

# Yad Vashem

## Jerusalem

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International Holocaust  
Remembrance Day (p. 3)

70 Years Since the  
“*Kristallnacht*” Pogrom  
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New Research:  
“The Untold Stories”

The Murder Sites of the Jews in the Occupied Territories of the Former USSR  
(pp. 10-11)

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**Yad Vashem**  
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■ On the cover: Oak sculpture created by local artist  
Yaakov Burka, dedicated to the Jews of Plunge,  
Lithuania, murdered during the Holocaust. Courtesy:  
Sergei Kravtsov, The Center for Jewish Art, The  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem (see pp.10-11)

## New Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council

■ At its weekly cabinet meeting in early  
November, the Israeli government authorized  
the appointment of **Rabbi Israel Meir  
Lau as Chairman of the Yad Vashem  
Council, succeeding the late Joseph (Tommy)  
Lapid.**

Rabbi Lau was born in 1937 in Piotrków,  
Poland, the scion of a well-known European  
rabbinic family. During the early years of  
the war, he was incarcerated in the Piotrków  
ghetto. In October 1942, Lau's father and  
brothers, along with the majority of the  
Jews of their town, were deported to the  
Treblinka extermination camp, where they  
were murdered. Lau and his mother managed  
to escape the deportation. In November



■ Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

1944, during a selection,  
Lau's mother had him  
stand close by his brother  
Naftali, who was slated  
for forced labor. Lau's  
mother was sent to  
her death, but the two  
brothers were deported

to the Czeszochowa labor  
camp and from there to Buchenwald. When  
Buchenwald was liberated by the US armed  
forces, eight-year-old Lau (nicknamed Lolik)  
was one of the youngest surviving prisoners.  
Following liberation, Lau emigrated to *Eretz  
Israel* on a ship of orphaned refugee children.

Rabbi Lau has served in many rabbinic  
capacities, and in 1993 he was elected Chief  
Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel. In 2006 Rabbi Lau  
was awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime  
Achievement and Special Service to Society  
and the State of Israel.

Rabbi Lau's autobiography *Do Not Raise  
Your Hand Against the Boy* was published  
during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of  
Buchenwald. It tells the story of his experiences  
during the Holocaust, growing up in Israel, and  
how the memory of his childhood influenced  
him as a rabbi and communal leader.

"I welcome and am delighted by the  
decision to appoint a man of such high caliber  
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council," said  
Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "The  
issue of the Holocaust is close to Rabbi Lau's  
heart, and he sees in Holocaust remembrance  
both Jewish and universal values. Rabbi Lau  
has strong, deep ties to Yad Vashem, and has  
already contributed significantly to Holocaust  
commemoration and its legacy."

"This appointment is especially meaningful  
to me," said Rabbi Lau. "My life experiences  
echo in the walls of Yad Vashem, and are  
found in the documents and exhibits therein.  
I have been privileged to witness up close Yad  
Vashem's activity in Israel and around the world  
for many years, and I have great respect and  
admiration for the Chairmen of the Council and  
Directorate who preceded me. Avner Shalev is  
a great visionary and I am confident, from our  
many years of acquaintance, that we will work  
together to continue to support and develop  
this institution, which is unrivaled anywhere  
else in the world. I am dedicated to giving my  
time and energy to fulfilling the commandment  
'Remember what Amalek has done to you' in  
our generation."

[www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) ■ for more information about Rabbi Lau in the online exhibition on  
Holocaust Survivors in Israel, "To Build and To Be Built"

# 27 January

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day



■ In advance of the third International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2009, Yad Vashem has planned a number of educational and commemorative events in Israel and around the world:

■ On Tuesday, 27 January, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau will give the main lecture at the **UN General Assembly in New York**. In addition, volumes from the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project will be on display in the Public Lobby. The project is an initiative of Nobel Prize laureate and UN Messenger of Peace Elie Wiesel, and Menachem Rosensaft, Chairman of the Project's Editorial Board and Founding Chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Yad Vashem joined the project in 2004, and has already published 11 books with 17 survivors' memoirs.

This year Kimberly Mann, Manager of the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, has invited two of the contributors to share their stories at a book signing in the UN Bookshop. Local survivors, students and the general public are invited to attend the event, to be held at 1 pm on Wednesday, 28 January 2009.

■ At the **European Center of the United Nations in Geneva**, a special ceremony will be held on 27 January with one thousand participants. The Director General of the UN Office in Geneva Sergei Ordzhonikidze, and Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, will address the audience.

The ceremony, organized in conjunction with Israel's Foreign Ministry and Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva with assistance from Yad Vashem, will also feature film clips, survivor testimonies, a video presentation of last year's International Youth Congress at Yad Vashem, and a talk by the Congress' Swiss representative.

■ Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau will participate in a **special government session** on 25 January. Avner Shalev will address Israeli ministers on marking

International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the fight against antisemitism.

■ The traveling photographic exhibition "BESA – A Code of Honor: Albanian Muslims Who Rescued Jews in the Holocaust" (photographer Norman Gershman) will open on 27 January at the Municipal Museum in **Ramle**, in the presence of Avner Shalev and Mayor of Ramle Yoel Lavie. The exhibition, displayed with Hebrew and Arabic subtitles, comprises 17 portraits of Albanian Righteous Among the Nations and their families who went out of their way to rescue Jews, despite the grave danger it entailed. For three months following the opening of the exhibition in Ramle, Arab and Jewish students from the city will attend special educational programs at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ The "BESA" exhibition will also open at the School for International Relations at the **University of Columbia in New York City** on 20 January.

The **Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles** will be displaying the "Auschwitz Album" traveling exhibition from 27 January. The exhibition presents the only surviving visual evidence of the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau, captured in a photographic album discovered by one of its inmates immediately after liberation.

■ Yad Vashem's "Auschwitz: From the Depth of the Abyss" traveling exhibition will open on 27 January at the **Headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels**. The exhibition comprises pictures from *The Auschwitz Album* and sketches by Jewish artist Zinovii Tolkatchev, a soldier in the Red Army who was present at the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945.

■ The "No Child's Play" traveling exhibition will open in the **City Hall in Linz, Austria** on 27 January. The exhibition features toys, games, artwork and poetry that allow the visitor to glimpse into the lives of children who experienced the Holocaust.

■ "An Arduous Road: Samuel Bak – 60 Years of Creativity" will be displayed at the **University of**



**Mainz, Germany** from 19 January. The traveling exhibition presents the six-decade-long journey of the renowned artist and Holocaust survivor, as he debated with himself about the abstract, the figurative and the gamut between them.

In the city of **Neustrelitz in Germany**, the traveling exhibition "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell" will open on 27 January. The exhibition displays the sketches of Jewish artist Zinovii Tolkatchev, a soldier in the Red Army who arrived at the gates of the Majdanek and Auschwitz death camps at the time of their liberation.

# 27 January: Reaching out to the Youth of Europe

by Richelle Budd-Caplan and Mati Senkman

## The International Youth Congress – One Year On

■ A year has passed since Yad Vashem hosted its first-ever International Youth Congress. For three days, 116 youths from 62 countries gathered at the International School for Holocaust Studies for a packed schedule of lectures, workshops, tours and memorial services. Over the past year, most of the International Youth Congress participants organized and participated in commemorative and educational events within their own communities.

To encourage this initiative and ensure its continued success, the International School for Holocaust Studies is now running a project to provide the young leaders with additional knowledge and tools. As part of the “Youth Leading Youth” program, each congress participant received a copy of *Are the Trees in Bloom Over There?*, a book of memoirs written by two Holocaust survivors, the brothers Menachem Mayer and Frederick Raymes. After reading the book, the participants accessed, via a specially-created website, a lecture by Shulamit Imber, the

International School’s Pedagogical Director, in which she presented a model workshop based on the book. They also took part in online discussions, with questions addressed to Imber through the website forum. In the coming year, the project’s participants will be running the workshop for younger groups in their schools and communities in order further to disseminate Holocaust education in their countries.

## Student Diary Targets Racism and Xenophobia

■ For the first time, Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights have cooperated in the creation of “S’Cool Agenda,” an awareness-raising school diary (datebook) for young people. As part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, “S’Cool Agenda,” available in English, French and German, was produced to raise awareness among students about racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination. In addition to providing information about resources for



■ Postcard from the Yad Vashem and Wizo Haifa Academy joint exhibition, “Sign Posts: Postcards from the Edge” included in the “S’Cool Agenda” student diary

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, two special postcards related to Holocaust remembrance have been included in each of the diaries. These postcards are part of *Sign Posts: Postcards from the Edge*, a project coordinated last year by the International School for Holocaust Studies together with the Graphics Design and Visual Communication Department of the Neri Bloomfield WIZO Haifa Academy of Design and Education in Haifa.

*Richelle Budd-Caplan is Head of the International Relations Section and Mati Senkman is Teacher-Training Coordinator at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## International Seminar: The Holocaust and Human Rights

by Dr. Irit Abramski and Galit Avitan

■ On 8–10 November, Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies held its International Graduate Seminar in Vienna, as part of a joint initiative with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Participating in the seminar were 23 educators from EU member states, graduates of Yad Vashem seminars held within the framework of the ICHEIC (International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) program.

The intensive two-day seminar, held over the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, aimed to establish a link between teaching about human rights and Holocaust education. In addition to presentations and discussions, the participants held group dialogues to prepare annual programs. Most popular were national and multi-national projects, part of the European struggle against antisemitism and violations of human rights.



■ Yad Vashem booth at “Diversity Day” in Vienna, attended by 2,000 European youth

“Studying history is essential,” said Italian seminar participant Laura Fontana. “The ‘Night of Broken Glass’ was a turning point leading to the Nazi genocide of European Jewry. We have to remember the victims and the perpetrators, and also the bystanders, and should consider if we are also bystanders in our daily lives.”

On the final day of the seminar, the International School took part in “Diversity Day,” a special day organized by the FRA, the Vienna municipality and Vienna’s School

Council. The aim of the day was to increase understanding of human rights among the youth, and deepen their awareness of different minorities in Europe.

Over 45 NGOs took part in the event, under the slogan “Respect Unlimited.” Some 2,000 youth from Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia visited the information booths, including that of the International School, which displayed educational resources about the Holocaust.

“The participation of the International School in this event is an important step towards strengthening our ties with the FRA,” said Richelle Budd-Caplan, Head of the International Relations Section at the School. “It has opened up another avenue to build new programs in the field of Holocaust education in Europe.”

*Dr. Irit Abramski is Head of the Russian Desk and Galit Avitan works at the Hungarian and Romanian Desk, European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## International Educational Activities

### New Educational Resource with Wiesenthal Center

by Richelle Budd-Caplan

■ Marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Simon Wiesenthal on 31 December 2008, Yad Vashem and the Simon Wiesenthal Center have launched a new joint educational resource based on the award-winning book *Antisemitism: The Generic Hatred*. Under the patronage of UNESCO, the book was published by the Center last year in memory of Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor and noted Nazi-hunter, who passed away in 2005.

“Strategies in Facing Antisemitism: An Educational Resource Guide” ([www1.yadvashem.org/education](http://www1.yadvashem.org/education)) features a newly designed lesson plan by Yad Vashem, a number of abridged articles from the book by leading scholars—including the history of antisemitism, the various challenges it presents across Europe, and antisemitism on the Internet—as well as a biography of Simon Wiesenthal himself.

### ADL Joins Yad Vashem/IDF Trip to Poland

by Ephraim Kaye

■ On 26 October, 150 IDF officers participating in the “Witnesses in Uniform” program went on a five-day trip to Poland. The program is run in conjunction with Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, which provides preparatory seminars for the officers before the journey, and guiding during the tour of Poland. For the first time, a group of 27 Anti-Defamation League (ADL) activists, including Abraham Foxman, were invited to participate in this journey. Foxman, a Holocaust survivor who was saved as a baby from Nazi persecution by a Polish Catholic woman in Vilna, is now the National Director of the ADL—an organization dedicated to combating antisemitism, prejudice and racism. “This journey was very important to me,” said one of the IDF officers at the end of the trip. “The participation of the ADL significantly contributed to the success of our mission here.”

### Spanish Seminar on Women in the Holocaust

by Dr. Frumi Shchori

■ At the beginning of November 2008, the first international seminar on the topic of Women in the Holocaust was held at the University of Granada, Spain, initiated and coordinated by Prof. Alicia Ramos-González, Chair of the University’s Gender Studies Department. Dozens of distinguished academics and scholars from Spain, France, Argentina and Israel, as well as students, media representatives and members of the public participated in the seminar, including the heads of institutes and museums dedicated to commemorating the Holocaust and Jewish life in Spain and elsewhere.

The lectures touched on many different topics, including Holocaust education in Spain; the Holocaust in Ladino and Spanish poetry by



and about women; women in the concentration camps; gypsy women; the documentation of women survivors in film; the women of the Saloniki community (before and during the Holocaust); women in the Resistance; and Spanish women who were Righteous Among the Nations. The seminar also featured testimonies by two women who survived the camps, one Jewish and one non-Jewish.

I was invited by Prof. Ramos-González to speak at the seminar. It was a chance to meet people committed to teaching the Holocaust who know and appreciate the work of the International School for Holocaust Studies. It was also a special opportunity for me as a woman, as the daughter of survivors, as a mother and as a scholar to lecture on the topic of women facing extermination. I benefited greatly from talking to the participants about commemoration and remembrance. Most importantly, the seminar was a way to strengthen our ties with those who are looking for additional ways of transmitting the legacy of the Holocaust in Spain.

### European Seminars, Videoconferences

by Lisa Oren

■ The fall semester saw a continuation of seminar activity run by the European Department within the framework of the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education in Europe, both at Yad Vashem and abroad. For the first time, seminars were held for Irish and Slovenian educators. “This seminar has provided an incomparable opportunity to continue my journey of understanding,” said one participant from Ireland. “It has developed my own knowledge of the Holocaust and highlighted the many areas that research into this topic involves. I have also learned many new ways to introduce this difficult subject to my students.” Other seminars were held for educators and graduates from Romania, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, France, Hungary, Ukraine and Poland.

In advance of the International Graduate Seminar in Vienna (see p. 4), four international videoconferences were conducted between students from France, Germany, Italy and the UK, and survivors and educators at Yad Vashem. This technological medium provided the European students with a unique learning experience.

“The idea of videoconferences with eye-witnesses was very appealing,” said Brigitte Stuibser of Austria. “It is essential that students talk to and relate to stories from those who experienced the Holocaust; students should know about the personal decisions non-Jewish people had to make regarding their choices to become perpetrators, bystanders or even Righteous Among the Nations. I would question my students—how many of you would show courage and stand up against your peer group? And how many did during the Nazi period?”

*Richelle Budd-Caplan is Head of the International Relations Section, Ephraim Kaye is Director of International Seminars for Educators in English, and Lisa Oren works in the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Dr. Frumi Shchori is Director of the International School’s branch in Givatayim.*

# "Years Wherein We Have Seen Evil"

## Ceremony Launches New Educational Series on Religious Life During the Holocaust

■ "I have experienced some very moving, unusual and special occasions, yet I feel something extraordinary now [...]."

With these emotional words, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev began a ceremony at the end of October, launching the series of educational textbooks about religious life during the Holocaust, *Years Wherein We Have Seen Evil*. The ceremony was held in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, in the presence of Mordecai Tessler of the United States, the son of Edith and Rudolph Tessler who generously supported the development of the series (see box), Chief Rabbi of Modi'in Rabbi David Lau, Yad Vashem's Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman, and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak. In the packed audience were distinguished rabbis, public figures and educational directors of ultra-Orthodox municipalities and councils across Israel. The ceremony was hosted by Rabbi Dudi Zilbershlag, a member of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

The series tells the story of Jews who maintained their observance of Jewish laws and customs during the Holocaust. It expresses the values and experiences of the religious and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, while



maintaining accurate academic historiography. The rich material is taken from varied sources, including archival documents, rabbinic sources, Jewish religious decisions, and survivors' memoirs. The four volumes discuss a variety of different topics—German Orthodox Jewry under Nazi rule, the ghetto period, rescue during the Holocaust, and the Final Solution—from various historical, ethical and *halachic* aspects. The first

two volumes have been published together with CDs, which include a compilation of survivor testimonies.

"The series represents the backbone of the multi-faceted work being done in the ultra-Orthodox section of the International School for Holocaust Studies," explained Shulamit Imber, the School's Pedagogical Director. "It is the first endeavor of its kind, and it fills a very important

## Rudolph and Edith Tessler

■ **Rudolph Tessler is originally from the town of Vișeu-de-Sus in Romania, home to 5,000 Jews before WWII.** His childhood was centered around family and kindness to others, and the importance of his faith—his family was Hasidic—was evident in the celebrations of each Jewish holiday.

Tessler's idyllic childhood came to an abrupt end in April-May 1944, when the entire Jewish population of the area (8,000-14,000) was loaded onto trains under the guise of being taken into Hungary to work in labor camps. Instead, they were taken to Auschwitz.

In his memoir *Letter to My Children: From Romania to America via Auschwitz*, Rudolph wrote: "Sixty-seven members of my family—my mother, her father, my three sisters, three of my brothers, and many aunts, uncles and cousins—were murdered at Auschwitz." Only

Tessler, his father and two of his brothers survived to see liberation.

Tessler's upbringing had emphasized community and family devotion—traits not forgotten in the concentration camps, where he and his family members often rescued one another from certain death. His father, always a source of strength and guidance to his family, provided counsel to many prisoners in the camp, and eventually assumed the role of camp rabbi. Tessler's remaining family members and seven other Jews from Vișeu made a special effort to observe their faith. Bending rules at risk to their lives, they worked together to smuggle wheat, grind it into flour, and bake matzos to distribute for Passover. The group also secretly gathered to pray on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. These religious observances offered some comfort in the camp.

After liberation, Rudolph spent time at the Funk Kaserne camp, a transient DP camp in Munich. He left for America in September 1947, and met Edith Hoffman in New York City in 1950. Edith was originally from Papa, Hungary. Her family had lived there for close to 200 years; her great-grandfather was the Chatam Sofer, the renowned rabbi of Bratislava. She was the youngest survivor of a family of ten children. Her parents and seven brothers and sisters were murdered at Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen and Mühldorf. Edith was just 17 years old when liberated from Bergen-Belsen. After the war, she recuperated in Sweden for close to three years and then came to America. She and Rudolph were married in 1951.

Shortly afterwards, they moved to Chicago, where, with Edith by his side, Rudolph became a successful businessman. Always prioritizing

by Nava Weiss



■ *At the ceremony launching the educational series Years Wherein We Have Seen Evil. Left to right: Shaya Ben Yehuda, Rabbi Dudi Zilbershlag, Avner Shalev, Mordecai Tessler*

role in the field that until now has been absent in most comparable literature.”

The event concluded with a ceremonial presentation of the Yad Vashem key to Mordecai Tessler by Avner Shalev and Shaya Ben Yehuda, Managing Director of the International Relations Division. “My parents wish to express their appreciation for the talent and diligence Yad Vashem has demonstrated in completing this project,” said Tessler. “I am sure that it will have a decisive impact on Holocaust studies and on students around the world.”

*The author is Head of the Ultra-Orthodox Section at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*



■ *Edith and Rudolph Tessler*

the values of humanity, family and community in his work, they both dedicated a major part of their lives to public service. Together they donated generously to Israeli health care and educational institutions. They have three children, Florence, David and Mordecai, and many grandchildren. The Tessler family is a dedicated friend of Yad Vashem and is deeply committed to Holocaust remembrance.

# New in the Virtual School

[www1.yadvashem.org/education](http://www1.yadvashem.org/education)

by Jonathan Clapsaddle

## e-Newsletter on "Kristallnacht"

■ The December issue of “Teaching the Legacy: e-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators” marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the November 1938 Pogrom (*Kristallnacht*). This new issue features an interview with survivor Miriam Ron—who witnessed the events—ideas for a ceremony to mark the day, an article on teaching this subject in the classroom, book reviews and other educational resources.

## New Online Courses on the Holocaust

■ Registration is now open for the following online educational courses: “Jewish Life in the Ghettos,” “The Final Solution of the Jewish Problem,” and “Life Lessons—Bringing Holocaust History to Your Classroom.” Course lessons are updated every other week. A qualified instructor from the International School supervises each course, grading and supplying feedback for the assignments.

Yad Vashem’s online courses are developed and operated with the support of the Claims Conference, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust.

## New Russian Portal

■ On 1 January 2009, the International School for Holocaust Studies launched a new Russian-language portal. Developed with the generous support of the Genesis Philanthropy Group, this portal is designed to make information and educational material on the Holocaust easily accessible to Russian-speaking audiences. The portal features encyclopedia entries, photographs, testimony, diaries, letters, documents and frequently asked questions, as well as educational materials that include lesson plans, an interactive learning environment and more.

The materials on the portal have been carefully selected to provide a panoramic view of the Holocaust, while stressing events that transpired in areas of the Former USSR. Historical documentation draws from Yad Vashem’s extensive archives and body of research, as well as the educational material developed by staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

## Educational Material in Other Languages

■ The Yad Vashem Education and e-Learning website features material in 19 languages. Following is a small selection of new material:

**Hungarian:** “The Warsaw Ghetto”—Lesson plan focusing on some of the Jewish welfare organizations in the Warsaw ghetto

**German:** “The Holocaust in the Classroom”—Online course for teachers

**Italian:** “The Transport”—Lesson plan addressing the question, “How was it humanly possible?” The focus is on personal choice and responsibility as some of the most important moral lessons raised by the Holocaust.

**Russian:** “The Holocaust in Odessa: The Tragedy of the Jews of Transnistria”—Teaching unit focusing on everyday dilemmas of Transnistrian Jews in the ghettos and camps during the Romanian occupation. Also in Russian, “Dilemmas and Survival in the Kovno Ghetto”—Lesson plan on this central Lithuanian ghetto, examining the *Judenrat*, the struggle with imminent death, everyday dilemmas, the fate of children, and resistance

**Spanish:** “Jewish Life in the Ghettos”—Online course

This material is developed with the generous assistance of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC).

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

# Dealing with the Aftermath

## New Research Center Established at Yad Vashem

by Leah Goldstein

■ During the International Conference on the Holocaust, the Survivors and the State of Israel held in December (see box), an announcement was made establishing of the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Shoah. In a special interview for *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, chair of the new Center Dr. Ze'ev Mankowitz described the process that led to the establishment of the Center, and its priorities in the coming years:

### In the aftermath of the Shoah, how did survivors choose to remember the enormous trauma they had experienced?

In his book *The Ethics of Memory* [Hebrew], the philosopher Prof. Avishai Margalit talks about an argument between his survivor parents who came to Israel after the war: his mother claimed that it was the role and even duty of the survivors to preserve the memory and story of the suffering of the victims, to be their living memorial candles. By contrast, her husband averred that it was unbearable to live only to preserve the memory of those who were gone. Better to build a community that thought primarily about the future and the needs of the present, rather than one controlled from afar by a mass grave.

At first glance, one could say that in the short-term the father was right, given the pressing and demanding needs and realities of life in the young nation, with its burning problems and unrelenting challenges. However, after 60 years, one may discern voices weeping over the "victory" of the mother, the fact that remembrance has become a central component in our lives.

## International Research Conference: "The Holocaust, the Survivors, and the State of Israel"

■ From 8-11 December 2008, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research held an international conference marking Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State. Over three days, scholars, researchers, historians, journalists and artists from Israel and abroad addressed various issues relating to the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, the survivors' role in building the State and their new lives in Israel, and the transformation of Holocaust memory over six decades of commemoration.

### Why establish the new Center now?

In the years following the Holocaust, the circle of those dealing with its significance, its commemoration and how to transmit its legacy to the coming generations expanded. Leading this development was Yad Vashem, which recently has delved more extensively into the aftermath of the Holocaust. As such,

## The historian looks from the outside, while the bearer of the memory supplies a unique look from within

the initiative of Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem, to establish the new Center in memory of his late wife, Diana, was warmly welcomed. As Eli said, "A critical aspect of the story of the Holocaust survivors is how we struggled to return to life. How were the survivors received by their countrymen and societies? How did our new homes treat us and view us? These questions, I believe, are vital to a deeper understanding of the long-lasting effects of the Holocaust."

### What are the main aims of the Center?

The Center seeks to promote scholarship and international projects on a number of planes, including the fate of the remnants of the Jewish communities in European countries and their countries of immigration; the ramifications of confronting the Holocaust in Israel and



■ Dr. Ze'ev Mankowitz addresses the International Research Conference on the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State of Israel

the Jewish world; the legal handling of Nazi war criminals and their henchmen; economic struggles to restore Jewish property and receive compensation; commemoration work in all its forms; and confronting the Holocaust in research and scholarship, philosophy and theology, as well as its artistic representation in literature, material and performing arts.

### What part do survivor testimonies play?

Because of the importance and urgency, every aspect of the study of Holocaust survivors is our first priority. Those who are familiar with Holocaust survivors' testimonies are also aware that in most cases, the detailed descriptions of all they experienced, suffered and lost end with a condensed, almost laconic, description of the process of liberation and its aftermath.

The first question a historian must ask is, what happened? But that is no longer the only one. Today, we also have to ask: How does the past cast its shadow over the present? How does one experience a traumatic event and how does one remember it? The historian looks from the outside, while the bearer of the memory supplies a unique look from within.

Advisor to Yad Vashem, delivered the keynote address, "Did the Holocaust Lead to the Creation of the State of Israel?"

The final day of the conference saw a special session in conjunction with the Project on the Contribution of Holocaust Survivors to the State of Israel. Moshe Sanbar, Chairman of the Project's Directorate, and Micha Shagrir, producer and director of the film *The Phoenixes*, participated in the session, which included a special screening of the film.

# A Living Connection

## Bnei Mitzvah Twin with Holocaust Victims

by Cynthia Wroclawski

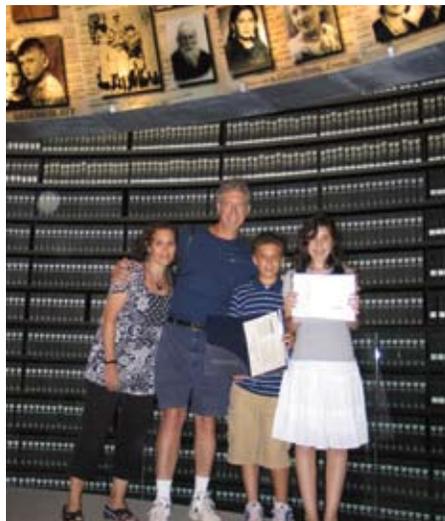
■ Just before his thirteenth birthday, Michael Reingewirtz Samra from Montreal found an unusual soulmate: Yitzhak Yaakov Dragun, a child from Zuromin, Poland who was killed in Auschwitz in 1942 at the age of twelve. “Although today is a day for rejoicing,” Michael told guests at his bar mitzvah, “I ask you to remember Yitzhak and the millions of boys and girls like him who were never given a chance to grow up and take their place in the world of adults.”

Bar/bat mitzvah twinning projects are an increasingly popular way in which Jewish children and their families are strengthening their identification with the Jewish people by forging bonds with individual children killed in the Holocaust. By searching Yad Vashem’s

Bar/bat mitzvah twinning projects are an increasingly popular way in which Jewish children and their families are strengthening their identification with the Jewish people by forging bonds with individual children killed in the Holocaust

online Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)), bar and bat mitzvah students can review Pages of Testimony containing the names, biographies and (when available) photographs submitted in their memory by relatives or friends who survived them. For a meaningful connection, students often choose to twin with a child with the same Jewish name, birth month or other family connection. Michael Reingewirtz searched for a child from the same town as his great-grandfather for whom he was named and who perished in the Holocaust.

Several families contact those who submitted the Pages of Testimony—often surviving relatives



■ Top: Nathaniel Jean (left) with Henri Joinovici, brother of Holocaust victim Albert Joinovici, with whom Nathaniel twinned his bar mitzvah celebration.

Above: Zachary and Heather Granat with their parents Robin and Jay at Yad Vashem after they researched Holocaust victims for their bnei mitzvah.

or close friends—thereby enhancing the sense of remembrance. The Dragun family, deeply moved by Reingewirtz’s commemoration of Yitzhak, sent Michael a bar mitzvah gift and put him in touch with other survivors from Zuromin, including a few that had personally known his great-grandfather. One survivor sent him documents and pre-war photographs of the town. “This unique project has bridged continents, generations and time itself, ensuring that records and memories become the very fabric of the here and now,” wrote Michael’s mother, Sarah Michaela Reingewirtz. “The Jewish family lives on.”

Connection with survivors facilitates not only a tangible link to the child victim but also infuses meaning to the personal and collective

“This unique project has bridged continents, generations and time itself”

Sarah Michaela Reingewirtz

duty to carry the torch of remembrance to future generations. Nathaniel Jean of Massachusetts chose to honor Holocaust victim Albert Joinovici at his upcoming bar mitzvah. After several weeks of sharing memories of his life during the war with Nathaniel, Albert’s brother, survivor Henri Joinovici of Paris, decided to attend the bar mitzvah and symbolically present Nathaniel with Albert’s *tallit*. This bar mitzvah celebration also led to an incredible reunion between Henri Joinovici and George Price of Virginia, who had been hidden together by Louise and Edouard Cartier of Chateau du Loir, later honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. “None of us can believe that this has happened—it is beyond words,” said Nathaniel’s mother, Laura.

Bnei mitzvah are encouraged to use the Page of Testimony to learn as much as they can about the history of the children they are commemorating. Yad Vashem provides them with a study guide to augment researching various aspects of the victims’ lives, their struggles, and their traditions before or during the war. Upon completion of their research, students receive a certificate with the Page of Testimony of the child they chose to remember.

Zachary and Heather Nicole Granat from New Jersey chose to twin with victims who were related to survivors they had interviewed and befriended. Their mother Robin, who manages a senior residence and volunteers to assist survivors in filling out Pages of Testimony, suggested they visit Yad Vashem after their research was complete. This past Succot, they toured the Holocaust History Museum with their extended family and presented copies of their research projects to the Yad Vashem Archives. Their visit concluded in the Hall of Names, where they were each presented with a certificate acknowledging their unique contribution to Holocaust remembrance.

*The author is Manager of the Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project.*

## New Research:

# "The Untold Stories"

## The Murder Sites of the Jews in the Occupied Territories

■ In 1943, five years after he visited the town of Lyady in Belarus, journalist Vladimir Pomerantsev, returned as an officer in the Red Army. “The streets are empty, there are no people, no houses,” he wrote in an article published in March 1944. In answer to his question regarding the whereabouts of the residents, one of the locals pointed to the far side of the Mereya River, and said, “Over there, beyond the river, resting under the ground.”

“The streets are empty,  
there are no people,  
no houses”

During the Nazi occupation, some 2,000 Jews were rounded up from Lyady, the cradle of Chabad (Lubavitch) Hassidism, and assembled in the town. They were shot in September 1941 and April 1942 next to the village of Plaunty and on the banks of the Mereya River near the town. Only five Jews survived. These locations are two of the 101 murder sites at the center of a new project by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, which tells the hitherto untold stories of the destruction of the Jews of the Former USSR.

The new project, recently uploaded to the Yad Vashem website ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)), began with the collection and registration of all the murder sites in the former USSR being studied by researchers at Yad Vashem. From this pool of data, 51 different communities whose Jewish populations were massacred—in Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia—were chosen. The historical background serves as the central feature of the site, from which links branch out to a variety of primary and secondary resources—documents, photographs, letters, maps, illustrations, video testimonies, Pages of Testimony, film clips, lists of victims and stories of Righteous Among the Nations—which together create a multi-dimensional historical and human portrait. For example, alongside the basic information about the murder of the Jews of Lyady, there is an original letter written in December 1944 by Musya Shulrikhter to her



■ The town of Lyady, Belarus, in the 1930s.  
Courtes: The Mishpokha journal (Vitebsk)



■ Invitation to the memorial ceremony at the Mereya murder site, Lyady, 1980. Courtes: Sofi Efron

For many years, the separation and isolation mandated by the Soviet authorities pushed their stories to the margins of historiography

brother Grisha, a Red Army soldier, in which she describes the murder of their youngest sister, Riva, and their cousins Vova and Marek on the banks of the river. Another link brings

the visitor to photographs and the Pages of Testimony commemorating those killed. Pomerantsev's article is displayed in a special section devoted to the work of surviving Soviet Jews to commemorate the victims. Describing the exhumations at the murder site, he writes: “The bodies are piled up three meters high in deep ditches [...] As I stand there, four babies are brought up from the mass grave, one of them with a pacifier still in her mouth.” His chilling descriptions are illustrated with original photographs.

In total, the new website contains 139 video clips, of which over 80 are witness accounts,

most of them from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education (formerly the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation), founded by Steven Spielberg. It also features 1,459 photographs, some of them scans of original documents.

The manner in which the Jews of Lyady were murdered was not unusual. Similar events took place in most of the provincial cities and towns throughout the former Soviet Union. Jews

were murdered with unspeakable cruelty, shot in or near their hometowns. For many years, the separation and isolation mandated by the Soviet authorities pushed their stories to the margins of historiography. Now, these stories are finally seeing the light of day.

"The Untold Stories" Research Project is generously supported by Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress.

*The author is Project Director of "The Untold Stories," International Institute for Holocaust Research.*

## Prof. Götz Aly Among New Scholars at Research Institute

■ Prof. Götz Aly, a seasoned Holocaust scholar from Berlin, Germany, has joined the International Institute for Holocaust Research as one of its temporary scholars.

Aly belongs to a small group of experts that continue to push the boundaries of Holocaust scholarship into areas previously not researched. His publication, *Hitlers Volksstaat*, (Hitler's Beneficiaries), which looked at how many Germans profited from the Nazi regime, received international notoriety in 2005. At Yad Vashem, Aly plans to examine the concept of "ethnic homogenization" throughout Europe prior to and during WWII in light of Germany's policy of ethnic cleansing. "Nowhere in any European country except Germany were plans of radical segregation ever put into practice, in particular for the purpose of bringing about the total destruction of one of the segregated groups," he explains. "Many European countries had originally only planned for the persecution and social isolation of Jews, the result of existing prejudices and nationality wars. However, when these countries were occupied, the Nazis began to implement their project of the Final Solution. As the conditions were different in each country, the representatives of both the local and regional administrations had the choice to resist or cooperate."

Other scholars joining the Research Institute this semester are: Dr. Tamar Gazit (Israel), who is continuing her study of the diaries of the historian Dr. Willy Cohen, a German liberal Zionist whose writings reflect the fabric of interpersonal relationships between Jews and Germans before and during the war; Prof. Zvi Gitelman (University of Michigan, USA), one of the world's foremost authorities on Soviet Jewish history who will address a highly debated dimension of Holocaust history—the attitudes and forces that determined the reactions of the USSR to the knowledge of the Holocaust, both during and after the war; Dr. Aleksandra Namysło (Poland), who is currently researching issues related to the extermination of Jews in Eastern Upper Silesia during the German occupation; and Dr. Eli Tzur (Israel), presently researching the re-establishment of youth organizations in Poland and their activities in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

### "A Place Where the Grain Is Fed by Corpses"

■ A film documenting the shooting of the Jews of Liepaja, Latvia was publicly screened in Israel on June 9, 1961, during the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolph Eichmann. Haim Gouri, the poet and journalist who covered the trial, described the scenes in short phrases: "A truck stops, it unloads Jews. They run [...] You see an enormous German standing with his legs apart." The footage was blurry and filmed from a distance, but, "you multiply the number of shot Jews by such and such a number, and you see the end of Russian and Baltic Jewry in those occupied areas: the place where the grain is fed by corpses."

Over the years, the short silent film, the only one of its kind documenting the murder of Jews, became one of the representations mostly closely identified with the Holocaust: a 67-second clip screened countless times in Holocaust museums and documentaries around the world. How was it filmed? When? By whom? At the end of September 1981, the photographer, Reinhardt Wiener, a member of the SA and the German naval forces during WWII, arrived in Israel. In his videotaped testimony, taken and documented by Yad Vashem researchers, he shed new light on the time of the filming and the circumstances. Above all he describes, from the German point of view, the story of one brief instance of murder that represents the

essence of the Holocaust within the area of the Former USSR.

The film documenting the murder of the Jews of Liepaja, the video testimony of the man who filmed it, as well as dozens of video testimonies of survivors, some of whom escaped from the mass graves, and the testimony of the locals who watched it happen, are all part of the vast research project now available to visitors to the Yad Vashem website.



■ Monument to the Jews of Staroselye, Belarus. Courtesy: Alexander Litin

# 70 Years Since the "Kristallnacht"

by Limor Karo, Uri Kalt, Mirit Fischler and Dana Porath

■ **Seventy years ago, on the night of November 9-10, 1938, the Nazis unleashed a series of riots against Jews in Germany and Austria.** In the space of a few hours, thousands of synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses were damaged or destroyed. Scores of Jews were killed, and thousands more sent to concentration camps. The event came to be called *Kristallnacht*, or "Night of Broken Glass," for the shattered windowpanes that covered the streets.

Yad Vashem marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in Israel and abroad in its sustained efforts to educate the world about the events of that time and its continued relevance today.

## Special Government Session

■ "Seventy years have passed since that night when—together with the windows—the dream of European Jewry to be accepted as equals were smashed. Seventy years, and we are here to remind and to remember."

These words were spoken by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert during a special government session marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom. Minister Rafi Eitan and Dr. Menachem Meir, who told their personal stories about that night, gave an overview of the events, and Prof. David Bankier, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, provided a short historical survey about the November pogrom and the world's responses.



■ Prof. David Bankier (left) guides Prime Minister Olmert (center) and Minister Eitan (right) through Yad Vashem's exhibition on the "Kristallnacht" pogrom, displayed in the Prime Minister's Office.

Before the session, the Prime Minister and Minister Eitan were guided by Prof. Bankier through a Yad Vashem exhibition of photographs of the pogrom from its Archives, displayed in the cabinet chambers.

## Gathering and Memorial Ceremony

■ On Sunday, 9 November, Yad Vashem marked 70 years since *Kristallnacht* with an event held in partnership with the Association of Israelis of Central European Origin. The event took place in the main auditorium with the participation of Holocaust survivors, the German and Austrian Ambassadors to Israel, a representative of *Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (Ot Kapara)*, and a special lecture by Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer on the Holocaust and the State of Israel. The program in the Auditorium was followed by a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.

## Seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies

■ On 9 November, Israel Air Force cadets participated in a seminar on the events of *Kristallnacht*. The day began with the cadets meeting with Holocaust survivor Dr. Ehud Loeb, who spoke about what he saw that day as a child in Buehl, Germany. His testimony was interwoven with a short documentary film

showing the burning of the town's synagogue, captured by the lens of a German amateur photographer. At the end of his testimony, the participants asked Loeb many questions about his childhood, his memories of Germany before *Kristallnacht*, and his life in Israel today.

Later that day, the cadets participated in a lecture by Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, toured the Holocaust History Museum, and held a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. Maj. Arnon, the course commander, described the day as enriching: "It aroused questions and raised food for thought on a range of topics. We hope to continue holding similar seminars in the future."

On 4 December, some 350 Jerusalem high school students came to Yad Vashem for a seminar marking *Kristallnacht*. They participated in a special tour of the Museum and a workshop on the life of the renowned artist and Holocaust victim from Berlin, Charlotte Salomon. Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies, and Bentzi Nemmet, Director of the Jerusalem Municipality Education Department, spoke with the students about the significance of the day and the importance of remembering the event 70 years later as a cautionary tale for the future. They then viewed the play "Address Unknown," based on the book by Katherine Kressman Taylor, first published in the United States in 1938. The day came to a close with a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ Memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem. Left to right: Yad Vashem Director-General Nathan Eitan, Chairman of the Association of Israelis of Central European Origin Reuven Merhav, German Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Harold Kindermann, Austrian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Michael Rendi, Mordechai Segel (who witnessed the pogrom in Berlin), Yehudah Strauss (who witnessed the pogrom in Hamburg), Chairman of the Jerusalem Branch of the Association of Israelis of Central European Origin Dr. Uri Lowental

# Pogrom

“Seventy years have passed since that night when—together with the windows—the dream of European Jewry to be accepted as equals were smashed. Seventy years, and we are here to remind and to remember.”

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

## New Online Exhibition

■ To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, Yad Vashem launched a new online exhibition that provides an informative and experiential context to the events surrounding that terrifying night.

“It Came From Within...70 Years Since *Kristallnacht*” contains photos, video testimony from survivors, rare documentary footage from Buehl, Germany, Pages of Testimony and



more that give a glimpse into the destruction, anguish and suffering inflicted upon Jews during *Kristallnacht*.

*Limor Karo is Assistant to the Events Manager in the Commemoration and Public Relations Division. Uri Kalt and Mirit Fischler work in the Guiding Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Dana Porath is Yad Vashem's Website Content Manager.*

## From the Yad Vashem Archives: Letter from Vienna testifies to the events of *Kristallnacht* by Lital Beer

■ “The Blessed House [synagogue] was attacked; all of its windows were shattered, its benches broken, the *parochet* ripped to shreds, and the Torah scrolls hurled outside. The entire contents of the synagogue were destroyed; the Torahs were thrown to the ground and ripped, and three scrolls were taken, along with the Holy Ark. The black memorial plaques on the walls were also broken.”

So wrote Arnold (Aharon) Rosenfeld to his son Haim (Robert) in Haifa, a few days after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in his hometown of Vienna: “All night long, until 1 am, we could hear the screams of the victims. Tonight we visited Eugen Hess, and the alley looked like it had suffered a snowfall. It was entirely covered with feathers tossed from the apartments.” Later in his letter, Rosenfeld adds: “Is there any chance that Wilson will intervene when he hears about what is happening? How can we expect help if this does not become known?”

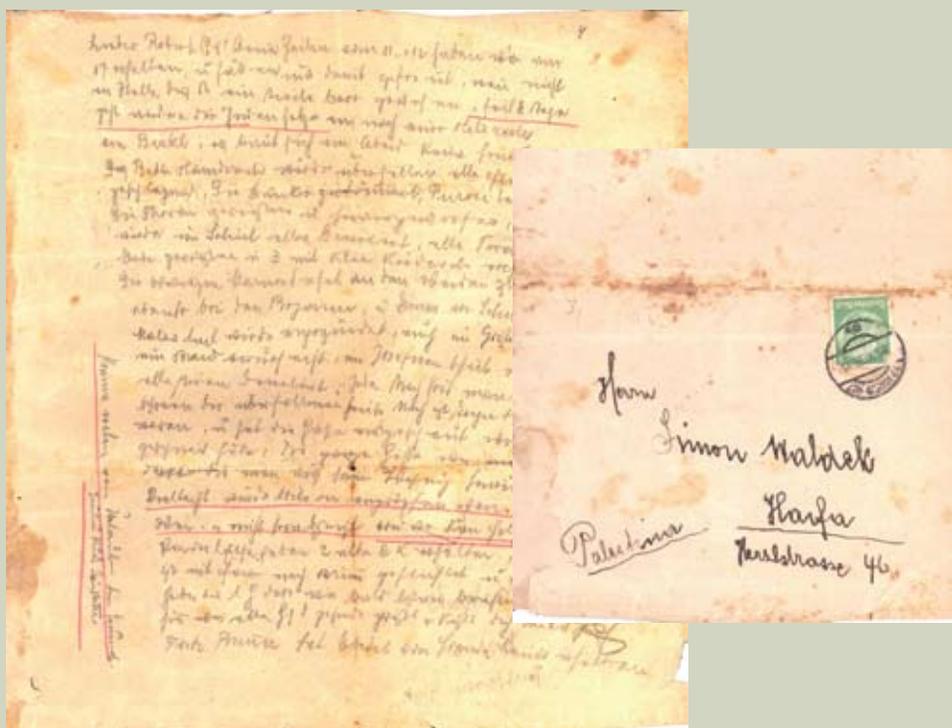
Had Arnold Rosenfeld been referring to the US Ambassador in Germany? Was he trying to transmit an encrypted request to his family to publicize the information? The letter arrived at its destination safely, due to Rosenfeld's resourcefulness in disguising it as a newspaper wrapper, thus escaping the notice of the censors. This is a testimony written in real time by a person who did not live to tell his story. Arnold Rosenfeld finishes his letter

with the words: “May it be His Will that the blessed Lord will help us so that we can relate better tidings. Bless the Lord we are healthy. Regards and kisses, your father.”

Some two years later, Rosenfeld was exiled to Theresienstadt, where he died, apparently

in 1943. His son Haim gave the letter to the Yad Vashem Archives in 1987, shortly before his death.

*The author is Head of the Outreach Department in the Archives Division.*



# Piece By Piece

## Yad Vashem Archives Reveal the Fate of Rabbi David Halivni's Family

by Shalom Bronstein

■ The Yad Vashem Archives hold solutions to questions many people never thought could be answered. In his 1996 book *The Book and the Sword—A Life of Learning in the Shadow of Destruction*, my teacher, mentor and friend, 2008 Israel Prize Laureate Prof. David Weiss Halivni writes: “I do not say *kaddish* for my sister Channa Yitte or for my father, because I do not know when they died. But I do remember them during the *Yizkor* service.” After I read the book, I asked Rabbi Halivni if anyone had checked Yad Vashem for more information about the fate of his family. With his permission, I began a search that continues to this day.

I first discovered that the story he was told and believed for many years about his father, Zaler (Bezalel) Wiedermann, turned out to be incorrect. In his book, Halivni relates that his father was deported to Auschwitz in 1944:

was attacked by SS dogs, and consequently died.” According to the ‘Original Dachau Entry Register’ in the postwar International Tracing Service Repository at Bad Arolsen, a copy of which can be found in the Yad Vashem Archives, Zaler Wiedermann was indeed on the death march from Warsaw to Dachau. However, he arrived in Dachau on 6 August 1944, and died there on 11 March 1945.

Halivni also mentions his great-uncle, Rabbi Leib Weiss of Tyachevo, “whose picture on the ramp in Auschwitz has been reproduced, unidentified, in many books on the Holocaust, including the *Encyclopedia Judaica* [vol. 8, p. 880].” The Encyclopedia credits Yad Vashem for the photograph. I brought this information to the Yad Vashem Photo Archives. Since German soldiers took the photographs secretly, often to show the humiliation of Jews, it is extremely rare to know the identity of people in such photos. The naming of Rabbi Weiss then led to further identifications by Halivni and his late wife Tziporah of people in other pictures at Yad Vashem, enabling formerly anonymous Jews to regain their true identities. The picture is now displayed in the Holocaust History Museum with all its subjects properly identified.

In describing his own experience, Halivni writes that when he jumped off the train upon arrival in Auschwitz, his aunt called out to him in Yiddish, “May the Torah that you have so diligently labored on protect you!” Halivni knew that Josef Mengele sent his mother and grandfather to the left (i.e., to death in the gas chambers), but what about his 20-year-old sister and his 29-year-old aunt Etel? When more Bad Arolsen material arrived at Yad Vashem in early 2008, I discovered a document with his aunt’s personal details and signature in one of the files. She had been sent from Auschwitz to Stutthof.

In February 1945, when the Gross-Rosen camp was liquidated and occupied by the Russians, Halivni was transferred to Ebensee, part of the Mauthausen complex in Upper Austria. The original Mauthausen prisoner admission cards are at Yad Vashem, so I photocopied his card for him, as well as that of his parents, which include the names of his grandparents. (No trace has yet been found

The story he was told and believed for many years about his father, Zaler (Bezalel) Wiedermann, turned out to be incorrect



■ Rabbi Leib Weiss of Tyachevo (center), his son Shlomo Weiss (right) and Itzo Einhorn (left) in a group of men undergoing selection after their arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau, May 1944.

of his sister Channa Yitte.) These cards track Halivni from Wolfsberg in Gross-Rosen to Ebensee in Mauthausen and then to Munich after liberation. The *Wolfsberg Labor Camp Machzor*, published by Yad Vashem, features his moving article on prayer.

After showing him all the information I found, Halivni asserted that, “the credit for anything we have uncovered goes first and foremost to Yad Vashem. Had it not been for Yad Vashem, I never would have had what I now know. I lost my entire family, and from 1944 until I married Tzipora in 1953, I was totally alone. The records we found provide some consolation. Their names are recorded for posterity.”

*The author, ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, is a Jerusalem resident, researcher, and Deputy Director of the Jacobi Center of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy.*

*A longer version of this article appears in the Summer 2008 issue of Avotaynu. The material is used with their permission.*

■ Prisoner admission cards to Mauthausen and Dachau for Prof. David Weiss Halivni and his father Zaler (Bezalel) Wiedermann, found in the Yad Vashem Archives

“I was told by some people that from Auschwitz he had been taken to Warsaw to clean up the rubble, and from there, on his way to Dachau, he had stepped off the wrong side of a train,

## Israel to Head ITF in 2010

by Richelle Budd-Caplan

■ **The State of Israel will assume the chairmanship of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) in 2010.** Founded in May 1998 as a result of an initiative of the former Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, the ITF is an international umbrella organization of government representatives, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose purpose is to place the support of political and social leaders behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research, both nationally and internationally.

Israel last held the chairmanship of the ITF in 1999. Over the last decade, the Israeli delegation, co-headed by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and comprised of representatives from Yad Vashem and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has taken an active and leading role in its vital work. Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem, serves as an honorary chairman to the ITF. Over the past decade, the ITF has grown to 26 member states, and by 2010 additional countries are expected to join.

*The author is the Head of the International Relations Section at the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Testimony from a Silent World

by Malka Tor

■ **How did people born without hearing survive the Holocaust?** How did they connect with their surroundings? These questions are not theoretical for many dozens of deaf Holocaust survivors living in Israel today. Until just a few years ago, they were unable to provide videotaped testimony because of the technical difficulties involved. In 2005, Yad Vashem's Oral Testimony Section, part of the Archives Division, initiated a special project, in cooperation with the Institute for the Advancement of Deaf Persons in Israel, headed by Hava Savir. So far, twenty survivors, deaf from birth, have been interviewed.

The second part of the project is now beginning—recording the stories of 25 additional survivors (most from the Former USSR). These

special interviews provide a hitherto unknown angle in the story of the fate of the Jews in the *Shoah*, and provide new professional challenges. The exceptional documentation is carried out with the help of a sign-language translator, who participates in the interviews carried out at Yad Vashem. After the recordings are complete, the interviews are passed on for transcription, so that the individual stories of these survivors, part of the whole story of the *Shoah*, may be made available to researchers and the general public alike.

This project is supported by the Friends of Yad Vashem - The Netherlands, and Betty and Miguel Schwarz, Mexico.

*The author is Head of the Oral Testimony Section in the Archives Division.*

## "The Holocaust in the Press, the Newsreels and Radio Broadcasts in Real Time": International Research Workshop, Summer 2009

by Elliot Nidam-Orvieto

■ From 13-20 July 2009, the International Institute for Holocaust Research will host its second international summer research workshop for postdoctoral graduates and senior scholars on "The Holocaust in the Press, the Newsreels and Radio Broadcasts in Real Time."

The workshop is aimed at promoting new research on the extent of information given

by the media in real time on the Jews under Nazi rule, their extermination in Nazi-occupied Europe, the treatment of Jewish refugees and the bystanders' responses.

For more information, please contact: [research.institute@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:research.institute@yadvashem.org.il)

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

## New on

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

by Dana Porath

## Auschwitz Album in Farsi

■ Yad Vashem has recently launched a new online exhibition of *The Auschwitz Album* in Farsi. *The Auschwitz Album*, on display at Yad Vashem, is the only surviving visual evidence of the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The new online exhibition contains



background information about Auschwitz, 60 pictures and short explanations from the Album itself, aerial photos of Auschwitz taken by the Allied Air Forces during WWII, and survivor testimonies, all in Farsi.

## My Homeland

■ An online version of "My Homeland—Holocaust Survivors in Israel" features photos, artifacts and stories from the exhibition now on display at the Exhibitions Pavilion, as well as a guided virtual tour of the exhibition in Hebrew and English by its chief curator and Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar.



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

## Events October-December 2008

**5 October** ■ 64 years since the destruction of the Lodz ghetto was marked by the Association of Lodz Jews in Israel with a memorial service at the Tel Aviv Art Museum.

**5 October** ■ Dozens of survivors who give testimony to groups at Yad Vashem were greeted by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak at a special tribute event at Yad Vashem.

Below: Kovno survivor Masha Greenbaum



**6 October** ■ The annual memorial event marking 67 years since the murder of Jews by the Nazis on Ukrainian soil was attended by hundreds of survivors and members of the Association of Ukrainian Jews in Israel.



Above: Memorial service in the Hall of Remembrance with Chair of the Association of Ukrainian Jews in Israel David Levin, Director-General of Yad Vashem Nathan Eitan, Director-General of the Ministry of Absorption Erez Halfon, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency Hagai Merom, and Ukrainian Ambassador to Israel H. E. Mr. Igor Timofeyev

**12 October** ■ Ceremony honoring the late Wladyslaw Panczszyn of Poland as Righteous Among the Nations. The certificate and medal were presented to his daughter Irena Gorniak.

**23 October** ■ The “Bat-Yam Voices” Choir, under the musical direction of conductor Yair Klinger, and the “New Tone Choir” from Germany, under the direction of conductor Heinrich Herlyn, performed in a joint concert of Yiddish-Jewish folklore at Yad Vashem.

**26-28 October** ■ International conference on “The 1938 Race Laws and Jewish Education in Italy,” in cooperation with the Hebrew University, the Italian Jewish Community and the Ben Tzvi Institute. The conference marked 70 years since the introduction of antisemitic legislation in Italy, and concentrated on the effects of persecution on the Italian Jewish educational system. The conference opening event and memorial gathering was held in the Yad Vashem auditorium in the presence of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Italian Ambassador to Israel H. E. Mr. Luigi Mattiolo, Chairwoman of the Italian Immigrants Association Claudia Amati, Chairman of the Italian Jewish Community Prof. David Cassuto, Prof. Sergio Della Pergola of the Institute for Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University, Head of the Ben Tzvi Institute Prof. Yom Tov Assis, and Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Israel Dr. Simonetta Della Seta.

Below, left to right: Moderator Prof. David Cassuto and Holocaust survivors Nora Bulafio Aviad, Luiza Pancati Naor, Adah Nissim and Bruno Porteleone in a session at the conference



**3 November** ■ Members of the Alumim Organization toured the exhibition “My Homeland—Holocaust Survivors in Israel” and held a gathering in the auditorium. At the end of the gathering, the book *My Dear Edzia, Dear Children of the Rotgold Family: Letters 1940-1944* (Hebrew) was launched. The book presents letters exchanged between Mordechai Rotgold, interned at the Beaune-La-Rolande camp, and his wife in Paris. The letters were gathered and edited by their son, Serge Shlomo Rotgold, and published by Yad Vashem.



Above, front row, left to right: Serge Shlomo Rotgold, Chair of the Alumim Organization Dr. Israel Lichtenstein, Avner Shalev, Director of Yad Vashem Publications Gabi Hadar

**16 November** ■ 800 young representatives of the Next Generation, in Israel to participate in the UJC General Assembly, gathered at Yad Vashem’s Warsaw Ghetto Square.

Below: Mark Wilf, Chair of the 2008 UJC General Assembly; Next Generation representatives gather at Yad Vashem



**26 November** ■ Festive screening of “The Green Dumpster Mystery,” winner of the 2008 Avner Shalev Prize at the International Jerusalem Film Festival.

Below: Author Amir Guttfreund (right) and film director Tal Haim Yoffe



**23 December** ■ Ceremony honoring the late Jozef and Bronislawa Jaszczuk of Poland as Righteous Among the Nations. The certificate and medal were presented to their adopted daughter, Genoweta (Genia) Ben Ezra.

Below: Genia Ben Ezra (third from left) with her extended family in the Garden of the Righteous



## Names Database: Reunion of Two Family Branches by Cynthia Wroclawski

■ Yad Vashem's Central Database of *Shoah* Victim's Names led to the recent reunion of two branches of one family—the Diamond Family (USA) and the Dashut Family (Israel). Descendants of the two families met for the first time when Nancy Diamond (center) visited Yad Vashem's Hall of Names in October, and met with her cousin, Holocaust survivor Avshalom Dayagi-Dashut (left) and his daughter Yona Kahanovitch (right).

With the help of Holocaust survivors, as well as relatives and friends of victims worldwide, Yad Vashem is working non stop to gather



and memorialize the names of every single Holocaust victim. Today, the Names Database ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)) holds some 3.3 million

names, two-thirds given by relatives and acquaintances of the victims through Pages of Testimony—special forms documenting the biographical data of individuals killed during the Holocaust. The rest of the names have been gleaned from various archival lists.

Millions of names remain unknown. Pages of Testimony may be filled out in a number of languages (on the Yad Vashem website or through a form on the website's Hall of Names).

*The author is Manager of the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project.*

## Righteous Honored by Polish Educators at Yad Vashem by Irena Steinfeldt

■ A ceremony honoring Stanislaw Slawinska as Righteous Among the Nations was held in the Garden of the Righteous on 11 November. Justice Jacob Turkel, Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations, presented the medal and certificate of honor to Roman Slawinski (top row, third from left), nephew of the Righteous, who had come from Poland with his son and grandson.

During the Holocaust, Stanislaw Slawinska hid seven Jews in her home in Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland. 94-year-old survivor Esfira Rapaport Maiman (top row, third from right) attended the ceremony and spoke of her deep gratitude to the courageous woman who



saved her life. She was accompanied by her children, Yossi Maiman and Michelle Maiman Yankielewicz, and her grandchildren.

The ceremony was also attended by Polish Ambassador to Israel H.E. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, and by 22 educators from across Poland who were participating in an educational seminar at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

A representative of the group spoke of their deep commitment to impart the stories of the rescuers. "In saving their fellow human beings, the Righteous saved all of humanity. It is our mission, as the educators of the next generations, to follow in their footsteps."

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

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

### New films in the Digital Film Library

■ Acquisitions by the Visual Center during 2008 include major new releases, as well as prominent cinematic productions from the last two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. New films feature Claude Miller's *Un Secret*, courtesy of Eden Cinema, and Stefan Ruzowitzky's Oscar-winning *The Counterfeiters*, donated by Israeli distributor Nachshon Films. The Hebrew-language DVD comprises interviews with Sachsenhausen survivors Avraham Sonnenfeld and Adolf Burger, whose memoir, *The Devil's Workshop*, was the inspiration for the film. Also new in the digital film library is Israeli director Ayelet Bargur's *The House on August Street*, as well as the entire collection of Holocaust related films distributed by the Jerusalem-based Go2Films, among them Idit Shechori's *Wasserman-The Rainman*, and *The Last Scene*, directed by Eliezer Shapiro.

The Visual Center currently has over 5,200 films catalogued in its database, two-

thirds of which are available for viewing on the premises. In addition, all of the approximately 52,000 survivor testimonies of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, as well as some 10,000 Yad Vashem survivor testimonies, may now be researched and viewed at the Visual Center.

### Recent Film Screenings Sponsored by the Visual Center

■ The increase in the number of Holocaust-related films of all genres released worldwide in 2008 clearly represents a trend that will continue in the years to come. The Visual Center's response to this phenomenon includes initiating and participating in an increasing number of screenings of important films:

In autumn 2008, the Center sponsored an event at the "Jewish Eye" festival in Ashkelon, featuring a film followed by a lecture by Dr. Haim Fireberg of the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University.

A premiere of *Menachem and Fred* was held at the Jerusalem Cinematheque just before the film's screening on Channel 8 (HOT cable TV) Israel. The premiere took place in the presence of the film's directors, Ronit Kertsner and Ofra Tevet, and the film's protagonist, Dr. Menachem Mayer, in commemoration of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom 70 years ago. More than 500 people attended the event.

On 27 December 2008, the Visual Center and the Jerusalem Theater co-sponsored a premiere of the Israeli-Hollywood co-production *Adam Resurrected*, directed by Paul Schrader and based on the eponymous novel by Yoram Kaniuk.

The film's leading actor, Jeff Goldblum, visited the Visual Center to research his role.

Activities in the Visual Center are supported in part by The Righteous Persons Foundation, USA.

*Liat Benhabib is Director of Yad Vashem's Visual Center. Mimi Ash is the Center's Acquisitions and Special Projects Coordinator.*

## Committed to the Future: The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust

■ Established in 1958, the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust supports the advancement of medicine and surgery, the arts and education. The Trust works closely with its sister charity, the Wolfson Foundation, with shared objectives and administration. Over recent decades, a significant proportion of their grants have been allocated to different causes in Israel, including universities, hospitals and major cultural institutions.

The partnership between Yad Vashem and the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust began with the building of Yad Vashem's new Holocaust History Museum, inaugurated in March 2005. The Trust endowed the ninth chapter of the Museum (pictured right), dedicated exclusively to the *She'erit Hapleita* (the surviving remnants—Holocaust survivors immediately after the war), many of whom felt “liberated but not free.”

In recent months, the relationship between the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust and



Yad Vashem has been strengthened by a grant from the Trust towards the building of the new International Seminars Wing of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, designed to accommodate its increasingly popular international programs and seminars.

A Yad Vashem Benefactor, the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust is a committed, generous, long-term partner with Yad Vashem in its vital mission to remember the past and shape the future.

## New Exhibition Features Original *Ketuba* Written from Memory at Bergen-Belsen

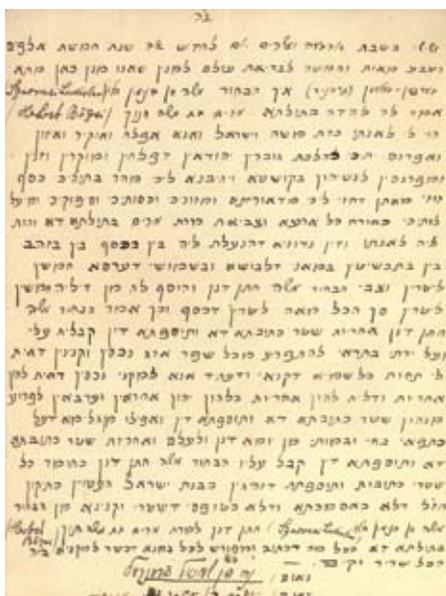
by Lital Beer

■ Miryam Elizabeth Herbst and Moshe Ladislav Sarvasi met at the Bergen-Belsen DP camp some two months after liberation. That day, Miryam, who came from Slovakia and had survived three years at Auschwitz, was saying goodbye to her sister who had just got married and was leaving the camp. Moshe, a young Yugoslav officer who had been a prisoner-of-war for four years in Germany, had come to the camp in the hope of finding lost family members.

On 3 August 1945, a month after they met, Miryam and Moshe wed. The ceremony was performed by a friend of Moshe's from captivity, Rabbi Dr. Hermann Helfgott. The rabbi wrote their *ketuba* (marriage contract) from memory by hand. During a visit to the young couple in their new home in Israel some time later, the rabbi requested to check the *ketuba* to verify its accuracy. He was pleased to find that indeed, he had remembered the official formulation correctly.

Recently, Miryam gave the *ketuba* to Yad Vashem as part of the new exhibition “To Witness and Proclaim,” which opened in the entrance of the Archives and Library Building in November.

The exhibition, which tells the life story of Rabbi Dr. Zvi Asaria Hermann Helfgott z”l,



is based on his personal archive—original certificates and documentation, speeches and religious discourses, portraits and photographs—that illustrate his life's work. The exhibition will be displayed until August 2009.

*The author is Head of the Outreach Department in the Archives Division.*

## Inauguration of the Learning Center in Russian

■ On 5 November 2008, a press conference was held at Yad Vashem's Center for Major Questions Arising from the Holocaust (Learning Center) announcing the inauguration of the Learning Center in Russian. The conference was attended by the Deputy Russian Ambassador in Israel Mr. Anatoly Yurkov, Chief Rabbi of St. Petersburg Rabbi Menachem Mendel Pewzner, Special Advisor to the Yad Vashem Chairman Adv. Arie Zukerman, and representatives of the delegation of donors from St. Petersburg—businessman Evgeniy Kupsin and Chairman of St. Petersburg's Jewish community Mark Grubarg. After the press conference and a demonstration of the new Russian-language Center by Masha Pollak-Rozenberg of the International School for Holocaust Studies, a ceremony was held in the Hall of Remembrance, followed by the unveiling of a recognition plaque to the donors of the Center, the St. Petersburg Jewish Community (see p. 21).

The Learning Center was designed to address historic and ethical questions arising from the Holocaust, such as: “What happened to the concepts of good and evil after the Holocaust?” and “How did civilized people turn into mass murderers during the Holocaust era?” Questions such as these are addressed by prominent historians, philosophers and thinkers, whose answers may be viewed by individuals or groups guided by staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



# RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

■ **President of Austria Heinz Fischer** (second from right) and his wife Margit visited Yad Vashem on 15 December, accompanied by Israeli President Shimon Peres (left) and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The President led a large delegation, including Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Michael Spindelegger, Defense Minister Norberg Darabos, and Minister of Education, Art and Culture, Dr. Claudia Schmeid. Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Vienna Rabbi Paul Chaim Eisenberg recited *El Maleh Rahamim*, a prayer for the souls of the Jews killed in the Holocaust, during the Memorial Ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. At the conclusion of the visit, the President greeted Austrian students currently volunteering in Israel.



■ **Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul** visited Yad Vashem on 30 October and viewed the Hall of Names.



■ **Actors Chris Rock, Jada Pinkett Smith and Ben Stiller, and producer Jeffrey Katzenberg** visited Yad Vashem on 23 November. They were in Israel for the premiere of "Madagascar 2." The group had an emotional tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Hall of Names and Children's Memorial.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 23 October, **German Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media Bernd Neumann** (center) presented Yad Vashem with a digital copy of the List of Jewish Residents in the German Reich. The list was prepared over four years, and contains the personal details of around 600,000 Jewish residents in Germany between 1933 and 1945 (1937 borders) who suffered anti-Jewish discrimination and persecution.

The list contains names and addresses of Jewish residents, as well as details of their emigration, detention and deportation, and where and when many of them died. It was produced by the *Bundesarchiv* (German Federal Archives), with assistance from experts from Yad Vashem's Archives and Hall of Names, on behalf of the "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" Foundation.



■ **Foreign Minister of Ecuador Maria Isabel Salvador** (left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 19 November by Dr. Avraham Milgram (right).



■ **Foreign Minister of El Salvador Marisol Argueta de Barillas** visited Yad Vashem on 24 November.



■ **President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 25 November. The President was accompanied by Israeli President Shimon Peres, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, and guided by Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto (left).



■ **Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic Karel Schwarzenberg** visited Yad Vashem on 1 December.



■ **Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm** (center) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 17 November by Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar (left).



■ **Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 14 December.



# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ At this year's **American Society for Yad Vashem's** Annual Tribute Dinner, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** was honored with the Society's Leadership Award for Excellence. Also honored were community leader and survivor **Selma Gruder Horowitz** and Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum **Fred S. Zeidman**, both of whom received the Awards for Remembrance. Held on 9 November 2008 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers in New York City, the Dinner was chaired by Yad Vashem Benefactors **Ira Mitzner** and **David Halpern**. Guest Speaker was the Honorable **Margaret Spellings**, US Secretary of Education, who was warmly received by the more than 800 guests in attendance. Also present were more than 100 dignitaries—ambassadors, consuls general and heads of Jewish organizations—as well as community leaders.

Responding to his granddaughter **Ruth Tsuria's** introduction, Avner Shalev spoke of his pride in her and her generation's taking on the leadership of Holocaust remembrance. He recalled, as a child, hearing his mother speak of her sister and parents murdered in the *Shoah*: "Gradually I came to understand that I

could not just leave her sister, Shaindele, and her parents out there in Poland. This was my responsibility too: to make their existence part of my existence, my being and my identity. This sense of responsibility led me to Yad Vashem. To teach others, in all different ways, about *their* responsibility, for the sake of Jewish continuity, universal human values, and passing on the message to future generations."



■ Left to right: Avner Shalev, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Joseph Wilf**, Avner Shalev's granddaughter **Ruth Tsuria**, American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**



■ Left to right: Avner Shalev, Selma Gruder Horowitz, David Halpern, Eli Zborowski



■ Left to right: Avner Shalev, Jay Zeidman, Kay Zeidman, Fred S. Zeidman, Eli Zborowski, Ira Mitzner

■ **David Gottstein**, son of Yad Vashem Builders **Rachel** and **Barney Gottstein**, visited the campus together with his fiancée **Dr. Lenora Felderman**.



■ **Herbert Gruder** (second from left), brother of Yad Vashem builder and 2008 American Society for Yad Vashem Dinner honoree **Selma Gruder Horowitz**, visited the Holocaust History Museum.



■ Yad Vashem Builder **Jean Schreiberman** (right), sister of Yad Vashem Benefactor **Jack Pechter**, visited Yad Vashem during Sukkot together with her son and daughter-in-law.



■ Three generations of the **Sternlicht family** visited Yad Vashem on the first day of Chanukah. During their visit, they toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a bar mitzvah ceremony at the Synagogue.



■ The extended **Feinstein Family** came for a visit to Yad Vashem, accompanied by **Sari Granitza**, Deputy Managing Director of the International Relations Division (left).



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors and Holocaust survivors **Cecile** and **Ed Mosberg** visited Yad Vashem in December.



■ **Rachel Sellinger** visited Yad Vashem last year with her parents, **Eric** and **Randi Sellinger**, grandparents **Warren** and **Mitzi Eisenberg** and **Leila Sellinger**, and the rest of her family. The tour of Yad Vashem affected twelve-year-old Rachel so profoundly that she asked her friends and family to donate money to Yad Vashem in lieu of gifts for her bat mitzvah. Rachel has decided to direct the funds to supporting the recording of 40 Holocaust survivor testimonies.

Rachel recently presented 45 checks to **Shraga I. Mekel**, Development Director of the American Society for Yad Vashem, accompanied by her parents Randi and Eric, sister **Melanie** and brother **Noah**.



■ Holocaust survivors **Sam** and **Rachel Boymel** went on a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial service in the Hall of Remembrance commemorating family members who perished during the *Shoah*.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Murray Pantirer, z"l** and extends its condolences to his wife Louise, children Nancy and Larry Pantirer, Betty and Howard Schwartz and Elisa and Alan Pines, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

## UK

■ A group of British businessmen, including **Sir Victor Blank** (left) and **Sir Trevor Chinn** (right) accompanied **Prime Minister Gordon Brown** on his recent visit to Israel. The group toured Yad Vashem and then joined the Prime Minister in a wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



## Australia

■ In September, **Josh Liberman** (third from left) led an Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce (IACC) Mission from Melbourne, Australia to Israel. The group, which included **Peter** and **Alla Lew** (first and second from right), were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the English Speaking Desk **David Metzler** (third from right).



## Norway

■ A delegation from "Help the Jews Home" came to Yad Vashem in October. They were guided by Director of the Italian, French and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross** (right). "Help the Jews Home" is a Norwegian Christian-Jewish initiative that helps the State of Israel absorb new immigrants from the Former USSR. They are also long-time supporters of the "Hai" Project, which arranges for the employment of new immigrants at Yad Vashem.



## Germany

■ The memorial for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* Pogrom was held at the Castle Museum in Linz, Austria, in cooperation with the **German Society for Yad Vashem**.



## Russia

■ During his tour of the campus, Yad Vashem Friend **Alexander Kirzhnev** (center) planted a tree in memory of loved ones. Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) presented Mr. Kirzhnev with *Bearing Witness*, the Yad Vashem Album, in Russian. Mr. Kirzhnev was accompanied through Yad Vashem by **Dina Maslova**, Yad Vashem Development Associate for Diaspora Affairs (right).



■ On 5 November, a ceremony took place to honor the Saint Petersburg Jewish Community's contribution to Yad Vashem. Their donation has enabled accessibility for Russian speakers to the Learning Center (see p. 18).

Left to right: Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate Adv. **Arie Zuckerman**, **Evgeniy Kupsin**, **Rabbi Menachem Mendel Pewzner**, **Mark Grubarg**



# Friends Worldwide

## Canada

■ The **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem's** Fourth Dinner of Miracles, co-chaired by **Sherri Rotstein** and **Shawna Spiegelman** of the Society's Young Leadership Division, was this year co-sponsored and co-produced with the Azrieli Foundation.

The Dinner, attended by over 550 people, facilitated personal dialogue between 150 Holocaust survivors and over 280 young adults. Among them, for the first time, were 50 young adults from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem-Canada, led by their National Executive Director **Donna Holbrook**, and Director of Young Adult Ministries **Andrea Wheeldon**.

**Dr. Naomi Azrieli**, Chair and Executive Director of the Azrieli Foundation, delivered an inspiring speech at the Dinner. An emotional excerpt from **William Tannenzapf's** book from the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Series (II) was read by William's daughter, **Renate Krakauer**. The Canadian Society's incoming National Chair, **Fran Sonshine**, expressed her honor in accepting the leadership position and praised the Society's "unrelenting dedication to Holocaust remembrance." Holocaust survivor and Benefactor of the new wing at the International School for Holocaust Studies **Joseph Gottdenker** delivered an address emphasizing his pride in

joining the new leadership of the Society and the importance of Yad Vashem's educational initiatives in advancing tolerance worldwide.



■ Left to right: Dinner Co-Chairs **Sherri Rotstein** and **Shawna Spiegelman**, who were honored at the dinner for their dedication and efforts, with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**



■ Incoming National Chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem **Fran Sonshine** speaks at the Dinner of Miracles



■ Immediate Past National Chair and Treasurer of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem **Dr. Joel Dimitry** (left) with **Joseph Gottdenker**



■ Left to right: Executive Director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem **Yaron Ashkenazi**, **Dr. Naomi Azrieli**, **Avner Shalev** and Canadian Society National Chair **Hank Rosenbaum**

■ **Sylvan and Margaret Adams** (left) of Quebec visited Yad Vashem in November for a private tour of the campus and the Holocaust History Museum.



## Christian Desk

■ During the annual Feast of Tabernacles of the ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) German branch, more than 5,000 pilgrims of various nationalities visited Yad Vashem.

Pictured: ICEJ Hong Kong group with directors **Nancy** and **Colin Chow** and Director of the Christian Desk **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**



■ Director of the Christian Desk **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (second from left) toured German churches for *Kristallnacht* Remembrance events in November 2008. She was accompanied by **Lisa Ruediger** (left) from the German ICEJ.



## Venezuela

■ **Fanny Kohn** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem with her family for the unveiling of a plaque in their honor.



■ **Raquel and Jacobo Szkolnik** (left) were joined by their friends **José Manuel** and **Alicia Aguilera** during their visit to Yad Vashem.



## Brazil

■ **Stela and Jayme Blay** (left and second from right) visited Yad Vashem together with a delegation of the Jewish Community of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and met with **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and **Perla Hazan**.



The delegation participated in a ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance.



## Mexico

■ **Alberto and Matilde Saba** (back row, second and third from right) were joined by Alberto's mother **Becky Ades de Saba** (right) and his brother **Manuel Saba** and his family, on a visit to Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Isaac**.



■ A delegation of the *Centro Deportivo Israelita* visited Yad Vashem.



■ **Abraham Zetune** (center) visited Yad Vashem together with his brother **Rafael Zetune** (right) and **Marcos Shuster** (left).



## Spain

■ **Dafna Mazin**, her husband **Iñigo Ramirez de Haro** and their children **Tristán** and **Olivia** visited Yad Vashem.



■ **Salomón Benzaquen** (left), President of the Jewish Community in Melilla, Spain, and his family met with Director of the Iberoamerican, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** (second from left) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



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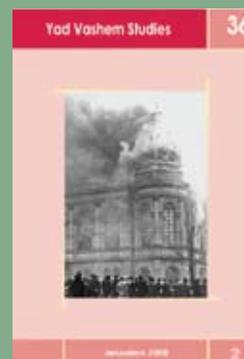
■ For information on societies in other countries, or to donate online, please visit: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) and click on "Friends of Yad Vashem."

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

## New on the Shelf...

### Yad Vashem Studies 36:2

■ The latest volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* places an emphasis on the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, and is highlighted by Havi Dreifuss (Ben-Sasson)'s stirring testimonial article, "Hell Has Risen to the Surface of the Earth': An Anonymous Woman's Diary from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising." Other articles include: "An Unnatural Pact in the Shadow of Troubles: The Anguish of the Jews in the Soviet Union in the Wake of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact," by Mordechai Altshuler, and Göran Leth's "The Construction of Indifference: The Swedish Press and *Kristallnacht*."



### Search and Research: Two New Volumes Highlight Rescue of Jews in Poland

■ The *Search and Research* Series, one of the flagship publications of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Studies, was initiated in 2001. Its aim is to publish cutting-edge research, path-breaking studies, thought-provoking essays and summarizing overviews of a wide range of topics, most of them first presented in workshops, study days and research seminars at Yad Vashem. New volumes are published two to four times a year. Past issues in this series include such titles as *Parentship and the Holocaust* (Dan Bar-On and Julia Chaitin); *Holocaust Diaries as "Life Stories"* (Amos Goldberg); *The Shaping of the Holocaust Visual Image by the Nuremberg Trials* (Yvonne Kozlovsky Golan) and "And I Burned With Shame": *The Testimony of Ona Šimatè, Righteous Among the Nations* (Julija Šukys).

The two latest volumes cover two aspects of the rescue of Jews in Poland during the war: paid help; and postwar recollections of Jewish children saved by Polish gentiles. In *Rescue for Money – Paid Helpers in Poland, 1939–1945*, University of Ottawa professor Jan Grabowski sets aside the stories of the Righteous Among the Nations, choosing instead to investigate the many people (much less visible in contemporary and postwar sources) for whom helping Jews was a risky, but also quite profitable commercial endeavor. Dismissed by scholars as a marginal phenomenon, says Grabowski, these so-called "paid helpers" were a crucial element in the Jewish struggle for survival. This path-breaking study explores a grey zone, succeeding even in reconstructing the rescue-tariffs in 1942.

Who were the child survivors? What were their social, educational, cultural and geographical backgrounds? What were the modes of survival among the children and what factors were at play in a particular process of survival? In her fascinating new study, *Jewish Children in Nazi-Occupied Poland: Early Post-War Recollections of Survival and Polish-Jewish Relations during the Holocaust*, Lehigh University professor Joanna Beata Michlic discusses the application of eyewitness testimonies, both those written "within the event" and those written in its aftermath, in historical reconstruction of the main facets of childhood during the war. Employing a wealth of first-hand accounts, Michlic examines the challenges of children's lives on the Aryan side across Nazi-occupied Poland. She also looks—on a micro scale, through the eyes of those Jewish children—at the complexity of Polish-Jewish relations, as well as at the children's view of their parents and their Christian-Polish rescuers and helpers.



**Yad Vashem**

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'  
Remembrance Authority

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