

# Yad Vashem JERUSALEM

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 48, WINTER 2008



## International Recognition for Yad Vashem (pp. 2-3)

**27 January: International Holocaust Remembrance Day** (pp. 6-7)

Published by:



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Production: Keter Press

Design: Stephanie & Ruti Design

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

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www.yadvashem.org  
ISSN 0793-7199

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Yad Vashem's activities are supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport the Claims Conference and the Jewish Agency for Israel

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Cover: The Yad Vashem delegation joins hands after receiving the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord from Spain's Crown Prince Felipe. Inset: Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who awarded Shalev the Legion of Honor.



## by Leah Goldstein

“ In its decision to bestow this award upon Yad Vashem, the Prince of Asturias Foundation has stood up and proclaimed that the struggle against the Nazi perpetrators must not be the struggle of one institution, one nation, or one religion. But rather humanity's shared struggle, in which Yad Vashem has assumed a central and leading role.”

From the speech of Avner Shalev accepting the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord

In an emotional and grand ceremony at the Campoamor Theatre in Oviedo, Spain at the end of October, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev accepted the prestigious international Prince of Asturias Award for Concord on behalf of Yad Vashem from Spain's Crown Prince Felipe.

The Prince of Asturias Award is presented in eight categories. The Award for Concord is bestowed 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.

In the presence of the Spanish royal family, Shalev was joined on stage by Holocaust survivors Felix Zandman, Max Mazin, Anna and Zygmunt Rotter,

David Azrieli, Mazaltov Mordoh, Jaime Vandor, Baruch Shub and Moshe HaElion, and Righteous Among the Nations Andrée Geulen-Herscovici, as well as Isaac Querub, President of the Spanish Society for Yad Vashem and Perla Hazan, Director of the International Relations Division's Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk. They were enthusiastically received by the audience who, at Yad Vashem's request, then stood for a moment of silence, to show their respect to the memory of those who perished during the Holocaust. Many friends and benefactors of Yad Vashem from around the world also attended the ceremony, including member of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Holocaust survivor Shoshana Weinshall and Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson.

In his acceptance speech, Avner Shalev recalled the personal story of Felix Zandman, who as a young man lost his entire family, and rebuilt his life. Shalev also saluted the Righteous Among the Nations, among them members of the Spanish nation, "outstanding individuals in whose honor a new concept in human civilization was coined." He spoke of the "shared mission... the triumph of tolerance over racism, love over hatred, and good over evil—not only the specific, unique historical Nazi evil, but also the persistent, rejuvenating evil of our own time, the evil of antisemitism, racism and xenophobia everywhere on earth."

The Prince of Asturias ceremony took place just

# International Recognition for Yad Vashem Prince of Asturias Award and Legion of Honor



*The Prince of Asturias Award Ceremony at the Campoamor Theatre in Oviedo, Spain. The Yad Vashem delegation sits on the left of the stage.*

one day after a special ceremony at the Elysee Palace in Paris, during which Shalev was personally awarded the *Légion d'Honneur* by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. In a moving and eloquent speech, Sarkozy—who noted that a visit to Yad Vashem prior to his election “changed his life”—remarked: “The Legion of Honor I present today is for you and for Yad Vashem, whose international reputation and importance are a result of your determined activity that is suffused with passion and inspiration.”

Avner Shalev was appointed Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate in 1993. From the beginning of his tenure, Shalev strived to redefine the direction and tools of Holocaust remembrance and education, introducing a far-reaching multiyear re-development plan that included opening an International School for Holocaust Studies, enlarging Yad Vashem’s archives, libraries and research facilities, and building a new Museum Complex. He is also Chief Curator of the Holocaust History Museum that opened in March 2005.

“France is a very important country; its culture, recognition and world status, its key role throughout history, its large Jewish community and the fact that the French president himself is devoting his precious time to grant me this award—all this is very significant,” Shalev said on receiving the honor. “I often think of my grandparents whom I never knew, of my mother’s tears each time she thought of her sisters who perished in the Holocaust... All this now comes together through the awareness that remembering the Holocaust is part of a greater culture, a global one. This award means that France believes that the activities of Yad Vashem, which I am privileged to lead, have significantly contributed to French, European and universal identity. This is very moving for me.”



*The Legion of Honor certificate presented to Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev*



by Leah Goldstein

“ More than any other place in the world, Yad Vashem is the natural repository for ITS material. Ultimately, our visit here will allow the material in Bad Arolsen to be put to the best and widest use possible.”

ITS Director Reto Meister at Yad Vashem, May 2007

In November 2007, the 11 member states of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) ratified a new agreement whereby scanned copies of the millions of WWII-related documents currently housed in Bad Arolsen, Germany will be released to the general public. This process will take place in a number of stages over the next three years, and will help survivors, members of the next generations, researchers and historians in their quest to discover more information about the war and its victims.

In light of this historic event, the new Director of Yad Vashem's Archives, Dr. Haim Gertner, was interviewed about Yad Vashem's long-standing relationship with the ITS, and how this new development will affect Holocaust remembrance and research in the coming years:

### What kind of information do Yad Vashem's Archives currently hold?

With some 75 million pages of documentation, Yad Vashem's archives comprise the largest collection of information on the Holocaust, as well as photographs, testimonies, Pages of Testimony and more. Sources of this information include documentation microfilmed by Israel in the mid-1950s at Bad Arolsen, Germany, in the central repository of the International Tracing Service (ITS) established at the end of WWII to help survivors trace missing relatives and friends.

### When did Yad Vashem first acquire documents from the ITS? Why?

In charging the ITS with its enormous task to help reunite families “torn apart by

war,” the Allies gathered all the documentation possible that pertained to individuals during WWII—including victims, deportations, concentration camps, forced labor and displaced persons. Since a large proportion of the ITS documentation included first-hand evidence of the fate of Jewish victims of Nazism, the Israeli government requested permission in the early 1950s to photograph the sections of the ITS collection relating to Jewish suffering during WWII. Permission was granted, and from June 1955-November 1957 a project was run by a team of experts at Yad Vashem to microfilm some 20 million pages of documents with information about Jewish victims, as well as items of specific Jewish interest, which were then placed for permanent storage in its archives. Thus Yad Vashem became the only place in the world other than Bad Arolsen to hold copies of ITS documentation. Over the years, Yad Vashem has also provided the ITS with copies of various collections in its archives.

### How has Yad Vashem helped with searches for information on Holocaust victims?

Over the past half century, Yad Vashem has amassed unrivaled research and technical skills, answering some 25,000 annual requests for information about Holocaust victims. As Yad Vashem held a copy of much of the ITS Holocaust-period documents, many people turned to us for information even if they knew the original source was in the ITS. Over the decades, experts here have thus helped thousands of members of the public in the

complicated search for information stored on these microfilms, as well as from other sources in our vast archives. Our Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names on Yad Vashem's website, visited by some seven million people in 2007, also holds much information on Holocaust victims.

### How is the material now being released different from what Yad Vashem already has?

Due to mounting public pressure to allow easier access to the vital documentation housed at Bad Arolsen, the International Commission of the ITS recently signed a new agreement whereby digital copies of the entire collection will be transferred to its 11 member states—Israel, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United



Dr. Haim Gertner: “Yad Vashem will continue to respond to each public enquiry with as comprehensive an answer as possible.”

States, Germany, Greece and Poland—over the next three years. Israel's representative to receive the documentation is Yad Vashem; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) is the repository in the US; and in Poland, the IPN (Institute of National Memory) will receive the copies. Much of this material duplicates what we already hold, but it also includes additional material collected in the last 50 years by the ITS as well as documents not copied at that time.

### What is the Central Names Index?

Among the ITS documents photographed by Yad Vashem in the 1950s were the 16 million reference cards that made up the so-called “Central Names Index” (CNI—previously known as the “Master Index”). Each of these cards bears information on every appearance of a person on any original document in the ITS, and a reference to that document. Over the years the number of these cards increased,

The International Committee of the ITS recently signed a new agreement whereby scanned copies of the entire archive will be transferred to its 11 member states - including Israel - over the next three years.



# Millions of Additional Documents from Germany Released to Yad Vashem

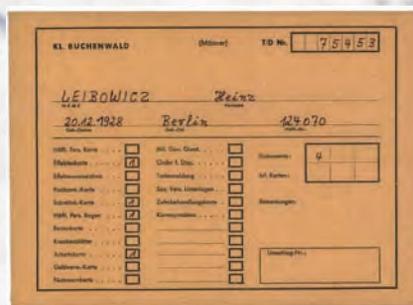
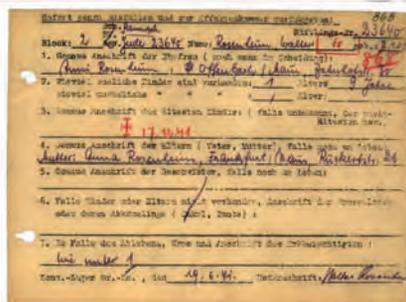
and Yad Vashem has recently received the complete collection—over 50 million cards.

Among the new material we will receive from the ITS is an updated, scanned and partially indexed version of the CNI. However, until Yad Vashem receives a full copy of all ITS material (expected by 2010) there will still be instances, mostly in cases of post-war documentation, where the original document a CNI card refers to will not be available here.

## How has Yad Vashem prepared for this new influx of material?

Even before all 11 member states had ratified the treaty, expert staff in our archives began to

lay the groundwork for the transfer of the material, including working with ITS staff to understand the systems and expertise required to ensure that survivors and researchers receive the information they need in a timely and efficient manner. In August 2007, the first portion of digital material from the ITS arrived at Yad Vashem. The documents we received 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.



Incarceration documents from the ITS collection

Yad Vashem is currently using its decades of expertise to discover which material supplements or complements what it already received from the ITS five decades ago, and to make the information in the digitized documents available in the most efficient way possible. Staff here is also being bolstered to attend to the influx of queries expected in the coming months, so that we can continue to respond to each public inquiry with as comprehensive an answer as possible, using the different sources in our archives.

## How can the ITS information help the Names Recovery Project?

Yad Vashem continues its mission to memorialize each individual Jew who perished in the Holocaust by recording their names, biographical details and photographs on Pages of Testimony. To date, some 3.3 million names are digitized and documented in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, but millions are still unknown. Archival experts at Yad Vashem are working to glean more names from the wealth of information contained in the ITS documents.

While the addition of the ITS information to our archives will create an unrivaled Holocaust repository, many victims who were never listed in any archival source will remain unnamed, unless those who remember them submit Pages of Testimony on their behalf. Yad Vashem is therefore continuing to call for the submission of these unique personal testimonies, which serve as an invaluable resource for commemorating and restoring the individual identities of the victims of the Holocaust.

.....  
This process will help survivors, members of the next generations, researchers and historians in their quest to discover more information about the war and its victims.

## How can members of the public search for information at Yad Vashem?

As has always been the case, the public is welcome to come to Yad Vashem to search all of our archival material, including information we have from the ITS. Our reading room is open 08:30-17:00 Sunday-Thursday. Yad Vashem's Reference and Information unit will also continue to answer queries sent by mail, fax (+9722 6443669) or e-mail (ref@yadvashem.org.il), free of charge. Our website, www.yadvashem.org, also has downloadable and online search request forms.

# 27 January

## Events Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

by Yifat Bachrach-Ron

For the third year running, the nations of the world are marking the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, as declared in the 1 November 2005 United Nations Resolution. “Holocaust awareness is growing among the international community, and not just in Europe,” noted Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. “This is evident in the response of some dozens of nations—including India, Thailand, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Gambia, Ecuador and Guatemala—who are all sending representatives to the International Youth Congress, sponsored by UNESCO, to take place at Yad Vashem on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.”

In addition to the Youth Congress, the International School for Holocaust Studies will hold a series of educational activities leading up to 27 January, among them the launch of a special mini-website, featuring educational materials in a variety of languages as well as 50 central topics from the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* in Chinese (see p. 9); “Postcards from the Edge”—a special international project in which graphic design students from Israel, Poland and England designed a series of Holocaust-themed postcards that will be exhibited at the International School and uploaded to the Yad Vashem website; and hundreds of pictures drawn by Israeli elementary school students to be displayed in Yad Vashem’s Family Square, as part of “Creating Memory: Children Draw the Holocaust.” In addition, Avner Shalev will address the diplomatic corps at a special event at Massuah, the Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, in cooperation with Yad Vashem.

In cooperation with Yad Vashem and Beth Hatsfustoth—the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, the “Generation to Generation—Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy” organization will hold a memorial evening to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January. “Generation to Generation” Chairman Shmulik Sorek and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid will participate in the event, and Dr. Yaniv Levyatan from Haifa University will speak on the topic of Nazi propaganda and hatred of the Jews.

### The International Youth Congress

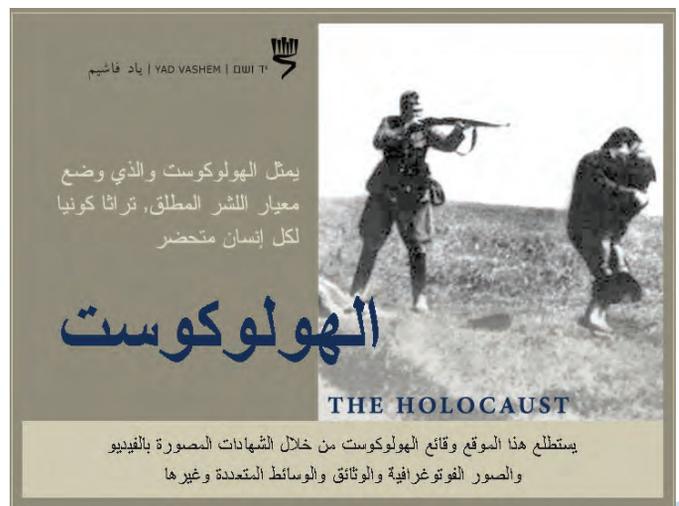
Youth leaders from more than 60 countries and five continents will gather at Yad Vashem for the Youth Congress on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The youth—Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists—speaking some 30 different languages will make the voice of the future heard on shaping Holocaust remembrance and its importance to coming generations.

The Congress will be devoted to the joint study of the Holocaust and discussions of its universal significance. Over three days, participants will

study selected Holocaust-related topics, tour Yad Vashem and Jerusalem, participate in workshops, and meet with Holocaust survivors as well as Israeli public figures, including President Shimon Peres; Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir, who will speak at the opening session of the Congress; and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni, who will participate in a special meeting in the presence of the diplomatic corps in Israel entitled, “Ambassadors of Memory: The Power of Youth in the World.” During the Congress, participants will formulate an international youth treaty and present it to Avner Shalev. It will then be disseminated to youth around the world, thus expressing their commitment to Holocaust remembrance as well as to educational activities on the topic in their own countries. “This is the first time that dozens of teenagers from around the world will gather in Jerusalem, study and discuss the topic of the Holocaust, and commit themselves to work together to transmit the legacy of the Holocaust of the Jewish people to their own generation, the generation of the future,” explained Dorit Novak, Director of the International School of Holocaust Studies. “The Congress will be a foundation stone of an international youth forum that will deal with the subject of the Holocaust, and will chart the shaping of its remembrance in the international community.”

### Launch of Yad Vashem Website in Arabic

One year after the opening of its mini-website in Farsi, Yad Vashem is launching a website in Arabic accessible from its main site on the Internet.



The Arabic site will include concepts from the Holocaust, academic articles, artifacts, maps, archival documents and an online video testimony resource center all translated into Arabic, as well as a special multimedia presentation of the Auschwitz Album, stories of Righteous Among the Nations—including Muslims from Turkey and Albania—and the movie *We Were There*, which documents a joint visit of Arabs and Jews to Auschwitz. The site will also feature an interesting anecdote about the study of Arabic in the Theresienstadt ghetto, as well as Yad Vashem online exhibitions, including “Besa: A Code of Honor—Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust” (see p. 12).

During 2007, some seven million people from 214 countries visited the Yad Vashem website. “In addition to the dramatic increase in website visitors over the past year, we are also seeing a tremendous growth in the number of visitors from Muslim countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Emirates,” noted Website Content Manager Dana Porath. “This phenomenon, together with the warm and supportive responses we received from many of Iranians in the past year after launching the Farsi mini-website, reflects the growing interest in the subject of the Holocaust in the Arab-Muslim world. The interest from so many citizens of Arab countries and the responses from so many Farsi speakers reinforced the need for us to upload the materials in Arabic as well.”

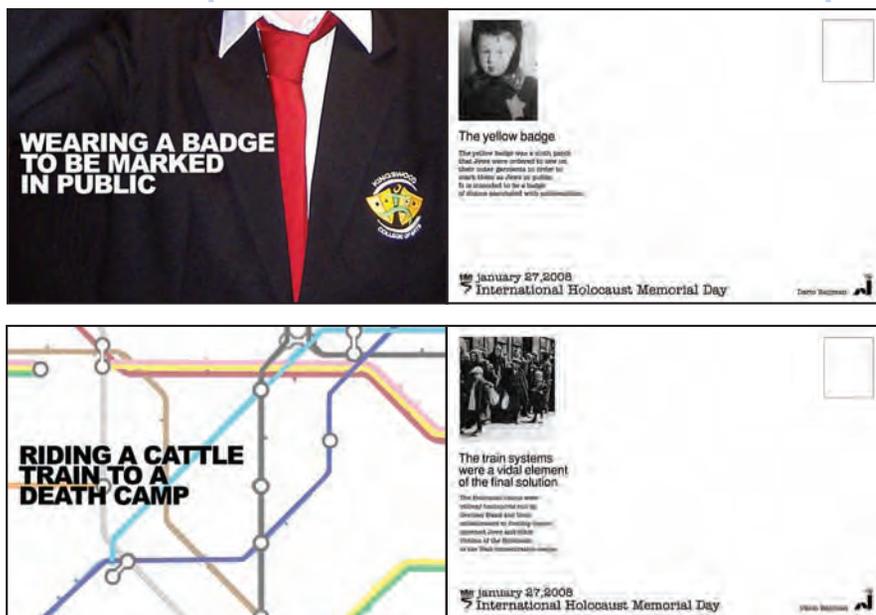
The subject of the Holocaust is not taught in the school systems of Arab countries, and their lack of relations with Israel makes information about the Holocaust in Arabic virtually inaccessible. The Internet is an excellent tool for transmitting information about the Holocaust, particularly in those countries where the Holocaust is not studied as part of the educational curriculum. “Openly reading a book about the Holocaust in Arab countries may cause problems, but the Internet is an open arena with the power to transcend borders,” explained Avner Shalev. “It is also important to upload comprehensive materials in Arabic because of the worrisome phenomena of antisemitism and Holocaust denial in Arab countries. We see this in the media, in public statements, and in writing and creative endeavors in the Arab world.”

The Yad Vashem Arabic website was made possible thanks to the generous donation of Stuart and Ilene Golvin of Toronto, Canada, in honor of their late father, Holocaust survivor Stanley Golvin.

### Yad Vashem Exhibitions Abroad

In advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem exhibitions will be displayed around the world:

“Besa: A Code of Honor—Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust,” by the American photographer Norman Gershman, will be shown at the United Nations Building in New York. The exhibition presents 17 portraits of Albanian Righteous Among the Nations and their families



“Postcards from the Edge:” English, Polish and Israeli students participated in a joint design project for International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

(see p. 12). Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett was one of the advisors in constructing a permanent exhibition about the Holocaust to be displayed at the UN Building in New York. The exhibition focuses on the story of the Holocaust and on its impact on UN activities to prevent genocide and care for refugees. Dr. Rozett will also lecture on the topic of rescue during the Holocaust at a conference to take place in the UN building to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

“Auschwitz: The Depth of the Abyss” will open at the UNESCO Building in Paris in the presence of the Director General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura. The opening event will be held under the auspices of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and the President of Israel Shimon Peres, and will be attended by Israel’s Minister of Welfare Yitzhak Herzog, Israel’s ambassador to UNESCO David Kornbluth, French Minister of Education Xavier Darcos, President of *La Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah* Baron David de Rothschild, the Fondation’s honorary president Simone Veil, Chairperson of the French Society for Yad Vashem Corinne Champagner-Katz and Director of the International Relations Division’s French and Benelux Desk Miry Gross. The exhibition comprises two kinds of rare testimony: enlarged photographs from the *Auschwitz Album* showing the arrival of Jews from Hungary to the death camp and the process of selection they endured; and the testimony of the Jewish artist Private Zinovii Tolkatchev, who arrived at the gates of Auschwitz at its liberation by the Red Army and, using scraps of paper and pencils, immortalized the terrible scenes he witnessed there.

“An Arduous Road: Samuel Bak—60 Years of Creativity” will open at the municipal building of the city of Landsberg, Germany. The exhibition, a retrospective of the work of artist and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak, will then be opened at the parliament building of the District of Thuringia, in the city of Erfurt, Germany in the presence of the Chairman of the Parliament.

by Richelle Budd-Caplan and Rachel F. Wanetik

Any visitor to Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies today will likely hear many different languages being spoken in its hallways. Anyone searching for educational material about the Holocaust has only to click on the School's website to view basic information about the *Shoah*, as well as numerous tailor-made online courses, lesson plans and Holocaust Remembrance Day Guidelines in some 15 different languages. The International School has also developed a strong working relationship with educational institutions and international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),

lectures and discussions on issues surrounding individual and collective responsibility in preventing genocide. Participants also toured the Yad Vashem campus, met Holocaust survivors and listened to lectures from renowned international scholars.

The information officers will apply the principles they learned to outreach activities that further understanding of the Holocaust and promote human rights in their countries. "The information I received will certainly add credibility to my work and help me implement the tasks set by the UN resolution on the Holocaust," said one participant. Another noted, "The forum was conducted in an extremely professional manner by very talented, caring and concerned people. The program was well arranged, and the experts knowledgeable and professional... I look forward to keeping in contact with Yad Vashem staff in terms of further cooperation and joint work."

## Graduate Initiatives Abroad

Each year, a number of International School graduates receive funding to implement an educational project of their choosing in their home countries. Supported by the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education in Europe, these initiatives include the development of interactive teaching



*Participants of the Yad Vashem and UN forum for UN Information Officers peruse Holocaust literature and textbooks at Yad Vashem.*

# Spreading the Word

## International Cooperation Aids Global Holocaust Education

the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the United Nations, the Claims Conference and the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation.

In 2006, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme ([www.un.org/holocaustremembrance](http://www.un.org/holocaustremembrance)) was launched "to warn against the dangers of hatred, bigotry, prejudice and racism, in order to help prevent future acts of genocide." And last March, during his historic visit to Yad Vashem, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon pledged his "determination to do my utmost in the struggle against antisemitism, hatred and intolerance around the world."

### First-Ever UN Forum at Yad Vashem

In advance of the third annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust on 27 January, the United Nations recently partnered with the International School to provide training to 12 UN information officers on the history of the Holocaust and its relevance today. Participants included representatives from the global network of UN Information Centers, as well as forum co-organizer Kimberly Mann, Chief of the Advocacy Unit, Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Public Information.

The weeklong forum included informational

### New OSCE Teachers' Guide on Antisemitism

In December, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ambassador Christian Strohal, visited Yad Vashem. During the visit, a new online guide, "Addressing Antisemitism: Why and How?" was launched, which provides teachers with background information and practical suggestions on how to address issues pertaining to contemporary antisemitism. Issues discussed range from Holocaust denial to expressions of anti-Zionism, as well as the use of antisemitic symbols and stereotypes.

"Our experience with educators from around the world has illustrated that unfortunately antisemitism is a phenomenon that has not disappeared, and that there is a real need to provide educators with the tools necessary to confront it," said International School Director Dorit Novak. Added Ambassador Strohal, "Teachers and students alike should be able to recognize and reject antisemitic stereotypes and antisemitic thinking, and this guide for educators is designed to contribute to these efforts."

The new guide is the second online document developed by the ODIHR and Yad Vashem. The first, "Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators," is currently available in 13 languages.

units and websites dedicated to individual victims or communities destroyed during the *Shoah*, art exhibitions, documentaries about Holocaust survivors, class trips and theater productions.

Lithuanian graduate Genute Zilyte recently led a multifaceted eight-day project for secondary school students near Kovno. Following a presentation about the history of their hometown of Panevezys, the 38 students spent a day restoring a local Jewish mass gravesite. For the rest of the week, they researched the Jewish history of their hometown, took a field trip to the Ninth Fort prison in Kovno where 40,000 Jews were murdered, familiarized themselves with Jewish literature and spoke with members of the Panevezys Jewish Community. The young students were surprised to hear about the unknown Jewish part of their town's history, and now, while walking through the town, they instinctively raise their heads to look for Jewish signs on the buildings.

During an excursion to Jewish Vilnius and the suburb of Paneriai—another mass killing site—the students reflected on their experiences. "It looks really nice here, but it is really a sad place," said one. Another agreed: "It is really awful. I do not want to know about it, but I have to."

*Richelle Budd-Caplan is Head of International Relations and Rachel F. Wanetik is Assistant to the Director of the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# Multimedia Curricula Win International Awards

## Echoes and Reflections

“Echoes and Reflections,” a groundbreaking multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust, has been honored for its use of visual history testimony and its educational website by the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) with its 2007 National Multicultural Media Award. The award recognizes individuals and institutions that make “outstanding contributions toward multicultural education, educational equity and social justice.”

“Echoes and Reflections” is a comprehensive ten-part curriculum on the Holocaust that uses visual history testimony from survivors and other witnesses and additional primary source documents, including maps, photographs, timelines, literature excerpts and other materials. The curriculum was produced primarily for use in high schools in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, and Yad Vashem.

Since its launch in July 2005, the curriculum has reached an estimated 600,000 students in schools across the US, and more than 4,000 educators nationwide have participated in intensive training sessions on the use of the curriculum facilitated by the three partner organizations.

“We have an obligation to teach our kids what hate and racism can cause,” said Yossie Hollander, benefactor of “Echoes and Reflections.” “It is our only chance to prevent genocide now and in the future.”

Deborah A. Batiste, Project Director for “Echoes and Reflections,” accepted the award on behalf of the three partner organizations during the 17th Annual International NAME Conference in Baltimore in early November.



“Echoes and Reflections” benefactor Yossie Hollander (center) is presented with the National Association for Multicultural Education 2007 Media Award by ADL, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, and Yad Vashem staff.

## “Return to Life” – German Version

The CD-ROM “Return to Life,” translated and adapted for the German educational system, has received the prestigious Erasmus EuroMedia Award 2007. The prize, donated annually by the European Society for Education and Communication, is awarded for European multimedia educational units. The same teaching unit was awarded the Comenius Seal for ethical learning by the Society for Pedagogics and Information (*Gesellschaft fuer Paedagogik und Information*) last June.

Based on Yad Vashem’s original CD-ROM (1997), the German version was researched and produced by Yad Vashem’s Dr. Susanne Urban, in partnership with the Federal Center for Civic Education (*Bundeszentrale fuer politische Bildung*) and the Center for Civic Education Rhineland-Palatinate. The German version won the Erasmus Seal for ethical learning, an internationally recognized standard for educational multimedia products.

Dr. Urban (center) accepted the award together with AG CLU multimedia partners Marc Widiger (left) and Holger Baulig (right) at a festive ceremony in Vienna University’s Grand Festival Hall in October.



New on 

By Na’ama Shik

[www.yadvashem.org/education](http://www.yadvashem.org/education)

## Chinese featured in special multilingual website for 27 January

In advance of this year’s International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the International School for Holocaust Studies has uploaded a special multilingual mini-website dedicated to the day. The mini-site comprises general information about the Holocaust as well as a range of educational material in 10 languages, including, for the first time, some material in Chinese.

The mini-site is divided into three periods—before, during and after the Holocaust—through the use of historical information, mostly centered around individuals and communities destroyed during the war. As always, witness testimonies, primary sources, extracts from diaries and letters, historical photos and original artifacts enhance the learning and teaching experience. Lesson plans and suggestions for conducting ceremonies to mark this important day are also included.

## “May Your Memory be for Love – The Story of Ovadia Baruch”

On 16 December, the premiere of *May Your Memory be for Love* was screened at the International School’s educational branch in Givatayim (Beit Wolyn). The film was the first in a joint project between the School and the Hebrew University’s Multimedia Center entitled “Witnesses and Education,” which aims to record the experiences of Holocaust survivors throughout their lives and thus also portray the fate of the different Jewish communities as a whole.

*May Your Memory be for Love* follows the life of Ovadia Baruch, sketching his life before the Holocaust in Saloniki, Greece, his experiences in Auschwitz and Mauthausen, and his life after liberation. In parallel, the film describes the love story of Ovadia and Aliza Tsarfati, a young Jewish woman from Saloniki whom Ovadia met in Auschwitz. The film was produced with the generous support of the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, and will be translated into English, Spanish and German.

## The “Bericha” – The Survivors’ Journey Towards a New Life

A multimedia presentation of the *Bericha*, the journey of some 250,000 Holocaust survivors to start life over and build a new national Jewish homeland in *Eretz Yisrael*, has been recently uploaded to the Yad Vashem website. The presentation comprises some of the most moving photos from Yad Vashem’s archives and is accompanied by survivor testimonies, as well as lesson plans on the topic and an interactive map following the route of the *Bericha*.

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

## Teaching the Shoah – Fighting Racism and Prejudice

### The Sixth International Conference on the Holocaust and Education

From 7-10 July 2008 Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies will host its Sixth International Conference on the Holocaust and Education entitled, “Teaching the *Shoah* – Fighting Racism and Prejudice.” Supported by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation and the Asper Foundation, this prestigious international gathering will feature prominent keynote speakers, including world-renowned educators, historians, authors and artists. Please see insert for more details, as well as information on how to register.

by Irena Steinfeldt

Although over 60 years have passed since the Holocaust, survivors continue to approach Yad Vashem with requests that their rescuers be honored as Righteous Among the Nations. However, as the war sinks deeper into the past, recalling detailed information becomes more difficult, representing a complex challenge for staff at the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations. Completing the picture entails

# Completing the Picture

considerable research and, at times, no small amount of detective work.

In April 2005, Arnold Van Der Horst submitted a request to Yad Vashem for recognition of his wartime rescuers. With the aid of the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names he had learned that his parents, Yaacov and Yehudit Van Der Horst, had been murdered in Auschwitz in January 1944. Arnold, then a young boy, had been hidden with a family in Arnhem, Holland. The information he was able to provide to Yad Vashem was vague: the name of the rescuing family as he recalled it turned out to be inexact. He did not remember the first names of the parents, but was able to provide the names of their four children.

**"I would like to correct a wrong after all these years, but I don't know how."**

The only physical artifact he still owned was a picture of himself at a birthday party. Nannie Beekman, the Righteous Department's Netherlands expert, began her search by contacting the Dutch governmental authority that handled orphans during the postwar period. Through that organization's archives she obtained

Arnold's personal record and the precise names of his rescuers. Not only were Hendrika and Johann Holthaus consequently recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, but Beekman's investigation also helped Arnold piece together the story of his childhood.

Katya Gusarov deals with rescuers from the Former Soviet Union and Baltic states. One day she received a letter from a Ukrainian woman who related that her

Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations, themselves all volunteers, decided to accord recognition to the two rescuers: Yurechko and Jagiellowicz.

Acts of rescue during the Holocaust were, by their very nature, performed in secret, making it very difficult to obtain evidence.



Medal presented by Yad Vashem to Righteous Among the Nations

Bozenna Rotman, herself the daughter of a Righteous Among the Nations, handles Polish cases.

Recently, Rotman was able to obtain the testimony of a survivor in a file that had been

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late father, Stach Yurechko, had aided many Jews in his town of Rozniatow, in the Stanislawow District. "I began searching for survivors' testimonies," relates Gusarov. "I found my first clue in the *yizkor* (Holocaust memorial) book produced by the Rozniatow community. The book relates how 18 Jews were rescued by three people, one of whom was called Yurechko. The names of some of the survivors, all of whom had immigrated to the United States, were also included. My contact at the US Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society provided me with their most recent addresses, but they had all passed away."

The Rozniatow book also mentioned that one of the survivors was a child from Kalusz, but no one could remember his name. Gusarov refused to give up. Ultimately she found, in the Yad Vashem Archives, the brief testimony of a child named David Halpern, who turned out to be the child from Kalusz. The testimony was obtained in 1946 at a Polish orphanage. Gusarov was unable to track him down, but Halpern's testimony was sufficient to substantiate his rescue. In the Department's files, Gusarov also found the record of a second Rozniatow rescuer named Michal Jagiellowicz. One of the testimonies in that second file was the eyewitness account of Yeshayahu Lutvak, who stated that he had been hidden with Stach Yurechko. This, along with the other material, helped the case further, and in September 2006 the Commission for the

open for twenty years. Based on the testimony, the rescuers could finally be recognized. "Some cases remain open for long periods of time, but we ensure that every shred of information is investigated and registered," says Nona Agababian-Nir, who coordinates the Righteous Commission's work and is in charge of computerization. While more than 22,000 Righteous Among the Nations have been recognized to date, staff in the Department remain committed to seeing through each and every case.

The author is Director of Yad Vashem's Department for the Righteous Among the Nations.

# Ceremonies Around the World Honor Righteous Among the Nations

Since 1963, more than 22,000 non-Jews from over 40 different countries have been awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations, the highest honor given by the State of Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. These men and women hail from all kinds of backgrounds—from poor farmers to established diplomats, from ordinary citizens to church leaders. Every year hundreds of people are honored with this award both at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and abroad via Israel's diplomatic representatives in cooperation with Yad Vashem's Friends associations. Medals and certificates of honor are presented to the rescuers or their next of kin at special ceremonies, often attended by government representatives.

In 2007, over 450 new Righteous Among the Nations were recognized by Yad Vashem. Following are a few events that took place over the year in their honor:

On 18 January, a plaque paying tribute to the French Righteous Among the Nations was unveiled by the President of France at the Panthéon in Paris, where France's heroes are honored.



On 18 May a state ceremony honoring the Righteous Among the Nations from Belgium was held in Brussels. Belgium's Prime Minister unveiled a special plaque.

On 6 September, the title of Righteous Among the Nations was bestowed upon the late Yevgenia Zamoroko-Lysenko from Ukraine. The ceremony was held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,



and H.E. Mr. Sallai Meridor, Ambassador of Israel to the United States, presented the medal and certificate of honor to her son Nikolay Zamoroko, who lives in Maryland, USA.



On 28 September, H.E. Mr. Amos Nadai, Israel's Ambassador to China, bestowed commemorative citizenship of the State of Israel upon Dr. Feng Shan Ho z", a Chinese diplomat posted in Vienna during WWII who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. The ceremony was held in Dr. Ho's hometown of Yiyang, Hunan Province, China, in the presence of his daughter Manli Ho.



On 30 October, a ceremony was held in the Sukkat Shalom synagogue in Belgrade, Serbia, bestowing upon six individuals the title of Righteous Among the Nations. The President of Serbia, Mr. Boris Tadić, attended the ceremony. Also present were Israel's Ambassador to Serbia H.E. Mr. Arthur Kol, Honorary President of the Union of Jewish Communities in Serbia Mr. Aca Zinger, the extended families of the rescuers, Christian, Muslim and Jewish clergymen, the diplomatic corps and members of the Jewish community.

In some cases, relatives of rescuers choose to come to Israel to receive the medals and certificates at Yad Vashem. Below are some of these special events held during 2007:

On 11 October, Elisabeth Hedwig Leja Gessler, a Righteous Among the Nations from Germany, was posthumously honored at a special ceremony at Yad Vashem.



Throughout the war, Gessler looked after Elek, Lili and Roman, the three children of Edward and Dora Gessler, whom she had worked for as a nanny and housekeeper. After the war, Elisabeth remained with the children and Edward, whom she married in 1965. Pictured: Director of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations Irena Steinfeldt (right) presents the medal and certificate to Lili and Roman Gessler.

On 25 October, the Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, former Supreme Court Justice Jacob Türkel (second from right), presented the award to the children of the late Hendrikus (Hein) and Martha Snapper from the Netherlands, who saved Rosa de Hartog during the Holocaust. The ceremony was attended by Holocaust survivors Truus de Hartog (Netherlands) and Salomon de Hartog (Israel) and five children of the rescuers: Jerry, Jan, Johan, Hans and Frank (also pictured), of California and Kentucky, USA.



On 4 November, the honor of Righteous Among the Nations was awarded to the late Stanislaw and Jadwiga Schultz from Ukraine, who hid Jews in their home during the war. Stanislava Andryshchak, the Schultz' daughter who flew in especially for the ceremony, was presented with the medal and certificate in her parents' honor. Pictured, center: Stanislava Andryshchak and survivor Meir Lamet from the USA, with members of Lamet's extended family

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“ Our home is first God’s house, second our guests’ house, and third our family’s house. The Koran teaches us that all people—Jews, Christians and Muslims—are under one God.”

These are the moving words of Refik Veseli, whose parents were the first Albanians to be honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. They were not alone: Yad Vashem has so far recognized 63 Albanians among more than 22,000 Righteous Among the Nations.

Albania, a European country with a Muslim majority, succeeded where other European nations failed. Almost all Jews living within Albanian borders during the German occupation—those of Albanian origin and refugees alike—were saved.

Following the German occupation in 1943, the Albanian population, in an extraordinary act, refused to comply with the occupier’s orders to turn over lists of Jews residing within the country’s borders. Moreover, the various governmental agencies provided many Jewish families with fake documentation that allowed them to intermingle amongst the rest of the population. The Albanians not only protected their Jewish citizens, but also provided sanctuary to Jewish refugees who had arrived in Albania.

The remarkable assistance afforded the Jews was grounded in *Besa*, a code of honor, which still today serves as the highest ethical code in the country. *Besa* literally means “to keep the promise.” One who acts according to *Besa* is someone who keeps his word, someone to whom one can trust one’s life and the lives of one’s family. The aid given to Jews and non-Jews alike should be understood as a matter of national honor. The Albanians went out of their way to provide assistance; moreover, they competed with each other for the privilege of saving Jews. These acts originated from compassion, loving-kindness and a desire to help those in need, even those of another faith or origin.

“Besa: A Code of Honor” features 17 photographs by the American photographer Norman Gershman, documenting Muslim Albanians—individuals and families—who rescued Jews. If the rescuers themselves were no longer alive, Gershman photographed their descendants.

Every photograph tells a wondrous tale of rescue. However, the impact of the photographs lies not only in the human story but also in Gershman’s sensitive and focused camera lens. The faces of the rescuers looking at us radiate an aura of humanity and openness, and invite us—the observers—into their families. The



N e w E x h i b i t i o n

## “Besa: A Code of Honor”

### Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust

photographs are suffused with Albanian authenticity: the natural environment of the photographs’ subjects, the everyday objects with which they chose to be photographed, the Muslim clothing and, above all, the gesture of the hand on the chest—signifying the *Besa* oath, which shaped the code of their extraordinary act during the Holocaust.

“The children of one of the rescuers told me what their father had taught them, the rule according to which they lead their lives: If there is a knock at the door, you are obliged to assume responsibility,” recalls Gershman. Their words are evidence that the parents’ actions have become a legacy for future generations—a legacy that commands human beings to help others in times of distress. Had only the nations of other European countries adopted a similar code, the fate of the Jewish people during this dark era may have been very different.

This is the important message delivered by the exhibition, which was opened in the lobby of Yad Vashem’s Auditorium on 1 November in the presence of the Minister of Science, Culture and Sport Rajeb Majadele, representatives of the Albanian Embassy in Israel and many former Albanians. The exhibition is currently on display at the United Nations building in New York, to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2008, after which it will be displayed at various locations worldwide.

*Yehudit Shendar, curator of “Besa: A Code of Honor,” is Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division, and Sivan Schaechter is Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator.*



Top: Albanian Righteous Among the Nations Beqir Qoqja  
Bottom: Sazan Hoxha holds a photograph of his father, Albanian Righteous Among the Nations Nuro Hoxha.  
Opposite: Merushe Kadiu, daughter of Albanian Righteous Among the Nations Besim and Aishe Kadiu





by Liat Benhabib

“Watching my movie gave them the courage to look into their connections to the Nazi horrors. No German can escape this; it’s an inseparable part of our society.”  
 Film director Malte Ludin, Germany

Hans Ludin was no ordinary German soldier, but the story of his family is typical. Hans’ son Malte was five years old when his father was executed in 1947 for war crimes. In his film, *2 or 3 Things I Know About Him* (85 min., Germany, 2005), Malte Ludin attempts to confront the family’s memory and especially his father’s smiling image, through testimony and archival materials. “For years, I struggled with myself. I knew that my mother wouldn’t agree to the film, and I was aware of my sisters’ stance, though I didn’t imagine how extreme it could be. But I’m a filmmaker: making films is my way of understanding the world and myself,” said Ludin in a telephone interview from Berlin.

## “2 or 3 Things I Know About Him”



Hans Ludin, an enthusiastic National Socialist, joined the ranks of the SA in the 1920s. In 1941, he was appointed Nazi Germany’s ambassador to Slovakia, and moved his family to Bratislava. Ludin personally signed the deportation orders for approximately 70,000 Slovak Jews, thus taking part in their murder.

After his mother’s death, Malte opened a chest in the attic containing the family legacy: newspaper clippings, letters, photographs and documents belonging to Hans, all of which present an entirely different picture from the one his sisters clung to so desperately. Ludin had interviewed his mother before her death, and later approached his sisters with great sensitivity and patience.

Despite this, when he confronted his older sister Barbel with the bitter truth about their father, she stopped speaking to him. Ellen, his other sister, reveals the pain of recognition of her father’s crimes: “In my mind, I understand that I am the daughter of a perpetrator, but this is not what I feel in my heart.”

However, Ludin does not let up. In a particularly jarring sequence, he juxtaposes his sisters’ innocent childhood memories with close-ups of the document calling for the deportation of the Jews of Slovakia signed by his father, cutting to the testimony of a member of the Stern family who had been the Ludins’ neighbors until the “cleansing orders.” Ludin interviews Holocaust survivors, including Israeli poet Tuvia Rübner, the only member of his family to survive.

Ludin’s film is a powerful personal testimony, as well as a reflection upon responsibility, memory and historical truth. “I am not naïve, a movie can’t change the world,” he admits. “However, at every screening I held in Germany, at least one or two people stood up to say that they identified with my stance in the film of being the ‘black sheep’ in the family; and that watching my movie gave them the courage to look into their connections to the Nazi horrors. No German can escape this; it’s an inseparable part of our society. German youth have many reminders of the Holocaust—memorials, days of remembrance—but I believe that knowing and understanding what happened is not enough. There has to be something else, something connected to the emotions. In my opinion, encouraging Holocaust awareness has to be accomplished through the heart as well.”

Malte Ludin and his wife Iva Švarcová, the film’s producer and a native of Slovakia, will screen *2 or 3 Things I Know About Him* in Israel to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The film will be shown at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque on 27 January 2008, and at Yad Vashem’s Visual Center and the Jerusalem Cinematheque the following day. The Goethe Institute, the Israeli German Society (IDG) and the Remembrance & Future Fund Germany are sponsoring Ludin and Švarcová’s visit.

“For a long time, making this film was hard for me, but it burned within me,” concludes Ludin. “It has already been screened in many countries, but the warmest and most empathetic reactions have come particularly from Jewish and Israeli audiences.”

## News from the Visual Center by Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

### Cinema as a Site of Memory

“Cinema as a Site of Memory” was the topic of a conference on 3 December jointly sponsored by the Visual Center at Yad Vashem and the Jerusalem Cinematheque. The conference, held as part of the ninth Jewish Film Festival, in honor of the tenth anniversary of the Cinematheque’s Joan Sourasky-Constantiner Holocaust Multimedia Research Center, examined film as a major influence on individual and collective memory.

Dr. Gideon Ofrat opened the conference with a philosophical perspective on perception and memory as expressed in Holocaust-related film. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev explained the curatorial vision behind the films and other media featured in the permanent exhibit of Yad Vashem’s Holocaust History Museum. Video artist Michal Rovner presented her ideas on the relationship between form and content in her work at the museum’s entrance “Living Landscape,” and producer/director Noemy Schory delineated the process behind the production of the 110 historical films in the museum. Dr. Daniel Uziel and Dr. Yvonne Koslovsky-Golan surveyed films of various genres, from Nazi propaganda and documentation to later documentaries.

Additional speakers were Piotr Cywinski, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, and Robert Thalheim, director of the feature film, *And Along Came the Tourists* (Germany, 2007), which was screened at the end of the conference and followed by a discussion about the significance of using

Auschwitz as a film location. *And Along Came the Tourists* tells the story of Sven, a young German, who ends up at the Auschwitz museum in the course of his national service. Like Sven, the audience encounters the historical place and the present site of commemoration, the people who continue to visit, and those who are no longer with us.

### New Collections of Rare Films

The Visual Center recently acquired 34 films from DEFA (*Deutsche Film Aktiengesellschaft*), the official East German film production company from 1946-1992. Although DEFA’s over 7,500 films exhibit depth, variety and a daring attempt to test the limits of censorship, they remain largely unknown among film enthusiasts worldwide. The Visual Center participated in the recent “Black + White ≠ Grey” DEFA Retrospective in Israel, which featured Academy-Award nominee *Jakob der Lügner* (Frank Beyer, 1975), *The Murderers are Among Us* (Wolfgang Staudte, 1946) and *The Second Track* (Joachim Kunert, 1962).

Five films produced by the Michlalah Jerusalem Womens’ College featuring rare survivor testimonies by Orthodox Jews concerning issues of religious observance have also been added to the Visual Center’s film collection.

*Liat Benhabib is Director of Yad Vashem’s Visual Center, and Mimi Ash is Acquisitions and Projects Coordinator at the Visual Center.*

by Dr. David Silberklang and Gabi Hadar

**A**nka My Dearest!  
More than 18 months have passed since we were most brutally parted. During all that time, I have not stopped striving and searching for an opportunity to relate to you, at least in some small measure, my sad experiences throughout those dark months since our separation. A much too difficult task for my worn-out strength....

*I wish that this bundle of memories, soaked in blood and tears, will serve as a perpetual tombstone for you, my dearest, and for our children, parents, brothers, sisters, and the millions of men, women and children who were murdered together with you.*

With these poignant words to his murdered wife, Oskar Strawczynski began his Treblinka memoir, written while hiding in a Polish forest in 1944.

encourage their families to struggle on and to survive, or wished to leave a legacy after their own certain death. Whereas only a fraction of what was written has survived, that small amount provides an insight that is inaccessible from other sources. These writings open a window onto a scene that the rest of us can understand only from a distance.

Yad Vashem has published dozens of diaries and other first-hand accounts and documents over the years. The insights into what Jews thought, what they discerned regarding their circumstances and their fate, and how they reacted are invaluable to our understanding of the Holocaust and of human behavior in extreme adversity. Many more such books are planned during the coming years. Will this body of first-hand, contemporaneous accounts explain the Holocaust for us? Of course not. But their contribution to our understanding

# In Their Own Words

## Personal Writing from the Shoah

Israel Cymlich, who escaped from the Treblinka I penal forced labor camp in April 1943, began his memoir more bluntly: "I have decided to describe my war experiences. Two considerations prompted me to do so: my slim chances of surviving the war; and my desire to communicate my fortunes to my sister in Argentina."

These two memoirs, written clandestinely during the war, comprise the newest release in the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Series: *Escaping Hell in Treblinka*. Cymlich's is one of the very few Jewish accounts of Treblinka I, which lay only two kilometers from the extermination camp, Treblinka II. Strawczynski's memoir is one of the first two written eyewitness accounts of the 2 August 1943 uprising in Treblinka II. Both accounts provide new information and insight about the life of the inmates in that infamous death camp.

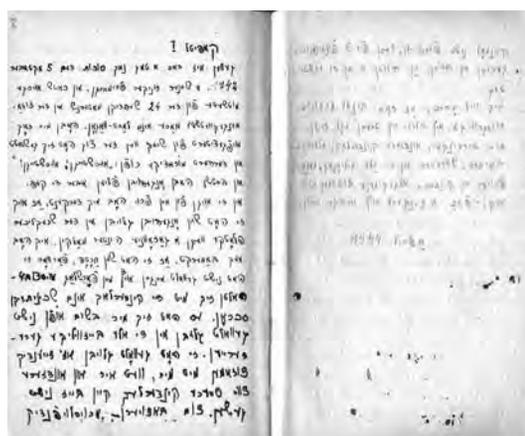
Until this publication, very little was known about the Jews in Treblinka I. Much of what Cymlich relates about the brutally harsh conditions, the camp population (mostly Jewish, it turns out), its operation, and many of the officials and prisoners is new. Strawczynski's sometimes graphic descriptions of vicious Jewish camp officials and German staff, the corruption and debauchery in the camp, preparations for the uprising, and life after the mass escape are equally riveting.

Why did people write during the war? To whom were they addressing their thoughts? For what purpose? The reasons are as varied as the people themselves. Some simply wished to communicate, report events or find some kind of normalcy in their lives through their writing. Others sought to

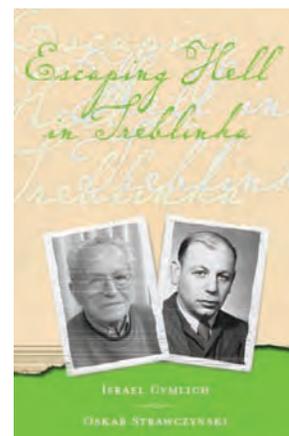
is immense; without it we understand very little indeed. And with that in mind, Yad Vashem Publications will continue to try to retrieve those voices from the oblivion to which the Nazis sought to confine them, in the hope that we can shed additional light on the event that has ruptured history as we know it.

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

*Dr. David Silberklang is the Editor-in-Chief and Gabi Hadar is the Director of Yad Vashem Publications.*



Excerpt from the handwritten copy of Oskar Strawczynski's 1944 Yiddish memoir about his experiences in Treblinka



## New Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications

**D**r. David Silberklang, current Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*, has been appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications, replacing Dr. Bella Gutterman. During her eight-year tenure, Dr. Gutterman transformed the status of Yad Vashem Publications from a small, quality operation to a major publisher of Holocaust books in Hebrew, English and other languages. Yad Vashem Publications also embarked on numerous joint publication ventures with publishers from around the world, and has succeeded in generating a wide variety of books that have reached ever-broadening audiences.

Dr. Silberklang is a well-respected scholar in the field of Holocaust research, with rich experience in the editing field. For over a decade he sub-edited Prof. Yehuda Bauer's journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, and ten years ago became Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*, changing the face of the esteemed publication that is now published twice a year. Together with Yad Vashem Publications Director Gabi Hadar, Dr. Silberklang will undoubtedly make a significant contribution towards the challenges that lie ahead in the field of Holocaust publications.

## New Director of the Yad Vashem Archives

**D**r. Haim Gertner, formerly Director of Teacher Training at the International School for Holocaust Studies, has been appointed as the new Director of the Yad Vashem Archives.

Dr. Gertner replaces Dr. Yaacov Lozowick, who headed the Archives Division since 1993. Dr. Lozowick first joined Yad Vashem in 1982, initially as a research assistant in the German section of the *Pinkasei Kehillot* (Encyclopedia of the Communities) project. For much of the following decade he was a member of the education department, pioneering the German-language Seminars for Educators from Abroad, the first four of which he personally moderated.

Dr. Lozowick's most prominent achievements at Yad Vashem were in the field of computerization. Together with Hall of Names Director Alexander Avraham and CIO Michael Leiber, in 1999 he directed the computerization of millions of Pages of Testimony. This success was crowned in November 2004 with the uploading of the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org). In recent years, Dr. Lozowick led a joint team of senior staff members of the Archives and IT Divisions in harnessing technology to offer broad public access to information, making the level of computerization of the Yad Vashem collections unsurpassed worldwide.

Dr. Haim Gertner, historian and educator, has lectured on the History of the Jewish People at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and has worked in a number of educational and academic management roles. He joined the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in 2002, first heading educational material development, and later directing the School's teacher training department.

"The Yad Vashem Archives and its other collections make up the world's largest compilation of information on the fate of the Jews in the Holocaust," says Dr. Gertner. "The great challenge we now face is to make this huge amount of knowledge available to the widest audience possible using all the resources available to us. Our aim is to catalogue and scan all our archival material, upload them to our website, and attach to them search and information-processing tools, thus allowing anyone across the globe to trace the larger—and countless smaller—stories of the fate of the Jewish people during the Holocaust."

## Special Event Honors "Babi Yar Poet" Yevtushenko

**C**elebrated Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko flew to Israel in November at the invitation of Yad Vashem, Keren Hayesod and the Israeli Authors' Unions Federation (IAUF). During his stay, Yevtushenko visited Yad Vashem, where he toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. At a special event held in his honor, Yevtushenko read his poetry in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategic Affairs Avigdor Lieberman; World Chairman of Keren Hayesod Ambassador Avi Pazner; Josef Chaim Kaufman, a Holocaust survivor from Belgium who facilitated Yevtushenko's visit to Israel; Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev; and Holocaust survivors.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko is a well-known Russian poet, novelist, professor of literature and cinema, screenwriter and director of two motion pictures. In 1961, Yevtushenko published "Babi Yar," a protest poem against antisemitism. Today, excerpts from the poem are inscribed in the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem, and in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. The poem also inspired the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich to write his Symphony No. 13 ("Babi Yar"). "Babi Yar" represented a watershed moment in many Russians' and Ukrainians' attitude toward the Holocaust after years of denial by the Soviet establishment. Since the publication of the poem, the world has identified Babi Yar as a symbol of the murder of the Jews in Ukraine, as well as of all the murders by the Einsatzgruppen and their collaborators.

## A Change in Perspective: German Scholars at Yad Vashem

by Ingo Loose

**M**ore than 60 years after the end of WWII, there is still great interest among young German academics in the history of the Holocaust. However, studying the history of the Holocaust at German universities requires a considerably high degree of intellectual independence.

With the exception of the recently established Lander Institute for Communication about the Holocaust, a Berlin branch of the Touro University of New York, in Germany there is not a single chair dealing exclusively with Holocaust studies. The growing interest among young scholars in Holocaust history by far exceeds the institutional capabilities of German universities and regularly leads to overcrowded seminars and insufficient human resources. In addition, the focus on the perpetrators in Germany has only recently given way to a growing interest in the victims' perspective. More and more, young German students are ready to learn Yiddish, Polish or even Hebrew, just to be able to read the testimonies of Holocaust survivors spread all over the world.

With young German historians seeking to enhance their contact with the international scientific community, the research programs and workshops regularly held at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem are especially valuable. More than 50 researchers applied for this year's German-Israeli workshop, organized by Yad Vashem in cooperation with Freiburg University on the topic of "New Perspectives in Holocaust Research." The workshop covered an impressive range of different topics. The participants had the opportunity not only to discuss their PhD or post-doctoral projects in an international and highly professional atmosphere, but also to get acquainted with the breathtakingly rich holdings of the Yad Vashem Archives.

The papers presented at the workshop mostly discussed new theoretical approaches to the history of the Holocaust—old and new questions about the context in which the Holocaust took place, especially in the occupied territories of Europe, such as Greece, Bulgaria and Poland. At Yad Vashem, we had the opportunity to discuss all our questions with well-known Israeli historians, as well as with Israeli PhD students attending the workshop. These debates were extraordinarily fruitful, and the archival materials and testimonies preserved in Yad Vashem gave us a different, "human" perspective compared to that given by official Nazi documents.

We all hope that this international cooperation with Yad Vashem will continue, for there is no other place where the combination of research and remembrance is so impressive, overwhelming and challenging all at the same time.

*The author is currently conducting research entitled, "Jewish Entrepreneurs in Breslau and Lower Silesia: Between Economic Decline and Strategies of Defense, 1925-1939."*



*Yevgeny Yevtushenko at the Babi Yar exhibit in the Holocaust History Museum during his visit to Yad Vashem*

## Events October-December 2007

**1 October** The hollowed-out tree that served as Yaakov Zilberstein's hiding place from the Nazis during the Holocaust was placed in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem. The tree stood in the farmyard of Yana Sodova's house in Czechoslovakia, and Yaakov hid in it every time the Germans raided the home. In January 2006, Yana Sodova was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations.



Pictured, left to right: Antonin Hradilek, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Israel; Yaakov Zilberstein, who worked to bring the tree to Israel for a memorial at Yad Vashem; Director General of Yad Vashem Nathan Eitan; Anna Gerlova, daughter of the rescuer, who traveled to Israel from the Czech Republic in honor of the occasion

**16 October** The annual commemoration marking 64 years since the expulsion of the Jews from Italy began with a memorial ceremony in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, and



continued in the auditorium. Among the speakers were Italian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Sandro De Bernardin; Claudia Amati, Chairwoman of the Italian Immigrants Association; and Vito Einav, Chairman of the Italian Jewish Community. The event was moderated by Prof. David Cassuto.

Participating in a discussion about the operation to liberate the Servigliano camp were (left to right): camp survivor Phina Horowitz, Prof. David Cassuto, former partisan commander Vito Hayim Voltira and camp survivor Liza Shotten.

**22 October** The annual meeting of the "Alumim" Association, chaired by Dr. Yisrael Lichtenstein (pictured), opened with a guided tour of the exhibit "Spots of Light—To Be a Woman in the Holocaust," and continued with an assembly in the auditorium. Participants also heard a lecture by Dr. Rachel Korazim on the topic of "Developments and Changes in Israeli Society's Attitudes to the Subject of the Holocaust."



**8 November** Study evening marking the publication of *Chaim Pazner—the Man Who Knew: Knowledge of the Final Solution and Rescue Efforts* by Menahem Michelson (Yad Vashem, 2007). Among the speakers at the well-attended event were Avner Shaley; Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Prof. David Bankier; International Chair of Keren Hayesod Avi Pazner, son of Chaim Pazner, ז"ל (pictured); and the author of the book.



**6-8 November** Hundreds of survivors and second- and third-generation representatives participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> International Annual Conference of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust, which took place this year in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Yesh, Amcha and Elah organizations. During the three-day conference, Yad Vashem staff contributed to various lectures and discussions, and on the final day the participants took a comprehensive tour of Yad Vashem.



Pictured: Stefanie Seltzer, Federation President, rekindling the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance; behind her, third from left: Alex Orly, Chairman of Yesh, who recited *kaddish*

Pictured: Stefanie Seltzer, Federation President, rekindling the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance; behind her, third from left: Alex Orly, Chairman of Yesh, who recited *kaddish*

**19 November** Hundreds of survivors, primarily from Holland, came to the Jerusalem Cinematheque for a special screening of the film *Steal a Pencil for Me* directed by Michele Ohayon, which won the Avner Shaley Yad Vashem Chairman's Award 2007. The movie tells the love story of Jack and Ina Polak in Holland during the war. The screening took place in the presence of the director and guests of the Tel Aviv-Los Angeles Partnership of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, Director General of Yad Vashem Nathan Eitan, and the Attaché for Social and Cultural Affairs of the Dutch Embassy in Israel Bud Rellum. Other participants included the survivors Betty Bausch and Elisheva Orbach, Jack Polak's sisters and authors of the book *Hasheket Shenishbar (The Broken Silence)*, Yad Vashem, 2007).



Pictured, left to right: Elisheva Orbach, Michele Ohayon, Betty Bausch, Director of the Yad Vashem Visual Center Liat Benhabib, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett, Nathan Eitan

Pictured, left to right: Elisheva Orbach, Michele Ohayon, Betty Bausch, Director of the Yad Vashem Visual Center Liat Benhabib, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett, Nathan Eitan

# Names Recovery Project: International Efforts Continue



**O**n 5 November Yad Vashem held a ceremony commending outreach efforts for the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project to the Russian-speaking population in Israel. During the ceremony, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev presented a certificate of appreciation to Anatoly Sveshnikov (left) for his outstanding work as a volunteer in the project.

**E**sther Livingston, (née Stirke Katz), of Encino CA, submitted over 100 Pages of Testimony after creating a memorial book for her shtetl of Michaliszki, Poland, which included hundreds of photos and names—including survivors, those who died, and those with unknown status. Yad Vashem's *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project staff cross-referenced information in the book with names documented in the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, and prepared the Pages of Testimony for unregistered individuals. With the assistance of Names Project volunteer Toni Rios of Irvine CA, Esther signed and authenticated each Page and photograph for inclusion in the Names Database.



*The Names Recovery Project is made possible through the generous support of Yossie Hollander, Edith Goldner Steinlauf, the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement, the Noaber Foundation, the Claims Conference, the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, the Nadav Fund, and many others.*

## Visitor News by Vivian Uria

### One million visitors at Yad Vashem

**D**uring 2007, the number of people visiting Yad Vashem stood at over one million, a rise of almost 25% from the previous year. Individual visitors now account for about half of all visitors to the site, most of whom are native Israelis, while there are also increased group visits, particularly from abroad.

### Personal Audio Guide: Now also in Arabic and German

**T**he personal audio guide service, in operation since the beginning of 2007, is today available in English, Hebrew, French, Russian, Spanish and Arabic. In February, the service will also be available in German. 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, as well as survivor testimonies. The audio guide may be rented at the Visitors' Center, near the information and group tour desks, for a fee of NIS 15 per person. Groups may rent the audio guide at a discount rate of NIS 12 per person.

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

## Yad Vashem Benefactors Lucian and Susan Seifert

**L**ucian Seifert was born in Poland, and divided his early childhood between the towns of Boryslaw and Turka. His immediate family included his father Jehuda, his mother Fany and two siblings—Jacob and Shoshana—as well as a large extended family.

When Lucian was nine, WWII broke out and the family was forced into hiding, moving from place to place. Later they escaped to the forests, where they joined an underground resistance group. Lucian's father Jehuda perished in the Holocaust, along with most of his extended family. However, Lucian, his mother and siblings survived, along with one of his uncles and three of his cousins.

After liberation by the Russian Army in 1945, Lucian moved to the DP camps in Fochrenwald, Germany, where he remained until 1949. He then set sail for the US, eventually arriving in Los Angeles, where he met and married his wife Susan. In Los Angeles Lucian and Susan established a family, now into its third generation.

Lucian and Susan Seifert are passionate supporters of the State of Israel. With their generous donation to Yad Vashem, they have taken an active role in ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust will serve to help build a better future for the Jewish people and for all mankind.



## Reading Aids for the Visually Impaired

**Y**ad Vashem has recently installed visual aids for its Reading Room, visited daily by scores of researchers, students and members of the public seeking information about the Holocaust or their family's fate. Yad Vashem's Archives currently contain some 75 million pages of documentation, and the Library holds over 110,000 titles in 52 languages. The new visual aids, including a machine with a special optic lens, enlarges print to allow people with impaired vision to more easily read the archival material and facilitate their search for information. Similarly, new software installed in the Reading Room and the Hall of Names enlarges text on the computer screen.

The equipment was graciously loaned to Yad Vashem by Aleh, an organization based at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem dedicated to assisting blind and dyslexic students. Yad Vashem is also grateful to Avraham Ivanir, who was instrumental in facilitating the arrival of the visual aids at Yad Vashem.

# RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 14 November, **Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko** (center) spoke of the importance of remembrance and commemoration and asked Avner Shalev to help in the building of a Holocaust Museum in Kiev. The President also gave Yad Vashem a stone he brought with him from the killing site of Babi Yar, as well as an authentic prayer book belonging to a Jew in Berdichev, Ukraine, in which he had written the names of his family murdered in the Holocaust. Avner Shalev (right) gave the Ukrainian President documents from the Yad Vashem archives, originating from Bad Arolsen, pertaining to his father, Andrei Yushchenko, who was detained in the Flossenburg camp in Germany in December 1944.

During the visit, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid protested the recent honor granted by President Yushchenko to Roman Shukhevych. "In a terrible pogrom between 30 June – 3 July 1941, the Nightingale Battalion of the Ukrainian legion participated in the murder of 4,000 Jews from Lvov," said Lapid. "The Ukrainian commander of the battalion was Roman Shukhevych, a Ukrainian nationalist. The units he commanded, supposedly fighting for Ukrainian independence, committed large-scale murder during the war. He was a war criminal."

In a follow-up visit by Avner Shalev to Ukraine in December, President Yushchenko presented Shalev with a file of archival documents relating to the actions of Yushchenko's family members in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. Shalev assured the President that he would present the documents for consideration to the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, headed by former Supreme Court Justice Jacob Türkel, who will examine the documents and consider the request to recognize those individuals as Righteous Among the Nations.



**German Defense Minister Dr. Franz Josef Jung** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem on 1 November, and was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Department for the Righteous Among the Nations Irena Steinfeldt (right). Later that month, Yad Vashem also welcomed the **German Minister of Finance Peer Steinbrück**.



**Comedian and TV personality Jerry Seinfeld** (left) visited Yad Vashem together with film producer **Jeffrey Katzenberg** (right) on 23 November. During their visit, they toured the Holocaust History Museum, the Visual Center and the Children's Memorial.



On 8 October, **Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan** (center) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (left).



**Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar** (left) guided the **President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf** (center), during her visit to Yad Vashem on 19 November.



On 14 November, the Israeli football teams **Bnei Sakhnin** and **Kiryat Shmona** came to Yad Vashem on a joint visit. Greeting the teams at the end of their tour, Avner Shalev welcomed the initiative: "In light of racist expressions that we are witness to today in the sports arenas, I invite all the football teams in Israel to visit Yad Vashem."



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 18 November, **UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Miliband** (left) was shown Pages of Testimony for members of his family by Director of the Hall of Names **Alexander Avraham** (right).



During his visit to Yad Vashem on 2 December, **South Korean Foreign Minister Song Min-Soon** viewed the Hall of Names.



**Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gela Bezhuashvili** visited the Holocaust History Museum on 23 October.



**Foreign Minister of Finland Ilkka Kanerva** visited Yad Vashem on 22 November and toured the Holocaust History Museum.

# WORLDWIDE Friends

## USA

On 18 November, the **American Society for Yad Vashem** held its Annual Tribute Dinner entitled, “*Vehigadeta Levincha—And you shall tell your children*” (Exodus 13:8). The 1,000-person guest list included members of the diplomatic corps, dignitaries, heads of major Jewish organizations and other supporters. The dinner honored survivors **Edward and Cecile Mosberg** with the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award, and **Matthew Bronfman** with the Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award. Dinner Chairs were past honorees **Dr. Miriam Adelson** and Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**, and Dinner Co-Chair **Ira Mitzner**. This year’s guest speaker, Ambassador of Israel **H.E. Mr. Sallai Meridor**, delivered a captivating message encouraging those in attendance to redouble their support and commitment to the State of Israel.

Top, left to right: Edward Mosberg, H.E. Mr. Sallai Meridor, Matthew Bronfman, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Eli Zborowski

Bottom, left to right: Stacey Bronfman, Matthew Bronfman, Avner Shalev, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Eli Zborowski



Left to right: Avner Shalev, Edward and Cecile Mosberg, Eli Zborowski

On 17 October, Yad Vashem held a ceremony dedicating the “Bearing Witness” Garden, endowed through the generous gift of **Lucian and Susan Seifert** (pictured) in memory of the Seifert family members who perished in the Holocaust. Among those addressing the ceremony were Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and former IDF Chief of Staff **General (res.) Moshe “Bugi” Ya’alon**. The Seiferts are recent Benefactors of Yad Vashem (see page 18).



During the holiday of Sukkot, Yad Vashem held a special “Ushpizin” program for longtime friends. Joining the program were **Sam and Gladys Halpern** (not pictured), and **Rudolph and Edith Tessler** (pictured viewing the work of Carol Deutsch in the Museum of Holocaust Art).



Joining a mission of the **Israel Bonds** to Yad Vashem were Benefactors **David and Sharon Halpern** (left), who were greeted by Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. The participants were addressed in the Synagogue by Benefactor **Jan Czucker** (bottom left), former Israel Chief Rabbi and Holocaust survivor **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** (center) and Israel Bonds Board Member **Martin Goldstein** (right).



Yad Vashem Benefactors **Felix and Ruta Zandman** viewed the exhibition “Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust” guided by Director of the Museums Division **Yehudit Inbar** (center).



# IDE

Yad Vashem Builder **Sima Katz** (center) visited the campus with her daughter and son-in-law **Rita** and **David Levy**. Rita Levy was this year's recipient of the American Society for Yad Vashem's Achievement Award, presented at the Society's Seventh Annual Spring Luncheon.



On 25 October, a ceremony was held at Yad Vashem honoring the late **Hendrikus (Hein)** and **Martha Snapper** from the Netherlands as Righteous Among the Nations (see page 11). Joining the **Snappers** and the **de Hartogs** at the ceremony was the **Breslauer family**, neighbors of Hans Snapper who persuaded Hans to tell his parents' story to Yad Vashem. Left to right: **Frank Snapper**, **Jim Breslauer**, **Steve Breslauer**

Left to right: **Frank Snapper**, **Jim Breslauer**, **Steve Breslauer**

**Hal** and **Linda Gottschall** visited the Holocaust History Museum, the International School for Holocaust Studies and the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, where they paid tribute to the rescuers who saved their family. The Gottschalls support the mobile education units that take Holocaust education directly to Israeli classrooms.



Longtime Yad Vashem friends **Ernst** and **Bilha Hacker** took a special tour of the campus and visited the International School for Holocaust Studies, where they have endowed one of the classrooms.

Holocaust survivors **Leon** and **Halina Kleiner** of Springfield, NJ visited Yad Vashem for a special tour of the campus (pictured in front of the Exhibitions Pavilion, endowed by their friends **Steven** and **Henry Schwarz**).



**Charles Bedzow**, who survived the Holocaust by escaping the Lida ghetto to join the Bielski Partisan Brigade, visited the Holocaust History Museum (pictured identifying a photo of his brother, also a member of the Bielski brigade).



**Howard Rieger** (right), President and CEO of the United Jewish Communities, visited Yad Vashem with his family, and met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**.



During a visit to Yad Vashem, **Robert Koenig** (left) and **Alan Jacobs** (center) were shown special documents in the Archives by International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).

# WORLDWIDE Friends

## GERMANY



supporter of Yad Vashem, especially in the fields of Holocaust research and Yad Vashem publications. During their visit, they were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications **Dr. David Silberklang** (left).

Y

In October, Prof. Dr. **Jan Philipp Reemtsma** (center) and his wife **Ann Kathrin Scheerer** (right) from Germany visited Yad Vashem. Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Prof. **David Bankier**, welcomed Prof. Reemtsma and held a lecture in his honor, offering some remarks on the state of Holocaust research today. Prof. Reemtsma's Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture is a long-standing

## CANADA



**Barry, Nelly and Sara Zagdanski** and their Toronto-based "Journey of Faith and Friendship" group toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, and heard the story of Yad Vashem member of staff **Sara Pecanac's** mother, a Righteous Among the Nations. The group also attended a lecture by **Jacob Perry**, former Director of Israel's General Security Service.

## LIECHTENSTEIN

A delegation of the Liechtenstein Advisory and Coordination Committee, which investigated the role of Liechtenstein in WWII, came to Yad Vashem to attend the unveiling of a plaque in honor of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The German version of the exhibition was made possible through the generosity of the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria.

Pictured, left to right: Permanent Government Secretary **Norbert Hemmerle**, former Prime Minister and Chairman of the Committee **Hans Brunhart**, former President of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities **Dr. Michael Kohn**, Director of the Office of Foreign Affairs **Ambassador Roland Marxer**



Yad Vashem's "No Child's Play" exhibition is now on display in Liechtenstein, after a successful showing throughout Austria.

## FRANCE



Accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and Director of the French and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**, Baron **David de Rothschild** (front left), new president of *La Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah*, took an extensive tour of Yad Vashem together with the Foundation's Executive Director **Anne Marie Revcolevschi** (front right) and **David Amar**, Head of the Foundation's "Memory and Transmission" Solidarity Committee.

On 28 October, the French Society for Yad Vashem held a gala dinner in Paris in honor of Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** being awarded the *Légion d'Honneur*. **Dr. Richard Prasquier**, new Chairman of the Representative Council of French Jewry (CRIF) and former Chairman of the French Society for Yad Vashem, passed the baton of leadership to the Society's new Chairperson **Corinne Champagner-Katz** (pictured).



# IDE

## VENEZUELA

Sady and Simy Cohen visited Yad Vashem for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum. The Cohens recently joined Yad Vashem's family of Benefactors.



## PORTUGAL



During her visit to Yad Vashem, Cecilia Mendes (left) was accompanied by Perla Hazan, Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk.

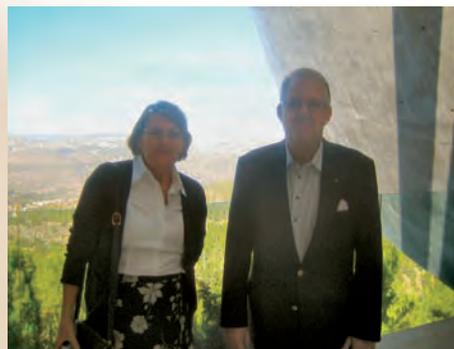
## MEXICO

Rolando and Sara Uziel (right) visited Yad Vashem for the dedication of the garden they endowed near the Children's Memorial, and were presented with the Yad Vashem key by Shaya Ben Yehuda, and Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk Perla Hazan.



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Leon Schidlow z"l of Mexico. A Builder of Yad Vashem, Leon contributed greatly to Holocaust Remembrance. Yad Vashem extends its condolences to Leon's wife, Lily Schidlow, his children and family.

## SWEDEN



Marcus Storch, Chairman of the Nobel Foundation, and his wife Gunilla toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum in November.

## CHRISTIAN DESK

Christian and Joliene Stephan (center) from the German branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem receive a key to Yad Vashem from International Relations Division Director Shaya Ben Yehuda (right) and Director of the Christian Desk Rev. Sam Clarke (left). The key was given in appreciation of the Embassy's contribution to the newly established Yad Vashem Christian Desk.



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

### To make tax deductible donations:

**USA:** American Society for Yad Vashem  
500 Fifth Avenue, 42<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10110  
Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 1-212-220-4304

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

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

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

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





## ألبوم أوشفيتس - العرض بالوسائط المتعددة



**Events Marking International  
Holocaust Remembrance Day** (pp. 6-7)