

Published by:
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Editorial Coordinator: **Lilach Tamir-Itach**

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Proofreader: **Ezra Olman**

Translated by: **Hever Translators' Pool (Intl)**

Assisted by:

Alexander Avraham, Rachel Barkai,

Shaya Ben Yehuda, Annie Eisen, Limor Karo,

Ayala Peretz, Dana Porath, Amanda Smulowitz

Photography: **Yossi Ben-David, Isaac Harari**

Production: **Keter Press**

Design: **Stephanie & Ruti Design**

This magazine was published with the
assistance of The Azrieli Group. 

ISSN 0793-7199

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with proper acknowledgement.

Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education 

and the Claims Conference 

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"A World



■ On 30 January 2012, the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies will be opened in the presence of Israel's Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar, following three years of intensive planning and construction. Generously supported by Joseph Gottdenker of Canada along with Friends of Yad Vashem worldwide, the wing adds 45,000 square feet of space to the International School, and provides state-of-the-art facilities, including the new Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, to meet the ever-expanding demand for educational seminars for teachers and public opinion-shapers from Israel and around the globe.

"Since the establishment of the International School for Holocaust Studies in 1993, and the opening of its prestigious new campus six years later, Yad Vashem has become a world center for teaching about the Holocaust," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "In the last year alone, the School has hosted 67 seminars for educators and lay leaders from abroad, and the interest in Holocaust education continues to grow beyond all expectations. The ultra-modern, technologically advanced and attractive setting of the new wing will

Center for Holocaust Teaching”

Opening of the New International Seminars Wing

Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman



■ The new International Seminars Wing at Yad Vashem next to the exit from the Holocaust History Museum

bring our teacher-training seminars for both international and Israeli groups to new levels of professionalism and learning.”

The International Seminars Wing was designed by Guggenheim-Bloch, the architectural firm behind the construction of the International School building in 1999. It incorporates eleven new classrooms, a videoconference suite,



■ At the cornerstone-laying ceremony, 2009, left to right: Executive Director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Yaron Ashkenazi, Joseph Gottdenker, Debbie Gottdenker, Adam Gottdenker, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Canadian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Jon Allen

"The ultra-modern, technologically advanced and attractive setting of the new wing will bring our teacher-training seminars to new levels of professionalism and learning"

conference rooms and auxiliary facilities, as well as a 328-seat lecture hall, donated by the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, which will greatly enrich the quality of the many large-scale events and seminars run by the School for thousands of participants each year.

The new building boasts panoramic views of the outlying Jerusalem hills from its many balconies and open vistas, and offers extensive internal display areas for the various creative

projects produced under the auspices of the School. "This is an exciting time for us all," says International School Director Dorit Novak. "We look forward to many years of fruitful activity in this beautiful new building, and in particular to the Eighth International Conference on Holocaust Education this coming June, which will put our new premises firmly on the map."

The new International Seminars Wing was generously supported by: Joe Gottdenker, Canada; Rose Landschaft, Germany; Jane and Isaac Ladelsky, Mexico; Prof. Dr. Jan Philipp Reemtsma, Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur, Germany; The Klarman Family Foundation, USA; Erika Herskovits, Germany; Rachel (z"l) and Meir Yaskil, Israel; Gewolb Family, USA; Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Stiftung, Germany; Willie Moll, Canada; Paul and Pearl Caslow Foundation, Esther and David Mann and Betty Breslaw, USA; Selma Gruder Horowitz, USA; Lauren and Martin Geller, USA; Ivonne and Samuel Geller, Mexico; Sara and Rolando Uziel, Mexico; J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, USA; Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, UK; and La Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, France.

The Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall was generously supported by The Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, Switzerland.

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

“An Outstanding Educational

International Seminars Inspire Educators from Around the World

■ Every year, Yad Vashem conducts dozens of seminars for educators from around the world. These seminars are enabled largely through the strategic support of Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson, whose steadfast dedication to Holocaust education and remembrance was recently reinforced through a renewed commitment to continue their munificent funding of Yad Vashem’s educational activities in the coming years.

In October-December 2011, teachers, museum guides and school directors visited Israel – some for the first time – from Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, France and China, to participate in tailor-made seminars that provided them with the knowledge and the tools to fine-tune their efforts in Holocaust education back home.

Marking the opening of the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies, *Yad Vashem Jerusalem* spoke to some representatives from these most recent seminars, to hear firsthand their thoughts and plans following their intensive visit to the Mount of Remembrance:

Zhai Yu is from mainland China, but is currently studying for her MA at the University of Macau. Zhai joined 28 other professors, high school teachers and research students from China, Hong Kong and Macau to take part in the second seminar for Chinese educators at Yad Vashem. It was her first visit to Israel.

For her degree, Zhai recently took a course by seminar co-organizer Glenn Timmerman (University of Macau) on “Representation of the *Shoah* in Literature and Film,” and her keen interest in Holocaust studies was apparent during the entire seminar. “I found the lectures and workshops on the use of technology in teaching the Holocaust particularly valuable,” Zhai said. “Apart from Holocaust literature, memoirs and testimonies, which I have studied as part of my MA, at Yad Vashem I came into contact with paintings, music and films about the Holocaust, as well as other online and pedagogical tools. Today we have the use of so many different media to teach this difficult subject.

“For me, the most important part of the seminar was meeting the Holocaust survivors. Their testimonies are living evidence against



■ Participants during a seminar for Chinese educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies, October 2011

the Holocaust deniers. Their stories and positive attitude towards life made me feel compelled to relate the Holocaust to my peers and future

"Holocaust education is a huge challenge, and the seminar helped me change my approach and make my teaching more effective."

Diana Gherasimciuc, Romania

students in order to prevent other genocides. In China, Holocaust education is mainly focused on the Sino-Japanese war. I believe that a wider historical background should be taught to Chinese students, so they can think in a more comparative way. Discussing, let’s say, the Nanjing Massacre together with the

Holocaust is a wise approach to bring Chinese students into a contemporary conversation on antisemitism and xenophobia.”

Fifteen young teachers from across Romania, 25 Czech educators and a group of Hungarian teachers recently visited the International School as a continuation of training sessions they received in their own countries. Romanian educator Diana Gherasimciuc was especially grateful for the pedagogical aspect of the seminar. “Holocaust education is a huge challenge, and the seminar helped me change my approach and make my teaching more effective. For example, I am planning together with my students to create Romanian subtitles for the filmed testimony of Ovadia Baruch – a project I believe they will benefit from immensely. I also intend to add to my lessons general information about Jewish culture and life before the war. I want to take my students to visit places that will connect them with Jewish history in Bucharest.”

For Hungarian literature and history teacher Vodli Zsolt, this first visit to Israel and Yad Vashem was the beginning of what he hopes will be many more: “We learned a new approach to

Experience”



Leah Goldstein

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Announce Continued Strategic Support of Yad Vashem Educational Activities

■ The recent announcement by Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson of a second \$25 million donation renews the Adelsons' unwavering commitment to Yad Vashem and continues the strategic partnership that began in 2006. Their munificent support has allowed for the significant expansion of educational seminars and teacher training programs of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. Over the past five years, thousands of non-Jewish educators and opinion shapers from dozens of countries across Europe have received training at Yad Vashem. Additionally, for the first time ever, university professors and teachers from China, Moroccan Berber educators and Muslim Tartar teachers from Russia have participated in



special educational programs at the International School.

“Thanks to the Adelsons, in recent years we have seen the number of educators from around the world attending Yad Vashem seminars increase exponentially,” said Yad Vashem

Chairman Avner Shalev. “I am very grateful to our dear friends Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson for this extraordinary gift because of its focus on teaching teachers, which today is the most effective way to implement *zachor*, our obligation of preserving the memory of the Holocaust.”

“We have seen the incredible impact of Yad Vashem seminars on educators of all backgrounds,” said Dr. Adelson. “We look to these educators to bring the lessons of the *Shoah* to their students.” Mr. Adelson added, “We are proud to partner with Yad Vashem to ensure the continuation of its vital educational activities. We encourage others to join us in supporting Yad Vashem in its crucial work.”

teaching the Holocaust,” he says. “For example, it is extremely important to explain and define the terms clearly, and use only reliable sources. It is a mistake to try to ‘role-play’ with the students or use general terms; instead we must encourage them to examine every aspect thoroughly, even the perpetrators themselves.” While the numbers are important, Zsolt adds, “it is no less important to remember the people, the faces and names behind the numbers, for each and every one was a human being. Better to focus on their fight for life than the details of their deaths.”

After touring Israel, Zsolt hopes his frequent trips with his students to Holocaust-related sites in Europe will be more meaningful. “At the end of the day, we have a responsibility towards our students – to accompany them throughout their encounter with this difficult topic, and complete the journey accordingly.”

Dominique Chevalier is an associate professor of geography at the University of Lyon, France. This was her second visit to Yad Vashem, and she is currently writing a book comparing the efforts of different museums

and regions in preserving the memory of the *Shoah*. “As a geographer, I do not teach the Holocaust merely from an historical point of view,” she explained. “Instead, I try and show how the Holocaust is still a part of our lives, inscribed in the very heart of our major cities – and also how its memory is sometimes endangered by certain groups. Since my return, I have delivered papers at two international symposiums held in France on how I believe the chronological chain of events leading to the annihilation of the Jews has in turn given rise to various museographies.” As a side note, Chevalier commented on the range of topics covered at the seminar. “I was especially moved by the event honoring the Righteous Among the Nations we were invited to attend.”

The seminar for Polish educators was held in cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. Museum guides joined educators from other commemorative institutions as well as teachers from across Poland to deepen their knowledge about the Holocaust. They learned about Judaism before, during and after the war, and met Jewish youth who had been on trips to

Poland, as well as their guides, who explained the importance of these trips.

Pawel Sawicki, longtime graduate of many Yad Vashem seminars, has been working at the Auschwitz Museum's press office for four years. At this year's seminar, he helped out once again as a translator. “I am especially fascinated by how the topic of the Holocaust is taught at different ages and stages of education in Israel,” Sawicki emphasized. “Together with its unique interdisciplinary methods, this reflects the educational philosophy of Yad Vashem.”

“I hope that after they return, despite the complex reality in Poland, the teachers and guides will improve their teaching about the Holocaust. My experience tells me they will. The seminar affects not only the individual participant, but also creates a group of people who share an outstanding educational experience.”

Assisted by: Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, Desk for Seminars in English; Dr. Chava Baruch, Head of the the Balkan and Central European Countries Desk; Orit Margaliot, Head of the Polish Desk; and Anna Stocker, German and French Desks, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Graduate Spotlight

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



Scott Masters Canada

Leah Goldstein

■ **"Hearing the story directly from survivors is an exceptional opportunity.** The students are taken through the terrible lows of the period, but speaking to people who, after all, did make it through provides them with a powerful testament to the ability to endure. The students develop empathy for these people, forge friendships and gain a sense of appreciation. They go on to volunteer and do community outreach... My students gain an in-depth knowledge of a troubling period of history."

So explains Scott Masters, recent recipient of the Canadian Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. Masters teaches Canadian, American and World History and Politics for Grades 9-12 at the Crestwood Preparatory College in Toronto, and heads the school's Social Studies Department. Supported by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, he attended an international seminar for educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies in 2007. Masters took the knowledge and tools he learned back with him to further develop his "Oral History Project" – a powerful storytelling initiative that teaches students about the events and atrocities of WWII. Through the project, students are encouraged to connect

with a survivor, and are then responsible for uploading material such as photos, documents and interviews to the Oral History Project webpage on the Crestwood website. Along with Masters' lesson plans, the page has been recognized as a useful pedagogical tool for other teachers across Canada.

"The seminar at Yad Vashem gave me a deeper understanding of the events as well as many resources to work with," says Masters. "It also exposed me to a network of educators around the world with similar goals and ideals." Praising his dedication to making history more accessible by "connecting the technology and public of today with the events and people of the past," the judging panel of the Prime Minister's Awards added: "His commitment extends beyond the classroom and connects his students and their families to experiences that have fundamentally altered their lives."

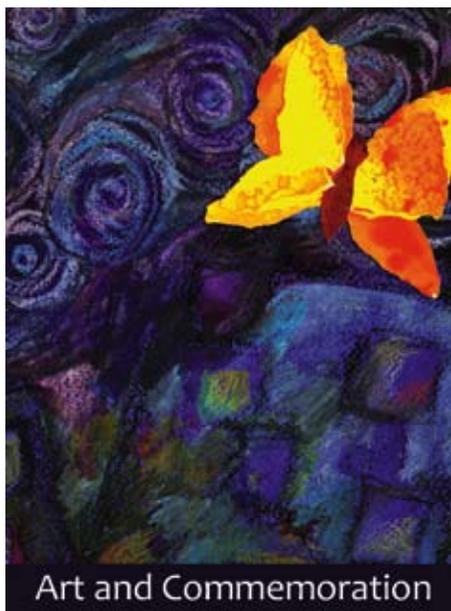
Masters' leadership in the Youth Against Racial and Religious Discrimination (YARRD) program is another example of his efforts at turning his students into socially conscious individuals. Through the program, he was responsible for a Holocaust Symposium,



■ *Yad Vashem Graduate Scott Masters with pupils at the Crestwood Preparatory College, Toronto*

where six survivors spoke at the school. However, his key focus continues to be the Oral History Project and the development of his webpage. "We have conducted many interviews this year and continue our community outreach program, visiting survivors at hospitals and seniors' residences in particular," explains Masters. "Baycrest Geriatric Hospital has indicated that they will be incorporating our work into their own oral history webpage, and we hope to work with them on student-senior art projects, as well as a second oral history program aimed at interviewing pioneers from the early settlement of Israel."

New in the Virtual School Jonathan Clapsaddle



New e-Newsletter: Art and Commemoration

■ The December 2011 issue of "Teaching the Legacy: e-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators" is on the subject of **Art and Commemoration**. This is the first in a series on various forms of commemoration during the Holocaust, with this issue focusing on painting. It includes a main article for teachers on survivor art; a feature on interdisciplinary implementation of materials produced by the International School for Holocaust Studies; an article on the limits of representation in art; an interview with Treblinka survivor, sculptor and painter Samuel Willenberg; related book reviews; and new publications. As always, the issue also highlights recent and planned activities at the International School.

27 January 2012 – Special Educational Environment

■ The International School has launched a special educational environment for **International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2012**. The subsite features a new lesson plan based on the posters created for the International Poster Competition (see p. 14), as well as a companion piece for teachers. Also presented are a broad range of materials on the Holocaust, as well as a variety of educational tools, lesson plans, ceremonies, teacher's guides and more.

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

New in Europe

Educational Agreement with Bavaria

■ On 9 November 2011, exactly 73 years after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, Israel Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Bavarian State Minister of Education and Culture Dr. Ludwig Spaenle signed a cooperation agreement in the sphere of education between Israel and Bavaria, Germany. The breakthrough agreement emphasizes both pedagogical cooperation as well as the exchange of information, and was signed following a visit by Dr. Spaenle to Yad Vashem.

The agreement includes the exchange of students, teachers and heads of commemoration and research institutions, as well as the

intensification of teacher training in educational work both inside and outside the classroom. It also incorporates the exchange of pedagogical information and experience, and supports the teaching and learning of the respective historical, cultural, social and political conditions of Israel and Bavaria.

"This agreement will reinforce the training of teachers and strengthen Holocaust education in Germany," said Avner Shalev. "We are eager to share our long-standing experience in Europe of providing pedagogical tools and knowledge in order to bring about a greater awareness of the *Shoah* to different sectors of the German public."



■ Avner Shalev (left) and Dr. Ludwig Spaenle shake hands on a new agreement to strengthen Holocaust education in Bavaria. In the background: Peter Pruegel, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Israel.

Memorandum of Understanding with Romanian Education Ministry

■ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the end of November between the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and Yad Vashem, supported by Israel's Ministry of Education.

The memorandum obligates both sides to continue organizing and funding annual

teacher-training seminars at Yad Vashem for Romanian educators, as well as follow-up sessions in Romania for seminar participants. Since 2000, some 180 Romanian educators have participated in educational seminars at Yad Vashem, the most recent one taking place in October 2011.



■ Romanian Minister of Education Daniel Funeriu (left) and Israeli Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar (right) sign a new memorandum supporting the ongoing education of Romanian teachers at Yad Vashem.

Leading History Educators Discuss Future Plans in Europe

■ During December, the International School for Holocaust Studies organized an educational seminar in partnership with EUROCLIO, the European Association of History

Educators, with the support of Adelson Family Foundation. Leading members of EUROCLIO, including educators from 17 countries, such as Turkey, Iceland and Montenegro, discussed

innovative and responsible approaches to teaching the Holocaust in Europe with the aim of building and deepening democratic societies across the continent.

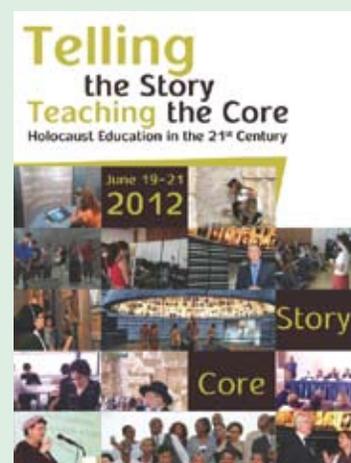
Eighth International Conference – 19-21 June 2012

■ The Eighth International Conference on Holocaust Education, "Telling the Story, Teaching the Core: Holocaust Education in the 21st Century," will take place at Yad Vashem on 19-21 June 2012. Featuring experts from a range of disciplines, the conference will focus on the historical issues of the Holocaust, including Jewish leadership, world reactions, Righteous Among the Nations and postwar trials; and themes including survivors, literature, religion, children, women, music and art. The final day will be dedicated to four special interest groups: directors of Holocaust museums and centers and Jewish museums worldwide; teachers in

both formal and informal Jewish education; educators teaching a Holocaust curriculum on the college level and in public, private and parochial high schools; and high school teachers wishing to investigate the "Echoes and Reflections" multimedia, multidisciplinary, teaching curriculum for high school students in North America.

For more information and registration:
www.1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/education

The Eighth International Conference on Holocaust Education is generously supported by The Asper Foundation, The Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference.



From the Depths of Sobibor

Excavations Unearth New Information

■ **The death camp of Sobibor is located near the village and train station of Sobibor, in the eastern part of the Lublin province of Poland.** The camp was built in March 1942 as part of Operation Reinhard to murder the Polish Jews in the General Government, as well as Jews from Holland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, the USSR and France. It consisted of three areas, each fenced off separately: the prisoner living and work quarters – Camp I; the area where prisoners were stripped and prepared for execution – Camp II; and the execution area – Camp III. In addition, in July 1943 work began to build an ammunitions bunker on the northern side of the camp.

During the time the camp was active, from April 1942 until October 1943, some 250,000 people were murdered there. After the inmate uprising on 14 October 1943, the Germans decided to dismantle the camp, and it was left standing without any visible markers identifying its former use. Until recently, researchers relied on survivor testimonies and partial German documentation to understand the camp's structure, activity and purpose, but this is not enough. The total physical destruction of the camp by the Nazis presents a challenge for researchers, as well as for the visitors and groups that come to learn and understand its history.

In order to reconstruct the blueprint and structure of the camp, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research is currently supporting archeological excavations in Sobibor. The excavations are being led by archeologist Yoram Haimi together with his Polish counterpart, Wojciech Mazurek.

At the end of the first stage of excavations, Yad Vashem Jerusalem spoke with Haimi about the project and the findings the site has offered to date:

How did the excavations at Sobibor begin?

In October 2006, I visited Yad Vashem to find out what had happened to my mother's brothers, members of the Ben Zaquen family, who lived in Paris during the war. I discovered that my family had been deported from Drancy to Sobibor on Transport no. 53, which held 999 Jews. Only one person, Yosef Donitz, survived that transport. From his testimony, we learned that the train was destined for Lublin, but because of problems at the Majdanek camp it was rerouted to Sobibor. After a few months, I decided to go there myself and look for information about the camp and my family. To my great surprise, the site itself offered no clue about the story of the camp. As an archeologist, my first thought was that excavations could provide answers to many questions about Sobibor.

The first season of excavations started in October 2007, when I met a local archeologist, Wojciech Mazurek, for the first time. Since then, we have been studying

Sobibor together. Over the years, we have gained experience and familiarity on the ground. This was evident in the most recent season of the dig, which we concluded this November. My connection with Mazurek is now far beyond just professional; we are like family.

"After a few months, I decided to go there myself and look for information about my family. To my great surprise, the site itself offered no clue about the story of the camp."

Yoram Haimi

Who else works with you on site?

Such a complex research project could be done only with the cooperation of Yad Vashem and the Israeli Embassy in Warsaw, but the people who dig with us are from the villages in the area who knew Sobibor simply as a German camp. We have been working with the same team for four years, and a special relationship has formed. I really feel at home despite the cold and the distance from Israel. These people live under difficult circumstances; the economic situation in eastern Poland is very difficult.

The sense of family became even more profound when my son Rom, who was about to be inducted into the IDF, recently came to help us dig. Our joint work created a consciousness and understanding at many important levels. Rom connected in particular with the oldest of the locals, Tadeusz – he's over 70 – who works as if he were a youngster. It seems to me that such a connection could only have been created 60 years after the Shoah.

What is the main goal of the excavations?

Through this research, we are trying to reconstruct the layout of the camp. We can



■ Two sides of a silver medallion found during archeological excavations near the former site of the gas chambers at Sobibor

News from the Research Institute

Christopher Browning and Daniel Blatman Receive First International Book Prize for Holocaust Research

■ On 8 January 2012, a ceremony was held awarding the **Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research** in memory of Abraham Meir Schwarzbaum, Holocaust survivor, and his family members murdered in the Holocaust. The 2011 winners are Prof. Christopher Browning (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) for *Remembering Survival: Inside a Nazi Slave-Labor Camp*, and Prof. Daniel Blatman (Hebrew University) for *The Death Marches: The Final Phase of Nazi Genocide*.

During the ceremony, which was attended by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Sabina Schwarzbaum, the daughter of Abraham Meir Schwarzbaum, the two prizewinners spoke about their books. Citing the judges' remarks, Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies said: "Browning's book is remarkable in both substance and methodology... His micro-history of Starachowice tests scholarly generalizations about the nature of Jewish society under Nazi rule, the character of Polish-Jewish and Ukrainian-Jewish relations under Nazi impact, and the relative effectiveness of alternative survival strategies." Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat quoted the judges describing Prof. Blatman's work as "impressively thorough and scrupulous... There is considerable debate on his conclusions regarding the disconnection between the treatment of the prisoners in the death marches and the *Shoah*... His book will be a touchstone for future research on the death marches and on the final phase of the Third Reich."

■ The International Institute for Holocaust Research held its **first international workshop for PhD candidates from the US and Israel researching the Holocaust** in early November. The three-day workshop, held jointly with the University of Southern California, was opened by Prof. Dan Michman, and Prof. Wolf Gruner, USC Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies, gave the concluding address. One of the lecturers, Jared McBride (University of California – Los Angeles) spoke about "Ordinary Policemen: Ukrainian Participation in the Holocaust in Volhynia." "I saw the workshop as a great opportunity to present new material I had uncovered just months earlier in the former Ukrainian KGB archive," said McBride, who was delighted to finally visit Yad Vashem after using material from its archives for many years. "During the four days at Yad Vashem, I had the opportunity to learn from and engage talented peers working on different aspects of the Holocaust. The tutelage of Prof. Gruner was invaluable, not to mention the poignant remarks from Yad Vashem scholars and staff. Many of the relationships I formed in Jerusalem will continue for years."

The sessions were chaired by Former Serbian Ambassador to Israel and Yad Vashem Research Fellow Dr. Krinka Vidakovic-Petrov; Prof. Avi Ohry (Reuth Medical Center, Sackler Faculty of Medicine); Irena Steinfeldt, Director of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department; Dr. Laura Jockusch (Hebrew University of Jerusalem); and Dr. Arkadi Zeltser and Dr. Lea Prais of the International Institute.

The Yad Vashem-USC International Workshop was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

■ On 21 November, a symposium was conducted on the topic of: "A Separate War and a Separate Extermination? Different Viewpoints on the German Battle against the USSR and the Jews." This **second symposium held on "Operation Barbarossa"** featured lectures by experts from Yad Vashem and Israeli universities, given in Hebrew with simultaneous translation into Russian. In addition to investigating the development of the war as well as the ideology of the mass murder in the East, topics included: "Lost between Identities: The Fate of Children from Mixed Families in the Soviet Union;" "The Image of the Jewish Hero in the Soviet Press during WWII"; and "The Part Played by Jewish Composers and Poets in the Songs of the Great War."

Heading the sessions were Prof. Dina Porat and Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. Bella Gutterman. Sana Britavsky, Executive Director of the Genesis Philanthropy Group in Israel and supervisor of European Jewish Fund programs at Yad Vashem, gave the opening address, after which an interview with Reinhold Weiner, German photographer of the mass murder in Liepaja, Latvia, was screened.

The seminar was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund, the Genesis Philanthropy Group and the European Jewish Fund.

■ The annual lecture of the **John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies** was given on 15 December by Dr. Katarzyna Person, research fellow at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. Dr. Person spoke on "The Judischer Ordnungsdienst in the Warsaw Ghetto: The Creation of the Jewish Police." Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the Research Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, provided the opening remarks.

Leah Goldstein



■ A yellow metal star found along the "Himmelfahrstrasse" between Camps II and III in Sobibor

now do so for a large part of the grounds. The most important finding was uncovering the path on which the Germans marched the naked Jews from the Camp II area to Camp III, a path the Germans called *Himmelfahrstrasse* – "the Road to Heaven." The section we uncovered is 185 m. long; along the northern segment we found a yellow star made out of metal, apparently from Slovakia. The path ends in the area of Camp III, and links up with a paved surface that was constructed in the 1960s as a commemoration site. We think that this was the location of the camp's gas chambers. Around the asphalt surface we have found several artifacts, the most special being a silver medallion inscribed with the name Hanna on one side and the Hebrew letters "Shin," "Dalet" and "Yud" [one of God's names] on the other. Based on the style of the medallion's inscription, we think it came from Holland. We also found a gold chain set with three diamonds, and a pair of gold earrings inscribed ER, apparently the owner's initials.

What are your future plans?

I'm hoping that my research will shed light on additional questions for which Holocaust research has not yet found answers. I would like to carry out excavations in another camp, where in-depth archeological studies have yet to be attempted.

“We’ve Finally Found Him”

Photograph Unites Family Torn Apart by the Holocaust

Deborah Berman



■ *The Korenblum Family, Warsaw, pre-WWII. Right: Yaakov Korenblum, second from right; Nahum Korenblum*

■ **As they fled Warsaw in the early stages of WWII and left their family behind, Nahum and Yaakov Korenblum seemed inseparable.** But in 1944 the two brothers were recruited into the Red Army and dispatched into separate units. Despite their many efforts over the years to find each other, they never met again. A photograph recently discovered on Yad Vashem’s Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names has nevertheless helped the next generation of Korenblums find their way back into each other’s lives.

In 2006, Bracha Fleischmann (née Korenblum) from Kiryat Tivon, Israel, updated details on a Page of Testimony submitted by her mother in 1958 commemorating Bracha’s paternal grandfather, Tuvia Korenblum. After attaching a photograph of her father Yaakov to the Page, Fleischmann decided to include a prewar photograph of the entire Korenblum family, in the hope that other family members might have indeed survived.

In October 2011, Igor Koramblyum (whose father’s surname was distorted by Russian authorities) was conducting a search on the Names Database from his home in New York when he found the Page of Testimony submitted for Tuvia Korenblum, as well as the family photograph. He was stunned to see that one of Tuvia’s children bore a striking resemblance to his grandfather, Nahum. After confirming that the details documented on the Page of Testimony matched his family history, it was clear that



■ *Cousins Dorit Korenblum, Rafi Korenblum, Gennadiy Koramblyum and Bracha Fleischmann reunite at Yad Vashem.*

he had found the family of his grandfather’s long-lost brother living in Israel.

A few weeks later, one of Nahum’s three sons, Gennadiy Koramblyum, along with his son Yivgeny (who is also named Yaakov after his grandfather’s “lost” brother), traveled to Israel for the wedding of one of their newly discovered relatives. The reunited family visited Yad Vashem to document the reunion story, complete commemoration efforts, and further investigate the fate of the Korenblum family during the Holocaust period.

Research revealed that after the war, the two brothers had both settled in Ukraine: Yaakov in Stanislovov, until he relocated to Israel in 1958; and Nahum in Kiev, where he lived until his emigration to the United States in 1991. The Korenblum brothers both passed away over a decade ago without ever knowing that the other one had survived. “Since I was a little boy, my father always reminded me, ‘I have another brother, he is somewhere,’” recalled Gennadiy. “After contacting our cousins, I couldn’t sleep for two nights. I went to my father’s grave and told him, ‘We’ve finally found him.’”

“This means everything to me,” said Rafi Korenblum, another of Yaakov’s children. “I am sure they are rejoicing ‘upstairs’ in heaven, seeing us all here together. A circle has been closed.”

According to Cynthia Wroclawski, Manager of the Names Recovery Project, discoveries like these have recently become more frequent as *Shoah* survivors are more willing to share their stories, and the younger generation gains access to supplementary information via the Internet. “The lock is being opened by the next generations,” she explains. “They have more intuition and more awareness. That’s the power of the Database: we are passing on the torch of memory. For these families, some kind of healing process is finally taking place.”

The public is urged to submit photographs, additional relevant information and corrections to Pages of Testimony via “Submit Additional Names” on the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names, accessible from the Yad Vashem website, www.yadvashem.org

Pages of Testimony from Berlin Memorial

■ **On 17 November 2011, 1,800 Pages of Testimony collected at Berlin’s Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe were presented to Israel’s Ambassador to Germany, H.E. Mr. Yoram Ben-Zeev.** The presentation was made at a fundraising dinner for the Room of Names at the Berlin Memorial organized by the *Förderkreis* – the public association supporting the Memorial.

Most of the Pages of Testimony were filled out by Memorial staffers after long and

painstaking research into the identity and life stories of *Shoah* victims, whose biographies are to be added to the permanent exhibit in the Memorial’s Room of Names. The Pages were then transferred for commemoration and digitization to Yad Vashem’s Hall of Names in Jerusalem, as part of a standing agreement in which Yad Vashem gives the Berlin Memorial access – in German – to its Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names. To date, the Database contains the names

of over four million individual Holocaust victims.

“The new Pages of Testimony are very important to us,” explained Hall of Names Director Alexander Avraham. “1,019 of them document victims whose names are not yet commemorated in the Hall of Names, while the others contain valuable additional information on the identity and fate of victims already identified and documented at Yad Vashem.”

“All I Had Left of My Mother”

Prof. Shlomo Breznitz

■ Most of the objects we own nowadays are not worth much: they are, in the main, store-bought, not handmade, and we replace them every so often with something newer and more in fashion. The exceptions to the rule are those items that have a story, which adds symbolic value to the object in question. While we tend to attribute the added value to the object itself, it actually exists only in the head of the person that knows the story. But as time passes, the story fades from memory, and thus the value of the object diminishes. Yellowing photographs in a photo album, old letters and family keepsakes eventually become a burden people do not know what to do with.

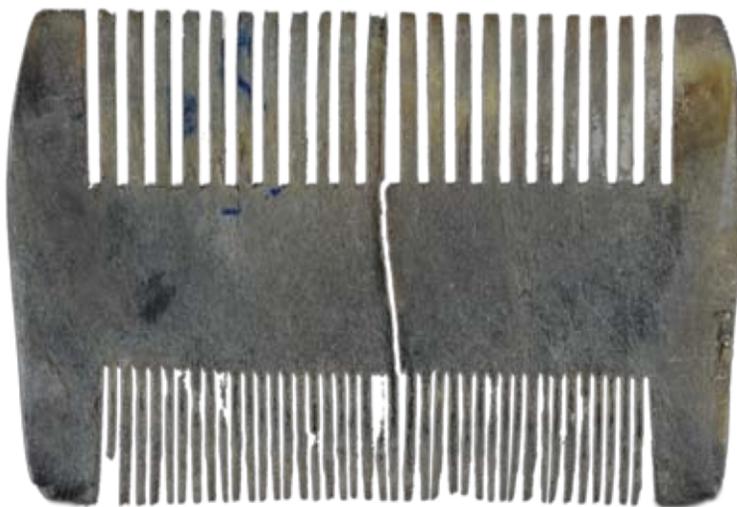
When my mother returned from Auschwitz and discovered that, other than her two children, her entire family – close and distant – had been lost in the *Shoah*, she did not talk much about what had happened to her. My sister and I wanted to hear more, but my mother, like so many others, preferred to keep her silence.

We did, however, come to know the tale of a comb she had kept from her time in the camps. Dark gray in color with some of its tight teeth broken, the comb is so small it can fit into the palm of one's hand. My mother acquired it in Auschwitz in exchange for the one daily meal that was supposed to give her the strength to get through another 24 hours. When her shaved head started to sprout new hair, she considered it a worthy trade.



■ Prof. Shlomo Breznitz

When my mother passed away, I didn't want anything she left behind except for that wretched, wonderful comb, which she had kept wrapped in delicate tissue paper. After the *shivah*, the comb was entrusted to me. I placed it in a drawer I use frequently, knowing that I would catch an occasional glimpse of it. If I had hidden it away, I would have gone to look at it only when I remembered the history it bore, whereas now I could remember the story every time I opened the drawer.



■ “That wretched, wonderful comb” from Auschwitz – presented to Yad Vashem for safekeeping, 2011

A few months ago, I heard that Yad Vashem was calling on the public to submit objects from the Holocaust period, along with the stories behind them, for preservation and safekeeping.

“If Yad Vashem did not exist it would have had to be invented, if only to ensure the proper transmission of the objects, stories and memories to the coming generations”

I immediately thought about my mother's comb, but debated whether I should give it to the institution responsible for commemorating the *Shoah*, or hold onto it until my dying day and then bequeath it to my children. There were excellent arguments for both options, including, of course, the difficulty in parting with it forever. After all, in tangible terms, it was all I had left of my mother.

While deliberating, I tried to imagine myself passing it on to the next generation. It occurred to me that as I have more than one child but only one comb, I couldn't pass it on fairly. The

truth is that if Yad Vashem did not exist it would have had to be invented, if only to ensure the proper transmission of the objects, stories and memories to the coming generations.

I went to the Yad Vashem collection day with a heavy heart, but quickly felt a sense of great relief. The personal concern and kindness of the interviewer, who took such a genuine interest in all the details of the story, calmed me down and convinced me that I had done the right thing. After all, Yad Vashem is more than just a link between two generations, and it would be a shame if the story of the comb, like the hundreds of other stories, remained the privilege of one small family.

I don't miss the comb itself, because every time I open the drawer where I used to keep it, its absence reminds me of it no less than its presence did. After all, everything is in our heads.

The article was first published in “Yediot Ahronot: 24 Hours” on 1 November 2011.

The “Gathering the Fragments” campaign 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 for Senior Citizens. From the beginning of the campaign in April 2011 until the end of 2011, more than 40,000 Holocaust-related personal items from members of the public in Israel have been donated to Yad Vashem. For more information, tel. (in Israel): 1-800-25-7777.

New Exhibition

Last Portrait: Painting for Po

Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

■ Over the course of eight months, from May to December 1943, Max Plaček – a prisoner in Terezin – drew over 500 portraits of artists, scientists, intellectuals and cultural figures that testify to the human richness of the ghetto's population. The artist sketched his final portrait a week before he was transported to Auschwitz. In 1944, he was sent to Sachsenhausen, where he was murdered.

In the Kovno ghetto, painter Jacob Lifschitz undertook documentation efforts together with artists Esther Lurie and Josef Schlesinger. At night, in the attic where he lived with his wife and daughter, Lifschitz drew poignant portraits of those close to him. Just before the liquidation of the ghetto in the summer of 1944, Lifschitz hid over 100 works of art in the nearby cemetery, concealed in ceramic jugs. He was sent to Dachau, and, from there, to forced labor in Kaufering. In the severe conditions of the camp, Lifschitz starved to death in 1945. After the war, his wife and daughter returned to the ghetto ruins and found his works in their hiding place. Ultimately, these

works – including a self-portrait and many others – were brought to Yad Vashem. Together with Plaček's last portraits, Lifschitz's self-portrait will be displayed in a new exhibition marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day entitled: "Last Portrait: Painting for Posterity."

The exhibition presents almost 200 portraits from Yad Vashem's Art Collection that were drawn by 21 artists of varied origins and backgrounds who labored to preserve images of their friends and loved ones for posterity. Aided by a simple pencil or brush, the artists put to paper or canvas the image of the persecuted, and thus proudly declared their identity and individuality. The works testify to the tremendous creative drive that moved these artists to diligently draw entire series of portraits in the most severe of circumstances.



■ Jacob Lifschitz (1903-1945), *Self-portrait, 1943. Watercolor on paper*



■ Arthur Ritov (1909-1988), *Philip Hirschberg, Riga Ghetto, 1944. Charcoal on paper*

This determination was neither an isolated nor chance event, but a phenomenon that occurred in different places during the Holocaust.

For many of the subjects, the artists' recording

27 January 70 Years since Wannsee

■ On 23 January, the International Institute for Holocaust Research will hold a special symposium marking 70 years since high-level German leaders met in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee on 20 January 1942 to discuss the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question in Europe." The symposium, entitled "The Wannsee Conference: The Organization of the Operation to Murder the Jews and its Significance," will be held in the presence of Minister of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein and the Diplomatic Corps in Israel, with the participation of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, and expert lecturers on the topic, including Prof. Omer Bartov (Brown University, USA), Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, Israel's State Archivist Dr. Yaacov Lozowick, Senior Historian and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett, and Dr. Nathan Cohen (Yad Vashem and

Symposium to Raise Issues Regarding the Infamous Protocol

Bar-Ilan University). At the symposium, Dr. Joel Zisenwine and Aviv Shashar of the International Institute will also present the current status of the "Transports to Extinction: Shoah (Holocaust) Deportation Database" project.

"Wannsee was actually a meeting, not a conference," explains Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies, who will chair the first session and deliver an introductory observation. "Here we see, for the first time, written evidence of the planned coordination of the 'Final Solution,' with the 'appropriate prior authorization of the Fuehrer.' The words 'extermination' or 'murder' are not found in the document, but since the wide-scale murder of Jews in the Soviet Union had been taking place already for some months, and the terms 'emigration,' 'evacuation,' 'resettlement' and the like were often used as 'clean language' for deportation to death camps, most historians agree that when the document mentions the 'evacuation' of European Jewry, it means to their deaths.

"The Protocol itself, which was discovered in the files of the German Foreign Ministry in 1947, is a vital document in Holocaust research for three main reasons: it is the first time we see written evidence of the actual overall planning and intent of the so-called 'Final Solution'; the Protocol clearly expresses the dominant authority of Heydrich and the SS in carrying out the plan; and the entire Jewish population of Europe is targeted, including countries not yet occupied by Germany. One interesting element that I will discuss is how, in fact, the German authorities managed to come by the Jewish population figures for each country – and whether or not they were accurate. For example, an extremely high figure was stated for the Jewish population of unoccupied southern France, and the question is, how did this figure come about? Other issues to be discussed are the broader historical context of the Protocol, and how it consequently affected the murder operation across the continent."

The symposium is generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Posterity



The works testify to the tremendous creative drive that moved these artists to diligently draw entire series of portraits in the most severe of circumstances

of their faces, moments before death, makes for their final portraits. This was certainly true in the case of Arthur Ritov's clandestine sketching of 47 of his fellow H.K.P. unit members in the Riga ghetto from 1942 to 1944. In July 1944, with the approach of the Red Army, many of those drawn were sent to their deaths in the mine fields. Ritov managed to escape and hide, and survived the war. The drawings, upon which he made sure to record personal details and exact dates, memorialize his friends and represent a passionate testament to their existence.

Each portrait in the exhibition binds together three stories: the artist's, the subject's, and that of the work itself. Efforts were therefore made to note, together with the biography of each artist, the special circumstances in which the portraits were created, and how the artist succeeded in procuring art supplies despite the severe shortages of food and other basic necessities. Museum staff used Yad Vashem's databases, including the Hall of Names and Archives, to retrieve information about the subjects of the portraits. It is hoped that the exhibition will result in more information being discovered regarding the people whose faces look upon us from within the drawings, and that those still anonymous may finally be identified.

For Lifschitz, Plaček, and many more of the artists whose work is displayed in the exhibition, their project to immortalize their companions' faces on paper also represents the last portrait of their oeuvre. Thanks to these drawings and paintings, we can look at the victims' faces, learn about their identities, and trace their fate. Our gaze meets the eyes of the children, women and men whose human image is indelible.

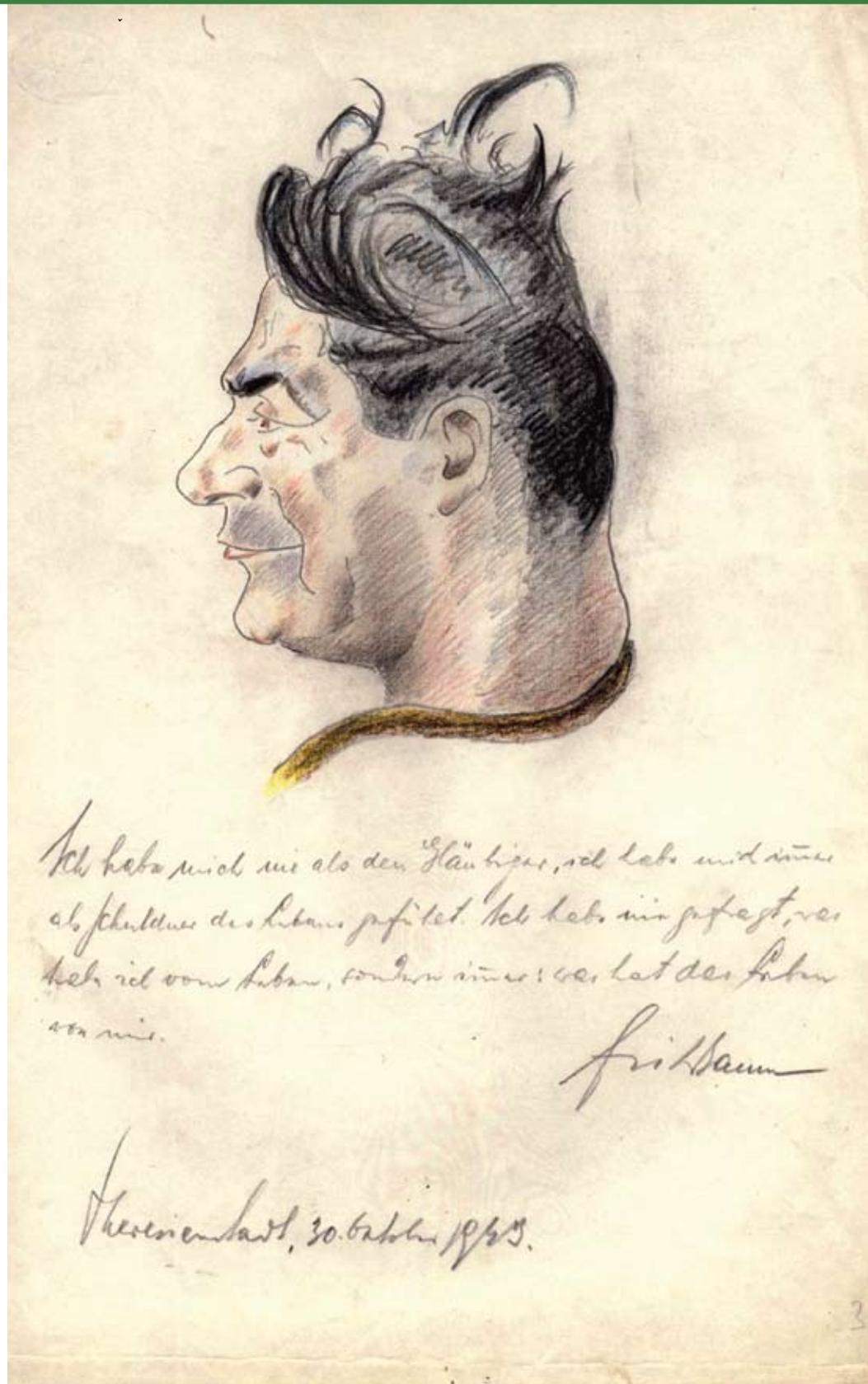
"Last Portrait: Painting for Posterity" opens on 23 January 2012 in the Yad Vashem Exhibitions Pavilion.

Yad Vashem thanks Mrs. Sura Smolas, z'l, France, for supporting the exhibition.

The author is curator of the exhibition.

■ *Max Placek (1902-1944), Fritz Baum, Theresienstadt Ghetto, 1943. Colored pencil on paper. Gift of Stephen Barber, Canada*
Baum was born 1889 in Pilsen, Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944. The note by the model reads: "I have never seen myself as borrowing from life, only indebted to life. I have never asked what I receive from life, only what life received from me."

All artworks are from the collection of the Yad Vashem Art Museum.



New Exhibitions at the UN:

“A Monument of Good Deeds”: Dreams and Hopes of Children During the Holocaust

Tal Kobo

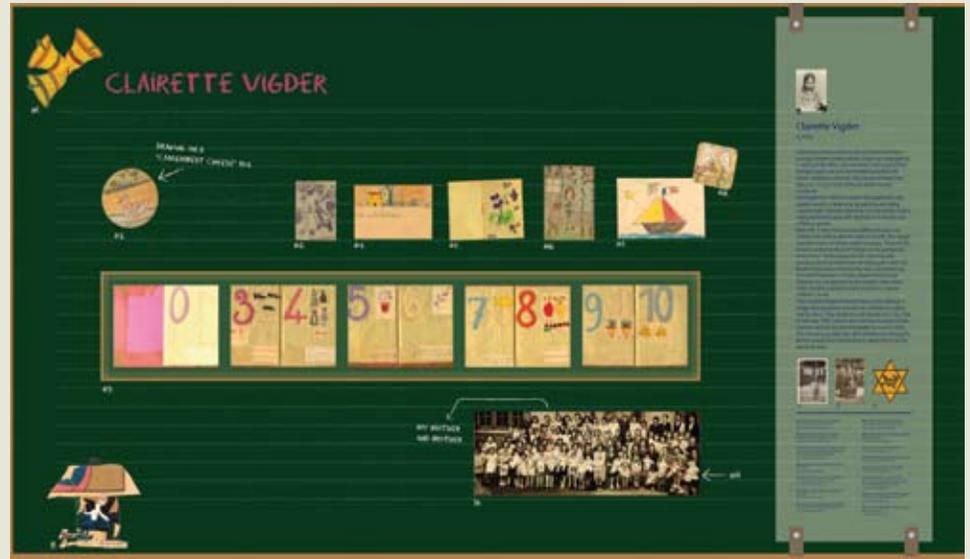
■ **Marek Laub was murdered in the gas chambers in Auschwitz on 14 May 1944.** He was eight years old. He was sent to his death along with the other *Kinderheim* (children’s home) children from the Plaszów concentration camp. Marek’s mother, Rega Laub, was deported to Auschwitz with the women’s transport in November 1944. On the night they were waiting to be taken to the gas chambers, she asked a friend to come with her to the nearby woods to see if “maybe Marek has left me a message.” They found nothing.

One and a half million children were murdered in the Holocaust, and only in rare cases did they leave something concrete behind by which they might be remembered. For this year’s International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the United Nations is focusing on the theme of Children in the Holocaust. The UN memorial event will highlight the story of Petr Ginz, a child who was murdered in Auschwitz after arriving from the Theresienstadt ghetto. A gifted artist and writer, young Petr Ginz maintained his creativity during the Holocaust: he drew his memories of his hometown of Prague, as well as his dreams for the future. Ginz produced a

magazine and was active in the children’s home in Theresienstadt.

To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem has created an exhibition chronicling stories of children during the Holocaust. The new traveling exhibition, to

be officially opened at the UN Headquarters on 26 January 2012 and then displayed in children’s museums throughout the United States, is intended for a younger audience, educating them about the events of the Holocaust through the perspective of children just like them.

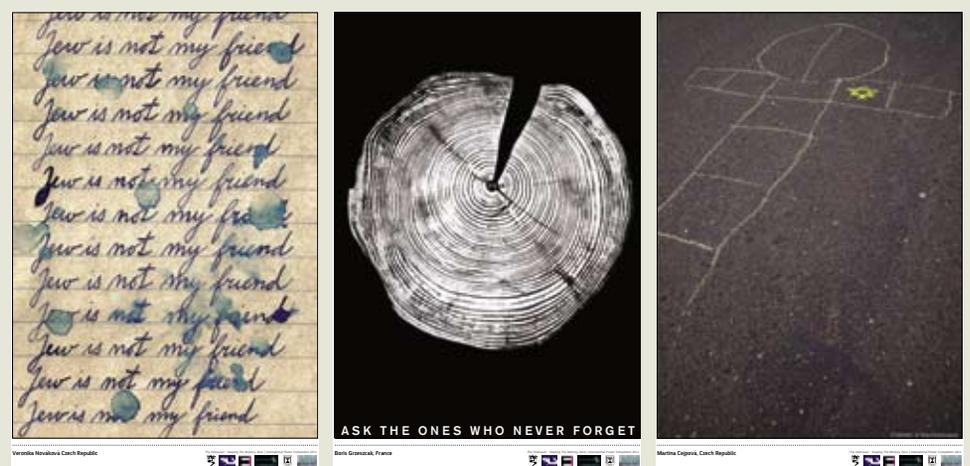


■ The panel on child survivor Clairette Vigder in the new exhibition at the UN

“Keeping the Memory Alive”: International Poster Design Competition

■ A new international poster design project, “Keeping the Memory Alive,” is encouraging art students around the globe to reflect on their own interpretation of Holocaust remembrance in advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Pioneered by staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies, “Keeping the Memory Alive” is based upon the established model of Israel’s national poster design contest. The project was carried out under the grant program of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), and was launched in 2010. Yad Vashem, Le Mémorial de la Shoah (France) and the European Shoah Legacy Institute (Czech Republic) each held seminars for graphic artists and design students, and the attendees were then invited to submit a poster to the competition. Local judges selected the best entries from each country, and 60 designs were submitted to an international jury for consideration. Sixteen finalists were then invited to participate in a weeklong seminar on the Holocaust and Art



■ Winning poster designs from the Czech Republic and France

at Yad Vashem in November 2011, and their posters were adapted into a special exhibit to be displayed in all 31 ITF member-states during January 2012.

In partnership with The Holocaust and United Nations Outreach Programme, the

poster exhibit will be officially opened on 26 January at the UN Headquarters, and all 73 UN Public Information offices around the globe will display the exhibit on 27 January. A lesson plan, focusing upon the three highest-ranking designs, has been created by

Gone but Never Forgotten

Teacher Honored as Righteous Among the Nations

Irena Steinfeldt

The exhibition is based on the idea of an empty classroom, with the stories displayed on 13 “chalkboards.” The drawings, poems, diaries and made-up games hint that the children will shortly return, but the real story appears when approaching the boards. Each board encapsulates the child’s life before the Holocaust, as well as the horror and fear they encountered, and the eventual great loss they experienced. Some of the chalkboards offer interactive experiences, enabling hands-on participation in the exhibition.

Some of the children showcased in the exhibition did not survive, Petr Ginz amongst them. Those who did were left to rebuild their lives from the very beginning. The stories in this exhibition allow us to remember those children and their fate.

“A Monument of Good Deeds”: Dreams and Hopes of Children During the Holocaust was curated by Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division Yehudit Inbar, and Associate Curator Tal Kobo. The exhibition was designed by Design Mill.

The author is Manager of the Traveling Exhibitions Department in the Museums Division.

Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman

Yad Vashem educators as an accompanying pedagogical tool.

“The success of the poster project exceeded all of our expectations,” said International School Director Dorit Novak. “Many countries have already expressed interest in future participation, and we are investigating options for expanding the project in the coming year. I was especially inspired to meet the designers at Yad Vashem – people who have no personal connection to the Holocaust, yet who have created such meaningful works. From Africa to Canada, from New Zealand to Slovenia, these posters will be displayed and will continue to spread a simple yet pervasive message.”

The 2012 poster gallery is available for viewing at www.yadvashem.org/itfposters.

“Keeping the Memory Alive” was implemented in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs.

The author is Project Manager for “Keeping the Memory Alive,” and Director of International Relations, International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ Riva Reznikov had a difficult childhood.

She was born in the city of Gomel in Belarus. Fatherless from the start, her mother died when Riva was five years old. She was brought to an uncle’s home in Moscow, but because of the overcrowding in his apartment, her uncle placed her in an orphanage two years later. From there, Riva was moved to a different orphanage outside of Moscow. In addition to the dire living conditions there, Riva was also the target of antisemitic abuse. The only person who took any interest in her, related to her with warmth and protected her from the other students was her math teacher, Aleksander Kramarovski.

When Germany attacked the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941, the orphanage, including the children and teachers, was moved to a different location, along the Don River, where the pupils were put to work in the fields to replace the men who had been drafted into the army. However, in 1942, the region came under German occupation. Because everyone knew that Riva was Jewish, Kramarovski spirited her away from the orphanage and began wandering with her through the occupied zone. In order to hide her identity, Riva wore a cross around her neck and went by the name of Margarita, posing as Aleksander’s daughter. In the winter of 1942-43, while in Novochoerkassk, they were deported to Germany with other Ukrainian slave laborers.

The end of the war found the two in a large camp for Soviet citizens close to the German-Austrian border. Jewish Brigade members from Mandatory Palestine reached the area and were looking for Jewish survivors. Riva did not want to identify herself to them, but Kramarovski, who understood the fate that would befall those repatriated eastward, persuaded her to step forward. Approaching the Jewish Brigade members she told them her story, but added that she was prepared to immigrate to *Eretz Israel* only if her “father,” Kramarovski, would immigrate too.

Aleksander and Riva first traveled to an Italian transit camp. There they met Avraham Reis from *Eretz Israel*, who accompanied the immigrants and whom Riva would later marry. Reis remembers well the young woman who captured his heart, sitting close to Kramarovski on the crowded deck of the illegal immigrant



■ Aleksander Kramarovski holds Riva’s baby son Uri, Givot Zaid, Israel, 1947

ship. The picture engraved in his mind is that despite the tumult surrounding them, the two huddled together to study math.

After Avraham and Riva were married, Kramarovski continued to live with them and became part of the family. Although he never learned Hebrew, he wrote articles for an American newspaper published by the White Russian community. He was very active in the Christian community in the Galilee and even got to know President Yitzhak Ben Tzvi, who took an interest in the different faith communities in Israel. When Uri, Riva’s son, celebrated his bar mitzvah, the celebration took place at the president’s residence in Jerusalem – the president of the State of Israel on one side of the Bar Mitzvah boy and the proud “grandfather” on the other.

In 1961, Kramarovski left for the United States to work for a Russian-language newspaper. He was very successful in his first year there and sent gifts to Riva’s children. However, some time later he was fired, and all contact with him was lost. To the best of Riva’s family’s knowledge, Kramarovski died in 1964, but the family does not know where he is buried.

Riva Reznikov-Reis passed away in 2008. Her husband and son documented the family story and contacted Yad Vashem. The file was forwarded to the Commission for the Righteous Among the Nations, and on 2 August 2011, Aleksander Kramarovski was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

The author is the Director of the Righteous Among the Nations Department at Yad Vashem.

“No monument stands over Babi Yar. A steep cliff only, like the rudest headstone... I’m every old man executed here, As I am every child murdered here.”

From “Babi Yar,” by Yevgeny Yevtushenko

■ On 28-29 September 1941, the German mobile killing units (*Einsatzkommando*) and the German and Ukrainian police murdered 33,771 Jewish people from Kiev in the nearby Babi Yar ravine. Marking 70 years since the mass murder, Yad Vashem held a **special educators’ conference** at Babi Yar for 90 Ukrainian graduates of the International School for Holocaust Studies. The conference was organized in cooperation with the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, with assistance from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, and was sponsored by the Israeli Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs. At the same time, a **conference for IDF soldiers** participating in the “Witnesses in Uniform” program took place in Kiev. The central topic in both conferences was the Holocaust in the Ukrainian collective memory. Yad Vashem staff developed new pedagogical materials for the educators’ conference, and IDF officers held a dialogue with Jewish students from Ukraine.

■ On 2 October, a **memorial event for the victims of the Babi Yar massacre took place beside the Menorah Monument at Babi Yar**. The event was attended by Israel’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Liberman, Minister of Public Affairs and the Diaspora Yuli Edelstein, Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulynyak, Minister for Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver, Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan, MK Fania Kirshenbaum, Executive Director of the Genesis Philanthropy Group in Israel Sana

Events Marking 70 Years Since Babi Yar

Britavsky, Chairman of the Jewish community in Kiev Ilya Levitas, Chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel David Levin, Shoah survivors, IDF soldiers and a mission of the *Dorot Hemshech* (Generation to Generation) organization.

■ On 6 October, the **official memorial event marking 70 years since the murder of the Jews in Ukraine, including the massacres at Babi Yar and adjacent areas, was held in the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem**. In partnership with the Association of Ukrainian Immigrants in Israel, the wreath-laying ceremony took place with the participation of Minister Edelstein, Ukrainian Minister Kulynyak, Ukrainian Ambassador in Israel H. E. Mr. Hennadii Nadolenko, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, David Levin and Holocaust survivors. Michael Sidko, who survived the Babi Yar massacre, rekindled the eternal flame.



Later in the evening, a **memorial concert, “Requiem for Babi Yar,”** took place in the Jerusalem Theater, in the presence of President Shimon Peres. The concert was performed by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra - IBA, and the Dumka choir from Kiev, under the baton of Vladimir Sirenko. A filmed address from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opened

the evening. Also addressing the audience were President Shimon Peres, Minister Edelstein, Ukrainian Minister Kulnyak, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and David Levine.



Access to Archives in Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus and Ukraine

■ Yad Vashem recently signed breakthrough agreements with the national archives of Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus, and on 15 December signed a new agreement with the national archives in Ukraine. Under the agreements, Yad Vashem will copy numerous documents related to the Holocaust period located in the state archives of each country. Among the documents are many lists of Jews’ names, including victims, forced laborers, residents of particular towns, Jewish partisans and more. A similar agreement was signed earlier in 2011 with the Ukrainian SBU (secret service) archives. “This is a significant achievement,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “In many cases, documentation of the murder of the Jews in these areas is found in municipal bureaucratic correspondence, from local villages to the state level. Acquiring this material will help enhance research into the Holocaust in the areas of the FSU, as well as assist the recovery of names of Jews murdered in these areas.”

The project to copy archival documentation in the Former Soviet Union is made possible thanks to the Genesis Philanthropy Group and the European Jewish Fund.

Group Testimony of “Children” from Hungarian Youth Village

■ **“Deszk was a ray of light... an oasis between the war years and the difficulties that lay ahead.”**

Yehudit Pearlman

On 1 November 2011, Yad Vashem hosted a meeting and group testimony of 45 former residents of the postwar Jewish youth village in Deszk, Hungary. The event was part of a series of group testimonies taken by the Oral History Section in the Yad Vashem Archives Division, including interviews with survivors who lived

at children’s homes throughout Europe in the post-Holocaust period.

The youth village (1945-1949) in Deszk was the initiative of the Bnei Akiva youth movement. The child survivors first gathered in Budapest from concentration camps, places of hiding, and safe houses in the Hungarian capital. When no suitable building could be found to house them, they were taken to the town of Deszk in southern Hungary, where they moved into a pastoral lakefront house surrounded by gardens.

Over the years, additional children arrived and were integrated into the home, where they were raised on the values of religious Zionism and learned Hebrew. The young staff (aged 17-21), later joined by professional teachers, saw to all the children’s needs, both physically and emotionally. “The young survivors who had experienced the horrors of the *Shoah* finally felt wanted here,” explained Malka Tor, Director of Yad Vashem’s Oral History Section in the Archives Division.

One clear message stood out from the

Recent Events at Yad Vashem Limor Karo

Annual Gathering of Landsberg-Kaufering-Dachau Concentration Camp Survivors

■ *“On 26 April 1945, they decided to evacuate the camps... They packed us into the train cars, as many as 70 in each. I was put in the first one, which in the end must have held 90-100 people. I squeezed into a corner because I was one of the first; that’s what saved my life. You see, in a train car you have no room to sit; you have no room to lie down... Day in, day out, without food or water, people began to die... Suddenly we heard shooting, apparently by the Allies who were attacking the train. Some people on the train were hit.”*

With these words, Moshe Zanbar, Chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, described the “death ride” on the train that left the Bavarian camps of

Dachau-Muehldorf-Mettenheim in April 1945, as the Germans fled the Allied forces. The journey ultimately ended in Seeshaupt, where the prisoners were liberated.

Left to right: Moshe Zanbar; MK Prof. Avishai Braverman, whose family hailed from Lithuania; and Uri Hanoch, Chairman of the Organization for Perpetuating the Memory of the Victims of the Landsberg-Kaufering-Dachau Concentration Camps, during the annual gathering on 30 October, in which a wreath was placed at the foot of the monument commemorating the death ride from Dachau. Some 150 members of the organization and members of the next generations also participated in the event.



73 Years Since Kristallnacht



■ *“My father and I [aged five] walked down the streets filled with broken glass. Beaten Jews wandered the streets. Stores were looted. In the marketplace, Jews were forced onto their knees to clean up the mess... We continued on towards the synagogue. Torah scrolls had been torn, some were burned, and prayer books were strewn across the filthy floor. The ark was wide open; all the chairs were overturned... The devastation was awful. My father and I tried to gather some of the books, but suddenly a group of German and Austrian soldiers appeared. We barely had time to pick up two staves that had supported a Torah scroll before we fled... Those two staves – called “trees of life” in Hebrew – have stayed with our family since 1938. When our children,*

grandchildren and great-grandchildren touch them, the Holocaust becomes concrete; it’s not abstract, not just a story.”

With great emotion, Holocaust survivor Mordechai Sela (pictured) described the events of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom during the commemoration service held at Yad Vashem on 9 November 2011, commemorating Austrian Jewry and marking 73 years since the pogrom. Gideon Eckhaus, Chairman of the Central Association of Austrian Jews in Israel, and dozens of Austrian Holocaust survivors also participated in the service.

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

testimony: the children’s village in Deszk restored a lost childhood to the survivors, and rebuilt their Jewish and human identities. “The formal and informal educational activities gave the children back the games, songs, dances and childhood experiences that had been stolen from them,” said Tor. “Their lives were given new meaning, as well as a possible future in *Eretz Israel*.”

Every year, Yad Vashem’s Oral History Section conducts interviews with some 1,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel, often filming in their own homes.

To coordinate a session, tel: 02-644-3752/3; e-mail: testimonies@yadvashem.org.il



New on the Net

Dana Porath

Facebook: "I Honor Wall" Virtual Event

■ **Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, Yad Vashem will hold an online event on its Facebook page automatically linking the participant's profile to the name and story of a Righteous Among the Nations.** The "I Honor Wall" was created as 2012 begins 50 years of recognition of Righteous Among the Nations, and provides a meaningful way for people to connect online to a specific individual, learn their story and be part of an international commemorative effort.

New Online Exhibition: The Community of Płonsk

■ **Płonsk shone in four areas: it was the city of the "enlightenment;" of Hovevei Zion and later the Zionists; most of the Jewish residents spoke Hebrew; and it was the cradle of Jewish emigration from Poland and Russia in the First and Second Aliyah... my father's house was the center of these four revelations that unified Płonsk.**

David Ben Gurion (born David Grin, in Płonsk)

On 5 September, the Germans conquered Płonsk, a city situated on the Płonka River



some 60 km. northwest of Warsaw. The city was home to some 5,000 Jews – tradesmen and Torah scholars, Hassidim, Mitnagdim and Zionists – about half of the total population. On 16 December 1942, the last of the Jews of Płonsk were sent to Auschwitz. Only a few dozen survived the *Shoah*.

One of the special features of this new online exhibition is a specially created short video entitled "Behind the Scenes: Płonsk – Identifying a Town." Efrat Komisar, Head of the Footage Section of the Yad Vashem Archives, demonstrates how careful research led to the correct identification of Płonsk as the town in a 1940 film made by photographer Horst Loerzer (see *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, Vol. 39 for the full article). As a result, the film itself now provides important visual testimony on the life of the Jews in Płonsk at the time of the Nazi occupation.

WebiAward 2011 for Yad Vashem Website



■ **The Yad Vashem website has once more been awarded the *People and Computers Magazine's* Special Category WebiAward.** The judges praised the website for its "vast amount of content, organized in an exemplary manner. It is an outstanding example of websites in Israel, serving visitors from many dozens of countries around the world."

The author is Director of the Internet Department.



■ *WebiAward Chairman Ido Levy presents a certificate to Director of the Yad Vashem Internet Department Dana Porath.*

"Refugee Voices" Collection Deposited at Yad Vashem

■ **A collection of 150 interviews with former refugees and survivors from Nazi-occupied Europe who rebuilt their lives in Britain after WWII has been recently deposited in the Yad Vashem Archives.** Commissioned in 2003 by the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), the interviews comprise testimonies (in English) of refugees from Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. As the majority of interviewees were born in Berlin and Vienna, many discuss their experiences as "kindertransportees." Other common topics incorporate their internment on the Isle of Man and their employment as domestic servants. The collection also explores the contribution to the UK made by the refugees.

Each interview is accompanied by photos of family members and friends, places of importance for the interviewee, and other items

or documents of special significance in his or her life. All the interviews have been fully transcribed and time-coded to enable users to pinpoint the precise part of the testimony they wish to access. The interviews are searchable through a catalogue that contains dozens of separate categories of information, including personal details (place of birth, parents' details, manner of emigration, prisons/camps, profession, etc.), places of residence and occupation, and information on the survivors' postwar lives.

This project is part of Yad Vashem's ongoing efforts to collect all the testimonies of *Shoah* survivors – whether gathered at Yad Vashem or anywhere else in the world. The Yad Vashem Archives currently contain some 110,000 survivor testimonies, accessible to the general public in the Archives and Library building, as well as at the Visual Center.

Bauer Private Collection Donated to Yad Vashem

■ **Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer has recently donated his private collection of documents to the Yad Vashem Archives.** Gathered over his career as a Holocaust researcher and academic, the collection comprises important papers, letters, newspaper clippings and academic articles on a wide range of subjects, including: Jewish life in Europe before and after the *Shoah*; the *yishuv* in Eretz Israel; the activities and postwar trials of war criminals; and the efforts of the Allied forces and Jews in the free countries to save Jewish lives in Europe. The collection also includes documents and articles that relate to different events in Europe and Israel after the war. Prof. Bauer's collection will be stored as an independent archival unit, and steps will be taken to preserve the documentation in optimal conditions. A detailed listing of the collection will also be carried out to allow pinpoint access by researchers and members of the public.

RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During October–December 2011, Yad Vashem conducted over 450 guided tours for more than 2,600 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government and ambassadors, military leaders, mayors, governors, lawyers, actors and economists. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these three months:

■ **Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 1 December. The President toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children’s Memorial. At the conclusion of his visit, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau (right) presented the President with a Russian-language copy of *To Bear Witness: Holocaust Remembrance at Yad Vashem*.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem on 21 November, **Palau President Johnson Toribiong** (left) and **Vanuatu President Iolu Abil** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 3 October, **United States Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta** visited Yad Vashem and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Prime Minister of Kenya Raila Amolo Odinga** visited Yad Vashem on 13 November.



■ On 12 December, actors **Shaun Sipos** (“Melrose Place”), **Justin Chatwin** (“Shameless”), **Mary Lynn Rajskub** (“24”) and **Austin Nichols** (“One Tree Hill”) toured Yad Vashem during a visit organized by Rabbi Irwin Katsoff’s “America’s Voices in Israel.” The group was guided by Liz Elsby of the International School for Holocaust Studies (second from right).



■ **President of South Sudan Salva Kiir** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 20 December, accompanied by four government ministers. He toured the Holocaust History Museum and Hall of Names, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, and visited the Children’s Memorial.



■ **Prime Minister of Romania Emil Boc** was accompanied by eight government ministers during his tour of Yad Vashem on 24 November.



■ **Foreign Minister of San Marino Antonella Mularoni** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 11 October.



Friends Worldwide

USA

■ The American Society for Yad Vashem held its 30th Anniversary Tribute Dinner on 20 November 2011 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. In keeping with the theme of this year's dinner, "Preserving the Past – Guarding the Future: 30 Years of Achievement," the Society recognized 30 Pioneers – motivated survivors who initiated commemoration efforts in their own homes – and 30 Visionaries, who carry on the tradition of supporting Yad Vashem and ensuring its future of education, commemoration and remembrance.

After saluting the Pioneers and Visionaries, American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski** highlighted the commitment of the Society's third generation, whose involvement was clearly visible by their significant presence at the event.

The guest speaker was Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, who spoke about the importance of remembering the individuals killed in the Holocaust, such as a young girl murdered in Babi Yar whose photo he carries with him.

At the dinner, **Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson** announced a \$25 million donation to Yad Vashem, continuing the strategic partnership that began in 2006 with a previous \$25 million gift. The combination of the Adelsons' two contributions makes their gift the largest, by far, ever received by Yad Vashem from a private donor.



■ *Dr. Miriam Adelson, Eli Zborowski, Sheldon G. Adelson, Avner Shalev*



■ *Young Leadership Associates Chair Jeremy Halpern, American Society National Vice Chairman Sam Halpern, Eli Zborowski, American Society Cultural Director Elizabeth Zborowski*



■ *Avner Shalev, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Former Polish Prime Minister Senator Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Eli Zborowski*

■ Yad Vashem donors **Barbara and David Blumenthal** visited the International School for Holocaust Studies where they viewed artwork created by students with special needs who attend seminars at the School, a project they generously support.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Fanya Gottesfeld Heller** (center) toured Yad Vashem during Sukkot together with her grandchildren **Sarah Warren** and **Joseph Warren**.



■ Yad Vashem Guardian **Rudolph Tessler**, who endowed *Years Wherein We Have Seen Evil*, a Holocaust education curriculum published by Yad Vashem for the ultra-Orthodox community, toured the Holocaust History Museum together with his family.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem, **Jay Schottenstein** led prayer services in the Synagogue, which features salvaged Torah Arks from Romania.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Phyllis and William Mack** (fourth and third from right) visited Yad Vashem together with family members **Christine, Richard, Harrison and Dylan Mack** (left) and **Kelly and Stephen Mack** (right).



■ Yad Vashem Guardian **Rochelle Etingin** and her sister toured the "Virtues of Memory" exhibition during their recent visit to the Mount of Remembrance.



■ Yad Vashem Builders **Linda** and **Murray Laulicht** (center) toured the exhibition “With Me Here are Six Million Accusers: The Eichmann Trial” together with their friends **Marilyn** and **Al Pollans**.



CANADA

■ On 27 September 2011, the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** hosted an informative lecture for local media correspondents with visiting **Prof. Dan Michman**, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies. Left to right: Canadian Society’s Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, freelance columnist for the *Toronto Sun* **David Menzies**, CTS Television correspondent **Christine Williams**, Prof. Dan Michman, Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**



■ On 3 November, the Canadian Society launched its “Our Future Our Responsibility Series,” providing young professionals opportunities to meet with outstanding business, legal, and community leaders whose lives and careers have been shaped by the Holocaust. Pictured: **Ed Sonshine**, CEO and President of RioCan REIT (at the head of the table); Fran Sonshine (to Mr. Sonshine’s right)



■ The Canadian Society held a moving *Yizkor* ceremony on 2 October at Earl Bales Park in Toronto to commemorate Canadians who perished in the Holocaust. The ceremony was well attended by dignitaries, Holocaust survivors, and the public. Lighting a candle on the Yad Vashem menorah, from left to right: Yad Vashem Donors **Saul** and **Toby Feldberg**, Minister of the Environment MP **Peter Kent**



UK

■ The Hon. **Laura Wolfson Townsley**, Chairman of the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, visited Yad Vashem, accompanied by her husband **Barry Townsley** (second from right), son and daughter-in-law **Charles** and **Joanna**, and trustee **Sir Ian Gainsford** (right). During their visit, Laura and Barry visited the “Virtues of Memory” and Eichmann Trial exhibitions, guided by Senior Art Curator **Yehudit Shendar**. The visit was concluded by a meeting with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**.



■ **Michael Gee** (center), Director of the Archie Sherman Charitable Trust, visited Yad Vashem together with his wife **Jackie** (right). During the visit, they met with Avner Shalev and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies **Dorit Novak** (left), and were guided through the “Virtues of Memory” exhibition by **Yehudit Shendar**.



■ **Simon Bentley**, the incoming chairman of the **British Friends of Yad Vashem**, is an entrepreneur with considerable experience in retail and brands. In the midst of a hectic commercial life, he devotes an enormous amount of time to charitable and worthy causes. Mr. Bentley is Chairman of the Leadership Trust, the UK’s largest leadership in management organization; Co-chairman of the Ben Uri Gallery, the London Jewish Museum of Art; Deputy Chairman of Kisharon; and Chairman of the Jewish Memorial Council.



■ **Scott Saunders** (right), Yad Vashem Donor and trustee of the **British Friends of Yad Vashem**, visited the Holocaust History Museum, Children’s Memorial and “Virtues of Memory” exhibition together with his parents.



SPAIN

■ Director of Sefarad-Israel **Álvaro Albacete** (center) visited Yad Vashem and was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Hall of Names **Alexander Avraham** (right).



Friends Worldwide

DIASPORA AFFAIRS

■ On 14 December 2011, an event was held at Yad Vashem paying tribute to the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, in recognition of the Fund's generous support of various Yad Vashem projects since 2005. Following a guided tour of the Eichmann Trial exhibition and a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, the guests attended the unveiling of a donor's plaque, and then participated in the main ceremony in the Lecture Hall of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Left to right: Secretary General of the National Fund **Hannah Lessing**, Deputy Secretary General of the National Fund **Dr. Renate Meissner**, National Fund Project Manager **Evelina Merhaut**, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**



GERMANY

■ In November, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell" opened in the Concert Hall in Frankfurt an der Oder. The exhibition displays paintings and sketches by Jewish liberator **Zinovii Tolkatchev** depicting the Majdanek and Auschwitz concentration camps.



Left to right: **Arik Rav-On**, Director for Switzerland and the German-speaking Countries, **Mark Perelman**, former Chairman of the Jewish community in Frankfurt

AUSTRALIA

■ During their short visit, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Frank** and **Shirley Lowy** (left) were guided by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (center) and met with Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies, **Dorit Novak**.



■ Yad Vashem Donor **Greg Rosshandler** (center) visited the Mount of Remembrance on 8 September, during which he toured the Eichmann Trial and "Virtues of Memory" exhibitions, and met with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and Director of the English Language Desk **Searle Brajtman** (left).



■ **Jack** and **Val Smorgon** led a group of 18 other members of the Athenaeum Club in Melbourne on their first visit to Israel.



VENEZUELA

■ During her visit to Yad Vashem, **Perla Sultan** toured the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.



■ President of the **Venezuelan Association for Yad Vashem David Yisrael** visited Yad Vashem on 5 October.



MEXICO

■ **Sara Medrez** (center) visited Yad Vashem and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 1 November, **Liliana** and **Jacobo Sigal** visited Yad Vashem.



PANAMA

■ **Jack Harari** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem together with his brother **David** (right) and their wives, and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ During the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration organized every Sukkot by ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem), thousands of Christians from all over the world visited Yad Vashem as guests of the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem**. Many of the groups focused on the legacy of the Righteous Among the Nations, becoming guardians of the trees planted in honor of the Righteous. Pictured: A group from Bolivia led by National Director **Alberto Magno** (at the back holding the guardianship certificate) in front of their “adopted” tree, planted in honor of Italian

priest and Righteous Among the Nations **Don Arrigo Beccari**. The group was accompanied by Christian Friends Director **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (center, front row).



■ In October 2011, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** visited Canada as a guest of ICEJ Canada and as part of the national Holocaust Educational Week. Dr. Kokkonen spoke at Yad Vashem events in Halifax, Moncton, Peterborough and Toronto. Left to right at St. Paul's-on-the-Hill Anglican Church: **Rev. Canon Kim Beard**, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, ICEJ Canada National Director **Donna Holbrook**



■ In November 2011, Calvary Temple International Assembly in New Jersey held a special *Kristallnacht* commemoration to benefit Yad Vashem. The church, affiliated with Eagles' Wings Ministry, considers Holocaust commemoration an important part of its activities, and hosted this event for the second time. Left to right: **Don** and **Joanne Hartensveld** from the Eagles' Wings, Worship leader **Kimberly Keinath**, **Ortal Bensky**, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, Senior Pastor **Rev. Dr. Thomas Keinath**, youth leaders **Rev. Devon Ritchey** and **Ashley Ritchey**



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

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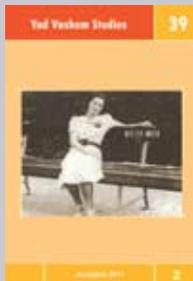
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International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

Yad Vashem Studies, Vol. 39[2]

Editor: David Silberklang

~~NIS 80~~ NIS 60



■ From small forced-labor camps and local Germans to Dutch Nazis and nationalists, from East European collaborators to visions of “Greater Germany” and the death marches near the end of the war, the motivations of the perpetrators and their partners during WWII were many and complex. The research and review articles in *Yad Vashem Studies* (39:2) address questions of motivations and reactions of the various types of actors in the *Shoah*. Scholars

from eight countries provide a wide variety of answers and insights to questions of participation, reactions and remembrance, including postwar relations between non-Jewish rescuers and their erstwhile charges, and heretofore-unknown German Jewish responses to the Nazi regime’s policies from a fresh and surprising perspective.

Uri Orlev, Poèmes Écrits à Bergen-Belsen en 1944: En sa Trezième Année

In association with Editions de l'éclat

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■ Since he arrived in Israel more than 60 years ago, Jerzy Henryk Orłowski has preserved a small pocket notebook with a red cover. In the notebook he recopied the 15 poems he composed at age 13 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. These poems are evidence of the vitality of a child confronted by barbarism, and the unique place of poetry in the author’s internal dialogue. The young poet became Uri Orlev, author of children’s books translated into numerous languages for readers around the

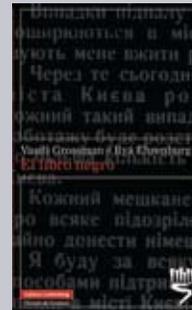
world. The author hopes to make public the faltering steps of a writer, dedicating his entire literary output as an adult to the generation of children who knew the *Shoah*, both those who survived and those who did not.

Vasili Grossman and Ilyá Ehrenburg, *El libro negro*

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■ The German invasion of the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 was the beginning of one of the most chilling episodes of WWII. By the end of 1942, 1.4 million Jews had been killed by the *Einsatzgruppen* that followed the German army eastward; by the end of the war, nearly two million Jews had been murdered in the Soviet Union. This collection of eyewitness testimonies, letters, diaries, affidavits and other documents on the activities of the Nazis against Jews in the camps, ghettos and towns of Eastern Europe, compiled by two

renowned Russian authors, is the most important text documenting that slaughter. This definitive edition of *The Black Book*, including materials omitted from previous editions, is a major addition to the literature on the Holocaust.

Der Holocaust: FAQs – Häufig gestellte Fragen

Editors: Avraham Milgram and Robert Rozett

In association with Wallstein Verlag

German-English Edition

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Stay Connected



■ In addition to its Facebook, YouTube and Blog pages, Yad Vashem recently began using Twitter as a further way to communicate with and engage the public. Tweets are sent out almost daily on a wide range of topics, promoting Yad Vashem’s activities and events as well as tweets linking to relevant historical content on the website such as “On This Day.” Twitter allows Yad Vashem to share messages, encourage interest and help the public stay connected. **Follow us at @yadvashem**