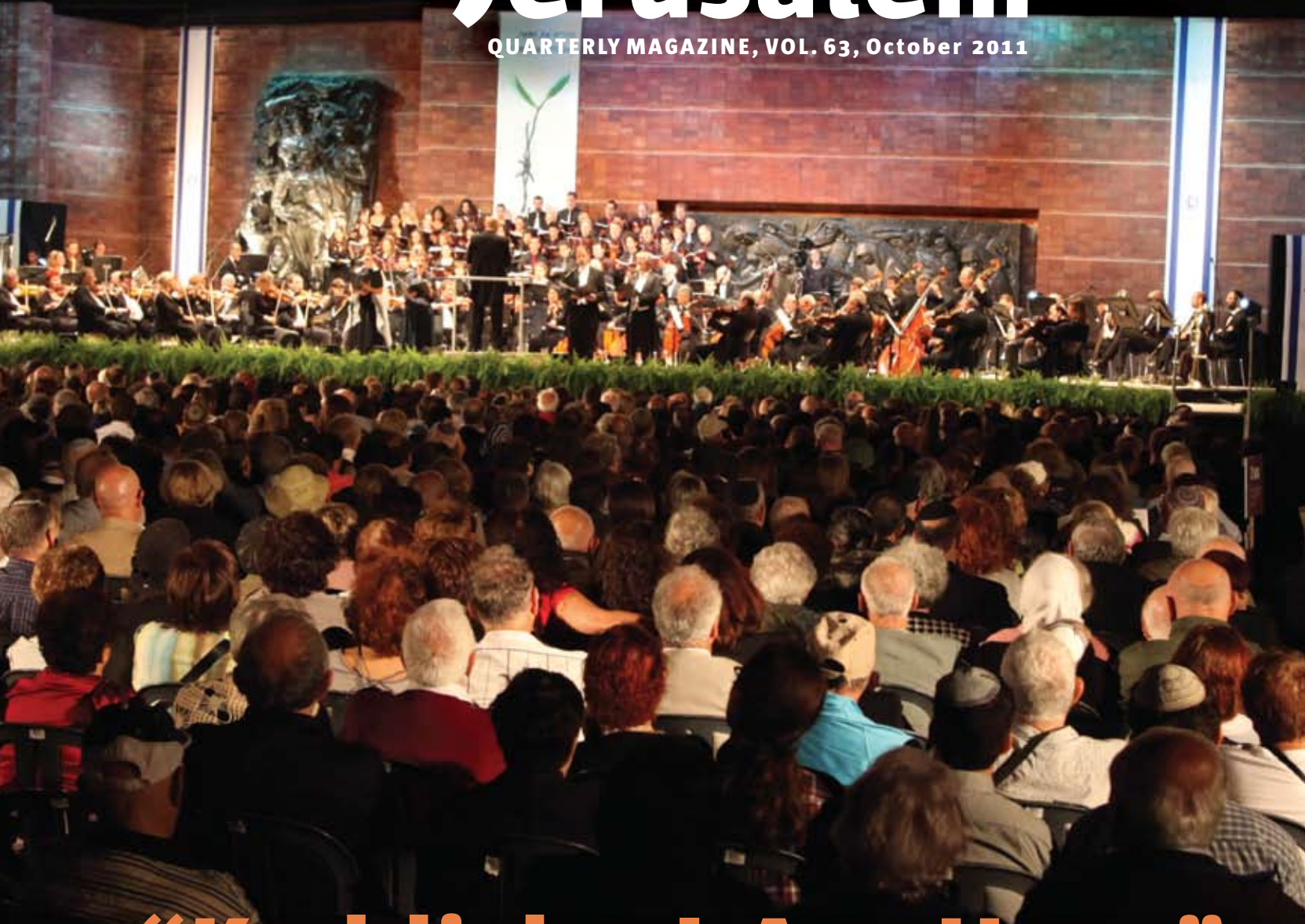


Yad Vashem Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 63, October 2011



“Kaddish - I Am Here”

Unique Concert Performed in Warsaw Ghetto Square (p. 17)

American Society Marks 30 Years of Dedication
to Holocaust Remembrance (pp. 12-13)

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Yad Vashem

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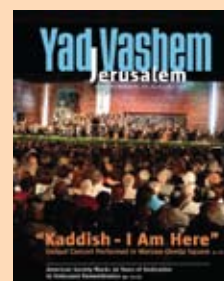
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■ On the cover:
The Jerusalem Symphony
Orchestra IBM performs
"Kaddish - I Am Here"
in Warsaw Ghetto Square

From the to the Yad

■ The weekly antisemitic newspaper *Der Stürmer* (literally, "The Stormer," or "Attacker") was founded in 1923 in Nuremberg by Julius Streicher, a local and not particularly well-known member of the Nazi party. Throughout his career, Streicher climbed the Nazi party hierarchy, eventually becoming the notorious *Gauleiter* (regional Nazi party leader) of Franconia in Bavaria. He continued to serve as publisher and editor-in-chief of *Der Stürmer* until the end of WWII, taking advantage of his position to promote his paper and increase sales. *Der Stürmer* was known for its extreme and explicit antisemitic content. Unlike other strongly antisemitic newspapers, such as the SS newspaper *Das Schwarze Korps* (The Black Corps), which also dealt with other issues and did so with a certain amount of sophistication, *Der Stürmer* addressed the lowest common denominator among its readers, and made antisemitism its main fare.

The circulation of *Der Stürmer* reached its peak in the 1930s, after the Nazis rose to power. During Streicher's trial in Nuremberg, it was reported that some 600,000 copies of the paper had been distributed weekly in 1935. Despite Streicher's own lack of popularity within the Nazi party's elite, he won the highest levels of support; Hitler approved the publication of *Der Stürmer* during the war years, even as other papers closed down due to lack of newsprint. However, the paper's circulation fell during the war.

The vulgarity of *Der Stürmer* was well known also outside Germany, and its name became synonymous with Nazi antisemitism. After the war, the Allies convicted Streicher of crimes against humanity, and he was hanged.

During its circulation, the editorial staff of *Der Stürmer* created an archive, maintained in the cellar of the editorial building at 19 Fanenschmidstrasse, in Nuremberg. Part of the collection came from various official sources, but a significant portion was collected from readers who responded to the editors' frequent publicized requests to send in interesting material. So, for example, soldiers stationed in Poland dispatched photographs of Jews and Jewish institutions. Those who had looted Jewish homes forwarded books, works of art and other items. The collection also included

Basement of *Der Stürmer* Vashem Website



Dr. Daniel Uziel



■ A printer's proof page with a retouched photograph of a Jew, an antisemitic caption, and an editor's note: "To the retoucher: Please make sure that the background and foreground are strongly sprayed." (Yad Vashem Photo Archive)



■ A photograph sent by a German soldier to the editors of *Der Stürmer* with the caption: "Bialystok, a street of Jewish businesses. In the right foreground, a typical Jewess." (Yad Vashem Photo Archive)

many antisemitic cartoons drawn by Philipp Rupprecht, known by his penname, "Fips." Some of the graphic materials in the collection bear editors' comments, and were retouched in preparation for publication.

At the end of the war, American forces seized the archive, and stored its contents at an American army base near Nuremberg, together with works of art and Jewish cultural artifacts stolen by the Nazis. Where possible, books and Judaica items in the archive were restored to their owners. In 1951, the Americans turned over what remained to the Nuremberg city archives, where it has remained to this day. According to the archives' records, the collection numbers 15,600 items, filed in 2,456 files. The collection deals primarily with Judaism and antisemitism, but also contains some material about Christianity, the Freemasons and various international topics. The gradual demise of

Yad Vashem has begun to upload photographs of unidentified Jews from the *Der Stürmer* archive, with the hope that some of them may be identified

Der Stürmer during the war is reflected by the relatively small amount of material collected during this period. The bulk of the collection (41.8%) was created from 1933 to 1938.

Due to the keen interest of writers, curators and researchers, the materials were digitized and meticulously catalogued in the 1990s, and in

2003, Yad Vashem acquired a digital copy of the collection. Following the launch of the Yad Vashem photographic database on the Internet early this year, staff at the Nuremberg municipal archive and Yad Vashem have begun to upload photographs of unidentified Jews from the *Der Stürmer* archive, with the hope that some of them may be identified.

"In October, 219 photographs were chosen from the collection and released to the public on our online database," explained Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives. "As with the entire catalog of photographs, Yad Vashem welcomes all valuable comments from visitors to the collection that will help restore the identities of the people in these historic pictures."

The author is Director of the Yad Vashem Photo Archive in the Archives Division.

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 the story of what one of the School's graduates has achieved since:



Lilia Skok Russian Federation

Lani Berman

■ In March 2011, Lilia Skok, a high school history teacher and adviser at the History Teachers Association in Surazh, Russia, attended a seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies, coordinated in conjunction with the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center in Moscow. In Russia, Skok had been thinking about how she could educate her students about Jewish life in Surazh before WWII, and raise awareness about what had happened to Russian Jewry during the Holocaust. Walking around the school building, she noticed a sign on one of the walls that read, "From 1941-1943, in this building and in this area, the fascists tortured and murdered 900 Soviet citizens." Skok decided to ask her students to research the origins of the sign, as well as the monument that stands next to it commemorating the victims.

Skok's students went out to interview residents who had witnessed the events of that time. They also visited the local archives, where they discovered a piece of information that very few local citizens had known or spoken about for over seven decades: the area in which their school now stands had been a ghetto in which 2,000 Jews from Surazh had been cruelly incarcerated during the Holocaust. Furthermore,



■ Lilia Skok (center) and her students visit WWII veteran Leonid Rogovoy to find out more about the Jewish community in Surazh

all of the 900 "Soviet citizens" commemorated on the plaque had been Jewish.

"We uncovered more and more details about what had actually happened to the Jewish community in Surazh," explains Skok. "My students were shocked, but I was able to turn their outrage into positive action: we set about organizing the school's International Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony on 27 January. The children used the personal stories of witnesses and Holocaust survivors to create an exhibition that told the heart-wrenching story of the ghetto, and the horrifying mass murder that had occurred in the vicinity."

Looking for further ways to connect her students to their past, Skok arranged for them to meet Leonid Rogovoy, a WWII veteran and former teacher at their school. Rogovoy directed the students to Sergei Panus, who lived in Surazh during the Nazi occupation. In turn, Panus told them the story of Israel Raynin, a young man who had managed to hide in one of the pits filled with the bodies of his fellow Jews after the Germans and their local collaborators had shot them dead. Raynin escaped and joined the partisans in the forest, but was killed shortly after. He was posthumously awarded the Order of the Patriotic War.

"Lilia's project with her students was clearly gratifying to her on a professional level, but it also touched her personally," remarked Dr. Irit Abramski, Head of the Russian Desk at the International School's European Department. "We hope she will continue to inspire other teachers in her region to conduct local history projects with their students, thereby keeping the memory of the Holocaust – and its individual victims – in the hearts and minds of communities across the country."

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

New in the Virtual School Jonathan Clapsaddle

New English Online Course for Israeli Teachers

■ Since 2009, the International School's online course series, "At the Edge of the Abyss: The Holocaust of European Jewry" has been periodically offered with *gmul hishtalmut* (as a recognized enrichment course) for Israeli teachers. The next course in the series, "Commemoration and Remembrance," began on 10 October, with registration remaining open through October 2011. This course covers postwar Holocaust commemoration from a variety of angles, including Holocaust denial, contemporary issues, memorialization, the politics of memory, and the Holocaust in film, literature and the arts.

For additional information and registration details, please visit the Yad Vashem website, www.yadvashem.org, and click on "Education and E-Learning."

E-Newsletter: North African Jewry and the Holocaust

■ The October 2011 issue of "Teaching the Legacy: e-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators" focuses on the subject of North African Jewry and the Holocaust. The issue includes a main background article for teachers, a special piece discussing the differing historiographical viewpoints on this topic, an interview with a Libyan survivor, a feature on an artifact from North Africa, related book reviews, new publications and more. As always, the newsletter also contains updates on recent and planned activities at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

The author heads the English Division of the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.



Canadian Media Seminar Puts “Human Face” on the Holocaust

■ A dozen journalists, editors and commentators from Canada came to Yad Vashem in July to participate in a special seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies. The seminar, supported by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and the Adelson Family Foundation, is part of the ongoing effort to provide tailor-made programs for opinion-shapers from around the world. Similar seminars were recently held for members of the media from Spain, France, Russia and Hungary.

The program featured in-depth lectures and discussions on a variety of Holocaust-related topics and their relevancy today. Top researchers, educators and historians of the Holocaust addressed the participants on a number of current issues, including Holocaust

art, Holocaust denial, and how Yad Vashem is embracing the digital age to help spread its messages of remembrance and education. The group also had a roundtable discussion on “Covering Israel Today,” with colleagues from the Israeli and foreign media based in Israel, including Aron Heller (AP), Amiram Barkat (Globes), and veteran newsman Yaacov Ahimeir (Channel 1 TV).

“Holocaust survivor Frieda Klieger’s talk put a human face on the events of Auschwitz, a face that is rarely seen in textbooks or Holocaust museums outside of Israel,” wrote Canadian radio and television pundit Andrew Lawton after the seminar ended. “Despite having a university education and being relatively well-read, when it comes to the Holocaust, knowing who was behind it, how many Jews were killed



and how they were killed just isn’t enough. Yad Vashem aims to answer the question of why it happened, a question I’d never appreciated the relevance of before stepping foot on the campus in Jerusalem.”

Ultra-Orthodox Conferences during the Nine Days

Nava Weiss

■ “The summer days of mourning for the destruction of the First and Second Temples are an appropriate opportunity for educators to come here, to Yad Vashem, to learn more about the Holocaust, in order to be able to teach it to our children.” These words by Rabbi Eliezer Menahem Moses, Deputy Minister of Education, opened the first of a series of conferences for ultra-Orthodox educators held at Yad Vashem during the nine days of mourning that mark the beginning of the Hebrew month of Av.

Close to 1,500 people participated in the conference, including educational directors, Talmud Torah teachers, and teachers and students at women’s seminaries. The conference sessions were enhanced by visits to the Holocaust History Museum and didactic workshops devoted to the conference theme, “Leadership and Leaders during the Shoah.”

Visibly moved by his tour of the Museum Complex, Rabbi Moses shared with the large audience his impressions of his first visit to Yad Vashem, including his admiration for the enormous effort invested by staff to adapt the subject for the ultra-Orthodox public. This was echoed by Chairman of the Yad Vashem

Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau in the main plenary address, who referred to the obligation incumbent upon every parent and educator to pass on the legacy of the Holocaust.

■ A conference for teachers and students at ultra-Orthodox teachers’ seminaries included a one-woman show based on Pearl Benisch’s book, *To Vanquish the Dragon*. The book relates the stories of ordinary people who took responsibility and assumed leadership in a world of absolute and total chaos.

A recent interview with Mrs. Benisch at her Brooklyn, NY, home was aired at the end of the conference. “People lived under difficult circumstances, yet were capable of continuing to give to others, to help others,” she said. “They risked their own lives to do what they had to do... I want to tell you what made people respond that way. We didn’t pray for a crust of bread or a sip of water. All we prayed and asked for was to be human. We still wanted to be able to give. As long as you continue to give, you are alive... The most important thing is to teach the teachers how to teach the children. I am turning to you, dear teachers: you have a great deal



of work ahead of you. You have to rouse your students to be proud of who they are.”

In the same spirit, one of the participants mentioned that her mother was unable to talk any more about the Holocaust, but was glad she had told her daughter. “I feel that here we’re fulfilling her wishes,” she said. “I can now pass the story on.”

The author is Head of the Ultra-Orthodox Desk, Teacher-Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

“Echoes and Reflections” Workshops Held across the US

■ The “Echoes and Reflections” Holocaust educational program received a tremendous boost this August when three International School senior staff members traveled across the US to deliver educational workshops using the program’s innovative curriculum. Director for International Seminars Ephraim Kaye, Desk Head for International Seminars in English Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, and European Department Desk Head for Seminars from Poland

Orit Margalio introduced close to 500 high school teachers and Holocaust museum staff in eight different states to the multimedia and interdisciplinary program, which helps students connect history with contemporary issues and develop skills to become active members of an informed citizenry.

“This was one of the most helpful seminars I’ve ever attended,” said a teacher who participated in the workshop held at the University of Northern

Colorado. “I leave with a wealth of exciting and engaging resources that will no doubt help my students grasp the difficult concepts associated with the Holocaust.”

“Echoes and Reflections: A Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust” is a collaborative program developed by the Anti-Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education and Yad Vashem, and is generously funded by Dana and Yossie Hollander.

Commemoration and Education in Plunge, Lithuania Dr. Irit Abramski

■ On 15-17 July 1941, the *Einsatzgruppen* (German mobile killing units) and local collaborators murdered some 1,800 Jews from Plunge, Lithuania – fifty percent of the town's population. To commemorate seventy years since the mass murder, Abel and Glenda Levitt, a couple from South Africa who are deeply involved in commemorating their relatives and other members of the Plunge Jewish community, decided to erect a memorial in the town. For some eight years, the Levitts have been exploring ways with the International School for Holocaust Studies to promote educational activities in Lithuania, and it was decided to combine the ceremony with a three-day educational program for Lithuanian teachers. Forty-five educators attended the program, which included lectures on Jewish life in Plunge before and during the Holocaust, tours of Jewish sites in the old city of Plunge, and workshops explaining Yad Vashem didactic materials. Participants also came from the local Center of Tolerance, an extra-curricular program organized by Danute Serapiniene, a high school teacher in Plunge and graduate of

the International School. The Center teaches students about the Holocaust and the former Jewish community in Plunge, emphasizing the Jewish story as part of Lithuanian history and focusing on issues of tolerance and respect. All the participants were invited to attend a full seminar to be held at the International School in the near future.

Among the attendees was Jacob Bunka, the only remaining Jewish resident of Plunge and a well-known sculptor. Bunka was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the International School for Holocaust Studies for his lifelong dedication to furthering Holocaust commemoration.

The ceremony itself was held in the Kausenai Forest, where the Jews of Plunge were murdered and buried in six mass graves. The monument consists of a wall made of stones from the destroyed central synagogue in Plunge, on which are inscribed 1,200 names of the Jewish victims; Yad Vashem and Bunka are working to recover the remaining 600 names. "The act of recording these names gives this burial place



■ Holocaust survivor and sculptor Jacob Bunka (right) meets Lithuanian teachers during their workshop in Plunge

a new dimension to those of us who come here to mourn and weep," Abel Levitt said at the unveiling. As the monument was vandalized only a week earlier, he also encouraged Lithuanian teachers to continue educating their students about the Holocaust. Three hundred people attended the ceremony, including diplomats from ten different countries as well as representatives of the Lithuanian government.

The author is Head of the Russian Desk, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Visit by UNESCO Specialist on Holocaust Education

■ Karel Fracapane (left) visited Israel in August in his capacity as the first-ever UNESCO Programme Specialist to be created with the specific mandate of Holocaust education. Over his four-day visit, Fracapane met with various experts from several departments, as well as with International School Director Dorit Novak (right) and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "We were delighted to welcome Mr. Fracapane to Yad Vashem, and provide him with the opportunity to consult with many of our leading experts on current Holocaust issues," said Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman, Director of International Relations at the International School. "We applaud UNESCO for prioritizing Holocaust education and look forward to cooperating with Mr. Fracapane and his office over the coming years."



■ On 4 July, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Ambassador of Hungary to Israel H.E. Mr. Zoltán Szentgyörgyi signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Holocaust education in Hungary. Since 1997, Yad Vashem has been working closely with the Hungarian government, and to date approximately 450 educators from Hungary have participated in Holocaust-related seminars organized by the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Indian Teachers Join International Summer Seminar

■ "Since my return to India, I have taught two classes on the Shoah with my grade 11 students. I also showed them two testimonies, which deeply impacted them. Their responses were heartening – they began to think about the ideas that you don't need to be special to help someone in trouble, that bystanders commit the ultimate act of cowardice, and that they themselves are lucky for all the things they have that the Jewish people were denied – dignity, identity, clothes, hair – and their very lives."

So wrote Kamiya Kumar, one of two teachers from India who took part in Yad Vashem's International Summer Seminar for educators held this July. Kumar was joined by 40 contemporaries from Serbia, Macedonia, the US, Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Mexico and Canada, who participated in an intensive two-week program led by experts in the fields of Holocaust academia, pedagogy

and remembrance. They visited Yad Vashem's Learning and Visual Centers, the Holocaust History Museum and Museum of Holocaust Art, and took part in workshops aimed at learning new teaching skills as well as connecting Holocaust education to contemporary issues. Participants were particularly affected by their sessions with six different Holocaust survivors, and admitted that their teaching would be forever changed by the experience.

"This was an especially outstanding group," said course organizer Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, Desk Head for International Seminars in English. "Over the course of the final days, more than one teacher expressed a desire to remain longer in Israel and several are already planning return visits. Yad Vashem seminars and the experience of Israel change people. They change who they are, what they think and how they teach."



“A Bittersweet Joy”

Survivor Siblings Discovered through Search for Family Roots

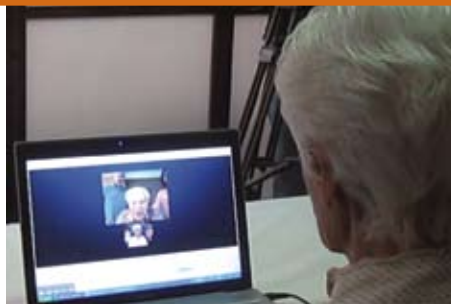
Deborah Berman

■ The last time 87-year-old Wolf Hall saw his 90-year-old sister Esther Bielski (née Hauszpiegel) was in 1940 in the Lodz ghetto. Wolf was 17 at the time, and had left the ghetto together with his parents and six of his siblings for Krasnik, the first in a series of several relocations during the war. Esther's fate, however, took her to the Radom ghetto, and Wolf never heard from her again.

In 1980, believing he had no surviving family, Wolf submitted a Page of Testimony to Yad Vashem commemorating his relatives killed during the Holocaust, including Esther. But Esther had in fact survived; she had married Aaron Bielski in Radom, given birth to a daughter in Germany and immigrated to Israel, where she lives today.

Esther's daughter Rachel Vered grew up believing that her mother was alone in the world. Her father Aaron had spoken about his wartime experiences, but explicitly instructed his daughter to honor her mother's request never to inquire into her past, leaving Rachel with a deep void and no information about her maternal family.

Rachel's search for her mother's roots began in earnest around two years ago, in the wake of Aaron's death. After visiting Yad Vashem and following a frustrating journey to Lodz to seek out information from the local archives that yielded no new information, Rachel enlisted the assistance of journalist and genealogist Zack Oryan, who painstakingly searched the Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem relating to the name Hauszpiegel from the Lodz area. His focus brought an interesting result: the Page submitted by Wolf, who upon his arrival in

A scan of a 'Page of Testimony' form from Yad Vashem. The form is filled out with handwritten information. Key details include: Family name: HAUSZPIEGEL; Place of birth: KRAKOW, POLAND; Name of mother: FINEG HANDEL-SPRINCA; Name of father: CHAIM HAUSZPIEGEL; Place of residence before the war: LODZ, POLAND; Place of residence during the war: SOBOSZIM, POLAND. The form also includes a declaration of knowledge and a signature.

■ Top: Siblings Wolf Hall and Esther Bielski reunite via Skype

■ Page of Testimony submitted in 1980 by Wolf Hall commemorating his relatives, including his sister, Esther

the US had changed his surname to Hall. After cross-checking with the genealogical research he had already gathered primarily from Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland), Oryan contacted Wolf on Rachel's behalf.

Upon receiving the call, Wolf was overcome with emotion. His daughter, Esther, joined the conversation. “For some reason, my sister was always on my mind, so I gave my younger daughter her name,” explained Wolf. He then recounted details of his family's history, including Esther's birth date, her nickname (Adja) and their father's profession (shoemaker). Unfortunately, due to fragile health conditions the two siblings were unable to meet each other in person, but were “virtually reunited” when they conversed via Skype. Plans were made, however, for Rachel to travel to Seattle to meet her newfound family in person.

During her emotional visit to the Wolf family home this September, Rachel presented her uncle and cousins with gifts: family heirlooms belonging to her mother Esther to ensure “they would each possess a physical object from my mother's home – a symbolic piece of my mother.” She admitted that before her visit she had been apprehensive. “I knew I had family, but I didn't know these people. I had no idea if we would feel a connection. But as the saying goes, ‘blood is thicker than water.’ Even if I had grown up with this family I wouldn't have had a better connection with them than I do now. It is truly amazing.”

Nearly 70 years have passed since the Holocaust, and the era of reunion stories such as this is drawing to a natural close. Nevertheless, for Wolf too, the experience was one he could never have dreamed of. “I was so happy to learn I had a sister, although sadly I can't meet her. Still, I found somebody; I became an uncle. This is a bittersweet joy.”

“In Search of Lost Memories”

■ A movie recently released to mark the 70th anniversary of Operation Barbarossa provides a behind-the-scenes look at Yad Vashem's Shoah Victim's Names Recovery Project in the Former Soviet Union. *In Search of Lost Memories* follows the efforts of Names Recovery staff as they seek to commemorate the name of each individual murdered in this area during the Holocaust – a goal hampered for decades due to the rupture in relations between the

Soviet Union and Israel. The 35-minute film includes moving footage of visits to remote villages, where volunteers conduct interviews with eyewitnesses in a last-minute attempt to collect information and names that would otherwise have been lost forever.

Directed by Boris Maftsir, *In Search of Lost Memories* is in Russian and Hebrew with English subtitles. To order a DVD copy, write to: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il



“Please Do Not Stop Writing”

Cherished Letters Donated to Yad Vashem

Lital Beer

■ As part of the national “Gathering the Fragments” campaign conducted by Yad Vashem this year, a collection day was held on Holocaust Remembrance Day 2011, encouraging the public to bring personal items from the Holocaust era to Yad Vashem for safekeeping. One of the donors that day was Mazal Matilda Levy, who donated letters and artifacts belonging to her family. This August, Mazal added photographs and more items to the collection, which tells the story of the Hunio family of Rhodes.

Mazal’s mother, Rosa Levy, née Hunio, immigrated to Eretz Israel in 1938 together with her brother, Avraham. Their parents, Yoseph and Mazal Tov Hunio, remained in Rhodes, then under Italian rule. The other children managed to reach the United States and Uruguay. Rosa stayed in touch with her relatives by mail.

Among the many letters Mazal gave to Yad Vashem, one is written in Hebrew in Sephardic

Hunio, Avraham and Rosa (may God preserve them and give them life), Jerusalem, Tel Aviv (may they be built and preserved speedily and in our day, Amen)

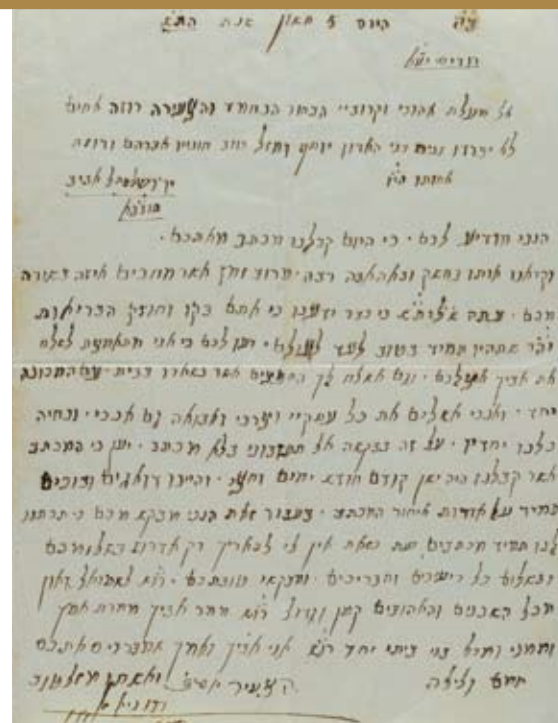
...Today we received a letter from you and we read it avidly and with great love because we had been waiting such a long time for some word from you. Blessed be His name, now that we know you are well, may it be His will that you always remain so forever and ever. You should know that I am trying hard to send your father to you. And I shall also send you the items left at home, together with the machine. I will then finish up my business and other matters and also come, and we will all live together. But please do not stop writing to us, because the letter we received was from six weeks ago, and we were

Before donating this letter to Yad Vashem, Mazal Levy never knew of her grandparents’ plans to immigrate to Israel

so worried that we had not heard from you in so long... I would only like to hear how you are, and how all your friends and acquaintances are, and pray for your well-being... Greetings from your father and your mother and from all the members of the household. Greetings, we are your father and mother who bless you day and night.

Before donating this letter to Yad Vashem, Mazal Levy never knew of her grandparents’ plans to immigrate to Israel. Sadly, their plans were never realized; Yoseph Hunio died and was buried in Rhodes in 1942. In July 1944, Mazal Tov Hunio, née Philosoph, was deported together with the other Jews of Rhodes to Athens and from there to Auschwitz, where she was murdered on 16 August 1944.

“Gathering the Fragments” continues unabated. In the 30 collection days held from May through September, some 1,500 people donated 22,000 items to Yad Vashem, including 63 diaries, 233 works of art, 560



■ The letter sent by Mazal Tov and Yoseph Hunio to their children, Rosa and Avraham, 1939



■ Standing in back, left to right: Rosa Hunio and Avraham Hunio, Rhodes, before they emigrated to Eretz Israel

cursive script, sent by Yoseph and Mazal Tov to their children in the Holy Land:

With God’s help, 5 Heshvan 5700 Rhodes (may the Supreme One preserve it)

To my beloved relatives... siblings never to part, the children of Yoseph and Mazal Tov

personal artifacts, 4,390 letters and 8,640 photographs.

Yad Vashem, in conjunction with Yediot Aharonot and accompanied by Reshet Bet of Kol Yisrael, is renewing its call to the Israeli public to donate Holocaust-era items. A joint project with Amigur Asset Management Ltd., a subsidiary of the Jewish Agency, will be launched in the coming months. Amigur runs 55 sheltered housing units throughout Israel, with a population of some 7,500 elderly residents, many of whom resided in the FSU during the Holocaust. These residents, as well as the general public, will be invited to gather in the housing units on specified dates, where Yad Vashem staff will be on hand to document their stories and receive their treasured artifacts for preservation at Yad Vashem.

“Gathering the Fragments” is conducted by Yad Vashem in partnership with the National Heritage Project at the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Senior Citizens Affairs. For more information, please call (in Israel): 1-800-25-7777.

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

The Freedom of the Spirit

Paintings by a Jewish Girl in Hiding

Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

■ *“One, I never met my grandmother. Two, my name is Danielle Rina Cohen Levy. Three, my grandmother’s name was Renata Braun, later Rina Levy. Four, my grandmother died at the age of 38. In 12 years, I will be older than she ever was. Five, she died of breast cancer. That’s why, every year, I’m being screened. Six, for forty years my grandfather kept a secret in his attic. Seven, everything I’m telling you here is the truth.”*

These were the opening words of Danielle Cohen Levy’s one-woman show, performed during a ceremony held at Yad Vashem in July to honor her late grandmother, Renata Braun. Seven artworks created by Braun as a young girl in hiding in Lwów between 1943 and 1944 were recently donated by her husband and children to the Yad Vashem Art Collection. The story behind the artworks came to light almost by accident. Some four years ago, an article in the Israeli daily *Haaretz* caught the attention of Yehudit Inbar, Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums



■ Renata Braun with her parents, Lwów, c.1935

Division. The article, devoted to contemporary artist Maya Cohen Levy, mentioned her mother Renata, who had painted as a child during the Holocaust. Inbar, whose field of research deals with the experiences of children and their creativity during the *Shoah*, contacted Cohen Levy to learn more about her mother and the drawings she left behind.

In the long hours in the basement, the young girl found refuge from terror and loneliness in the far reaches of her imagination

During WWII, Renata Braun was hidden in the cellar of the home of a Mrs. Vogel, the widow of a Polish physician, in Lwów. At first, 11-year-old Renata was able to maintain contact with her parents in the ghetto thanks to Vogel, who passed on her letters. However, at the end of May 1943, all contact was lost. Renata’s parents, Dr. Karol and Luzia Braun, did not manage to escape as planned to the “Aryan side.” They were probably murdered in the *Aktion* to liquidate the ghetto that began on 1 June 1943.

Renata remained in hiding at Vogel’s house until the end of the war. In the long hours in the basement, the young girl found refuge from terror and loneliness in the far reaches of her imagination, through intensive reading and painting. She expressed her longing for her family in portraits of her mother based on photographs she had lovingly kept. She also depicted scenes from well-known Polish books and fairytales.

After liberation, the Jewish community helped Renata reach Kraków. From there, she emigrated to *Eretz Israel*, where she studied art full time. She married Chasid Levy and the couple had three children. Renata – now Rina – found work as a preschool teacher, but continued painting until she succumbed to cancer at the age of 38.

The gouache paintings and drawings by Renata that were given to Yad Vashem were all on paper and in poor condition. They underwent a long process of cleaning and preservation in Yad Vashem’s conservation laboratories. On the back of one of the works, musical notes, probably hummed by Renata while she was painting, were discovered. Three of the artworks were identified by museum staff as scenes from *Pan Tadeusz*, the famous Polish epic poem by



■ Renata Braun (Rina Levy) (1931-1969), *Telimena and the Judge Soplica, scene from the epic poem “Pan Tadeusz”* by Adam Mickiewicz, 1943-1944. Gouache on paper (Collection of the Yad Vashem Art Museum)

Adam Mickiewicz, while a fourth was based on a classic artwork by Jan Matejko, a prominent 19th-century Polish artist. Facing the destruction of her universe, Renata held tight to the anchors of literature, art and music she had learned to cherish at home during the brief blissful years prior to the war.

During their visit to Yad Vashem, Renata’s family was thrilled to learn about the research conducted and see four of the works they had donated displayed in the Museum of Holocaust Art. “The artworks hanging here are testimony to a victory over horrific suffering,” said Maya Cohen Levy, who spoke on behalf of the family. “These innocent works represent a ray of light emerging from that dark place, and give evidence to the boundless power of the human spirit.”

The artworks and story of Renata Braun will form part of an exhibition on the dreams and hopes of children during the Holocaust, curated by Yehudit Inbar, presented by Yad Vashem at the UN on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2012.

The author is Art Curator in the Museums Division.

Visual Center Film Database – Now Online



■ At the end of July, the Yad Vashem Visual Center uploaded its film database to the Internet. Comprising more than 6,500 film titles, the database is both the largest catalog of Holocaust-related films and a work in progress, with film titles from around the world added on a regular basis.

In an interview for *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, Director of the Visual Center Liat Benhabib explained how the online database will enable researchers and the wider public around the world to obtain information about each film, as well as the unrivalled wealth of material contained in the Center's film library:

What kinds of films does the Visual Center collect?

The Digital Film Library at the Visual Center currently contains 6,682 titles, all of them Holocaust-related. Nearly 4,000 of these are documentaries and 1,000 are full-length feature films. We have some 400 television series, 250 amateur videos and personal commemoration films, as well as other visual media, such as video art, video dance, news items, war newsreels and short films.

The Visual Center collection also contains many unique works by important directors. There are rare feature films from pre-WWII Russia, movies produced by the former East German film studio DEFA, films by students from a variety of film academies, a large variety of quality Israeli, American and European documentaries, dramas, feature films and many other types. In addition, we house the complete Yad Vashem and USC-Shoah Foundation Institute (Steven Spielberg) survivor testimony collections.



■ Public Viewing Stations Hall at the Visual Center

Can anyone watch these films?

Once filmmakers deposit their films in our collection, we ensure they are protected by special software and then make them available for viewing only in our digital film library. Anyone over the age of 16 is welcome to visit the Visual Center in Yad Vashem's Museum Complex to see the films. Viewing is free and no pre-registration is necessary, but we do limit each person to three hours on busy days. We also have a team of staff members available to answer questions and give advice.

Can people actually view the films online?

Not yet. Although Yad Vashem has the technological ability to provide online viewing of the films, we do not have the legal rights to do so. However, there is broad international interest in acquiring films online for personal and public use. We hope that in the near future, producers and distributors will identify the potential of media centers and catalogs like ours to reach wider audiences and provide new platforms for film distribution and viewing.

We hope that in the near future, producers and distributors will identify the potential of media centers and catalogs like ours to reach wider audiences

Leah Goldstein



Access to such detailed information about the films in our collection will aid educators, programmers, researchers and the general public in promoting the use of film to cultivate Holocaust remembrance

So what does the online film database provide?

The online film database (www.yadvashem.org – “Digital Collections”) contains detailed information about the films, including artistic, technical, commercial, historical and geographic data. Films can be found by title, release year, director, language and film length. The database can be easily searched using keywords, for example: “kindertransport,” “anti-Jewish legislation,” “rescue,” “children,” “music,” and more. You can also search for specific geographical locations according to variable spellings, and then locate the town, county or country on a Google map within the database.

Once the intended film is found, a further click reveals more detailed information, including a summary of the story as well as

data about the producer, crew, actors and participants. The “My Films” icon allows you to save your selected films in a personalized list, which can be sent to an e-mail address, printed, or shared through a variety of web services, including Facebook, Twitter and other social networks.

Another useful feature is the “User Comments” tab, which invites members of the public to send us requests regarding specific films, or to propose additions or corrections to the information provided for each film record. Requests are directed to Visual Center staff, who endeavor to respond as quickly as possible.

What benefits will the online database provide?

There is no doubt that allowing access to such detailed information about the films in our collection will aid educators, programmers, researchers and the general public in promoting the use of film to cultivate Holocaust remembrance. We call on filmmakers and the general public to join with us in continuing to expand what is now the leading digital film library and most comprehensive database of Holocaust-related cinema in the world.

The uploading of the Online Film Database to the Yad Vashem website was made possible through the support of Holocaust survivor Avraham Harshalom-Fridberg, in memory of his parents Moshe and Cyra Fridberg, and his brother, Sioma-Shlomo Fridberg, who were murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau early in 1943.

In Memory of his Family: Avraham Harshalom

■ Avraham Harshalom (Adam Fridberg) was born in the village of Pruzhany (Pruzana), Poland (today Belarus). Together with his parents Moshe and Cyra Fridberg, his brother Sioma-Shlomo and his grandmother, Avraham was deported on the fourth and final transport to Auschwitz-Birkenau in early 1943. He was the only one to survive.

At the end of 1944, Avraham escaped from a transport by jumping into a coal train on its way to Prague. There he found refuge with Irina Sobotkova – later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations – until the end of the war. Avraham joined the Czechoslovakian forces to fight the retreating Germans. In 1949, he emigrated to Israel, serving in the Israeli Air Force during the War of Independence. He became a successful international businessman and played an important role in the development and construction of the State of Israel. Avraham has three children – Tzeira, Moshe and Aharon – and a number of grandchildren, and is an active partner in ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved and handed down through the generations.



■ Avraham Harshalom (third from left) with his family at Yad Vashem

American Society Marks 30 to Holocaust Remembrance



■ **Eli Zborowski is a dear friend and true partner in the ongoing mission to establish Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as the world's leading institution for Holocaust remembrance.**

From a young age, Eli was instilled with the values of integrity, diligence and responsibility as well as a strong Zionist legacy by his beloved parents. These principles have motivated him to ensure the future not only of his own family, to which he is profoundly dedicated, but that of Holocaust commemoration and education for generations to come. He was among the first Holocaust survivors to bring these goals to the center of public discourse, making it his life's mission to tirelessly and carefully build a connection between the events of the past and the hope of the future.

Eli's unwavering passion towards this end energized him in his founding of the American Society thirty years ago and has nurtured his unceasing efforts to this day. These efforts have always reflected his faithfulness to Yad Vashem's needs and priorities, above all others. Once Eli perceived the need for a permanent bond between the American Society and Yad Vashem, he labored wholeheartedly to tie that bond. Eli's endeavor was essential to the fruition of the revolutionary "Yad Vashem 2001" masterplan, towards which he was instrumental in raising over \$33 million. Thus he helped ensure the completion of our new Museum Complex, the significant expansion of Holocaust education worldwide, and the effective integration of cutting edge technologies in the pursuit of Holocaust commemoration, education, documentation and research.

Eli's pioneering vision and inspiring leadership have generated extensive and innovative commemorative activities – such as the Society's signature project, the Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem – and have stimulated younger generations to find meaning in everlasting Holocaust remembrance.

Eli's perceptive insight regarding the powerful link between Holocaust remembrance and Jewish continuity has served as the essential foundation for the American Society's myriad achievements. These achievements reflect Eli Zborowski's paramount dedication to and identification with

Yad Vashem, outstanding traits that illustrate his deep conviction in our cause and mission.

Eli has had the gratifying opportunity to witness the remarkable success of his life's endeavor. I know that his matchless achievements, his keen wisdom and steadfast solidarity with Yad Vashem constitute an enduring legacy of leadership and loyalty that will set the standard for all who steer the American Society in the decades to come.

I wish Eli Zborowski, the American Society and Yad Vashem much *hatzlacha*, success, as we continue together to pursue our destiny of meaningful remembrance.

**Avner Shalev
Chairman, Yad Vashem Directorate**



■ **Milestones provide an opportunity to reflect on the past and to envisage plans for the future.** As we mark the 30th Anniversary of the American Society for Yad Vashem, I look back with profound satisfaction that

our unceasing support has helped Yad Vashem become one of the most significant landmarks in the moral history of humankind.

Joining the Yad Vashem Directorate in 1969, I set about helping to make the institution as vibrant and effective as possible by partnering with Jews all over the Diaspora. This understanding gave birth, in 1981, to the American Society for Yad Vashem, followed by societies across the globe.

The first major project spearheaded by the American Society was the establishment of the Valley of Communities, a memorial to more than 5,000 communities destroyed during the Holocaust. The cornerstone for this massive two-and-a-half acre monument blasted out of natural bedrock was laid in 1983, and the project finally dedicated in 1992. A year later, Avner Shalev succeeded Yitzhak Arad as Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. Avner's farsighted vision and abundant energy and creativity ushered in a new era, during which the Yad Vashem campus underwent immeasurable change. In 1996, the American Society enthusiastically joined a plan to transform Yad Vashem into a state-of-the-art campus capable of responding to the challenges of the 21st century.

Three Decades of Partnership

■ **Yad Vashem honors the American Society on its milestone anniversary. We are indebted to our thousands of dedicated donors, whose support enables us to impart the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations. We pay tribute to our Benefactors from the United States:**

Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson
Bernard Aptaker
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Dayenu Ltd. – Gail & Colin Halpern
Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, Ben & Beth Heller,
Dr. Jacqueline Heller
Julia & Isidore Karten & Family
Seryl & Charles Kushner

The annual Tribute Dinner of the American Society is the premier event on the organization's calendar, attracting over 1,000 guests. For the survivors, it is an affirmation – more than 60 years after liberation – that the memory of the Holocaust has not dimmed. For younger generations, it is an inspirational evening dedicated to the "State of Remembrance." Our Young Leadership Associates, founded in 1997, constantly renew their commitment to *Shoah* remembrance, in word and in action. As Adina Burian, a fifth-generation member of the Young Leadership Associates wrote in the Society's 25th Anniversary journal: "The first and second generations built the infrastructure which ensures that our past will never be forgotten. It is the task of the third generation, and indeed the generations to follow, to guarantee that the past is linked inexorably to the spirit, unity and vibrancy of the Jewish future."

**Eli Zborowski
Founder and Chairman, American Society
for Yad Vashem**

Years of Dedication

Sima & Nathan Katz, Rita & David Levy
Phyllis & William Mack Family
David & Ruth, Ira & Mindy Mitzner
& Families
Cecile & Edward Mosberg
The Moskowitz Family in Memory of
Henry Moskowitz
Marilyn & Jack H. Pechter & Family
Marilyn & Barry Rubenstein & Family
Rochelle & Henryk Schwarz
Tina & Steven Schwarz
Fela & David Shapell
Lily & Nathan Shapell, Vera & Paul Guerin
Gloria & Szulem (Sol) Silberzweig & Family
Stella & Sam Skura
Edita & Abraham Spiegel Family
Steven Spielberg
Axel Stawski, Sara & Moniek Stawski
& Family
Dr. Laszlo N. Tauber
Seweryn Wasserstrom
Elizabeth & Joseph Wilf Family
Judith & Harry Wilf Family
Audrey & Zygmunt Wilf
Jane & Mark Wilf
Beth & Leonard Wilf
Ruta & Felix Zandman
Diana & Eli Zborowski



■ It is an honor and a privilege for me to represent the American Society's Board of Trustees on this auspicious occasion – the 30th Anniversary of its founding.

I would like at the outset to pay tribute to our chairman Eli Zborowski, who has been the unifying force behind this organization for three decades. Early on, Eli marshaled the efforts of my father, Harry Wilf z"l, and my Uncle Joe to become active in the cause of remembrance. Both of them took leadership positions in the Society, and in turn have inspired me and my cousins Zyggy and Mark to become deeply involved.

My father, a founding member of the American Society, was a leading light in the organization until his passing in 1992. Eli Zborowski remembers the

vitality and wholehearted enthusiasm my father generated in his testimonial: "Our achievements in the American Society, and by extension at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, are due in large measure to the guidance and leadership Harry provided in those early years. He gave unstintingly of his time and resources. He was truly an inspiration to us all."

Growing up in the home of survivors, I was constantly amazed by my parents' optimism, tenacity and courage – characteristics that motivated them to pick up the shattered pieces of their lives after the war and translate their innate commitment to *Klal Yisrael* into providing support for cultural, educational and health care services in the United States and Israel. Passionate Zionists, their imprint on the growth of the State of Israel is prevalent throughout the country.

When my father passed on, with my mother Judith's encouragement and support, I took it upon myself to continue in his legacy. I hope that my children, Orin, Halle, Jenna and Harrison, will provide an unbroken chain of commitment to the causes their grandfather held so dear.

Sadly, we are witnessing a growing manifestation around the world of those who wish to deny or diminish the Holocaust. Yad Vashem, the Jewish people's principal memorial to the *Shoah*, is a reminder to the world of what can transpire when antisemitism goes unchecked. It is for this reason that I am fervently committed to support Yad Vashem's mission in ensuring the noble cause of Holocaust remembrance and education for the sake of a better and brighter future.

Leonard Wilf
Chairman, Board of Trustees,
American Society for Yad Vashem

■ With each passing year, the world has fewer and fewer survivors who can speak of their own personal memories of the *Shoah*. While many believe that today's young people have little interest in the dark and "distant" past, we have found that our contemporaries view it as a moral imperative to remember this chapter of Jewish history, to embrace it, and to learn from it.

We are both grandchildren of survivors who have had the privilege of hearing firsthand



of their encounters with discrimination, terror and tragedy. Their stories have taught us so many important lessons of hope and renewal, even in the face of adversity. Their faith and commitment to Jewish continuity have inspired us to share their heritage with our own young children.



In 1997, the American Society for Yad Vashem founded the Young Leadership Associates (YLA),

whose goal is to transmit the precious legacy of European Jewry to future generations.

Over the years, attendance at our range of programs and activities has swelled to over 800. An annual highlight of the YLA calendar is a professional development conference for public school teachers on Holocaust education. Employing the wealth of resources created by Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, conference themes have included "Holocaust Education Towards the Next Century," "Using Survivors' Testimonies: Witnesses to the Past and Voices for the Future," and "Echoes and Reflections: A Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust." We firmly believe that is only through education and dialogue that we can increase awareness and tolerance, both in our own community and around the world.

It is a Jewish custom when visiting a cemetery to place a stone on the gravesite of a deceased family member or friend. This gesture is a way of saying: "We remember." Through every program we sponsor, we endeavor to place another symbolic stone on the memories of those who perished. In this way, we ensure that the world will remember not only how the Jews of Europe lived and how they died, but also how those that survived have fulfilled their obligation to secure the perpetuation of the Jewish spirit.

Caroline Massel and Jeremy Halpern
Co-Chairs, American Society Young
Leadership Associates

“Language Contains Everything”

International Workshop on the Use of Language during the Holocaust

Leah Goldstein



■ Dominique Schröder (left) leads a session at the “Language, Semantics and Discourse in the Shoah” workshop at Yad Vashem.

■ “No one can express all of this in words,” Lilly Zielenziger wrote in her diary entry of 29 September 1944 in Bergen-Belsen. The use of so called *Lagersprache* (camp language) was one of the topics presented this July by Dominique Schröder of the University of Bielefeld, Germany, at the first-ever international workshop on the topic of “Language, Semantics and Discourse in the Shoah” held by the International Institute for Holocaust Research. Scholars from Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Poland, the UK and Israel came to Yad Vashem

to discuss cutting-edge research on a number of related topics, such as the use of metaphors and mythological symbols in Nazi and Jewish discourse, changes in narrative over time, real-time perceptions of the *Shoah*, and postwar descriptions of individual suffering during the Holocaust.

Schröder spoke about the articulation of concentration camp prisoner experiences by the

The completely alien nature of the concentration camp made the invention of a “camp language” necessary

medium of a diary. “Shifting our focus from *what* was said or written to the question of *how* it was articulated, we can learn more about the ways in which these prisoners used linguistic markers and strategies to communicate information,

feelings and experiences,” Schröder explained. “This approach takes issue with the common conception of the *Shoah* as laying beyond the scope of language, as being ‘unrepresentable, indescribable, unsayable.’ As Lilly Zielenziger’s diary shows, the prisoners themselves were well aware of the problematic nature of their utterances regarding the horrors around them. Nevertheless, they wrote, and in writing they tried to break this apparent boundary. Though they were certainly conscious of the inadequacies of their language, they did not fall silent, but struggled to write about their experiences and sufferings as best they could.”

However, she continued, the completely alien nature of the living conditions in the concentration camp could not be adequately communicated in the mother tongue, which made the invention of a new language specifically for the camp, a so-called “camp language,” necessary.

“Taking into account the concrete situations in which the use of *Lagersprache* became

News from the International Institute for Holocaust Research Symposia on the Bergson Group; Romanian Jewry and the Holocaust

■ An international symposium on “The Bergson Group and America’s Response to the Final Solution” was held on 17 July 2011 by the International Institute for Holocaust Research and the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem, in partnership with the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies.

Hillel Kook, a.k.a. Peter Bergson, dedicated substantial efforts to raising awareness among Americans about the events of the Holocaust.

Speakers at the symposium included Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the Research Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies; Dr. Joel Zisenwine, Director of the Deportations Project at the International Institute, who spoke about what the Allies knew about the Holocaust and when; Prof. David S. Wyman (emer.) of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, who addressed “America, the Bergson Group and the Holocaust”; and Dr. Rafael Medoff of

The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, Washington, D.C.

The symposium was attended by close to 200 participants, who held an animated discussion about the impact and importance of the Bergson group’s activities.

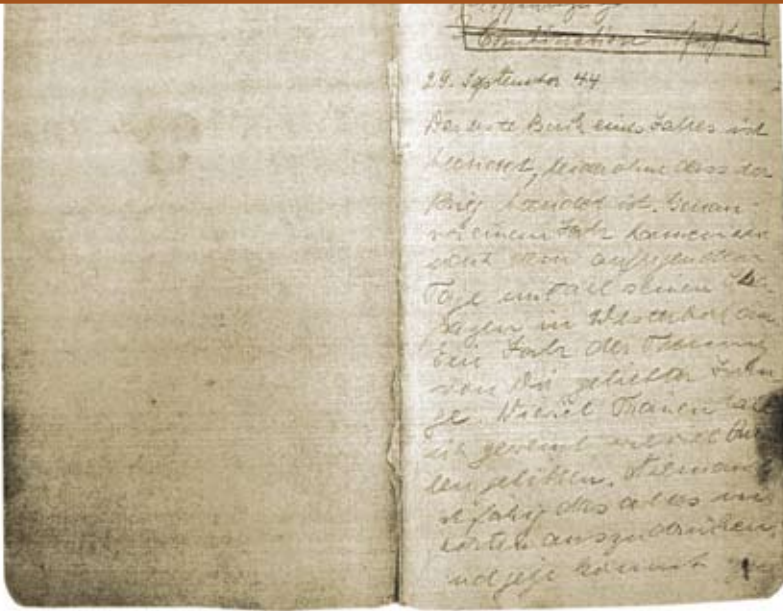
■ On 22 September, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held a symposium marking 70 years since the annihilation of Jews in Romania and the territories it annexed during the war. Researchers from across Israel spoke on a range of topics related to these events, as well as the efforts to educate the world via online courses run by the International School for Holocaust Studies.

“For decades, the story of the Holocaust in Romania and the territories its government seized during the war, in particular the area of terror known as Transnistria, did not receive the attention it deserved, either in general Holocaust

research or in the public consciousness,” explained Institute Head and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies Prof. Dan Michman. “The late historian Jean Ancel, who researched the Holocaust in Romania at Yad Vashem for many years, was a pioneer in its historiographic transformation, which began at the end of the 1980s. Surprisingly, the fall of communism in Romania did not bring about an immediate turnabout in the attitude of the Romanian people, as they were suddenly faced with the fact that Romania itself, unconnected to the German authorities, was responsible for the murder of close to 400,000 Jews. Only in the past decade has a real change occurred in national awareness of its responsibility for the events, due among other things to the international conference of historians on the subject organized by the Romanian government, in which Yad Vashem played a central role.”

Both symposia were held with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Though they were certainly conscious of the inadequacies of their language, they did not fall silent, but struggled to write about their experiences and sufferings as best they could



■ Pages of the wartime diary belonging to Lilly Zielenziger. Courtesy: Wiener collection, Sourasky Library, Tel Aviv University

necessary – principally in situations of oral communication between prisoners with different linguistic backgrounds on the one hand, and

the understanding of German orders on the other – we cannot assume its usage in the context of the written diary, where such

constraints were absent. This becomes all the more poignant if we consider the highly individual nature of the practice of writing a diary as a way to ‘write oneself out of’ the reality of the camp, to construct a fictional space of retreat, to build continuities to the time before the camp or to affirm one’s own humanity. If *Lagersprache* appears in the medium of these diaries – which is in fact the case – then the questions of its character as well as of the motivations, functions and modes of its usage require answers that might differ markedly from those given with regard to its use in everyday camp life.”

If diarists used *Lagersprache* in their writing, when specifically did they do so and why? “Most frequently, they appear in regard to activities specific to the camp situation, or in reference to the designations of other prisoners according to their ascribed ‘category’ or nationality, as well as to the descriptions of camp functionaries and ‘prominents.’ Other contexts in which such language is habitually used are camp-specific illnesses (*Lagerfieber*), punishments (*Bunker*), or nicknames for SS-men (*Wilhelm Tell*). Camp-specific abbreviations or acronyms like *JPA* for ‘Jewish Press Agency’ (the circulation of rumors) also found their way into the diaries. Finally, we find the many well-known synonyms for dying and stealing, like *verlöschen* (fading) or *organisieren* (organizing). While the latter were not inventions of the concentration camps, they received a new or different meaning by the prisoners’ language use in these surroundings than they had in their prewar use. Thus, *Lagersprache* could be used to name the ‘unnamable’ or describe the ‘indescribable,’ not only to communicate it to others, but to make sense of it for themselves, and also to construct community among the prisoners.”

Schröder concluded with a quote by Buchenwald political prisoner Jorge Semprún, who expressed doubts about the possibility of narrating the Holocaust, but added: “What was experienced was not unspeakable. It was unbearable, which is something quite different. [...] Everything can always be said: in the end, language contains everything.”

The “Language, Semantics and Discourse in the Shoah” workshop was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Prof. Timothy Snyder Discusses “Bloodlands” Dr. Leonid Rein

■ On 21 June 2011, Prof. Timothy Snyder (Yale University) gave a lecture at the International Institute for Holocaust Research in the wake of his widely discussed and controversial study *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*, published last year. Both Prof. Snyder’s book and his lecture focused on the area of eastern Central Europe which he defines as “Bloodlands”, stretching from western Poland to western Russia, whose populations were subjected in the 1930s and 1940s to constant violence on the part of two dictatorial regimes – the Soviet communists (“Stalin”) and the German Nazis (“Hitler”). The vast majority of those who fell victim to both Soviet and Nazi terror, so his thesis goes, were killed in this limited area (about 14 million people). It was here, he says, that the Holocaust was unleashed.

While a significant part of Prof. Snyder’s lecture focused on the Holocaust, he defined the Holocaust not as a complexity of antisemitic measures directed against Jews that culminated in physical extermination, but more as a deliberate mass murder resulting from the interplay between

ideology and economy, with the economic factor being of the same importance, if not being more important, than an ideological one. Emphasizing the qualitative and quantitative uniqueness of the Holocaust, Prof. Snyder therefore places the Holocaust in the context of the violence that washed over the Soviet-controlled territories in the second quarter of the 20th century. Nevertheless, he refuted the idea that Nazi terror was a reaction to Soviet terror, or that Jews under Nazi rule paid the price for their alleged collaboration with the Soviet authorities in 1939–1941. He equally rejected the post-Soviet era idea of a “double genocide,” now popular in the FSU, especially in the Baltic States and Ukraine.

The lecture, which was delivered in a packed hall, was followed by a lively discussion. Many incisive questions put forward by researchers in the audience dealt with the role of ideology in the murder of the Jews, as well as the definition and parameters of the Holocaust in Prof. Snyder’s model.

The author is a researcher in the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Searching for Heroes

Yad Vashem Uploads Thousands of Rescue Stories

Irena Steinfeldt

■ “My grandfather survived the Holocaust in hiding and I would like to know if his rescuers were recognized by Yad Vashem”; “Did Yad Vashem recognize any Righteous from my town?”; “I’m interested in issues of medicine during the Holocaust. Were any doctors recognized as Righteous Among the Nations?” These are only some of the many questions that people from all over the world address to Yad Vashem every day.

The stories of the Righteous Among the Nations have high moral and inspirational value to Jews and non-Jews alike. These true stories demonstrate that even in times of war and tyranny, men and women retain the innate right and ability to act upon moral precepts. The concept of Righteous Among the Nations has therefore become a universal paradigm, and Yad Vashem’s program continues to generate great interest especially among educators, who recognize its potential to engage students of all backgrounds, and thereby strengthen democratic and human values.

Since the establishment of the program to formally recognize and thank those non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish people during the Holocaust, Yad Vashem has bestowed the title of Righteous Among the Nations on close to 24,000 men and women from 46 countries. In 2012-2013, Yad Vashem will mark the 50th anniversary of the endeavor, which has won enormous renown worldwide. Approaching this landmark, a comprehensive project has been launched to preserve the program’s archive for the benefit of future generations and to create a user-friendly online resource with information about the Righteous, rescue stories and photos. Yad Vashem’s sophisticated information systems are embedded in the database, enabling searches by place, name, profession, nationality or other keywords, irrespective of spelling or language.

Investigating Ukrainian Greek Catholic rescuers, for example, users will find the story of three Jewish boys hidden in the Monastery of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Uniow. The three boys who were saved by Hieromonk Daniil Tymchyna represent three very different life stories. Born in places far apart, fate brought them together in Uniow, and after the war they



The concept of Righteous Among the Nations has become a universal paradigm, and Yad Vashem's program continues to generate great interest

rebuilt their lives in three continents: Oded Amaran, who had been born in Tel Aviv but was visiting his grandparents when the war broke out, returned to Israel; Adam Daniel Rotfeld, born in Przemyslany, stayed in Poland after the war and in 2005 became its Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Leon Chameides, born in Katowice, after liberation joined his grandparents in England and emigrated with them to the United States. Users of the database will be able to read this story and see photos of the monastery and the three boys with their rescuer. If they then continue to search for other rescuers in Uniow, they will find the story of the hiding of Roald Hoffmann, his mother, uncle and aunt in the attic of the Uniow schoolhouse. They will also

see photos of Hoffmann’s visit to the village over 50 years later.

Those looking for doctors will find a number of moving narratives, among them the story of Lieneke van der Hoeden. Like many Jewish families, the van der Hoeden family took the painful decision to split up and hide in different places, out of touch with one another. In April 1943 Lieneke van der Hoeden, today Nili Goren, was brought to the home of a village doctor, Hein Kohly. On her eleventh birthday in May 1944 she received a little booklet which her father had written and illustrated, brought to her by the Dutch underground. A few pages from the diary are visible online.

The first step in this long-term project saw the database of the Righteous from the Netherlands and Ukraine uploaded to the Yad Vashem website in October 2011, with more countries planned to be added throughout 2012.

The digitization of the Righteous Among the Nations archives is supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group, the European Jewish Fund, the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, the Claims Conference, the Maror Fund, the Levi Lassen Foundation and the Dutch Friends of Yad Vashem.

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



"Kaddish – I Am Here": First Performance in Israel

■ *I thought to myself,
My goodness!
I'm here!
I survived,
and look who is with me!*

These powerful words from the testimony of Naomi Warren, a survivor of Auschwitz, Ravensbrück and Bergen-Belsen, were heard in a unique concert, "Kaddish – I Am Here" by Dr. Lawrence Siegel, held on 8 September in Yad Vashem's Warsaw Ghetto Square in the presence of the Speaker of the Knesset, some 2,000 Holocaust survivors and their families, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and distinguished guests from Israel and abroad including State Comptroller Justice Micha Lindenstrauss and Bank of Israel Governor Prof. Stanley Fischer.

"Kaddish" is based on the personal stories of Holocaust survivors, including William Morgan (Yosele Marguiles), revealing details about daily life in Europe before and during the Shoah. After a "litany" of names of Holocaust victims, the Kaddish is recited in memory of the Holocaust

martyrs, and the piece ends with the words of Naomi Warren, in recognition of the survivors determined to rebuild their lives and establish new families. Composer Dr. Lawrence Siegel also wrote the libretto, incorporating verbatim testimonies, to afford listeners a minute glimpse into the world of the survivors.

The concert was performed by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA, conducted by Gil Shohat, and featured two choirs as well as soloists from the United States. The work was premiered

at the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College, New Hampshire. This first performance in Israel is part of Yad Vashem's ongoing efforts to commemorate the legacy of the Shoah through music and the arts.

The performance at Yad Vashem of the "Kaddish – I Am Here" concert was initiated by Yad Vashem Builder Benjamin Warren, sponsored by UBS, and supported by Jan and Rick Cohen among other valued friends. Photos and video of the concert can be viewed on the Yad Vashem website.



Kites Flown for Korczak

■ *It is absolutely imperative for each and every child in the valley to have a kite.*

Janusz Korczak, after his visit to Eretz Israel, 1936

On 4 August, members of the Mahanot Ha'olim youth movement gathered at Yad Vashem to mark the 69th anniversary of the murder of Janusz Korczak, his assistant Stefania Wilczynska, and the children of the orphanage they administered in Warsaw. Korczak, a physician, writer, journalist and renowned educator, and Wilczynska refused to leave the children in their care, and were deported together with them to Treblinka.

In the spirit of Korczak's words, the youths congregated in Warsaw Ghetto Square, where they released dozens of colorful kites into the air. The kites bore requests and messages they had



written to express their desires for a world based on respect, love and equal rights.

Participating in the ceremony were Poland's Ambassador to Israel H.E. Ms. Agnieszka Magdziak-

Miszewska; Director-General of Berl Katznelson Foundation's Ideological and Educational Center Colette Avital; Director of the Commemoration and Public Relations Division Rachel Barkai; and survivor Yitzhak Belfer, a former ward of Janusz Korczak's orphanage. "I loved the doctor with all my heart," Belfer recalled. "I came to the orphanage at the age of seven, and was fortunate to have been educated by this man for eight of the most formative years of my life. The doctor would walk among us as a simple human being. There was nothing haughty or arrogant about him. He conveyed love and concern for all the needs of all the children. At the orphanage, he taught us to believe in people, in the capacity for goodness in all of us."

Commemoration for Iași, Romania

■ *"The massacre started on the road to the police station and many of those walking were shot dead... Those who were still alive were left until the following day... What my eyes saw and was burned into my memory – the memory of a 13-year-old boy in the early morning hours of that day, from the packed train car... Today, I celebrate my personal revival and my beautiful family – my wife Haya, my two children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.*

They symbolize my great victory, for the glory of the Jewish State of Israel and the fulfillment of the Zionist vision."

On 17 July, survivor Mendy Porat (Fruchter) related his personal story in front of dozens of Holocaust survivors at the commemoration service marking 70 years since the Iași pogrom. Some 14,000 Jews were murdered in the town on 29 June 1941, also known as "Black Sunday."

The memorial ceremony was conducted jointly by the United Association of Romanian-Born Jews in Israel (AMIR) and the Romanian Jewry Memorial Organization. Rabbi Ephraim Gutman, Rabbi of the Community Center of Romanian Jews in Tel Aviv, spoke at the ceremony, as did the Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Edward Iosiper.

The author is Assistant to the Events Director, Commemoration and Public Relations Division.

Noah Flug z"l: "A leader who worked on behalf of Holocaust survivors"

■ Yad Vashem is deeply saddened by the recent passing of Noah Flug, Chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel and a member of Yad Vashem's Directorate.

Noah Flug was born in 1925 in Lodz, Poland. During WWII, he was imprisoned in the Lodz ghetto, where he was conscripted to a forced labor brigade. In 1944, he was deported to Auschwitz and from there to the Gross-Rosen concentration camp. During a death march towards Mauthausen, he was liberated by American troops. At the time, he weighed only 32 kg (70 lbs). Noah immigrated to Israel in 1958 and settled in Jerusalem. In 1987, he founded the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel and served as its Director General. In 2003, he was appointed the organization's Chairman. He dedicated

his life to helping Holocaust survivors and memorializing its victims. He also served in senior positions in a variety of organizations, including AMCHA – The National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation, the World Jewish Restitution Organization, the International Auschwitz Committee and the Claims Conference.

"Noah was, above all, a social leader who worked tirelessly on behalf of the welfare of Holocaust survivors," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "I worked hand in hand with Noah, and saw from up close how his personality and many talents helped advance the rights of Holocaust survivors. As a member of Yad Vashem's Directorate, he was instrumental in passing on the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations. May his memory be blessed."



Online Now: www.yadvashem.org Dana Porath

German YouTube Channel

■ In September 2011, Yad Vashem's YouTube channel in German was inaugurated, joining the existing channels in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Farsi. The German channel contains over 100 videos, including survivor testimonies, video lectures

providing important historical context and background. It is anticipated that the German channel will be of great interest to the general public and will provide an invaluable resource for German educators.

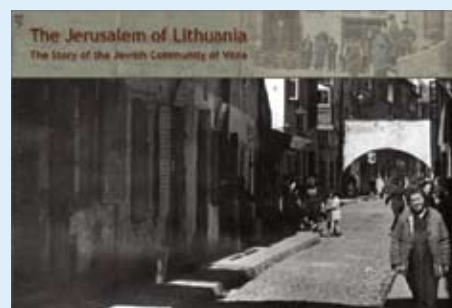
The Yad Vashem YouTube Channel in German was developed with the support of The Future Fund of the Republic of Austria, Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria and the Swiss Society for Yad Vashem.



by German-speaking historians and archival footage, as well as a multimedia presentation on the *Auschwitz Album*. All of the videos are linked to related texts and resources about the Holocaust in German on Yad Vashem's website,

Online Exhibition: "The Jerusalem of Lithuania"

■ On the eve of the *Shoah*, Vilna was the spiritual center of Eastern European Jewry, the core of enlightenment and Jewish political life, and the heart of Jewish creativity – a community bursting with cultural and religious movements and parties, educational institutions, libraries and theatres, rabbis and gifted Talmudic scholars, intellectuals, poets, authors, artists, craftspeople and educators. In the Jewish world it was known as "The Jerusalem of Lithuania."



The Jewish community of Vilna, which had flourished for hundreds of years, was almost completely destroyed during the Holocaust. Through video testimonies, photos, documents, letters, art, literature and film, this online exhibition tells their story.

The exhibition was made possible through the generous support of Nehemia Burgin in memory of his beloved parents, Holocaust survivors Zlata (Zehava) Burgin and Yehiel Burgin, z"l.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.

International Workshop Investigates New Ideas for Names Recovery Zvi Bernhardt

■ In July 2011, Yad Vashem convened the "Recording the Names" international workshop for professionals collecting and computerizing names of Holocaust victims around the world. This year, the workshop converged with Yad Vashem's leading role in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), funded by the European Union, bringing together experts in the field of names recovery and digitization from Europe, Israel and beyond.

In the formal sessions, participants presented

the projects they are working on, but some of the most important moments of the workshop were the informal ones, where participants discussed the many dilemmas they face, including questions of privacy when making biographies public; how to best utilize new forms of social media while maintaining the dignity of the data about those persecuted; and the many technical questions of how to make this varied material most accessible to the public.

"In similar workshops held over the past

decade, participants discussed how to advance the computerization of well-known sources of names of *Shoah* victims," explained Alexander Avraham, Director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names. "To date, the Yad Vashem online database includes information on four million of those murdered in the Holocaust; the mutual challenge for the future is to uncover additional sources to help identify the remaining names."

The author is Head of Data Processing in the Hall of Names.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During July–September 2011, Yad Vashem conducted 175 guided tours for more than 1,800 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government and ambassadors, military leaders, NGO representatives and media personalities. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the summer months:

■ **President of Greece Dr. Karolos Papoulias** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem on 12 July. He was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar (right). Greek Defense Minister Panos Beglitis toured the campus on 6 September.



■ On 19 May, WWII veteran First Lieutenant **Frank W. Towers** visited Yad Vashem. Mr. Towers was one of the liberators of the Bergen-Belsen train on which 2,500 Jews were headed towards their deaths. After a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Mr. Towers (left) presented Director of the Commemoration and Public Relations Division Rachel Barkai (right) with a photograph of a work of art by train survivor and artist Sara Atzmon. Mr. Towers, today President of the 30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII, received a souvenir from Yad Vashem of his visit to Israel, during which he met with Holocaust survivors he had rescued from the train during the war.



■ On 4 September, **Prime Minister of Belgium Yves Leterme** (left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Yad Vashem Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang (right).



■ **Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Dr. Petr Necas** toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance on 15 September.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 13 July, **German Defense Minister Dr. Thomas de Maiziere** toured the Holocaust History Museum, including the Hall of Names.



■ **Prime Minister of Slovenia Borut Pahor** visited Yad Vashem on 25 July.



■ **Ecuador's Vice President Lenin Moreno** laid a wreath in the Garden of the Righteous in memory of Holocaust victims and in honor of Ecuadorian Righteous Among the Nations Dr. Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero during his visit to Yad Vashem on 29 June.



■ **Martha Stewart** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 2 September and toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Director of the Internet Department Dana Porath (right).



Ida Fink z"l

■ **Yad Vashem mourns the author Ida Fink, Holocaust survivor and Israel Prize Laureate, who passed away at the age of 90 in October 2011.**

Photo: Nir Keidar



Ida Fink was born in Zbarazh, eastern Poland (now Ukraine) in 1921. Her father was a physician and her mother, a teacher. During the war, Ida and her sister fled the Zbarazh ghetto using false papers, and lived for two-and-a-half years in hiding among Polish villagers and farmers, who later became the basis for her fictional writings.

In 1957, Ida immigrated to Israel and worked at Yad Vashem collecting testimony from Holocaust survivors. Her short stories discuss the terrible choices, or lack thereof, that Jews faced during the Nazi period, as well as the hardships that survivors encountered after the war. In all, she wrote nine books, all in her Polish mother tongue, which were translated into Hebrew and other languages.

Ida Fink won a number of literature prizes, including the 1995 Jacob Buchman Foundation Memorial Prize, awarded by Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, and the Israel Prize for Literature in 2008. May her memory be blessed.

Using Archives to Expand Education Noa McKayton

■ **At the end of October 2011, the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies organized a three-day seminar for German-speaking graduates of the International School.** This first-ever seminar was developed in conjunction with the International Tracing Service (ITS), and was held at the ITS building in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

During the seminar, ITS and Yad Vashem staff demonstrated how to search archival collections, and offered pedagogical guidance to the graduates on how to implement this primary source material in the classroom.

The seminar also connected graduates from different German-speaking countries and regions, enabling them to exchange ideas and

Wunderkinder Wins Yad Vashem 2011 Chairman's Award

Liat Benhabib

■ **Marcus O. Rosenmüller, director of the film *Wunderkinder* (Germany, 2011) was presented with the 2011 Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award at the 28th Jerusalem International Film Festival this July.**

The film, produced by daughter and father Dr. Alice Brauner and Artur Brauner, tells the story of three children, Hanna (German), and Larissa and Abrascha (Jewish), best friends and classical music virtuosos living in Poltava, Ukraine, at the beginning of the 1940s. When the war reaches Poltava, their friendship is put to the test. The young musicians see only one way out: to help each other and win over the adults by using their musical gifts.

"*Wunderkinder* tells the story of the friendship between children growing up during the darkest time of the Jewish people," commented the jury, which consisted of Dean of the Sha'arei Mishpat College Aviad HaCohen, senior lecturer at the Hebrew University Avner HaCohen, Educational Director for Rabbis for Human Rights Rabbi Nava Hefetz, and journalist and screenwriter Stuart Schoffman. "Their tale is imparted in an unusual and delicate manner that steers away from banality. The choice to include children in each of the film's scenes is remarkably thoughtful. We also commend the depiction of a Jewish family hiding a German one, and vice-versa."

Upon receiving the award, Alice Brauner said: "I am committed to continuing my father's mission to produce not only entertainment movies, but also films dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. I see this award as recognition for decades of commitment to this purpose, and

we, the producers, the director and the entire team at CCC Filmkunst, are profoundly grateful for this acknowledgement of our work."

An honorable mention was also granted this year to director Britta Wauer, for her documentary film, *In Heaven, Underground: The Weissensee Jewish Cemetery* – a fascinating documentation of the German burial ground that reveals the country's Jewish life in all its diversity over the past two hundred years.

The annual Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award for Holocaust-Related Film is generously endowed by Michaela and Leon Constantiner.

The author is Director of the Visual Center.



Library Catalog More User-Friendly

■ **The Yad Vashem Library catalog on the Yad Vashem website has recently undergone a facelift, acquiring the same "new look" as Yad Vashem's other online databases.** In addition, the catalog has become more user-friendly, with important additional features. Now visitors to the online catalog may employ not only regular search fields such as language and year of publication, but may also choose terms from a special PDF document that contains nearly 9,000 subject headings used by the Library staff to classify books. The newly fashioned Library catalog homepage thus enables researchers and students of the Holocaust to utilize its resources more effectively.

opinions. Arno Braendle, a secondary school teacher in Liechtenstein, has already developed a curriculum that addresses issues of racism and works to combat his students' growing interest in neo-Nazi culture. "I came looking for additional materials to continue this program," Braendle explained. "Here I found sources that will help me focus on topics that are currently less prevalent in the education system, such as the death marches or forced labor. This will widen my students' perspectives and provide a more meaningful comprehensive understanding of the Jewish experience during the war."

The author is Head of the German-Speaking Desk, International School for Holocaust Studies, and co-organizer of the seminar together with Dr. Susanne Urban, Head of the ITS Research and Education Department.

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ Yad Vashem's exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust" opened on 23 June at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Three hundred guests participated in the opening, among them Yad Vashem supporters (from left) **Dave and Esther Mann** and **Betty Breslaw**. Deputy Director of the Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar** (second from right) addressed the guests. Also pictured: **S. Isaac Mekel**, Director of Development, **American Society for Yad Vashem** (right)



■ During his most recent visit to Yad Vashem, **Steve Finkelman** toured the exhibition "With Me Here Are Six Million Accusers" – Fifty Years since the Eichmann Trial."



■ **Sydell Miller** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem together with her daughter and son-in-law **Lauren** and **Steven Spilman** and grandchildren.



■ The two rescuers of **Mira Becker**, the late **Maria Kazuczyk** and **Marianna Kazuczyk**, were posthumously honored as Righteous Among the Nations in a ceremony held honoring a number of Righteous in Warsaw on 22 August. Mira, originally from Bialystok, jumped off a train headed for Treblinka. Her parents, **Motl** and **Elka**, and younger sister **Ida** were murdered in Treblinka. Her brother **Abraham** was murdered together with other 5,000 boys in 1941, in Pterosha Forest outside of Bialystok. Mira made her way back to Bialystok, where she was hidden by the two sisters-in-law.



Left to right: **Ewa Rudnik** of the Embassy of Israel; **Mira Becker née Kwasowicer**; **Dorota Urban**, who accepted the medal on behalf of **Maria Kazuczyk**; Ambassador of Israel to Poland **H.E. Mr. Zvi Rav-Ner**; **Regina Lewoc**, who accepted the medal on behalf of **Marianna Kazuczyk**

■ On 1 September, in the offices of the **American Society for Yad Vashem**, the heirs of the artist **Felix Cytrin** donated to the Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust Art 43 original portraits of Jewish prisoners who had been recruited for "Operation Bernhard" – the Nazi plan to forge millions of Bank of England notes.



Left to right: American Society Director of Development **S. Isaac Mekel**, **Yehudit Shendar**, donor **Marcia Friday**, American Society Cultural Director **Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski**, **Marcia's daughters Arielle Selya** and **Karina Schmidt**

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its dear friend and Builder **William "Vladek" Mandell**, one of the founders of the American Society for Yad Vashem. May his wife **Paula** and daughters **Zippy Graubart** and **Hannah Loftus** be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

■ **Matthew Bronfman** and his son **Eli** recently toured the Holocaust History Museum and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives.



■ The extended **Franco Family** toured the Yad Vashem Campus and marked the bar mitzvah of **Aaron** and **Daniel Franco** in a moving ceremony in the Synagogue.



■ The **Lapco** family visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Salomon** (right).



■ The **Guenoun** family visited Yad Vashem on occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Jack** (second from left).



Friends Worldwide

■ During their recent visit to Yad Vashem **Ingeborg** and **Ira Rennert** (left) were shown Holocaust-related art by Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator **Yehudit Shendar** (standing). They were joined by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (center) and the Division's Deputy Director **Sari Granitza** (second from right).



MEXICO

■ **Ivonne** and **Samuel Geller** (center), their sons and daughter-in-law visited Yad Vashem and were joined by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ The **Kravzov** and **Weisser** families visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar and bat mitzvah of their son and daughter **Sharon** and **Alejandro** (front).



■ **Paulina Apeloig Altaras** and **Marcel Apeloig** were joined by their families and friends for the unveiling of a plaque in memory of their father and in honor of her mother, and for the presentation

of the translation to Spanish of *The Black Book* by Ilya Eherenburg and Vasily Grossman, a collaborative effort by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAC) to document the anti-Jewish crimes of the Holocaust and the participation of the Jews in the resistance movement.



CHRISTIAN DESK

■ A delegation of the country directors of Derek Prince Ministries (DPM) visited the Mount of Remembrance following their earlier donation to support seminars for Christian leaders at Yad Vashem. Left to right: **Christine** and **Ross Paterson** (China); **Warren** and **Roseanna Smith** (Asia Pacific); **Alex** and **Faye Genovese** (Australia); **Neil Cornick**, (UK); Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**; DPM International Director **David Selby** and **Anna Selby**, daughter of the late Derek Prince; Managing Director, International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



■ During their visit to Israel, **Rabbi Jonathan Miller** from Birmingham, Alabama (to the right of the tree) and a group of Christian clergy explored the Holocaust History Museum and learned about the Righteous Among the Nations. They were accompanied by Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**.



CANADA

■ Yad Vashem Builders **Jay** and **Barbara Hennick** joined with their family at the Canadian Society's Holocaust Wall of Remembrance at Earl Bales Park, Toronto, for an unveiling ceremony of the names of loved ones who perished in the *Shoah*, as well as those who survived but have since passed away. Left to right: **Barbara Hennick**, **Jory Hennick**, **Bradley Hennick**, **Irene Gray**, **Allison Hennick**, **Jay Hennick**



■ Cousins **Ben** and **Anna Zvi** (left) reunited with their long-lost Israeli cousins **Hava** and **Shraga Evron** (right) at an event organized by the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** in Toronto after discovering each other's existence through Yad Vashem's *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project.



■ A delegation from Markham, Ontario, led by the city's mayor **Frank Scarpitti** and Regional Chairman and CEO of the Municipality of York **Bill Fisch**, visited Yad Vashem at the end of May. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a moving ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance.



DIASPORA AFFAIRS

■ **Leonid Kuchma** (second from left), former president of Ukraine and head of the Presidential Fund of Leonid Kuchma, visited the Mount of Remembrance with Yad Vashem Builder **Victor Pinchuk** (right), head of the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, and his son **Roman Pinchuk** (second from right). They were guided by **Liza Davidovich** (left).



VENEZUELA

■ The **Waich** family visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Isaac**.



■ **Salomón Galsky** (standing, third from right) was joined by his family for the unveiling of a plaque in memory of his parents **Beila** and **Abraham Galsky z"l** and on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of his grandson **Claudio** (kneeling, right).



■ **Luna Sultan Aserraf** (fifth from right) was joined by her nephews **Leopoldo Lares** (fifth from left) and **Sadi Sultan** (third from left), Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and Director of the Latin America, Spain and Portugal Desk **Perla Hazan** for the unveiling of a plaque in memory of her father **Sadia Sultan z"l** and in honor of her mother **Perla Aserraf Sultan**.



SWITZERLAND

■ The **Swiss Society for Yad Vashem** elected a new Board of Directors during its General Assembly in June. **Joel Herzog** from Geneva is the new president and **Thierry Bollag** from Zurich was elected vice-president. Pictured are Board Members (from left): Dr. Josef Bollag, Thierry Bollag, Denise Schmid, Joel Herzog, Yad Vashem's Director for Switzerland and the German-speaking countries **Arik Rav-On**, **André Bollag**. Not pictured: Gabriel Taus, David Wollach, Herbert Herz



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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.

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International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

David Bankier, *Expulsion and Extermination: Holocaust Testimonials from Provincial Lithuania*

NIS 174 NIS 128



On 22 June 1941, German troops entered Lithuania, beginning the end of the glorious heritage of Lithuanian Jewry. This book describes the annihilation of the Jews in the provincial townlets and villages, with selected excerpts from Leyb Koniuchovsky's collection of postwar testimonies that describe the process of mass extermination in the various Lithuanian communities. The horror revealed reflects the disbelief that friends and neighbors could become enemies, plunderers and mass murderers.

Sabine Horn, *Search and Research: Lectures and Papers 17*

*"...A Justification to the World and Israel?" –
Holocaust Discourses in German TV:
The Case of West Germany, with an Afterword
on East Germany*

NIS 36 NIS 28



The Auschwitz Trial was the first major West German hearing that dealt with crimes committed in concentration and extermination camps. The Majdanek Trial was the last of the major West German lawsuits that debated the crimes of National Socialism. Both trials are regarded as milestones in the public debate of the Holocaust within West Germany, with media coverage playing a crucial role.

This latest article in the esteemed Search and Research series deals with a number of related questions, including how TV media presentation of Nazi crimes changed over time, and which images of perpetrators and victims endured and which were transformed.

Anna Podgajeci, *Anna: A Teenager on the Run*

NIS 110 NIS 78



Anna Podgajeci was born in Korzec, Poland. A beautiful girl, Anna seemed to have a gift for predicting future events, yet none of the Jews of Korzec listened to her warnings. Anna survived the war wandering from place to place, posing as a Russian-German translator in a tire factory, a housekeeper, and finally, a nurse at the Russian battlefield. In 1958, she and her husband returned to Poland, and in 1960 began a new life in Israel.

Frederick Raymes and Menachem Mayer, *Menachem & Fred: Thoughts and Memories of Two Brothers*

New updated edition (*Are the Trees in Bloom Over There?*)

NIS 74 NIS 58



Two young brothers born in Germany were deported with their family to France and held in a detention camp. With their parents sent off to various concentration camps, the brothers were shuffled between orphanages in France and Switzerland, and were eventually separated. After the war, Fred made his way to the United States, and Menachem came to Israel. The film based on this riveting book was awarded "Most Inspirational Movie of the Year" at the Berlin Cinema for Peace Film Festival in 2009.

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