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My Brother's Keeper Jewish Solidarity during the Holocaust

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2012

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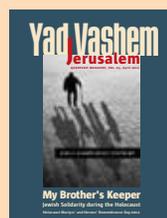
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On the cover:

The official poster marking
Holocaust Martyrs' and
Heroes' Remembrance Day
2012, designed by Doriel
Rimmer Halperin (see p. 9)

My Brother Jewish Solid

The Central Theme for Ho

■ "Micky and Stachek didn't let go of each other during the entire death march. Both were young, but long-time inmates. Both were thoroughly experienced with all sorts of 'normal' situations in the camps. They knew all the usual and not-so-usual techniques for avoiding dangerous tasks. Their friendship was steadfast to the point where it never occurred to either one of them to enjoy an advantage the other one didn't, even if the other one wasn't even there. More than once, a piece of bread rustled up by one of them during the day would wait until evening, when both of them could share it in the darkness of the shack."

Gedalia Ben Zvi, *The Odyssey of the Absurd*

During the Holocaust it would have been only human – natural, in fact – to care only for one's own survival, without taking anyone else into account. Surrounded by a hostile, murderous society, the struggle for life led people to respond in radically different ways to the unprecedented situations in which they suddenly found themselves. As some veteran concentration camp inmates would tell young newcomers, "To survive, you have to be merciless."

However, documents and testimonies from the *Shoah* indicate that within this impossible reality into which Jews were thrust, mutual help and a commitment to the other were actually quite common, and were manifested in varied and surprising ways: members of larger communities taking in refugees from smaller ones; youth movement members who opened communal kitchens and fed the hungry; educators who clandestinely taught children

The individual had little chance of survival without the sense of togetherness, and this Jewish unity is what gave people strength and helped them endure another day

er's Keeper arity during the Holocaust

ocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2012



■ Public kitchen for some 470 children in the Warsaw ghetto, run by Centos, an aid organization for orphans and children. (Yad Vashem Photo Archive)

and youth both secular and Jewish teachings; partisans who opened their bases to women and the elderly and protected them; former townspeople who shared the little they managed to get their hands on in the camps; people who collected and distributed food, clothing and religious articles in the ghettos; families who adopted orphaned children. All of these examples indicate that the individual had little chance of survival without the sense of togetherness, and that this Jewish unity – such as the exhausted concentration camp inmate who was held up by two strangers on either side during a *selektion* – is what gave people strength and helped them endure another day.

“Like a ghost in some sort of séance, David was there to greet me as I arrived [at Birkenau]. As in the ghetto, he had the ability and the means to make life easier for himself and the people around him. Here, he worked in the ‘sauna,’ a job that gave him a position of power. Very quickly he arranged for me to work in the clothing division. At first glance, he did something rather simple for me: he bribed a kapo. But in fact he was taking a great risk, though such risks were a routine part of life in the camp. I viewed this as the continuation of our old friendship and as part of the commitment to Plonsk solidarity.”

Chaya Kroin, *Take Me with You!*

The help one person extended to another at times created profound moral problems, often demanding self-sacrifice sometimes even harming the helper. Thus, the discussion of Jewish solidarity during the Holocaust raises questions about the power and influence of Jewish and universal human values, and how they were later tested to the extreme. It also emphasizes the strength of the independent personality, and how one lone human being can rise above his or her own concerns even in the face of a society in which the norm is to behave in the exact opposite way.

Torchlighters 2012

Compiled by Ehud Amir

Bat-Sheva Dagan

■ **Bat-Sheva Dagan was born in 1925 to a traditional Zionist family living in Lodz, Poland.** Her father, Szlomo-Fizel Rubinsztajn, owned a weaving workshop, and her mother, Fajga, was a seamstress. Bat-Sheva had five brothers and three sisters. One of her brothers, Cwi (Zvi), immigrated to *Eretz Israel* before the war.

When war broke out, Bat-Sheva's four other brothers and her eldest sister fled to the USSR. The other family members moved to Radom, settling in the area that became known as the "Great Ghetto" in April 1941. There was also a "small ghetto"; Jews were prohibited to leave either of them. Bat-Sheva joined a youth study group that met secretly.

Using "Aryan" documents, Bat-Sheva was sent to the Warsaw ghetto by Shmuel Breslaw, a Hashomer Hatzair instructor. She brought the underground newspaper *Against the Flow* back to Radom.

In August 1942, Bat-Sheva and her youngest sister, Sabina, were transferred to the small

ghetto. Their parents and older sister were sent to Treblinka, where they were murdered. Bat-Sheva and Sabina decided to flee to Germany – separately, in order not to arouse suspicion – but Sabina was shot and killed while trying to leave the ghetto. Arriving in the city of Schwerin, Bat-Sheva used false documents to work as a maid for a Nazi family. When her ruse was discovered, she was arrested and moved from one prison to another.

In May 1943, Bat-Sheva was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and put to forced labor in the hospital – emptying latrine buckets and determining the death of patients by measuring their temperature with the touch of her hand – and at the "Canada" commando sorting the clothes of victims. In January 1945, she was



sent on a death march to Ravensbrück and Malchow.

On 2 May 1945, Bat-Sheva was liberated by the Allies, and went to Belgium. In Brussels, she met her future husband, a soldier in the British Army, who gave her a visa to *Eretz Israel*, where she went to live with her brother, Cwi.

In 1958, her husband passed away. Bat-Sheva raised their two sons, completed her academic studies and worked in preschool education. She also traveled abroad as a Jewish Agency emissary.

Bat-Sheva is a pioneer in the field of Holocaust education for young children. She has written children's books, as well as a book of documentary poetry for adolescents and adults, which describes her experiences during the Holocaust. Bat-Sheva tells her life story to IDF soldiers and schools in Israel and abroad.

Bat-Sheva has two sons, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Anatoly Rubin

■ **Anatoly Yitzchak Rubin was born in 1928 in Minsk, Belarus, the youngest of four children in a traditional family.** His father, Pinchas, worked at an organization supporting orphans.

After the German invasion, Anatoly, his mother, Ethel, and his sisters, Tamar and Betty, were imprisoned in the Minsk ghetto. Pinchas had been killed searching for his family en route to Moscow. Anatoly's eldest brother, Chaim, had joined the Red Army.

Tamar worked outside the ghetto and managed to bring back snippets of food and news. During an *aktion* in November 1941, the family was rounded up. Tamar and Anatoly managed to sneak out from the rows of people marching towards the mass graves. Tamar joined the partisans, but was informed upon and killed by the Germans. Ethel and Betty were murdered at Tuchinka. Anatoly returned

to the ghetto and sustained himself on scraps of food left over from the Germans.

In March 1942, Anatoly escaped once more from the death pits. He made his way to the village of Dobrushino using some Russian papers his father's friend had given him. Chancing upon partisans, he asked if he could join them, but instead encountered rampant antisemitism and was nearly killed. In 1944, after the Red Army liberated the area, Anatoly returned to Minsk, only to learn that out of his entire family, only one aunt and her four children had survived the war.

Anatoly trained to be an electrician. In 1946, during the Stalinist persecution of Jews, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in Siberia. He was released 18 months later and returned to Minsk, where raging antisemitism strengthened his interest in the State of Israel. He met an Israeli delegation in Moscow, and

established contact with Israeli diplomats.

In 1958, Anatoly was falsely accused of conspiring to assassinate Khrushchev and of spreading "anti-Soviet propaganda." At his trial, he delivered a defiant speech declaring his dream to go to Israel. He was sentenced to six years in prison with forced labor, which he served in Mordovia. After his release, he continued to receive and distribute books and records about Israel. He finally immigrated to Israel in 1969.

In Israel, Anatoly taught Physical Education and took an active part in the struggle for Soviet Jewry. He met and married Karni; the couple has two children and three grandchildren.



One of the first soup kitchens in the ghetto was established at the Widawski home, thanks to the property they had the foresight to take with them

Eliezer Lev-Zion

■ **Eliezer Lev-Zion was born in 1927 in Berlin, Germany, as Oskar-Eliezer Lewinsohn.** His father, Nathan, was a journalist, and his mother, Francheska, a doctor who managed a Jewish orphanage. A month after the Nazis came to power, Oskar's father was arrested and disappeared. Heavily pregnant, Francheska fled to France together with Eliezer, settling in Lyon. A month later, Eliezer's brother Marcel Gideon was born.

In the winter of 1939/1940, the three family members were taken to a detention camp in Ardèche. Eliezer was released four months later, and that summer joined a Jewish religious scouts group, which instilled in him a love of Zionism and agriculture.

In November 1942, the Germans occupied southern France, and Eliezer was arrested for holding counterfeit identification documents. After his release, he joined the Jewish underground. He was sent by Father Alexandre Glasberg, head of a refugee organization, to

smuggle children out of a French detention camp. Eliezer would meet up with Father Glasberg, who handed children to him over the barbed wire, and then take them on his bicycle to a hiding place. In this way, he helped save 36 children. Father Glasberg was later honored as Righteous Among the Nations.

For three and a half years, Eliezer wandered from place to place. Traveling to a town near Montauban, he registered with the city council as an Alsatian, and started working in carpentry. Soon, he was recruited as a translator by the SS. He transferred the information he obtained to the French Resistance.

In February 1944, Eliezer met his mother and brother in Grenoble – but the Gestapo stormed their meeting place and seized



Francheska and Marcel. Eliezer managed to escape but his brother and mother were deported and murdered in Auschwitz.

After liberation, Eliezer returned to Lyon in search of relatives, but found none. He went to Paris, where he worked locating Jewish orphans and preparing them for aliyah.

In 1946, Eliezer sailed for *Eretz Israel*. After fighting in the War of Independence, he established a farm. He has also worked as an agriculture instructor, acclimatizing plants, and managed greenhouses and forest-planting projects of the Jewish National Fund. Eliezer participates in many volunteer initiatives, including the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and assisting people with mental disorders. He also established an organization that helps new immigrants.

Eliezer has three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Yehuda Widawski

■ **Yehuda Widawski was born in 1919 in Turek, Poland, the second of four children in a traditional Zionist family.** In 1933, the family moved to Lodz, and Yehuda became an active member of the Hashmonaim youth organization. By 1936, Yehuda was managing a textile business, employing 38 Jewish seamstresses who sewed shirts and underwear for the army; their products were marketed throughout Poland.

In September 1939, Lodz was occupied by the Germans. Yehuda's family managed to buy an apartment in the district to be transformed into the Lodz ghetto. The apartment was shared by 15 family members, and Yehuda was able to smuggle into it a large amount of property from his former home and factory.

In April 1940, Jews were prohibited from leaving the ghetto. The Widawskis continued to work in textiles, both from home and at a factory. One of the first soup kitchens in the

ghetto was established at their home; thanks to the property they had the foresight to take with them, the Widawskis were able to help their friends and acquaintances.

In August 1944, the ghetto was liquidated and the Widawskis were deported to Auschwitz. Yehuda's parents, Abraham and Leah, and his eldest brother, Gabriel, were murdered immediately. Eight days later, Yehuda and his younger brother, Jehoszua, were transferred to the Friedland work camp, where they made airplane wings. Yehuda's cousin was sent to the same camp; from time to time, Yehuda managed to give him some bread. Before he died, he gave Yehuda his shoes.

On 8 May 1945, the Germans abandoned the camp, locking in the inmates. The following day, the camp was liberated by the Red Army. Yehuda and Jehoszua returned to Lodz, only to find their apartment inhabited by Poles. Hearing that their sister had died during the

liquidation of Stutthof, Yehuda and his brother realized that, together with their uncle, they were the only members of their family to survive. Yehuda set up a new textile factory and married Lea Dobrysz, z"l. The couple had a son, and Yehuda assisted the Irgun in smuggling weapons to Israel.

In 1950, Yehuda immigrated to Israel, where he founded and ran various commercial enterprises.

In 1978, Yehuda traveled to Lodz and, together with a friend, set about restoring the Jewish cemetery. So far, 7,000 graves have been renovated.

Yehuda has a son and a daughter, four grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.



Torchlighters 2012



Chasia Vardi

■ **Chasia Vardi was born in 1932 in Stoczek Wegrowski, Poland, the only daughter of Yaakov and Rivka.** When war broke out, Chasia, her parents and a dozen other relatives moved in with her grandmother, Chaya. Banned from attending school, the Jewish children continued to learn in small groups with teachers who had fled Warsaw.

In April 1942, Yaakov left for work, and was apparently killed a short time later at Treblinka. In September 1942, all of the town's Jews were rounded up to be deported. Chasia hid in a bunker, and later fled with a group of women and children, including her mother and grandmother. During the day, Chasia begged for food in nearby villages, and at night she slept in the forest. Chaya taught Chasia to knit, and she exchanged her products for food. From time to time, Chaya also went into the villages to collect food from old acquaintances.

In November 1942, the Germans captured 11 people from Chasia's group, including Chasia, her mother, and her cousins, Moshe and Srulik. They were taken to a ditch along

the road just outside Mrozowa Wola, ordered to sit down, and shot. Miraculously, Chasia survived. Chaya, who had been out collecting food when Chasia was captured, found her and took her to the nearby Kosów ghetto. There Chaya died in Chasia's arms.

When the ghetto was liquidated, Chasia hid in an attic. She then fled to the home of the Radzynimski family in Stoczek. Leokadia Radzynimski helped Chasia, but her husband chased her away. She joined a group of Jews hiding in a bunker in the forest. Leokadia Radzynimski's son Mieczyslaw (Mietek) brought them food and information until the Red Army arrived. In 1990, Yad Vashem honored Mietek and Leokadia Radzynimski as Righteous Among the Nations.

After liberation, Chasia returned to Stoczek, but met such rampant antisemitism that she moved to Lodz. After staying with a foster family, she was transferred to an orphanage, where an active Zionist movement helped her cross the border into Czechoslovakia and then to Germany. In April 1946, Chasia immigrated

to *Eretz Israel* legally.

Chasia joined Kibbutz Gan Shemuel as part of a youth group, which was trained under the auspices of the Palmach. She then took part in the establishment of Kibbutz Nir Yitzchak. Following the War of Independence, she moved to Afula, where she worked at Bank Hapoalim.

Chasia travels to Poland with youth delegations and meets with students at Israeli schools. With the assistance of Zbyszek (Zbigniew) Nizinsky, a Polish activist who commemorates the Holocaust by erecting monuments throughout Poland, Chasia has been working to establish a memorial for the Jews who were murdered in the ditch outside Mrozowa Wola, and another upon their grave in the nearby forest.

Chasia married Mordechai Vardi, z"l. She has four children and four grandchildren.



Artemis Miron

■ **Artemis Miron, daughter of Eftihia and Iosiph-Pepo Batis, was born in 1928 in Ioannina (Janina), Greece.** Her brother, Solomon-Makis, was six years younger than her.

In the summer of 1943, the Germans entered Greece. One night in August 1943, SS men stormed the Batis' house, robbed their money and arrested Iosiph. He and Artemis' grandfather were shot to death two weeks later, as an act of vengeance for the activities of the Greek resistance movement.

On 25 March 1944, the city's Jews were deported to Larissa. After eight days of detention, they boarded an overcrowded cattle train. For the next eight days they were not given any food. The train stopped three times; long enough to empty out the latrine buckets, refill the water containers, and move the bodies of those who had died en route to the car carrying corpses.

On 11 April, Artemis, Solomon and Eftihia

arrived at Auschwitz. Because of a fur coat her mother had given her, Artemis looked older than her age and was ordered to join the rows of young women selected for forced labor. That was the last time she saw her mother and brother.

Artemis was put to work outdoors, in all weathers. Her feelings swung between despair and optimism: she almost lost her will to live, but nurtured a shred of hope that she may one day find her father amongst the living.

In January 1945, Artemis was sent on a death march to Ravensbrück, and later to Malchow, where she was put to work at a military factory. In early May 1945, the Allies liberated Malchow, and Artemis returned to Greece, assisted by the JDC. Upon arriving in



Athens, she learned that her father had been killed by the Germans before her deportation to Auschwitz. Artemis was taken in by her paternal uncle, and completed her high-school studies.

In 1946, Artemis sailed for *Eretz Israel*. After detention at Atlit, she went to live with her maternal uncle in Jerusalem. She worked in a number of managerial jobs and guided tours in Hebrew and Greek until her retirement.

Artemis volunteers at Yad Vashem translating testimonies from Greek to Hebrew, and tells her life story to students, IDF soldiers and at community centers. She has completed 1,838 Pages of Testimony in memory of the Jews of Ioannina murdered during the Holocaust.

Artemis and her husband Joseph have three children, ten grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Committed to Memory

Germany to Support Yad Vashem's Activities for the Next Decade

Yifat Bachrach-Ron



■ Left to right: Chairperson of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany Hildegard Müller, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Israeli Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev at the signing of the funding agreement between the German and Israeli governments

■ **At the beginning of February, an historic agreement was signed between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Israel, whereby Germany will support Yad Vashem activities to the sum of one million Euro annually, from 2012-2021.** The agreement signifies the German government's wish to help facilitate Yad Vashem's Holocaust commemoration activities in the gathering of archival documentation, as well as research, education and digitization efforts in Israel and worldwide.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle and Israeli Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar signed the agreement in the presence of Hildegard Müller, Chairperson of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany, and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev.

At the signing, Shalev thanked the German Foreign Minister as well as the German Chancellor,

Angela Merkel, for supporting Yad Vashem's vital work: "This momentous agreement represents a crucial development in Yad Vashem's complex relationship with the government and people of Germany," said Shalev. "It culminates a long period of joint exploration for an appropriate context to reflect Germany's realization and acceptance of its unending imperative to continue to deal with the memory and meanings of the Holocaust."

The funding will support the systematic location and acquisition of documents from the Holocaust at archives across the globe, as well as cataloging them and making them accessible to the greater public on the Internet; and the enhancement of activities at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem.

"The Agreement will help usher in an era of

augmented documentation of and accessibility to vital Holocaust-related materials across Europe," explained Shalev. "Additionally, the new funding will help expand Holocaust education activities for educators and youth all over Europe. Such activities are a crucial, but partial, component of Yad Vashem's remarkably extensive, varied and robust educational scene."

Education Minister Sa'ar added: "This decision articulates the importance that the German government attributes to the boundless, endless and timeless obligation of Holocaust remembrance."

Minister Westerwelle concluded: "We will never forget the dark chapter in our history, and we are aware of our responsibility. This agreement demonstrates to our friends in Israel that not only the German government, but also the German people have a duty towards the State of Israel."

Opening of the School's New International Seminars Wing



■ Donors of the new International Seminars Wing

■ On 30 January 2012, Yad Vashem opened its new 45,000 square foot International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies. The wing incorporates eleven new classrooms, a videoconference suite, conference rooms and auxiliary facilities, as well as a 330-seat lecture hall. The building of the new wing was supported by the Government of Israel, key benefactor Joseph Gottdenker of Canada and Friends of Yad Vashem worldwide, and the new Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall was donated by the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation.

The International School holds seminars each year for educators from dozens of countries around the world, and has developed country-specific and custom-made tools for different age groups in more than 20 languages. The need for an extension to the School became apparent as the number of requests it received for lectures, as well as the interest in its events, grew beyond expectation in recent years.

"I believe that the future of Holocaust



■ Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar and Avner Shalev at the ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the new wing

remembrance lies in education," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "As we enter the second decade of the 21st century and encounter the fourth generation after the *Shoah*, a double challenge stands before us: to imbue Holocaust studies with relevance in the lives and values of young people, and to deal with the gathering currents of new interpretations of the Holocaust worldwide... This functional, attractive and inspiring building is a

fitting home for our systematic and expanding educational efforts towards these ends."

Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar cut the ribbon to the new wing along with Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, and Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird. Baird remarked that the new wing "will play a key role in ensuring that humanity does not forget the lessons of genocide."

New at the Virtual School

Jonathan Clapsaddle

■ New e-Newsletter for Educators: Commemoration and Poetry

The March issue of "Teaching the Legacy: e-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators" is the second in the series on commemoration and the arts, and focuses on commemoration and poetry. In keeping with Yad Vashem's annual theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day – Jewish Solidarity during the Holocaust – this issue's main article focuses on Jewish solidarity in Holocaust poetry. It also includes an introduction to the topic detailing the importance of commemoration through poetry and the use of interdisciplinary tools in Holocaust education; a feature on artist and educator Friedl Dicker Brandeis as well as Rabbi Regina Jonas, the first ordained female rabbi; an interview with survivor Esther Golan; and an interview with Dr. Simon Lichman, Director of the Centre for Creativity in Education and Cultural Heritage, Jerusalem, on second-generation poetry.

■ Postcards Design Project 2012

Currently in its fifth year, the project "Signposts: Students Shaping Memory" continues the cooperation between the Neri Bloomfield WIZO Academy of Design and Education and the International School for Holocaust Studies. During 2011, advanced graphic design students from the WIZO Academy designed a series of postcards on themes relating to Holocaust remembrance, which are currently on display at the International School. The accompanying online exhibition is available via the Virtual School homepage, and contains a gallery of all the postcards featuring a new, redesigned interface, as well as additional information on the project.

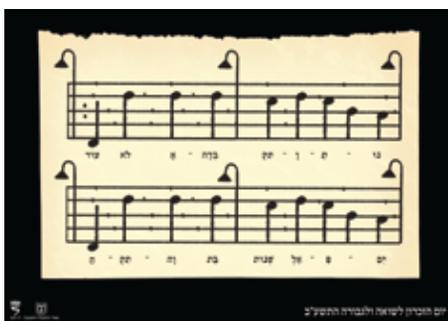
The author heads the English Section of the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Designing Memory: Holocaust Remembrance Day Poster Competition 2012

Daphna Galili

■ The winner of the competition to design the official poster marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 5772/2012 (see cover) is Doriel Rimmer Halperin, a Bezalel Art Academy graduate from the town of Kochav Michael in the south of Israel.

The annual design competition is held in partnership with Israel's Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, and 186 designs were submitted this year. The panel of judges, headed by Israel Prize laureates David Tartakover and Prof. Dan Reisinger, commented: "The poster reflects the reality of the lives of Holocaust survivors and the loneliness of their unsettling memories... The arid urban feeling permeating the image renders it universal – indeed, this scene could occur at different times and in many places. This is a memory that

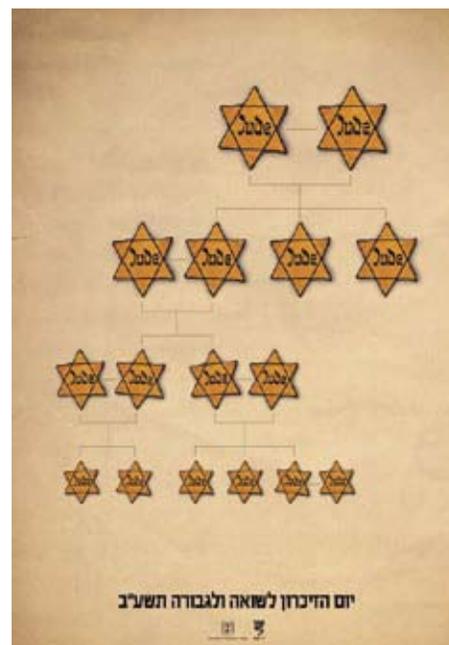


speaks every language of the world."

"Designing the poster presented an emotional challenge to me, especially in view of the unique privilege to pass a direct message to every household in Israel," said Halperin. "I chose to focus on the Holocaust survivor as the symbol, as I see Holocaust survivors in each and every one of us. When I look at my grandparents, both of them Holocaust survivors, I realize that their shadow is also my shadow... Yet around the large shadow cast upon us all by the Holocaust shines lots of light. Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorates the *Shoah*, but it also honors heroism. Every day, Holocaust survivors overcome the dark shadow anew, and heavy darkness is transformed into light.

"The shadow cast upon the road is of the family that perished; a shadow that is always there. Yet it is also the silhouette of the new family the survivors raised – regular families just like the one they had before, who are ever present: always remembering the Holocaust, but also embodying and immortalizing heroism."

In second place was the design (above, right) submitted by Liav Gutstein, Mati Liberman and Dana Budansky, which the judges praised for its "profound and innovative use of well-known symbols to create a tree that represents every Jewish family." Or Reichert was awarded third



place for his design (below, left) that "connected the hope of the *Hatikva* with the reality of the concentration and death camps."

The winning poster will be distributed before Holocaust Remembrance Day to formal and informal educational networks, as well as to IDF bases, the media and Jewish organizations in Israel and abroad.

The author is Head of the Youth Section and Projects in the Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

First-ever Seminar for Educators from Taiwan

■ Present at the opening of the new International Seminars Wing was a group of 34 Christian leaders and educators from Taiwan attending a 10-day seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies. This first-ever seminar for Taiwanese Christian leaders and educators covered a wide range of topics, including the history of the Jewish people; comparative views of modern antisemitism; Jewish communities before the war; Nazi racial ideology; Jewish leadership, cultural and spiritual resistance during the *Shoah*; the representation of the Holocaust in literature; the Righteous Among the Nations; and confronting the phenomenon of Holocaust denial.

Some workshops were aimed at providing the educators with practical guides for teaching the Holocaust in Taiwan, including a discussion about the educational philosophy of the International School; using the Yad Vashem website with its extensive resources, collections and online educational tools; and teaching the Holocaust through art. Participants also had a chance to meet with Holocaust survivor,

educator and researcher on Jewish-Chinese history Prof. Irene Eber, as well as four other Holocaust survivors, who responded with interest to their insightful questions.

The visiting group was organized by Rev. Alex Cho of the Taiwan Holocaust Museum and Education Center, a Yad Vashem International School graduate and active educator in Holocaust studies in Taiwan. Rev. Cho gave a personal lecture about his own association with the Holocaust, and led a discussion regarding

the participants' plans for Holocaust education after they return home.

"I now recognize the profound importance of Holocaust education for this and future generations," said one participant at the end of the seminar. "I never expected such an experience during which we had so many remarkable tours, heard so many first-class lecturers and met such optimistic survivors."

The seminar was sponsored by the Taiwan Holocaust Museum and Education Center and the Adelson Family Foundation.



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:



Glenn Timmermans Macau, China

Leah Goldstein

■ Glenn Timmermans first visited Yad Vashem in January 2006, and two years later attended a seminar for English-speaking educators. Born in the Netherlands, of Anglo-Dutch parentage, Timmermans has been professor of literature in the Department of English at the University of Macau, China for more than a decade. (Macau, an administrative region on a Chinese peninsula, has a population of just 550,000, the vast majority of whom are ethnic Chinese, and is rated as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.)

Leading a course on 20th-century literature in 2004, Timmermans was “shocked and genuinely amazed to realize that many of my students had no idea about the Holocaust or even about Judaism.” In the firm belief that the 20th century could not, and should not, be taught without a discussion of the *Shoah*, he suddenly found himself teaching a “crash course” on the Holocaust. The seminar at Yad Vashem emphasized the importance “not only of teaching about the Holocaust as an historical event, but also of Jewish life in Europe and the rich culture that had once flourished there.” Timmermans therefore added Yiddish stories and poetry to his literature curriculum, in addition to the works of Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel and others that emanated from the *Shoah* itself.

But this was still not enough. Timmermans crafted a course entitled, “Representing the Shoah: The Holocaust in Literature, Memoir and Film.” The 45-hour syllabus includes watching all nine-and-half hours of Claude Lanzmann’s *Shoah*; four of his students have already written their MA theses on Holocaust-related topics. They and other students are now also using Holocaust texts to teach English and history in high-school classrooms.

Timmermans also arranged with the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival for Holocaust-related films to be screened in Macau, accompanied by stirring talks given by survivors who featured in the films themselves. In 2010 the first Chinese-language film on a Jewish theme, the animated *A Jewish Girl in Shanghai*, was shown, as well as the documentary *Shanghai Ghetto*. “My aim was to prove to the Chinese people that they too have a stake in the history of the *Shoah*: some 30,000 German and Austrian Jews found refuge in Shanghai, and a Chinese diplomat,



■ Glenn Timmermans (center) at the screening of *A Jewish Girl in Shanghai*, Macau University, November 2010. Left: Rosina Choi, a Yad Vashem seminar participant

Feng-Shan Ho, was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.”

But perhaps Timmermans’ greatest accomplishment was initiating the first Yad Vashem Seminar for Chinese Educators in October 2010, supported by the Adelson Family Foundation. The seminar was a great success, and a few months later, Timmermans, Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars for Educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies, and Jerry Gotel from the London Jewish Cultural Centre, who has worked extensively in China on Holocaust education, visited a number of universities in China, including Macau. There they gave lectures on teaching the Holocaust as a way to promote the second seminar that took place in November 2011. A third is planned for 2012. “This time, I hope to recruit more schoolteachers,” says Timmermans. “One teacher from Macau who participated in the first seminar is already using Holocaust material and stories to teach English language and literature, and this, I believe, proves the success of her trip to Yad Vashem.”

Timmermans is relentless in his plans for the future, which include holding Holocaust-related training seminars in Macau or Hong

Kong, and opening Holocaust Resource Centers across mainland China “so that teachers at all levels will find it easier to access materials they can use in their classrooms.”

For now, Timmermans has managed to get the course “The Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights” into the General Education syllabus at the University of Macau. “My biggest challenge is relevance – how does one justify including a course on the Holocaust in a city six thousand miles away from Europe, where students have an extremely limited knowledge of European history and/or Judaism, in a place where not even one synagogue exists?” explains Timmermans. “Despite this challenge, I believe that as China engages more and more with the West, it is important that this dark blemish be acknowledged – not to denigrate the West, but to recognize the very flimsiness of civilization. One must try to understand why and how this terrible event happened and teach people how dangerous propaganda and mindless acceptance of stereotypes are. While the Chinese suffered terrible abuses themselves during WWII, the *Shoah* is unprecedented in its scope and horror, and our understanding of humanity is forever altered because of it.”

German and Israeli Students Learn Together

Dr. Noa Mkyaton and Limor Bar-Ilan

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies has recently developed an e-learning project that enables students from Israel and from Europe to study the Holocaust within a bilateral setting, allowing them to develop their own personal attitudes and perspectives towards the Holocaust and Holocaust remembrance shaped within a mutual dialogue.

The first participants in the "Reading Together" project were Israeli students at the Realit Gymnasium in Rishon Lezion, and German students at the Katharinen Gymnasium in Ingolstadt. After examining issues of personal and collective identity in their own classrooms, the participants gained basic knowledge about the Holocaust by studying the story of Holocaust survivor Naftali Fuerst through online resources. They then joined together to formulate questions they wished to ask Fuerst during a videoconference, which took place in mid-February. During the videoconference, they posed their questions to him and shared their own impressions of what they had learned. The students were encouraged to prepare their own creative interpretations of the program (a song, an online exhibition, a short film, etc.) which will be posted on the program's own webpage.

International School graduates Dr. Matthias Schickel and Alexander Schoener from the high school in Ingolstadt were delighted by the results

of the program: "'Reading Together' has created a new, stimulating and challenging learning environment that provides our youth with the unique experience of meeting a survivor [via videoconference]," said Schickel. "We hope that this encounter will help them focus on the importance of personal and social responsibility, eventually leading them to a greater social and political awareness."

"During the conference I was overcome with a feeling of shame for our country," wrote Helena Ochs, a student in Ingolstadt. "Still, youth is youth, no matter the origin, the heritage, the language or the religious belief. I think it is important to realize this, and to see that deep down, we are all the same."

"This project is educationally valuable, for you don't only learn important facts, but also very important life lessons. I think it is a project which should be continued in several other schools, for this privilege of hearing about the Holocaust first-hand won't last forever. It is vital that we remember what happened, and talk openly about the topic with future generations, so that we may all coexist in harmony in the future."

Dr. Noa Mkyaton works in the European Department, and Limor Bar-Ilan works in the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Australian Educators Gain New Perspectives

Nurit Davidson

■ On 8-24 January, 25 teachers from Australia came to Yad Vashem to participate in the 2012 seminar of The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators.

During the seminar, the participants met scholars from a range of disciplines who are experts in different periods in Jewish history. Among the lecturers were Prof. Robert Wistrich, Director of the Hebrew University's Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism; Prof. Raphael Israeli, Professor of Islamic and Chinese History (Hebrew University); Dr. Rachel Perry, lecturer on "Art After Auschwitz": Representing the Holocaust" (Tel Aviv University); and Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer.

The group also learned about educational units developed at the International School for Holocaust Studies, and each member received a copy of the multidisciplinary pedagogical curriculum "Echoes and Reflections," now adapted for elementary school and college students in addition to its target high-school audience. Participants also met with seven different Holocaust survivors, including "Schindler Jews" Nachum and Genya Manor, who provided a unique and exceptional perspective on Holocaust education for all the participants.

"From a professional perspective, this seminar surpassed it all," said one participant. "Until now, I only knew how to teach the Holocaust from the standpoint of the Nazis. Now I can teach it from the Jewish perspective." "Yad Vashem seminars undoubtedly change people," wrote another. "They change who they are and how they think. Ultimately, they change the course of education wherever they teach."

The seminar was supported by Gandel Philanthropy; The Raoul Wallenberg Unit of B'nai B'rith Melbourne by awarding Pauline Glass Study Grants; The Salomea Gruener Yad Vashem Scholarship; and The Alexander Israel Ivany Scholarship.

The author is Program Coordinator for The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ Yad Vashem expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the **Ted Arison Family Foundation** for its generous decision to continue to support a project to train teachers from the peripheral areas in Israel in Holocaust education, run by the International School for Holocaust Studies.



Belorussian Educators Receive Tools for In-Depth Teaching

■ The first-ever Belorussian teacher's seminar opened at the International School on 27 February. Supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group, 24 teachers attended the tailor-made seminar, including a representative of the Belorussian Ministry of Culture. "In Belarus, as in many European countries, history teachers are facing many challenges which make it difficult to focus in-depth on specific subjects, such as the Holocaust," explained Tamara Vershiskaya,

Director of the Jewish Museum of Novogrodek, who headed the group. "We are grateful to Yad Vashem for providing the participants with hands-on tools and pedagogical techniques that can be adapted in light of the new curriculum changes. We would also like to see educators work hand-in-hand with museum curators in our country, so that students will learn about prewar Jewish life in our country as well as its destruction during the Holocaust."

Rumors or Truth?

The Efforts of Polish Jews to Share Information about their Fate

■ On 15 March 1942, Warsaw Zionist activist Zivia Lubetkin wrote in coded language to Nathan Schwalb, the He-Halutz representative in Switzerland, that Vilna's Jews had been killed, and now *Shohet* (the slaughterer) had arrived at Wilnicki (i.e., Lublin, base of activist Moshe Wilnicki). Lubetkin feared he would come to Warsaw as well. What she had surmised was that the concentration of German SS and police and Ukrainian auxiliary troops in Lublin was not an exercise.

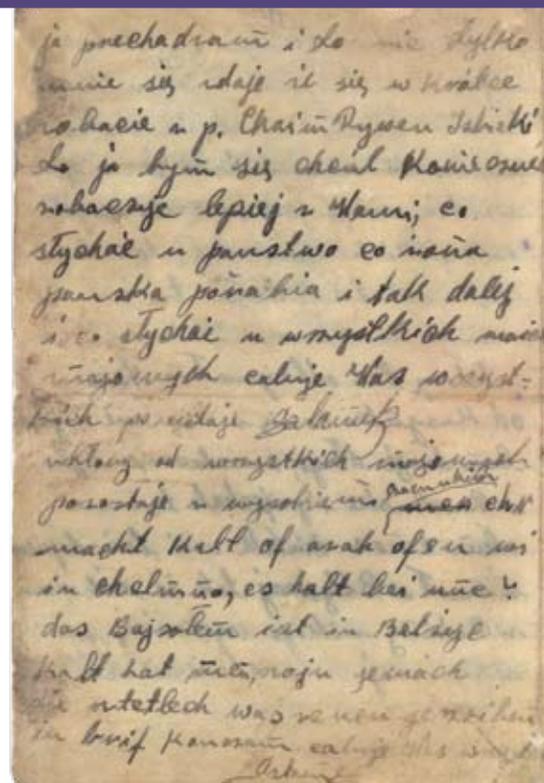
At 5 a.m. on 17 March, the deportation of 30,000 Jews from Lublin to the Belżec extermination camp was set in motion. At 7.30 that morning, Judenrat member Josef Siegfried telephoned colleagues in Kraków to inform them that mass deportations had begun; all non-essential people were to be "resettled." Two days later, Siegfried called Kraków again to report that all the deportees were being sent to Belżec. Although Siegfried did not refer to the fate of the deportees, at least part of the truth had been exposed within two days. And the mere fact that the destination was Belżec, site of a murderous forced labor camp in 1940, was enough to strike

terror in the hearts of all Jews.

There are many such illustrations of Jews sharing information about the deportations. News traveled quickly, whether through official mail channels, by telephone, or through couriers, and this news found its way into diaries and underground newspapers. The letters and phone calls sought both to inform and to warn friends and loved ones. Some people were privy to multiple fragments of information, while others received none. And when the warnings were received, the recipients needed to assess their reliability and implications.

Warsaw diarist Chaim Aron Kaplan learned of the Lublin deportations by 22 March. He wrote: "First rumor: The expulsion from Lublin has been executed. About 100,000 Jews were herded into sealed railroad cars and under the watchful eye of their Nazi oppressors were transported – where? Nobody knows. The Lublin community has ceased to exist. One bit of evidence: Someone tried to call the Judenrat of Lublin and the request was turned down because 'There is no longer such an institution in Lublin.' ...To believe or not?"

Hava Goldmine related after the war that



■ Letter sent by Szlamek Bajler in Zamość to Hersh Wasser in Warsaw, in which he mentions the extermination camp in Belżec, April 1942 (Yad Vashem Archives)

“Operation Reinhard” – The Murder of Polish Jewry

■ In January 1942, according to Nazi estimates, there were 2,284,000 Jews living in the German General Government in Poland. A year later, Nazi statisticians estimated that fewer than 298,000 remained. These statistics are even more astonishing when we take into account the fact that the systematic murder operation began only on 17 March 1942. Nearly two million Jews in Poland had been murdered in nine months. This was “Operation Reinhard,” arguably the single largest murder operation of the Holocaust. At its peak, from mid-August to mid-December 1942, more than 9,000 Jews were murdered daily.

The operation was based in Lublin and was led by SS-Obergruppenführer Odilo Globocnik, one of Heinrich Himmler's favorite officers, admired for his grandiose racial ideas and ruthless, creative evil. Globocnik began organizing elements of

the operation in the summer of 1941, following the German invasion of the USSR. He sent some of his men into the Soviet Union either as part of the fifth *Einsatzgruppe* (mobile task force for murder), or as part of research teams sent to look into appropriate sites to create SS and police colonies on Soviet territory. In both cases, they garnered valuable mass murder experience.

In early July 1941, Globocnik began recruiting Red Army prisoners-of-war to switch sides and become his private army for special projects. They were trained at a special training camp at Trawniki, near Lublin. Although these Red Army renegades (5,000 recruited by May 1943) were not necessarily recruited a priori for “Operation Reinhard,” all of them played a role in it – in ghetto round-ups, deportations, mass shootings, hunting down Jews, guarding

camps, or operating gas chambers. Later in the summer of 1941, Globocnik created a think tank of university-educated men and charged them with developing a draft plan for a mass killing operation. He also recruited SS men from the so-called “Euthanasia Program” (“Operation T-4”), which was temporarily halted in August 1941. The think tank suggested that the victims should be brought to the killers, rather than having the killers chase after the victims as was being done in the USSR, and the T-4 men brought both murder experience and a preferred method – gas chambers using carbon monoxide exhaust. Globocnik and his closest advisors selected the village of Belżec, situated on a major rail line yet in a remote, rural area, as the site for the first extermination camp to be constructed for the operation. Following Himmler's approval of the plan and

The letters and phone calls sought both to inform and to warn friends and loved ones

her family paid a Polish courier 20,000 zlotys to follow the trains and discover the destination and fate of the Jewish deportees. By the eve of Pesach (1 April), the family knew.

The Germans in Lublin were also affected by the Jews' gathering of information concerning the deportees' fate. When the Germans and Ukrainians resumed the deportation operation following a temporary halt (for technical reasons), they found that all the remaining Jews had gone into hiding.

Letters written by Jews at this time tried to inform and warn others. Coded language such as “*Malach Hamovess is in die gass*” (the Angel of Death is in the streets); or “*dod gerush* (uncle deportation) has arrived”; or “*der bajs ojlem is in Belzhetz*” (the cemetery is in Belzec) was blunt, even brutal. Yet some information was also confused and confusing. For example, Yehoshua Wolfuss of Rawa Ruska wrote in his diary on 1 April 1942: “People are saying the older people and women with children are being electrocuted by the barbarians, while the young people are worked to death.” Similar incorrect information about electrocution was reported in other diaries

and in underground newspapers as well.

As the volume of information increased, some people began to understand its import. On 11 April, just three weeks after he had wondered if the information from Lublin and elsewhere was believable, Kaplan wrote: “We tremble at the mention of Lublin. Our blood turns to ice when we listen to the tales told by the refugees from that city.... The fact is that reality has surpassed imagination by far.”

Despite the unbelievable nature of this information, hundreds of thousands of Jews took action of one sort or another – hiding, fleeing, bribing or fighting – but this did not significantly affect their chances for survival. The information and all their efforts notwithstanding, no community survived, and nearly every Jewish person was ultimately caught and killed.

The author is Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies. He is currently teaching a course at Tel Aviv University entitled “Operation Reinhard” and the Murder of Polish Jewry: German, Jewish, and Polish Perspectives,” in the framework of the new joint academic program of TAU and Yad Vashem’s Research Institute.



Postcards sent by Fela and Szlamek Bajler in Zamosc to Hersh Wasser in Warsaw, February-April 1942 (Yad Vashem Archives)

go-ahead in October 1941, construction of the first extermination camp using gas chambers began around 1 November 1941.

Much preparation was needed for this unprecedented operation: manpower; methods; sites; cooperation agreements with the German civilian authorities in Poland, and more. All of this was accomplished within a few short months, and by mid-February 1942, Belzec was operational.

On the night of 16 March 1942, Ukrainian troops from Trawniki and German SS and police surrounded the Lublin ghetto. Early the next morning, they swooped down on the Jews of the ghetto. In this prototype deportation operation, some 30,000 Jews were deported from Lublin to Belzec, nearly all of them killed within an hour or so of arrival, and an additional 2,000 or more were

shot in the streets of the city. After the operation, more than 4,000 additional Jews who had hidden in Lublin were shot in a nearby forest. This was the murder operation's pattern for the following year – massive violence, rapid round-ups, and swift murder in very large numbers.

As the genocidal murder operation progressed across the Lublin and Galicia Districts and then across the rest of the General Government, the camps of Sobibor and Treblinka were completed. The Jews themselves were caught completely by surprise, following two-and-a-half years of suffering and extreme persecution, but no systematic extermination. Hundreds of thousands tried to hide, acquire false identity papers, or flee. The overwhelming majority of these people were caught and killed. The Jews could not control their fate.

Symposia Mark 70 Years since Operation Reinhard

■ “Operation Reinhard” was the subject of a series of symposia in Paris in March 2012, organized by Le Mémorial de la Shoah to mark the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the operation. Four Yad Vashem scholars participated in these important symposia: former Yad Vashem Chairman Dr. Yitzhak Arad spoke about the organization of the operation; archaeologist Yoram Haimi presented the findings of his excavations at Sobibor; Director of the “Untold Stories” Project Dr. Lea Prais examined what Jews knew about the murder and how they reacted; and Senior Historian Dr. David Silberklang spoke about the Jews of the Lublin District and the beginning of the murder operation.

On 17 January, Prof. Dieter Pohl gave a lecture at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research on “The Road to *Aktion* Reinhard.”

"Innovative, Intuitive and User-Friendly"

New Interface for Names Database

Deborah Berman



■ Yad Vashem has recently launched a new platform for the online Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, unveiling state-of-the-art features and once again setting a new industry standard.

When the Database was uploaded to the Internet in 2004, it was heralded as a pioneering use of technology in the service of memory. Aimed at recording the names of Holocaust victims through the digitization of data from Yad Vashem's vast repositories, the Names Database has added 1.3 million names in the past eight years, and now includes information about 4.1 million Holocaust victims. Keeping pace with rapid technological development, Yad Vashem continues to disseminate its extensive resources to a worldwide audience.

"This is the first major upgrade of the Names Database since going online," says Michael Lieber, Yad Vashem's CIO. "The new platform will allow us to easily add new features in the near future, and respond to requests from the users for additional functionality."

The most significant improvement to the Names Database is its innovative, sophisticated platform, "designed to be more user-friendly and intuitive," explains Director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, Alexander Avram. "This is exemplified by the ability to access the information quickly,

with a minimal number of clicks."

On the Database's main search screen, users enter the victim's family or maiden name, first name, and location before or during the Shoah. Results yield matches and near-matches, showing basic biographical details. "The record details page has multimedia thumbnails, specific biographical synopses, and additional fields of information – all on the same page, making

Each page now has a unique permanent URL, allowing users to share search results easily by sending direct links to family members, friends or colleagues via email or other social media

it easy to navigate," Avram describes. "For example, after conducting a search for a person, one can click on the icon next to any location connected with that individual and its position on a Google map will appear on the screen. In

some cases, the map appears with additional information about that specific place compiled by Yad Vashem." In addition, a much-requested feature has been implemented: each page now has a unique permanent URL, allowing users to share search results easily by sending direct links to family members, friends or colleagues via email or other social media.

The process for online submission of Pages of Testimony has also been revamped and upgraded, and now features a step-by-step guide for filling out the form. As before, Yad Vashem still asks submitters of online Pages of Testimony to also print, sign and mail the Pages they have completed in order to have a tangible record kept for posterity in the Hall of Names.

More than before, users are now encouraged to add photographs or documents to existing Pages of Testimony, or to make corrections to previously submitted Pages through special online feedback forms. Yad Vashem staff checks the data for historical accuracy, and once verified, the new information is incorporated into the Database.

The new platform will include information (in the FAQ section) on when the most recent update has been made to the Database, as well as an option to view search results from records incorporated since the last update only. This will enable users to follow the progress of new information added over time.

Another addition is the introduction of the Names Database in a new language – Spanish – in addition to the existing English, Hebrew and Russian platforms. Users can now view and alternate between translations of the recorded information in all four languages.

According to Avram, plans for further development of the Database include "the development of new features, the translation of the Database to more languages, and improved interactivity and compatibility with social media. As users find the Database easier to navigate, they will hopefully be encouraged to contribute updated information and new names in order to help us work towards completing this historic mission."

Parcels of Kindness

Lital Beer

Relief Packages Sent by Jews in Denmark to Their Brethren in Germany



■ Receipt for a food parcel sent by Betti Ruben to Klara Jakobsen in Terezin

■ “On 9 April 1940, I was awoken to a tremendous roar. The thunderous noise came from squadrons of German warplanes, which turned the skies black with their multitudes. Within several hours, Germany had occupied Denmark, having met almost no resistance.”

So writes Moshe Manfred Hildesheim in his memoir *Pirkei Hatzala [Chapters of Rescue]: Tishrei 5704*. Moshe tells the story of his family, who emigrated in 1935 from Hamburg, Germany to Copenhagen, Denmark. The family fled the

At first, Pels sent packages to her relatives still in Hamburg, but the need soon broadened the circle of recipients far beyond family members

Nazi regime, but only a few years later, it caught up with them again.

Despite the occupation, the lives of Danish Jews were relatively peaceful for the first few years under German rule. During this period, the Jews in Copenhagen organized a relief campaign to assist Jews of other communities whose situation was much worse. In the Yad Vashem Archives, there are many documents describing the distribution of food packages from Copenhagen to Jews in Germany and other occupied countries at the initiative of Cecilia Pels, also originally from Hamburg.

Cecilia and Ludwig Pels lost a large part of

their property after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in November 1938. In 1940, when the situation of the Jews in Germany took another turn for the worse, they decided to flee to Denmark where their daughter lived. The couple settled in a retirement home in Copenhagen, where Cecilia joined a women's organization called Syklubben, whose members made and sold handcrafts to support the yishuv in *Eretz Israel*.

At first, Pels sent packages to her relatives still in Hamburg, but the need soon broadened the circle of recipients far beyond family members. Word spread quickly, and Pels and her friends at the retirement home were soon running a major operation, sending numerous parcels to Germany. The proceeds from their handiwork were now also directed towards the campaign. To circumvent the law that permitted sending packages only to direct family members, Cecilia and her friends recruited additional people willing to send them on their behalf. The women at the retirement home operated completely on their own, without any support from, and even against the advice of the Jewish community leadership in Copenhagen, who feared that the campaign might well awaken the wrath of both the Danish and the German authorities.

When recipients were deported from their homes, the parcels were addressed to the camps in Terezin and Westerbork, as well as to the Lodz and Warsaw ghettos. These parcels provided not only material assistance, they also gave the beneficiary a feeling of love and hope. Numerous letters were sent to Pels in Copenhagen from different parts of Europe, filled with deep gratitude for her devoted assistance.

“She was a wonderful, amazing woman. I remember her well,” said Moshe Hildesheim on the day the ‘Gathering the Fragments’ campaign came to Rishon Lezion. “We sent packages, too.” Hildesheim and his family members were smuggled by resistance fighters out of Denmark into Sweden, where they remained until the end of the war.

Hildesheim brought many documents and artifacts related to his family to the collection day, among them a postal slip issued to his aunt, Betti Ruben, who sent a package from Copenhagen to her relative Klara Jakobsen in Terezin in February



■ Cecilia Pels

1943. Several months later, the Germans declared a state of national emergency in Denmark, and shortly afterwards the persecution of Danish Jews began. Among those captured by the Germans was Ruben herself, her husband Leon and their four children, Meni (Moshe), Daniel, Yehudit and Klara. The family was deported to the Horserod camp and from there to Terezin, where Leon was murdered.

‘Gathering the Fragments’ is a nationwide campaign to collect Holocaust-related personal items, documents and artifacts from the Israeli public. The 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. For more information, tel. (in Israel): 1-800-25-7777.

The author is Head of the ‘Gathering the Fragments’ Project in the Archives Division.

Highlights of Events Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Leah Goldstein



■ On 26 January, a new Yad Vashem exhibition was officially opened at the UN Headquarters in New York in advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2012: “A Monument of Good Deeds’: Dreams and Hopes of Children During the Shoah.” Among the dignitaries attending the opening were UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyoo Akasaka, Israel’s Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski and his wife Elizabeth, and Yehudit Inbar, Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division and curator of the exhibition.

Also attending the opening were some of the survivors who feature in the exhibition about children, including Nurit Stern (née Františka Quastler), a Holocaust survivor from Bratislava, Slovakia. In 1944, 13-year-old Nurit, her mother and her aunt were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau and from there to Ravensbruck, where Františka lied about her age in order to join the adult women as workers at the camp’s Siemens plant.

In the evenings, after returning from the plant, the starving women prisoners would gather together to reminisce about the splendid meals they had once prepared at home. As they talked, Františka kept a diary of the recipes on paper stolen from the factory. The pencil she used and the diary were concealed inside her mattress. A facsimile copy of the recipe book and some of the recipes Nurit recorded, together with personal items from the Holocaust period and a photo album she created in Sweden after she and her mother were included in the Bernadotte exchange deal, were displayed on a panel in the “hands-on” exhibition about children during the Holocaust designed specifically for children’s museums.

“I never wished to talk about my experiences

during the Shoah, it is too hard for me,” explained Nurit, who was accompanied to the exhibition’s opening by her husband and two daughters. “But this exhibition, so thoughtfully designed with all its extra elements, is essential for everyone to see. As we get further and further from the events, it is vital that the next generations – both Jewish and non-Jewish – comprehend that these terrible things really happened even to children, and thereby understand the importance of the existence of the State of Israel, and the fight against Holocaust denial and antisemitism worldwide.”

A second exhibition opened at the UN on 26 January, displaying 16 posters submitted by graphic design students to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The students all participated in “Keeping The Memory Alive,” a project jointly run by Yad Vashem, Israel’s Ministry for Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, Le Mémorial de la Shoah (France) and the European Shoah Legacy Institute (Czech Republic), and funded by the IIF. Ellina Berlioz of France represented the finalists, and was interviewed about her participation in the project on UN Radio. Additionally, two finalists from the Czech Republic attended the opening of the exhibition at the Berlaymont Building of the European Commission



on 27 January. The exhibit was displayed at some 90 locations around the world.

■ On 23 January an international symposium marking 70 years since the Wannsee Conference was held by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, in the presence of Israel’s diplomatic corps, historians and Holocaust survivors. Minister of Public Information and Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Israel H. E. Mr. Henri Etoundi Essomba addressed the esteemed audience. Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer addressed the Shoah in the context of genocide, and Prof. Omer Bartov of Brown University examined the Holocaust as a German goal of WWII or an obstacle to their victory.

Following the symposium, the audience was invited to attend the opening of a new exhibition, “Last Portrait: Painting for Posterity” at Yad Vashem’s Exhibitions Pavilion. Curated by Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg, the exhibition presents some 200 portraits of Jews drawn by Jewish artists during the Holocaust in ghettos, concentration



camps, and during slave labor. Alongside the depictions is additional information about the subjects of the portraits collated by Museum staff from Yad Vashem’s vast databases.

■ To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and 50 Years of the Righteous Among the Nations Program, Yad Vashem held an online “I Honor” event on Facebook. During the event, over 2,000 users’ names and Facebook profile pictures were linked to the name and story of a Righteous. “I honor all those anonymous heroes whose names we still don’t know,” wrote one participant. By saving a fellow human being they gave us a reason to still believe in humankind.” “The more I learn about the Righteous, the more humbled I am,” wrote another. “I honor them.”





Mini-Site Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ The Yad Vashem mini-site marking Holocaust Remembrance Day 2012 contains photos and video from the events and ceremonies taking place at Yad Vashem throughout the day. In addition, the site contains names for name-reading ceremonies, information about the “Unto Every Person There is a Name” project, links to related exhibitions, and more.

This year, an archive of the more than 100 videos created for the Torchlighters over the years will be uploaded to the mini-site. The videos will be searchable by name, location and date.

New Online Exhibition on Passover

■ Through photos, artifacts and video testimony, the new online exhibition “And You Shall Tell Your Children” explores the ways in which Passover traditions and customs were observed across Europe before the war, during the Holocaust years and immediately after the war’s end.

The exhibition was endowed by the children and grandchildren of Maks Etingin in honor of his 85th birthday.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.



NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

EHRI Experts Meet at Yad Vashem

■ Over 60 Holocaust research and archival experts and IT specialists (pictured) gathered at Yad Vashem in January for the annual EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) Partner Meeting. EHRI is a European Union-sponsored consortium of 20 institutions from 13 countries, formed with the aim of creating a database of all Holocaust-related archives in the framework of a virtual research environment; bringing together scholars and experts; and sharing information between countries and organizations. Yad Vashem is a leading partner in the project. Guest of honor at the gathering was Dr. Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, Research and Innovation of the European Commission (front, center).



USC Heads Visit Yad Vashem

■ On 24 February, a delegation from the University of Southern California (USC) visited Yad Vashem. The delegation comprised some 30 participants, including USC President Prof. C. L. Max Nikias and his wife, the deans of seven faculties, trustees, and Dr. Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education.

The esteemed visitors were given a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Children’s Memorial, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, and visited the Visual Center

and the International School for Holocaust Studies. During their visit, the guests also met with representatives from the International Institute for Holocaust Research, the Archives Division, the Righteous Among the Nations Department and the International School, and were presented with an overview of Yad Vashem’s activities and areas of cooperation between the two institutions.

New Conservation Room for Photo Collection

■ Renovation work was recently completed on the room containing Yad Vashem’s photo collection. The renovations were made possible through the generous donation of Howard and Carole Tanenbaum, members of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. The generous gift also enabled Varda Gross, head of the conservation laboratory, to attend an exclusive course in photography conservation at the George Eastman House

International Museum of Photography and Film in Rochester, New York.

The new upgraded room was designed and developed in close cooperation with top experts in the field from Israel and the US, including professionals from the George Eastman House as well as the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. Hermetically insulated, the room has been equipped with state-of-the-art climate control devices that keep it at the ideal conditions for the conservation of photographs.

“The room will help preserve the unique collections of Yad Vashem for generations to come, particularly original Holocaust-related photographs,” explained Director of the Photo Archives, Dr. Daniel Uziel. “This collection has been significantly broadened over the past few months through the national ‘Gathering the Fragments’ campaign, and currently contains some 250,000 printed photographs out of a total of 410,000 pictures in the Yad Vashem Photo Archive.”

"An Inner Strength": Expressions of Solidarity in Documentary Films

Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

■ Abel Herzberg (1893–1989), a prominent Dutch Jewish attorney and writer, was the scion of a Hassidic Jewish family that emigrated from Russia to Amsterdam after the pogroms of the late 19th century. In 1934, Herzberg dealt with Nazi antisemitism in his article "Between the Cross and the Swastika." Herzberg and his wife were interned in Bergen-Belsen during WWII.

In Herzberg's view, the most profound act of defiance to Nazism was to be found in the inner defiance of the individual who, while a victim in the camp, refused to relinquish his inner autonomy. Dutch documentary filmmaker Renée Sanders brought Herzberg and his ideas to the screen in *A Jewish Counterforce—Thoughts on Abel Herzberg* (1998). Sanders' film combines an interview with Herzberg with reflections by experts on his life and ideas. Herzberg's emphasis on maintaining humanistic values and moral standards explains not only his view of personal psychology, but also serves as a basis for understanding social behavior and expressions

of solidarity during the Holocaust.

In *Lost Childhood: The Story of the Birkenau Boys*, Rich Newberg documents the visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau by a small group of "Birkenau Boys." Artist Yehuda Bacon remembers how humor helped the youths face their grim reality. Ernie Hacker recalls how fellow "Birkenau boy" and survivor Helmuth Szprycer smuggled bread and sausages to the others, giving them hope "that there was somebody that tried to help us." Dr. Jifí Diamant testifies that as a group the boys could share their sorrows, which helped them "overcome a great deal of external stress."

Hungarian Jewish survivors in Israel talk about how their past has affected them in Ronit Weiss-Berkowitz and Noemi Schory's documentary, *They Call Them Igen Migen*. Baking what she calls a "Stutthoff cake," which she has made on every special occasion since the war, Rita Weiss muses: "In the camp, we pretended to hold parties for diplomats. We argued about whether to serve red wine or white... We were

so hungry that we imagined ourselves actually eating the food."

Esther Hoffenberg interviews her father Sam about his experiences in the Warsaw ghetto and the Poniatowa concentration camp in her documentary short, *My Father*.

"If there is a Supreme Judge in heaven, then my brother was more worthy of a miracle than I," Sam declares, as he recalls his brother, Alexander, an idealistic physician who did not survive. "Even among the Jewish police... there were those who took risks, without talking about it and without any personal gain." Although Sam Hoffenberg's survival is still a riddle to him, he explains: "I was indignant at the injustice of it all, and that gave me an inner strength."

These and other films are available for viewing the Visual Center's Digital Library.

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

Special Gathering of Kindertransport Children

■ "Our Rabbis tell us: 'One who saves a single life is likened to someone who saved an entire world.' That, in a nutshell, was Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld. Among the generations that sprung forth from the Kindertransport children are many who became doctors, scientists, lawyers... I am looking at a friend of mine sitting here in the audience, who is a pediatrician and saves the lives of children – had it not been for Rabbi

Solomon, he would not be here today. One who saves a single soul cannot possibly know what will come out of that soul one day."

These powerful words were spoken by Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld (no relation to Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfeld) to describe the deeds of Rabbi Solomon at a special gathering of Kindertransport children marking the centennial of the venerable Rabbi on 27 February at

Anat Faruz

Yad Vashem. Excited and emotional, dozens of former Kindertransport children and their families had a unique opportunity to meet, talk to and catch up with friends from the distant past, some of whom they had not seen for decades.

The event, initiated by Rabbi Emanuel Fischer and his wife Bertha, opened with a memorial service in honor of Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfeld. Speeches delivered by Rabbi Fischer and Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, both of whom were among the Kindertransport children saved by Rabbi Solomon, told the story of his tireless and unique rescue work. Also addressing the audience were Chair of the Kindertransport Association in Israel Aliza Tennenbaum, and Jonathan Schonfeld, the son of Rabbi Solomon, who flew in specially from London for the event.

The story of Kindertransport children was presented in a lecture by Debbie Spero, Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld's daughter, who works as a guide at Yad Vashem. At the event's closing, excerpts of archival footage of the Kindertransport were screened by Efrat Komisar, Head of the Footage Section in the Yad Vashem Archives Division.

The author assists production in the Events Department, Commemoration and Public Relations Division.



RECENT VISITS TO YAD VASHEM

During January–March 2012, Yad Vashem conducted over 200 guided tours for more than 2,000 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government and ambassadors, military leaders, mayors, religious leaders, and philanthropists. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these three months:

■ **President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović** (center) and **Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Prof. Dr. Vesna Pusić** (front right) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 13 February, guided by Director of the Department for the Righteous Among the Nations **Irena Steinfeldt** (left).



■ **Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis** (left) toured Yad Vashem on 4 March, guided by Senior Historian and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* **Dr. David Silberklang** (right).



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 9 January, **Indian External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna** toured the Hall of Names.



■ **General Martin E. Dempsey** Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States (right), visited on 20 January, accompanied by the IDF Chief of the General Staff **Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz** (left). The guests were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (center).



■ On 28 February, **Foreign Minister of Georgia Grigol Vashadze** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by **Dr. Aharon Shneyer** of the Hall of Names (right). A week earlier, the **Catholicos Patriarch of all Georgia Ilia II** visited Yad Vashem.



■ **Cyprus Defense Minister Demetris J. Eliades** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 9 January.



■ On 29 January, Ireland's Annual Holocaust Memorial Day, **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland Eamon Gilmore T.D.** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (right). On 1 December 2011, Ireland was accepted as a member of the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF).



■ **Italian Defense Minister Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola** participated in a memorial ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance on 12 March.



■ **Bulgarian Defense Minister Anyu Angelov** (center) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 16 January by **Nannie Beekman** (left) of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations.



Friends Worldwide

USA

Chairman of the **American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski** joined UN Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information **Kiyo Akasaka** at the opening of the Yad Vashem exhibition “A Monument of Good Deeds’: Dreams and Hopes of Children During the Holocaust” at the UN Headquarters in New York on 26 January.



Left to right: **Rebecca Massel**; Chair of the Young Leadership Associates (YLA) **Caroline Massel**; **Eli Zborowski**; Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom**; **Tali Yahalom** of the YLA; and Kynnote Speaker Commissioner **Salvatore Cassano**, FDNY, at the ASYV Professional Development Conference held on 4 March in New York.



Left to right: Yad Vashem Benefactor **Stella Skura**, **Lindsey Morris**, **Miriam Friedmann Morris**, **Ela Weisberger** and American Society Cultural Director **Elizabeth Zborowski** at a reception held on 20 December 2011, marking the donation of artwork by David Friedmann to Yad Vashem.



Yad Vashem’s **Sara Pechanec**, the daughter of Muslim rescuers during the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia, spoke to a large crowd at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in an event coinciding with the opening of the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition, “BESA: A Code of Honor.”



Pictured: Sara Pechanec and **Peter J. Klein**, Vice President at UBS and President of the Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, in front of the plaque honoring Yad Vashem Benefactor **Claire Friedlander, z”l**

Seth Klarman (left), accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, recently visited the newly constructed International Seminars Wing, during which he had the opportunity to view the balcony generously endowed by the Klarman Family Foundation.



Yad Vashem Guardians **Betty Breslaw** (center) and **Esther** and **David Mann** attended the opening of the International Seminars Wing, in which they endowed a classroom through the Paul and Pearl Caslow Foundation. Betty and Esther (née Gitelman) are sisters who both survived the *Shoah* and dedicated the classroom in memory of their family members who were murdered.



Holocaust survivor **Moses Gewolb** and his sons **Ira** and **Jay Gewolb** attended the opening of the International Seminars Wing, in which the Gewolb Family, Yad Vashem Guardians, endowed a classroom.



Left to right: Shaya Ben Yehuda, Jay Gewolb, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, Moses Gewolb, Ira Gewolb, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**

A delegation of representatives from research universities, industries and economic development companies in South Carolina toured Yad Vashem. The delegation was organized by the “South Carolina- Israel Collaboration,” and led by its chairman, **Jonathan Zucker** (pictured), President of The Intertech Group, who laid a wreath in Janusz Korczak Square.



CANADA

Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, **the Hon. John Baird**, laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance, accompanied by (in the background) Canadian Ambassador to Israel **H. E. Mr. Paul Hunt** and National Chair of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Fran Sonshine**.



■ Holocaust survivor **Joseph Gottdenker** (to the right of the plaque), key benefactor of the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies, attended the opening ceremony of the new wing accompanied by his fiancée **Lori Vavaroutsos** (to the left of the plaque). Leading the mission were Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine** and **Ed Sonshine**, both Yad Vashem Benefactors. Other participants (pictured) included **Renee Bleeman Birnbaum**, **Ron Birnbaum**, **Joshua Zuckerbrot**, **Lauryn Zuk**, **Rachel Zuckerbrot**, **Oren Berman**, 2013 IIF Chair **Mario Silva**, **Willie Moll**, Canadian Ambassador to Israel **H. E. Mr. Paul Hunt**, Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, **Marc Moll**, **Israel Mida** and **Michael Shine**. Also in attendance were **Ariella Kimmel**, representing Canada's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, **the Hon. Jason Kenney**, and **Mario Sgro**.



■ Yad Vashem supporter **Willie Moll** (to the left of the plaque) attended the opening of the new videoconference suite in the International Seminars Wing together with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, **Marc Moll** (Willie Moll's son), **Fran** and **Ed Sonshine**, **Michael Shine**, **Yaron Ashkenazi** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ New Benefactors to Yad Vashem **Ernest** and **Helen Singer** received a token of appreciation from Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** in the Yad Vashem Synagogue during their visit in December 2011.



Left to right: **Barry Zagdanski**, **Avner Shalev**, **Nelly Zagdanski**, **Josh Zagdanski**, **Ernest Singer**, **Miguel Singer**, **Danielle Singer**, **Helen Singer**, **Beth Singer**, **Aaron Singer**, **Tamar Zagdanski**, **Ari Zagdanski**, **David Singer**

■ New Yad Vashem Builders the Zagdanski and Posluns families accepted a token of appreciation from Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** at a ceremony at Yad Vashem in December 2011.



Left to right: **Jordy Zagdanski**, **Michael Zagdanski**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **Becky Zagdanski**, **Sara Zagdanski**, **Ian Zagdanski**, **Yaron Ashkenazi**, **Avner Shalev**, **Felicia Posluns**, **Stuart Posluns**, **David Posluns**, **Aaron Posluns**, **Julia Posluns**, **Barry Zagdanski**, **Josh Zagdanski**, **Nelly Zagdanski**, **Tamar Zagdanski**, **Ari Zagdanski**

■ To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2012, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, in collaboration with the Calgary Jewish Federation, presented the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "BESA: A Code of Honor, Muslim Albanians Who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust" at the Calgary JCC. The keynote address was given by Canada's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, **the Hon. Jason Kenney** (pictured contemplating the exhibition).



UK

■ Yad Vashem deeply mourns the passing of its dear friend, **Steven David Morelle, z"l**. As a survivor of the Holocaust, Steven strongly believed that in order for such a tragedy never to happen again, not only must it be remembered, but also future generations must be educated. He saw Yad Vashem as playing the central message in these endeavors, and remained committed to this cause until his final days. He will greatly missed, and Yad Vashem looks forward to his legacy being kept alive by his family, and in particular his son **Phillip David Morelle**.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Kurt Danzig, z"l**, a devoted supporter of Holocaust remembrance and many other philanthropic efforts. Born in 1924 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, Kurt immigrated to London in 1939 along with two cousins. His mother died on the Auschwitz Death March, and his father survived a work camp and subsequently immigrated to Israel.

After the war, Kurt opened a shoe factory. In 1951, he married and had a son, **Robert**, and a daughter, **Evelyn**. In 1977, Kurt began a new chapter of his life with **Marie Hoppen**. He will be deeply missed.



■ The **Yad Vashem-UK Foundation** co-sponsored 20 teachers of primary and secondary Jewish students to attend a weeklong seminar at Yad Vashem in February. The group included non-Jewish as well as ultra-orthodox teachers. Eminent academic lecturers and presenters created a rich and varied program that covered all aspects of the Holocaust from Jewish life before the *Shoah* to the return to life of the survivors.



Friends Worldwide

AUSTRIA

■ On 12 March, Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria held their annual General Assembly at the Federal Parliament of the Republic of Austria, hosted by the Society's President of Honor and President of the Austrian Parliament **Barbara Prammer**. Also addressing the audience were: Austrian Chancellor **Werner Faymann**; Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs **Michael Spindelegger**; Israel's Ambassador to Austria **H. E. Mr. Aviv Shir-On**; and Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, who recalled the 74th anniversary of the *Anschluss*.



GERMANY

■ Prof. **Jan Philipp Reemtsma**, Head of the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Culture, attended the opening of the International Seminars Wing together with his wife, Dr. **Ann Kathrin Scheerer** – both devoted friends of Yad Vashem, who support many of its endeavors and most recently endowed a classroom in the new wing.



Left to right: Director of the German-Speaking Countries Desk **Arik Rav-On**, CEO of the German Association of Energy and Water Industries (BDEW) and new Vice President of the Chamber **Hildegard Müller**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, Prof. Jan Philipp Reemtsma, Dr. Ann Kathrin Scheerer, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**

■ Yad Vashem Guardian **Erika Herskovits** attended the opening of the International Seminars Wing to which she donated a multi-

purpose classroom in memory of her late husband **Isidor (Zoli) Herskovits**, originally from Benedicovce, near Munkacs, who survived Auschwitz. The classroom hosts "The Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints" exhibition.



■ Holocaust survivor **Rose Landschaft** donated a floor to the International Seminars Wing in memory of her late husband, Holocaust survivor **Henry Landschaft**, and the Weiner Family. Mrs. Landschaft received a token of Yad Vashem's appreciation in recognition of her unflinching and munificent support of its mission.



Left to right: Arik Rav-On, Yad Vashem Director General **Nathan Eitan**, Hildegard Müller, Rose Landschaft, Avner Shalev, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**

■ Long-term supporters of Yad Vashem **Jane von Oppenheim** and **Christopher von Oppenheim**, founders of the Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Chair for the Study of Racism, Antisemitism and the Holocaust, attended the opening of the International Seminars Wing, in which they endowed a multipurpose classroom. They also visited the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, where Mr. von Oppenheim's grandfather, Baron Friedrich Carl von Oppenheim, is honored.



VENEZUELA

■ **Frida Szkolnik** (left) visited Yad Vashem, accompanied by Head of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Desk **Perla Hazan**.



PANAMA

■ The Gateño and Elkaslassy families visited Yad Vashem in the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their sons **Arie** and **Gabriel**. They were joined by family members, as well as **Perla Hazan**.



MEXICO

■ **Ivonne** and **Samuel Geller** (third and second from left) with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev** and **Perla Hazan** during the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the New International Seminars Wing



■ **Jane** and **Isaac Ladelsky** (center) with **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, **Avner Shalev**, **Perla Hazan**, their daughters and the Mexican Ambassador during the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the New International Seminars Wing



■ The Levy family visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Jaime**. They were joined by family members, as well as Perla Hazan.



SPAIN

■ President of the **Spanish Association for Yad Vashem Isaac Querub** (left) was joined by **Ramon Sotomayor** (second from left), **Leon Benacerraf** (second from right) and **Perla Hazan** during his visit to Yad Vashem.



MIAMI

■ The Matalón family was joined by **Perla** and **Moshe Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem.



CHRISTIAN DESK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ICEJ

■ During their recent tour in Israel, Pastors **John** and **Diana Hagee** visited Yad Vashem with 700 pilgrims including CUFI (Christian United for Israel) members of the tour. Left to right: Managing Director, International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**; Pastors Hagee; Rabbi **Aryeh Scheinberg**; Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**



■ A high-level German interdenominational delegation came to Yad Vashem to learn more about the Wannsee Conference and its historic significance. To honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust during their visit, ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) organized several commemoration events. German and Austrian church leaders and Christian organizations toured the Holocaust History Museum and Eichmann exhibition before gathering at Warsaw Ghetto Square for a special wreath-laying ceremony. With some of the Christian delegates, front center, left to right: ICEJ Executive Director **Dr. Jürgen Bühler**, ICEJ Germany National Director **Gottfried Bühler**, **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, Yad Vashem Director General **Natan Eitan**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

■ To make tax deductible donations:

USA:

American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor
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Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 212-220-4304

CANADA:

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
265 Rimrock Road, Suite 218
Toronto, ONT M3J 3C6
Tel: 416-785-1333
e-mail: info@yadvashem.ca

UK:

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

AUSTRALIA:

Australian Friends of Yad Vashem
Jewish Holocaust Centre, 13-25 Selwyn Street
Elsternwick, VIC 3185
e-mail: afyv.exec@gmail.com

■ Donations may also be sent to:

International Relations Division,
Yad Vashem, PO Box 3477,
Jerusalem 91034, Israel
Tel: +972-2-6443420

■ For information on societies in other countries,

please visit: www.yadvashem.org

Donate online: www.yadvashem.org

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2012

Program of Events at Yad Vashem

Wednesday 18 April

- 20:00** Opening ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day in the presence of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset and President of the Supreme Court—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
Admission by personal invitation only

Thursday 19 April

- 10:00** Siren
- 10:02** Wreath-laying ceremony with the participation of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Chief of the General Staff, Chief of Police, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, representatives of survivor and fighter organizations and delegations from throughout the country—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
- 10:30 – 12:30** "Unto Every Person There is a Name" Recitation of Holocaust victims' names by members of the public—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 11:00** "Unto Every Person There is a Name" Recitation of Holocaust victims' names under the auspices of the Speaker of the Knesset—**Knesset**
- From 11:00** "Gathering the Fragments" Collection of personal Holocaust-related items from the public—**VIP Pavilion, Warsaw Ghetto Square**

Educational activities for groups from Israel and abroad including meetings with survivors, plays, creative workshops and theater and musical performances—**International School for Holocaust Studies and across the Yad Vashem campus**

For details, tel: 02-6443773

- 13:00** Main memorial ceremony—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 13:30** Memorial ceremony for the Association of Hungarian Jews in Israel—**Synagogue**
- 17:30** Ceremony for youth movements in the presence of Israel's Minister of Education, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's Youth Movement Council and Youth and Social Administration—**Valley of the Communities**



- 18:00** Screening of *In Search of Lost Memories* (Russian and Hebrew, Heb. subtitles), a behind-the-scenes look at Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project in the Former Soviet Union. Following the screening, a discussion will take place with Boris Maftsir, the film's director and Manager of Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project in the FSU—**Hall 3, Cinematheque, Jerusalem**
Admission free

- 18:30** Special evening of the "Generation to Generation—Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy" organization with the participation of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The program includes a lecture by Dr. Mala Meyer and a performance of "The Twin Sisters" based on the work by acclaimed Yiddish poet Abraham Sutzkever—**Wohlin Community Hall, Givatayim**
For registration and details: dorot.hahemshech@gmail.com or tel: 02-6443822

- 19:00** Premiere of the Oscar nominee *In Darkness* directed by Agnieszka Holland, in cooperation with the Visual Center and Lev Cinemas—**Lev-Dizengoff, Tel Aviv**
*For tickets: *5155 or www.lev.co.il*



Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority



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