

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

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## Telling the Story, Teaching the Core

The Eighth  
International  
Conference  
on Holocaust  
Education (pp. 2-4)



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# Telling the

## Leah Goldstein

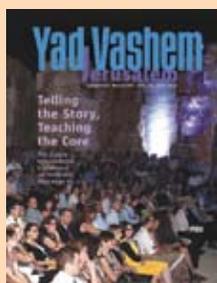
■ *"Inevitably, the Holocaust has become history. But that does not mean that its chain of transmission should be broken... Survivors, together with several generations of Jews and non-Jews, have bequeathed to us a wealth of information and analysis upon which we can rely. We have Holocaust-related libraries, archives, testimonies, museums, books, conferences, scholars, teachers, writers and artists. Yad Vashem is a global leader in this mission. And Holocaust educators have a special responsibility: to be faithful to the truth of the subject – to get it right."*

Prof. Michael R. Marrus, University of Toronto,  
Keynote Speaker at the International Conference

On 18-21 June, 355 educators from 54 countries worldwide gathered at Yad Vashem for the Eighth International Conference on Holocaust Education. Over half of the participants at the biannual conference were graduates of educational seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

"The goal of the conference was different from any other preceding it," explained Director of the International School Dorit Novak. "The Holocaust is being instrumentalized more than ever to address a range of issues not necessarily directly related to it, which opens the door to diminishing, equating and manipulating its history and memory. We therefore felt an urgent need to 'get back to the basics,' to teach the fundamental aspects of the event, in order to equip educators with the knowledge and tools necessary to deal with these current trends."

"Yad Vashem is challenged by the fact that people today use the word Holocaust in many different ways," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "We must go back to the core issues of the Shoah: what actually happened in the ghettos, the camps, and during the 'Final Solution,' how the Nazi party instituted an atmosphere of hatred and dehumanization, and what were the Jewish – and non-Jewish – responses to it all. Only then can we use this knowledge to promote the protection of human rights, the prevention of genocide and the fight against intolerance – all of which are important and relevant topics in today's world."



■ On the cover:  
Opening Ceremony  
of the Eighth  
International  
Conference on  
Holocaust Education,  
Valley of the  
Communities,  
June 2012

# Story, Teaching the Core

The Eighth International Conference on Holocaust Education



■ Participants at one of the 81 professional workshops held during the three-day conference

The conference was divided into three days, each one focusing on specific objectives. Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar opened the conference, and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented a lecture on "Educational Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The first day was then dedicated to learning, with some 25 experts from Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research as well as prominent Israeli academics presenting the main topics in Holocaust education, including the history of antisemitism, Nazi racial ideology, armed resistance, rescue attempts, the death camps and postwar trials, as well as the roles of faith, literature and art in the Holocaust.

Day Two concentrated on teaching, with 81 workshops (nine in Spanish) focusing on how to make the core issues relevant in the classroom. "The participants received the latest

**"We must go back to the core issues of the Shoah: what actually happened and what were the Jewish – and non-Jewish – responses to it all. Only then can we use this knowledge to promote the protection of human rights, the prevention of genocide and the fight against intolerance"**

Avner Shalev

and most effective pedagogical tools in the field in order to make the Holocaust a relevant and significant issue in their teaching," explained conference director Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars for Educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies. "In addition, eighty percent of the presenters were Yad Vashem graduates, who illustrated to their peers the most successful examples of what actually works in the classroom."

The final day was directed towards "special interest groups": Holocaust and Jewish museum directors; Jewish educators in formal and informal Jewish education; and teachers of Holocaust curricula on the college level. One of the panel speakers was the Rev. James LaMacchia, Associate Chaplain and Religious Studies teacher at Saint Mark's School in Maryland (USA). "Many US secondary schools

Eighty percent of the presenters were Yad Vashem graduates, who illustrated to their peers the most successful examples of what actually works in the classroom

only offer a unit on the *Shoah* scattered among such courses as American History or World Literature,” explained LaMacchia. “Because it is easy to trivialize and diminish the Holocaust in a ‘culture of victimization,’ educators are challenged to present the *Shoah* in all of its complexity, so that students understand its absolutely unique character and continuing resonance in world history and politics. Despite an ever-expanding curriculum, we educators must take the time to present the social, political, economic and cultural factors and events that led to the *Shoah*.”

LaMacchia also stressed the success of utilizing survivor testimony in Holocaust education, explaining that it “allows the students to connect the history to real people whose lives were directly affected by the events.” In fact, the final session of the conference was devoted to this very issue, with nine Holocaust survivors offering participants the chance to hear their personal stories and ask pertinent questions about their firsthand experiences



■ Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (center) with conference delegates from around the world

during the war. Internationally renowned author and Holocaust survivor Dr. Samuel Pisar gave the final keynote speech, which included sections of Leonard Bernstein's Symphony No. 3, “Kaddish” combined with Pisar's composition, “A Dialogue with God.”

The lecture was in memory of Benefactors of the International School and the conference Izzy and Babs (Ruth) Asper, z”l.

*The International Conference was generously supported by the Asper Foundation, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.*

## Asper Foundation Renews Support for Holocaust Education

■ The Asper Foundation of Canada recently announced the renewal of its support of Yad Vashem's educational efforts for an additional five years. This welcome decision means that the Winnipeg-based family foundation will continue to fund various initiatives carried out by the International School for Holocaust Studies under the framework of the Asper International Program in Holocaust Studies.

The Asper Program, established a decade ago, focuses upon training educators in English-speaking countries and implementing educational outreach. These initiatives include the funding of seminars at the International School and its biannual International Educators Conference, as well as sending Yad Vashem staff to conduct in-depth training abroad. Over the past decade, thousands of teachers, educators and pupils in the English-speaking world have benefited from this programming. Additionally, the Asper Program provides vital support for Yad Vashem's work within



■ Leonard Asper, Vice-Chair of The Asper Foundation and CEO of Anthem Media Group Inc., at the International Conference closing ceremony, dedicated to his parents, Babs (Ruth) and Izzy Asper, z”l

the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF).

The Asper Foundation is chaired by David Asper. His brother, Leonard Asper, is Vice-Chair, and their sister Gail Asper is the Foundation's president. The Asper family remains active in many fields in their native Canada and in Israel, promoting the values instilled in them by their parents Izzy and Babs (Ruth) Asper z”l, who established the Foundation.

Projects focusing upon Holocaust education remain a core feature of Asper programming, and the Foundation is also spearheading the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, due to open in 2013 with a Holocaust gallery at its center.

“We are delighted to be continuing our partnership with Yad Vashem,” said Moses (Moe) Levy, Executive Director of the Asper Foundation. “This is a project of which the entire Asper Foundation is very proud, and we look forward to it going from strength to strength.”

## Yad Vashem and Council of Europe Enhance Cooperation

■ At the end of May, Yad Vashem and the Council of Europe signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Holocaust education throughout the 47 member states of the Council. The memorandum formalizes an ad-hoc relationship of more than a decade, and encourages new and varied programs to enhance cooperation in the future.

Among the items included in the agreement are organizing a forum at Yad Vashem for educational policy makers and fostering

relationships between member states and Yad Vashem, particularly those 17 states that do not yet have an affiliation with the institution. This will allow for greater cooperation in the fields of commemoration, research and education, including participation of educators in seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ *Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) and COE Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland sign a Memorandum of Understanding at Yad Vashem.*



## Arab History Teachers Enrich Knowledge

■ This April, Yad Vashem hosted a seminar for history teachers from Arab communities in Israel. The seminar brought together over 140 teachers from across the country, who were welcomed by Yad Vashem's Director General Nathan Eitan and representatives of the Ministry of Education: Eliraz Nachum, Head of the Humanities Branch at the Pedagogical Secretariat, and Dr. Kassem Darwoucha, Subject Inspector for History in the Arab Sector. Teachers heard a series of lectures, as well as moving testimony from Abba Naor, a Holocaust survivor from Kovno. They also were presented with resources from Yad Vashem's comprehensive Arabic website, toured the Museum Complex, and met with Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies.

The seminar was the culmination of a learning program begun two years ago, led by Dr. Darwoucha. "As Holocaust studies are part

of the school curriculum, we need to provide the teachers with a broad range of materials concerning the event as well as with the tools for teaching it – and, where possible, to lessen uncertainty and neutralize prejudice," said Dr. Darwoucha.

In the feedback given by the teachers at the end of the seminar, they noted that "all of the topics covered were of crucial importance"; "our level of knowledge was enriched," and "we, as educators and teachers, are obligated to strengthen tolerance." Moreover, many of the teachers requested additional materials and teaching aids.

"The meeting between Arab teachers and the team of experts at Yad Vashem is of great interest and relevance," summarized Novak. "The topic of the Holocaust in the Arab sector is complicated, and sometimes may give rise to mixed emotions – but a direct encounter and

### Sarit Hoch-Markovitz



exploration of the content such as this opens the door to a dialogue that reaches beyond Holocaust education."

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

## Bringing My Story to Life Prof. Noah Stern

■ Holocaust Remembrance Day, 2012. So far that week, I had already talked to students at three different schools in Jerusalem, and was expected to speak for a fourth time before a group of dentists in Tel Aviv later that night. Around noon, I found myself at Yad Vashem. I attended the wreath-laying ceremony and then went into the Hall of Remembrance to hear the names of victims read out by their relatives. But I was in turmoil. Finally, I went to the "No Child's Play" exhibition. Many years ago, my sister and I donated to Yad Vashem the chess pieces our father had carved while we were in hiding in the Slovakian village of Podorozhnik back in 1944. Here, as part of the exhibition, the pieces are displayed in a see-through plastic box, alongside pictures of my parents, my brother David and me, as well as of the woman who saved us all together with her husband, and a brief account of our rescue.



The exhibition hall was noisy, full of schoolchildren from all over the country. I saw a group sitting on the floor in front of the chess set, with their teacher telling the story of

my family. A shudder went through me when I heard the teacher mentioning my father's name, Yekutiel, and how he carved the pieces with a pocket knife out of wood he found in the yard. This teacher had certainly done her homework. She had taken the time to learn our tale, in order to retell it to her students. And there I stood, leaning against the wall and listening, a storm raging inside me. When she finished and was about to move on, I suddenly heard my own voice escaping my throat: "Please do not go. The child here in the picture, Noah – that's me. Wait a minute. Your teacher told you a true story, let me just fill in a few details."

And so there we stood in front of the plastic box, the children listening to my story, and me gladly telling it. This was different from any other talk I had ever given. When we finally parted, my soul was at peace and my tranquility restored. Holocaust Remembrance Day, 2012.

## Yad Vashem Educational Awards 2012

■ “The children conveyed my feelings as a little girl so precisely – they even reminded me of the emotions I felt at the time. To see them so deeply moved, so professional – it was truly profound.”

So commented Holocaust survivor Betty Ben Atar after watching the stage adaptation of her memoirs, performed by sixth-graders at the A.D. Gordon School for the Arts in Herzliya. The performance was one of two projects presented this year with a Yad Vashem Education Award in the “Holocaust Teaching Programs” category.

“Permitted to Love – A Memoir by Betty Ben Atar” tells the story of little Betty facing, together with her family, Nazi persecution in wartime France. Ilanit Alfasi, Drama Program



■ From the prize-winning play, “Permitted to Love”

Curator at the Gordon School, turned Betty’s life story into a sensitive stage performance, presented several times around Holocaust Remembrance Day to audiences of students, parents, Holocaust survivors and educators. “Since the performance, I have grown more and more interested in the stories of people who survived,” said Daniel, one of the students who participated in the project.

The other prize was awarded to the learning program developed by Bracha Goldberg of the Bavli-Yerushalmi United Primary School in Tel Aviv. Inspired by Janusz Korczak’s educational model, the program, entitled “*Lihiyot Adam*” (To Be Human), aims to equip third- to sixth-graders with the tools for personal development as independent, responsible people, capable of hearing the needs of others.

This year, honorary awards were also given to two special education schools for developing specialized programs for their students: the Niv School for the Hearing-Impaired in Tel Aviv and the ONN Special Education School for children coping with cerebral palsy. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Yossi Levi, who for many years stood at the helm of the Poland (March of the Living) Desk at Israel’s Ministry of Education, and over the past four years served as the Ministry’s

## Rinat Ribak-Wagon

Director of the Social and Youth Programs Unit. Motivated by deep understanding of the historical, moral and social significance of the March of the Living trips, Levi has turned visits to Poland into an integral educational element of Israel’s younger generation.

Three written works and a matriculation project film also won prizes: a paper examining prayer and the supplicant through the various stages of the Holocaust and its aftermath (Dikla Shmebdel, Jerusalem); a work on the fate of Jewish sportsmen during WWII (Itamar Edelstein, Petach Tikvah); a paper on the family camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau (Nimrod Soroka, Jerusalem), and the film *Geist* by students of the Rabin High School of Modiin, portraying an imaginary meeting between a present-day youth and the resurrected spirit of a Holocaust survivor.

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

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

## Senior German Journalists Attend “Life-Changing” Seminar

■ During the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem hosted a group of senior journalists from Germany for an intensive educational seminar run by the International School for Holocaust Studies. The group, led by *Bild* Editor-in-Chief Kai Diekmann (pictured, left), represented all the major newspapers and magazines in Germany; for some it was their first visit to Yad Vashem. In addition to attending the main Holocaust Remembrance Day events, participants met with Holocaust

survivors, historians and educators, had in-depth tours of the Holocaust History Museum and Museum of Holocaust Art, and joined a behind-the-scenes visit to the Archives. During an open dialogue with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev in the concluding session of the seminar, participants described the seminar as a “life-changing experience.”

*The seminar took place with the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation.*



## New at the Virtual School Jonathan Clapsaddle

### New e-Newsletter for Educators: Jewish Solidarity during the Holocaust

■ In keeping with Yad Vashem’s annual theme for 2012, the July issue of *Teaching the Legacy: e-Newsletter for Holocaust Educators* focuses on the topic “Jewish Solidarity during the Holocaust.” The newsletter comprises an introductory article focusing on the tradition of solidarity within the prewar Jewish community and how this changed during the Holocaust years; a teacher’s guide outlining various situations of solidarity of the period, including

soup kitchens, youth movements and moral dilemmas; and an article on pedagogical aspects of the Bielski partisans’ story. Included as always are features on Righteous Among the Nations, updates on new and upcoming events at the International School for Holocaust Studies and on the educational website, an educational exposition on artifacts from the Holocaust, book reviews, new publications and more.

### Online Course for Israeli Teachers: “Jewish Life in the Ghettos”

■ The latest online course from the Virtual School for Israeli teachers is “Jewish Life in the

Ghettos.” This course explores the evolution of the ghettos, their function and their role within the Final Solution, with a special emphasis on daily life inside the ghettos – the day-to-day struggles, dilemmas and acts of resistance in the face of diminishing living space and means.

The course began on 18 June, with registration remaining open through 18 July. For more information, please visit: [www1.yadvashem.org/courses](http://www1.yadvashem.org/courses)

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

# Rywka's Diary

## The Voice of a Young Girl in the Ghetto

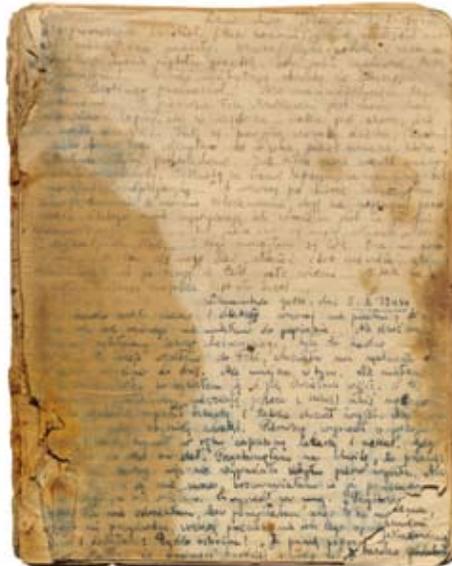
Debbie Berman

■ *"I am just a tiny spot, even under a microscope I would be very hard to see – but I can laugh at the whole world because I am a Jew. I am poor and in the ghetto, I do not know what will happen to me tomorrow, and yet I can laugh at the whole world because I have something very strong supporting me – my faith."*

So wrote 14-year-old Rywka Lipszyc in a diary she kept in the Lodz ghetto from October 1943 until April 1944. Rywka was born in September 1929 in Lodz, Poland, the daughter of Miriam and Jankiel Lipszyc – descendants of a great Polish rabbinic line. After losing her parents and siblings to disease and deportation, Rywka spent the remainder of the war with her cousins, Mina and Esther Lipszyc. Surviving the hunger of the Lodz ghetto, the horrors of Auschwitz and a grueling death march, the three cousins finally arrived at Bergen-Belsen weak and very sick. Esther last saw Rywka on her deathbed in the hospital ward. She and Mina slowly recuperated in Sweden, but they never heard anything more of their cousin until last summer, when they were told about the diary's discovery, thanks to a Page of Testimony Mina submitted to Yad Vashem in Rywka's memory.

Rywka's diary was found in the ashes of the crematoria at Aushwitz-Birkenau in early 1945 by Zinaida Berezovskaya, a doctor who arrived at the camp with the liberating Red Army. The diary (in Polish, Yiddish and Hebrew) documented Rywka's daily life, along with her hopes, dreams and deepest emotions. Berezovskaya stored it in an envelope, along with a newspaper clipping about the liberation of Auschwitz. For over half a century it remained untouched, until Berezovskaya's granddaughter discovered it among her father's effects in June 2008 and brought it to the Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) Holocaust Center in San Francisco.

Archivists at the center immediately began to investigate the identity of the diary's author, which ultimately led them to discover the Page of Testimony commemorating Rywka submitted by Mina Boyer in 1955 (updated in 2000). With the assistance of Yad Vashem staff, the family was



■ A page from the diary written by Rywka Lipszyc in the Lodz ghetto

With the assistance of Yad Vashem staff, the family was contacted. They were deeply moved to learn of the diary's discovery so many years later

contacted through Hadassah Halamish, Mina's daughter, who was deeply moved to learn of the diary's discovery so many years later.

For Esther and Mina, reading the diary re-awakened painful memories of their wartime experiences, but it also provided them with the strength to share the rich legacy of their family's faith, expressed so poignantly in Rywka's diary.

"I tried to cut myself off from it, but then suddenly it came back," said Mina. "I had a few sleepless nights, because I was re-living everything. But I will not give [the Nazis] the satisfaction that I cannot sleep. That I will never do."

Esther, the oldest of the cousins, took on the responsibility for raising Rywka after her parents'

death. She recalled how central the diary was in Rywka's young life. "It took me right back. There's even a section in the diary where she writes that I told her she shouldn't be writing. I was always telling her not to write because there were other, more important things to be doing, like running the house. I needed help."

In April 2012, San Francisco JFCS Executive Director Dr. Anita Freidman, a longtime supporter of Yad Vashem's international Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project, traveled to Israel to meet Esther and Mina and to allow the family to read Rywka's words from the original diary, which is planned to be published in the near future.

"I am terribly sad that I never had the opportunity to meet her," said Hadassah Halamish. "I know we would have had a lot in common. I have learned so much from her. Even under the most impossible living conditions, Rywka never lost the divine spirit inside her. Now she has returned to us again. Esther and my mother have had the honor of raising large families in Israel, thereby keeping alive the memory of the dead. Anyone who reads Rywka's diary will be honoring her memory, too."

■ Page of Testimony submitted by Rywka's cousin, Mina (Lipszyc) Boyer

# “Black Sabbath” and the Tra

Dr. Nikos Tzafleris

■ “I had barely arrived – I was wearing my Sabbath clothes – when they started beating us... They dealt out so many blows that people fainted; then they would lift them up, pour water over them, and start again.”

So recounted Holocaust survivor Yitzhak Nechama, a victim of the notorious “Black Sabbath” of the Jews of Salonika (Thessaloniki), at the 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem. Nechama’s testimony was the only one given at the trial concerning Greek Jewry during the Holocaust. During the proceedings, several relevant pictures were presented to Nechama. At one point he paused. “That is me,” he said, pointing to the picture of a young man being forced to crouch and hold out his arms. “If you could have seen me... the state I was in after those ‘exercises,’ the blows I got, why – I



■ Dr. Nikos Tzafleris

After the invasion of the Fascist Axis powers in 1940-41, Greek Jews fought bravely side by side with their gentile compatriots

do not know. I didn’t do anything to them, I didn’t owe them anything, and they gave me a bloody thrashing. And not only me, but my family too.”

“Black Sabbath,” which took place 70 years ago in July 1942, marked the beginning of the end of the once-thriving Jewish community of Salonika, which had lasted hundreds of years and in its heyday boasted the largest Sephardic community in the world. In fact, Jewish settlement in the Greek peninsula can be dated back to the third century BCE, and there is much evidence for a continuous presence of the Jewish Diaspora in Greece for many years before the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE.

Throughout the years, Jews in Greece formed one of the most diverse and multicultural communities in Europe. Wealthy entrepreneurs, Jewish scholars and great rabbis lived side by side with humble laborers and craftsmen.



■ Yitzhak Nechama being humiliated during the “Black Sabbath” in Salonika

## Greek Education Minister Pledges Support in Holocaust Awareness; Greek Teachers Attend Summer Seminar

■ During her visit to Yad Vashem in January, the then-Greek Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs Anna Diamantopoulou (pictured) met with Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for



Holocaust Studies, and other members of the School staff to discuss Holocaust education and remembrance in Greece. Ms. Diamantopoulou praised the commitment of Yad Vashem and the Jewish Museum of Greece (based in Athens) to further Holocaust education, expressing her hope that Holocaust-related programming would expand over the coming year in Greece as well as in other European countries.

The Minister pledged her government’s support to raise Holocaust awareness, especially in conjunction with Holocaust Remembrance Day that is annually observed in Greece on 27 January. The Jewish Museum of Greece, directed by Yad Vashem seminar graduate Zanet Battinou, helped recruit two dozen high-school teachers

to attend a seminar for Greek educators at Yad Vashem in July 2012. The educators took a keen interest in the varied program presented to them, including the most updated pedagogical tools for teaching about the Holocaust, and specialized lectures on the Jewish communities in Greece and their fate during the *Shoah*.

## Names Recovery in Greece

■ In February, the Greek Association of *Shoah* Victims’ Descendants forwarded 246 Pages of Testimony to the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem commemorating *Shoah* victims from the Island of Crete, Greece. This is the last batch of more than 1,300 Pages of Testimony received from Greece since mid-2006 within the framework of the “Recording the Names” Project – Greece.

# gedy of Greek Jewry

## The Holocaust in the Jewish Metropolis of Salonika

After the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, the ancient Greek-speaking Romaniot culture blended with the Sephardim, as many Sephardim found shelter in the peaceful lands of the welcoming Ottoman Empire. These Jews spoke Ladino, a language based on an old Castilian Jewish dialect, and formed several communities, mainly in the Balkan Peninsula and Northern Africa. As years went by, they began to settle in Salonika, a major port city on the Greek Peninsula, establishing a remarkably large and vibrant Sephardic community. It was then that Salonika became known as “Mother of Israel,” “Little Jerusalem,” “Jerusalem of the North” and “Jerusalem of the Balkans.”

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Salonika’s Jewish citizens numbered almost 80,000. By the 1930s, however, the Jewish population had somewhat declined to almost 56,000. After the invasion of the Fascist Axis powers in 1940-41, Greek Jews fought bravely side by side with their gentile compatriots, first against the Italians, and then the Germans. Colonel Mordehai Frizis was the first ranking officer of the Greek army to die during the fierce battles with the invading Italians, and hundreds of other Greek Jews gave their lives or were wounded for their homeland during the six-month fight in the mountains of Albania.

Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avram payed a visit to Athens, in which he congratulated the members of the Association on behalf of Yad Vashem for their dedicated efforts, and helped coordinate future cooperation between the two organizations. The younger generation of the Greek Association of Shoah Victims’ Descendants took upon themselves the challenging but vital task of identifying and commemorating every one of the Holocaust victims from the smaller Jewish communities in central and southern Greece, most of whom were previously unregistered at Yad Vashem. The victims from Veria, Larissa, Trikala, Volos, Arta and Chalkida have all been commemorated on Pages of Testimony, while the work on Athens and other communities is still ongoing. The victims of Ioannina have been already registered on Pages of Testimony

Following the German conquest of Greece, experts of the well-known *Sonderkommando Rosenberg* scoured the country, seizing precious manuscripts, valuable heirlooms, priceless collections and other important objects belonging to the Jewish communities that had lived and thrived in Greece for hundreds of years.

The country was then divided into three occupational zones: under the Germans, the

**The registration turned out to be a theater of deliberate and pitiless humiliation of some 9,000 Jews**

Italians and the Bulgarians. The Italian zone was the largest, but the lootings and antisemitic activities were confined to the German-controlled area, including Salonika. The Jews living under German occupation experienced the same discrimination of the Nazi regime as other Jewish communities in Europe: property confiscation, public humiliation, forced labor

under horrendous circumstances, torture, and execution as ‘communists.’ But the most disturbing of all measures was initiated by the Wehrmacht on 11 July 1942, a Sabbath day. The Wehrmacht commander of northern Greece, General von Krenzski, ordered all the Jewish males aged 18 to 45 years to assemble at Eleftheria (Freedom) Square to be registered for forced labor. The registration turned out to be a theater of deliberate and pitiless humiliation of some 9,000 Jews. Many different Wehrmacht units participated, forcing the men to form lines under the blistering sun for hours, forbidding them to wear any kind of head covering.

“They were having fun,” Nechama recalled. “SS policemen would come and push people out of the line, hitting them and fooling around. And at the windows, other Germans were taking photos and applauding.”

The Jews of Salonika were ultimately deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. There, some 50,000 Jews from Salonika – almost the entire Jewish community – would be murdered, and the “Jerusalem of the Balkans” lost forever.

*The author is a research fellow from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at Yad Vashem’s International Research Institute. His talk: “The Catastrophe of Salonikan Jewry and the Looting of their Property” appears on the Yad Vashem website, under the “Insights and Perspectives” online lecture series.*

by a Holocaust survivor, who was a member of the community.

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

■ The film *May Your Memory Be Love: The Story of Ovadia Baruch* has recently been translated into Greek, taking the total number of translations to 12. This highly acclaimed visual memoir of Ovadia Baruch ז”ל, a native of Salonika and survivor of Auschwitz and Mauthausen, has received much attention, particularly for highlighting the Holocaust of Greek Jewry, a subject that received relatively sparse attention from educators in the past, as well as for the love story depicted between Ovadia and his wife-to-be, Aliza Tzarfati, also from Salonika, whom he met while incarcerated.

The film, part of the film testimony series “Witnesses and Education” designed to serve as a substitute for face-to-face meetings with survivors, thus underlines the story of one individual in the Holocaust while teaching about the life (and destruction) of a once-vibrant Jewish community.

*The “Witnesses and Education” film series is a joint project with the Multimedia Center of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and is supported by the Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference.*



# The Shirt of Five-Year-Old Rafael

Lital Beer

Photo: Ari Ohayon, GPO



■ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu displays the shirt and family photograph of Rafael Denty

■ At the opening of a government cabinet meeting held in advance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu displayed the shirt of Rafael Denty, who was murdered along with the majority of the Jewish community of Athens during the Shoah. The shirt was donated to Yad Vashem by Rafael's sister, Nina Abayov, as part of the national "Gathering the Fragments" campaign to rescue personal items from the Holocaust period, run in cooperation with the National Heritage Project at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry for Senior Citizens and the Ministry of Education.

On 24 March 1944, some 350 Jewish residents of Athens were arrested at the synagogue on Melidoni Street. Some had been ordered to come; others had come to pray; and some came after a rumor spread that the

Gestapo were giving out matzot. When they heard of the arrests, family members flocked to the synagogue, only to be arrested as well. The prisoners were held in the Haidari Camp, and on 2 April 1944 were placed on the transport of Greek Jews to Auschwitz. Only 40 survived.

Yisrael Denty was one of the original prisoners. His wife Kety hurried to the synagogue with her three children: 10-year-old Nina, Eftemie (7) and Rafael (5). On the way she stopped at the Klaoudatos home, friends of the family (recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 1997). Iossif Klaoudatos tried to persuade Kety not to continue, but she insisted on finding out what had become of her husband. She left only Nina behind – the rest of the family was later murdered in Auschwitz.

At first, Klaoudatos hid Nina in his house, but when danger increased she was taken to a

number of other safe places. Her aunt, Malka Cohen, who was also hidden, finally found her. At the end of the war, Cohen returned to the family home and rescued any possessions that had not been looted: linens and clothes, including the shirt belonging to little Rafael. Nina immigrated to Israel in 1946, and only recently, when she heard about the campaign, decided to bequeath the items to Yad Vashem. "This shirt means the whole world to me and my family," said Nina. "Sadly it is getting old and starting to disintegrate, and we decided that the best place to protect it is Yad Vashem." The shirt, together with information about Rafael, will be preserved at Yad Vashem, and will ensure that Rafael's story, as well as that of the Denty family and the Jewish community in Athens, will continue to be told.

At the end of the war, Cohen returned to the family home and rescued any possessions that had not been looted: linens and clothes, including the shirt belonging to little Rafael

"These objects gathered together provide concrete testimony to the great tragedy that befell the Jewish people," said Prime Minister Netanyahu at the cabinet session. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented ministers with data and examples of items that have been given by the public to Yad Vashem through the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign that was launched last year. In total more than 60,000 items have been donated thus far, including 26,000 photographs, 17,000 documents, 12,500 letters, 1,800 artifacts, 720 diaries and memoirs, 320 works of art and 60 films.

*The "Gathering the Fragments" campaign continues. Yad Vashem calls on the public to donate Holocaust-related personal items so they may be preserved for generations to come. For more information, please call (in Israel): 1-800-25-7777.*

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

New in the Art Collection

# Portraits of Jewish Intellectuals on the Run

Yehudit Shendar

■ “Immigrants’, as we were coined, always seemed to me a mistaken denotation, as we did not leave our homes to find a new country to live in. We did not leave our country of our own free will... What we did was escape – we were ousted, exiled.” Thus reflected Berthold Brecht on his flight from Germany in February 1933, similar to that of other German intellectuals in the wake of Hitler’s rise to power in January that year.

A photograph (below) portrays a handsome man donning a fine sports suit, with an adorable girl wearing a dress typical for the period, the relaxed air of a family holiday in a summer vacation town about them. The year is 1934; the place – Sanary-sur-mer, a Mediterranean coastal town on the French Riviera. The individuals in the photograph are Mario Stahl and Judith Kerr. Despite their appearance, the two shared Brecht’s fate: they were forced refugees – German Jews and opponents of the Nazi regime who were condemned and expelled from German society.

Along their escape route, many of the exiles passed through Zurich and Paris. They met as brothers in fate – not just as intellectuals, but also as former Berliners who shared a common language. Stahl, an artist born in 1908 and a student of Käthe Kollwitz and Emil Orlik, documented these meetings with his delicate



■ *Mario Stahl and Judith Kerr, Küsnacht, Switzerland, 1933*

pencil. Intellectuals from the literary and theatrical circles, musicians, filmmakers, artists – every one of them influential and prominent in their forte, found themselves exiled in a foreign land, at a crossroads demanding a decision: where to now?

## These intellectuals did not share the cruel fate of European Jewry in general, or German Jewry in particular

They first found safe harbor in the countries bordering Germany; however as the danger increased, many continued on in search of calmer shores, far from the eye of the storm. Those depicted in the drawings are a faithful reflection of the meandering journeys of many. Miraculously, only two of the wanderers were murdered in the Holocaust (Paul Morgan and Theodor Wolff). Of the rest, a mere handful set their sights on the *Eretz Israel* (Else Lasker-Schüler, Arnold Zweig, Hermann Vallentin) or Britain (Sybille Binder, Lucie Mannheim); the majority settled down in two scenic coastal towns, separated by the expanses of the Atlantic. Many of those who managed to obtain US visas (Marianne Oswald, Moriz Rosenthal, Jean-Pierre Aumont, Max Simon Ehrlich, Alfred Döblin, Claire Goll, Emil Ludwig, Ludwig Hardt, Felix Bressart and Albert Bassermann) joined the diverse community of Pacific Palisades, California, a pastoral town in the mountains with a vista of the Pacific Ocean. Here, the Jewish writer Lion Feuchtwanger, himself a refugee, established a gathering place and a dwelling, Villa Aurora, home to a community of German émigrés. Of those German-speaking exiles remaining in Europe, most directed their steps to the coastal town in the French Riviera, Sanary-sur-mer.

Here, too, was the destination of Stahl. Despite his elegant appearance, a drawing of his living quarters speaks of a very modest existence, appropriate to the hard times that had befallen him. From the South of France, Stahl fled to Italy, where he survived the Holocaust. At the end of the war, he immigrated to Sweden, the birthplace of his future wife. In the town of Malmö, Stahl gradually gained renown as a painter, holding numerous exhibitions. In 1975, aged 67, Mario Stahl passed away, leaving behind a set of drawings dating back to the time of his escape from Nazi Germany.



■ *Dr. Matthias Stahl holding a self-portrait painted by his father, Mario Stahl*

His son, Dr. Matthias Stahl, orphaned from his father at the age of 14, knew only a little of his father’s fate, as Mario chose not to share stories and memories from the time of the Holocaust. Dr. Stahl’s proposal to donate his father’s drawings to Yad Vashem was enthusiastically welcomed, as this collection of drawings sheds light on a unique group: they were people of distinction, connections and means, who did not share the cruel fate of European Jewry in general, or German Jewry in particular. Nonetheless, they stand witness to the rich culture that was annihilated with the murder of their brethren – an unfathomable loss to human civilization.

*The author is Deputy Director and Senior Art Curator, Yad Vashem Museums Division.*

# Rescue Operations During the

Leah Goldstein



■ The Hon. Prof. Irwin Cotler, MP, addresses the audience on the humanitarian legacy of Raoul Wallenberg.

■ On 26 June, the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem conducted a symposium on Rescue Activities During the Holocaust, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Righteous Among the Nations Raoul Wallenberg. The symposium was held in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, MK Dr. Marina Solodkin, Swedish Minister for Integration H. E. Mr. Erik Ullenhag, Hungary's Ambassador to Israel H. E. Mr. Zoltan Szentgyorgyi and Michael Wernstedt, representing Wallenberg's family.

During the first session, chaired by Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, former Canadian Minister of Justice the Hon. Prof. Irwin Cotler, MP, spoke about the humanitarian legacy of Raoul Wallenberg; Swedish historian Dr. Bengt Jangfeldt gave a biographical portrait of Wallenberg; and Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett spoke about Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest, 1944. The second session, chaired by Director of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department Irena Steinfeldt, was a discussion on rescuers and survivors, and included contributions by Prof. Rafi Vago (Tel Aviv University); Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies; and Dr. Iael

Nidam-Orvieto, Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications. David Gur, a former underground activist in Budapest, spoke about his experiences and rescue activities during the war.

Just before the symposium, Dr. Rozett spoke to *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, shedding light on Wallenberg's heroic actions and mysterious end, as well as his celebrated contribution to Jewish rescue during the Holocaust:

His reputation as a hero was justly earned. Yet he was not alone in creating an atmosphere of rescue that impeded the destruction of Budapest Jewry

## How do historians view the actions of Raoul Wallenberg today?

The activities of Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest during the second half of 1944 and the first days of 1945 can be seen in several intersecting contexts. Wallenberg was one of the neutral diplomats engaged in a rather wide-ranging

rescue operation that evolved after the German occupation of 19 March 1944, and that continued until the conquest of Budapest by Soviet forces in mid-January and early February 1945. It is not that this was one coordinated rescue operation, rather it was composed of different groups and many individuals, often in a kind of confederation, who were all trying to do the same thing. They strove to keep Jews alive and out of the hands of their persecutors until the Germans and the Fascist Hungarians were defeated in Hungary.

## What kinds of people carried out rescue attempts in Hungary?

The rescuers were many and varied. They included neutral diplomats like Wallenberg, Karl Lutz of the Swiss legation, Friedrich Born of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Papal nuncio Angelo Rotta, and many others. There were also Zionist activists associated with the Budapest Relief and Rescue Committee led by Israel Kasztner and Otto Komoly, as well as Moshe Krausz, who had his own standing as a leading Zionist. Zionist youth movement members of all persuasions were also involved. Some of the activist youth were native-born Hungarian Jews and others, particularly among the leaders, were refugees

# Holocaust



## Symposium Marks 100 Years Since the Birth of Raoul Wallenberg

from Slovakia and Poland. Church people extended aid as well.

Wallenberg's reputation as a hero was justly earned. Yet he was not alone in creating an atmosphere of rescue that impeded the destruction of Budapest Jewry. It was the combined efforts of numerous diplomats and local activists that contributed to keeping well over 100,000 Jews alive in the city until the Soviet forces conquered it in January and February of 1945.

### Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat. How did he become so involved?

Despite being "neutral" in the war, in the initial years Sweden was slanted more toward Nazi Germany. But by the time the Battle of Stalingrad had ended, Swedish neutrality began to tilt more in the direction of the Allies. Part of this shift was related to the shock of the deportation of the Jews from neighboring Norway beginning in autumn 1942. As the deportations loomed, Sweden signaled its willingness to accept Jews who managed to reach its borders from its sister Scandinavian country. With the help of the Norwegian underground some 900 Jews, slightly over half of the Norwegian Jewish population, found safe haven in Sweden. The following year, when the Jews of Denmark were slated for

deportation, Sweden again made it clear that Jews would be welcome. This time out of some 8,000 Jews living in Denmark, 7,200 were helped to Sweden, mostly by the Danish underground.

In the wake of the German occupation of Hungary, the newly formed American War Refugee Board, charged with aiding Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe, approached Swedish authorities about sending someone to Hungary

Wallenberg was sometimes actually in the field, offering protection in person in highly charged situations that often placed him in real jeopardy

to proffer aid to Jews. Sweden again agreed to help, and Wallenberg was selected. He arrived on 9 July 1944, and began to formulate methods and means of helping Jews. This was just when the first wave of deportation of 435,000 Jews had ended. So Wallenberg is part of the

continuum of Swedish rescue activity and as an extension of that, part of the rescue work of the War Refugee Board.

### Some 800 people active in Hungary have since been honored as Righteous Among the Nations. Why is Wallenberg so venerated for his actions?

Wallenberg acted most of the time like other diplomats, using diplomatic means and connections to help Jews, first and foremost facilitating the handing out of protective papers in the name of his government. But he also was sometimes actually in the field, offering protection in person in highly charged situations that often placed him in real jeopardy. It is this that distinguishes him from most of the other diplomats. He was on the scene more than the others, displaying courage, tenacity and audacity, and putting his own life at risk.

In addition, most of the rescuers in Hungary were not diplomats. They came from many walks of life and they became involved in rescue for many reasons. Not infrequently they had a previous personal connection with a Jew or Jews that they rescued. Sometimes a Jewish husband or wife was helped by their non-Jewish partner; numerous soldiers protected Hungarian Jewish forced laborers; and some rescuers helped their former Jewish employers – which sometimes led to giving aid to additional Jews.

Wallenberg essentially helped Jews he did not know. Of course, over time he became well acquainted with some of the Jews whom he aided and who came to work with him. But in general he was helping Jews not as individuals, but as a group, because they were in danger and not because he had personal ties with them.

Part of our fascination with Raoul Wallenberg is also his tragic end. His arrest by the Soviets and his disappearance deep into the Gulag maze go against our idea of justice and the idea that one should receive a fair reward for doing good deeds. His fate, so unjustly meted out, not only highlights Wallenberg's heroism, but also renders him a figure of epically tragic proportions.

*The symposium was organized with the help of the Swedish and Hungarian Embassies in Israel, and generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Foundation. Director of the International Research Institute Dr. Bella Gutterman moderated the event.*

■ During the symposium, David Gradel presented Yad Vashem with the Wallenberg Maquette, a maquette of the monument created by British sculptor Philip Jackson erected in London's Great Cumberland Place. The original was unveiled in London in 1997, in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, President of Israel Ezer Weizmann, Princess Christina of Sweden and Secretary-General of the UN Kofi Annan. The maquette was generously donated to Yad Vashem by Milla Gradel and Maurice Djanogly OBE to mark 100 years since the birth of Raoul Wallenberg.



■ Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar, David Gradel and Avner Shalev with the Wallenberg Maquette presented to Yad Vashem to mark 100 years since the birth of Raoul Wallenberg

# Holocaust Remembrance Day

Mirit Fischler, Naama Galil, Uri Kalt, Inbal Kvity Ben Dov, Yochi Nissani

■ During Holocaust Remembrance Day on 18-19 April 2012, some 12,800 visitors came to Yad Vashem to participate in the range of events that took place across the campus:

■ Some 2,600 Holocaust survivors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, hundreds of youth and IDF soldiers filled Warsaw Ghetto square for the **Ceremony Opening Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2012** under the theme, "Jewish Solidarity During the Holocaust." The following morning, after a two-minute silence, **120 wreaths were laid** at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations.

■ As part of the Remembrance Day events, the International School for Holocaust Studies held an "Open Community Center" for dozens of schools that visited Yad Vashem. This year saw the first-ever **musical performance** by the Jerusalem Music and Dance Academy. The concert comprised works created during the *Shoah* as well as the stories of their Jewish composers, whose memories were honored during their performance.

The Family Square hosted a **dance recital** performed by the "Olla" dance studio of Tal Shachar. The colorful recital, held against the backdrop of the Jerusalem hills, provided the audience – thousands of students, teachers and survivors – with an original and moving artistic interpretation of the *Shoah*.

■ The **Youth Movement Ceremony**, held in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Education, was attended by 365 youth movement members from a wide range of movements across the country. Participants took a tour of the campus and participated in a special workshop about the transports before assembling, together with Holocaust survivors, in the Valley of the Communities for the main ceremony at which they pledged to carry the torch of remembrance for generations to come.

■ A **special forum for senior members of Israel's Defense Forces** headed by the **IDF Chief-of-Staff** focused on the future of Holocaust Remembrance in Israeli society. Participants met with Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications Iael Nidam-Orvietto as well as Yad Vashem



■ Top, left to right: Youth Movement Ceremony, Torchlighters, Musical Performance. Bottom, left to right: Dance Recital, Wreath-Laying Ceremony, IAF Seminar

Chairman Avner Shalev, and held a ceremony in the Hall of Names.

In advance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem held a number of custom-made seminars for senior members of the security

forces, including Israel's Police Commissioner, Head of General Security Service, Director-General of the Ministry of Defense, and heads of various military commands. Attendees took specialized tours on the theme of Jewish

## Mini-Site for Holocaust Remembrance Day

Dana Porath

- Video message from Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev
- Photos from events and ceremonies
- Broadcast of official opening ceremony
- Torchlighter stories and videos
- "Snapshots of Memory: 24 Hours on the Mount of Remembrance" – Photo and Video Gallery
- Names for Name-Reading Ceremonies
- Torchlighter Online Archive – All the films made for the torchlighters since 1995 accessible for viewing by name, place and date of ceremony

**In the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Yad Vashem Facebook page reached over a million people.**

*The author is Director of the Internet Department.*



## Recent Events at Yad Vashem Anat Faruz



Solidarity during the Holocaust, and met with Holocaust survivor Tzila Yofen.

■ More than 50 lectures and 20 daylong seminars were presented by Yad Vashem staff, and over 50 Holocaust survivors gave their personal testimonies before audiences across the country. These activities were organized by Yad Vashem's Guiding Department, in cooperation with Second Generation organizations, often at places of work that held special ceremonies to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.

■ Some 300 people attended a special evening to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day held by the "Generation to Generation – Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy" organization. Chairman Shmuel Sorek opened the event, and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev spoke about the challenges of Holocaust Remembrance and its legacy. Dr. Mala Meyer told the story of the Zimetbaum group at Auschwitz and the event was concluded by a performance of "The Twin Sisters," based on the work by acclaimed Yiddish poet Abraham Sutzkever and performed by his granddaughter, actress Hadas Kalderon.

### VE Day 2012

■ On 9 May, Yad Vashem held the annual official ceremony marking the anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. The ceremony, which took place with the participation of Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver, was organized along with the Absorption Ministry and partisan and veteran organizations.

Hundreds of Jewish WWII veterans of the Allied armies, the majority from the FSU, attended, along with Jewish partisans,



underground fighters, volunteers from the *Yishuv* who fought in the British forces and veterans of the Jewish Brigade, as well as diplomatic representatives from the Allied countries.

### Sapling from Anne Frank Tree Planted at Yad Vashem

■ A sapling from the chestnut tree that Anne Frank wrote about in her diary was planted at Yad Vashem on 26 March. Anne wrote about the tree, which became sick in 2010, three times in her diary, the last time on May 13, 1944: "Our chestnut tree is in full bloom," she noted. "It's covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year."

The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam decided to germinate saplings from the tree in order to donate them to institutions that commemorate the Holocaust. The sapling donated to Yad Vashem was planted near the Children's Memorial and International School for Holocaust Studies, in the presence of Hanna Pick, Holocaust survivor and friend of Anne Frank, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Israel H. E.



Mr. Caspar Veldkamp, Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar, and Israeli high school students from Jerusalem. (Pictured, left to right: Hanna Pick with her granddaughter Tamar and a high school student.)

### Defiant Requiem

■ Following a private screening of the film *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin* on 29 May, a panel discussion took place with the participation of Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Special Advisor to President Clinton on Holocaust-Era Issues, Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar, and Terezin ghetto survivor Greta Klingsberg.



The film depicts the reconstruction by Maestro Murry Sidlin of the remarkable requiem performed by prisoners at Terezin (Theresienstadt), as well as the extraordinary work of the Jewish-Czech composer Rafael Schächter and the prisoner chorus he created.

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

# News from the Research Institute

## Agreement Furthers Research into Deportations from France

■ On 23 May, the National Society of French Railways (SNCF) signed an agreement with Yad Vashem to increase research into the scope of deportations of Jews from France during the Holocaust. The SNCF's contribution will support research into the French section of Yad Vashem's "Transports to Extinction: *Shoah* (Holocaust) Deportation Database."

The Deportation Database is a long-term research project which maps the deportations of Jews to concentration and extermination camps and killing sites in Europe. So far, the project has mapped some 400 transports from Vienna to various destinations, among them Minsk, Riga, Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, as well as from Berlin, Cologne, Breslau, and several Czech cities, including Prague, Brno and Plzen, to Terezin. Using all the resources available, Yad Vashem researchers have reconstructed each transport's route, including information on the persons involved in organizing the transport, the socio-economic characteristics of the Jewish deportees, and recollections of

survivors, to build a complete picture. The findings are available in English, German and Hebrew on the Yad Vashem website. Those relating to transports in and from France will also be available in French.

SNCF's contribution will assist researchers in more fully documenting approximately 80 mass transports of Jews from France, which led to the murder of some 76,000 French Jews at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The research will build on the work already completed by Serge Klarsfeld (Memorial of the Deportation of Jews from France). In addition to a detailed analysis of SNCF records during the Holocaust, survivors' testimonies, private documents and photographs will shed light on the deportees' experience. The research will also map transports within France, from small towns and villages to Drancy.

"The 'Final Solution' could not have been carried out by the Germans without the extensive cooperation of many people at all levels of society and governments throughout



■ SNCF Senior Vice President Bernard Emsellem (left) and Avner Shalev at the agreement signing

Europe," explained Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who co-signed the agreement with Bernard Emsellem, Senior Vice President of SNCF. "SNCF is committed to complete transparency, acknowledgment of the past, and an obligation to remember the victims of the Holocaust," said Emsellem.

## New Research Center for German Jewry

■ At the beginning of June 2012, the International Research Institute opened its Center for Research on the Holocaust in Germany. The new Center joins two centers focused on the Holocaust in the FSU and in Poland as well as the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of

the Holocaust, and is directed by Prof. Guy Miron.

The Center will forge contacts and cooperative activities with other relevant centers in Israel and around the world. Its primary goal is to gather information on Jewish life in Germany before and during

WWII, which will be published in two volumes. A further Hebrew-language volume will present a range of clippings from Jewish newspapers in Germany during the same period.

*The Center was established with the support of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.*

## Eli Zborowski Launches Memoirs

■ On 3 April, a special event marking the publication of *A Life of Leadership: The Life Story of Eli Zborowski* took place at Yad Vashem. Speaking before a packed room in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, Zborowski's voice shook as he recalled his parents Moshe and Zisel, and the role models



they were for him. Zborowski survived the war in hiding in Poland, and moved to the United States. After a successful career in business, Eli dedicated his life to Holocaust remembrance and education, establishing the American Society for Yad Vashem and leading it for 30 years. "During the darkest days of the *Shoah*, we all dreamt of Israel," said Zborowski (pictured). "How appropriate it is that the launch of my memoirs is in Jerusalem."

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev noted that at a young age Eli took on the responsibility of caring for his family, and that sense of responsibility is a key motivator for him. "His commitment towards Holocaust remembrance is so deep that he is willing to

say, '*naa'se v'nishma*' [I will do, and I will listen]," said Shalev. "It has been his lifelong mission to commemorate the Holocaust."

Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, Deputy Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council (and formerly Chairman of Yad Vashem) Dr. Yitzhak Arad, Eli's daughter Dr. Lilly Naveh (Zborowski) and Rabbi R. Yehoshua Berman of Bar-Ilan University, who is the son of the book's authors Rochel and George Berman, also offered remarks and spoke of Eli's dedication to commemorating the Holocaust as well as the prewar Jewish world. Eli's wife Elizabeth and members of his family were present. Dr. Bella Gutterman, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, moderated the event.

## New Research: The Involvement of European Populations in the Murder of their Jewish Neighbors

Dr. David Silberklang

■ Many people in Europe joined Nazi Germany in persecuting and murdering the Jews, even at the later stages of WWII. The new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (40:1) sheds light on European attitudes toward Jews and the “Final Solution” through examinations of Poland, Hungary and Romania. With rare exceptions, the Jews were either the prey of murderers or the pawns of antisemites.

Rachel Feldhay Brenner examines the diary of Polish writer Aurelia Wyleżyńska, which affords a rare glimpse into the inner deliberations of an urban, liberal, intellectual rescuer. Wyleżyńska was a true humanist, profoundly disturbed by the acquiescence of her Polish compatriots, including her liberal intellectual friends, to the murder of the Jews. Her diary also traces the often complex and uneasy rescuer-rescued relationship; she found herself at times so sharply critical of her charges’ behavior that she feared she might come to hate them. She ultimately stood the test, but found her Polish society deeply wanting.

Jan Grabowski’s look at the attitudes of rural Polish farmers toward Jews and their murder in the southern Polish county of Dąbrowa Tarnowska paints a gruesome picture. Individuals acquiesced in the murder of their Jewish neighbors, often actively hunting them and then either turning them in to the police or killing them for personal gain. The frequent hunts for Jews provoked no known moral dilemmas, other than concerns over lost work time.

The Communist underground resistance fighters of the Armia Ludowa (AL) in the Kielce District, studied by Joanna Tokarska-Bakir, became willful murderers without any German pressure. Factional struggles within the Communist Party prompted the investigation and trial of AL officer Tadeusz Maj in the 1950s. Maj’s regional commander, Mieczysław Moczar, an antisemite and murder suspect, later became Poland’s interior minister and oversaw the 1968 antisemitic campaign that led to the emigration of most of Poland’s remaining Jews. The murders carried out by Maj’s unit in the second half of 1944 were not rogue operations, but rather viewed favorably by Moczar’s regional command.

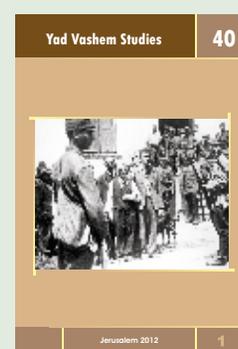
Among Nazi Germany’s leading murder partners were Hungary and Romania, who together participated in the murder of nearly a million Jews. Yet, László Karsai’s findings regarding Ferenc Szálasi’s Arrow Cross regime in Hungary, and Ronit Fisher’s study regarding Romanian society under Ion Antonescu, are somewhat unexpected. These sworn antisemites, who committed genocidal murder against their Jews, also consciously stopped short of total murder. Szálasi’s racist antisemitic regime, known for its death marches and the shooting of thousands of Jews into the Danube River, did not kill most of the Jews of Hungary. That dubious honor belongs to Szálasi’s predecessors – Regent Miklos Horthy and Prime Minister Döme Sztójay. Szálasi was actually pragmatic and opportunistic at times regarding the Jews; he sought to prevent or postpone their

total destruction so he could exploit the remaining Jews in Budapest for forced labor, as well as a bargaining chip with neutral countries in return for recognition of his regime.

Fisher places Romania’s wartime policy as a unique blend of ethnic cleansing and genocide that distinguished between “our” Jews in the Regat and “foreign” Jews in the provinces. While other “foreigners” were driven out of the provinces, the Jews were suspected on three levels: as Jews; as inhabitants of the regions in which Romanian culture and control seemed threatened; and as pro-Soviet activists. Thus, not only could foreign Jews not be trusted, they also could (and should) be destroyed.

There were thus many paths to willful participation in the genocide of the Jewish population of Europe. Radical nationalism, racism, antisemitism, sovereignty, greed and ideals (or their abandonment) were among the factors that came into play in influencing the attitudes and behavior of local populations toward Jews so desperately in need of compassion and refuge.

*The author is Senior Historian, International Institute for Holocaust Research, and Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies.*



## Pius XII and the Holocaust: Current State of Research

Edited by David Bankier and Iael Nidam-Orvieto

■ *Dilemmas, silence, active rescue, passivity.* These are a few of the words often mentioned when dealing with the controversial figure of Pius XII. Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli was born in Rome in 1876, ordained to priesthood in 1899, and was elected Pope in 1939. His papacy is considered both in historiography and in the public discourse to be one of the most contentious, primarily due to his responses to the extermination of the Jews during the Holocaust.

Pacelli’s critics emphasize that his main failure was his silence – that is, the lack of a public and direct condemnation of the persecution of the Jews and later, their extermination by Nazi Germany. The different critics raise a vast range of motivations, from political and ideological to even personal reasons. On the other side of the debate, Pacelli’s defenders emphasize that already in his first encyclical of October 1939, Pius XII referred to the natural laws and the unity of the

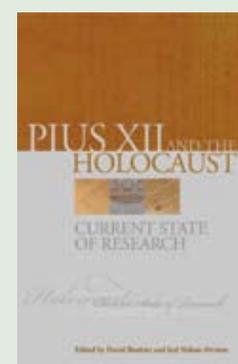
human race, thereby verbally objecting to the very essence of the Nazi racial policy. Later on, during the entire war period, the Pope proclaimed the need to help the innocent victims of war. These scholars claim that his speeches were clearly referring to the Jews and their suffering, albeit not specifically mentioned. Moreover, they believe that the large-scale rescue activities carried out by Catholic clergy throughout Europe are clear proof of the inspiration given by the Pope on different occasions.

In March 2009, the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and the Salesian Theological Institute of Saints Peter and Paul in Jerusalem convened an international academic workshop on the topic. The main aim of the workshop was to understand the current state of research in view of recent publications and of the archival material that has recently been discovered or opened to the public. The workshop was a unique gathering,

bringing together researchers who align themselves with all ranges of opinions on Pius XII, from fierce critics to ardent defenders. This workshop enabled the participants to discuss new documentation and new insights on this debated topic.

This publication consists of the transcript of the presentations of each speaker in the workshop as well as the discussions that were held.

■ **To order these books, please see details on the back cover.**



## Unveiling of Donor's Plaque for New Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall

■ On 4 June, Lily Safra, Yad Vashem Benefactor and Chairwoman of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, unveiled the donor's plaque dedicating the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall in loving memory of her husband, Edmond J. Safra, a renowned philanthropist and generous benefactor of Yad Vashem.

The 330-seat Lecture Hall, in the new International Seminars Wing of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, will provide a venue for educational and cultural activities that Yad Vashem holds annually for thousands of educators from Israel and abroad.

Minister of Justice Prof. Yaacov Ne'eman, Board Members of the Foundation, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and German and Mexican educators attending seminars at the International School also participated in the event.

Speaking at the event, an emotional Mrs. Safra, with her daughter Adriana Elia at her side, said: "For many years the Edmond J. Safra Foundation and I have been pleased to support Holocaust education efforts... Yad Vashem stands as an eternal memorial to those who

perished, but with the International School for Holocaust Studies, it is also a beacon of hope. It is only through education that we can hope to prevent future generations from repeating the tragedies of the past. We are privileged to

support this important work, and I know how proud my husband would be to see his name forever associated with it. I wish the teachers and staff of Yad Vashem many productive years ahead."



■ Avner Shalev, Lily Safra and Israel's Justice Minister Prof. Yaacov Ne'eman

## Spotlight: Rare Cinematic Representations of Jewish Communities Mimi Ash



■ The Visual Center's collection of nearly 7,000 titles includes classics as well as films about Jewish communities not often represented in Holocaust cinema.

Among the latter are two recently acquired films by Dr. Ioana Cosman of the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Both recall the tragedy of the Jews of Cluj, also known as Kolozsvár, Klausenburg and Kloiznburg, the capital of Transylvania (Romania). Jews had lived in Cluj for hundreds of years, withstanding popular and institutional antisemitism, and flourishing during brief respites of tolerance. There were approximately 16,000 Jews in Cluj in 1944, but only twenty percent of them survived the war: the remainder died in Auschwitz. The documentary *The Jewish Community in the City of Cluj* (2004) acquaints us with members of the tiny, elderly Jewish community of present-day Cluj, as they recall the horrors they experienced, still mourning their lost relatives. The poetic,

fragmented mode of the short film essay *What was Left Unspoken* (2009) also deals with the never-ending nightmares and longing that haunt the survivors.

*The Heart is a Mirror* (2010), directed by Yvette Ebery, sensitively re-enacts Ebery's emotionally charged dialogue with her Romanian-Jewish grandmother, who endured the horrors at Transnistria. The director's cinematic approach utilizes state-of-the-art puppets, video dance and original music.

Vesna Orel's tender and subtle portrait of her father, *Milosh* (2010), a former Yugoslav partisan originally from Slovenia, reveals a story of deportation, heroism and remembrance as father and daughter go through an old cigar box of family photos.

The Visual Center also recently acquired seven Holocaust films by the renowned Croatian filmmaker Jakov Sedlar, including the 2006 documentaries *Jews and Croatia* and *Judith*, the story of choreographer and Holocaust survivor Judith Arnon, founder of the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company.

Sedlar's *Jerusalemki Sindrom* (2004) stars Martin Sheen, Macaulay Culkin, Charlotte Rampling, Mili Avital and Bozidar Alic. This fictional film depicts the rejection of Croatian political life by a young actor, the grandson of a Jew who died in Auschwitz and son of a dissident during the Communist regime. When his fiancée is murdered in a terrorist attack in Israel, he begins an existential journey, seeking meaning in a world dominated by war and hatred.

Shocking photographs and footage of the Jasenovac concentration camp, where tens of thousands of Serbian, Jewish and Roma men, women and children were brutally murdered, appear in Danko R. Vasović's disturbing investigative report entitled *Waldheim, The Hidden Evil*. The film explores the controversies surrounding the former UN Secretary General, in an attempt to prove Kurt Waldheim's direct involvement in Nazi war crimes committed in Croatia.

*The author is the Visual Center's Acquisitions and Project Coordinator.*

## “Children” Rescued in Denmark Reunited at Yad Vashem

■ In January 2011, Judita Matyášová, a Czech journalist and researcher at the Military History Institute of Prague, was contacted by Holocaust survivor Zuzana Ledererova, who was sent to Denmark during WWII along with other Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in preparation for *aliya*. In 1943, most of the youth escaped to Sweden, and had not been in contact with each other since. Matyášová set about researching this formerly unknown chapter of Holocaust history. On 30 April 2012, she visited Israel to present her findings to Yad Vashem’s International Institute of Holocaust Research, as well as to attend the reunion of many of the survivors at Yad Vashem.

From the spring to fall of 1939, 150 children aged 14-16 were selected to attend Zionist courses across Czechoslovakia – the majority in Prague. The main goal of these courses was to prepare them for life in *Eretz Israel*, but after war broke out, organizers were forced to change their plans and send the children out of Nazi-occupied Europe. Some 20 of them were sent to the Jewish Homeland; the rest were placed on a transport headed for Denmark. Most never saw their parents or siblings again. Through the League for Peace and Freedom they were settled with foster families, with whom they forged strong relationships. “I stayed with the Olsens... I still don’t fully understand why they



■ Left to right: Prof. Dan Yaalon, Judit Shaked, Dov Strauss

did this for me, why they offered me refuge,” recalled Zdenka Štiastná, now Judit Shaked, an 87-year-old Haifa resident. “They weren’t very well-off, but they were ready to share what they had. They were very kind.”

But in the fall of 1943 the advancing German army forced the Jewish children to flee once more, this time to Sweden. That was the moment when all contact between them was broken. Matyášová painstakingly researched the fate of as many of them as possible, and then planned a trip to Israel to meet them.

“I last saw Hardy in March 1941 in

Copenhagen. We were 16 then. I was leaving for Palestine and saying goodbye. This is the first time I’ve seen him since,” said an emotional Shaked at Yad Vashem. All the while her childhood friend Hardy Berger (now Professor Dan Yaalon) lived just an hour’s drive away from her. “I fled to Sweden in 1943. A dream of mine came true – finally I was able to work at Uppsala University,” recalled geologist Yaalon, who began a new life in

*Eretz Israel* in 1948. After all those years, he and his fellow travelers still speak perfect Czech. “The Nazis killed all my family. Now I am happy to have my children and grandchildren around me. There are 38 of us altogether,” smiled 88-year-old Dov (Oskar) Strauss.

“At the outbreak of the war, when we were still children, we were told ‘The Story of the Bells,’ about an evil king who drove many people out of their country. We were outcasts,” explained Shaked. “Now that we have been reunited, it feels like the bells are ringing again.”

## Signing the Holocaust Naama Galil

■ Between January and March 2012, an enrichment course on the Holocaust was given by Yad Vashem for the deaf and hearing-impaired. A joint initiative with the Institute for the Advancement of Deaf Persons in Israel, the course comprised six sessions that provided the audience with knowledge about the Jewish world in Europe before the war, as well as other core topics in Holocaust Studies. Four of the meetings were held at Yad Vashem, and incorporated guided tours of the Holocaust History Museum, along with a comprehensive tour of the Mount of Remembrance.

The participants, aged 20-60, attended for diverse reasons: some came to gain better knowledge of the history of their families murdered during the Holocaust; others had a general interest in the topic and wished to deepen their understanding of it. A sign-language interpreter accompanied the participants together with a simultaneous typist,



who kept detailed records of the meetings for future reference.

During the course, many insights were gained regarding teaching and guiding deaf and hearing-impaired audiences. The course is due to be repeated in the near future, and cooperation between the two organizations is planned to continue.

*The author is Director of Yad Vashem’s Guiding Department, Commemoration and Public Relations Division.*

## Visually Impaired Visit Museum

■ A group of six visually impaired persons with guide dogs visited the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem in preparation for their trip to Poland. The group, led by Amir Haskel, made use of the models and exhibits in the Museum in order to illustrate the topics to be discussed in Poland. The group was guided by Daniella Avital, a guide at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



During April, May and June 2012, Yad Vashem conducted 250 guided tours for more than 2,800 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government and ambassadors, leaders of non-profit organizations, lawyers and economists. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:

■ **German President Joachim Gauck** (right) and Ms. Daniela Schadt visited Yad Vashem on 29 May, accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) and President Shimon Peres (center). After a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, including the Hall of Names (pictured), and a memorial ceremony, President Gauck visited the Yad Vashem Archives with Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner.



■ On 9 April, **Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti** (right) was accompanied by Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto (left) as he toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Prime Minister of Moldova Vladimir Filat** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 14 May.



■ **President of the Ivory Coast Alassane Ouattara** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem on 17 June, guided by Director of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations Irena Steinfeldt (right).



■ **Foreign Minister of Romania Andrei Marga** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 30 May, guided by Director of the Hall of Names Alexander Avram (left).



■ During his tour of Yad Vashem on 2 May, **Japan's Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba** was guided through the Holocaust History Museum, and visited the tree honoring Japanese Righteous Among the Nations Chiune-Sempo Sugihara.



■ On 3 April, **New Jersey Governor Chris Christie** (second from left) toured Yad Vashem, including the Museum of Holocaust Art, accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) and guided by Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar (left).



■ **Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Miroslava Němcová** visited Yad Vashem on 31 May, and toured the campus.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 29 April, **Prime Minister of Uganda Amama Mbabazi** (center) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (right).



■ On 30 April, **Foreign Minister of Macedonia Nikola Poposki** (center) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Senior Historian and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang (right).



■ On 7 June, **Austrian Federal Minister of Justice Beatrix Karl** toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



## Rick and Jan Cohen: Inspiring Action

■ **Rick and Jan Cohen** (pictured), **Benefactors of Yad Vashem**, have been involved in Holocaust education for some 30 years.

Jan is the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Kaddish Project, Lawrence Siegel's musical oratorio on the Holocaust which was performed at Yad Vashem in September 2011. She has also been an Advisory Board member of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College since 1999. In the spring of 2006, Jan represented the Cohen Center at the New Hampshire State Department of Education's hearing to advocate for adding Holocaust and genocide education to the New Hampshire social sciences curriculum. In recognition for her work on behalf of Holocaust studies, she received an official commendation by New Hampshire Governor John Lynch in August 2006. In May 2012, she received an honorary degree from Keene State College. Through the Kaddish Project, Jan continues her efforts to raise awareness and inspire action to prevent injustice and genocide in the world today.



Rick is the President and CEO of a large company in the US. He has also served on the boards of various civic organizations in both Brattleboro, Vermont and Keene, New Hampshire, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Assumption College. Rick and Jan have three daughters and two grandchildren.

## The Weinberg Foundation: Continuing Support

■ **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** recently became **Benefactors of the International Seminars Wing at the International School for Holocaust Studies**. Representing all of the Foundation Trustees, including Donn Weinberg, Barry I. Schloss, the Hon. Ellen M. Heller and Alvin Awaya, Robert T. Kelly, Jr. (pictured, right) spoke on behalf of the Foundation at the dedication of The Jerusalem Vista, joined by the Foundation's President, Rachel Garbow Monroe (pictured, left). More than 20 Weinberg Foundation Annual Israel Mission participants from Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC also attended the special ceremony.



The Weinberg family arrived in America with extremely modest means. Harry worked hard to accumulate his fortune in securities and real estate, but he never forgot his roots as a poor immigrant child in Baltimore. During the late 1930s, while still a young married man with an infant son, he unhesitatingly signed affidavits of support, pledging his then-modest assets to enable many German Jews to reach

safe haven in America. In 1959, he created The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation as a long-term vehicle for consistent charitable activity to continue long after he and Jeanette had passed on. Harry Weinberg died on 4 November 1990, little more than a year after his beloved wife Jeanette.

Today The Weinberg Foundation distributes an estimated \$100 million every year in grants to numerous public charities worldwide.

# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ Yad Vashem supporters **Steve and Sandra Finkelman** (center) unveiled a plaque in memory of their father **Wolf Finkelman z"l**, a Holocaust survivor from Savin, Poland. They were accompanied by Yad Vashem CIO **Michael Lieber** (left) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ Over 700 participants of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Miami Mega Mission Israel 2012 visited Yad Vashem on *Yom Hazikaron*, Israel's National Remembrance Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror. The group had one of the last opportunities to hear firsthand the testimony of Holocaust survivor **Eliezer Ayalon z"l**, who also fought in Israel's War of Independence.



■ Left to right: **American Society of Yad Vashem** Board Member **David Halpern**, his wife **Sharon** and his son and daughter-in-law **Jeremy and Abbi** visited Yad Vashem over Pesach. During the visit they walked along the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations, endowed by David's parents **Sam and Gladys Halpern** and his aunt and uncle **Eva and Arie Halpern z"l**.



■ **Rose Moskowitz** (center) and her children, **Sonia Gordon** (left) and **Mark Moskowitz** (right), visited Yad Vashem on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Mrs. Moskowitz was given the honor of rekindling the flame in the Hall of Remembrance during the memorial ceremony.



■ Seated: **Eli Zborowski**, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem, with Honorees **Sima Katz** and **Iris Lifshitz Lindenbaum** at the 2012 Annual Spring Luncheon in New York on 16 May. Standing: Luncheon Co-Chair **Rita Levy**; **Matthew Levy**, grandson of Sima Katz; Luncheon Co-Chair **Marilyn Rubenstein**



■ Over 700 people attended the 2012 American Society for Yad Vashem Young Leadership Committee Gala, held in New York on 27 March. The Committee was chaired by **Erica** and **Michael Distenfeld**, **Abbi** and **Jeremy Halpern**, **Laurie Kolin**, **Jaci** and **Gonen Paradis** and **Jeff Wilf**.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of its dear friend and Benefactor, **Eva Halpern z"l**, who passed away peacefully at the age of 88. A survivor of the Holocaust, Eva began to rebuild her life at a DP camp in Germany after the war ended. She



married **Bernard Stein**, a survivor from her hometown of **Chorostkow, Poland**. The couple immigrated with their first son **Ben** to the US, and settled on a family farm with Eva's surviving brother, sister and brother-in-law in western New Jersey. After **Bernard** passed away at a tragically early age, she married **Arie Halpern z"l**, also a fellow survivor from **Chorostkow**. For more than 40 years they never forgot the Righteous Among the Nations who saved them, helping support them and their descendents.

■ **Craig Snider** (right) was accompanied by **Sari Granitza**, Deputy Managing Director of the International Relations Division, on a visit to the Yad Vashem Archives, where he saw documents regarding his family members.



■ In March, **Larry Field** (second from right) and his family came to Yad Vashem. They visited the Synagogue, which showcases restored Judaica from destroyed synagogues in Europe, testifying to the indestructible faith of European Jewry. The main, functioning Torah Ark's façade is from **Barlad, Romania**.



■ The Yom Hashoah 2012 Young Leadership Associates Program at the United Nations on 23 May featured the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition, “With Me Here Are Six Million Accusers: Marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eichmann Trial.”



Left to right: Event Co-Chairs **Elliot Pines** and **Alexandra Lebovits**; Israeli Minister **Yossi Peled**; **Tamar Hausner-Raveh**, attorney and daughter of Gideon Hausner, the Israeli prosecutor who tried Eichmann; American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**; **Caroline Massel**, Co-Chair, Young Leadership Associates

## CANADA

■ On 23 April 2012, the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** led the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National War Museum in Ottawa. At the ceremony, the Canadian Society, on behalf of the State of Israel, conferred the special honor of “Righteous Among the Nations” on the late **Karolina Juszczkowska**, **Klaas Dreijer** and **Jetske Dreijer**. Canadian Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** and Israel’s Ambassador to Canada **H. E. Ms. Miriam Ziv** presented the families of the Righteous with special certificates and medals.



Left to right: Karolina’s grandchildren, **Donna Kaczmarczyk**, **Vicky Gee**, **Richard Kaczmarczyk** and **Chris Francis**; Klaas and Jetske’s children **Peter Dreyer** and **John Dreyer**; **Michael de Haan**, son of Joseph de Haan, whose life was saved by Klaas and Jetske; **Pearl van**

**Luit**, the housekeeper of the family who hid Joseph de Haan; Klaas and Jetske’s children **Sophia van Keulen**, **Frances Hensen**, and **Arthur Dreyer**; Prime Minister Harper; H.E. Ms. Miriam Ziv; Ambassador of the Netherlands to Canada **H. E. Mr. Wilhelmus Julius Petrus Geerts**; Poland’s Ambassador to Canada **H. E. Mr. Zenon Henryk Kosiniak-Kamysz**; Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**. Also attending the ceremony was Karolina’s grandson **Ted Kaczmarczyk**.

■ Following the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition, “Besa: A Code of Honor – Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust” was officially launched by the Canadian Society.



Left to right: Yaron Ashkenazi; **Mario Silva**, Co-Chair of the 2013 Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF); Canadian Society National Chair and Co-MC of the 2012 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony **Fran Sonshine**; Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Canada **H. E. Ms. Elida Petoshati**; Mayor of Ottawa **Jim Watson**; Canadian Society Board Member and Co-MC of the 2012 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony **Harry Bloomfield**, QC

■ At the 2012 Queen’s Park Tribute to Holocaust Survivors, **Premier Dalton McGuinty**, on behalf of the Ontario government and in collaboration with the Canadian Society, honored 19 survivors living in Ontario.



Left to right: (first row) **Lea Hochman**, **Sara Marmurek**, **Miriam Schlanger**, **Emma Weisz**, **Erich Weisz**, **Gena Tenenbaum**, **Joe Tenenbaum**; (second row) **Gerta Solan**, **Felix Opatowski**, **George Fox**, **Amek Adler**, **Chava Kwinta**, **George Lysy**, **George Berman**; (back row) Fran Sonshine, Yaron Ashkenazi, **Andrew Adler**, **Livia Eva Adler**, Premier McGuinty, **Morris Rosenberg**, Ontario’s Minister of Citizenship and Immigration **Charles Sousa**, **Claire Baum**, Israel’s Ambassador to Canada **H. E. Mr. Amir Gissin**, **Monte Kwinter**, MPP. Also honored at the ceremony was **Judy Lysy**.

■ Chairman of the Boards for both RBC and EnCana Corporation **David O’Brien** (left) and his wife **Gail O’Brien** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 17 May.



■ Prominent businessman and a Board Director of RBC **Brandt Louie** (back, right) and his wife **Belinda Louie** (back, left) visited Yad Vashem on 23 April.



# Friends Worldwide

## AUSTRALIA

■ **Frank and Shirley Lowy** visited Yad Vashem on 9 April, where they met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and paid a brief visit to the Museum of Holocaust Art.



■ Holocaust survivor **Joseph Fröhlich-West** visited Yad Vashem, where he viewed the plaque recently donated by him in honor of Avner Shalev.



■ **Geoff and Debbie Levy** (second and fourth from right) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day official opening ceremony at Yad Vashem. They also visited the Holocaust History Museum, accompanied by their son, daughter-in-law and friends.



■ **Lee Liberman** (left) was given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives by Archives Director **Dr. Haim Gertner** (second from left) and visited the Museum of Holocaust Art, accompanied by Senior Art Curator **Yehudit Shendar** (center). Her visit culminated in a

meeting with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (second from right) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



## UK

■ **Ian Livingston** (fifth from left), CEO of British Telecom, visited the Holocaust History Museum together with his wife and relatives. He also met with Yad Vashem CIO **Michael Lieber** for a briefing on technology in use at Yad Vashem.



■ **Simon Bentley** (second from right), Chairman of the **Yad Vashem-UK Foundation**, visited the Holocaust History Museum in April accompanied by his wife, daughter and friends.



■ Accompanied by his wife **Lucy**, **Phillip Morelle** (right), son of Yad Vashem Builder **Steve Morelle z"l**, visited the Holocaust History on 15 April. He also attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day official opening ceremony on 18 April.



■ **Jonathan Ferster** (right) visited Yad Vashem on Holocaust Remembrance Day, accompanied by his brother **Warren** and sister-in-law **Sharon**. During a ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance, they read out the names of their murdered relatives. They completed their visit with a tour of the Yad Vashem Archives and Museum Complex.



## FRANCE & BENELUX

■ The French delegation that participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony at Yad Vashem included **Dr. Jean Raphael Hirsch**, President of the **French Committee for Yad Vashem**, the General Secretary of the Committee **Jean Pierre Gauzi**, and his wife **Cecile**. Director of the French and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross** also welcomed **Maxi Librati** and his son **Thierry**, his daughter **Patricia** and her husband **Willy Fazel**; **Laura Rusk** and her daughter **Helena**; **Jean Pierre Levy** and his wife **Yaffa** with their friends **Annie-Claude** and **Claude Chouraqi**. **Rosine Bron** and **Léon Sebag** also attended the ceremony. The Dutch delegation was composed of President of the **Dutch Friends of**

**Yad Vashem Joop Levy** and his wife **Yudith**, as well as the representative in Israel of the Noaber Foundation, **Cécile Bellilious**.

For the third consecutive year, the France-Israel Foundation, chaired by **Nicole Guedj**, organized a tour in Israel for the grandchildren of Righteous Among the Nations, accompanied by **David Adam**, Director of the French Committee for Yad Vashem.



ceremonies at Yad Vashem marking Holocaust Remembrance Day.



■ **Luna Sultan** (second from left) was joined by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Perla Hazan and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



## VENEZUELA

■ **Luna Sultan** (second from left) was joined by her nephews **Sady** (left), **David** (right) and **Saul** (second from right) during a visit to Yad Vashem.



## LATIN AMERICA

■ Pictured: Guests of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Desk at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony



■ From 17-26 April, a seminar was held for the Latin-American Jewish leadership in the newly built International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Eighteen participants involved in leadership positions within their respective communities came from Mexico, Venezuela and Miami, USA to attend the second seminar of its kind at Yad Vashem.

Participants attended lectures by International School staff as well as academics and experts in various fields. They also participated in the

■ Camara de Economía Venezuela-Israel was joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Desk **Perla Hazan** (center) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



## MEXICO

■ The Attie and Trepman families visited Yad Vashem to unveil the plaque in honor of **Vicky** and **Zury Attie** and to mark the bar mitzvah of **Yonatan Attie** and **Uriel Trepman**. They were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Desk **Perla Hazan** (fourth from right) and Managing Director of International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (third from right).



■ **Susie** and **Nathan Shteremberg** (center) were joined by Perla Hazan and Shaya Ben Yehuda for the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the Square of Hope.



# Friends Worldwide

■ **Susana and Jaime Braverman** (right) were joined by Perla Hazan for the unveiling of the plaque in honor of their mother at the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ **Ivonne Stern-Landsamas** (right) was joined by Perla Hazan for the unveiling of the plaque in honor of her and her family at the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ **Susie and Nathan Shteremberg, Eva Lijtszain and Jaime Braverman** were accompanied by Perla Hazan at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



## SPAIN

■ **Dafna Mazin Ramírez de Haro** (left) was joined by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Desk **Perla Hazan** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its distinguished Benefactor and long-time supporter, Holocaust survivor **Max Mazin z"l**. Max witnessed the murder of his parents and beloved sister Ida by the Nazis in the city of Gorodziej in Belarus. Only he and his brother survived the Holocaust.



Determined to rebuild his life, Max and his wife Atara settled in Spain, where they established a family and sought to rebuild the Spanish Jewish community. Max held a number of leadership roles and was a staunch supporter of the State of Israel and Yad Vashem. May his wife Atara, his daughter Dafna Ramirez de Haro, sons Ariel, Daniel and Miguel Mazin and the entire family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

## MIAMI

■ The Berkman family was joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Desk **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of their son, **Daniel**, and for the unveiling of a plaque in their honor.



## AUSTRIA

■ On 20 April, Dr. **Christoph Kainz**, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria, visited Yad Vashem, where he was guided through the Holocaust History Museum, Hall of Remembrance and Children's Memorial.



## GERMANY

■ On 1 June, plaques were unveiled in memory of Holocaust survivor **Leon 'Lolek' Taubenblatt z"l** as well as the Eisenstein, Steinfeld and Taubenblatt families, murdered during the *Shoah*. The ceremony was attended by **Maria Taubenblatt** (second from right) and her son **Sami Taubenblatt** (second from left), as well as family and friends, Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) and Director of the Switzerland and German-Speaking Countries Desk **Arik Rav-On** (right).



## CHRISTIAN DESK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ICEJ

■ ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) Executive Director **Dr. Juergen Buehler**, ICEJ Media Director **David Parsons** and the principle donor, Director of ICEJ Germany **Gottfried Buehler**, attended the unveiling of a plaque at the International School for Holocaust Studies on 22 April honoring a recent donation from ICEJ Germany and German Christians.



Left to right: International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**; Director of International Seminars for Educators at the International School **Ephraim Kaye**; Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**; Gottfried Buehler; Dr. Juergen Buehler

■ During April 2012, the third annual International Christian Leadership Seminar on antisemitism, Holocaust and Israel was held at the International School for Holocaust Studies for 26 Christian leaders from eight different countries. The seminar was made possible by the generous support of ICEJ in Jerusalem, as well as its branches in Canada and Finland. During the seminar, participants met with Holocaust survivors, listened to lectures by top experts on the Holocaust, and participated in the official Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



■ During their visit to Israel, the leadership of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) from the United States were given a guided tour of Yad Vashem, and held a meeting with some of its directors. Visitors included the NAE President **Leith Anderson**; NAE Vice-President **Galen Carey**; NAE Board Chairman **Lee Roy Taylor**;

General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God **George Wood**; Pastor **John K. Jenkins**; and Pastor **Jim Tolle**.



■ The First Nations of Canada participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies as guests of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem. They were represented by **Rev. Raymond and Jean McLean**, and **James and Gloria Walker** from the Winnipeg area.



## Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

### ■ To make tax deductible donations:

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#### AUSTRALIA:

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### ■ Donations may also be sent to:

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Jerusalem 91034, Israel  
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### ■ For information on societies in other countries,

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# International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

## Jean Ancel, *The History of the Holocaust in Romania*

Edited by Leon Volovici

In Association with University of Nebraska Press

NIS 174 NIS 128



■ Jean Ancel provides a detailed analysis on the Holocaust in Romania. The Romanians related differently to “their Jews” and “other Jews” – those living in districts annexed to Romania after WWI and in areas annexed to the Romanian military administration after the Soviet invasion. The Jews of the Regat suffered pogroms and degradation, but on the whole they survived the Holocaust. Although more Jews survived in Romania than in any other non-occupied country belonging to Germany’s allies, contemporary Romanian sources show that the Antonescu regime and Romania itself slaughtered at least 400,000 Jews, including 180,000 Ukrainian Jews. Of all of Nazi Germany’s allies, Romania contributed most to the Jewish people’s extermination.

## *To Be a Jew in Berlin: The Letters of Hermann Samter, 1939-1943*

Edited by Daniel Fraenkel

NIS 88 NIS 68

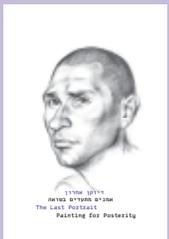


■ What was it like to be a Jew in Nazi-dominated Berlin, to have no freedom of movement, to be forced to wear a yellow star and watch friends be transported? The group of 19 letters left behind by journalist Herman Samter, head of the classified section of the last Jewish newspaper to remain active after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, is a rare historical document reflecting the life of the Jews of Berlin in the shadow of deportation and death.

## *Last Portrait: Painting for Posterity*

Exhibition Curator and Editor: Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

NIS 128 NIS 88



■ This catalog is based on approximately 200 portraits from the Yad Vashem Art Museum collection, which were painted by 21 artists, commemorating their fellow men and women in the ghettos and camps. It includes biographical details of the artists and portrait subjects, as well as three articles illuminating the exhibition theme from different perspectives. The works of art demonstrate the unquenchable creative drive that motivated

artists from various backgrounds to compose entire portrait series while coping with the unbearable conditions and lack of painting materials during the Holocaust.



**Yad Vashem**  
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'  
Remembrance Authority

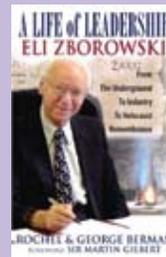
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## Rochel and George Berman, *A Life of Leadership: Eli Zborowski*

*From the Underground to Industry to Holocaust Remembrance*

In Association with Ktav Publishing House

NIS 110 NIS 88

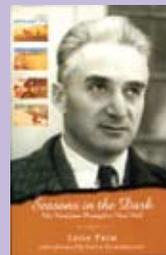


■ The book relates Eli Zborowski’s teenage service as a courier for the Jewish underground, his rescue of more than 100 postwar orphans, his development of a model Youth Home in the Feldafing DP camp, and his subsequent devotion to Holocaust education. It traces the impact of his father’s principles, in business relations and in life, to Zborowski’s humane treatment of employees, his dedication to communal service, and to sharing his time and his wisdom with his children.

## Leon Frim, *Seasons in the Dark: The Road from Przemyśl to Nazi Hell*

In Association with the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project

NIS 74 NIS 58



■ Leon Frim was a lawyer in Przemyśl, Poland and a talented artist. Throughout his rich, compelling account, from the loss of freedom under Soviet occupation to the hell under the Germans, we sense Leon’s desperate efforts to save his family and we follow his struggle through the Przemyśl ghetto and three Nazi murder operations, his pain through a long series of camps, a death march, and the final internment in Buchenwald.

## Sabina Heller, *Locked in the Darkness: Retrieving a Hidden Girl's Identity from the Holocaust*

In Association with the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project

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■ As an infant, Sabina (Inka) Kagan was given to the care of a local Christian family by her parents, who were desperate to save her from the impending Nazi liquidation of their Jewish community in Radziwiłłów. The foster family neglected the infant, leaving her to starve to death in a cellar. Luckily, the neighboring Roztropowicz family discovered her and took her in, at great risk to their own lives. The Roztropowicz family nursed Sabina back to health and provided her with a warm, loving home. She was eventually adopted by a Jewish physician and her husband and moved to Israel. Only in 1999, after her mother’s death, did Sabina discover the truth about her past and reunite with her rescuers.

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