captivated me,” explains Ohayon. “Jack and Ina's love story, in the context of historical events, enables a large audience to deal with the difficult issues and archival images of the Holocaust. For me, this has been a special five-year journey.”

Yad Vashem's Visual Center plans to hold a gala screening of *Steal a Pencil for Me* this November. The event will also launch the publication of *Broken Silence*, written by two of Jack's sisters, Betty Bausch and Elisheva Auerbach, about their experiences during and after the war.

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



How Should We Understand the Shoah?

The Approach and Impact of Prof. Raul Hilberg (1926-2007)

by Prof. Dan Michman



Raul Hilberg, z"l

Raul Hilberg, professor of political science at the University of Vermont, Burlington, USA, passed away on 4 August. While he was undoubtedly one of the world's most influential scholars in the field, his relationship with Israeli Holocaust research was ambivalent.

After fleeing Vienna to the US in 1939, Hilberg served in the US army at the end of WWII and then joined the US War Documentation project, where he became intrigued by the bureaucracy of Nazi Germany. At that time, the term "Holocaust" was not yet in use, and the fate of the Jews was perceived as one—although perhaps the most extreme—of many atrocities carried out by the Nazis. The major question propelling Holocaust research in the initial post-war years was: How could a modern state and society turn into a barbaric though highly efficient slaughtering machine?

Hilberg expanded his Ph.D. thesis on the topic into what would become the masterly comprehensive study, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, published in 1961. Hilberg, a highly analytical scholar with vast knowledge and an outstanding memory, succeeded in elucidating the bureaucracy of a modern, well-developed state, which adapted itself to the vague goals set by the leader (Hitler). In his eyes, the bureaucracy turned into a "machinery of destruction" (a key term developed by Hilberg), which escalated the whole process through clear stages from vague beginnings to the enormous killing project symbolized by Auschwitz. From this perspective, the lesson of the *Shoah*—although applied on the Jews—was universal, and related to the dangers of the almost unlimited power and capability of bureaucracy of the centralized state, to which modern society should find balancing and control tools. With the rapid development of Holocaust research as from the 1960s, Hilberg's book soon became a must in academic courses on the topic at universities. But in Israel the book was not so well received: neither Yad Vashem nor any other Israeli publisher agreed to publish a Hebrew edition. The reason was not the quality of the work—it was evaluated as the best comprehensive study to date—but Hilberg's generalizing evaluation of the Jewish "reaction pattern" of "automatic compliance" vis-à-vis the Nazis, especially the behavior of the *Judenräte* (Jewish Councils), which he viewed as a cog in the destruction machine.

Nevertheless, Hilberg contributed to Yad Vashem publications and was invited to Yad Vashem several times, most recently to its international conference on Holocaust historiography (2004). His concluding lecture was attended by some 500 people (and is available as a podcast on the Yad Vashem website). Immediately afterwards, Yad Vashem decided—together with several universities and research institutions—to finally undertake the translation of Hilberg's book, and he responded enthusiastically. He constantly made updates, and replied to questions raised by the Yad Vashem experts; the Hebrew version, ready in the coming year, will therefore be the most updated and precise. Unfortunately, he will not be able to be present at the closing of the circle, to which he so much looked forward.

The author is Yad Vashem's Chief Historian.

Kasztner Archives Presented to Yad Vashem

On Sunday 22 July, Yad Vashem was presented with the private archives of Dr. Israel Kasztner and the Dov Dinur archival collection.

Dr. Israel (Rezso) Kasztner was an attorney, journalist and one of the leaders of the Zionist movement in Hungary during WWII. As the co-chairman of the Relief and Rescue Committee, Kasztner aided Jewish refugees who reached Hungary during the first years of the war. In April 1944, a month after the German invasion, the Committee began discussions with the Nazis in order to rescue Hungarian Jews in exchange for money, goods and military equipment. These negotiations took place under the shadow of the deportations of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews to the death camps. In June 1944, the "Kasztner Train" traveled to Bergen-Belsen and eventually on to safety in Switzerland where the 1,684 Jews on the train found refuge. The negotiations also resulted in the deportation of 20,000 Hungarian Jews to an Austrian labor camp, preventing their impending expulsion to extermination camps.


In 1954, Kasztner was publicly accused of collaborating with the Nazis, and a libel suit ensued. Kasztner was assassinated in 1957, a year before the Israeli Supreme Court cleared his name and overturned the judgment against him. The Kasztner archives include original historical documents pertaining to correspondence that took place between private parties and Jewish and non-Jewish institutions, as well as papers documenting the rescue efforts of the Relief and Rescue Committee in Budapest. In 1981, the archives were given to the historian Dov Dinur to aid in his research on Kasztner and the Kasztner Affair (Trial). These papers, along with other original material that Dinur collected while researching the subject, were formally presented to Yad Vashem at a ceremony that took place in the Yad Vashem Auditorium with the participation of Dov Dinur, Kasztner family members and "Kasztner Train" survivors and their children.

Yad Vashem's website wins WebiAward for the second time

For the second consecutive year, Yad Vashem's website has won People and Computer Magazine's Special Category WebiAward. The award ceremony in July was attended by CIO of Yad Vashem Michael Lieber, Website Content Manager Dana Porath, International School of Holocaust Studies Internet Department Director Na'ama Shik and website graphic designers Einat Berlin and Limor Davidovich.

Yad Vashem's Internet site is unique for its multi-dimensional and continually updated content. The website is made up of Yad Vashem's extensive databases and resources, some of which, such as the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, are fully accessible on the site, while others are in the process of being made accessible online. The site also includes educational and interactive content, online exhibits, scholarly material, podcasts and more. During 2006, the website was visited by 4.5 million people. An upward trend is already apparent for 2007, with an expected seven million visitors from over 220 countries.

At the ceremony, Lieber said: "The website is an exceedingly complex one, in terms of the variety of content, the wide-ranging target audience, and the emotional significance of the information and subject matter on the site. We are honored to receive this award for the second year in a row."

New on the Web 
www.yadvashem.org

by Dana Porath

New Online Exhibition "Spots of Light: Women in the Holocaust"

In conjunction with the "Spots of Light" exhibition currently on display in the Exhibitions Pavilion, an accompanying online exhibit has been recently prepared for the Yad Vashem website. Just as in the original exhibition, photos and testimonies accompany explanatory texts on all topics of womanhood, including love, motherhood, friendship, faith, food and the arts.

Reading Between the Lines: Rescue in Hungary and Israel Kasztner

A new addition to the popular "Reading Between the Lines" feature, which highlights items related to publications about the Holocaust, is a focus by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr.

Robert Rozett on rescue attempts in Hungary and the Hungarian Zionist leader and co-chairman of the Budapest Relief and Rescue Committee, Israel (Rezso) Kasztner. The recent arrival of Kasztner's personal archive at Yad Vashem (see left) and the controversy surrounding the topic makes this a timely and fascinating look at a subject that continues to spark interest among scholars and historians alike.

The author is the Yad Vashem Website Content Manager.

Events July-September 2007

The “History, Music and Memory” concert was held on 3 August with students from the Beit Theresienstadt International Master Classes, under the musical direction of Dr. Dudu Sela. The concert included pieces by composers from the Theresienstadt ghetto who perished in the Holocaust, as well as by those whose works were prohibited by the Nazis.



A memorial event marking 65 years since the murder of Janusz Korczak, Stefania Wilczynska and the children was held on 6 August at Janusz Korczak Square, with the participation of former children of his orphanage, members of the Janusz Korczak Association,

and members of the Machanot HaOlim youth movement. Poland’s Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mrs. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska (third from right), and a former child from Korczak’s orphanage, Yitzhak Skolka (second from right), laid a wreath in Korczak’s memory.

On 8 August a ceremony was held honoring the late **Theodor Criveanu of Romania as Righteous Among the Nations**. Criveanu was an attorney who was called up for reserve duty and secretly issued numerous residence permits to Jews of the Czernowitz ghetto, thereby saving them from deportation to Transnistria. The certificate and medal were presented by Director of the Department for the Righteous Among the Nations Irena Steinfeldt (right) to Criveanu’s son Zeev Criveanu of Johannesburg (left).



The “*Mashiv HaRuach: From Safed to Jerusalem*” concert, supported by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, was held on 12 August in the Valley of the Communities, marking 40 years since the reunification of Israel’s capital city. Under the artistic direction of maestro Giora Feidman, 55 Israeli, American, German, French and Romanian musicians—students at Safed’s International Clarinet and Klezmer Seminar—performed pieces of Jewish soul music, songs that have accompanied the Jewish people throughout the ages.



The annual memorial ceremony for the Jews of Rhodes who perished in the Holocaust was held on 16 August, in cooperation with the National Association for the Heritage of the Jews of Rhodes in Jerusalem. The event featured addresses by Yitzhak Navon, the fifth

President of the State of Israel and current Chairman of the National Authority for Ladino Culture; Colette Avital, Deputy Chair of the Knesset and Chair of the Knesset Lobby for Holocaust Survivors; Prof. Dan Michman, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem; Mario Suriano, Chairman of the National Association for the Heritage of the Jews of Rhodes; and Rhodes native Yehudit Taragan.

The annual memorial event marking 66 years since the murder of the Jews by the Nazis in Ukrainian territory—victims of the massacres carried out at Babi Yar, Bogdanovka, Drobitzky Yar and neighboring areas—was held on 19 September in the presence of the Minister of Immigrant Absorption Yaakov Edri; Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid; Ukrainian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Ihor Tymofieiev; Jewish Agency Treasurer Hagai Merom; and Chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel David Levin.



New on the Shelf

Luigi Fleischmann, *From Fiume to Navelli: A Sixteen-Year-Old’s Narrative of the Fleischmann Family and Other Free Internees in Fascist Italy, September 1943 - June 1944*

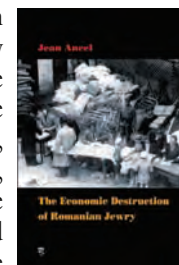
Luigi Fleischmann’s diary documents a little-known aspect of the Holocaust: the plight of Jewish “free internees” in Italy during WWII. Originally handwritten in Italian, the young teenager relates the conditions under which internees—Jews and others—lived; their relationships with the natives as well as the local fascist and German forces; and their worsening plight following the collapse of Mussolini’s government. The lucid descriptions are enhanced by outstanding drawings of the area and events of the time, pen-etched by the author on the back of special postcards provided by the Italian government for civilian internees. Luigi’s participation in dangerous partisan activities, his fluctuating moods and the



colorful personalities of his family, friends, POWs and the villagers depicted within the diary have all created an outstanding human and unique piece of history.

Jean Ancel, *The Economic Destruction of Romanian Jewry*

This new fascinating research reveals the way in which the Romanian regime systematically plundered Jewish assets in the name and to the benefit of the state and its National Bank. The violent plundering campaign of businesses, buildings, apartments and money, accompanied by threats, terror, torture and murder occurred before, during and after the mass murder campaigns in Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transnistria. The need to justify the disappearance of these Jewish assets eventually led to the establishment of commissions of inquiry, resulting in the disclosure of secret orders and oral instructions that the Romanian regime thought would never come to light.



RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex (center), visited Yad Vashem on 7 September. Following his tour of the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Dr. Robert Rozett (back right), the Prince visited the tree planted in honor of his grandmother Princess Alice, who was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1993, for rescuing the Cohen family in Greece during the Holocaust. The tree was planted by her son HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in 1994.



Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi (center) visited Yad Vashem on 9 July and was accompanied through the Holocaust History Museum by Avner Shalev (right).



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 27 June, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer (right) was guided through the Museum by Director of the International Relations Department's English-speaking Desk David Metzler (left).



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 11 September, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner (right) toured the Children's Memorial and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance. He was accompanied by Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan (center) and Director of the French, Benelux and Scandinavian Desk Miry Gross (left).



After touring the Holocaust History Museum and Hall of Names (pictured) on 14 August, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso visited the tree of Righteous Among the Nations Chiune-Sempo Sugihara, consul of Japan in Kovno during WWII.



During his tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 3 September, H.E. Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, Chancellor of Austria (right) was guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (left).



Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic Jan Kubis visited Yad Vashem on 10 July, and was guided through the campus by Senior Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division Yehudit Shendar.

New at the Museum: Guided Tours in French; Audio Guide in Russian

In addition to its daily tours in English and Hebrew, Yad Vashem is now offering guided tours of the Holocaust History Museum in French. The tours depart from the Visitors' Center every Sunday and Friday at 11:00 and last approximately two-and-a-half hours. The cost of the tour is NIS 30 (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.

The popular personal audio guide for the Museum, which has been running for the last few months in Hebrew, English, French and Spanish, is now also available in Russian thanks to the generous support of Mr. Mikhail Bezeliansky. The guide provides explanations for some 80 displays at the Museum, as well as professionally narrated background information, original music selections, historical summaries and speeches from the Holocaust period, and survivor testimonies. The audio guide may be rented at the Visitors' Center, near the information and group tour desks, for a fee of 15 NIS per person. Groups may rent the audio guide at a discount rate of 12 NIS per person.

Dorit Harel ז"ל

Yad Vashem expresses its great sorrow over the recent passing of Dorit Harel, ז"ל, designer of the interior of the Holocaust History Museum, for which she received the 2006 Design Prize. Harel—a world-renowned designer—was involved in many projects and exhibitions in Israel and abroad, most recently the “Eyes” exhibition, which displayed 350 pairs of eyes, including those of Holocaust victims taken from the upper cone of the Hall of Names she designed situated at the end of the Holocaust History Museum.

Yad Vashem extends its condolences to Dorit's family and friends. May her memory be blessed.



Dorit Harel, ז"ל, at the cornerstone laying ceremony for the new Hall of Names, September 1999

WORLDWIDE Friends

USA

On 7 August, an AIEF-sponsored group of congressmen led by Representative Eric Cantor (R-Va, left) visited Yad Vashem. Joining the group were Yad Vashem Benefactors **Dr. Miriam** and **Sheldon G. Adelson** (right) and Yad Vashem friends from Boston **Teddy Benard-Cutler** and **Irwin Chafetz** (second and third from left). The Adelsons were honored with rekindling the Eternal Flame in a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



On 17 August, **Rachel Braun Scherl** and Cantor **Zev Scherl** of New Jersey (left) led a large delegation of family and friends on a tour of Yad Vashem, which included a moving ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. Joining the delegation were their good friends **Jane** and **Mark Wilf** (right), national leaders in the UJC and members of Yad Vashem's family of Benefactors.



On the same day, Yad Vashem hosted **Rose** (not pictured) and **Phil Friedman** (right) of New York for a special tour of the new campus. They were greeted by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev** (left) and by their good friend and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Sheldon G. Adelson** (center).



During a visit with his family, Yad Vashem Builder **Harvey Krueger** (right) toured the "No Child's Play" exhibition with two of his grandchildren, and met with **Avner Shalev** (left).

Yad Vashem Builders **Michael** and **Patricia Jacobs** of California (left) toured the Holocaust History museum together with **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), Managing Director of the International Relations Division.



During his special tour of Yad Vashem, **Fred Lafer**, President of the **Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation**, located the memorial to **Wysocko**, the town of his ancestors, engraved in the Valley of the Communities.



In June, a UJC Family Mission from Miami and North Dade County arrived at Yad Vashem for a special tour of the campus. **Shaya Ben Yehuda** met with mission leaders **Ariel Bentata** (right) and Yad Vashem supporter **Paul Kruss** (center). Joining the mission were Yad Vashem Builders **Simon** and **Diana Mundlak** (not pictured.)



In July, a *bar mitzvah* mission of the **Mashadi Jewish Community** visited Yad Vashem. All the *bonei mitzvah* participated in an emotional ceremony in the Synagogue where they were presented with certificates.

Yad Vashem supporters **Beryl Grace** and **Jonathan Rosenberg** of California visited the Holocaust History Museum in August, along with family and friends. The Grace-Rosenberg Family Foundation is sponsoring the English translation of *The Story of Marta*.



In August, **Harry Gross** (left) of New York visited Yad Vashem with friend **Amnon Damti** (right) and toured the Holocaust History Museum led by guide **Yona Kobo** (center).



Jimmy and Lidia Resnick of Miami visited Yad Vashem in June for a moving tour of the Holocaust History Museum and campus.



Sandra and Steven Finkelman of Houston (front right and back right) visited Yad Vashem in July together with their extended family for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum.

SPAIN



Aaron Benoliel (third from right) with his family during the unveiling of the plaque at the Square of Hope with Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) and **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (second from right)

SPAIN



Samy and Nina Cohen from Spain (left), **Isabel Gonzalez**, **Ana and Jacob Benbunan** (center) and **David Gonzalez** (right) during their visit to Yad Vashem

CANADA

New Director for Canadian Society

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem has appointed as its new Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, Adv. Executive Director of the Israel Society for Yad Vashem for the past decade, Ashkenazi is the first *shaliach* sent by Yad Vashem to work permanently abroad, and will be the first Israeli to fill this important position.



Before his departure, Ashkenazi spoke of his excitement at such an “extremely interesting and challenging opportunity. My family and I are delighted to be able to work and live in Canada, and are excited to get to know the Jewish community there,” he said. “It has been a real honor to have had the opportunity to help Yad Vashem complete its multiyear redevelopment plan while in Israel, and I am eager to continue to assist the institution in meeting the many challenges of the future.”

Sisters **Tami and Ruth Berman** recently endowed the **Chaim Fridman Teachers Scholarship Fund** in memory of their late father, ז"ל. The fund will



enable Canadian teachers to learn at the International School for Holocaust Studies. In August a moving unveiling took place with close members of the family.

AUSTRALIA

In July, **Jacov and Rita Weinberg** (second and third from left, with Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev**, left), together with **Dr. Alan Shell** and his daughter **Nathalie** (right), came to Yad Vashem for the dedication of the “Jerusalem Vista” endowed by their parents, **Ruth and Morris Shell**, in memory of their beloved families who perished in the *Shoah*.



VENEZUELA



Gisella Karpel (second from right) with her son **Dag** (left) and daughter **Judith** (second from left) and son-in-law (right) during their visit to Yad Vashem

MEXICO



During their visit to Yad Vashem, the **Wengrowsky** family (left) and **Attias** family (right) from Monterrey were accompanied by

Director of Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan**. Mr. Wengrowsky is the son of Yad Vashem Builder **Martin Wengrowsky** and **Mrs. Attias** is the daughter of Yad Vashem Benefactor **Salomon Marcuschamer**.



Eva (eighth from right) and **Bernardo** (fourth from left) **Lijtszain**, together with their family, attended an unveiling of the

plaque in the Square of Hope. The Lijtszains were accompanied by **Perla Hazan** (left) and **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (fifth from right).

Carlos (third from left) and **Tere** (third from right) **Metta**, **Fortuna Saade** (fourth from left) and **Vivian** and **Marcos Metta** (first and second from right) attended an unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the International School of Holocaust Studies, accompanied by **Avner Shalev** and **Perla Hazan**.

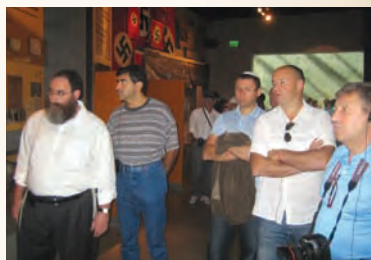


Moises and **Adela Saba** (left) and **Abraham Saba** together with the Saba children visited Yad Vashem in July, accompanied by **Perla Hazan** (right).

Alice (second from left) and **Elias** (second from right) **Massri** with their children during the unveiling of the plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope, with **Perla Hazan** and **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



RUSSIA



In September, the leaders of the **Jewish Community of St. Petersburg** visited Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem donor **Mikhail Bezeliensky** (center, with Development Associate **Dina Maslova**, left, and Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Arie Zuckerman**, right) visited Yad Vashem in September for the launching of the new Russian personal audio guide of the Holocaust History Museum as well as the new Russian-language version of the Yad Vashem Album *To Bear Witness*, both of which are generously supported by Mr. Bezeliensky.



Ivonne (second from right) and **Samuel** (second from left) **Geller** were presented with the Yad Vashem key in the presence of Director General of Yad Vashem **Nathan Eitan** (left), **Perla Hazan** (center) and **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).

UKRAINE

On 20 September, a delegation of the Ukrainian Jewish leadership and members of the **Ukrainian Society for Yad Vashem** arrived at the Mount of Remembrance for a special program and recognition ceremony, with the participation of **Brig. Gen. Amir Eshel**, Chief of Staff of the Israeli Air Force.

Pictured, left to right: member of the Board of Trustees Presidium **Yuriy Kiperman**, President of the Dnepropetrovsk Jewish Community **Genadiy Bogoliubov**, **Avner Shalev**, Chairman of the Dnepropetrovsk Jewish Community **Grigoriy Korol**, Chief Rabbi of Dnepropetrovsk **Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetzki**, members of the Board of Trustees **Olexander Dol'nik** and **Mark Shlyak**



WORLDWIDE Friends

GERMANY

New Chairperson for German Friends

In May 2007, **Hildegard Müller** was elected as the new Chairperson of the **German Friends of Yad Vashem** where she will continue in the footsteps of her predecessor, **Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth**. Ms. Müller began her career in politics in 1998, when she was elected to the Federal Directorate of the CDU of Germany. Since October 2002, she has been a member of the Bundestag, and in November 2005 she was appointed as State Minister at the Chancellor's Office. Since 2004, Ms. Müller has been a member of the Steering Committee of the German-Israeli Society, and has also served as Chairwoman of the German-Israeli Group of Parliamentarians in the Bundestag.



"The relationship between Germany and Israel is of great importance to me," she reflected as her term began. "I find tremendous significance in strengthening the ties between friends of Israel in German society and in the German parliament. One of our most important challenges is to develop—especially in the future generations—both the awareness of and the desire for special relations with Israel. In this regard, it is a critical challenge to keep the culture of *Shoah* remembrance alive, especially given the shrinking number of survivors and contemporary witnesses of the Holocaust. Yad Vashem works in an exemplary way to achieve these goals."

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

Earl Cox, a former media advisor to four American presidents, and **Ben Kinchlow**, the charismatic former co-anchor of the "700 Club," visited the new campus in July to learn more about Yad Vashem and its work



advancing Holocaust remembrance. Cox and Kinchlow host the popular radio show "Front Page Jerusalem," which aims to combat antisemitism and enlist Christian support for the State of Israel.

Left to right: Director of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Rev. Sam Clarke**, **Earl Cox**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **Ben Kinchlow**, and Development Associate of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Irit Bercovitz**.

Representatives of the **Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility and Future** visited Yad Vashem in both March and August. The Foundation supports educational programs conducted by the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Top, left to right: Program Director **Dr. Ralf Possekel** and Comptroller **Dirk Gerls** with Head of the School's German-speaking Desk **Dr. Noa Mkyatton**; bottom, left to right: Program Director **Dr. Gabriele Freitag** and Members of the Board of Directors **Dr. Martin Salm** and **Günter Saathoff**



ISRAEL

Yad Vashem expresses its great sorrow at the passing of **Yoram Berger ז"ל**, Chairman of the Israel Society for Yad Vashem since its founding in 1999. Over the years Yoram aided the Society considerably; he was particularly active in the Pages of Testimony collection mission. He also had a deep sense of connection to the Righteous Among the Nations project—an enterprise that was close to his heart and which reflected his recognition of the worth of the other and his love for humanity. At a concert held at Yad Vashem to mark 60 years since the end of WWII, Yoram committed himself to assisting with plans to establish a permanent campus for the Keshet Eilon Music Center.



Yad Vashem extends its sincere condolences to Yoram's wife Yehudit and their children Yehonatan, Nili and Nadav. May his memory be blessed.

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

To make tax deductible donations:

USA: American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10110

Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 1-212-220-4304

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

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

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

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



Yad Vashem seeks volunteers to manage the contact desk for visitors to the site: preference for speakers of foreign languages. Suitable candidates will undergo training.

Please send resumes to the Israel Society for Yad Vashem: Israel.society@yadvashem.org.il or by fax: 972-2-644 3419.

For further details, please call: 972-2-644 3417/8



1/6
 15 BRUX
 Mademoiselle
 Ingrid DRAPS
 Rue de France 8
 FLOREVILLE

L'OEUVRE DES BOUKS (RANGS)
 LES BIE SECOURS D'HIVER
 L'OEUVRE WINTERHILP

Lief Schattke,
 Vandaag zijt je een groot
 meisje van 4 jaar geworden
 Pappi zal heel konink zijn
 als Ingrid braaf en lief zal
 zijn.
 Veel dikke kusjes
 Pappi

Last postcard sent by the artist Carol Deutsch to his daughter Ingrid, Winter 1943 (pp. 10-11)