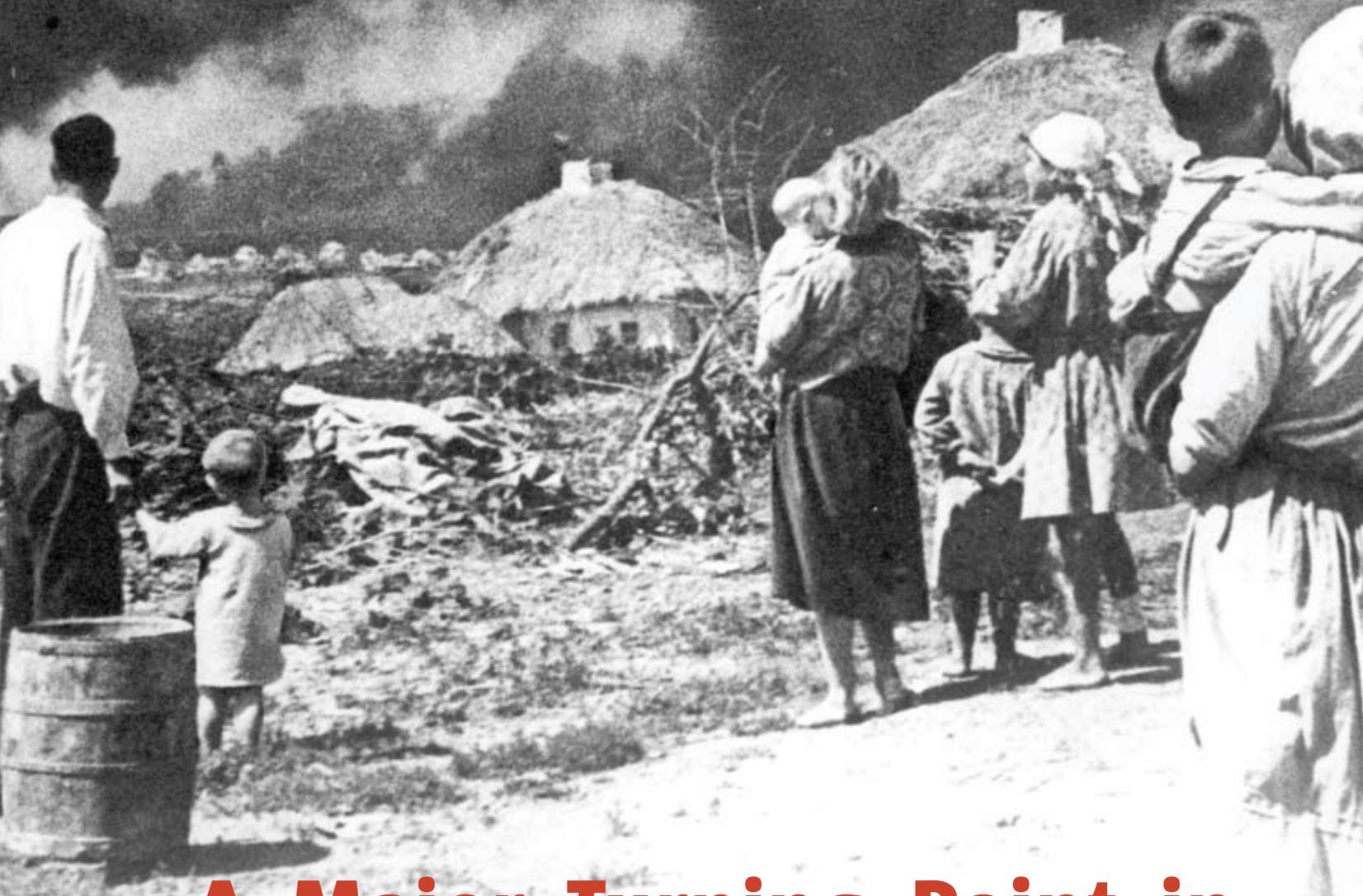


# Yad Vashem

## Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 62, JULY 2011



## **A Major Turning Point in the History of the Holocaust**

**Yad Vashem Marks 70 Years Since the Invasion of the  
Soviet Union by Nazi Germany (pp. 12-13)**

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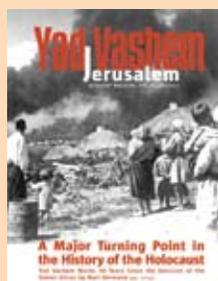
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USSR, 1941.

The local population  
looks on at the  
destruction of a village  
during Operation  
Barbarossa  
(Yad Vashem Photo  
Archive)

# "Instead

## Deborah Berman

■ More than half a century after their  
grandparents were murdered by the Nazis in  
Poland, first cousins Liora Tamir and Aryeh  
Shikler met for the first time at Yad Vashem  
over the Passover holiday.

Liora was born in the Soviet Gulag town of  
Vorkuta in 1946. Her mother, Yona, promised  
her that when she turned 15, she would reveal  
the family's story to her. But Yona Shapira died  
when Liora was only 12, leaving her with no



■ Aryeh Shikler and his cousin Liora Tamir search  
Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims'  
Names with Aryeh's grandson, Elad Ganot.

information regarding her family roots. Liora  
spent the rest of her youth in an orphanage  
in Leningrad, and believed that she was alone  
in the world.

Liora married Leopold and the couple  
had two children: Ilana and Guy. The family  
lived in Israel, and as she grew up, Ilana  
was determined to find out more about her  
grandmother, Yona. She discovered that Yona  
had traveled from Poland to *Eretz Israel* in the  
1920s, but was arrested and deported by the  
British because of her communist activities.  
She was ultimately sent to Vorkuta, where she  
gave birth to Liora.

After recently receiving documents from a  
KGB archive confirming the names of Liora's  
grandparents, Golda and Naftali Herz Shapira  
from the town of Brody, Ilana then turned  
to Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah  
Victims Names. To her great surprise – and  
delight – she found Pages of Testimony for  
her great-grandparents submitted in 1956 by  
a Simcha Shikler, Yona's brother, testifying  
to his parents' murder in the Brody ghetto.

# of the Dead, I Found the Living”

## Israeli Cousins Unite Thanks to a Page of Testimony



Her mother, Yona, promised her that when she turned 15, she would reveal the family’s story to her. But Yona Shapira died when Liora was only 12, leaving her with no information regarding her family roots

Ilana then tracked down Shikler’s son Aryeh in Haifa, as well as his granddaughter Limor Ganot, whom she found via Facebook.

“I can’t describe what I felt when I first heard about Aryeh,” said Liora. “It was like I had travelled to another world, where I was no longer alone. Of course, I had my children,



■ Cousins Liora Tamir and Aryeh Shikler meet for the first time at Yad Vashem’s Warsaw Ghetto Square.



■ Liora Tamir with her mother, Yona Shapira, early 1950s

but now there is an entire family. I need to get used to thinking of myself as part of something greater.”

Liora contacted Aryeh, who confirmed that his aunt Yona, the daughter of Golda

and Naftali Hertz Shapira, had indeed been in Israel before the war, and that she had been a communist activist. He, too, was shocked to hear that his first cousin was alive and living in Israel, having known little about the details of his own family roots.

■ Page of Testimony submitted by Simcha Shikler in 1956 for his mother, Golda Shapira, z”l

To her great surprise she found Pages of Testimony for her great-grandparents submitted in 1956

“Without the information submitted to Yad Vashem in 1956, this never would have happened,” said Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project Manager Cynthia Wroclawski. “What is unique about these pages is that on the bottom is a place for people to write the names of those who survived, a format that enables these rare, but blessed, reunions.”

“I feel like I gave my mother a gift – a family,” said Ilana Tamir. “We had a hole in our hearts, and suddenly a family was born.”

In recent years, new technologies have made it easier to track down individuals around the globe. The Names Recovery Project’s new “Connections and Discoveries” section on the Yad Vashem website features some of the remarkable stories of people who have discovered relatives with whom they had lost contact in the wake of the Shoah. Send in a personal discovery or reunion story to: [names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il).

# Prizes for Educational Endeavors 2011



■ With every new school year at the Tel Aviv Alliance High School, the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students participate in the important project of gathering the names of *Shoah* victims and researching their lives. For Shani, a student at the school, and her family, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear her grandfather's story, one he had never told anyone before. In conversations with her grandfather, entire chapters about family members who had been murdered emerged, alongside fascinating details about their lives. Shani documented the stories in depth. Shortly after sharing his memories with her, Shani's grandfather passed away.

"To Remember, Remind and Commemorate," the school's project to collect the names and stories of Holocaust victims, was a recipient

of the 2011 Yad Vashem Prizes for Educational Endeavors, presented on 31 May at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

At the Berl Katzenelson High School in Kfar Saba the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students document, edit and translate the life stories of Holocaust survivors and post them on the Internet in both English and Hebrew as the personal blogs of the individual survivors. Thanks to the prize-winning blogs, four Holocaust survivors have located relatives they had lost track of during the war.

Efrata College established a Preschool Teachers' Forum that devoted its time to an extensive discussion of how to teach the topic at the kindergarten level. Ronit, one of the preschool teachers, praised the forum, which facilitated "the airing of feelings surrounding

the subject. We kindergarten teachers are pretty much on our own; here we made practical decisions through combined activities."

In addition to awarding prizes for curricula, Yad Vashem honored three institutions that promoted "intercultural dialogue about Holocaust remembrance." One citation went to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor to mark one decade of joint Arab-Jewish delegations to Poland; the second was awarded to the Ministry of Education for holding Holocaust-related training programs for history teachers in the Arab and Druze sectors; and the third went to the Amal Group for its multicultural delegation to Poland.

The Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Holocaust Education was awarded to Michael Yaron at the Ministry of Education, who made a

## UNESCO Director-General Visits Yad Vashem

Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman



■ UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova (third from left) meets with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (second from left) and senior staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ In May 2011, Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova toured Yad Vashem with her delegation, which included Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information Eric Falt; Senior Executive Officer Paola Leoncini Bartoli; Ambassador Nimrod Barkan of the Permanent Israeli Delegation to UNESCO; and Secretary-General of the Israeli Committee to UNESCO Daniel Bar-Eli.

The delegation met with Chairman Avner Shalev and staff members at the International School for Holocaust Studies, which maintains close cooperative ties with UNESCO, and then took a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum. The group discussed in depth the furthering of current cooperation between Yad Vashem and UNESCO, outlining various areas for potential new development, with an emphasis on Holocaust education.

"Yad Vashem provides historical testimony and stands witness for the future," wrote Bokova at the conclusion of the visit. "Together with UNESCO, I personally am committed to working with Yad Vashem in this undertaking that goes beyond our regular programming – deep into the heart of our common humanity."

*The author is Director of International Relations, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Thanks to the prize-winning blogs, four Holocaust survivors located relatives they had lost track of during the war

Rinat Ribak-Wagon



■ Prize winner Ettie Abraham from the Berl Katzenelson High School, Kfar Saba

significant contribution to Holocaust education in his 18-year tenure by making Holocaust

studies a required part of the curriculum for all high school students in Israel.

In an effort to encourage the use of children's literature to promote Holocaust studies, this year's Prize for Holocaust Youth Literature was awarded to Polish/US author and illustrator Tomek Bogacki, who wrote *The Children's Champion: The Story of Janusz Korczak* – an inspiring picture-book biography of the famous humanitarian who steadfastly remained with the Jewish children in his orphanage, including when they were sent to their deaths.

This year, the Aloumim Association awarded a grant to the Beit She'an Bnei Akiva High School Yeshiva for guiding the writing of matriculation research projects dealing with various aspects of the fate of French Jews during the Holocaust.

In addition, two students from the Leo Baeck High School in Haifa were awarded a prize for a research project on the fate of Jews under the Vichy regime.

*Among the Prize Donors:*

*Three Outstanding Educational Curricula and Lifetime Achievement in Holocaust Education: The Chuno and Blima Najmann Educational Achievement Awards donated by the Najmann Family; Children's Holocaust Literature: Sandra Brand, in memory of her only son Bruno Brand, who perished in the Holocaust; Outstanding Matriculation Papers on the Holocaust: The Luba and Mark Uveeler Foundation; Outstanding Educational Curricula on French Jewry during the Holocaust: Le Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah and the Aloumim Association*

*The author works in the Teacher Training Department, the International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Agreement with Italian Education Ministry

■ On 13 June 2011, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Italian Minister of Education, University and Research Mariastella Gelmini signed a **Memorandum of Understanding institutionalizing Yad Vashem's cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Education** on the

professional development of Italian teachers in Holocaust education. Israel's Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar was also present at the signing, which took place in the framework of high-level bilateral meetings between the two countries. Since 2000, more than 150

Italian educators have attended seminars at Yad Vashem.

*The Adelson Family Foundation generously supports the seminars for and cooperation with Italian educators.*

## Second Christian Leadership Seminar

■ **At the end of April, Christian leaders from communities worldwide arrived at the International School for Holocaust Studies for a weeklong seminar funded by the ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem), Derek Prince Ministries and the Orion Foundation.** The 24 participants – pastors and lay leaders from congregations across Europe, North America, Africa and Asia – learned about the School's educational approach and attended lectures on a variety of topics, including the Jewish response to the Holocaust; the Righteous Among the Nations; Holocaust literature; the Final Solution; and Holocaust denial.

The ICEJ's Rev. Malcolm Hedding gave a powerful and personal presentation on the work of his organization, and participants warmly welcomed Israel's Deputy Minister of

the Development of the Negev and Galil MK Ayoob Kara. They also engaged in fascinating question and answer sessions with three Holocaust survivors, including "Schindler Jews" Nachum and Genya Manor, who accompanied the group on an emotional visit to the grave of their rescuer on Mount Zion. In addition to touring the country, the leaders were pleased to be in Israel during Holocaust Remembrance Day, an experience they will never forget.

"Just like last year, this second International Christian leadership seminar was a great success," said Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Dr. Susanna Kokkonen. "Participants told me how the seminar will help them daily to address the issues of the Holocaust and Israel's position in the international community, as well as teaching about tolerance and helping those

Ephraim Kaye

in need. We stand ready to aid them, and to welcome more of our Christian friends to Yad Vashem in the near future."

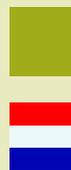
*The author is Director of International Seminars, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



■ Christian Leadership seminar participants and guests at a ceremony: Front row, left to right: Dr. Avi Katz, National Director ICEJ Canada Donna Holbrook, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Dr. Susanna Kokkonen

## Graduate Spotlight

Every year, the International School for Holocaust Studies holds hundreds of seminars and conferences, in dozens of languages, for over 300,000 educators and students in Israel and around the world. Featured here is one of the School's graduates, and what she has achieved since:



## Gordana Todoric Serbia

### Lani Berman



■ International School graduate Gordana Todoric (right) with survivor Elsa Farkasz Rosenberg

■ On 27 January 2010, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, literature teacher Gordana Todoric showed her students the movie *The Jews: Our Fellow Citizens*, produced by the Jewish History Museum of Serbia. The students were fascinated by the film, and expressed both empathy with Holocaust survivors and an interest in learning more about the Holocaust.

Todoric, a graduate of two seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies, had teamed up with fellow history teacher Jelka Božin, another School graduate, in this important initiative at the Svetozar Miletić high school. Based on their students' reactions, the two teachers worked with three other educators from various disciplines to develop an extracurricular Holocaust education program based on the diary of Boriska Stark, a Holocaust survivor from Novi Sad. A small group of students met bi-weekly to discuss various themes evoked by the diary, including Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jewry, Jewish holidays, assimilation, Nazi ideology and propaganda, and the various armed forces Stark encountered during the war. They focused specifically on Stark's personal suffering, her ability to see the good in people,

and her remarkable internal strength.

"Everyone who has attended an educational seminar at Yad Vashem understands what needs to be done to teach about the Holocaust, but the question for me was how," explained Todoric. "As a teacher of literature, I realized that Boriska Stark's diary was a good pedagogical tool because the author is an ordinary woman, a housekeeper, but with an extraordinary sense



■ Display of racist graffiti photographed by Todoric's students

of observation. While describing her path of suffering, she had the strength to notice natural beauty and human goodness even in the darkness of the camps."

Todoric challenged her students with thought-provoking questions such as the meaning of the expression "Jewish destiny" for Stark, personal prejudices and stereotypes, the attitude of the Austrian soldiers and female German guards towards the prisoners, and the concept of motherhood in the camps. Students also utilized

"Everyone who has attended an educational seminar at Yad Vashem understands what needs to be done to teach about the Holocaust, but the question for me was how"

the Yad Vashem website to conduct independent research into a variety of related topics that they found particularly motivating.

Due to their overwhelming interest in the diary, Todoric's students took the program one step further, inviting Auschwitz and Ravensbrück survivor Elsa Farkasz Rosenberg to their school to reflect on her personal experiences. They also created posters that focused on the fate of Novi Sad during WWII, as well as on contemporary racist graffiti on public buildings in their community.

"These were our very first steps in Holocaust education at our school," summarized Todoric. "My colleagues and I look forward to continue working with Yad Vashem staff to further develop a Holocaust education curriculum for all of our students."

*The author works in the European Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Scottish University Students Videoconference with Holocaust Educators

### Yiftach Meiri and Paula Cowan

■ In March of this year, students at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) opened an accredited course on the Holocaust with a difference: half of the sessions were conducted via videoconference with Yad Vashem staff in Jerusalem. Entitled "Holocaust Studies and Citizenship," the course was jointly designed by the UWS and the International School for Holocaust Studies for third-year undergraduate student teachers in primary education. Videoconference sessions were conducted by Yad Vashem staff, including Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang, Director

of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett, "Deportations Project" Director Dr. Joel Zisenwine, School Pedagogical Director Shulamit Imber, and Orit Margalio and Yiftach Meiri of the School's European Department. The other sessions were given by UWS lecturers Paula Cowan and Professor Henry Maitles.

The course focused on three components: the historical context of the Holocaust; contemporary racism; and approaches to teaching the Holocaust. Before each session, lecturers uploaded presentations and suggested readings to the website. The students appreciated

the variety of topics presented, and greatly benefitted from meeting a new lecturer every week. The UWS School of Education was delighted at the "success of such an innovative international program," and is eager to develop their partnership with Yad Vashem in the future.

*Yiftach Meiri is Head of the British Desk in the European Department, International School for Holocaust Studies. Paula Cowan is Senior Lecturer in Education, University of the West of Scotland (UWS) School of Education. They jointly coordinated the "Holocaust Studies and Citizenship" course at UWS.*

# Seminar for Chinese Speakers in Hong Kong, China and Macau

■ In May 2011, Director of International Seminars Ephraim Kaye traveled to the Far East to continue the School's groundbreaking work with Chinese educators. During his trip, which was supported by the Claims Conference, Kaye met with some 300 teachers and students, including graduates of last October's first seminar for Chinese educators at Yad Vashem. At universities in Hong Kong, Macau, Shanghai, Nanjing, Kaifeng and Xian, he lectured on the work of the International School and its educational philosophy, as well as on the Holocaust and Israel today. Kaye also met with Jewish teachers and community leaders, presenting the School's educational materials and assisting them in planning Holocaust-based lessons and centers for the general public to visit. "This was my first large-scale interaction with Chinese educators and it was an eye-opener," said Kaye. "They are inquisitive, they have a thirst for knowledge and they are genuinely

interested in Jewish history and the period of the Holocaust."

During his 12-day trip, Kaye also showed *May Your Memory Be Love*, the filmed testimony of Ovadia Baruch ז"ל, which was recently translated into Chinese (see below). "For the first time I could see the effect of this film on a Chinese audience," Kaye related. "They laughed with Ovadia, and cried with him too... they got the message. They could identify with this Jew from Salonika. Two different cultures met and bridged the gap of language and ethnicity. Human suffering is truly universal."

The educators that Kaye encountered throughout his trip were enthusiastic about furthering their Holocaust studies. Some 120 potential candidates applied for the upcoming second seminar this October and many expressed interest in receiving more information for their own teaching purposes. Liu Lijuan, a student at Zhengzhou University,



■ Students at Nanjing University attend a seminar on Holocaust education.

heard Kaye in Kaifeng: "It was the first time that I understood the meaning of Yad Vashem and the way it represents memory... The more we learn, the more interested we become. I hope one day to teach my students about the Holocaust in different ways, faithfully and profoundly."

*The International School's continued work with Chinese educators is generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.*

## New in the Virtual School Dr. Naama Shik

### New e-Newsletter: The Jews of France

■ The circumstances facing French Jewry during the Holocaust were unique owing not only to the country's humanistic traditions of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, but also due to its effective split during the Holocaust period into two regimes – the German-controlled northern territory, and the Vichy government in the south. The July edition of *Teaching the Legacy: e-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators* focuses on the Jews of France prior to and during the Holocaust.

The e-Newsletter explores the story of French Jewry from several angles, including an overview article for the teacher, an exclusive interview with French survivor Israel (Zizi) Lichtenstein, and a special focus on French Righteous Among the Nations and hidden children. As with all the e-newsletters, this issue also includes updates on recent activities at the International School for Holocaust Studies and at Yad Vashem, book reviews, new publications, and more.

### The Story of Ovadia Baruch: Now in Chinese

■ The film *May Your Memory Be Love: The Story of Ovadia Baruch* has recently been translated into Chinese, Polish and Portuguese, bringing the total number of translations to nine. This endeavor reflects the success of the film testimony series "Witnesses and

Testimony," produced with the Multimedia Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference. The films are designed to serve as a substitute for face-to-face meetings with survivors.

The film on Ovadia Baruch, ז"ל, has received much attention, particularly for highlighting the Holocaust of Greek Jewry, a subject which received relatively sparse attention from educators in the past. Reviews have commended the film's focus on life before, during, and after the Holocaust, a methodology used in all films of this series designed to help underline the story of the individual in the Holocaust, alongside learning about the life (and destruction) of a once-vibrant Jewish community.

The film has been screened in front of a wide variety of audiences in Israel and abroad, and responses have been extremely positive. One American (non-Jewish) educator explained: "Ovadia's film gave me the full picture... There were 44 synagogues in his city, and 70 percent of its inhabitants were Jewish. These facts made the film personal for me. I live in Greensburg, PA, and I can only imagine how I would feel if there was only one church left standing. I felt his pain." The director of an educational center wrote, "Watching the film was an intimate experience for me... These films should be used in both high schools and universities."

*The author is Director of the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## First Seminar for Chabad Educators

### Sarit Hoch-Marcovitz

■ This February, 20 female educators from Chabad US came to the International School for Holocaust Studies for a tailor-made seminar – the first-ever of its kind for Chabad teachers. The teachers and principals who participated were moved by the attention they received at Yad Vashem, and were impressed by the School's educational and pedagogical approach, as well as by the variety of topics and materials presented to them. In a letter sent after the seminar, the group's leader, Rabbi Nochem Kaplan, wrote: "Every one of the lectures was a meaningful, fact-filled emotional rite of passage for the group. We learned to appreciate the faith and religious life which permeated every facet of the Holocaust... We learned to see the unfolding events from a new perspective, and to find greatness and heroism in everyday life and common people."

As a result of the seminar, which was supported by the Claims Conference, a similar course will be held annually for Chabad educators at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The organization's educational office has also pledged to work with the School in preparing a curriculum to be used in Chabad junior high and high schools across the US.

*The author is Director of the Teacher Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# Gathering the Fragments

## Items Recently Collected Reveal Unique Stories of Survival

Lital Beer



■ Left: Chess set and barber's suitcase – two of the thousands of items handed over to Yad Vashem for safekeeping. Right: Collection Day at Yad Vashem, May 2011

■ **“For 30 years I have been meaning to come to you to give you this, and now you have come here.”** This heartfelt gratitude was uttered by Yerachmiel Bergner in Herzliya, after he gave Yad Vashem staff members a blanket which his mother used to cover herself at the time of her murder.

From the beginning of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign in April this year, some 1,000 people have handed over documents, artifacts, photographs and artworks related to the Holocaust, most at collection days held throughout Israel. Many others have come to Yad Vashem to deliver their precious possessions, or sent them in by post or e-mail. So far, some 10,000 objects have been collected, together with their stories of Jews before, during and after the *Shoah*.

Trained staff members from all departments in Yad Vashem volunteer their time to come to the collection days not only to receive the items, but also to document the family stories that accompany them, to help the survivors or families of the victims fill out Pages of Testimony, and to professionally photograph the material. Many of the volunteers later describe the unique encounters they experienced, as summarized

by Inbal Kivity Ben-Dov, Director of the Study Seminars Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies: “The chance to hear these individuals tell their own unique stories and to share the awesome moment of handing over their beloved artifacts to Yad Vashem – this made yesterday a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me.”

Below are some of the stories recently documented for “Gathering the Fragments”:

### A Barber's Suitcase

■ Andor Komenstar (Aharon Kamir) was born in Budapest, Hungary, on 20 March 1920. He lived in Romania, and during the war spent two years in the Doaga forced labor camp in Romania, where he worked as a barber for the Romanian officers.

Komenstar managed to escape from Doaga in a wagon laden with corpses, clutching a suitcase containing his hairdressing tools. He traveled to the town of Focșani, where he joined a group of Zionists emigrating to *Eretz Israel*. In May 1944, he boarded the *Boulbul*, sailing from Constanța in Romania to Turkey, and from there he made his way via Lebanon to Israel.

In his early years in Israel, Aharon made a living by cutting hair at clients' homes, using the suitcase and tools he escaped with from Doaga. His son Yossi Kamir gave the suitcase and all of its contents to Yad Vashem.

### Chess Set

■ Aharon Rennert was born in Vizhnitsa, Bukovina (Romania) on 15 August 1926, the third son of Perl and Leib. When he was deported with his parents and brothers to the village of Jagora in Transnistria, he managed to take his chess set from home with him. After one of the rooks was lost, he carved another one from wood. Aharon kept his chess set throughout the war up until the day he handed it over to Yad Vashem, together with the story of his survival during the *Shoah*.

*Anyone wishing to donate personal items from the Holocaust period to Yad Vashem is invited to one of the collection days in Israel in the coming weeks (see Yad Vashem's website [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) for dates and locations). For further details, please call: 1-800-25-77-77 (Israel only).*

*The author is Head of the “Gathering the Fragments” Project in the Archives Division.*

"The chance to hear these individuals tell their own unique stories and to share the awesome moment of handing over their beloved artifacts to Yad Vashem was a once-in-a-lifetime experience"

## “A Unique Visual Diary of the Time”

**Yehudit Shendar**

■ When the national “Gathering the Fragments” campaign was launched, staff at the Museum of Holocaust Art imagined that the number of art works that survived the Holocaust would be small. It was therefore particularly gratifying to discover that survivors and their families have not only kept and cherished paintings and drawings from that time, but also believe Yad Vashem constitutes their designated home for future generations.

Obviously, “Gathering the Fragments” does not end with the arrival of a work of art to the

### Every work of art encompasses a one-of-a-kind story

Museum’s collection. A process is thus initiated where shards of information pertaining to the image’s history and that of the artist become the launching point for extensive research about the work’s historical contexts, thereby recreating a complete mosaic out of a salvaged fragment.

Every work of art encompasses a one-of-a-kind story, a unique meeting point between the artist and the subject matter. Jointly, they embrace a fascinating encounter at a given point in time, at the very heart of the fateful events, pitting the artist’s need to express him- or herself against the people, events and landscapes of the time.

### Luigi Fleischmann

■ In his book *From Fiume to Navelli* (Yad Vashem, 2007), Luigi Fleischmann tells his story as a 16-year-old during WWII in Italy, and provides testimony about the fate of his family in the detention camp in the village of Navelli. This camp, like other camps in Italy, allowed Jewish families to stay together and conduct communal and cultural life. Fleischmann’s book focuses on the last months of the war, from September 1943, when Italy turned its back on Hitler, and Germany went to war against

the Allies on Italian territory. For Italy’s Jews, those were days of persecution, capture and deportation to concentration camps.

Helping set the scene are a number of his own ink drawings in the book’s appendix, which testify to Fleischmann’s curiosity and intention to document his encounters. Recently, Fleischmann’s widow, Noga, donated over 200 of his drawings to Yad Vashem. The annals of her late husband unfold like a documentary filmed by a war correspondent. Fleischmann provides both precise descriptions and images of the battles raging against the Nazi occupier in the landscapes of central Italy. His unusual powers of observation coupled with his sense of mission – to document the events down to the smallest detail – furnish us with a unique visual diary of the time.



■ Sketch by Luigi Fleischmann depicting his wartime residence of Navelli, Italy

### Mojsej Isajewicz Kotlarewskij

■ It is well-known that the Jews of the USSR joined the war effort against Nazi Germany en masse. However, these heroes remained largely anonymous in the chronicles of Jewish heroism until many veterans of that war immigrated to Israel in the 1990s. Recently, Bella Podolsky gave Yad Vashem a yellowing, cracked sheet of paper bearing a pencil sketch of her father, Mojsej Isajewicz Kotlarewskij, wearing a Red Army uniform.

According to military documents, Comrade Kotlarewskij was drafted on 25 June 1941, and served as a military commissar in Battalion 139. At the time, he was married to Sonya, and the



■ Sketch of Red Army Commissar Mojsej Kotlarewskij

couple had two children. Kotlarewskij’s battalion participated in breaking the siege of Leningrad in January 1943, for which he was awarded the Leningrad Defenders’ Medal. He received a second medal in 1946 for “Outstanding Bravery in the Great War for the Motherland.” An insight to Kotlarewskij’s unique personality may be gained from a few selected and moving lines written by a Sergeant Vlasov, who served under his command:

*It’s really true, my friends,  
the Commissar is our good friend  
He is stowed in the soul of the fighter  
Like vapor in a boiler  
All the soldiers love him  
As if he were their beloved father.*

These lines are how Kotlarewskij will be remembered in the annals of the war, and testify to the bravery of all the Jewish soldiers who served in the ranks of the Red Army fighting – and ultimately defeating – the Nazi perpetrator in WWII.

*The author is Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator at Yad Vashem.*

# “Hunting Down the Jews”

■ **Jan Grabowski, Professor of History at the University of Ottawa, is one of the best known researchers on 20<sup>th</sup> century Polish history.** Prof. Grabowski recently completed a four-month fellowship at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, in which he continued his research into Jewish-Polish relations during the war. (In 2008, his groundbreaking research “Rescue for Money: Paid Helpers in Poland, 1939-1945” was published in the Institute's *Search and Research* series.) Originally from Poland, Prof. Grabowski investigates the thorny issues of wartime collaboration of certain elements of the Polish society in the murder of their Jewish neighbors. His work has won international academic acclaim, while stirring a lively debate in the Polish media.

In a special interview for *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, Prof. Grabowski explained his deep connection to Yad Vashem, the state of his current research, and his future scholarly ambitions:

## When did you begin to visit Israel?

Over the past decade I have developed a very special bond with Yad Vashem, making short trips every one or two years to study at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. This year is a sabbatical for me, and the opportunity to conduct a more long-term, in-depth visit through the Institute's fellowship program was something I was not going to miss.

## How does spending time at Yad Vashem further your academic studies?

Of course, Yad Vashem is the foremost repository for Holocaust-era documentation in the world. The availability of such a wide range of documents on so many specific topics is unsurpassed, and indispensable to my research. This, coupled with direct access to all of the written and video testimonies available on site, has helped me greatly with finding the documentary evidence I need to sustain my theories. But more than that – the human element is just as important. At Yad Vashem I have met the most dedicated, professional and serious scholars in the field, people with extraordinary insights, knowledge and the ability to give me positive advice and feedback.

## What are you currently investigating?

My current focus centers around a book I recently released in Polish, entitled *Judenjagd: Hunting Down the Jews, 1942-1945. A Case Study of One County*. The book deals with a new research area, which has been aptly named by Prof. Jan Gross “the margins of the Holocaust.” Simply put, the current research suggests that while the Holocaust was certainly created and engineered by the Germans, there were many people, organizations and social strata throughout occupied Europe that took part in the extermination of the Jews.

More specifically, I have been investigating the so-called “August Trials” in Poland, postwar investigations of local people who collaborated with the Germans. One kind of such a collaboration was obviously the hunting and killing of Jews. The records of these trials became public only some five years ago, and for my book I chose one county, Dabrowa Tarnowska, a “typical” rural area in Poland, where some 5,000 Jews lived among a population of 60,000. Ninety percent of the Jews were transported to the extermination camp at Belzec, and of the 500 or so who managed



■ A 1937 leaflet distributed during anti-Jewish demonstrations in Tarnów, calling for the “evacuation” of Jews to the Middle East

## News from the International Institute for Holocaust Research

### New Institute Head and Chief Historian

■ In April 2011, Yad Vashem's former Chief Historian Prof. Dan Michman was appointed Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies.



■ Prof. Dan Michman

Prof. Michman took over both positions after the passing of Prof. David Bankier z"l last year. The new Yad Vashem Chief Historian is Prof. Dina

Porat, Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry and incumbent of the Alfred P. Slaner Chair in Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University.



■ Prof. Dina Porat

“Together with the inspiring leadership of the late Prof. Bankier, I worked over the past decade to promote basic research on the *Shoah* and to keep Israeli scholarship at the frontline

of international Holocaust research,” said Prof. Michman. “In these times of world economic austerity, the Research Institute plays a special role in academia through its fellowship programs, international conferences, groundbreaking publications and major research projects.” “Yad Vashem has become a central institution for Israel and the Jewish people, and its diverse activities are becoming more and more significant,” said Prof. Porat. “The discussion about Holocaust remembrance in recent years has become ever more complex, and has a direct impact on many crucial aspects of our lives.”

## Canadian Research Fellow Furthers Study at Yad Vashem

Leah Goldstein



■ Prof. Jan Grabowski speaking to fellow Yad Vashem researchers on “Detecting the Jews in Hiding”

to hide among the gentiles, only 38 survived. The rest met their deaths, I found, most often as a result of direct or indirect actions of their Polish compatriots. A whole system, supervised by the Germans, but comprised of the local village night-watches, Polish “blue” police, local voluntary firefighting brigades, the youth labor service, and other such bodies, created a dense net which made it extremely difficult for Jews to remain hidden. Indeed, an entire mechanism was in place, leaving even those Jews that escaped deportation little chance of surviving until liberation.

A side-product of this research has also led me to investigate the nature of the “help”

offered to the Jewish refugees – calling into question the accepted notion that most cases of assistance were altruistic and moral: when you look not only at the survivors, but also at the victims, the story shifts to a much murkier, “lower-grade” motivation of pure economic greed. Once the money ran out, some Polish hosts were only too willing to denounce their problematic “Jewish guests” or even dispose of them themselves.

**This is indeed groundbreaking research. What’s next on your agenda?**

I hope to publish an English version of *Judenjagd*

Once the money ran out, some Polish hosts were only too willing to denounce their problematic “Jewish guests” or even dispose of them themselves

in the coming year, based on a wider range of examples and more diverse testimonies and documentation. Once that is complete, my next goal is to conduct research into the issue of the *Treuhänder* – those German – and local Polish – lawyers and others entrusted with looking after confiscated Jewish businesses and real estate. I will be researching how these people conducted their “duties,” and how many obviously enriched themselves in the process. Obviously, I look forward to returning to Yad Vashem on a regular basis, and continuing to avail myself of the rich documentary and human resources I have so benefitted from until now.

*Prof. Grabowski conducted his research at Yad Vashem as a fellow of The Baron Friedrich Carl von Oppenheim Chair for the Study of Racism, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust.*

### The Erich Kulka Prize 2011

■ On 26 May, Yad Vashem hosted the Hebrew University’s 2011 Erich Kulka Prize ceremony, in the presence of the Czech Ambassador to Israel H. E. Mr. Tomáš Pojar and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The ceremony was held at Yad Vashem to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Kulka (1911-1995), a renowned Holocaust researcher and historian, and author of the classic 1960s Yad Vashem publication *The Death Factory: Document on Auschwitz*. Prize winners Dr. Joel Zisenwine, Hebrew University graduate and Director of Yad Vashem’s “Deportations Project,” and former Yad Vashem Archives staff member Ella Florsheim of the Hebrew University,

spoke about their own research projects at the ceremony, which also marked the launch of a new book in Hebrew about the life of Kulka. Kulka’s son, Prof. Otto Dov Kulka of the Hebrew University and board member of *Yad Vashem Studies*, spoke at the event, as did Ambassador Pojar and Prof. Shlomo Naeh, Head of the University’s Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies.

### Summer Fellowships for PhD Students from Abroad

■ The International Institute for Holocaust Research offers short summer fellowships to PhD students registered in universities outside of Israel, in order to conduct research

for their theses in the Yad Vashem libraries and archives, the largest central repository of Holocaust documentation in the world. Melanie Hebera of Heidelberg University, Germany, and Laura Brade of the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, USA, each received a two-week fellowship at Yad Vashem for the summer of 2011.

Hebera will be conducting research for her PhD thesis on “The *Shoah* in the District of Krakow.” Her thesis advisor is Prof. Edgar Wolfrum. Brade is studying “Forced Migration: Jewish Emigration Strategies and Nazi Expulsion Policies in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1941.” Her thesis advisor is Prof. Christopher Browning.

# A Major Turning Point in the History of the Holocaust

Leah Goldstein

■ *"In that terrible war, some 35 million human beings died in Europe... and they died because of an ideology rooted in the hatred of Jews.*

*"The Holocaust was motivated not by structural problems within German society, as many believe. The Holocaust was the result of a mutation of historic anti-Semitism into a racist and genocidal political act. That mutation played a central part in the forces that led to the war within whose framework it occurred. The Holocaust appears as an ideological genocide within the framework of an ideological world war."*

So stated Yad Vashem's Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer at a **special daylong symposium to mark 70 years since Nazi Germany's invasion of the USSR**, held by the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. The symposium, entitled "The Invasion of the Soviet Union as an Ideological War," saw noted historians from around the world gather to discuss this significant turning point in the history of the Holocaust. Participants heard such diverse lectures as "The Struggle against Judeo-Bolshevism" and "The Deadly Maelstrom of Conflicts and Identities," and debated various aspects of Operation Barbarossa and its consequences.

Among the distinguished lecturers were Dr. Yevgeniy Rozenblat from Brest, Belarus,



■ USSR: Signpost erected by German forces close to the city of Smolensk pointing towards Moscow (Yad Vashem Photo Archive)

who spoke about relations between Poles, Byelorussians and Jews following the invasion, and Prof. Mordechai Altschuler from the Hebrew University, who presented "The Shattering of Myths amid Soviet Jewry." Sana Britavsky, Executive Director of the Genesis Philanthropy Group in Israel, spoke of the recent visit of GPG staff to Ukraine. "We stopped in almost every place where a *shtetl* existed before 1939. In each one, we were able to see the Jewish life that once was there. What we did not find was Jews.

"It's important to understand all the aspects of the war: on the one hand, as the granddaughter of a soldier that fought against the Nazis, there

is the aspect of victory. On the other, vibrant Judaism was wiped out. This seminar allows us to research Operation Barbarossa, and introduce the modern Jewish world into the investigation of Russian Jewry. Our participation has shown us that this is an important topic for our future as a people, as well as for the place of Russian Jews among world Jewry."

■ At the symposium, Dr. Arkadi Zeltser, head of the **Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust**, presented the work of the new center that opened in February 2010. The center aims to study the comprehensive history of the Jews living in

## Tracing Lost Memories Boris Maftsir

■ When a **Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project** volunteer arrived at the home of Bronya Rabinowitz in the city of Chelyabinsk in Russia's Ural Mountains, she was astounded to find that Rabinowitz had already prepared a list of 39 family members murdered during the Holocaust. Had the representative failed to locate Rabinowitz, these names would have been lost forever. After filling out Pages of Testimony in memory of her loved ones, Rabinowitz then produced a letter sent to her in 1945 by a Ukrainian neighbor. The letter mentioned 23 Jewish boys and girls from Bronya's school – all of them, too, murdered.

Near the village of Chervona Zirka (the Red Star), 60 km north of Kherson in southern Ukraine, there is a field containing a well where 1,011 Jews met their deaths in 1941. Only a few dozen of the victims' names were known before Sasha Wiener, head of the local Jewish community, began gathering testimonies from residents of the vicinity. To date, almost 800 names of those murdered there have been identified.

These two examples represent the essence of the Names Recovery Project: locating any potential witnesses, irrespective of their place of residence, to gather the victims'

names for commemoration at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

All across the territories of the Former Soviet Union, local volunteers journey to villages and towns to gather national and personal documentation regarding Holocaust victims. In Germany, information about the project is regularly publicized in a Russian-language newspaper. In three large community centers in New York, volunteers help the Russian-speaking population to fill out Pages of Testimony. In cities across Israel, survivors are interviewed in their homes, in housing complexes and in assisted living accommodations.

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

■ for a new mini-site marking 70 years since Operation Barbarossa (see p. 18)

# Yad Vashem Marks 70 Years Since the Invasion of the Soviet Union by Nazi Germany

the former USSR by fostering collaboration with international researchers and awarding scholarships and opportunities for young researchers from the FSU, the Baltic states, the US and Europe to come to Yad Vashem and make use of its archives and rich collections to advance their studies.

At the beginning of April, the Center uploaded the first stage of its **bibliographic database** (db. [yadvashem.org/bibliography/listResult.do](http://yadvashem.org/bibliography/listResult.do)) – over 3,000 titles, including 700 articles, on Jewish history in the areas of the Former Soviet Union. By performing an extensive and thorough search of repositories worldwide, the database – which will be updated regularly – will continue to provide researchers and other interested parties with detailed and current information on all written works on the topic.

■ Researchers at the symposium also heard an update on the online research project, “**The Untold Stories: The Murder Sites of the Jews in the Occupied Territories of the Former USSR.**” Since the project began, a thorough study of more than 250 murder sites throughout the FSU has been carried out, research that is based on copious documentation for each of the locations. This year, an extra dimension was added: an online guide that gives a comprehensive picture of the extent of the murder sites in each republic of the FSU.

The online guide, which will be updated periodically, includes a chronology of the mass

murders, their location, the number of victims, the victims’ community of origin, the identity of the murderers, and the way the killings were enacted. The first area to be covered was all 19 districts of Ukraine (including the annexed Polish territories) – one of the largest Jewish centers in Eastern Europe. This data reveals that there were no less than 1,229 murder sites in Ukraine, the largest number occurring in the districts of Eastern Galicia (Tarnopol, Stanisławów) and Wolyn.

“This information gives a more accurate picture of previous estimates of murder sites and the number of Jewish victims in the Ukraine,” explained Project Heads Dr. Lea Prais and Shlomit Shulchani. “Moreover, we are now able to pinpoint hundreds of villages and small communities where a single or pair of Jewish families lived and were slaughtered to the very last person. Take, for example, the village of Korytichi in the Zhitomir District, where all six of its Jewish inhabitants were murdered. Due to intense fieldwork performed on behalf of Yad Vashem by Ukrainian historian Mikhail Tyagli, Korytichi is now recognized for the first time as a murder site.”

The next stage of the online guide will cover Belarus and Latvia.

*The Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust is generously supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG) and the European Jewish Fund (EJF). The symposium was supported by the GPG and the EJF, as well as the Gutwirth Family Fund.*

redeemed: these in addition to those already gleaned from documentation in Yad Vashem’s Archives, and the many thousands of names sent directly by post or by email to the Hall of Names.

Yad Vashem is determined to lose no more time. The search for the lost names has already proven that the power of memory is invaluable.

*The Names Recovery Project is enabled through the generous support of Dana and Yossi Hollander.*

*The author is the Manager of the Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project in the Nazi-occupied territories of the FSU.*

## New Archive Agreements Masha Yonin

■ On 22 February, a cooperation agreement was signed between Yad Vashem’s Archives and that of the SBU (formerly the KGB) in Ukraine. The agreement allows Yad Vashem to photograph the documentation in the SBU archives, and facilitates exchanges of information between the two institutions.

“The material we hope to receive deals primarily with trials against collaborators who operated in the Ukraine and in other European countries during the war,” explained Director of Yad Vashem’s Archives Division Dr. Haim Gertner. “These trials provided vast



■ Director of the SBU archive Dr. Sergei Kokin (left) and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev exchange a cooperation agreement.

and detailed documentation about the murder sites, the collaborators and the names of many victims. Thanks to this information, we can fill in many holes.”

This important accomplishment followed the signing of another cooperation agreement in December 2010 with the National Historical Archives of Latvia, the largest repository of its kind in the FSU. The archive, located in the Latvian capital, Riga, contains no less than one million pages of documentation relevant to the history of the Jewish community of Latvia from the 1930s until 1945. The agreement will enable Yad Vashem to copy all relevant papers, thereby obtaining critical information on the life of individual Jews in Latvia prior to and during the war.

*Both cooperation agreements were supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Fund and the European Jewish Fund.*

*The author is Head of the Acquisitions Department for the FSU and the Baltic States in the Archives Division.*

# Hidden in a Hayloft

## Austrian Rescuers Found and Recognized for their Wartime Heroism

Irena Steinfeldt



■ Josefa Posch, 1947

■ In March 1945, thousands of Hungarian Jews who had been deported to Austria were taken on a death march to Mauthausen. Joseph Schneider was one of the exhausted, starving victims staggering forward step by step, under constant threat of being shot. Realizing the hopelessness of their situation, Schneider and four of his friends decided to flee the marching column. They managed to slip away and hide in a nearby forest. At a distance they saw a house and determined to seek help. It was in this farm that the five hid until liberation.

In the summer of 2010, Schneider's rescue story was brought to the attention of Yad Vashem during the visit of his nephew, Dr. Joel Geiderman, then Vice-Chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. A search in the Yad Vashem Archives yielded a testimony Schneider had given in 1996, as well as other information about him. Schneider's daughter also submitted a memoir he had written, in which he described their arrival on the farm, hiding in the hayloft, and the dedicated attention they received from the family that owned the farm. "All of us were sick from time to time, running fevers, but Mrs. Porsche took care of us. Occasionally we would go into her house in the evenings, one at a time, so we could clean ourselves up a bit. Then we would return to the

loft to watch and wait. Our spirits were raised a little when she came up each day to update us about events at the front."

Preliminary attempts to find the rescuing family, including calling all the people in Austria with the last name of Porsche, failed. Staff at the Department of the Righteous then turned to



■ Wedding photo of Joseph and Anita Schneider, dedicated "with love" to Josefa Posch

the Austrian ambassador to Israel, who asked the local authorities to check their registries. After several weeks, a response was received that a family with a similar name – Posch, not Porsche – was living in a village with a slightly different name – Gschmaier, not Geshmaya. Anton Posch was asked, as is standard practice, if he had any letters or photographs from the period to verify the story. Three weeks later, an

Anton Posch was asked if he had any letters or photographs from the period to verify the story. Three weeks later, an envelope arrived. It contained a wedding photo of Joseph Schneider sent in 1954

envelope arrived. It contained a wedding photo of Joseph Schneider sent in 1954, dedicated "with love" to his rescuers, as well as postcards that Martin Lampert, one of the other escapees, had forwarded to the family from America. Anton, who still lives in the same farmhouse, related that he was nine years old when the men appeared on the farm. His mother Josefa had asked her father Rupert what to do, and Rupert had told her to help them because it was their only chance of survival. Josefa warned her son not to talk about the men in the hayloft.

Once the rescuers' identity had been confirmed, the file was submitted to the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, which decided to bestow the title of Righteous Among the Nations on the late Josefa and Rupert Posch. A medal and certificate of honor will be sent to the Israeli embassy in Vienna, for a ceremony to honor Josefa Posch and her father Rupert.

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

### New Russian-language Database of Ukrainian Righteous

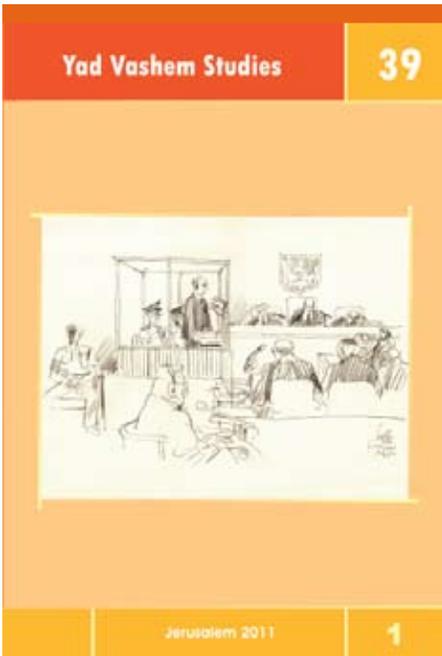
■ A Russian-language database detailing the stories of the Righteous Among the Nations from Ukraine was recently uploaded to Yad Vashem's website. It is the first step in a multi-year endeavor to create a comprehensive online information center about the Righteous. The Russian-language version of the section dealing with Righteous from the FSU and the Baltic countries is supported by the Genesis

Philanthropy Group and the European Jewish Fund. Visitors may search the database using the names of the rescuers or rescued, rescue sites or other details. They are then able to read about the story and view photos and other additional information about those heroic non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish men, women and children during the Holocaust.

# A Chance for Jewish *Chutzpah*

## Little-Known Rescue Attempts in the Early War Years

Dr. David Silberklang



■ “As you probably know, a central emigration bureau has been established at Auschwitz for the whole district of Kattowitz [Katowice] based on the approval of the competent authorities. To this emigration office there also belongs a department for emigration to overseas countries and a Palestine office.... It is high time that the emigration problem be finally solved.”

Thus begins a January 1940 report on a remarkable rescue initiative by a Jewish leader early in the Nazi occupation of Poland. Leon Schönker, head of the Judenrat in Oświęcim (Auschwitz), had led a delegation of Jews from the area to Berlin in late November 1939, in order to negotiate with the German authorities – including Adolf Eichmann and some of his superiors – for the mass emigration of the Jews of this region, particularly to *Eretz Israel*.

The plan under negotiation was that the Jews from the area’s small communities were to be gathered in the town of Oświęcim, where facilities for temporary housing were available (apparently the former military barracks). The emigration of some 70,000 Jews would include the large Jewish communities of Będzin and Sosnowiec, and would be funded by local Jews as well as American Jewry, mainly the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (Joint/JDC).

The negotiations continued into the spring of 1940, when the Nazi authorities suddenly cut them off. The Germans were seemingly developing other plans for the Jews, such as resettling them under German rule on the jungle island of Madagascar, and the local military barracks were slated to become a concentration camp for Polish political prisoners (and later the infamous extermination camp). Internal Jewish conflicts, particularly as a result of the intervention of the man who became head of the regional Jewish council, Moshe Merin, may also have contributed to the breakdown of the plan.

The story was first mentioned in the memoirs of Henryk Schönker, Leon’s son, but only recently did Polish scholar Artur Szyndler discover corroborating documents in the JDC’s Archives. Szyndler relates and analyzes this remarkable story in an article in the new edition of *Yad Vashem Studies* (39:1). What



■ Letter from the JDC in Paris to its office in New York, regarding Leon Schönker’s negotiations for Jewish emigration from Eastern Upper Silesia, 7 March 1940. (JDC Archive, New York)

emerges is an audacious rescue initiative at a time when German authorities momentarily displayed a willingness to negotiate and even allow Jews to go to *Eretz Israel*, despite their prewar fear of creating a Jewish state there. At the time, the Nazis were seeking to remove Jews from their areas of control as quickly as possible. For them, being rid of the Jews was an ideological necessity; for Schönker, this was a fleeting chance for Jewish *chutzpah* during the Holocaust.

The Oświęcim rescue initiative was undertaken well before anyone could have known that physical annihilation of all the Jews would later become the Nazi program. It also occurred parallel to another rescue-through-emigration effort initiated by various advocates in the United States – resettling Jewish and other refugees from the Nazis in Alaska. Hava Eshkoli Wagman examines numerous such rescue ideas

What emerges is an audacious rescue initiative at a time when German authorities momentarily displayed a willingness to negotiate

in her article, “The Alaska Plan: Jewish Initiatives to Rescue Refugees from Nazi Germany.” These plans, too, came to naught. Without active government support for such ideas in principle, they stood no chance of being realized.

In their article, Christoph Kreutzmüller, Ingo Loose, and Benno Nietzel examine little-known Jewish *economic* survival strategies in Germany. The limited success of various Jewish businessmen to keep their enterprises operating under severe Nazi persecution is striking, and redounded to the benefit of the Jewish community at large. For as long as these businesses held on, some funding for welfare and vocational training was still available.

Two things stand out clearly from these dramatic stories and others of Jewish rescue attempts during the Holocaust: Jewish creativity and initiative in trying to save Jews, even before their lives were clearly in imminent danger, were ongoing and remarkable; at the same time they were often futile. Mass Jewish emigration from the Katowice area and the Alaska Plan never happened, the Jewish businesses in Germany ultimately succumbed, and the large majority of the Jews who were meant to be rescued by these initiatives did not survive.

The author is Senior Historian at Yad Vashem and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*.

## Rabbi Lau Receives Légion d'Honneur

■ In April 2011, French President Nicolas Sarkozy presented Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau with the Légion d'Honneur, in recognition of a lifetime of laudable activities and achievements, particularly in his promotion of interfaith dialogue. The ceremony was held at the Elysee Palace in Paris on the anniversary of the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp – where Lau had been deported during WWII. “The tragedy of the Holocaust must be anchored in our minds and in our hearts,” said Sarkozy.

Rabbi Lau was born in Poland in 1937, and is one of the few members of his family to have survived the death camps. He immigrated to Israel in 1945 and was Chief Rabbi of Israel between 1993 and 2003. In 2008, he was appointed Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council.

Lau believes that since the war, Franco-Israeli ties have significantly evolved to fill the gap created by history. “At first I did not understand why the French nation wished to



■ French President Nicolas Sarkozy presents the Légion d'Honneur to Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

bestow this honor upon me,” he said. “But I was told that my autobiography had been translated into French and that many people had read it and wished to acknowledge my efforts to make peace between religions and peoples.”

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, who received the French award in 2007, congratulated Rabbi Lau and wished him good health and strength for his future endeavors.

## Ponary Memorial Site to Utilize Yad Vashem Expertise

■ On 24 May, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev was the keynote speaker at an international conference, sponsored by the Government of Lithuania, at the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum in Vilnius. The conference was devoted to concepts and ideas for the reconstruction of the Ponary (Paneriai) memorial to the tens of thousands of Jewish victims murdered at that site by the Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators.



■ Avner Shalev (right) with fellow Ponary conference delegates at the murder site, Lithuania

Courtesy: Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum

Shalev was invited by the Prime Minister of Lithuania, Andrius Kubilius, to provide Yad Vashem’s unmatched perspective and knowledge in the field of Holocaust remembrance and education. In his workshop remarks, as well as in other meetings with his hosts, Shalev emphasized Lithuania’s moral and historical imperative to uncover, publicize and deal honestly with all the facts of the Holocaust period, particularly the complicity of many Lithuanians in the extermination of their nation’s Jewish population.

During his visit to Vilnius, Shalev met personally with the Prime Minister, Minister of Culture Dr. Arūnas Gelūnas, the heads of the local Jewish community, and the noted Jewish partisan fighter Fania Brantovskiy. In addition to the Prime Minister and Shalev, other workshop participants included Directors of the State Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Oświęcim and Stutthof Dr. Piotr Cywinski and Piotr Tranowsky, and Associate Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Jacek Nowakowski.

## Avner Shalev “Patron of Jerusalem” 2011

■ On 1 June 2011, Jerusalem Day, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev was awarded the prestigious “Patron of Jerusalem” (*Yakir Yerushalayim*) Award at the capital’s Tower of David Museum. Since 1967, the award has been presented by the Mayor of Jerusalem to individuals who have contributed to the city of Jerusalem, and whose public service has been focused in Israel’s capital and on its behalf.



■ Avner Shalev receives the “Patron of Jerusalem” award from Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat

Born in Jerusalem, Avner Shalev served as Bureau Chief for the IDF Chief of Staff during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and was Chief Education Officer and head of the Education Corps. After retiring from military service, Shalev was appointed Director General of the Culture Authority in the Ministry of Education and Culture and Chairman of the National Culture and Art Council, and served on the board of directors of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Shalev initiated the establishment of the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in the city, and positioned the Israel Festival as a Jerusalem event.

Shalev was appointed Chairman of Yad Vashem in 1993. From the beginning of his tenure, he strived to redefine Holocaust remembrance and education, implementing a far-reaching multiyear redevelopment plan with the goal of preparing Yad Vashem to meet the challenges of Holocaust commemoration in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To that end, he has put education at the forefront of Yad Vashem’s activities by opening the International School for Holocaust Studies, enlarging Yad Vashem’s archives and research facilities, and building a new Museum Complex. He is Chief Curator of the Holocaust History Museum that opened in 2005.

“Shalev boldly positioned Holocaust Remembrance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at the center of public discourse, in Israel and abroad,” said Dr. Martin Weyl, Holocaust survivor and former Director of the Israel Museum. “Time and again, he pulls it from the margins of social and cultural debate to the heart of our creative efforts.”

## Events: April – June 2011

**13 April** ■ Ceremony posthumously honoring **Elena Laurinavičienė and her children Bronislovas and Pranas of Lithuania as Righteous Among the Nations**. The award and medal were accepted by Aldona Tomkevičienė, granddaughter and daughter of the Righteous. Lithuanian Ambassador in Israel H.E. Mr. Darius Degutis (fourth from left) and the family of Holocaust survivor Leiba Tatz, ז"ל took part in the ceremony.



**1 May** ■ Some 2,600 Holocaust survivors, state officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps, hundreds of young people and IDF soldiers filled Warsaw Ghetto Square for the **official state opening ceremony marking Holocaust Remembrance Day**. Pictured: Keshet Eilon musicians at the ceremony



**2 May** ■ Education Minister Gidon Sa'ar spoke at the **Youth Movements' Ceremony** at the conclusion of Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Valley of the Communities.



**11 May** ■ Official state ceremony marking **V.E. Day** at the Jewish Fighters and Partisans Monument with the participation of Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver.



**12 May** ■ Two Torah finials (*rimonim*) were donated to Yad Vashem for preservation by the Simkowitz and Bueller families, descendants of the original donors Jacob and Berta Weinshenk. The *rimonim* had been presented in the early 1900s to the synagogue in Nuremberg, Germany, and then looted during the *Kristallnacht* pogrom. They were subsequently discovered in the 1990s by a Judaica expert.



**13 May** ■ Some 200 Holocaust survivors took part in the **Global Conference of Bessarabian Community Representatives and the annual commemoration for the Jews of Bessarabia murdered in the Holocaust**, in the presence of President of the World Federation of Bessarabian Jews Dr. Danny Koren, Israel's Ambassador to Moldova H.E. Mr. Oren David, and deputy Ambassador of Moldova in Israel, Anatoly Wengly.

**23 May** ■ Ceremony posthumously honoring **Johanna (Pieterse) & Jacobus Witte of the Netherlands as Righteous Among the Nations**. Left to right: Yad Vashem Director General



Nathan Eitan; son of the rescuers Cees Witte; Holocaust survivor Leopold Robert Kalfus; Ambassador of the Netherlands in Israel H.E. Mr. Michiel den Hond

**2 June** ■ Ceremony posthumously honoring **Antanas Babonas and his sister and brother-in-law Antanas and Ona Korsakas of Lithuania as Righteous Among the Nations**. The award and medal was received on their behalf by Jadviga Korsakiene, the daughter-in-law of Antanas and Ona Korsakas.

**23 June** ■ Ceremony honoring the late **Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero of Ecuador as Righteous Among the Nations**, in the presence of the Ambassador of Ecuador in Israel H.E. Mr. Raul Guillermo Bassante Ramirez; Ambassador of Sweden in Israel H.E. Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld; Dr. Borrero's son Lennart Bjelke; Enrique Muñoz Larrea, nephew of the Righteous; Holocaust survivor Betty Meyer (née Eichenhauser); family and friends. Dr. Muñoz Borrero is the first Ecuadorian to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

**26 June** ■ Screening of *The Last Flight of Petr Ginz*, produced by Sandra Dickson and Churchill Roberts at the Documentary Film Program of Wake Forest University, North Carolina. The film, based on Ginz's artworks that were donated to Yad Vashem in the 1950s by his father Otto, tells the story of the multitalented youth and budding artist murdered in Auschwitz. In 2003, the first Israeli astronaut and son of Auschwitz survivors Ilan Ramon, ז"ל took with him a reproduction of *Moon Landscape*, drawn by Ginz in 1942, onto the Columbia space shuttle.



The screening was attended by hundreds of people, in the presence of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Culture Minister of the Czech Republic Jiri Besser, Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Israel H.E. Mr. Tomas Pojar, Associate Dean of Wake Forest University Prof. Randall Rogan, Deputy Director of Yad Vashem's Museums Division Yehudit Shendar and Petr Ginz's sister, the artist Chava Pressburger (pictured).

■ Sixty-five years after her miraculous survival during the Holocaust and her departure from postwar Europe, Rena Quint was recently reunited in Jerusalem with the family of Anna Philipstahl, the woman who gave her a chance for a new life. Meeting Anna’s family was the culmination of a search that began at Yad Vashem in 1981.

Rena was nine years old when she was liberated from the Bergen Belsen concentration camp in April 1945. Born Fredzia (Frayda) Lichtenstein in Piotrkow in 1936, she lived with her family in the town’s ghetto. After her mother and brothers were deported to Treblinka in 1942, her father dressed her as a boy and she worked with him as a slave laborer in the Hortensia glass factory. When the factory was closed they were separated and sent to different camps. Rena eventually reached Bergen Belsen, although she has no recollection of how she got there, or how she survived on her own. “I must have been cared for by a succession of ‘mothers,’” she says, although she is unable to recall their names or faces.

In July 1945, Rena – who had barely survived an attack of typhus – was sent to Sweden together with other survivors for intensive medical care. There she slowly began to recover her health. She learned to play, got her first doll, made friends. Then, in the rehabilitation camp in Tingsryd, Rena met Anna.

Anna Philipstahl and her son Sigmund had survived the war in Poland. They, too, had been evacuated from Bergen Belsen. Anna was determined to help the child, who was all alone in the world. When her relatives in the United States arranged for Anna and Sigmund to join them, she offered to take Rena along as her daughter, Fanny. Rena consented. “I would have agreed to anything,” she says. “I had no other choice.”

The family arrived in the US in March 1946, but just a few months later, tragedy struck once more: Anna Philipstahl suddenly passed away. Fifteen-year-old Sigmund could not help Rena, and once more she was left alone. She felt numb, but believed that another “mother” would come to take care of her.

Rena was right. Anna’s cousins asked friends of theirs, the Globes – a childless couple in Brooklyn – if they could take care of the orphan girl for just one Shabbat until other arrangements could be made. The Globes agreed, fell in love with the little girl, and the Shabbat turned into a lifetime. In 1947 they adopted Fredzia/Fanny and renamed her Rena. She grew up in their warm embrace, and later married Rabbi Emmanuel Quint, became a teacher, and raised a family. Engrossed in her daily life, she rarely discussed her traumatic childhood.

In 1984, Rena and Emmanuel settled in Jerusalem. Rena became a sought-after guide and lecturer at Yad Vashem and began to frequent its archives, looking for records of herself and her family. In 1989 she joined a Yad Vashem trip to Poland, where she finally found her birth certificate, her parents’ marriage certificate and even visited her parents’ apartment in Piotrkow. Later a researcher in Poland sent her copies of her brothers’ birth certificates. But her father’s fate remained elusive.

In the early 1990s, Rena attended a workshop conducted by Dr. Yaacov Lozowick, then-Director of the Yad Vashem Archives. Lozowick explained that in looking for names, one had to take into account all the possible permutations. As an example he gave the name Isaac, which had a Polish equivalent, “Ignac.” Rena sat up suddenly. For years she had been looking for her father Isaac Lichtenstein with no success. Once she started to search for him under the name Ignac, however, she discovered a wealth of



■ Left to right: Rena Quint, Marcia Philipstahl and Nanci Schwartz at their reunion in Jerusalem, April 2011

documents. With the help of Yad Vashem staff, Rena discovered that her father had been sent to Buchenwald in January 1945 together with Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and his brother Naftali Lau-Lavie. She also found records of herself in Bergen Belsen and in Sweden.

Many questions still remained about Rena’s early life. She longed to discuss them with Sigmund Philipstahl, the “brother” with whom she traveled to the US, but she had had no contact with him since the early 1950s, and had no idea where he lived. With the help of the writer of this article, Rena located his family, now living in Florida. Sigmund Philipstahl had died, but his wife Marcia, whom Rena had met when she was Sigmund’s girlfriend, was thrilled to hear from her, and sent her photographs of Rena in Sweden. Marcia’s daughter, Nanci Schwartz, was also delighted to be united with her long lost “aunt.” In April 2011, Marcia and Nanci came to Israel for an emotional reunion with Rena. During their visit, Rena presented the Philipstahls with a certificate on which she had inscribed: “In loving memory of Anna – though she did not give birth to me, she gave me life.”

*The author is a former Research Fellow at the International Institute for Holocaust Research.*

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

#### “From Persecution to Mass Murder”: Mini-Site Marking 70 Years Since Operation Barbarossa

■ A new mini-site launched to mark the beginning of Operation Barbarossa contains documentary footage as well as rare video testimonies from the killing sites, prepared in conjunction with Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research. Other valuable links and resources include related artifacts and documents, maps and photos,

stories of Righteous Among the Nations from Eastern Europe, and extraordinary survivor testimonies.

#### “Here Their Stories Will be Told”- The Jewish Community of Bălți

■ Between the two world wars, the Jewish community of Bălți, Romania (today Moldova) was a vibrant population of varied trade and industry, Zionist and Yiddish activities, rich political debate and dedicated youth movements. In September 1941 the last of the Bălți Jews – some 2,800 people – were expelled to

the Mărculești camp, and the Jewish population of the city ceased to exist.

The story of the Jewish community of Bălți has recently been added to the online communities project “Here Their Stories Will be Told,” which explores the rich tapestry of life that existed in each featured community before WWII, its fate during the Holocaust, and the various ways the few who survived attempted to rebuild their lives and commemorate what was lost. This project is supported by the Claims Conference.

*The author is Director of the Internet Department.*

## RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During April, May and June 2011, Yad Vashem conducted over 200 guided tours for more than 2,500 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government and ambassadors, media personalities and mayors. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:

■ His Royal Highness, the Prince of Asturias Felipe de Borbón y Grecia and Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Asturias Letizia Ortiz Rocasolano of Spain visited Yad Vashem on 11 April. After a tour of the Museum, the Prince and Princess (left) participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right).



■ On 2 June, Foreign Minister of France Alain Juppé (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum guided by Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt (right). At the conclusion of his visit, the Foreign Minister wrote: "After understanding comes the sadness and the shame that inspires these walls to recall the millions of names and faces. This memorial site is surrounded... by life and hope."



■ Foreign Minister of Uruguay Luis Leonardo Almagro Lemes toured the Holocaust History Museum on 19 May.



■ On 4 May, former UK prime minister and Official Envoy of the Quartet on the Middle East Tony Blair (center) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) and Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (right). Following his visit, Mr. Blair wrote: "It is hard to describe what this means to me or how profoundly it affects my emotions. For me, this is a memorial... but it is also a warning, a warning of the wickedness of which humanity is capable."



■ On 4 April, Foreign Minister of Argentina Héctor Timerman toured Yad Vashem, including the Hall of Names.



■ On 21 June, Foreign Minister of Moldova Iurie Leanca (center) visited Yad Vashem. He was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avraham (left).



■ President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek visited Yad Vashem on 14 June for the first time since assuming office in 2009.



■ On 16 May, Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Maldives Ahmed Naseem toured Yad Vashem, including the Museum of Holocaust Art.



■ Miriam Weiner, Director of Allocations at the Claims Conference, visited Yad Vashem on 6 April for a special tour of the Museum and presentation of the Names Recovery Project. Ms. Weiner also received updates on various endeavors at the International School for Holocaust Studies that are supported by the Claims Conference, including teacher training programs, visits by students and IDF soldiers, and development of educational materials.



# Friends Worldwide

## USA

Over 300 people attended the **American Society for Yad Vashem Annual Spring Luncheon**, held on 24 May in New York. The Luncheon, which celebrated 30 years of achievement of the Society, was made especially meaningful by the active participation of many members of the third generation. The Society honored three generations of outstanding women from one family – **Louise Pantirer, Eliza Pantirer Pines** and **Nicole Pines Lieberman**. The Luncheon was chaired by **Rella Feldman, Nancy Pantirer** and **Betty Pantirer Schwartz**.

Left to right: American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski; Sharon Halpern; Nicole Pines Lieberman; Louise Pantirer; Eliza Pantirer Pines; Rella Feldman; Alan Pines**



On 22 June, Yad Vashem held a dedication ceremony in honor of **Brenda Weil Mandel**, her husband **Louis Frock** and her aunt **Erna Weil Leiser**, who endowed the Flag Terrace in memory of Mrs. Mandel's and Mrs. Leiser's family – **Abraham, Bluma** and **Erno Mandel** who were murdered in the Holocaust – and in honor of Brenda Mandel's parents – **Julius** and **Tony Weil Mandel** and her grandparents **Theo** and **Hilde Weil** – who survived. The ceremony was attended by family and many of their friends from Bet El Congregation in Baltimore, Maryland, who were in Israel on a mission.



Left to right: **Louis Frock, Brenda Weil Mandel, Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Managing Director of Yad Vashem's International Relations Division

**Lawrence Goodman** met with Director of the Museums Division **Yehudit Inbar** during his recent visit to the Mount of Remembrance.



**Yad Vashem Guardian Jona Goldrich** (third from right) visited the Holocaust History Museum together with his daughter **Melinda Goldrich** and cousin **Pnina Sapir** during his recent trip to Israel.



**Moses Gewolb**, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, recently joined Yad Vashem's family circle together with his family. During his visit to Yad Vashem, Moses' son **Jay Gewolb** (left) met with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives.



**Yad Vashem** mourns the passing of its esteemed benefactor **Dr. Felix Zandman z"l**, who together with his beloved wife **Ruta** endowed **The Family Square**. A Holocaust survivor from Grodno, Felix's commitment to Holocaust remembrance and his passionate dedication and devotion to the Jewish people and the State of Israel has left a remarkable legacy for generations to come. May **Ruta**, their children, **Gisele, Arielle** and **Marc**, and the extended family be comforted among the mourners of **Zion**.



**Yad Vashem Builders Robert and Elaine Baum** visited Yad Vashem and toured two exhibitions: "Virtues of Memory: Six Decades of Holocaust Survivors' Creativity," and "With Me Here are Six Million Accusers," on the **Eichmann Trial**.



During his recent tour of Yad Vashem, **Jonathan Aaron** (left) was shown documents from the Archives by Deputy Director of the International Relations Division **Sari Granitza**.



## ISRAEL

■ In March, trustees of the **Gutwirth Family Fund** visited Yad Vashem. The Fund supports research activities at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. The trustees met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and took a special tour of the Archives, guided by Archives Division Director **Dr. Haim Gertner** (right). They also visited the “Virtues of Memory” exhibition, guided by the exhibition’s curator, Deputy Director of the Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar**.



## UK

■ Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** and Chief Rabbi of the UK **Lord Sacks** were the guests of honour at the **British Friends of Yad Vashem’s** Gala Dinner held in June at the magnificent Guildhall in London.

The dinner was held to raise money to sponsor teachers of Jewish students attending special annual seminars at Yad Vashem on teaching the Holocaust from the Jewish perspective. Over 200 guests attended, including students and teachers who participated in the weeklong seminar earlier this year.



## GERMANY

■ At the beginning of April, the Axel Springer AG publishing house, which held its Management Summit 2011 in Israel, came for a special tour of Yad Vashem, at which the high-ranking delegation gave pictures of the liberation of Buchenwald to the Yad Vashem Archives.

In 2009, **Kai Diekmann**, Editor-in-Chief of the German *Bild* newspaper which belongs to Axel Springer AG, presented architectural drawings of Auschwitz-Birkenau to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for safekeeping at Yad Vashem.



Left to right: Axel Springer AG Chairman and CEO **Dr. Mathias Döpfner**, Kai Diekmann, Axel Springer AG Board Member **Friede Springer**, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**

## CANADA

■ The Prime Minister of Canada Mission delegation from UIA-Toronto visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Yad Vashem Archives, where Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** gave them a comprehensive overview of the Archives’ work as well as a current special project.

The group also visited the recently opened exhibition “With Me Here Are Six Million Accusers,” dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eichmann trial, guided by Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator **Yehudit Shendar**.



## CHRISTIAN DESK

■ In May 2011, National Directors of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) from all over the world visited Yad Vashem. During the visit, a ceremony was held in which the recent donation of the ICEJ Norway Branch

was recognized. Left to right: Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, Managing Director of Yad Vashem’s International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, ICEJ Norway Director **Leif Wellerop**



■ During May, donations by ICEJ Canada and Derek Prince Ministries were recognized in a ceremony held at Yad Vashem. Left to right: Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, ICEJ Canada National Director **Donna Holbrook**, Managing Director of Yad Vashem’s International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



■ In March, Yad Vashem was awarded the first ever bi-annual Kåre Kristiansen Memorial Award in Oslo, Norway. The Award was instituted by ICEJ Norway as well as by the family of former Minister for Petroleum and Energy and member of the Nobel Committee, Kåre Kristiansen. Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** received the prize from the Chairman of the Memorial Award Committee **Bjarte Ystebo** (right).



# Friends Worldwide

## BELGIUM-SWITZERLAND

■ Believing he was a guest at a dedication ceremony, Holocaust survivor Jacques Graubart, accompanied by his daughter, Yvette Graubart Blaiberg, President of the **Belgian Friends of Yad Vashem**, made a special trip from Antwerp to Jerusalem in May only to discover at the unveiling of the plaque that he was the one to be honored. A garden in the International School for Holocaust Studies was dedicated in his name by his longtime friend Gabriel Tamman from Geneva, for being “a model to the Jewish spirit.” Mr. Tamman, President of Gabriel Tamman Foundation, visited Yad Vashem last summer with five generations of his family to increase their awareness of the *Shoah* and its place in the Jewish history.



Left to right: **Deicia Prior**, Managing Director of Yad Vashem’s International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **Dorothy Kurtisz**, **Jacques Graubart**, **Yvette Graubart-Blaiberg**, **Gabriel Tamman**, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Director of the French and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**

## LATIN AMERICA

■ Director of the Latin America, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** (right) joined the educators from Mexico, Spain, Portugal and Venezuela who helped organize a successful seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



## SPAIN

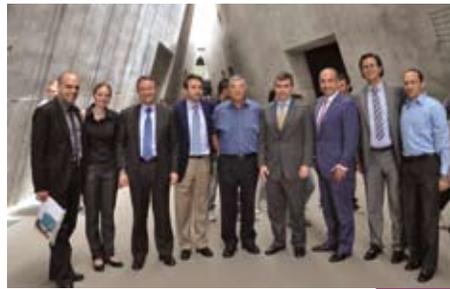
■ **Joelle** and **Leon Kanner** (center) were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** and Managing Director of Yad Vashem’s International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** during their visit to Yad Vashem.



■ **Coty** and **Isaac Belilty** (third and fourth from right) were joined by their family during the unveiling of a plaque in their honor.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem, President of the **Spanish Association for Yad Vashem** **Isaac Querub** (third from right) was joined by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (center), **Dr. Josu Jon Imaz San Miguel** (fourth from left), **Jose Luis Bernal Catalan** (fourth from right), **Fernando Temprano Posada** (third from left) and **Carlos Marquerie** (second from right).



## VENEZUELA

■ **Enrique** and **Nataly Nessim** (first and fourth from right) marked the bar mitzvah of their son **Michel Nessim** (third from right). They were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** (left).



■ **Rosita Beracha** (left) was joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** and Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** during the unveiling of a plaque in her honor.



## DIASPORA AFFAIRS

■ During March, an unveiling ceremony was held in honor of Yad Vashem Builder **Dmitri Smetanich** (right), attended by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (center) and Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate **Arie Zuckerman** (left).



■ A plaque was unveiled in honor of Yad Vashem Builder **David Joukov** (center) and his wife **Svetlana Liakhevskaja**, attended by Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate **Arie Zuckerman**.



## MALTA

■ Maltese Ambassador to Israel **H.E. Mr. Abraham Borg** (second from right) was accompanied by his immediate family at an unveiling ceremony in Yad Vashem of a plaque in memory of his relatives murdered during the Holocaust as well as of his mother who survived.



## AUSTRALIA

■ The **Schwartz Family** paid a visit to Yad Vashem to remember their family members murdered during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** greeted them upon their arrival, and thanked them for their friendship and support.



■ **Joseph Fröhlich-West** and his niece **Maria Taubenblatt** toured the Yad Vashem campus accompanied by Director of the English Language Desk **Searle Brajtman**. During their visit, they viewed plaques commemorating their loved ones.



■ **Jeanne Pratt** (center) visited Yad Vashem together with her family, **Sam Lipski** and friends. During her visit, Mrs. Pratt was assisted at the Hall of Names and in the Archives to find information about her relatives murdered during the Holocaust.



■ **John Gandel** (right) and trustees **Richard Rogers** and **Lawrence Joseph** of the Gandel Charitable Trust held a working meeting at Yad Vashem with Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev** (left) and senior staff of the International School for Holocaust Studies, which hosts the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators. Emphasis was placed upon making Holocaust education a central part of school curricula in Australia.



## Your Support Helps Make a Difference

All of the activities, projects and events which you have just read about are made possible thanks to the generous support of our donors. In these difficult times of financial uncertainty and a worrying rise in antisemitism around the world, Yad Vashem is doubling its efforts to commemorate the Holocaust, disseminate its universal implications and strengthen Jewish continuity. Yad Vashem is deeply grateful for your generosity in supporting its vital work and welcomes both new friends and established supporters as partners in our shared mission.

### ■ To make tax deductible donations:

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# International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

## Yechiam Weitz, *The Man Who Was Murdered Twice: The Life, Trial and Death of Israel Kasztner*

NIS ~~174~~ NIS 128

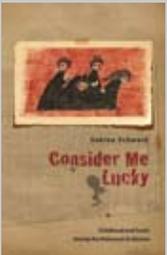


■ Was Kasztner a collaborator and opportunist who had “sold his soul to the devil,” as Judge Benjamin Halevi stated, who failed to warn the Transylvanian and Hungarian Jews of their impending fate in order to survive and save those close to him? Or was he a brave leader who arranged for as many Jews as he could to escape on the “rescue train” in June 1944? *The Man Who Was Murdered Twice* provides new information on the controversy, based on a variety of new documents.

Covering the history of Kasztner’s negotiations with the Nazis and the remainder of his life after the war, the reader is exposed to results of the trial after his death and a thorough look at his complex personality.

## Sabina Schweid, *Consider Me Lucky: Childhood and Youth During the Holocaust in Zborów*

NIS ~~74~~ NIS 58



■ Sabina Schweid spent her early years in Zborów, occupied Eastern Galicia. Her happy childhood came to an end when the Germans marched into town in July 1941, and Sabina’s father was appointed chairman of the local Judenrat. Sabina went into hiding, and was forced to deal alone with the problems she faced as she matured into a woman while constantly on the move to escape detection. When the war was over, Sabina was reunited with her mother and placed her

future in the fate of the fledgling Jewish State of Israel.

## Asher Bar-Nir, *A Journey of Survival: A Young Boy’s Odyssey from Hungary through Auschwitz and Jaworzno to Eretz Yisrael*

NIS ~~74~~ NIS 58



■ Born in 1930, Asher Bar-Nir and his parents were moved into the ghetto of Nyíregyháza, Hungary, when the Nazis occupied their small town in the spring of 1944. The young teenager found himself alone in Auschwitz and then in the Jaworzno forced labor camp. Liberated in March 1945 after having survived a “death march,” Asher made the long, arduous return to Hungary, where he joined the Zionist movement and went to build a new life in Israel.

## *The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations: Rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust*

Editor-in-Chief: Israel Gutman

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Includes entries of all people recognized as Righteous Among the Nations between the years 2000-2005

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