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Breaking New Ground

New International Seminars Wing Answers Rising Demand for Holocaust Education
(pp. 4-5)

Pioneering Research: Antisemitism in North Africa Preceding WWII
(pp. 12-13)

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■ On the cover:

The new International Seminars Wing

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Architectural illustration: Shalom Kweller

Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, z"l

■ Yad Vashem
mourns the passing
of Holocaust survivor
Joseph (Tommy)
Lapid, z"l, who served
as Chairman of the
Yad Vashem Council,
a member of the
Knesset and Minister
of Justice.



Lapid was born in December 1931 in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, and moved to Hungary as a young boy. When the Germans invaded Hungary in March 1944, Lapid and his mother were forced into the Budapest ghetto where they managed to survive. He later told his son Yair in a television interview: "I felt I was eluding some kind of fate to which I had been doomed."

Near the end of the war, Lapid and his mother were taken to the Danube River, where Jews were being shot and tossed into the frozen waters. As they heard Allied airplanes approach, the line of marchers scattered for fear of being bombed. Lapid and his mother hid in a public bathroom, and when they emerged everyone had disappeared. "That, I believe, is where I became a Zionist," recalled Lapid. "When a little Jewish boy is standing in the snow wearing a yellow star and there are people who want to kill him because he's a Jew—he needs a country in which this cannot happen." Lapid's father and many members of his extended family perished in the Holocaust.

In 1948, Lapid immigrated to Israel. He worked as a journalist, newspaper editor and Director General of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. He served as a member of Knesset for seven years; for two as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Throughout that period, he regarded himself as the Holocaust survivors' representative in the Knesset. In 2006, Lapid was appointed Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council. "As a refugee from the Holocaust, I view Holocaust commemoration among young and old, in Israel and abroad, as a sacred duty," Lapid stated upon his appointment.

"Holocaust remembrance was a fundamental part of Tommy's identity," said Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. "As a survivor, he shared his experiences with the public as well as with distinguished visitors and heads of state, courageously explaining the legacy of the Holocaust and how it is still relevant to us all today."

Lapid leaves a wife, author Shulamit Lapid, and two children, Meirav Lapid and journalist Yair Lapid. May his memory be blessed.

Closing the Circle

Recently Acquired ITS Documents Help One Survivor Finally Reveal the Fate of His Father

by Leah Goldstein

■ At the beginning of January this year, Yad Vashem received an appeal from Holocaust survivor Moshe Bar-Yuda to discover the fate of his father, Alfred (Avraham) Kastner, murdered during the *Shoah*. Bar-Yuda's request was timely: although Yad Vashem had already received Pages of Testimony regarding Kastner's disappearance just before Passover 1942, the trail had run cold. However, due to the recent transfer of some 20 million digitized documents to the Yad Vashem Archives by the German-based International Tracing Service (ITS), Bar-Yuda was able to find out exactly where—and when—his father died.



■ Page of Testimony filled out by Alfred (Avraham) Kastner's brother in 1955.

Born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, Moshe Bar-Yuda was only eight years old when he saw his father for the last time. Through a number of false identities, Moshe managed to survive the Holocaust in Hungary, and came to *Eretz Yisrael* before the end of the war. A Tel Aviv rabbinical court released his mother from her married status in 1948, and over the years, Moshe heard rumors that his father had been murdered at Majdanek, or possibly at Auschwitz.

The first document to provide a reliable explanation of his Kastner's fate was a record already contained in Yad Vashem's Archives, listing deportees to the Novaky camp in Slovakia. The list indicates that Moshe's memory was accurate: the deportation took place on the eve of "Shabbat Hagadol," 27 March 1942 (9 Nissan 5702). Recently received documents from the ITS then helped complete the picture: Kastner's name appears on a crematoria list of people murdered in Majdanek on 7 September 1942 (25 Elul 5702). The list was only received by the ITS in the 1960s, and was therefore not included in ITS documents photographed by Yad Vashem a decade earlier.

"After saying *kaddish* for my father for 60 years on the general day of mourning (10 Tevet), now he has a specific *yahrtzeit*," said Bar-Yuda on receiving the new information. "And while it doesn't comfort me, or make me happy, there is a kind of satisfaction here. I can now move forward."

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said Bar-Yuda's tale shows how the newly expanded collection of records can help the families of Holocaust victims. "This story demonstrates how the 75 million pages of documents already collected by the Yad Vashem Archives, in conjunction with the millions of new documents that have recently arrived and will continue to arrive from the ITS archive in Germany over the next two years, can help individuals fill in the picture about the fate of their loved ones."

Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner explains that since February, the number of people applying to Yad Vashem for further information about missing relatives has increased by some 50 percent. "In the last few months we have processed data searches on some 2,000 Holocaust victims," he remarks. "Some of the applicants had previously applied to us, and are now asking for additional information about their relatives; others are making their requests for the first time. The addition of the ITS documents to our own collection offers us new possibilities, and enhances our ability to trace the fate of people during the Holocaust."

Requests for searches may be submitted via an online form available on the Yad Vashem website: www.yadvashem.org, or by regular mail.

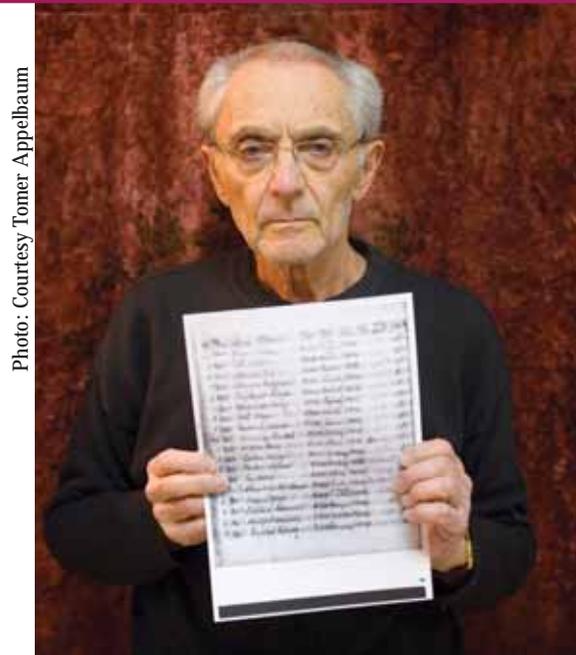


Photo: Courtesy Tomer Appelbaum

"After saying *kaddish* for my father for 60 years on the general day of mourning (10 Tevet), now he has a specific *yahrtzeit*"
Moshe Bar-Yuda

■ Since February, the number of people applying to Yad Vashem for further information about missing relatives has increased by some 50 percent

Breaking New Ground



by Wendy Lever



■ Over the past decade, the activities of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies have increased above and beyond even the most optimistic of projections. Every year, teachers, students, politicians, journalists, community leaders, diplomats and others from all over the world pass through the School's doors to gain a broader understanding of what happened during the Holocaust, and to learn the latest interdisciplinary approaches to teaching this period of history in their own countries.

To facilitate the current rate of growth and to provide for the School's evolving needs, especially in the field of intensive international seminars, Yad Vashem recently began construction of an extension to the International School for Holocaust Studies. The new wing will add approximately 4,500 square meters (almost 50,000 square feet) of space to the School, and will include 11 new classrooms, a 328-seat lecture hall, a spacious lobby, videoconferencing facilities, an interactive workshop and discussion room, a new workspace for some of the School's over 100 professional

The new International Seminars Wing will enable teachers from abroad to benefit from a more conducive learning environment

staff, an educational materials development department, an online educational resource department, and new display, storage and public facilities for both staff and visitors.

The new classrooms will be significantly larger than those in the current building and are particularly suited to educators from abroad coming for a one- to three-week intensive program of studies. The classrooms will be equipped with the necessary facilities to allow each educator to work off their laptops and will also have wireless Internet capabilities. Some of the classrooms will also have removable

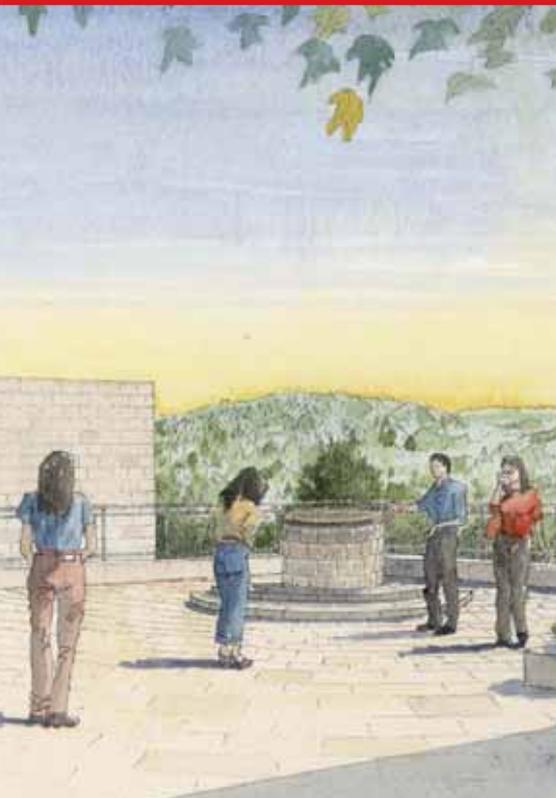
dividing walls, creating a bigger space for more interactive work or more sizeable lectures.

"The new International Seminars Wing will allow us to match the physical facilities of the School to the professional, pedagogic and methodological standards we are constantly working towards," says Director of the School Dorit Novak. "It will enable teachers that come from all over the world to benefit from a more spacious, better-equipped setting in which to hear about our advanced educational programs and teaching materials."

In addition, she explains, by moving the international seminars to the new wing, the main School building will be freed up to host more groups of students and teachers for shorter workshops and tutorials. "In short, the new wing will provide more space, more facilities and a more conducive learning environment for the tens of thousands of teachers, students and other visitors that pass through our doors year-round."

The author is Project Manager in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division.

New International Seminars Wing Answers Rising Demand for Holocaust Education



The Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall

■ Yad Vashem is honored that its longtime supporter, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, has taken a significant step in becoming the first major partner in the building of the new International Seminars Wing. The new 330-seat hall, to be known as the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, will host major conferences, international forums, and other major addresses.

Yad Vashem would like to express its deepest appreciation to the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, led by its Chairwoman, Mrs. Lily Safra, for initiating this groundbreaking project.



■ The new International Seminars Wing. Architectural illustrations by Shalom Kweller.
Top left: Main Entrance
Top right: Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall
Above: Lobby

Survivors Share in the Task

New Photographic Exhibition Honors Survivor Witnesses

by Rinat Maagan-Ginovker

■ “Holocaust Survivors in Israel,” this year’s theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day, presents the choice—by no means a given—made by survivors to construct new and fulfilling lives alongside their memories from the past. For many survivors, the State of Israel became a refuge and a home, both temporal and spiritual, after years of terror and persecution in their native lands.

Holocaust survivors—people willing to bear witness to students, teachers and soldiers—come to the International School for Holocaust Studies on a daily basis. They have become an integral part of the School’s educational programs, and Yad Vashem is their home. During the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, a new exhibition opened at the School, saluting 19 survivors who are inextricably linked with the School’s staff and visitors. Those featured chose two photographs from their private albums: a childhood picture (if one still existed) and a photograph from the period of their immigration to Israel or from their adult lives with their new families.



■ *“I had an incredible childhood, full of acceptance, joy and the knowledge that I was beloved and wanted. The memory of this feeling is what I have been trying all my life to recreate, and through it to dull the pain of being orphaned, and of the Holocaust.”*
(Esther Schlesinger, second from left, with her siblings Mendy, David and Hanna, 1942)

The photographs are illuminated by statements made by the survivors themselves, expressing their feelings about their pre-Holocaust childhoods as well as their lives in Israel. The photographs of each of the survivors



■ *“I can go on vacation, travel around the world and enjoy myself. But it’s only here in Israel that I feel at home, that I belong. It is only here that I understand the language of the soil.”*
(Esther Schlesinger, second row, third from left, together with members of her family, following a memorial service for her mother)

are mounted on a two-sided revolvable display, together with brief descriptions of their lives.

The author is Coordinator of the Educational Mobile Units at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

From Denial to Commemoration By Yiftach Meiri

■ At the beginning of June, a special delegation arrived at Yad Vashem from the town of Karlstad, Sweden. Led by educator Christer Mattsson, a group of four teenagers, their teachers and the mayor of Karlstad came to submit the results of their four-year research project on the connection between the Holocaust and their town.

The visit was no chance event. Mattsson has been working together with Yad Vashem for a number of years. He is also a member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and an active participant of the Living History Forum in Stockholm, an organization that deals with teaching and commemorating the Holocaust and the fight against racism and xenophobia in Sweden.

Mattsson originated and developed a special educational program, called “Combatting Social Unrest,” to reverse the tendency of certain Swedish youth to be drawn to neo-Nazism. “As part of the program, young people travel to Latvia

and Poland, and learn about the Jewish people and, of course, the Holocaust,” he explained. “These youths come from difficult backgrounds, and working with them requires a great deal of patience, imagination and warmth.”

The story of the delegation is connected to the last months of the war, when 27,000 Jewish and non-Jewish concentration camp inmates arrived in Sweden for rehabilitation and recovery. The town of Karlstad took in a number of Jewish women: most of them recovered, but 16 of them did not, and they were buried in the town’s tiny Jewish cemetery.

The group decided to dedicate themselves to documenting what had happened in their town and to commemorating the names of these women. By the end of the project, the students were eager to visit Yad Vashem with the information they had discovered.

After a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, the delegation participated in a ceremony together with Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies, Dorit Novak (above, right).



Holocaust survivor Miriam Akavya then told the group about her experiences moving to Sweden from Bergen-Belsen after the war. The day concluded with a short ceremony in the Valley of the Communities, held in Swedish, at which the delegation members read the names of the 16 women who had died. And so a cycle was closed: young people who were once Holocaust deniers became its commemorators.

“After all the homework, exams and grades are forgotten... the names of these women, which had almost been lost, will be remembered forever,” said one participant. “That is the best grade I could ever get.”

The author is Head of the Scandinavian Desk at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

of Holocaust Education

Intergenerational Dialogue—on Air

by Rinat Ribak-Wagon

■ For some five hours during this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day, people across Israel had the opportunity to listen to a unique intergenerational radio broadcast about the Holocaust, featuring students, teachers and survivors. The programs raised questions about childhood experiences during the Holocaust, breaking points, friendship and family, Jewish music and poetry during the war, and more. Teachers also interviewed various experts, who expanded on the topics discussed.

The idea actually took form months earlier, as the result of a search by staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies for innovative new platforms to converse with Holocaust survivors. In December, a four-month seminar began, in cooperation with the radio station of the Kagan WIZO Municipal Communications Center, preparing the participants for a series of radio shows. Featured in the shows were five Holocaust survivors—Asher Oud, Naftali Lavie, Miriam Raz-Zunszajn, Hanna Pick and Tsippora Grant—whose conversations with

students and teachers provided the intimacy the young people sought, as well as a basis for further educational endeavors. "I want to describe the human evil as well as the human good—since it is due to that human good that I am alive today," explained Raz-Zunszajn. "If I succeed, by no small amount, to reduce the human evil through the story of one little girl, that is my reward."

The radio shows resulted from a search for innovative new platforms to converse with Holocaust survivors

At the project's conclusion, course participants described the seminar as a once-in-a-lifetime event. "I am so grateful I was involved in this program," said one of the



■ Holocaust survivor Naftali Lavie speaks on air to students and teachers across Israel.

teachers. "I have been genuinely enriched." Another wrote, "The students were imbued with excitement and interest. The experience moved them greatly and filled them with pride."

In light of the program's success, two similar courses are expected to open in Israel next year. Selected portions of this year's conversations will soon be uploaded to the Yad Vashem website.

The author is an advisor in the Pedagogic Resource Center at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Yad Vashem Educational Awards 2008 by Lital Bar

■ On 4 June, students, Holocaust survivors, teachers and family members gathered to honor the recipients of the Yad Vashem Awards for Educational Enterprises 2008.

This year, in which Yad Vashem highlights the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State of Israel, Israeli survivors took center stage at the ceremony. Batsheva Dagan—educator, author, psychologist and Holocaust survivor—received the Outstanding Educator's Award. Dagan has always emphasized the responsibility of educators to deal with the Holocaust in ways adapted to the emotional capacities and needs of children, while strengthening the belief in human potential and good. Her philosophy is transmitted through her books, which have been translated into many languages, as well as through lectures to a range of audiences in Israel and abroad.

Many schools also sought to tell the stories of the survivors, and create an unmediated encounter between members of that generation and young students from their communities. This idea was exemplified by the WIZO Hadassim

Experimental School: students in the 11th grade interviewed Holocaust survivors, analyzed their testimony, and then performed their stories before younger grades in the school, youth groups, senior citizens and others.

Another intergenerational story is told in *A Miracle of Love*, by Ronit Lowenstein-Malz, winner of the Award for Children's Holocaust Literature. In the story, a young girl, Nessiya, undertakes a journey to trace the wondrous survival of Grandma Miri and other members of her family.

Award recipient Nurit Shapiro, a teacher at the Tzurim Primary School in Rosh Ha'ayin who created a unique curriculum for the 6th grade, addressed the ceremony participants: "We are now on the threshold of a new era. In just a few years there will be no more survivors to tell their story of struggle and survival." Turning to her own students she continued, "You will be the primary partners in shaping the memory of the Holocaust anew, and in finding ways to express that remembrance. I see you



■ Author Batsheva Dagan (second from left) receives the Yad Vashem 2008 Award for an Outstanding Educator.

as the spearhead, the pioneers at the forefront, struggling courageously with the challenges of our identity as a Jewish and democratic state, urging your own children to remember the Holocaust in the future so that it can never happen again."

The author is Director of the Pedagogic Resource Center at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Sixth International Conference on Holocaust Education

Teaching the Shoah—Fighting Racism and Prejudice

■ More than 700 educators from across the globe came to Yad Vashem at the beginning of July to participate in a unique international conference entitled, “Teaching the Shoah: Fighting Racism and Prejudice.” Participants from 52 countries as varied as Rwanda, South Africa, Poland, Germany, Greece, Turkey, China, Japan, Korea, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Ukraine, Serbia, Australia and the United States attended the conference, the largest of its kind in Israel. The three-day conference also served as a forum for dialogue among educators dealing with the challenges of Holocaust education in countries with large multi-ethnic populations.

Supported through the generosity of the Adelson Family Foundation and the Asper Foundation, the conference took place from 7-10 July at Yad Vashem and the Jerusalem International Convention Center. It addressed three main subjects: racism and antisemitism in the 19th and 20th centuries; Holocaust education in a multi-cultural classroom; and the legacy of the survivors in Israel's 60th year. Participants from around the world also conducted over 160 educational workshops in English, Spanish, Russian and French. Topics included teaching the Holocaust in Rwanda; the challenge of Holocaust education for students with a Muslim background; and teaching the Holocaust and

genocide in Europe today—the challenge of anti-Zionism and antisemitism.

“The pedagogical questions raised by teachers from around the world who attend our seminars underscored the need to place the theme of Holocaust education in a multi-cultural society at the core of the conference,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “It provided hundreds of educators with the tools necessary to teach the Holocaust effectively in their countries.”

“The unprecedented response that brought so many educators to the conference shows that Holocaust education is vitally important for shaping future generations, and strengthens the commitment to the struggle against antisemitism, racism, and prejudice—widespread phenomena in today's societies,” remarked Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Among the speakers at the conference were Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir, Minister of Social Affairs Yitzhak Herzog, MK Rabbi Michael Melchior, former minister and MK Natan Sharansky, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Prof. Omer Bartov of Brown University (USA), Artist and Holocaust Survivor Samuel Bak, Prof. Dina Porat of Tel Aviv University and the Hon. Daniel Rafecas, Esq., Federal Judge in Argentina.

New on www.yadvashem.org/education

Teaching the Legacy: E-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators

by Na'ama Shik

■ On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day 1997, the writer Aharon Appelfeld said: “We must not leave the Holocaust in the realm of the big numbers and generalities. Witnesses and historians have laid the foundations. Now is the time for creating something new.”

Every day, Yad Vashem tries to apply these words in its educational work. Over the past decade, the International School for Holocaust Studies has focused on a range of interdisciplinary fields such as history, literature, art, music and more, lending Holocaust education a deeper and more complex nature while focusing on the individual who stands at the center.

These principles form the basis of the International School's online newsletter, *Teaching the Legacy*. The free quarterly

newsletter is aimed at educators in both formal and informal education, as well as the public at large.

Each issue focuses on one aspect of the Holocaust, such as children, art or culture during the *Shoah*, or teaching the Holocaust through literature. Suggested educational activities accompany the featured theme, as well as regular columns stemming from the School's educational philosophy: an article presenting the historical and educational background; an interview with a Holocaust survivor; a movie review; a historical corner; and news from Yad Vashem. Recently two new regular features have been added, focusing on artifacts and photos connected to the topic.

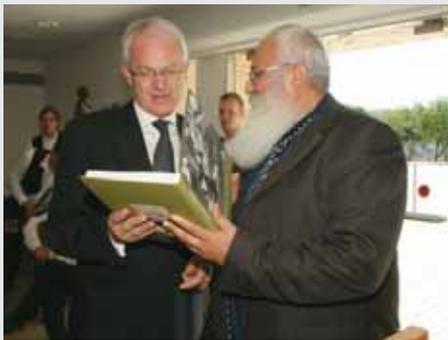
The author is Director of the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Elie Wiesel Honors Award-winning Curriculum “Echoes and Reflections”



■ Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel (center) congratulates Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) and Anti-Defamation League National Director Abraham Foxman (left) on their award-winning multimedia curriculum, “Echoes and Reflections.” Wiesel is featured in Lesson 5 of this interdisciplinary curriculum about the Holocaust designed for US high schools. The three are holding the NAME (National Association of Multicultural Education) 2007 Media Award.

Northrhine-Westphalia and Yad Vashem Mark 10 Years of Cooperation



■ On 1 June, the Prime Minister of Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany, Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers (left), visited Yad Vashem to mark ten years of cooperation on Holocaust education. The annual German teacher-training seminar, which has so far welcomed some 250 participants, is directly supported by the prime minister, who visits Yad Vashem on a yearly basis to meet with School staff, talk to survivors, and hear updates about the project. A new annual graduate seminar for past participants who have displayed impressive pedagogical initiatives is set to begin later this year.

During his visit, Dr. Rüttgers met with Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan (right), who presented the prime minister with a copy of the Yad Vashem Museum album *To Bear Witness*.

Revealing the Good

Recognizing the Righteous Among the Nations

by Irena Steinfeldt

■ At first, the case of Roger and Esther Perret seemed like any other. Claude Marx had contacted Yad Vashem in 2006 requesting that the Perrets, who had hidden him during the Holocaust, be recognized for their act. When the name of the French town—Buzancais—where the wartime events had occurred came up during a session of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, no one noticed the reaction of Dr. Ehud Loeb, Commission member since 2004. He too had been hidden in Buzancais, though by a different couple, Jules and Jeanne Roger, who had been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 1989. Dr. Loeb was further astonished to learn that, just like his own rescuer, Roger Perret had been a butcher by trade.

After the Perrets had also been granted recognition, it came to light that Roger Perret and Jules Roger had in fact known one another. It is possible that during the war they met up occasionally, and it is reasonable to assume that they spoke of their families, about the difficulties of life in wartime, and about the cost of meat. But it seems almost certain that neither man ever raised one topic: the fact that he was hiding a Jewish child in his home.

Forty-five years ago, the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous was charged with the task of deciding who is entitled to the highest honor bestowed by the State of Israel on non-Jews. This year, as Israel celebrates 60 years of independence and Yad Vashem recognizes the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State, it is fitting to pay particular attention to the role played by those survivors who, rather than sink into vengeance, sought to extract something positive from the horrors they endured. It is they who provided much of the impetus to establish this honor, and who continue to work for this important project to this day.

Commission members, who volunteer their time and services, together speak some 17 languages, and bring with them an enormous knowledge of the history of the Holocaust in different locations, a wealth of life experience and a great deal of humanity. They devote many hours to examining the files. They interview or correspond with witnesses, investigate the circumstances and, at the end of the investigation, submit their recommendation



■ One of the earliest meetings of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous.

before the Commission. Unlike historians who analyze the complex human situations of the Holocaust and describe the different points of view, Commission members must draw a clear line through the multi-faceted and complex spectrum of human behavior. They are required to raise a hand and decide whether the actions described before them will grant an individual the right to be called a Righteous Among the Nations.

Over the years, the Commission has developed a set of defined and detailed criteria, but every rescue situation was unique, and their circumstances often bring about difficult deliberations on how precisely to apply the rules. Should the fact that a family deeply loved the child they were hiding and didn't want to give him back at the end of the war prevent them from being recognized? What about those who started out as members of Nazi or fascist organizations but who ended up rescuing Jews—should the act of rescue negate their previous heinous actions?

In addition, most Commission members are themselves Holocaust survivors; some were rescued, while others encountered only apathy or hostility on the part of their neighbors. Delving into the cases often brings nightmares to the surface, and probes still-open wounds. Personal memories flicker through Commission discussions, but great efforts are then made to redirect the discussion to the cases at hand. Conversely, insisting on staying strictly on topic is also unacceptable, since Commission

Every rescue situation was unique, and their circumstances often bring about difficult deliberations

members constantly remind each other of the sharply different context in which the rescuers and rescued had to operate, compared to the comfortable and safe room in which they are discussing their stories.

Understanding the enormity of the challenge, from the outset of the program Yad Vashem has appointed a Supreme Court Justice to chair the Commission. Today, retired Supreme Court Justice Jacob Türkel devotes much of his time to steering the Commission's work, reviewing the minutes and examining its decisions.

Simha Rotem (Kazik) has been working on the Commission since its inception. "What brought me to the Commission was the feeling that this was the least we could do for those who rescued us," he explains. "I knew some of the Righteous in Poland during the Holocaust, I am aware of the danger their acts of rescue entailed, and I know that no one could give more than they gave. Recognizing the Righteous Among the Nations is a sacred commitment, and I could never excuse myself from this mission."

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

Empathy and Understanding

Survivors Volunteer in the Names Recovery Project



■ Volunteers Ora Leshem (left) and Uri Sela (right) assist in Names Recovery efforts at Protea Village Residence in central Israel.

■ For Aliza Shomron, helping other Holocaust survivors commemorate their lost loved ones comes naturally. As someone who lived through the *Shoah*, Shomron has firsthand knowledge of the horrors they endured. Coupled with her instinctive empathy and understanding, this helps put fellow survivors at ease. “When I help other survivors I can look them in the eye. I don’t need to explain myself much; we already have a mutual understanding and share common knowledge. I understand their problems and their anxiety, and I feel great empathy towards them and the strength to encourage them. With me they feel more comfortable, and less threatened.”

The *Shoah* Victims’ Names Recovery Project trains volunteers in Israel and around the world

The process of remembrance provides volunteers with a sense of collective relief

to assist Holocaust survivors and members of their generation to commemorate victims they knew by recording their names and, when available, photos and other biographical data on Pages of Testimony. Like Shomron, many of those joining the ranks of this historic effort are themselves *Shoah* survivors. As the generation that best remembers the victims dwindles, the urgency grows to record their names and ensure their memory.

In Israel, volunteers undergo training at Yad Vashem and then conduct home visits with survivors, where tremendous sensitivity is required to guide the submitters through the painful process of re-opening wartime memories and confronting feelings of loss and mourning from over half a century ago. The Project’s Volunteer Coordinator Yeela Cooper says that Holocaust survivors continually express their gratitude to the volunteers who have helped them. “Survivors thank us for reaching out to them. Without us, they would still be walking around with a feeling of something missing, and a heavy burden.”

Dasha Rittenberg, who lost most of her family during the Holocaust, couldn’t bring herself to submit Pages of Testimony. “I have

by Deborah Berman



While the pain of her past losses will always be with her, Dasha Rittenberg has found comfort in commemorating her family members

too many names. It was difficult for me to fill out the Pages, despite many people encouraging me to do so." The assistance and compassion Rittenberg received from a volunteer made all the difference, and enabled her finally to tackle the task of commemoration. "I was less inhibited at home, sitting at my own table. The volunteer was

a nice warm person, and seemed genuine about wanting to help me. On one visit she brought her parents—her father is also a survivor. I love that her parents came too."

While the pain of her past losses will always be with her, Rittenberg says she has found comfort in commemorating her family members. "I will never find peace, but I am glad I have commemorated them; I think it was the right thing to do. It tells the world, 'You see—we did not forget them, we will not forget them.' Every Friday night, I try to remember their faces. I hope that they will never fade away."

Most interestingly, Cooper relates, is that the benefit is also felt on the part of the volunteers. They tell her how they cherish the close relationships they form with other survivors and are proud of their contribution towards Holocaust remembrance. "Many volunteers come back to us with a feeling of satisfaction, a mission completed. They are pleased that they have joined this vital national effort."

The process of remembrance also provides volunteers with a sense of collective relief. "At the end of the process, the people thank me warmly. I feel I am helping them cope with a difficult task," says Shomron. "And my benefit? I leave with a good feeling."

To learn more about the project, or to initiate a names recovery campaign in your area, please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il

Over 350,000 names gleaned from *Sifrei Yizkor*

by Zvi Bernhardt

■ Since the 1950s, Yad Vashem has been collecting *sifrei yizkor*—memorial books published by organizations representing the remnants of destroyed European communities. Currently the Yad Vashem Library holds more than 1,200 such books, the largest such collection in the world. Many of the *sifrei yizkor* include lists of those murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators, compiled by members of their community. In 2002, Yad Vashem's Hall of Names recruited volunteers to record these names in a digital format, in order to incorporate them into the Central Database for *Shoah* Victim's Names. Over 260,000 names from this project have already been added to the Names Database, and some 100,000 names await editing.

A new volunteer project has recently been launched, aimed at gleaning names from memoirs written by *Shoah* survivors. While each book may contain only a few names (unlike the *sifrei yizkor*, which frequently include hundreds of names) this new, labor-intensive project reflects Yad Vashem's commitment to recovering the names and identities of every single victim of the *Shoah*.

The author is Deputy Director of Reference and Information Services and Head of Data Processing in the Hall of Names.

Belarus Volunteers Join Yad Vashem in Names Recovery

■ In May 2008, a Yad Vashem delegation to Belarus joined together with local partners to collect and document the names of some 800,000 Jews killed in the region during the *Shoah*.

Left to right: Leonid Rubinstein, Head of the Bobruisk Jewish Community; Yoni Leifer, JDC representative in Belarus; Yossi Hollander, Names Recovery Project benefactor; Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate; Dr. Aharon Weiss, JDC Special Advisor in the FSU; Inna Gerasimova, Director of the Minsk Jewish Museum



Antisemitism in North Africa

by Leah Goldstein

■ At the recent international conference on Jews in North Africa during WWII held by Yad Vashem and the Ben Zvi Institute, many new and thought-provoking topics were raised, often for the first time in such a forum.



■ Emmanuel Debono

Ground-breaking research on the North African Jewish boycott, the community's reaction to antisemitic propaganda in their midst, and their absorption of refugees from other lands, among other related subjects, made for fascinating listening and stimulating discussion.

Conference participants hailed from a range of countries and disciplines, many of them young scholars who continue to push the boundaries in Holocaust research. One such scholar is Emmanuel Debono, a doctoral student from the Institut d'Etudes politiques in Paris, currently researching LICRA (the international organization against racism and antisemitism), from 1927-1940. Debono lectured on "The Dynamics of Antisemitism in the Maghreb on the Eve of World War II"—a topic that intrigued the conference's attendees.

In a special interview for this edition, Debono explained what he has so far discovered about this little-investigated phenomenon:

Nearly seven decades have passed since WWII. Why did you now choose to study prewar antisemitism in the Maghreb?

The opening up in recent years of a number of French colonial administration archives have made it possible to shed new light on the major antisemitic currents at work in prewar Maghreb. Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia were not spared the effects of the flare-up of antisemitism characteristic of the 1930s in much of Europe, albeit each of these territories' history, geography, and status led to varying degrees of intensity and expression. This topic raises numerous questions relating to the antisemitic tendencies at work and their specific expressions among the native populations, as well as the French State's attitude to what was a particularly corrosive phenomenon for the

cohesion of even a colonial society. My research seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the breeding ground later influenced by the Vichy Government.

What led to the increase of antisemitism in North Africa during the 1930s?

As in France, antisemitism was not a single monolithic block in North Africa. It was fed by a range of sources, such as Muslim populations, which were traditionally suspicious of, if not hostile, towards the Jews; Algerian settlers for whom the Crémieux Decree (giving French

During the 1930s, all the political trends and movements tried to use the Muslim natives in their strategies

citizenship to Algerian Jews) was impossible to stomach; agents from Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy working to achieve the breakdown of these countries' colonial society; French nationalist organizations; and schemes by various local despots. Hence, the causes of antisemitism in this part of the world can be defined as historical-cultural, ideological and opportunistic. Of course, they must be seen in a particularly tense international setting, in which the dictatorships were pursuing an aggressive policy and Palestine was becoming a burning issue. The diversity of forms of antisemitism spread out through a wide range of expressions, from abuse to riots, via billposting activities and propaganda meetings.

Was the violence totally one-sided? How did the Jewish population react to the perceived—and real—threats?

Despite the socio-cultural closeness of the two communities, latent animosity existed and broke out from time to time as things came to a head. The fact is that quite a few of the incidents recorded by the police were the result of everyday relations between people living together, as neighbors and business partners, with their inevitable frictions, pettiness, insults and reconciliations. Nevertheless, the use of the antisemitic abuse that often accompanied them and the unmotivated nature of certain verbal or physical attacks reflected a contemptuous mindset. This attitude was expressed, among others, by one member of a group of locals passing a Jewish funeral procession on 27 December 1938, in Gafsa, Tunisia, who said: "Yet another Jewish bastard who'll go to hell."

While the Jewish population undoubtedly suffered attacks more frequently than their Muslim counterparts, there are also recorded incidents of Jews cursing Muslims and slurring their religion. However, the reaction of the community only exacerbated the tension. When an incident occurred, crowds of natives would gather round the protagonists with amazing speed, spurring people on and whipping them up into a frenzy. As a result, it was very difficult for them to control themselves. The police played a decisive role in stopping incidents, dispersing crowds, calling for reinforcements, and making arrests in order to neutralize these risky gatherings. The police were also only too aware of the pernicious effect that rumors were

New Edition Encyclopedia of the Communities: Libya-Tunisia

■ On 20 May, Yad Vashem launched a new Hebrew edition of *The Encyclopedia of the Communities: Libya-Tunisia*, edited by Dr. Irit Abramsky. The book's release was marked during a gathering commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Tunisia and Libya. The event was attended by hundreds of former Libyan and Tunisian residents and other distinguished guests, including MK Silvan Shalom, a native of Gabas in Tunisia; Chairman of the World Federation of Libyan Jews Meir Kahalon; Claude Sitbonne, a researcher of Tunisian Jewry; and Fred Gasquette, a native of Libya, who told his own personal story.



Preceding WWII



Jewish communities came to be haunted by obsessive fears and unvoiced terrors, withdrawing into themselves, and suffering a sense of having been abandoned



■ *Tunis: Three Jews, before WWII*

likely to have on the masses, Muslim and Jewish alike. Stopping rumors therefore became a top priority for law enforcement officials.

In which manner did outside antisemitic influences win favor with local Muslims?

During the 1930s, all the political trends and movements tried to use the Muslim natives in their strategies. Nazi propaganda emanating from Berlin spread anti-Jewish hatred within Arab populations, mostly in the shape of articles, fliers and so on. The media also cited anti-Jewish passages that could be found in the Koran in order to convey their message of hatred. French nationalists also used brochures to smear Jews, flatter Muslims and call for insurrection.

The Muslim masses were also incited by Arab propaganda, which became increasingly aggressive throughout the decade. In Tunis in the late 1930s, for example, slogans were

circulated encouraging the boycott of Jewish businesses, and blame was laid for “the awful things that the Arabs have undergone from the Jews.” References to Palestine began to appear in the local Arab press. Such propaganda was of course influenced by Zionist activities taking place in North Africa.

What part did the French authorities play?

There is no doubt that antisemitism in the Maghreb did confront the French authorities with a problem. However, the public authorities mainly opted for a form of abstention and avoided granting great importance to incidents. The most serious flare-ups did remain limited, but they did not exclude other occurrences, which were considered harmless by the Administration. This gave the impression that it had set its “tolerance threshold” at the stage

prior to collective murderous violence. It was a precarious balance.

Nevertheless, this should in no way minimize the pernicious effect on minds and national cohesion exerted by harmful propaganda, whether local or foreign in origin, which people constantly feared might lead to confrontations. Jewish communities came to be haunted by obsessive fears and unvoiced terrors, withdrawing into themselves, and suffering a sense of having been abandoned.



“The Holocaust, the Survivors and the State of Israel” International Research Conference at Yad Vashem, 8-11 December 2008

■ Marking the country’s 60th anniversary, Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research is convening an international conference this coming December entitled, “The Holocaust, the Survivors and the State of Israel.”

The conference, supported by the Gertner Center for International Conferences, will host renowned historians, scholars and young researchers from Israel and abroad, and will feature panel discussions on a variety of related topics, including the place of the Holocaust in the establishment of the State; the survivors and their role in memory and commemoration; the absorption of survivors into various sectors of Israeli society; presentations of the Holocaust in Israel; the Holocaust, Israel and the international arena; and the Holocaust and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The conference’s keynote speaker will be Yad Vashem’s Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer. Other participants include Ms. Michlean Amir of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Head of Yad Vashem’s Research Institute Prof. David Bankier, as well as promising young scholars and historians from Italy, Poland and Israel.

For more information, please visit: www.yadvashem.org

Brimming with Courage and Determination

The Story of Maxi Librati



by Miry Gross



■ Left to right: Ambassador Nissim Zvili, Miry Gross, Beatrice Halpern Boukris, Maxi Librati, Avner Shalev, Shaya Ben Yehuda, Nathan Eitan



■ Avner Shalev (left) and Maxi Librati look at the newly dedicated memorial to the Chriqui and Toutitou families.

■ “Dear parents, I promise you – a short trip cannot hurt anyone. Surely we will discover new horizons, and when we meet again I will be able to tell you all my adventures, a story that is starting to become beautiful and unexpected, yet brimming with courage and determination...”

These words were written by Maxi Librati to his parents, Moshe and Itta Librati, in September 1943, as he traveled from Drancy to an unknown destination. His parents had remained in Saint Fons (a city near Lyon), and Maxi threw the letter into the street hoping someone would find it and pass it on. Miraculously, the letter was delivered.

The “short trip” began by 18-year-old Maxi that September turned into a journey that included Auschwitz, the Warsaw ghetto, and a death march towards Dachau, Kaufering and Allach, where he was finally liberated.

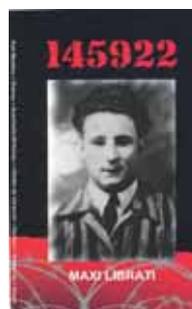
“Unexpected, yet brimming with courage and determination”—even then, the young Maxi chose these words to shape his approach to the world. Anyone who reads his testimony or knows his life story is struck by Maxi’s attitude. A stubborn courageousness saved Maxi’s life several times in the course of his incarcerations in the camps. That same courage and determination, the amazing ability not to sacrifice the values in which Maxi believes—friendship and loyalty, and a love for humanity, the Jewish people and the State of Israel—all led him to rebuild his life and succeed on a grand scale, becoming

“King of the Sentier” (a Paris street known for its Jewish fashion houses).

But Maxi never forgot those who did not make it back, and he never ceased telling their story. A valiant and stubborn fighter for Holocaust commemoration, as well as on behalf of Zionism and his community, Maxi understood long ago that the way to build and rebuild oneself was through action.

On 1 June, a ceremony was held to dedicate the grove and garden established at Yad Vashem with the generous help of Maxi Librati. Among the guests attending the event were Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and former ambassador to France Nissim Zvili. The grove and garden are dedicated to Maxi’s parents, Holocaust survivors from the Chriqui family who were saved thanks to Righteous Among the Nations Georges Amblar, as well as to the Toutitou family, which found no such helping hand and perished in the Holocaust. The tranquil location overlooking the landscape of Jerusalem provides a resting place for visitors coming to the Mount of Remembrance, and symbolizes a bridge between the past and the future.

The event also marked the publication of Maxi’s life story, *145922* (Yad Vashem, 2008,



Maxi never forgot those who did not make it back, and he never ceased telling their story

in Hebrew and French), written by Maxi Librati with the help of his friend Beatrice Halpern Boukris. Grappling with the unexpected, the ability to take life as it comes, the capacity to accept the bad along with the good, the gift of growing enthusiastic and passionate with every new idea and project—these have kept Maxi eternally young, always ready to act, to assume new tasks and to take on the new challenges life throws his way. Maxi’s testimony, aimed at the younger generation, brims with these messages of life.

Holocaust survivors, members of Maxi’s generation, have shouldered and continue to bear the burden of remembrance, and lend their work its moral authority. Yad Vashem is committed to transmitting the legacy of the survivors to future generations. Maxi Librati, a true friend and partner, has assumed the responsibility of sharing that commitment with us.

The author is Director of the Italian, French and Benelux Desk in Yad Vashem’s International Relations Division.

Being a Jew after the Holocaust

Survivors' Efforts to Rediscover Their Identities

by Dr. David Silberklang

■ "The solution to the religious dilemma [for survivors] is rebellious faith in the Creator. I lay *tefillin* daily, but pray only briefly."

So concludes Zwi Bacharach in his new book, *From Historical Experience to Historical Research: A Jewish Scholar Studies Antisemitism and Nazism* (Hebrew, Yad Vashem, 2008). Bacharach's comment astutely confronts a central issue for many survivors of the *Shoah*: What does it mean to be a Jew after the Holocaust?

Several recent Yad Vashem publications address this question, both for the immediate postwar years and ever since. What was the content and form of survivors' Jewish identity in those first postwar years? What issues did they face, and how did they try to deal with them?

These questions are among the many weighty issues that have long concerned scholars in their research on *She'erit Hapletah* (Heb. "Surviving Remnants"—Holocaust survivors in the immediate postwar years), and the survivors' lives since the Holocaust. Personal accounts generally include at least a brief chapter on rebuilding their lives and settling in Israel or another country, as well as marriage, children and occupation. Occasionally, the survivors also discuss their Jewish identity, and their dilemmas

Personal accounts generally include at least a brief chapter on rebuilding their lives... Occasionally, the survivors also discuss their Jewish identity

with reconstructing this part of their being that was battered so viciously during the *Shoah*.

One of the insights gained from research on *She'erit Hapletah* relates to their remarkable drive to rebuild their lives and families as quickly as possible. Many married and began to have children very soon after the war ended. As Judith Baumel-Schwartz reports in her

article, "Pioneers, Teachers, and Mothers: Ultra-Orthodox Women among the *She'erit Hapletah*" (*Yad Vashem Studies*, vol. 36, no. 1, 2008), an American Jewish social worker noted in 1946 that "every third woman among the survivors in the Displaced Persons camps was either pregnant or pushing a baby carriage."

We might assume that this phenomenon of marriage and birth would have been particularly pronounced among ultra-Orthodox women in the DP camps. Indeed, these women, like other women survivors, sought to reassert their womanhood through marriage and childbearing. Yet, they also had other important matters on their postwar agendas, such as vocational training, education and activism in various fields. In these pursuits, the ultra-Orthodox women departed from their traditional mold, though their religious identity was not set aside and, after they married, their long-established religious roles gradually set in again. Both their postwar individualism and their return to traditional roles were expressions of their Jewish identity: one reflecting immediate needs, issues and kinship with other survivors; the other, long-term Jewish faith.

For years, many survivors avoided talking horrific extensively about their Holocaust experiences. However, a very special group of survivors sought to study aspects of the *Shoah* to try to understand what they had experienced, and why. Zwi Bacharach devoted his academic career to exploring antisemitism and modern European history in his efforts to understand the *Shoah's* antecedents, as well as his own personal Jewish identity.

Bacharach's starting point is his own horrific experiences as a young man persecuted by the Nazis. He traces Christian roots in modern antisemitism and in the responses of Pope Pius XII to the *Shoah*, arguing that anti-Jewish prejudice in modern times has its roots in Christianity, even where the particular antisemitism itself is not Christian.

Beneath the surface of all the essays in Bacharach's book is a deeply thinking scholar grappling both with the personal and with the scholarly. His experience bred his research, and his research informed his later thoughts on his experience. His Jewish identity is



expressed in that scholarly struggle, even as some of the fundamental questions are left not entirely answered. And that is not surprising, as Bacharach, other survivors, and the generations that have followed continue to struggle with the roots of the Holocaust.

Like the ultra-Orthodox women who stepped out of their mold as they set out assertively to rebuild their lives, so, too, Bacharach remains optimistic, not apocalyptic. His searing struggle with the Christian antisemitism that informed the modern period and its crimes, together with his deeply Jewish and challenging thought, as well as the women survivors' breathtaking drive and activity, leaves the reader with much food for thought, as well as cause for awe and inspiration.

The publication of Yad Vashem Studies, vol. 36 was made possible by the generous support of The Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture.

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

Over half a million views in the first month of Yad Vashem “YouTube” Channels

by Dana Porath

■ On 29 April, in advance of Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem launched its own channels on YouTube—one of the most popular websites in the world—in English and Arabic. The interest in the channels has been overwhelming: in the first month of the launch, there were over 500,000 video views.

The English channel (www.youtube.com/user/YadVashem) contains testimonies from Holocaust survivors, archival footage, scholarly lectures on key issues related to the Holocaust, footage from visits to Yad Vashem—including those of President George W. Bush in January 2008 and Pope John Paul II in March 2000—as well as human-interest stories, such as family reunions. The Arabic channel has testimonies and archival footage about the Holocaust, with Arabic subtitles. Yad Vashem recently added a Hebrew channel as well with testimonies, virtual tours and human-interest stories.



The channels are dynamic, and new video clips will be continuously added, increasing relevant and meaningful knowledge about the Holocaust worldwide. By reaching a broader audience through YouTube, Yad Vashem hopes that visitors to the site from around the world will be encouraged to see the Holocaust as an event of universal significance and identification.

“We know that YouTube is one of the most popular websites today, even in Arabic-speaking countries,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “Unfortunately, there is a plethora of misinformation and deliberate lies available on the Internet. The Yad Vashem channel will counter this material, and make reliable information widely available to anyone who seeks to know more about this terrible chapter in human history. By meeting the survivors through their testimonies, and viewing the foremost experts in the field address difficult questions, viewers will be able to connect on yet another level to this pivotal and defining event.”

Yad Vashem would like to thank Google and YouTube for their help in launching the new channels.

The author is Yad Vashem’s Website Content Manager.

Third “Avner Shalev Award” for a Holocaust-Related Film

■ For the third consecutive year, the Visual Center is presenting the “Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award” for Artistic Achievement to an Israeli or foreign film produced within the past year that brings extraordinary cinematic expression to a unique

Holocaust-related story. Avner Shalev will award the prize in the “Jewish Experience” category, donated by Leon and Michaela Constantiner, on 18 July at the closing ceremony of this year’s International Film Festival in Jerusalem.

Two of the films nominated for the award are Israeli productions and six were made in Europe or the United States. The films deal with a variety of Holocaust-related topics, and include features, full-length documentaries and docudramas.

Dr. Jean Ancel z”l

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Dr. Jean Ancel, z”l, the greatest scholar of the Holocaust in Romania and of Romanian Jewry in general. For over two decades (1966-1989), Ancel served as an archivist at Yad Vashem as well as correspondent for the Israel Broadcasting Authority. Twice he was awarded a research fellowship at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Jean Ancel was born in 1940 in the Romanian city of Iasi. During the massacre in the city on 29 June 1941, he was hidden in the cellar of a home, while his father was taken to one of the death transports. Ancel’s father managed to survive, but many other family members were murdered in the pogrom.

Ancel was the author of numerous books and articles dealing with the Holocaust of the Jews of Romania, including his two-volume comprehensive work *The History of the Holocaust in Romania* (Hebrew). Ancel consistently emphasized the active role played by Romania in the destruction of its Jewish community, often raising the ire of the communist authorities who preferred to present their country as a humanitarian nation which itself had been the victim of Nazi Germany.

Ancel recently shared his insights at the 2003 International Historical Conference for the Study of the Holocaust of Romanian Jewry in Bucharest, held at the initiative of President Ion Iliescu, where he was called the “conference oracle.” May his memory be blessed.



Stefan Grayek, z”l

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of the Warsaw Ghetto fighter Stefan Grayek, z”l.

Shalom Stefan Grayek was born in Warsaw in 1915. When the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising broke out, Grayek joined the battle raging in the industrial zone. After a few days, he crossed over to the Aryan side of the city to organize hiding places for fighters returning from battle. He then went back into the ghetto to help the fighters find the hideouts he had prepared. After the uprising, most of the fighters scattered into the forests surrounding Warsaw, joining the partisans and the Polish Underground.

At the war’s end, Grayek remained in Poland to help rehabilitate the *She’erit Hapletah*. In 1949, he immigrated to Israel and was one of the founders of Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot.

Grayek worked tirelessly with the Polish government for the release from prison of the Polish Righteous Among the Nations Wladyslaw Bartoszewski. A former inmate at Auschwitz, Bartoszewski had worked towards saving Jews imprisoned in Poland after the war for opposing the communist regime. Grayek was also deeply committed to Holocaust remembrance. He served as World Chairman of the Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates Organization, as well as a member of the Yad Vashem Directorate and Board of Directors.

Yad Vashem extends its condolences to Stefan Grayek’s son, daughter, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. May his memory be blessed.



Events April-June 2008

28 April ■ Hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their family members filled the Square of Hope for the opening of the exhibition, "My Homeland: Holocaust Survivors in Israel." The event took place in the presence of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (right); Chair of the Ministerial Committee for the 60th Anniversary Celebrations Ruhama Avraham Balila (center); the late Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid (left); Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev; Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar; and Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Curator of the exhibition Yehudit Shendar. A monologue from the play "Hannah Szenes" was read



by actress Hadas Calderon, granddaughter of poet and Holocaust survivor Avraham Sutzkever, and singer Meital Trabelsy made the event musically memorable with songs of the Land of Israel. At the end of the ceremony, participants toured the exhibition.

30 April ■ Some 2,500 people attended the official state ceremony commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day 2008, held under the banner, "Holocaust Survivors in Israel: 60 Years Since the Establishment of the State." Survivors from Israel and abroad, top-ranking Israeli government officials, youth and soldiers participated in the ceremony.



■ Among the other events in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the traditional Youth Movement Ceremony was held in the Valley



of Communities. Hundreds of youth movement members and representatives from student councils from across the country participated in the event. Holocaust survivor Zuta Hartman (top) lit the memorial flame, and survivor Israel Aviram (above) told the story of his survival during the *Shoah*.

11 May ■ The official state ceremony marking the victory over Nazi Germany, in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and fighter organizations, was held at the



Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Ehud Barak and the late Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Joseph (Tommy) Lapid. In attendance were some 1,000 veterans, partisans, underground fighters, demobilized soldiers, ambassadors and military attaches from the Allied countries.

May 18 ■ During the Holocaust, the Korczak family from Poland hid 15 Jews in the family home, thus saving their lives: five members of the family were later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. In a poignant event held at Yad Vashem, Alfred Korczak and his wife, who traveled from Poland to take part in the event, met with the survivors and their family members, some 70 people in all. At an



emotional gathering in the Synagogue, Korczak passionately described the war period and his family's efforts to hide Jews, and survivor Michael Fisher, who celebrated his 80th birthday that day, movingly underscored those accounts. The event concluded with the filming of the survivors and their rescuer standing next to the Korczak family members' names inscribed in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations. To everyone's surprise, it was then revealed that Alfred Korczak's grandfather had also been designated a Righteous Among the Nations.

22 June ■ The memorial service marking 65 years since the liquidation of the Minsk ghetto included a gathering where the audience was addressed by Avner Shalev; Minister of Pensioner Affairs Rafi Eitan; Chair of the Parliamentary League of Friendship with Belarus MK Marina Solodkin; Belarus Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Igor Leshchenya; Chair of the Association of Former Residents of White Russia in Israel Mikhayil Alshensky; and Director of the Association of Concentration Camp and Ghetto Survivors from the SSU Gita Kaufman. Dr. Leonid Smilovitzky of Tel Aviv University lectured on the Holocaust of Belarus Jewry, and David Taubkin, a Holocaust survivor from the Minsk ghetto, told his story.



Philanthropist, Businessman, Friend— Mikhail Bezeliansky

■ Mikhail Bezeliansky, a well-established businessman and entrepreneur in Russia, is an eminent philanthropist, a strong supporter of the Jewish community in Russia, and a committed benefactor of Holocaust remembrance. Among his many philanthropic endeavors, he founded a clinic in Moscow that provides medical help to the needy. He has promoted Jewish and Israeli cultural life in Russia, sponsoring a month-long Israeli cultural and film festival, an exhibition of Israeli artists, and concerts of popular Israeli singers. “I want Russians to see Israel as a regular, modern nation,” said Bezeliansky. “There is no reason why a Jewish cultural event should not take place in Moscow today.”

In the area of Holocaust remembrance, Mr. Bezeliansky has funded a large-scale project to make Yad Vashem accessible to Russian speakers, including Russian-language guides and maps for visitors to the site; the publication of the Russian edition of the Holocaust History Museum album *To Bear Witness*; personal audio guides for the Museum in Russian; and the translation of the Yad Vashem website into Russian. Additionally, he is the sponsor of the special limited-edition portfolio of *The Carol Deutsch Illustrated Bible*. Mr. Bezeliansky is currently funding the first Russian-language Yad Vashem exhibition in Moscow, which will open in Fall 2008, and is working to establish the Friends of Yad Vashem Society in Moscow.



■ Mikhail Bezeliansky (center) with his father Eduard Bezeliansky (left) and Special Advisor to the Yad Vashem Chairman Arie Zuckerman (right), at the inscription recognizing his generous support of Yad Vashem over the years.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

■ President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and his wife Carla Bruni Sarkozy (below) visited Yad Vashem on 23 June. They were accompanied by Israeli President Shimon Peres, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Honorary President of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah Simone Veil, as well as French government ministers, members of Parliament, and leaders of the French Jewish community.

At the conclusion of his visit, President Sarkozy wrote in the Yad Vashem guest book: “To forget is a crime, to remember—a duty.”



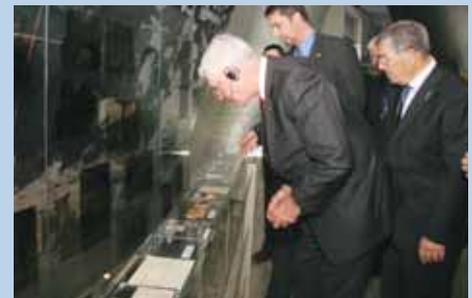
■ Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen (below, right) toured Yad Vashem on 29 May, accompanied by Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan.

■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 10 April, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk (below, right) presented Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev with the gold Medal for Merit to Culture (“Gloria Artis”) in recognition of his contribution to the preservation of memory of the Holocaust.

The medal is awarded in three classes, gold, silver and bronze, and has been conferred since 1991 to both Polish and foreign nationals who are active in the field of Polish culture and arts.



■ Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Major General Michael Jeffrey (below, left) visited Yad Vashem on 29 April, accompanied by Chairman Avner Shalev and Director of the English and Scandinavian Desk David Metzler.



VIP Visits Mark Israel's 60th Anniversary

■ As part of the worldwide attention Israel received for its 60th anniversary celebrations, a wide-range of dignitaries, politicians, authors, actors and VIPs visited Yad Vashem during the second week of May. Among them were the presidents of Rwanda, Albania, Slovenia, Mongolia and Burkina Faso; the president of the UN General Assembly; and Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, each of whom came to Yad Vashem with their respective delegations. US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, author and Nobel Prize Laureate Nadine Gordimer, actor Jon Voight, and businesswoman and model Ivanka Trump were among the other special visitors recently at Yad Vashem:

■ **President of the Republic of Slovenia Dr. Danilo Turk** (right) was guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (left) in the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **President of the Republic of Albania Prof. Dr. Bamir Topi** (left) rekindled the flame in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, after an extensive tour of Yad Vashem, guided by Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department **Irena Steinfeldt** (center).



■ **Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi** (right), was accompanied by members of Congress on a visit to Yad Vashem. During the visit, Ms. Pelosi and Speaker of the Knesset **Dalia Itzik** (left) laid a wreath in a memorial service in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **President of UN General Assembly Srgjan Kerim** of Macedonia viewed the Hall of Names during his visit to Yad Vashem.



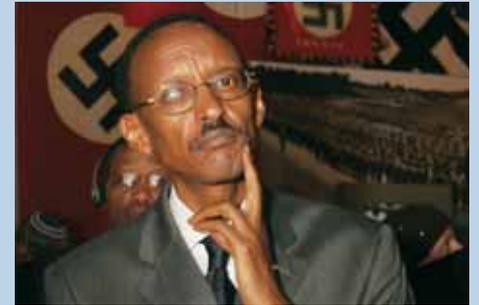
■ **Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **President of Mongolia Nambar Enkhbayar** visited the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **President of Rwanda Paul Kagame** was given a tour of the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Chairman of Yad Vashem Avner Shalev** greeted **Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature Nadine Gordimer** (right) during her recent visit to Yad Vashem.



■ **Oscar Award-winning actor Jon Voight** (right), received a guided visit of the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Businesswoman Ivanka Trump** signed the Visitors' Book upon exiting the Children's Memorial.



Friends Worldwide

USA

Two hundred people gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, California for the American Society for Yad Vashem "Salute Hollywood" event at the end of February. The event, which was organized together with the Jewish Life Foundation, saluted Hollywood and the films that have been made about the Holocaust. Honorees included director Arthur Hiller for his film *The Man in the Glass Booth*; director Paul Verhoeven for his film *The Black Book*; violinist Miri Ben-Ari for music in the film *Freedom Writers*, and others.

Yad Vashem Benefactors **Susanne and Jan Czucker**



Actress **Millie Perkins** (left), who portrayed Anne Frank in the film *The Diary of Anne Frank*, with Yad Vashem Benefactors **Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein**



Yad Vashem Benefactors **Fela and David Shapell** (center) with **Branko Lustig** (right), Academy Award-winning producer of *Schindler's List*, and his wife **Mirjana Lustig** (left)



Standing, left to right: **Gary Belz, Jon Voight, Cheryl Simon, Yad Vashem Builder Jona Goldrich, Shelly Belz**

Sitting, left to right: Yad Vashem supporter **Barbara Kort**, violinist **Miri Ben-Ari**, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Jack Belz**



New Benefactors **Paul and Vera Guerin** unveiled the "Bridge to Life," dedicated in memory of Vera's parents **Nathan and Lilly Shapell, z"l**. The Guerins' donation will support educational programs and IDF soldier visits at Yad Vashem.



Rita and David Levy and family dedicated a new Holocaust education program for training teachers from the United States. The program, dedicated in memory of Rita's father **Nathan Katz, z"l**, will support seminars at Yad Vashem and in the US to create a cadre of outstanding Holocaust educators.

Left to right: MK Rabbi **Michael Melchior**, **David Levy**, **Matthew Levy**, **Rita Levy**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



Yad Vashem supporter **Sid Ferenc** (left) visited Yad Vashem this spring and met with Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. They also viewed the site for the International School for Holocaust Studies' new International Seminars Wing, which will begin construction this summer.



Yad Vashem supporter **Jeffrey Katzenberg** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem once more, this time with his family, for a special tour of the Museum and campus.



Lenny and Beth Wilf, Benefactors of the Entrance Plaza and children of Holocaust History Museum major donors **Harry and Judith Wilf, z"l**, visited Yad Vashem for a tour especially designed for their children.



■ New Friend Ygal Sonenshine (left, with Shaya Ben Yehuda) led a delegation of the Young Presidents Organization to Yad Vashem. After touring the Museum, the participants viewed a film relating the story of the Sonenshine family: those who left Parczew before the war to build a life in *Eretz Israel*, and those who remained behind.



■ Dr. Rochelle Cherry (left), daughter of Yad Vashem Benefactors Sol and Gloria Silbersweig, z"l, and Jean Gluck (right), received the American Society for Yad Vashem Achievement Award from American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski at the 2008 Annual Spring Luncheon held on 20 May at Cipriani 23 in New York.



UK

■ In May, members of the Phillips family from London came to tour Yad Vashem's new exhibition, "My Homeland: Holocaust Survivors in Israel." The exhibition was supported by the Phillips family through a gift from the Phillips and Rubens Charitable Trust.



Australia

■ A tribute ceremony honoring the Gandel family of Melbourne took place at Yad Vashem in May, as the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators was launched.

Left to right: Michelle Gandel, John Gandel, Linda Gandel, Director of the English and Scandinavian Desk David Metzler, Pauline Gandel, Australian Ambassador H.E. Mr. James Larsen, Jackie Gandel, Ian Gandel, Avner Shalev



■ Carol and Alan Schwartz of Melbourne paid their respects at the Path of Remembrance and Reflection, endowed by the Schwartz family in memory of the Jews of Hungary who perished in the *Shoah*.



■ The Israel Australia Chamber of Commerce (IACC) came to Yad Vashem for a moving visit on Holocaust Remembrance Day. With a delegation of close to 50 people they toured the Holocaust History Museum, were briefed by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and participated in the official Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony.

Below: Lee Liberman at a wreath-laying ceremony for the IACC in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance



■ Phillip Green of Sydney toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum in March.



Canada

■ In June, the advisory committee for the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program met at Yad Vashem.

Left to right: Shai Abramson, Head of International Relations at the International School for Holocaust Studies Richelle Budd-Caplan, School Director Dorit Novak, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Gail Asper, Director of the English and Scandinavian Desk David Metzler, Babs Asper, Director of the International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda, Moe Levy, International Seminars for Educators in English Director Ephraim Kaye



■ Howard Tanenbaum (second from left) and his wife Carole came from Toronto to tour Yad Vashem with friends in April. They were given a special presentation in the conservation lab by Director of Yad Vashem's Archives Dr. Haim Gertner (left) and Varda Gross (right).



Friends Worldwide

Sweden

At the annual general meeting of the Association for Holocaust Survivors in Sweden, formal ties to Yad Vashem were made, and the **Swedish Friends of Yad Vashem** was established.



Left to right: **Livia Fränkel**, Director of the English and Scandinavian Desk **David Metzler**, **Tobias Rawet**

Switzerland

■ **Dr. Heinz Samson** (front, left) and his wife **Editha** (front, right) laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance during a ceremony in memory of his beloved parents **Heinrich Samson** and **Paula Lazarus-Samson** and his sister **Gerda Samson**, who perished in the Holocaust. **Dr. Samson** was accompanied by his daughters (from left, back) **Debra Ziff** and **Karen Lewis** as well as the Director of the International Relations Division, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



Austria

■ In April, the **Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem** held their annual meeting of the General Assembly in a prestigious setting in the State Theater of Linz, Austria. During the meeting, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left) presented a copy of the Yad Vashem Museum album *To Bear Witness* to the Austrian Chancellor **Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer** (right).



Liechtenstein

■ On 16 April, the traveling exhibition "An Arduous Road—Samuel Bak: 60 Years of Creativity" opened in the Cultural Center in Triesen, Liechtenstein. President of the **Liechtenstein Society of Yad Vashem** **Markus Büchel** (center), Vice President of the Liechtenstein Society **Evelyne Bermann** (left), and Director of the Cultural Center in Triesen **Petra Büchel** (right) attended the opening of the exhibition.



Ukraine

■ Yad Vashem friend **Victor Pinchuk** (second from right) visited the campus together with former Ukrainian President **Leonid Kuchma** (right) and **Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetzki** of the **Ukrainian Society for Yad Vashem** (not pictured). Together with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left) and Special Advisor to the Chairman **Arie Zuckerman** (second from left), they attended a ceremony unveiling a plaque in the Square of Hope.



Mexico

■ **Esther** and **Martin Wengrowsky** (right) received the Yad Vashem key from Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** during a ceremony unveiling their names in the Square of Hope.



■ **Raquel** and **Alberto Cohen** (left) received the Yad Vashem key from **Perla Hazan** during a ceremony unveiling their names in the Square of Hope.



Venezuela

■ Benefactors **Sady and Simy Cohen** (center) visited Yad Vashem for the unveiling of their names on the wall of the Museum. They were joined by their daughters **Cota** (right) and **Solita** (second from left), and by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** (left).



■ **Genia and Roby Croitorescu** (center) and family received the Yad Vashem key from **Perla Hazan** during a ceremony unveiling their names in the Square of Hope.



Christian Desk

■ National Directors of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) from various countries including Canada, Switzerland, Slovakia, the United States and Hong Kong visited the International School for Holocaust Studies in May. They also attended the Victory Day state ceremony and met with WWII veterans.



Israel

■ On 8 April, **Marc Rich**, Chairman of the Rich Foundation for Education, Culture and Welfare (third from left), and Director of the Foundation **Avner Azulay** (fourth from left) visited Yad Vashem, accompanied by **Dr. Klaus Jacobs**, Honorary Chairman of the Jacobs Foundation (seated), **Professor Joachim Treusch**, President of Bremen University, Germany and other guests. The Rich Foundation generously supports Yad Vashem's activities.



■ On 22 May, the **Israel Society for Yad Vashem** held an event for Yad Vashem's supporters and friends in Israel, marking the opening of the exhibition, "My Homeland: Holocaust Survivors in Israel." Dozens of Yad Vashem's friends, many of whom are Holocaust survivors, took part in the event, which included guided tours of the exhibition, the Synagogue and the Museum of Holocaust Art.



■ On 12 May, Yad Vashem held a ceremony unveiling the memorial to the martyrs of the Kolomyia community. Members of the Association of Former Residents of Kolomyia and its Surroundings—Holocaust survivors and their descendants—attended the ceremony.



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

■ To make tax deductible donations:
USA: American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10110
Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 1-212-220-4304

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

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

■ For information on societies in other countries, or to donate online, please visit: 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.



Holocaust Remembrance Day Friends Worldwide Visit Yad Vashem

USA

■ **Eli and Elizabeth Zborowski** lay a wreath at the Holocaust Remembrance Day main ceremony



■ At the Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony: **Arlene and Bernard Potter** are flanked by Yad Vashem Director-General **Nathan Eitan** and International Relations Division Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



■ At the Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony: **Teddy Berman** and **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



Christian Desk

■ International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) Media Director **David Parsons** lays a wreath with his wife **Josefa Parsons**.



■ Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** together with Coordinator **Irit Bercovitz** hosted a delegation of Christian Ministry leaders at the Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony.



France

■ At the wreath-laying ceremony, left to right: **Jeanne Sigée** (France), **Elisabetta Ottolenghi** (Italy), Head of the Italian, French and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**, **Daniela Barbon** (Italy), **Maxi Librati** (France), **Yvette Blaiberg-Graubart** (Belgium), **Lucie Bialer** (France), **Maurice Errera** (France), **Renée and Josef Kaufman** (Belgium)



■ At a special dinner honoring Yad Vashem donors, left to right: **Maxi Librati**, **Avner Shalev**, **Yvette Blaiberg-Graubart**, **Miry Gross**, **Josef Kaufman**, **Renée Kaufman**



Canada

■ **Frances Mandell-Arad** (left) and **David Metzler** (right) lay a wreath on behalf of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.



Latin America

■ **Klara and Hilo Ostfeld** (Venezuela) are greeted by Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan**



■ **Cecila Caria Mendes** and her son **Rodolfo** (Portugal), **Eva Zucker Kugler** and **Americo Kugler** (Venezuela)



■ At the Holocaust Remembrance Day main ceremony, **David Feuerstein** (Chile) rekindles the eternal flame, next to his daughter **Puppy Feuerstein Gaon**



■ **Malke Bashe** and **David Gorodzinsky** (Mexico) with **Perla Hazan**



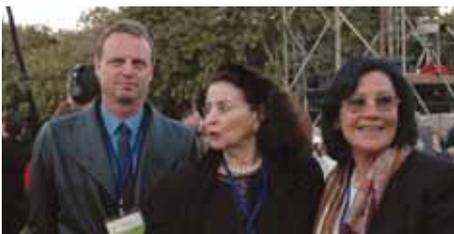
■ **Selik** and **Susy Wengrowsky** (Israel) with **Perla Hazan**



■ **David** and **Jennie Serur** (Mexico), **Stela** and **Jayne Blay** (Brazil)



■ **Heide Wolf Kaufman** and **Tomas Ignacio Letai Wolf** (Spain) with **Perla Hazan**



■ **Atara** and **Max Mazin** (Spain) with **Perla Hazan**



Norway

■ **Rita Kent** and **Herman Kahan** lay a wreath on behalf of the Norwegian Society for Yad Vashem



Russia

■ **Elena Morozova** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony



■ B'nai B'rith World Center Director **Alan Schneider** (Israel) with Special Advisor to the Yad Vashem Chairman **Arie Zuckerman**



Sweden

■ **Livia Kellerman**, **Elisabeth** and **Georg Citrom** lay a wreath on behalf of the Swedish Friends of Yad Vashem



UK

■ At the Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony, **Lord Michael Levy** is greeted by Prime Minister **Ehud Olmert** with Jerusalem Mayor **Uri Lupolianski** and Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**



■ **Della** and **Fred Worms** lay a wreath on behalf of the Yad Vashem UK Foundation

