

# Yad Vashem

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## Holocaust Survivors in Israel

60 Years Since the  
Establishment  
of the State

The Central Theme for Holocaust  
Remembrance Day 2008

"My Homeland" – New Exhibition (pp. 4-5)



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### by Dr. Bella Guterman

“ I came to Israel on the Tel Chai. We were caught and sent to the Atlit detention camp. Because of my young age—17—I was released... I decided to join the Palmach... In March 1948, when Jerusalem was besieged, my company was sent to join up with the city. We passed Sha'ar Hagai and managed to make it to Ma'ale Hahamisha without being attacked... I remember the battle on Har Adar as one of the fiercest. We bonded under fire...”

So related Holocaust survivor Shulamit Garbash to Yad Vashem a decade ago. During the *Shoah*, the Dutch-born Garbash was interned in concentration and slave labor camps, and forced on a death march. She completed her testimony with the following words: “During the time I served in the *Palmach*, a fraternal bond forged between us—the fighters—which made me feel, even during the hardest times, that the State of Israel was my home.”

After WWII, Garbash and her sisters returned to the Netherlands, in the hope of finding their parents,

but they had not survived and the young women decided to emigrate to *Eretz Israel*. Thousands of other Jews made the same decision, some from the mass movement known as the *Bricha* (escape) that propelled them to the shores of the Mediterranean. Their ultimate dream was to join the Jewish settlement and participate in the struggle for national independence. Orphaned teenagers from the camps and the forests, along with women and children, partisans and soldiers in the armies who had fought the Nazis boarded ships to make their way clandestinely across the sea. When these “illegal immigrants” reached shore, they were immediately arrested by the British and placed—once again—behind barbed wire.

After the United Nations General Assembly resolution and the declaration of the Jewish State, the gates of the country opened, and the immigrants longingly cast their eyes at the approaching shoreline and tasted oranges for the first time in their lives. Many young people rushed to join the defense forces, without asking for a moment of recuperation or quiet. They were among the dedicated fighters on several fronts, in breaking the siege on Jerusalem, in defending the Etzion Bloc, and everywhere else they were sent. Their comrades-in-arms quickly learned to appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication. In 1948, volunteers from *Machal*—overseas recruits—arrived, and joined the fighting units. By the second half of 1948, about half of all IDF combat soldiers were new immigrants. Many fell in battle, among them the last remnants of entire families.

With the birth of the young state, a new battle was set before the survivors: the struggle to make a living, build a home and establish a new family. They strove for these goals relentlessly out of a keen desire to become part of Israeli society, and took the initiatives required. Living in tin huts, tents, immigrant and transit camps did not deter them. The economic crisis, the deprivations of the Austerity Period, and the difficulties of learning Hebrew and assimilating into Israeli culture did not weaken their resolve: “During the first years, I wanted, like [many] survivors, to distance myself from my past. I wanted to be like the native-born Israelis, just to live the problems of the moment,” recalls Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Israel Gutman.

With no help, and little governmental financial assistance, the survivors built new lives. Clinging to their Jewish identity, they became active partners in the most important communal endeavor of the Jewish people of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—the establishment and development of the State of Israel.

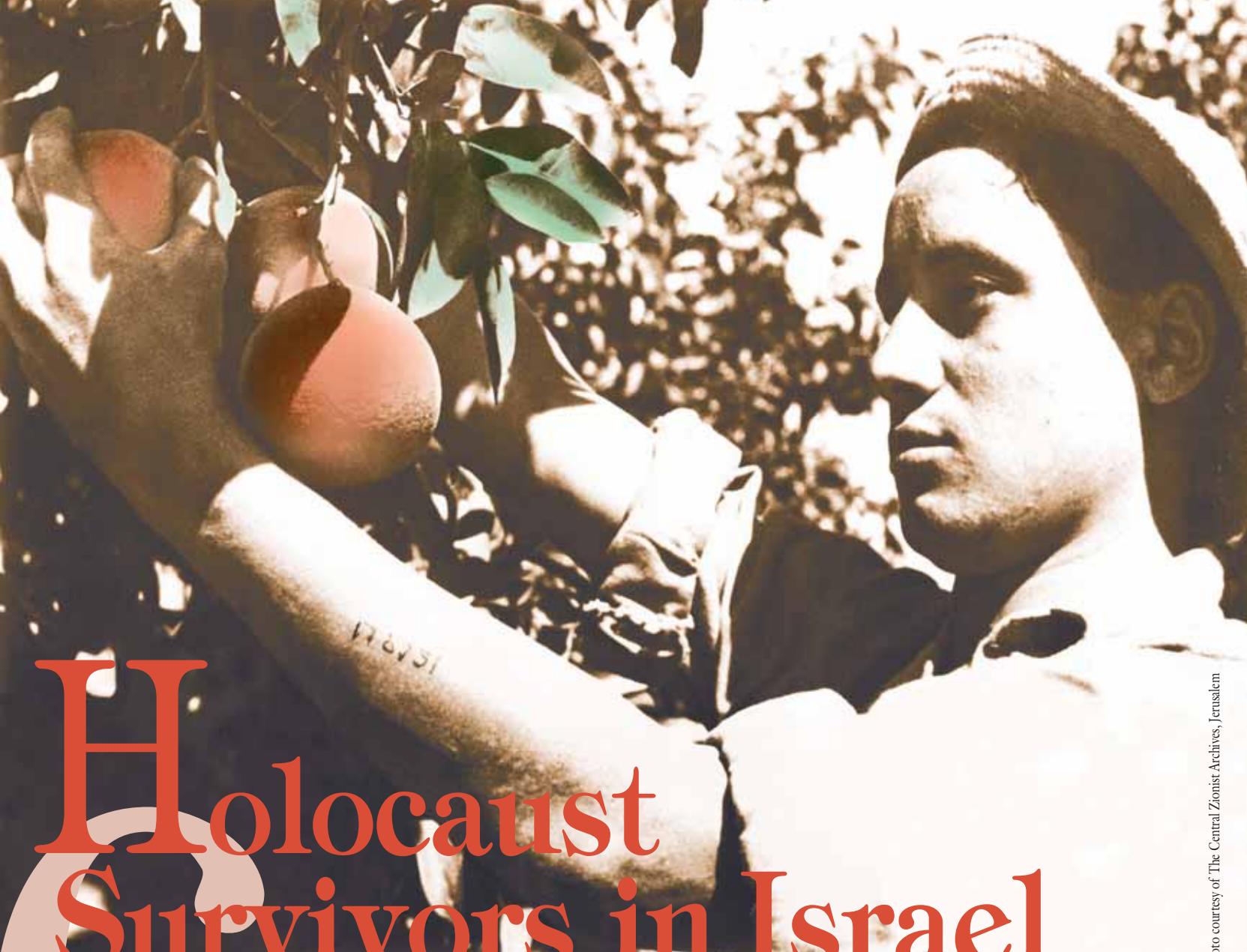


Photo courtesy of The Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem

# Holocaust Survivors in Israel

**60 Years Since the Establishment of the State**

**The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs'  
and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2008**

The years passed, and the survivors lived through social, political

and economic crises as well as times of great achievement. They became accomplished in every aspect of life: industry, science, art, literature and the media. In every field, their names are prominent. Most importantly, they were dedicated to commemoration: remembering their own families, their communities and each one of the six million Holocaust victims. They told stories of heroism, of the sanctification of life in the ghettos and camps,

and of armed combat. They described the last steps of those who collapsed on the death marches—on the very brink of liberation—and testified to the deeds of the Righteous Among the Nations, a small ray of light amid the great darkness. They commemorated the story of the annihilated in memorial books, monuments and personal memoirs, and today they continue this endeavor by giving public testimony and escorting delegations of students, educators and soldiers to sites in Eastern Europe.

Some survivors kept silent for many years, either out of a wish not to burden their children

or because they themselves wanted to forget. But in recent decades they broke their silence, sensing that the time had come to leave a legacy of Holocaust remembrance. Over the years, their children and grandchildren have learned that the struggle of the survivors is a story of heroism.

Today, having established their lives and merited to see grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the survivors continue to tell the story of their immigration, absorption and building new lives in Israel—a wondrous achievement that knows no equal in human history.

“...For me it is not a given that we have a state and a parliament, and I am blessed to have witnessed it.”

Shlomo Breznitz

“Before I dreamt of being a writer, I had a different dream: to be an Israeli, to look Israeli, and to act like one.”

Aharon Appelfeld

“My life story is composed of three colors: yellow is the badge I was forced to wear as a child during the Holocaust, red is the Soviet army that liberated us, and blue is the color of the Israeli sky.”

Dan Reisinger

“... After immigrating to Israel, my spirits were raised by two things: fruit juice, and the chatter of children.”

Mordechai Lansky

“...I do not feel guilty for having survived—amazement, joy for each additional day, a determination not to waste any of the time that remains, the pain of loss, a debt to those who were less fortunate—but not guilt.”

Ruth Bondy



by Prof. Hanna Yablonka

As Israel celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its population of Holocaust survivors numbers some 250,000, about half those who arrived here since the establishment of the State. Their dramatic story in this land—a story not yet completely told—is the subject of a new exhibition opening in Yad Vashem’s Exhibitions Pavilion on 28 April 2008.

In the history of immigration, there has been no comparable story to that of the survivors who came to live in Israel. Rarely, if at all, has a group of immigrants made so profound an impact on a society, and so fully participated in charting its course.

At the end of WWII, most survivors chose to focus their efforts on rebuilding their lives, and chose to do so in the Land of Israel, the land they called home. The word “chose” is crucial: an alternative was available. For some, it was too late. They did not manage to rehabilitate their lives. But most survivors found a core of inner strength that is hard for us to comprehend. Their collective story is one of personal and human victory.

They have left their mark in every field: building new towns, the army, industry, the economy, law and culture. Painters and graphic artists, poets and writers, athletes and

# New Exhibition: My Homeland Holocaust Survivors in Israel

dancers, academics and cultural icons—many were perceived by the public as native-born Israelis. Almost from the start, their influence went beyond the personal realm and impacted the daily lives of all Israelis.

From the day they set foot in the country, the survivors became active in two different realms: the Israeli realm and that of Holocaust remembrance, and consequently their legacy as survivors. They focused on an unambiguous and intensive fostering of their Israeli identity—striving to be among those who shaped Israeli culture—while also working to preserve the memory of the Holocaust through commemoration and documentation. After the Eichmann trial, the two realms merged into one, as Israeli society as a whole brought the survivors into its fold and made Holocaust remembrance a central component of its national identity.

“My Homeland: Holocaust Survivors in Israel” was curated by Deputy Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division, Yehudit Shendar.

The exhibition was made possible by the generous support of: The Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, Dr. André and Carolyne Bollag (Switzerland), The family of Giuseppe and Marisa Diperto (Rome-Jerusalem), Friends of Yad Vashem in Switzerland, Iyonne and Samuel Geller (Mexico), Miriam Gertler (Germany), Heide Wolf Kaufmann (Spain), Dra. Olinda M. de Kostanovsky (Paraguay), The National Fund of The Republic of Austria For Victims of National Socialism, The Phillips and Rubens Charitable Trust (UK), Primedia Ltd. (South Africa), Ruta and Felix Zandman (USA) and in memory of Pearl, Helka and Dorka Jablonka, who perished in the Warsaw ghetto on 25 April 1943.

The author is the Historical Consultant to the Exhibition.



Above: Kratz Family, 2007. Photographer: Oded Balilty

Top: Plastic “Srulik” figurine. Puppet collection of the late Keta and Moshe Kol



New immigrants arriving at their home in Safed  
Photographer: Zoltan Kluger, The Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem



# “We all must learn not to be bystanders”

## First-Ever International Youth Congress

by Mark Ginsberg

**O**n International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2008, 116 young people from 62 countries gathered at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies for the first-ever International Youth Congress. The three-day congress—under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and supported by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation—was devoted to the study of the

**“I hope young people, four or five generations after the Holocaust, will recognize the early beginnings of antisemitism, xenophobia and racism so we can do something to prevent it.”**

Adalberg Wagner, Austria

Holocaust and discussions of its universal significance. Ranging in age from 17 to 19, and speaking some 30 different languages, the young delegates hailed from countries as varied as Senegal, Morocco, Australia, Thailand, Nepal, China, The Gambia, Canada, Russia, Poland, France, Great Britain, Guatemala, Turkey, Israel and the United States. Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists alike spoke of Holocaust remembrance and its importance to future generations.

The opening session of the congress was attended by Israel’s Minister of Education Professor

**“By interacting with individuals from different backgrounds and cultures, I learned the cornerstone of genocide prevention: tolerance.”**

David Mazor, USA

Yuli Tamir, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak, with greetings from Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. Reflecting upon the universal lessons that emerge from the Holocaust, Minister Tamir told the participants, “We are remembering for the sake of the future, because we believe that the future is determined by the way we understand the past.” The same day, they toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



Delegates to the International Youth Congress lay a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.



During an intimate meeting with the Youth Congress delegates, President Shimon Peres told them: “Each of you will be as great as the cause you will serve.”

The following day, the delegates visited the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations and took a walking tour of Jerusalem in the footsteps of three religious faiths. Participants also attended lectures and discussions, including a lecture by

**“You showed us the perfect combination of analyses with personal stories... it was a life-changing experience.”**

Alejandro Coriat, Venezuela

Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer on “The Holocaust and Other Genocides,” and another entitled, “Ambassadors: The Power of Youth Around the World” by Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni, with the participation of the diplomatic corps in Israel. “Beyond the memory of those who died... the obligation to protest against intolerance is the responsibility of



Israel's Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir (center, in grey and black suit) joined delegates from 62 countries at the first-ever International Youth Congress at Yad Vashem.

**"I realized that it wasn't numbers... they were human beings, people like me and you."**

Stephanie Goldberg, Mexico

everyone," Livni told the audience. "Your voices will be joined by many others." H.E. Mr. Henri Etoundi Essomba, Ambassador of Cameroon to Israel and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, also addressed the delegates. The day concluded with meetings between delegates and Holocaust survivors.

On the final day of the congress the youth visited other sites at Yad Vashem, including the Museum of Holocaust Art, the Synagogue and the Learning Center. They met with Israeli President Shimon Peres and the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, Holocaust survivor Rabbi Israel Meir Lau. At the concluding session, the participants presented an International Youth Declaration (see right), formulated during the congress, to Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev.

## at Yad Vashem

**"We are the youth, we are the future of the world. It is in our hands to do whatever we can to make sure that such a thing never happens again."**

Malavika Malaviya, India



Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni spoke to the participants during the International Youth Congress.

"As violence and intolerance continue to engulf vast areas of the world, the young people who gathered at Yad Vashem were sincere in their desire to work for change, and passionate about the need for bystanders to take action," said Shalev after the congress had concluded. "They listened, debated, argued and bonded, while exploring ways they can ensure a better world for their generation. As I watched, listened, and spoke to these remarkable young men and women, I too became more hopeful that the lessons of the past really will resonate to create a more secure tomorrow."

Mark Ginsberg works in the Internet Department of Yad Vashem's Commemoration and Public Relations Division.



## International Youth Declaration

Standing on the Mountain of Remembrance in Jerusalem, more than 60 years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, we youth from the nations of the world pledge our commitment to carry the torch of memory through studying about the Holocaust. As the last generation to bear witness from survivors, it is up to us to pass on the legacy of Holocaust education and remembrance. We pledge to learn more about this difficult subject, and to fight Holocaust denial.

As the leaders of tomorrow in our communities, we will shape the future of humankind, and are dedicated to fighting intolerance and promoting human dignity. We shall do everything in our power to guarantee basic human rights for everyone, everywhere.

We call upon every citizen of this earth and our leaders to protect our societies from racism, antisemitism and xenophobia. We are concerned that in the shadow of the Holocaust, minorities in different countries are still being persecuted and murdered. We all must learn not to be bystanders.

The lessons of the *Shoah* call upon us to be active and stand up against intolerance

and injustice. We call upon all youth to uphold the sanctity of human life. It is our hope that this first-ever international youth congress at Yad Vashem will make an important contribution toward encouraging respect and harmony amongst all peoples of the world.

We, the participants of this international youth congress, are committed to learning from the past. We will be active in our countries and communities, and will preserve the memory of the Holocaust. This is our declaration, and we ask everyone to join us in keeping Holocaust remembrance alive.



International Youth Congress delegates present Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev with the International Youth Declaration.

January 29, 2008  
Jerusalem, Israel



## UNESCO Director General at Yad Vashem

**D**uring a visit to Yad Vashem in February, the Director-General of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Koichiro Matsuura (second from right) discussed ways to continue working together with Yad Vashem in the field of teacher training. Yad Vashem recently enjoyed close cooperation with UNESCO on a number of events marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January: the first-ever International Youth Congress at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies was held under the patronage of UNESCO (see pp. 6-7); and at UNESCO's Holocaust commemoration event this year in cooperation with Yad Vashem, a special Yad Vashem exhibit, "Auschwitz: The Depth of the Abyss," opened at its Paris headquarters (see p. 15).



## Echoes and Reflections: Canadian Launch

**O**n 30 January, the Holocaust Centre of Toronto hosted the launch of "Echoes and Reflections," a multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust for high school teachers in North America. The award-winning program, developed jointly by the Anti-Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute (SFI) and Yad Vashem, contains ten multi-part lessons that seamlessly incorporate compelling video testimonies from survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust throughout the curriculum.

The launch, co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, was attended by some 100 educators from across the country. Yad Vashem's Director of International Seminars for Educators in English Ephraim Kaye presented one of the units, and the SFI's Chaim Singer Frankes delivered a lesson from the curriculum. "The high attendance of the seminar by Jewish and non-Jewish educators is indicative of the profound wish within Canadian culture to know and understand the *Shoah* and, further, to use it as a tool to teach tolerance among all people," noted the Canadian Society's Executive Director Yaron Ashkenazi.

# Global Cooperation on Holocaust

## Second EC-Israel Seminar on the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism

**O**n 22-23 January, the Second EC (European Commission)-Israel Seminar on the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism was held in Jerusalem. The seminar was attended by representatives from the European Union as well as senior staff from Israel's Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Justice, the Anti-Defamation League and other important educational institutions and programs across the country. Participants explored a number of crucial topics, including cooperation with the younger generation, increasing mutual understanding, promoting anti-discrimination policies and legislation, and fighting racism and xenophobia in the media. Participants were also given a special tour of Yad Vashem, where they met with Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak.

## International Task Force Secretariat Opens in Berlin

**T**he German Foreign Ministry marked the opening of the permanent office of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) with a ceremony in Berlin on 11 March attended by many distinguished guests. Speakers included Director of *Topographie des Terrors* Professor Andreas Nachama, who welcomed the ITF office onto the premises, and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who gave a well-received speech expressing his personal commitment to the ITF as well as to the fight against contemporary antisemitism. Czech Vice-Minister Jan Kohout reflected on the Czech ITF chairmanship. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev highlighted the importance of remembrance for future generations and Chairman of the International Auschwitz Council Professor Wladyslaw Bartoszewski focused on the need to build bridges between countries and generations.

## Third ICHEIC Forum

**E**very February, the International School's European Department staff meets with its foreign counterparts to discuss the past year's seminars and plans for the future. This year, the third annual ICHEIC (International Commission for Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) forum boasted 21 representatives from 18 countries, including first-time attendees from Spain and the Netherlands, directors of Holocaust memorials and museums, heads of Holocaust education organizations and Education Ministry staff.

Paul Salmons, Holocaust Education Director of the Imperial War Museum, UK, appreciated being part of the creative process: "If educational units are already published, our contributions are minimal. Here at the forum, we were part of the process of developing pedagogy." Participants were particularly inspired by the session on "Lost Identity" with Holocaust survivors Chana Meiri, Rina Quint and Ehud Lev. "The panel was for all audiences, even young students," remarked Lena Jersenius, Bureau Chief of the Swedish Committee Against Antisemitism (SKMA). "Everyone can identify with this topic."

The group also greatly enjoyed two interdisciplinary events: a tour of Holocaust memorial sites in the Jerusalem hills accompanied by song lyrics pertinent to each site, and a poetry workshop with artistic interpretations by School staff.



New on



By Na'ama Shik

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

## Holocaust Remembrance Day Online

The International School for Holocaust Studies has launched a special mini-site for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day in Hebrew, English and other languages, accessible from the Yad Vashem website.

Because this year's central theme is "Holocaust Survivors in Israel: 60 Years Since the Establishment of the State," the educational materials, texts and lesson plans on the site focus on the experiences of the survivors during the war, their contributions to the establishment of the State of Israel and their everyday life during the past 60 years. The site also features videotaped testimonies and, for the first time, a picture gallery, both of which provide Holocaust survivors with an important platform to present their life stories to the widest audience possible.

## "She Was There and She Told Me" – The Story of Hanna Bar Yesha

"Witnesses and Education," a joint project of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies and the Hebrew University's Multimedia Center, is a series of films that tell the survivors' stories before, during and after the Holocaust. The movies, supported by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, are filmed at the actual sites of the events, and try to transmit as full and multi-faceted a life story as possible.

The second film in the series, "*She Was There and She Told Me*—*The Story of Hanna Bar Yesha*, follows the experiences of a 12-year-old girl who, in the summer of 1944, was deported to Auschwitz with her extended family. This unique and moving film also describes Hanna's childhood in the city of Ungvar, Carpathian Ruthenia, her emigration to Israel and her efforts to establish a family.

Visitors to the special Holocaust Remembrance Day website (see above) may view clips of the movie. The entire film is available for purchase online in four languages: Hebrew, English, German and Spanish.

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

## The Sixth International Conference on the Holocaust and Education: Teaching the Shoah – Fighting Racism and Prejudice

Over 600 educators and scholars from some 40 countries, including Australia, Argentina, Rwanda, Macau and the Philippines, are expected to attend the Sixth International Conference on the Holocaust and Education at the International School for Holocaust Studies from 7-10 July 2008.

The conference, entitled, "Teaching the *Shoah* – Fighting Racism and Prejudice," is generously supported by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, the Asper Foundation and the Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Foundation. It will feature plenary sessions given by leading personalities, including: Holocaust survivor and artist Samuel Bak; Professor Omer Bartov, Brown University; Dr. William Meinecke, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; the Honorable Daniel Rafecas, Esq., South America; and Professor Bodo von Borries, University of Hamburg, Germany.

Graduates of Yad Vashem seminars and other educators from around the world will present the afternoon educational workshops on conference topics. This will allow for a dynamic flow of ideas and methodology among the participants, who represent Holocaust museums and organizations as well as teaching institutions at all levels.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

## First-Ever International Seminars for South African, New Zealand Educators

**A**t the end of March, staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies held the first Seminar for South African Educators, in conjunction with the Cape Town Holocaust Museum. The tailor-made program covered topics such as art, theology, literature, antisemitism and Holocaust denial, and focused on issues relevant to teachers from the region.



The first-ever teacher-training Seminar for Educators from New Zealand was held in February at the Holocaust Research and Education Center in Wellington. The program was led by a Yad Vashem seminar graduate, Avril Alba, Director of Education at the Sydney Jewish Museum, and was also presented by the International School's Tamara Wassner Rich (right). The seminar, attended by some 50 teachers, was opened by the New Zealand Minister of Education and Ethnic Affairs Chris Carter (center), who pledged to work with the Center's Director Inge Woolf (left) to develop new educational programs for schools throughout the country.

## Education

### "You gave me a reason to live" Seminars Train Survivors to Tell Their Stories

**I**n March, the International School hosted the next in its series of seminars for Holocaust survivors who wish to tell their personal stories to public audiences. These highly successful five-day seminars, initiated by Holocaust survivor Hana Greenfield and guided by Amcha psychologist Moshe Harel Sternberg, have been held at Yad Vashem for the past 17 years.

Supported in the past by the Future Fund (Germany) and this year by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation, the seminars have already helped prepare some 450 survivors to tell their individual stories to students, soldiers and teachers from across the globe.

This year's participants expressed their thanks to seminar coordinator Sharon Niv, not only for helping them relate their experiences, often for the first time, but also for the close bonds they forged with other survivors. Said one, "You gave me a reason to live... a mission, a sense of purpose." Another remarked, "Before, I didn't speak a word. You gave me the ability to talk about what happened. You've changed my life."





# From the Streets of the Ghetto to the World Wide Web

«Yad Vashem's Photographic Collection Uploaded to the Internet

by Dr. Daniel Uziel

“Mendel pulls out his camera. No more flowers, clouds, nature, stills, landscapes. Amid the horror all around him, he has found his destiny: to photograph, and leave behind a testimony for all generations about the great tragedy unfolding before his eyes.”

This is how Arieh Ben Menahem describes the work of Lodz ghetto photographer Mendel Grossman in his book, *With a Camera in the Ghetto* (Hebrew). Ben Menahem was himself a photographer who worked as Grossman's assistant during the war. Grossman died in April 1944 in a German labor camp, but Ben Menahem survived the Holocaust and, thanks to him, hundreds of photographs the two men took in the ghetto made their way to Yad Vashem. In May 2008, Yad Vashem will upload a significant portion of its collection of historic photographs to the Internet, including those taken by Grossman and Ben Menahem.

Yad Vashem's photographic collection began with the gathering of individual and group photographs immediately after WWII. When the Yad Vashem archives opened in 1955, these collections were incorporated within. In 1983, a separate Photographic Department was established, with the purpose of collating, cataloging and researching historic photographs relating to the

Holocaust. These photographs represent an invaluable asset to historians, educators, writers, filmmakers and the public at large.

The photographic collection covers the entire range of fields relating to the lives of the Jews before, during and after the Holocaust, as well as Holocaust remembrance around the world. The photographs come from a variety of sources, including official archives, private collections, museums and various historic collections.

By uploading the photographic database, some 130,000 historic photographs will be made available to the public. (Thousands more cannot be included because of legal constraints, such as the right to privacy and copyright infringement.) Internet surfers will be able to conduct complex searches of the database by topic, name or geographical location. High quality scans of the photographs displayed on the site may be ordered, for a fee, via a link on the site.

The challenge of uploading such a large collection of photographs to the Internet was enormous. The weighty database was designed using special technology to provide a reasonable surfing speed, as well as a search engine that allows for complex searches. In addition, a user-friendly interface will allow surfers to navigate their way with ease. Every photograph in the database will

► By uploading the photographic database, some 130,000 historic photographs will be made available to the public.

When a photograph is selected for viewing, a Google map will automatically open showing the location of the places mentioned in the caption. ◀◀



The expulsion of the Jews of Hollerich, Luxembourg by local police, September 1942.



Children and their nursery school teachers in the Displaced Persons Camp in Vienna, Austria, 1947.

Guenter Marcusa standing in front of the Zionist training farm in Gross Breesen, Germany. Marcusa kept a diary about the period he spent at the farm (October 1942-February 1943), until his deportation to Auschwitz.



also be linked to existing information about its content and, when a photograph is selected for viewing, a Google map will automatically open showing the location of the places mentioned in the caption. Further links will enable expanded searches. Yad Vashem plans eventually to integrate the photographic collection with its other online databases, as well as those to be uploaded in the future.

“Over the last few years, Yad Vashem has invested significantly in the computerization of its various collections,” explains Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Archives. “This will allow the public at large direct and simple access to the vast collection of resources collected by Yad Vashem over the past half century. We are hoping that it will increase public awareness of the archives’ tremendous importance, and encourage people who have similar photographs and documents to confer them to Yad Vashem for safekeeping. Likewise, we are hoping that the public will join us in our ongoing efforts to decipher the pictures and identify the people in them, thus fulfilling the last wish of the Holocaust victims, including the Lodz ghetto photographer Mendel Grossman.”

*The uploading of Yad Vashem’s Photographic Collection was supported by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation and Nancy and Sam Shamie and Family (USA).*

*The author is Director of the Photographic Department in the Yad Vashem Archives.*





# Torchlighters

## 2008

### Zvi Unger



Zvi Unger was born in 1929 in Sosnowiec, Poland, to a large Orthodox and well-educated family. When the war broke out, his father helped raise funds to buy aircraft for the Polish army.

On 1 September 1939, the family fled, seeking safety in another district in Poland. Because of severe hardships, in 1941, Zvi and two of his brothers were sent to stay with relatives in the Świerzawa ghetto. In August 1943, the ghetto was liquidated. They tried to hide in an attic, but were discovered a few days later.

In September 1943, Zvi was sent to Birkenau. When he got off the train, an inmate whispered to him that he should say he was 18. Thus Zvi survived the selection, and later many others by hiding under benches in the work camp. Zvi also met members of the *sonderkommando*, and witnessed their uprising.

In January 1945, Zvi was sent on a death march to Germany. After ten days, the inmates were put on a train for Buchenwald. On 11 April 1945, he was liberated from the camp by American soldiers. He was the lone surviving member of his family.

After a hospital stay, Zvi was moved to a children's home near Paris. In 1947, he joined the Zionist Poalei Tzion movement in the South of France to prepare for his immigration to *Eretz Israel* in 1948. He joined the youth group at Kibbutz Ramat Hakovesh, and fought together with them in the War of Independence. In 1949, he was among the founders of Kibbutz Malkiyah on the Lebanese border, where he still makes his home. Over the years, Zvi has worked in bookkeeping, and also served as the coordinator of his kibbutz.

Zvi married Naomi, who passed away in 2007. They have four children and 16 grandchildren.

### Ester Samuel-Cahn



Ester Samuel-Cahn was born in 1933 in Oslo, Norway to Rabbi Yitzhak Julius Samuel, the rabbi of Norwegian Jewry, and Henriette, both born in Germany.

After the Germans conquered Norway in April 1940, life continued more or less normally, though food was scarce and they were educated in private homes because the Nazis had co-opted the school buildings for military purposes. In the summer of 1942, Ester's father was arrested. A day before the arrest, a German officer had hinted to him that it might be best if he fled, but because of his responsibility towards his community, he refused to leave. He was interrogated at Gestapo headquarters, and then sent to Auschwitz.

In late November, a member of the Norwegian underground and friend of the family, Ingebjorg Sletten-Fosstvedt, warned Henriette of the impending arrest of the Jews. Sletten-Fosstvedt and another member of the underground, Sigrid Helliesen-Lund, moved her and her aunt's families to Christian neighbors and then to a villa outside Oslo. For their action in rescuing Jews, Yad Vashem later recognized the two as Righteous Among the Nations.

On 3 December, Ester's family and 30 other Jews were hidden on two trucks bound for safety in Sweden. After a dangerous and difficult border crossing, they arrived at a refugee camp, and from there Ester and her family moved to Stockholm. In the summer of 1945 the family discovered that her father had been murdered in Auschwitz. Her mother would later testify at the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem.

In 1946, Ester, her mother and two brothers immigrated to *Eretz Israel*. Ester trained as a teacher, and then graduated from the Hebrew University with a degree in Mathematics, Physics and Statistics. She went on to head the university's Department of Statistics, became Chair of the Israel Statistical Association, and was elected to membership in the Norwegian Academy of Sciences. In 2004, Prof. Ester Samuel-Cahn was awarded the Israel Prize in Statistics.

Ester and her husband Aaron have four children and 15 grandchildren.

### Menachem Katz



Menachem Katz was born in 1925 in Berezhany, Poland, to a religious Zionist family. When Menachem was an infant, his father died. His mother remarried, and she and her husband Eliyahu had two daughters.

In July 1941, the Germans occupied Berezhany, and Ukrainians and Germans murdered many Jews. In October 1942, the town's ghetto was established, and on Yom Kippur 1942, hundreds of Jews were deported to the Belzec death camp. Together with 30 other people, Menachem's family hid in a secret room in the ghetto, and thus escaped deportation.

In the spring of 1943, the Nazis established a labor camp near the ghetto. Eliyahu and Menachem were taken to a beverage manufacturing plant, where they slept at night. Two weeks later, the ghetto was liquidated. Eliyahu fell into deep despair, and before committing suicide, commanded his stepson to "be strong."

Wounded while escaping liquidation at a local cemetery, Menachem hid in a wheat field and eventually reached the house of a farmer he knew. A few days later, his mother and younger sister arrived. The Polish farmer, Piotr Kmiec, hid them together with Shimshon Fogelman's family. When Kmiec was murdered, his wife Anna continued to hide them, even though the farmhouse was occupied by German soldiers. Piotr and Anna Kmiec and their two daughters were later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. In the spring of 1944, the families fled, this time into the forest, where they remained until the liberation of Berezhany in July 1944.

Two years after liberation, in October 1946, Menachem, his mother and his sister Rina sailed for *Eretz Israel*, eventually reaching its shores in 1947. Menachem studied architecture at the Technion in Haifa. He won many prizes in his field, published a book on architecture, and designed the museum at Kibbutz Baram in memory of the Jews of Berezhany. Menachem also initiated the renovation of the Atlit internment camp and voluntarily designed the reconstructed camp. He is active in the Berezhany Immigrants Association, and he published a book commemorating the Jews of Berezhany. He is currently working on restoring the Berezhany synagogue.

Menachem is married to Chanah. They have two sons and six grandchildren.



## Michael Maor



Michael Maor was born in 1933 in Halberstadt, Germany; he was an only child. After the rise of the Nazis to power, his parents fled to Spain, and from there to Yugoslavia.

When the war broke out, Michael and his parents were deported to the town of Derventa. By 1941, the Jews were forced to wear the yellow star. They fled to Italian-held territory, but were imprisoned by the Italians in a concentration camp on the island of Raab. After the Italian surrender to the Allied Forces in September 1943, Michael's family fled to an area controlled by the partisans. One day, Ustashi forces attacked. Michael fled into the forest under fire. There he found his father, and the two remained in the snow all night. The following day they found his mother, and together made it to the city of Topusko.

In 1944, the Germans attacked Topusko. Michael fled once more into the forest but, on his return, discovered his parents had been killed. After suffering harassment and abuse in an orphanage for being the only Jew, he lived with various foster families, but always felt like an outsider.

After the war, Michael found his way to a Zionist training camp near Rome. In June 1945, he arrived in *Eretz Israel*, and was sent, together with the other passengers on his ship, to Atlit. He eventually arrived at Kibbutz Mizra, where he was adopted. Following military service as a paratrooper and officer, Michael studied photography in Germany, while working for the Mossad. Among other professional achievements, he attained documents from the offices of the General Prosecutor of Baden Essen proving Eichmann's involvement in the extermination of the Jews during the Holocaust. Back in Israel, Michael continued to work as a photojournalist while assisting the Israeli Secret Service. After another stint in the IDF, he established the intelligence branch of the Israel Border Guards, serving as their national intelligence officer for 15 years. Today, he volunteers as the Chair of the Israel Desk of the International Policemen's Association for German-speaking countries.

Michael is married to Sarah. They have three children and four grandchildren.

## Noemi Shadmi



Noemi Shadmi, née Spitz, was born in 1931 in Debrecen, Hungary. When she was three years old, her affluent family moved to Budapest, where they lived a proud Hungarian life.

In 1944, Noemi's father and older brother were taken to a forced labor camp and murdered. Noemi, her mother and younger brother, Joschka, were moved to the poor part of town, together with all the Jews in Budapest. Their severely overcrowded apartments were marked with yellow stars. Noemi helped her mother organize a kindergarten, and every morning, at her mother's bidding, went to deliver soup to an elderly couple. One morning, they didn't answer their door. It was Noemi's first encounter with death.

One fall morning in 1944, troopers from the SS and Arrow Cross (the Hungarian fascist party) broke into their apartment, and Noemi's mother was taken away at gunpoint. Looking helplessly at the children, she told Noemi, "Take good care of your little brother, I trust you." Noemi still remembers the last look her mother gave her. Two weeks later, the children were moved to the Budapest ghetto. Noemi worked in the ghetto kitchen, and so was able to help feed her five-year-old brother. At night, she would sneak into the Christian part of town to beg for food. In the ghetto, she witnessed mass death from starvation, cold and random shootings by the SS and Arrow Cross. When the Red Army liberated the city, Noemi and her brother returned to their home, only to find it occupied by strangers who threw them out.

After discovering that her parents and older brother had died in the Holocaust, Noemi and Joschka sailed for *Eretz Israel*. The ship was intercepted, and its passengers sent to a detention camp in Cyprus. A year later, in October 1947, she finally arrived, settling in Kibbutz Kfar Giladi, where she helped found Kibbutz Gaon, and assisted new immigrants. In 1948, Noemi enlisted in the IDF, serving as a combat officer and receiving an award for bravery.

Noemi served in the Israel Police for 20 years, retiring with the rank of commander. Today, she gives testimony for Yad Vashem, lecturing widely around the country.

Noemi is married to Asher. They have two children and four granddaughters.

## Meir Brand



Meir Brand was born in 1936 in Bochnia, Poland, the younger of two sons in an affluent religious family. In August 1943, sensing the imminent liquidation of the ghetto where they had lived for two years, his parents decided to smuggle him out. Meir's father gave his son a tag with a note inside requesting that Meir be raised as a Jew. Afterwards, he explained to the seven-year-old boy the significance of the parting, and gave him a Polish name—Dudek-Jozef.

The parents paid a Pole to take Meir and his cousins Miriam and Itek to safety. After a three-week hike to the Slovakian border, Meir arrived alone in Budapest. There, he joined the refugees and orphans who slept under bridges by night; by day, they collected fruit and vegetable scraps from the markets and plundered bombed-out homes to survive.

In April 1944, he was taken in by Bertha Rubenstein, a member of the Zionist underground. Rubenstein hid Meir and other Jewish children, frequently changing hiding places. In June, she and Meir left Budapest on the Kastner train, arriving at Bergen Belsen, where they remained for the next eight months.

They were liberated in April 1945, and went to Switzerland. In August 1945, Meir received a visa, and emigrated from Italy to *Eretz Israel*. In September, a Belgian uncle contacted him after discovering his name on a list of survivors. The uncle told Meir that his parents Shoshana and Ya'akov and older brother Shimon had been deported to Auschwitz and murdered there.

Meir settled on Kibbutz Neveh Eitan with a relative, and in 1954 enlisted in the IDF. He participated in all of Israel's wars from the Sinai Campaign to the First Lebanon War. Meir studied Agricultural Economics, and was both farm coordinator and treasurer of his kibbutz. Later, he managed the meat division of the Tnuva cooperative, and after his retirement joined an office of economic consultants.

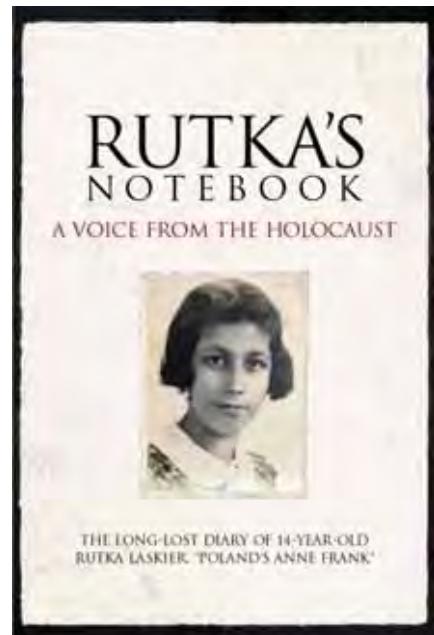
Meir is married to Hanna. They have three sons and eight grandchildren.

## Yad Vashem and Time Inc. Publish New Edition of *Rutka's Notebook*

**P**ublished by Time Inc. and Yad Vashem, a revised and expanded American edition of *Rutka's Notebook* has recently been released.

The original diary, which became an international sensation in its first Yad Vashem edition in 2007, belonged to Rutka Laskier, a fourteen-year-old girl trapped in the Bedzin ghetto in Poland. She kept a diary for three months in 1943, entrusting it to a Polish friend before she was deported and murdered in Auschwitz. More than 60 years later, the diary came to light and is now preserved in the Yad Vashem Archives.

The new second edition, *Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust* includes additional information, photos, maps and annotation that further illuminate this fascinating document.



## Also New on the Shelf...

### *Yad Vashem Studies, Vol. 36, no. 1*

**T**he new volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Leni Yahil z"l, one of the most influential scholars of the Holocaust, who also served as a member of the editorial board for many years. The volume includes a remarkable correspondence between Yahil and Hannah Arendt during the time of the Eichmann trial and afterwards, which traces the development both of their friendship and of their falling out over basic philosophical issues. There is also a section on postwar attitudes towards the Holocaust, with articles that address Orthodox women in DP camps, the World Jewish Congress and war crimes trials, Ben-Gurion and the Eichmann trial, and Italian Holocaust consciousness after the war. Two articles by French and Belgian scholars address Nazi policy-making during WWII; and two review articles address important new books and trends on Holocaust-related topics.



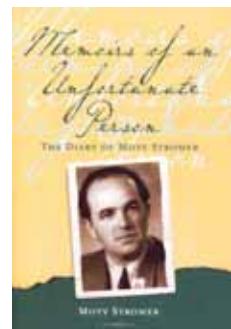
*Publication of Yad Vashem Studies, Vol. 36 was made possible through a generous grant of the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture.*

### *Memoirs of an Unfortunate Person: The Diary of Moty Stromer*

**T**he remarkable diary of Moty (Marek) Stromer of Kamionka-Strumilowa, in Eastern Galicia (Ukraine today) mostly refers to his experiences in the Lemberg ghetto, where he lived with his sister and brother-in-law. Moty recounts the viciously brutal treatment he suffered at the hands of local Ukrainians, his imprisonment in the Janowska forced labor camp, his escape from a deportation transport to the Belzec

death camp and his ultimate rescue in the barn of his Christian neighbor, Józef Streker (see p. 17). Streker also gave Moty a blank ledger book and a pencil, with which he wrote this unusual document, assuming that all his loved ones had been killed. His last hope was that his account would reach his surviving sister in the United States.

*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.*



### *We're Here Holocaust Survivors in the State of Israel*

**I**n honor of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, Yad Vashem has published a comprehensive album of over 500 photographs documenting six decades of Holocaust survivors in the country, and their contribution to the establishment and building of the State of Israel. Having already told their own personal histories and documented their eyewitness testimony to the horrors of the Holocaust, *We're Here* (Hebrew, editors: Bella Guterman, Hanna Yablonka, Avner Shalev) depicts their accomplishments and achievements in Israel—a narrative that is in fact the history of the state and society in which they made their home.

*The publication of the album was made possible through the generous support of Tobias and Rosalie Berman, in memory of their parents Rabbi Henoch and Sarah D. Berman and Alexander and Marian Bayer. The album was produced in cooperation with the Government of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Administration.*

# 27 January

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day Marked Worldwide

### New Arabic Website Launched

**O**n 24 January, Yad Vashem launched its new Arabic website. At the event marking its launch, a special greeting (in Arabic) recorded by Prince El Hassan bin Talal, brother of King Hussein of Jordan, was broadcast. The Prince noted that the new website "presents a unique opportunity to learn about and understand the issues which are not only of historical import, but are also vital to our lives today."

Holocaust survivor Dina Beitler, whose filmed testimony with Arabic subtitles is part of the new website, was present. "Holocaust denial in various countries exists," she told the audience. "Therefore, it is important that people see us, the Holocaust survivors, listen to our testimonies, and learn the legacy of the Holocaust—also in Arabic." Minister of Science, Culture and Sport Raleb Majadele, also in attendance, remarked, "The Internet is difficult to block with barriers of censorship and hate. From now on, Arabic speakers too will be able to learn the truth about the Holocaust, without intermediaries that act from hate." Also addressing the audience was Stuart Golvin from Canada, who together with Ilene Golvin, made the launch of the website possible (see p. 22).

The launch event included a panel discussion on "The Holocaust and the Arab World," moderated by journalist Smadar Perry (left). The panel included Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (second from left), journalist Nazir Majali (center), Dr. Meir Litvak of Tel Aviv University (second from right) and website translator Isaac Schneebaum (right).



### Exhibition on Albanian Righteous Among the Nations Displayed at UN

**A** new Yad Vashem exhibition on Muslim Righteous Among the Nations from Albania opened on 29 January at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. "Besa: A Code of Honor—Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust," by photographer Norman Gershman, was originally exhibited in Yad Vashem's Auditorium lobby. It traveled to the UN for International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and was displayed there until March, in conjunction with the UN Department of Public Information and the Permanent Mission of Albania to the UN.

The exhibition in New York was opened in the presence of Albanian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Adrian Neritani; United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyotaka Akasaka (left); Exhibition Curator and Deputy Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division Yehudit Shendar; Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski (right); American Society Cultural Director Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski (center); and photographer Norman Gershman. Some 500 people attended the opening, including Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division Yehudit Inbar and many family members of the Albanian Righteous featured in the exhibition.



### Auschwitz Exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

**A**s part of its International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorative events this year, the Yad Vashem exhibition, "Auschwitz: The Depth of the Abyss," opened at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in the presence of the Director General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura (left). The opening event was held under the auspices of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and President of Israel Shimon Peres, and was attended by Israel's Minister of Welfare Yitzhak Herzog (right), Israel's Ambassador to UNESCO David Kornbluth (second from left), Director of the International Relations Division's French and Benelux Desk Miry Gross (second from right), 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, and Chairperson of the French Society for Yad Vashem Corinne Champagner-Katz. The exhibition was curated by Deputy Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division Yehudit Shendar.



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

### Special Mini-site for Holocaust Remembrance Day by Dana Porath

**Y**ad Vashem's new online exhibition for this year's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day gives visual expression to the struggle and accomplishments of the survivors who made their way to Israel. Through videotaped testimony and textual narratives, survivors describe what they experienced during the *Shoah* and how they rebuilt their lives and contributed to the growth and development of the State of Israel.

The exhibition is part of the mini-site created annually for Holocaust Remembrance Day and contains information regarding the events that will be held at Yad Vashem, the stories (including video clips) of the torchlighters, and links to all relevant online resources. Photos and videos from many of the events taking place at Yad Vashem during the day will be continuously uploaded to this special mini-site.

*The author is Yad Vashem's Website Content Manager.*

### The Virtual Avenue of the Righteous

by Irena Steinfeldt

**T**he files of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department contain fascinating and inspiring stories of heroism and solidarity intertwined with tales of destruction and terrifying manifestations of betrayal. These accounts also relate the persistent quest of survivors to pay tribute to the people who saved them. To access the widest audience possible, Yad Vashem has recently created on its website a new section about the Righteous Among the Nations, which will serve as the basis for a future comprehensive online resource about this unique project.

The new section includes information about the program with guidelines on how to apply for the honor; a virtual tour and map of the sites commemorating the Righteous on the Mount of Remembrance; news and information about recent events; a selection of articles; and a virtual wall of honor for all the Righteous recognized so far. It also contains a selection of stories, together with photos and documents collected by Yad Vashem over the past 45 years. More narratives and virtual exhibitions focusing on different aspects will be added periodically, including the rescue of children, religious rescuers, rescue in different countries and rescue in the camps.

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

### Tom Lantos z"l

**Y**ad Vashem mourns the recent passing of US Congressman Tom Lantos. Lantos was a teenager in Budapest during the Holocaust, where he was one of the thousands of Jews rescued by Righteous Among the Nations Raoul Wallenberg. After immigrating to the United States, he went on to a distinguished career in public service.



Tom Lantos was a unique voice in the US Congress and an inspiration to all who knew him. His experiences during the war informed his passionate commitment to human rights everywhere, to the State of Israel and to Holocaust remembrance.

Lantos understood that the memory of the Holocaust should inspire people of goodwill to reject the role of bystanders to injustice. He was not only an outspoken advocate of human rights worldwide who inspired by example, but also an activist for the prevention and cessation of genocide. Lantos noted that Wallenberg served as his model, courageously illustrating how individuals, acting according to the values that underpin our civilization, can effect positive change and make a vital difference. He was fearless and forthright in speaking up whenever human rights were trampled, and as a Holocaust survivor wielded the moral authority to make his voice heard.

As both a Holocaust survivor and member of Congress, Lantos was the embodiment of the survivors who "chose life." His distinctive presence will be missed.

Yad Vashem extends its sincerest condolences to Annette Lantos and the entire family.

### International Conference: The Jews of North Africa During The Second World War

by Prof. Dan Michman

**O**n 20 January 1942, senior German officials gathered at a villa in Wannsee, Berlin to clarify the organizational aspects of the plan to systematically eradicate the Jews. According to the protocol drafted by Adolf Eichmann, it was made clear—several times—that the discussion concerned “the Final Solution to the Jewish Problem *in Europe*.” Thus arises the question: to what extent did the Nazi regime plan on murdering Jews outside of Europe? Was the fate of the Jews who found themselves under German rule—or that of Axis powers—beyond Europe’s borders the same as those within?

On 28-30 April, scholars from Israel, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the United States will be discussing this fundamental question at an international conference held by Yad Vashem and the Ben-Zvi Institute: The Center for Information, Documentation and Research on North African Jewry During WWII. While the two institutions have already published preliminary books and studies on the topic, during recent years there has been a resurgence of scholarly and public interest in the subject, and a current fresh and in-depth discussion, incorporating research on the Jews of North Africa as part of general Holocaust research, is long overdue.

The interdisciplinary conference is aimed at promoting a discussion of the fate of the Jews who lived in, and fled to, North African countries—Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya—and will be covering ground-breaking research in a range of areas, including: the Third Reich’s propaganda in North Africa during WWII; the North African Jewish boycott after the rise of the Nazis to power; espionage in Tangier during the war; and Jewish refugees in North Africa.

At the opening session, the Tunisian representative in the Palestinian Authority Ahmed el-Abassi will address the participants. Also present will be diplomatic representatives of countries involved in WWII and the fate of the Jews, including the ambassadors to Israel from Italy, Germany, Spain and France.

*The conference is supported by: The Claims Conference, Israel's Ministry of Education, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The World Sephardi Federation, The Goethe Institute in Jerusalem, the Embassy of the United States of America in Israel, the National Commission for UNESCO, the Embassy of Germany in Israel and the Embassy of France in Israel.*

*The author is Yad Vashem's Chief Historian.*

# Events January – March 2008

"Under no circumstances did we sit and weep by the rivers of Babylon, nor did we hang up our harps! We threw our burden onto art ..." wrote the Jewish composer Victor Ullman in the Theresienstadt ghetto newspaper. Together with those of composer Felix Mendelssohn, Ullman's works were performed on 2 January by the **Chamber Orchestra of the Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem** under the direction of Dr. Michael Wolpe. The concert featured Ullman's sonata for piano written in the Theresienstadt ghetto, completed two days before he was sent to his death at Auschwitz. The manuscript of this work was found, restored from a copy that was difficult to analyze, and arranged by students of the academy.



A study evening marking the publication of "Hitler, the Holocaust and German Society" (Yad Vashem, 2008), a collection of articles by the Head of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research Prof. David Bankier (left), was held on 6 January. Speakers included Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev,

Prof. Yifat Weiss of the University of Haifa, and the Director of the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Doron Avraham. Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman moderated the discussion.

On 13 January, a ceremony was held honoring **Anton Smenishin and Vasily Ivanov of Ukraine as Righteous Among the Nations**. The rescuers' daughters, who live in Israel, accepted the medals and certificates on their parents' behalf.

Right to left: Dina Ivanov, Vasily Ivanov's granddaughter; Yekaterina Kuchorovsky, the daughter of Anton Smenishin; Ala Ivanov, Ivanov's daughter



On 17 February, a ceremony was held honoring the late **Józef and Rozalia Streker of Poland as Righteous Among the Nations**. The couple had hidden Moti (Marek) Stromer in the grain silo loft at their home during WWII, thus saving his life. The medal and certificate were presented to their grandson Stanislaw Briks, who came from Poland for the event. The ceremony was also attended by Stromer's daughters, Sue Stromer Talansky and Nina Gaspar, who traveled from the United States, as well as dozens of other relatives and friends.

The event also marked the release of *Memoirs of an Unfortunate Person* (Yad Vashem, 2008), based on a diary



written by Stromer during the time he was hidden in Poland (see p. 14). The Polish Ambassador to Israel H.E. Ms. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska and the Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Publications* Dr. David Silberklang addressed the participants.



An emotional ceremony honoring 93-year-old Anna (née Riesen) Flescher as Righteous Among the Nations took place on 21 February. The Swiss-born Flescher (third from right)

rescued Joachim (Chaim) Flescher in fascist Italy during the Holocaust, and the couple married after the war. Their daughters, Dr. Diana Flescher and Sylvia Flescher (second and third from left), relatives and friends attended the ceremony. Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan (right) presented the medal and certificate to Flescher. Also present was Aliza Olmert, the wife of Israel's prime minister and a relative of the family (second from right), and Renate Shrenck, the cultural attaché of the Swiss embassy in Israel (left).



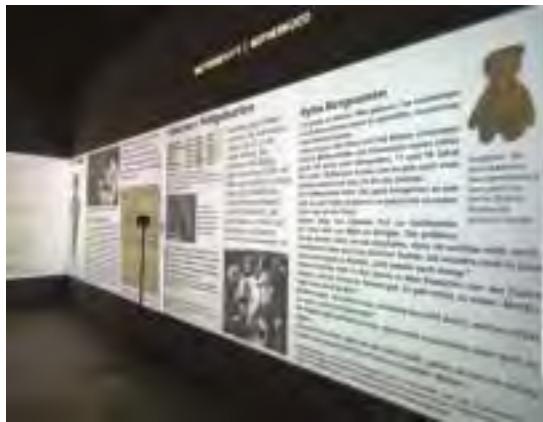
Eduardo Propper de Callejon, Righteous Among the Nations from Spain, was posthumously honored at Yad Vashem on 12 March for rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. The ceremony took place in the presence of Spanish Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Eudaldo Mirapeix Martinez (Baron of Abella) and Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt (second from right). Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (right) presented Eduardo's children Felipe Propper de Callejon of the United States (left), and Elena Bonham Carter of England (second from left) with a medal and certificate of honor in Yad Vashem's Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

A memorial ceremony marking 66 years since the loss of 769 Jewish refugees on board the *Struma* took place on 13 March at the Struma museum and synagogue in Be'er Sheva, in the presence of the Chairman of the Jewish Federation of Romania Dr. Aurel Weiner, Romanian Ambassador to Israel Eduard Yosifer, Be'er Sheva Mayor Yaakov Terner, Chairman of the Romanian Immigrants Association Micha Harish and Head of the Bnei Brak Rabbinical Court Rabbi Yoel Tobias. Dr. Raphael Vago of Tel Aviv University spoke about "The Holocaust of Romanian Jewry from a Historian's Perspective," and Yad Vashem's Senior Artifacts Curator Haviva Peled-Carmeli lectured on "Dowry: The Story of Personal Artifacts." The event was moderated by Struma Museum and Synagogue Chairman Aryeh Reiter.

## "Spots of Light" Opens in Dresden

**Y**ad Vashem's exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust" opened on 9 March at the Dresden Royal Palace, the central museum of the Dresden State Art Collections (SKD), a group of museums that receive some two million visitors per year. Attending the opening were Saxony State Minister of Justice Geert Mackenroth, Israel's Ambassador to Germany H.E. Mr. Yoram Ben-Zeev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Chairwoman of the German Society for Yad Vashem Hildegard Müller, SKD Director Prof. Dr. Martin Roth and Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division and curator of the exhibition Yehudit Inbar. The German actress Deborah Kaufman read poems and letters written by Jewish women during the Holocaust.

The exhibition—translated into German at the request of the government of Saxony—relates the astonishing ways in which Jewish women dealt with the collapse of their entire world during the Holocaust and selflessly cared for their families and others. After being displayed at Yad Vashem for a year, its opening in Dresden received widespread acclaim and national media coverage. This is the first time the exhibition has been displayed outside of Israel, as part of an agreement signed last May between Yad Vashem and the SKD for cooperation in the arts. It will run through 2 May 2008. The next joint exhibition in Dresden will feature a display of masterpieces from the Dresden collections in "dialogue" with works of art from the 10,000-piece collection at Yad Vashem.



## "Counterfeiters" at Yad Vashem

**O**n 19 March, the Oscar-winning film *The Counterfeiters* was screened at the Jerusalem Theater in a special event organized by Yad Vashem's Visual Center, with the cooperation of the Austrian embassy and Nachshon Films. As part of the event, survivor Adolf Burger (right) and film Director Stefan Ruzowitzky (second from right) toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum with Austrian Cultural Attaché Arad Benkoe (second from left), film distributor Nizhona Gilad, Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib and Adolf Burger's granddaughter Denisa Nedvedova, guided by Tamar Avraham (left).



## Sam Skura z"l

**Y**ad Vashem mourns the recent passing of a dear friend and Benefactor, Sam Skura, z"l.

With the outbreak of WWII, Sam Skura fled his native town of Sosnowiec, Poland, eventually ending up in a Russian labor camp where he survived the Holocaust. There, he met his future wife, Stella (née Obstler), whom he married in 1946.

In 1949, Sam and Stella Skura immigrated to the United States, where Sam exhibited remarkable energy both in building a new life for his family and in promoting the cause of Holocaust remembrance. The American Society for Yad Vashem was founded as a result of a meeting that took place in the Skura home in 1975. Sam Skura became the Founding Vice President of the American Society and chaired several of its initial campaigns. The Skuras became Benefactors of the Valley of the Communities, Builders of the Holocaust History Museum and, most recently, Donors of the Learning Center.

While developing an internationally successful business as the President of G & S Merchandising in New York City, Sam also became known in his community for his modesty, generosity and unassuming nature. He was an outstanding leader and mentor, tirelessly committed to teaching tolerance at home and around the world. His work will continue to serve as an inspiration to all.

Sam is survived by his wife Stella, daughter Cheryl Skura Lifshitz, grandchildren Ilana Lifshitz, Iris Lifshitz and Adam Lindenbaum, and two sisters who also survived the Holocaust. He will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



## Yad Vashem Library Catalogue – Now Online

by Dr. Robert Rozett

**W**ith roughly 113,000 titles in 54 different languages, Yad Vashem's Library contains the world's most comprehensive collection of published material about the *Shoah* and related subjects, and represents mankind's efforts to come to terms with the cataclysm that was the Holocaust. For many years, the computerized catalogue has been available to visitors on the Library premises itself, but now the entire catalogue is accessible to anyone, anywhere, on the Yad Vashem website ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)). The catalogue can be searched using some 9,000 subject headings developed by the Library staff over the years, either through simple searches by author or title, or through Boolean searching (using "and," "or" or "not"). Its availability online provides a valuable service to all people interested in the subject of the Holocaust.

*The author is Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries.*

## New Shuttle Service

**A**new shuttle service from Mount Herzl to Yad Vashem began in January, allowing visitors to reach all the main points of interest on the campus. The shuttle is available throughout the opening hours of the Yad Vashem, and makes eight stops around the site, including the Valley of the Communities.

The new shuttle is operated by the Egged public transportation company and is free of charge for all passengers.

For more information, please contact the Yad Vashem Tourism Marketing Department, tel: +972 2 644 3749.

# RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM



**United States President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice** visited Yad Vashem on 11 January 2008, accompanied by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, President Shimon Peres and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, and guided by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. At the conclusion of President Bush's visit, Avner Shalev presented him with the first in a limited edition of replicas of an illustrated Bible by Jewish artist and Holocaust victim Carol Deutsch. The original Bible is on display in Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art.



Accompanied by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and eight ministers from each government, **German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 17 March. The Chancellor, who took an extended tour of the Holocaust History Museum in January 2006, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, together with the Prime Minister, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid.



**Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 10 March, accompanied by Director-General of Yad Vashem Nathan Eitan (left).



During his tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 14 January, **Canadian Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier** (right) was guided by Director of the English Desk David Metzler (left).



**United States Senator John McCain** visited Yad Vashem on 18 March, guided by Director of International Seminars for Educators in English Ephraim Kaye.



During the visit of **Lithuanian Foreign Minister Petras Vaitiekunas** to Yad Vashem on 27 February, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented him with a letter protesting Lithuania's intention to pursue a criminal investigation into the wartime activities of Dr. Yitzhak Arad. Dr. Arad is a former partisan, Holocaust historian and former chairman of Yad Vashem.



The **Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn** visited Yad Vashem on 25 March and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



**The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka** (center) toured Yad Vashem on 24 March, guided by Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications Dr. David Silberklang.

# W Friends WORLDW

## USA

During US President George W. Bush's visit to Yad Vashem in January, the American and Israeli official delegations met with Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski (pictured below in the Museum of Holocaust Art viewing the illustrated Bible crafted by Jewish artist Carol Deutsch).

Left to right: American Society Cultural Director

**Elizabeth Mundlak**  
**Zborowski**, American Society Chairman  
**Eli Zborowski**, US Secretary of State  
**Condoleezza Rice**, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, US President  
**George W. Bush**, Deputy Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division  
**Yehudit Shendar**, Yad Vashem Chairman  
**Avner Shalev**



Yad Vashem Benefactors Jack and Marilyn Belz of Memphis (left) visited the campus together with members of their family. Later, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) presented them with an album in honor of Jack's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Warren and Mitzi Eisenberg of New York came for a special visit at Yad Vashem. While many of the younger grandchildren visited the "No Child's Play" exhibition, the adults toured the Holocaust History Museum. The family gathered in the Janusz Korczak Plaza, where Bat Mitzvah Rachel Sellinger displayed her certificate.



memory of Righteous Among the Nations **Boratynski** who saved Etingin. Rochelle and Maks Etingin received the Yad Vashem Key from Chairman **Avner Shalev**, in the presence of family and friends.

Yad Vashem welcomed three generations of the Mitzner family, Yad Vashem Benefactors from Houston. **David Mitzner**, **Ira Mitzner** and **Laura Mitzner** toured the exhibition, "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust."

Left to right: Yad Vashem guide **Hazy Flint**, David Mitzner, Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Ira Mitzner, Laura Mitzner



Guided by **Hazy Flint** (left), Yad Vashem Benefactor **Steven Schwarz** (right) visited the campus in December, including the Exhibitions Pavilion, which he endowed together with his late wife **Tina z"l** and his brother **Henryk** and sister-in-law **Rochelle**. The Exhibitions Pavilion is currently hosting the new landmark exhibition "My Homeland," which highlights the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State of Israel.

# IDE

**Dr. Ingrid Tauber**, daughter of Yad Vashem Benefactor Dr. Laszlo Tauber z"l and American Society for Yad Vashem Executive Committee member, toured the campus and met with Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Prof. David Bankier. A Fund for Research on Hungarian Jewry During the Holocaust is named in her honor.



**Daniel Levin and Fay Hartog Levin** of Chicago (left) visited Yad Vashem with their family for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the campus.



In January, Yad Vashem friends **Tamar Hirschl** and **Harold Snyder** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum, accompanied by Deputy Director of the International Relations Division **Sari Granitz** (right).

Yad Vashem supporter **David Steiner** (third from right) brought members of his family to Yad Vashem for a special tour of the campus. The Holocaust memoirs of David's uncle **Yona Steiner** (as told to David's niece **Deborah Steiner van Rooyen**) were recently published by Yad Vashem in Hebrew, and an English edition is planned for the near future.



**Arlene Eis** of New York (right) visited Yad Vashem in January with her family. Arlene is the daughter of Holocaust survivor **Edith Goldner Steinlauf**, who is a Yad Vashem Builder supporting the 11th Hour Names Recovery Campaign.



**Sue and Bernie Pucker** (third and fourth from right), Yad Vashem supporters from Boston, brought their family to Yad Vashem for a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Museum of Holocaust Art, where they met with Deputy Director of the Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar** (second from right.)



On 21 February, the Young Leadership Associates of the American Society for Yad Vashem held their Eleventh Annual Winter Gala at the Prince George Ballroom in Manhattan, with over 700 participants. Proceeds from the evening will benefit Yad Vashem's 11th Hour Names Recovery Campaign.

Top: American Society Education Coordinator **Ilana Apelker** (left), 2008 YLA Winter Gala Co-

Chairs **Rebecca Hanus**, **Nadav Besner** and **Nicole Pines**, American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski** (third from right) and YLA Chair **Caroline Massel** (right)

Bottom: 2008 YLA Winter Gala Committee members **Danielle Schwartz** and **Barry Levine**



# W Friends WORLDW

## CANADA



On 24 January, Yad Vashem launched its new website in Arabic (see p. 15). The

website was made possible through the generosity of **Stuart Golvin** and **Ilene Golvin** of Toronto (center). Prior to the launch, an unveiling ceremony took place in the presence of Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left) and Director of the English Desk **David Metzler** (right).

## SPAIN

The Spanish edition of the *Auschwitz Album* was launched on 21 January at the Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid in the presence of (left to right) celebrated poet and author **Jon Juaristi**, Secretary General of Casa Sefarad-Israel **Ángel Vazquez** and President of the Spanish Society for Yad Vashem **Isaac Querub**. Presenting the story of the album was Nazi Hunter **Serge Klarsfeld**, who persuaded the owner of the original album to entrust it to Yad Vashem for safekeeping.



## VENEZUELA



In January, a delegation of WIZO Venezuela toured the Yad Vashem campus. Left to right: Representative of the group **Fanny Cohen** and Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan**

**Maria Elena Lavaud**, a TV journalist from Globovisión, Channel 33, visited Yad Vashem to film the Holocaust movie, "Un Premio para no Olvidar," broadcast in Venezuela.



## AUSTRALIA



In December, **Ruth** and **Sam Alter** (left) came to visit Yad Vashem with their extended family for a special tour of the campus.

## SPAIN

## PANAMA

**Isaac Cohen** (left) and family recently toured the Yad Vashem campus. Isaac Cohen is the son of Yad Vashem Benefactors **Sady** and **Simy Cohen**.



## GERMANY

©Fotos: Peter Wieler, Essen



**Dr. Else Beitz** (center) was recently recognized by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations, joining her husband Prof. **Berthold Beitz**, who received the distinction in 1973. A private ceremony, in which Dr. Beitz was presented with a certificate and medallion, was conducted in her home in Essen, Germany.

Left to right: Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**; **Dr. Else Beitz**; Minister of State and Chairwoman of the German Society of Yad Vashem **Hildegard Müller**

In January, Yad Vashem's traveling exhibition, "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell" was displayed in the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart, Germany. The opening was addressed by President of the Parliament **Peter Straub** (right) and Chairwoman of the German Society of Yad Vashem **Hildegard Müller** (left).



# IDE

## UK

On 23 January, the Yad Vashem UK Foundation launched their "Guardian of the Memory" campaign in the House of



Commons. In attendance were (left to right) Rabbi Barry Marcus, Jacques Weisser, Director of the English Desk David Metzler, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Hazel Blears, MP Andrew Dismore, Linda Paterson and Chairman of the Yad Vashem UK Foundation Jeffrey Pinnick.

## LIECHTENSTEIN



On 27 January, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Parliament of Liechtenstein held a commemoration ceremony in the Takino Theatre in Schaan, together with the Liechtenstein Society for Yad Vashem.

In addition to speeches by government representatives and representatives of the Liechtenstein Society, the movie *And Along Came Tourists* was screened, followed by an animated discussion.

Left to right: Liechtenstein Society Board Member Evelyne Berman, Head of Communication in Liechtenstein Dr. Gerlinde Manz-Christ, Liechtenstein Prime Minister Otmar Hasler, Ambassador of Israel to Switzerland Ilan Elgar

## UKRAINE

In December, a Yad Vashem delegation including Chairman Avner Shalev (right) and Special Advisor Arie Zuckerman travelled to Ukraine where they met with the members of the Ukrainian Society for Yad Vashem and the leaders of the Dnepropetrovsk Jewish Community. Avner Shalev presented a specially crafted Yad Vashem Key to Igor Kolomoisky (left), who initiated the "Commemoration Fund in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in Ukraine and the Former Soviet Union." The Fund supports Yad Vashem's activities in Holocaust research, education, commemoration and documentation in the region.



Chairman Geoffrey Goldkorn (right), trustees of the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust, UK and their families took part in an unveiling ceremony honoring the Trust's generous support of the educational activities held by Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

Yad Vashem mourns the loss of its dear friend and Benefactor, Claire Friedlander z"l. A Holocaust survivor from Stryj, Poland, Claire Friedlander supported the building of Yad Vashem's Archive Halls, housing the world's largest repository of information about the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Trude Reiss z"l, wife of Simon Reiss, Life President of the Yad Vashem UK Foundation. Trude contributed greatly to Holocaust remembrance throughout her life.

**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: [www.yadvashem.org](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.



## Program of Events at Yad Vashem

### Eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day: Wednesday 30 April

**20:00** Opening ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, in the presence of Israel's President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**

*Admission by personal invitation only*

**22:00** *Uvacharta Bechaim*—Holocaust Survivors, the State of Israel and the Shaping of Remembrance: symposium with the participation of Holocaust survivor Israel Aviram, literary scholar Prof. Nurit Graetz, actress Hana Laszlo, educator Rabbi Dr. Chaim Burgansky and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, moderated by Ehud Graf. Guest performer: Aharon Raz'el—**Auditorium**

### Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day: Thursday 1 May

**08:30 – 15:00** Activity for student groups: meetings with survivors, multimedia workshops, special tours, and creative activities—**International School for Holocaust Studies**  
For details, tel: +972 2 644 3631

**10:00** Siren

**10:02** Wreath-laying ceremony with the participation of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Chief of Police, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, public figures, representatives of survivor organizations, schoolchildren and delegations from throughout the country—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**

**10:30 – 12:30** “Unto Every Person There is a Name.” reading of Holocaust victims' names by members of the public—**Hall of Remembrance**

**11:00** “Unto Every Person There is a Name.” reading of Holocaust victims' names in the presence of the Speaker of the Knesset—**Knesset**

**11:00 – 15:00** Screening of Holocaust-related films: special program—**Visual Center**

**13:00** Main memorial ceremony—**Hall of Remembrance**

**15:00** Memorial ceremony commemorating the Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust—**Synagogue**

**16:00** Memorial ceremony for the Association of Veterans of the Jewish Resistance in France—**Auditorium**

**17:30** Ceremony for youth movements in cooperation with the Youth Movement Council and the Ministry of Education's Youth and Social Administration—**Valley of the Communities**

**19:00** Assembly of the “Generation to Generation—Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy” organization—**Beit Chel Ha'avir, 15 Rehov Jabotinsky, Herzlia**. For registration and details: dorot\_hemshech@walla.com, or tel: +972 2 644 3801