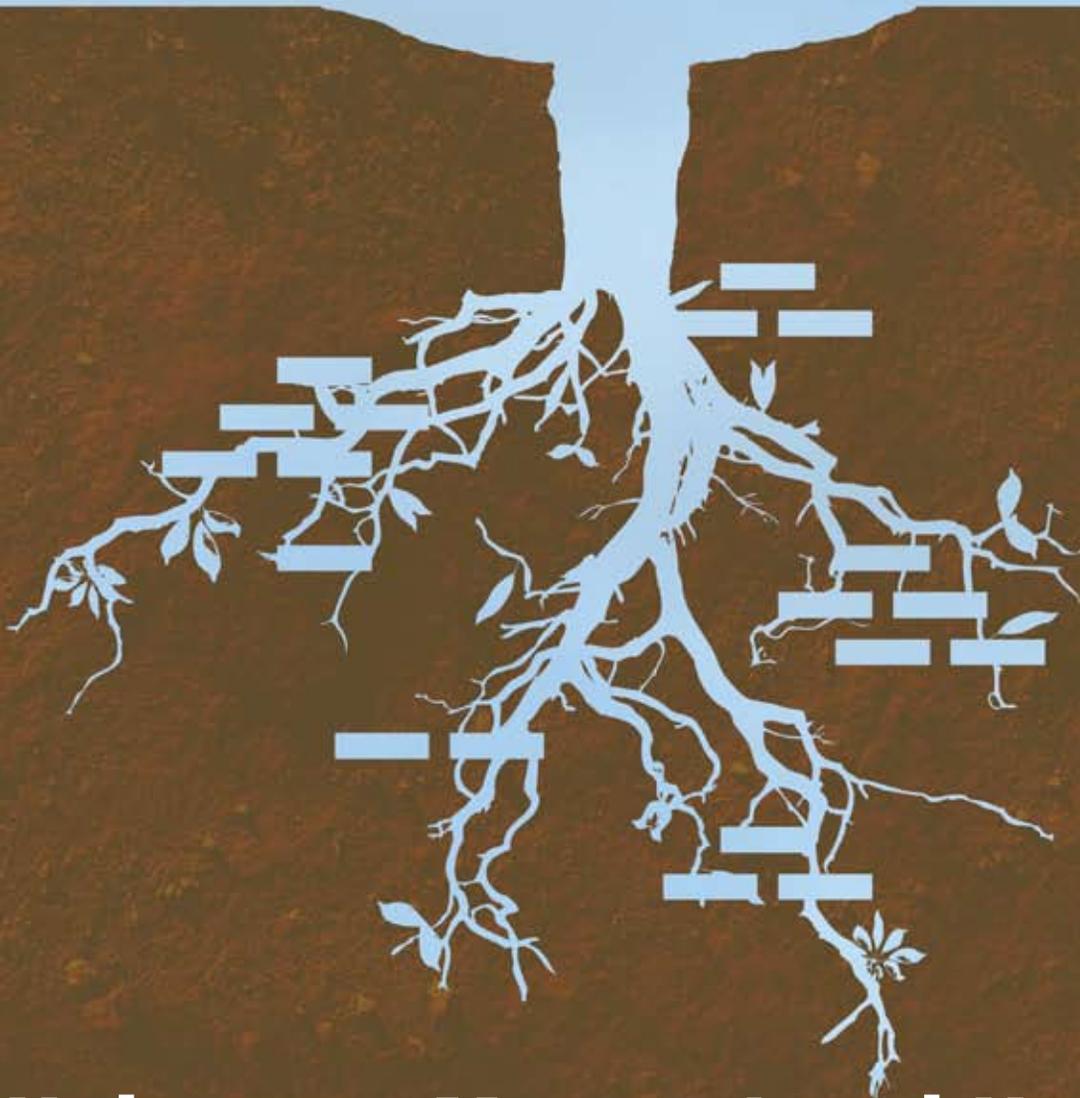


Yad Vashem Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 69, MARCH 2013



**Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Day 2013**

Defiance and Rebellion during the Holocaust
Marking 70 Years since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Published by:
Yad Vashem
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority

Chairman of the Council: **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**

Vice Chairmen of the Council:

Dr. Yitzhak Arad

Dr. Moshe Kantor

Prof. Elie Wiesel

Chairman of the Directorate: **Avner Shalev**

Director General: **Nathan Eitan**

Head of the International Institute for Holocaust

Research: **Prof. Dan Michman**

Chief Historian: **Prof. Dina Porat**

Academic Advisors:

Prof. Yehuda Bauer

Prof. Israel Gutman

Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate:

Yossi Ahimeir, Edna Ben-Horin,

Matityahu Drobles, Abraham Duvdevani,

Prof. Boleslaw (Bolek) Goldman,

Vera H. Golovensky, Moshe Ha-Elion,

Adv. Shlomit Kasirer, Yehiel Leket,

Linda Olmert, Effi Shtensler,

Dalit Stauber, Baruch Shub, Amira Stern,

Dr. Zehava Tanne, Adv. Shoshana Weinshall,

Dudi Zilbershlag

THE MAGAZINE

Editor-in-Chief: **Iris Rosenberg**

Managing Editor: **Leah Goldstein**

Editorial Board:

Yifat Bachrach-Ron

Deborah Berman

Susan Weisberg

Cynthia Wroclawski

Estee Yaari

Editorial Coordinator: **Lilach Tamir-Itach**

Language Editor: **Leah Goldstein**

Proofreader: **Ezra Olman**

Translated by: **KPoint**

Assisted by: **Alexander Avram, Rachel Barkai,**

Shaya Ben Yehuda, Jackie Frankel,

Ayala Peretz, Dana Porath, Amanda Smulowitz

Photography: **Yossi Ben-David, Israel Hadari,**

Isaac Harari

Production: **AR-Print**

Design: **Stephanie & Ruti Design**

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



ISSN 0793-7199

©Articles appearing in this issue may be reprinted
with proper acknowledgement.

Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education



and the Claims Conference



Contents

Defiance and Rebellion during the Holocaust ■ 2-3

Marking 70 Years since the Warsaw Ghetto
Uprising

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs' and
Heroes' Remembrance Day 2013

Torchlighters 2013 ■ 4-6

Education ■ 7-11

Designing Memory ■ 7

National Holocaust Remembrance Day

Poster Competition 2013

Different Culture, Different Challenges:

Holocaust Studies in the Far East ■ 8

First-Ever Seminar for Educators

from New Zealand ■ 8

European Initiatives for 27 January ■ 9

A Decade of Mu-Zika ■ 9

Postcards 2013 ■ 9

Innovative Learning Environment for Ultra-

Orthodox Schools ■ 9

"Dorothy's Hope": Learning Program for

Individuals with Special Needs ■ 10

Videoconferencing Expands

Across Europe ■ 10

Graduate Spotlight ■ 11

Rev. Bruce Thompson and Rev. Shaun Lambert,
United Kingdom

New at the Virtual School ■ 11

In the Footsteps of Heroes ■ 12-13

Monuments to Jewish Rebellion and Heroism
at Yad Vashem

Gathering the Fragments ■ 14-15

A Map for Her Birthday

Elections vs. Democracy ■ 16

80 Years since Hitler's Rise to Power

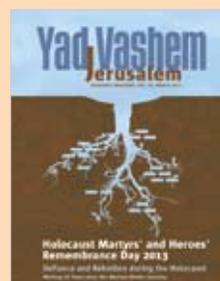
News ■ 17-22

Friends Worldwide ■ 23-27

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'

Remembrance Day 2013 ■ 28

Program of Events at Yad Vashem



■ On the cover:

The winning design
for Israel's official
commemorative poster for
Holocaust Martyrs' and
Heroes' Remembrance
Day 2013, by Dea Giladi.
The competition is run
by Yad Vashem and
Israel's Ministry of Public
Diplomacy and Diaspora
Affairs (see p.7).

Defiance

Prof. Dina Porat

■ *"It is a necessity... an imperative, due to the historical truth and the legacy that our generation will bequeath to those who will come after us, to speak not only of the loss... but also to reveal, in its fullest scope, the heroic struggle of the people, the community and the individual, during the days of massacre and at the very epicenters of destruction."*

Thus wrote Yitzhak (Antek) Zuckerman, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, in the early 1950s. Today his words remain a guiding principle as we mark the 70th anniversary of the uprising.

The notions of "defiance" and "rebellion" are fundamentally important to any discussion concerning the Holocaust – and rightly so. In the ghettos and camps, indeed in every place with a Jewish populace and Jewish life, there was some form of protest or resistance to the plot to obliterate the Jewish nation. From escape plans to going into hiding, from mutual aid efforts to educational and creative activities as well as the observance of Jewish rites – even with the scarcest of means and in the most unthinkable conditions – all these acts embodied the relentless struggle of Jewish individuals and communities to counteract the restrictions and dangers raining down upon them – and against all odds, sometimes, to live to see the day of victory.

The most notable armed uprising that took place in a ghetto broke out in Warsaw on the first night of Passover 5703 (19 April 1943). The revolt started in reaction to the entry by German troops into the ghetto and on the heels of armed resistance that had been offered the previous January by the ghetto underground. In April, it was apparent that the Germans' goal was the liquidation of the largest ghetto in occupied Europe as a birthday present for Adolf Hitler. Young Jews, condemned to death by the occupying Germans, organized two underground networks (the Jewish Combat Organization and the Jewish Military Union) with little means and no outside support. Along with members of the undergrounds, all of the surviving Jews in the ghetto resisted the enemy in order to defy their murderers, although they knew they had little chance of survival. These 50,000 Jews, left in the ghetto following mass death by disease and

and Rebellion during the Holocaust

Marking 70 Years since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2013



■ Left to right: Stefania Dretler-Flin (1909-1994), “Struggle”, “Anticipation” (of the worst), “Battle”- lino-cuts from the series “Jews”, 1953. Collection of the Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust Art

starvation and the deportation of 265,000 men, women and children to Treblinka, took to the bunkers, and fought with utmost courage and resolve. They put up the bravest of resistance for almost a month, until they were brutally suppressed.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was the first large-scale urban civilian rebellion in WWII, predating similar non-Jewish underground activity and uprisings in Europe, and strengthening and uniting Jewish youth in other places. There were some acts of Jewish armed resistance before Warsaw and some preparations that only came to fruition afterwards. When it became clear in the latter half of 1942 that the smaller ghettos in Nesvizh and Lachva (Belorussia) and Tuczyn in Volhynia were to be liquidated, members of the underground and other ghetto inmates acted as one organized force, setting fire to their homes and breaching the ghetto fence in an attempt to reach the surrounding forests. In Vilna and Kovno in Lithuania, and in Bialystok, Czéstochowa and Bédzin in Poland, underground resistance forces trained with all their might and

Tens of thousands of Jews from across Europe made their way into the forests, swamps and mountains to join the partisans, fighting bravely behind enemy lines and earning numerous awards for their courage, but rarely surviving their ordeal

extremely meager resources for future battles that broke out after the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In Krakow, the underground even sent combat units outside the ghetto to the “Aryan” part of the city to stage successful attacks on German military personnel. Finally, tens of thousands of Jews from across Europe made their way into

the forests, swamps and mountains to join the partisans, fighting bravely behind enemy lines, and earning numerous awards for their courage, but rarely surviving their ordeal.

Beside the uprisings in the ghettos, resistance of varied kinds took place at forced labor and concentration camps, at death pits and mass murder sites, and even at three extermination camps: with armed uprisings at Treblinka and Sobibor in the summer of 1943, and at Auschwitz-Birkenau in the fall of 1944. The fact that only a handful of inmates managed to break out of the camps and survive does not overshadow the boldness of the endeavors, which occurred in the very places in which human cruelty had reached its deepest depths.

Ultimately, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising became a universal symbol of the heroic struggle by a handful of people in impossible conditions against genocidal oppression. It would later inspire extensive scholarly research and numerous works of literature and art – and become a source of pride for the survivors and the entire Jewish nation.

The author is Yad Vashem’s Chief Historian.

Torchlighters 2013

Compiled by Ehud Amir

Baruch Kopold

■ Baruch Kopold was born in 1923 in Iwje, Belarus, the second of five children to Mozes and Hassia.

The Germans occupied Iwje in June 1941, and Baruch was put to backbreaking labor. By May 1942, most of the town's Jews had been shot. After Baruch was forced to cover up the mass graves, he was deported with his family to the Lida ghetto. With his father's encouragement, Baruch and seven of his friends cut the fences of the ghetto, swam across the half-frozen river and escaped to the forests. The group came upon partisans who refused to accept them without weapons. Later on, they were accepted into Tuvia Bielski's brigade, underwent training, and were issued arms.

"We would organize ourselves into groups and plunder trains and villages for food and provisions," relates Baruch. "We were constantly on the move." The fighters acquired guns from

attacks on SS soldiers, or by smuggling from a weapons factory close to Lida where many Jews from the ghetto worked. When the Germans placed a siege on the forest, the partisans dug underground bunkers that they camouflaged with leaves and branches. At night they sang partisan songs, as well as songs in Yiddish and Hebrew about *Eretz Israel*. Baruch was one of the singers in the company, and he still sings those songs today.

In June 1944, eight of the fighters in the brigade were killed in an encounter with an SS unit. Bielski instructed his people to cross the swamps to another part of the forest. "We all helped each other make it through that



exhausting trek," recalls Baruch, "and thus most of the brigade was saved."

When the area was liberated by the Red Army, Baruch returned to Iwje but discovered that his parents, his brother Yitzhak and his three sisters – Bracha, Bailea and Havva – had been murdered in Majdanek. After escaping from a Soviet work camp, he returned to Poland and joined an Aliyah preparatory group. He led a group of Jews on foot through Czechoslovakia, Austria and across the Alps to Italy. In May 1946, Baruch arrived in *Eretz Israel*. During the War of Independence, he was drafted into the Haganah and met his future wife Lea, an Auschwitz survivor.

Baruch worked at Bank Leumi until retirement. Baruch and Lea have three daughters, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Eliezer Eizenschmidt

■ Eliezer Eizenschmidt was born in 1920 in Luna, Belarus, the eldest of three children to Joshua and Esther.

In June 1941, the Germans occupied Luna, and in November they established a ghetto in the city. In November 1942, the Germans began to transfer the Jews from the ghetto to the Kielbasin camp. In December, they were taken to a train station and deported to Auschwitz. All of Eliezer's family members were selected for murder except him and his brother Abraham. Five weeks later, Abraham was also killed.

Eliezer was assigned to a *Sonderkommando* group, where he worked in horror for six months, removing corpses from the gas chambers and transferring them to cremation pits. One night, the men of the *Sonderkommando* held a Pesach seder. They obtained a little white flour, and in secrecy baked matzah on an oven. Everyone received a tiny piece of matzah.

In Eliezer's room, the *Sonderkommando* men built hand grenades from cans of preserved meat into which they placed gunpowder in preparation for revolt. They also sharpened knives they found among the belongings of newly arrived Hungarian Jews, turning them into weapons. In October 1944, a group of *Sonderkommando* workers rebelled; all of its participants were killed. The Germans began a thorough investigation among all of the surviving *Sonderkommando* men, among them Eliezer. Despite having been at the very heart of the preparations, he revealed nothing – though his hair turned white overnight.

On 18 January 1945, Eliezer was sent on a death march heading into Germany. He escaped from the convoy before it even left Polish territory, but was shot and injured. Covering up his bloody footprints with snow, he hid in the fields. When he was discovered by Ukrainians, he posed as a Belorussian and escaped. He

eventually arrived at the house of Teodor and Franciszka Tendra, who hid him until liberation. (In 1970, Yad Vashem recognized the couple as Righteous Among the Nations.)

In September 1945, Eliezer married Judith, also a Holocaust survivor. In June 1946, the couple immigrated to *Eretz Israel*. After detention at Atlit, they settled in the south and then in Givatayim. Eliezer became a blacksmith, and continues to work at a factory.

Eliezer accompanies missions to Poland as a witness, and performs in the "Testimony Theater" in Givatayim that facilitates dialogue between Holocaust survivors and Israeli youth.

Eliezer and Judith, ז"ל, have two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



When the Germans placed a siege on the forest, the partisans dug underground bunkers. At night they sang songs in Yiddish and Hebrew about *Eretz Israel*. Baruch still sings them today

Peretz Hochman

■ Peretz Hochman was born in 1927 in Warsaw as Pavel, the fourth of eight siblings.

With the establishment of the Warsaw ghetto, his older brothers remained outside the walls, while he, his parents and his younger brother Zaneck stayed in the ghetto. When the situation in the ghetto took a turn for the worse, Peretz and Zaneck escaped to the Polish side, where they posed as Poles and sustained themselves by street singing and selling cigarettes, while smuggling food and clothing to their parents in the ghetto.

Peretz's father, Benjamin, died of hunger in the ghetto and his mother, Miriam, was shot and killed in the summer of 1942. Peretz and Zaneck continued to sell cigarettes and newspapers with other Jewish children in the city, hiding at night in stairwells. Most of their customers were Germans, among them SS officers.

When the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising broke out, Zaneck was in the ghetto. He was caught

and transferred to the *Umschlagplatz* (deportation plaza). As the Jews were being loaded onto the train, Zaneck managed to escape to the Polish section of Warsaw, where he located his brother.

Joseph Zhimian, a member of the Jewish underground, gave false identity papers to Peretz, Zaneck and a few of their friends, which provided relief for a short time.

On the eve of the Polish rebellion in Warsaw, Peretz and Zaneck joined the Polish underground. "Every time they needed someone to perform a complicated mission, I volunteered," recalls Peretz. "All I wanted was to hurt Germans, to take revenge on them. In a sense, something within me was already dead, and therefore I was not afraid of death." After the war, Peretz



received numerous decorations for heroism, the highest in the Polish army.

After the rebellion was crushed, the remaining fighters, among them Peretz and Zaneck, were transferred to prison camps in Germany. Upon liberation, they returned to Warsaw, where they found their older brother, Leon.

Peretz and Zaneck arrived in *Eretz Israel* in 1946, and Peretz joined Kibbutz Sha'ar Hagolan. During the War of Independence, he served in the Palmach Brigade of the Negev and was injured. He later worked in manual labor.

Peretz married Sima (née Hershkovitz). The Hochmans have three sons and six grandchildren.

A few days before Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2013, Peretz Hochman passed away. His widow Sima will light the Torch in his place. May his memory be blessed.

Miriam Liptcher

■ Miriam Liptcher was born Manya Wagman in 1922 in Krakow, Poland. She had seven siblings. With the German conquest, her family moved to the town of Proszowice. Miriam and her brother Joseph disguised themselves as Aryans. Their father acquired food from farmers and they traveled by train to Krakow to smuggle provisions into the ghetto. One day, Miriam was reported to a German officer by a Polish acquaintance. From that day on, Miriam never saw her family again. On the train on her way to the prison, Miriam pushed the informer out of the car.

In May 1942, Miriam was deported to Auschwitz. She decided to help her fellow female prisoners as much as possible. She warned them not to complain about sickness, and when they were ordered to turn the earth over with their hands, she convinced them to eat roots for their nutritional value. Miriam sorted objects belonging to Jewish inmates and victims, and

at every opportunity ripped the clothing so the Germans could not use it. When she was sent to bring water, she filled the jugs with clothing for the Yugoslavian prisoners. At nights, she snuck into another camp, and in exchange for clothes she procured a little food. When she was caught in these smuggling attempts, she was sent to work cutting plant overgrowth in a lake of frozen water.

At the end of 1943, many of Miriam's friends from her youth group in Krakow came to Auschwitz, sick with dysentery. Miriam obtained rice from the Yugoslavian prisoners, cooked it and gave it to her friends. Some of them managed to recover. In the spring of 1944, she was transferred to the experiment shed of the infamous Josef Mengele. The experiments she endured there rendered her barren.

In January 1945, Miriam was put on a death march to Bergen-Belsen, where she was liberated in April 1945. She discovered that

she was her family's only survivor. On "Kibbutz Buchenwald" she met Rudy Liptcher, also a Holocaust survivor, and they decided to immigrate to *Eretz Israel*. After being detained at Atlit, the couple went to Kibbutz Afikim and then to Pardes Hanna. In 1963, they adopted a little girl. When she was just four years old, Rudy passed away, leaving Miriam to raise her alone.

Throughout the war, Miriam managed to save a golden ring belonging to her mother, bearing her initials "M.W." Miriam still wears the ring. For many years, Miriam accompanied groups to Poland as a witness. She told the story of the Jews of Proszowice and has joined the "March of the Living" many times. Miriam has a daughter and three grandchildren.



Torchlighters 2013



Otto Dov Pressburger

■ Otto Dov Pressburger was born in 1923 in Trnava, Czechoslovakia, to Sidonia and Geza. He had four siblings. In April 1942, Otto, his father and his older brother Yulios were deported to Auschwitz. His brother Latzi was murdered in Majdanek. His mother and grandmother were also killed.

Otto and his family were among the first Jews to arrive at Auschwitz. His prisoner number, 29045, was tattooed onto his chest. His father was murdered three weeks later.

Otto and Yulios witnessed the Germans' first gassing experiments. Next to the experiment shed was a pit, which Otto was made to dig, into which the victims of the experiments were thrown – dead or alive. After a while, Otto and the other prisoners were ordered to burn the bodies. A few weeks later, Otto saw Yulios at one of the *selektions*. He waved him goodbye and never saw him again.

Otto used his fluency in German to survive encounters with SS officers. He was then transferred to Birkenau, where he was forced to take part in building the prisoner barracks and the crematorium, and witnessed mass gassings.



In July 1942 Otto's brother, Aladar, arrived on a transport from Czechoslovakia with his wife and daughter, but he didn't recognize the gaunt Otto. Only when Otto sang a family childhood song did Aladar believe it was him. A few days later, Aladar and his family were murdered.

Helped by a Slovakian Jewish friend, Otto got a job as a carter, which provided him access to food and supplies. He smuggled provisions from warehouses and from outside

Auschwitz into the camp, and helped other prisoners in his block obtain food.

On 18 January 1945, as Auschwitz was evacuated, Otto was loaded onto a train heading for Austria together with Polish prisoners. He jumped from the speeding train on Czech territory, and played dead. He then found refuge at the home of Czech farmers, with whom he stayed until the end of the war. In time, Otto found out that the farmer who saved his life was among the senior members of the Czech underground. When liberated, Otto weighed less than 30 kilograms.

In 1947, Otto immigrated to *Eretz Israel*. After detention at Atlit, he joined the Haganah and fought in the War of Independence. In Israel, Otto was reunited with his brother, Alexander, who had immigrated in 1938. Otto and his wife Bracha have two children and five grandchildren.

Dina Ostrover

■ Dina Ostrover was born in 1923 in Stryi, Ukraine as Donia Pickholz, the youngest of four children in an Orthodox Jewish home.

In June 1941, the Germans captured the area and the Jews were concentrated into a ghetto. In September, nearly 1,000 Jews from the city were murdered in a nearby forest. Donia was sent to work in a leather processing factory. The factory manager allowed her to set up a vegetable garden behind the factory, and thus Donia was able to sneak a few vegetables to her family.

In September 1942, some 5,000 Jews were expelled from the ghetto to the Belzec death camp. In the second *Aktion* in October 1942, the Germans discovered her family in hiding, and they were loaded onto cattle cars. During the journey, Donia's father encouraged her to jump from the moving train. She lost consciousness in the fall, but fortunately landed behind a

bush that concealed her. She returned to the ghetto psychologically broken.

Donia's uncle managed to procure a counterfeit Ukrainian birth certificate for her, and Donia stole out of the ghetto *incognito*. She found work as a laborer at an inn that served German officers next to the town of Bolechow, not far from Stryi.

In June 1943, the Germans announced another *Aktion*. Donia knew that a Jewish accountant, Shlomo Reinhartz, and his wife Miriam were staying at the nearby camp. Just 17 years old, Donia proposed to Marika, a fellow worker staying at the inn, that the two of them offer to hide Shlomo and Miriam. The couple took shelter in a low-ceilinged attic, above a bathroom used by the Germans. Each day, for 13 months, Donia smuggled food to the couple and removed their waste. Shlomo and Miriam stayed in hiding until liberation

in July 1944. It was only then that Donia and Marika revealed their Jewish origins to one another.

Back in Stryi, Donia learned that she was the only survivor from her entire family. After living at a DP camp in Germany and then in Italy, she made her way to *Eretz Israel*. During eight months at a detention camp in Cyprus she met and married Yosef Ostrover. Upon immigrating to Israel in 1949, Donia reverted to her Hebrew name, Dina.

Dina and Yosef, z"l, have two children and two grandchildren.



The author works in the Commemoration and Public Relations Division.

Designing Memory

National Holocaust Remembrance Day Poster Competition 2013

Daphna Gallili



■ Dea Giladi presents her winning poster to Israel's Minister for Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein (left) and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right).

■ For the fourth year running, Yad Vashem and Israel's Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs held a competition to design the official commemorative poster for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. This year, over 100 entries were submitted by professionals and students of design, as well

"The upside-down family tree creates an individual and collective void, thus expressing the great difficulty in speaking of what is not."

from the Judges' remarks on the winning poster

as members of the general public. The panel of judges was chaired by Israel Prize laureates David Tartakover and Prof. Dan Reisinger.

The winning poster for 2013 was created by Dea Giladi, a journalist who writes fiction and poetry and works as Editor-in-Chief and graphic designer of the *Hallel* women's magazine. Though all of her grandparents immigrated to Israel before the Holocaust, many members of their family who stayed in Europe were murdered.

"The inversion of the laws of nature that occurred during the Holocaust, the distorted departure from the normal path of life created an everlasting void in the world, a void which can never be filled," explains Giladi. "Entire families, entire generations were cut short, and have since begun to "grow upside down" – from living on the face of the earth to lying underneath it. Family trees turned upside down are still cracking the earth wherever we set out foot on it, and the skies are nevertheless azure."

The judges were impressed with the original idea presented in Giladi's poster, built on the



■ Nimrod Levy, runner-up

approach of negative form. "The upside-down family tree creates an individual and collective void, thus expressing the great difficulty in speaking of what is not," they wrote. "The family tree has no names, which is symbolic of the hundreds of thousands still missing from their homes, their communities and the nation as a whole."

The runner-up poster was created by Nimrod Levy. "The poster deals with the person as the center of the events of the Holocaust," commented the judges. "Faces that shine from

the dark background express hope, compelling the observer to examine it in a contemplative, in-depth manner."

The third-place poster was designed by Eli Varash. The judges wrote: "The poster creates a dialogue within the facial features of the same person, appearing before us both as a young man and an aged one. His gaze, penetrating through the stripes, is an original expression of Holocaust survivors, who have left part of their souls there, behind bars that separate now from then and here from there."

Giladi's winning poster will be distributed



■ Eli Varash, third place

for Holocaust Remembrance Day throughout the formal and informal education systems, IDF bases, media channels and Jewish organizations in Israel and abroad. In addition, a lesson plan for incorporating the poster in the schoolroom will be posted on the Yad Vashem website for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The author is Head of the Youth Division and Projects in the Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies, and coordinator of the "Designing Memory" competition.

Different Culture, Different Challenges: Holocaust Studies in the Far East

■ “How do you talk about the Holocaust to an audience that has no link to and little knowledge of European history and Western culture, or even an understanding of what Judaism or Jews are?” asks Orit Margaliot of the International School for Holocaust Studies, who in January went to Vietnam and Myanmar to facilitate a series of activities to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. “Moreover, much of the imagery and comparisons used in the Western world are completely foreign to Eastern culture and are perceived very differently by these audiences. In order to cope with these challenges, I chose to convey the story of the *Shoah* from a perspective centered on the human story, seeking to awaken empathy with the fate of the victims.”

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was marked for the first time this year in Vietnam, upon the initiative of Israeli Ambassador H.E. Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar. In Myanmar, the day has been commemorated for four years, led by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Hagai Behar. In these two countries, Margaliot spoke at main universities in honor of the day.

The topic chosen by the Israeli diplomatic mission in Myanmar was “Janusz Korczak and his Educational Legacy,” with a focus on children’s

rights and Korczak’s general humanistic vision. The main event was attended by 700 people who, in addition to hearing Margaliot’s lecture, viewed an exhibition of illustrations of Korczak’s stories. “The embassy’s choice of topic was an excellent one,” says Margaliot. “Nevertheless, the novelty of Korczak’s approach was dramatically unfamiliar to the specific audience, the majority of whom don’t recognize that a child has the right to make mistakes.” After the main event, a discussion was held on Korczak and his educational legacy with the participation of professors and graduate students of history and education, which quickly expanded into a broader discussion on Holocaust education in general.

An additional challenge that Margaliot encountered was accentuating the Holocaust’s unprecedented nature versus other episodes of genocide, and focusing the discussion on the Holocaust *per se*. This presented a particular challenge in Vietnam, where 27 January also marks the anniversary of the signing of a peace treaty with the United States: this year, the country commemorated 40 years since that event. Despite that apparent conflict, Margaliot’s lecture was attended by some 150 people.



■ Students in Myanmar view an exhibition on Janusz Korczak.

“Our work in Vietnam and Myanmar comes in response to a newly awakened interest towards the Holocaust in the Far East,” explains Dorit Novak, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. “This year, we held our first seminar for educators from India; in March, Yad Vashem activities will take place in Korea; and later in 2013 the third seminar for educators from China will be held at Yad Vashem. The Holocaust is becoming part of the collective memory of the modern world, with Holocaust Studies serving as the main channel for conveying this topic to broader and newer audiences.”

First-Ever Seminar for Educators from New Zealand Stephanie McMahon-Kaye



Photo: Steve Bequely

■ Holocaust survivor Yehudit Kleinman talks to participants of the New Zealand educators’ seminar.

■ In mid-January 2013, 22 teachers and a senior member of the New Zealand Holocaust Center in Wellington came to Yad Vashem for the first-ever seminar tailored to educators from New Zealand.

With the logistical and financial support of Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the New Zealand Holocaust Center in Wellington, the 15-day seminar comprised academic

lectures and pedagogical workshops on antisemitism through the ages, the ghettos, cultural resistance during the *Shoah*, the “Final Solution,” Righteous Among the Nations and challenges facing Israeli society today. Much of the pedagogical instruction centered on the multimedia curriculum *Echoes and Reflections*, which was given to each participant as a gift. In addition, a range of articles, documents, literature and maps enhanced the lectures and overall learning experience.

The seminar opened with a special orientation and welcome attended by (Amb.) Gideon Behar, Director of the Department for Combating Antisemitism at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Gad Propper, Honorary Consul of New Zealand; and Israel’s new Ambassador to New Zealand, H.E. Mr. Yossi Livne.

“The questions posed by the participants were insightful – these were people well-versed in their own disciplines who wanted to learn about the Holocaust and the appropriate pedagogy,” remarked Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars for Educators at the School. “It was clearly very different from their

experiences in New Zealand and many of them pondered with whom back home they would share their insights.”

In addition to the events at Yad Vashem, seminar participants also toured historical sites across the country and met with seven Holocaust survivors at various points in the program. One survivor, Zeev (Tibi) Ram, came to *Eretz Israel* after the *Shoah* and served in the IDF in every war that Israel fought since his arrival in the country. Tibi spent two weeks in New Zealand in April 2012 as a guest of the Jewish community, and some of the teachers remembered his visit.

“I was not expecting to learn so much about Israel’s modern history and appreciate the context into which this helps me put my Holocaust studies,” said one participant at the conclusion of the seminar. “My teaching about the Holocaust has been incredibly enhanced by this seminar – and for this I am extremely grateful.”

The author is Desk Head, International Seminars in English, International School for Holocaust Studies.

European Initiatives for 27 January

■ Leading up to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, staff from the European Department of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies conducted a wide range of outreach programs in Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France and Slovenia. Participants included Yad Vashem seminar graduates, teachers, students, university lecturers, diplomats, policy makers and members of the clergy. "Despite the passage of time, interest in studying and commemorating the Holocaust is definitely on the rise," said Dorit Novak, Director of the International School. "International Holocaust Remembrance Day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our link with educators who have studied at Yad Vashem as well as connect with more teachers in their regions."

A Decade of Mu-Zika Dafna Gallili

■ The "Mu-Zika – Israeli Youth Sing Songs of the Holocaust" show, the fruit of cooperation between Yad Vashem and Israel's Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, is now in its tenth year. The show is based on poems written by survivors and victims of the Holocaust that have been set to music and performed by youth for whom music is their primary form of expression. The participants first study and discuss central topics related to the Holocaust guided by a team from the International School for Holocaust Studies, and are then supervised by a musical producer, a voice development teacher and other professionals who contribute to creating a professional and moving performance.

The 2013 show took place in the city of Ashdod, where dozens of young people from different creative backgrounds – music, poetry and visual arts – performed for high school students, youth group members and educators, as well as Holocaust survivors and their families. The evening was recorded for future educational programs.

Innovative Learning Environment for Ultra-Orthodox Schools

Nava Weiss



■ "Though so many years have passed, he still remembers the pinch on the cheek that the Rabbi gave him... He must have been a very special Rabbi!"

This sentence is taken from a "Travel Journal" which accompanies Talmud Torah students throughout the project entitled "These I Shall Remember," a new informal learning environment for ultra-Orthodox schools (grades 6-8). The project encourages students to explore the attempts made by Jews during the Holocaust to uphold Jewish life in a world where everything was denied them. Stories told by eyewitnesses who were their age during the Holocaust emphasize the struggles of Torah-practicing Jews in the ghetto.

The project's three-hour activities take place in the classroom, where the decor is changed to create a sharply different educational atmosphere, enabling an experiential learning

process as students work in groups and at their own pace. The whole group first views a short audio-visual presentation composed of survivor testimonies, which sketches a general picture of life in the ghettos. Students then break up into groups and work through a series of "stations" spread out in the classroom. Each station deals with a different aspect of daily life in the ghetto: Sabbath observance, prayers, learning Torah and performing acts of *Hesed* (benevolence).

The students also receive a "Travel Journal," in which they respond to the tasks at each station. The students take home their journals at the end of the day.

At the conclusion of the activity, students learn of the fates of the witnesses whose testimony they encountered at the different stations, and hear about their liberation and rehabilitation after the Holocaust.

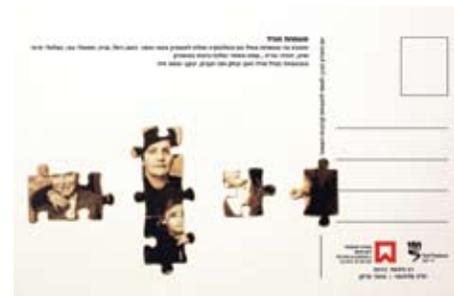
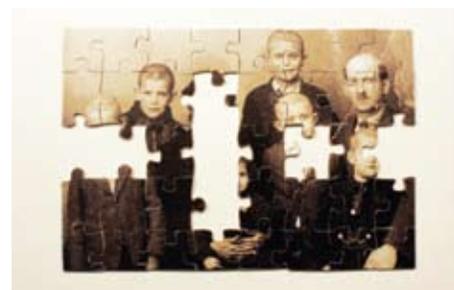
To date, the new learning environment has been introduced with much success at many Talmud Torah schools, as well as schools for girls. It has also been presented to teachers participating in various training programs held by the International School for Holocaust Studies. Requests for additional sessions continue to pour in from a variety of educational institutions across Israel.

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

"Postcards" 2013

Tamar Don and Rinat Maagan-Ginovker

■ The "Postcards" project, which began six years ago, aims to create an international dialogue around the topic of the *Shoah*, as well as to allow a generation of young designers to express the importance of Holocaust commemoration in an innovative manner. Participants in the project – third-year students at the Neri Bloomfield WIZO Academy of Design and Education in Haifa – design a series of postcards on the topic of the Holocaust after



attending a special seminar at Yad Vashem, where they are exposed to different Holocaust-related topics from the historical, philosophical, sociological, artistic and ethical perspectives. The resulting artworks, usually created by students working in pairs, are composed of five double-sided postcards.

For the 2013 exhibition, students Yulia Plahotni and Moshe Yevarkan wished to express the great void left after the *Shoah* using the imagery of a puzzle: "The Holocaust exacted many victims, every one of whom comprised an entire world, a personality unto themselves," they explained. "Each one was a unit, part of a whole that formed a family. This loss created an empty space that will never be filled."

The postcards are on display in the International School building and as a virtual exhibit on the Yad Vashem website. This year, for the first time, some of the artworks were translated into English. The series will serve as the basis for educational activities facilitated by the International School in Israel and abroad.

Tamar Don is Middle-School Coordinator and Rinat Maagan-Ginovker is Coordinator of Mobile Educational Units and Head of the Youth Division in the Guidance Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

“Dorothy’s Hope”: Learning Program for Individuals with Special Needs

Tamar Don



■ Artwork created by a student at the On School for Children with Cerebral Palsy

■ Learning about the Holocaust has become a formative experience within Israeli society and part of consolidating one’s Jewish identity. As an integral part of this society, individuals with special needs also participate in the various activities held at Yad Vashem.

In 2011, the “Dorothy’s Hope” Holocaust Education Project for Individuals with Special Needs in memory of Dorothy Jolson z”l was launched. The International School for Holocaust

Studies contacted a variety of institutions and organizations dedicated to special needs individuals, and organized their participation in subsidized activities customized to each group’s specific requirements and challenges.

Dorothy’s sister Barbara Blumenthal explains: “Dorothy was a sensitive young woman. Having certain learning differences made navigating through everyday life somewhat difficult. Things that seemed easy for others were often more of a task for her. Dorothy suffered and was often lonely, unable to find friends and even teachers who understood who and what she was. She would have supported a program like this one – a program designed for special needs yet not diluting the full impact of the information.”

Last year, Yad Vashem was visited by a wide variety of special needs groups who enjoyed its guiding services and programs, including: students of the Jerusalem Youth Rehabilitation-Special Education Center; visitors from the “Three-Twined String” Home for Young Women; students from Beit Ekstein School at Beit Yanai for students with mental-emotional difficulties; and hearing-impaired

students integrated at the Yehud Comprehensive High School.

Following the visit, Hagar Burkman, a teacher at the Beit Ekstein institution, noted: “Thanks to this initiative, our students experienced a complete preparatory program before their trip to Poland, including customized guidance which is readily provided to us despite our being a small group.”

The “Dorothy’s Hope” Holocaust Education Project has also adopted the “Meeting of the Worlds” program, run by the International School in partnership with the On School for Children with Cerebral Palsy. On School students, poised to participate in youth missions to Poland, take part in five months of preparation and tutoring both at their school and at Yad Vashem. At the program’s conclusion, the students create artworks themed around the Holocaust as seen from their personal perspectives. These creations are then displayed in a special exhibition at the International School.

The “Dorothy’s Hope” Holocaust Education Project for Individuals with Special Needs in memory of Dorothy Jolson z”l is generously supported by the Nelco Foundation funded by Barbara and David Blumenthal and family (USA).

Videoconferencing Expands Across Europe

James McIntosh

■ Two years ago, the European Department of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies began to bring its experts to universities abroad without ever leaving Yad Vashem’s campus. Thanks to videoconferencing, Holocaust educators from the International School began work in the European Union’s institutes of higher learning, preparing future educators to teach the Holocaust in a meaningful and informed manner. “By bringing Yad Vashem’s tools and techniques to future educators, we empower them to teach this difficult and complex subject matter from the beginning of their careers,” says International School Director Dorit Novak.

Following a pilot course at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), Dr. Chava Baruch, Head of the European Department’s Hungarian Desk, adapted the videoconferencing model for university students in Hungary. Together with Yad Vashem program graduate Dr. István Takács of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Kaposvár in Hungary, Baruch has designed a series of lectures and workshops highlighting topics such as Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust. “Each country is different and requires a different approach when teaching about a topic as sensitive as the Holocaust,” explains Baruch. “Throughout the Cold War, Communist governments emphasized



■ Yad Vashem’s Dr. Chava Baruch and Dr. Kinga Frojimovics talk to students in Hungary via videoconference

Communism’s triumph over Fascism and minimized or neglected teaching about the ‘Final Solution.’ As a result, many student teachers lack basic knowledge about the Holocaust; but through videoconferencing, we can bring our expertise to them in a cost-effective, yet personal manner.” A similar model is currently being coordinated in conjunction with Dr. Adi Schwarz of the University of Craiova in Romania.

In addition to university students, Yad Vashem is also reaching out to high schools. In January of this year, Yad Vashem educator Yiftach Meiri taught a Swedish high school class via videoconference about the history of

the ghettos in Poland. The expertise Meiri lent the students was fundamental to their overall understanding of the Holocaust.

Following the success of the pilot, Yad Vashem is looking forward to welcoming Senior Lecturer Paula Cowan, Professor Henry Maitles and several UWS program graduates to continue their studies at Yad Vashem’s Jerusalem campus. “The results of our videoconferencing efforts are extremely encouraging,” concludes Novak. “We hope to continue to expand its use with institutes of higher education abroad.”

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

Graduate Spotlight

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



Rev. Bruce Thompson and Rev. Shaun Lambert United Kingdom

James McIntosh



■ Rev. Shaun Lambert



■ Rev. Bruce Thompson

■ In their role as community leaders and counselors, clergy members serve an important function as informal educators. Approximately six years ago, the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ), the oldest Jewish-Christian organization in the United Kingdom, began cooperating with Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies to promote Holocaust education among British clergy of all denominations. Committed to countering antisemitism and promoting interfaith dialogue, the CCJ is the only British organization to send a cadre of Christian clergy to Yad Vashem on a yearly basis. So far, Yad Vashem has held six seminars for over 100 participants from the UK.

Rev. Bruce Thompson, Chair of the Lincolnshire District of the Methodist Church, and Rev. Shaun Lambert, Senior Minister at the Stanmore Baptist Church in London, were among those who attended Yad Vashem's Holocaust education seminar in March 2012. Both returned home inspired by what they had learned, and determined to raise awareness of the Holocaust among their own communities.

Back in the UK, Rev. Thompson established the Methodist Friends of Judaism, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of anti-Judaism within Christianity and challenging antisemitism. In addition to his work in Lincoln, he organized a symposium on Holocaust awareness and invited the International School's Yiftach Meiri to give a lecture. More than 80 members of the community attended the event. "Raising awareness of the *Shoah* in the course of my work as a Christian minister has been of great importance to me for over a decade," explained Thompson. "It took on a sharper focus after I worked with refugees from the Balkans, some of them teenagers who survived a massacre. As the last Holocaust survivors give their accounts of what it was to experience the *Shoah* first-hand, those of us who have met with them and wept with them have a moral duty to tell others what we have heard and learned."

For Rev. Lambert, it was a real challenge to choose the best response to what he experienced at Yad Vashem. "I was pondering, what right do I have to comment on the Holocaust? And then one of the lecturers from Yad Vashem helped answer this question for me when he said, 'The Holocaust is not only about the Jews, it is an episode of Jewish history among the nations of the world.'" Lambert was especially drawn by the testimony of Shalom Eilati, a Holocaust survivor who spoke at the Yad Vashem seminar,

and resolved to help share Eilati's personal story with his own community.

After returning to the UK, Lambert corresponded with Eilati and interviewed him in depth. The *Baptist Times* website published the interview on 25 January, just prior to International Holocaust Remembrance Day. "A famous Jewish rabbi called the Baal Shem Tov once said, 'In memory lies the secret of redemption,'" Lambert concluded. "That is my hope and prayer as we seek to build bridges today."

■ The CCJ recently signed an agreement with Yad Vashem formalizing their relationship and consolidating the basis for future cooperation. At the signing, CCJ Chief Executive Rev. David Gifford MA said, "This letter of intent formalizes our already long and fruitful partnership with Yad Vashem. We look forward to our continued cooperation to promote our common goals."



■ Rev. David Gifford (left) with the International School's Yiftach Meiri

New at the Virtual School

Holocaust Remembrance Day Mini-site Focuses on Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

■ The special mini-site created by the International School for Holocaust Studies for Holocaust Remembrance Day 5753/2013 focuses on the year's theme: **Defiance and Rebellion during the Holocaust**. The site, directed towards both teachers and students, is rich with a range of educational materials, at the heart of which is an interactive learning environment on the topic of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The environment is built around the map of the ghetto, and presents a reconstruction of the revolt utilizing a variety of sources: reports and letters written by the rebels; excerpts from



the diaries of the ghetto inmates; survivor testimonies; photographs from the ghetto's liquidation taken by Germans and arranged in

Jürgen Stroop, the SS officer who oversaw the operation; and reports written by Stroop during and after the ghetto's destruction. An interactive map is also presented, marked with the central locations of the uprising. In addition, the learning environment contains a collection of multimedia materials, such as photographs, testimonies, artifacts, lexicon entries and scholarly articles, all dealing with the Uprising.

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

Dr. Na'ama Shik

In the Footsteps of Heroes

Monuments to Jewish Rebellion and Heroism at Yad Vashem

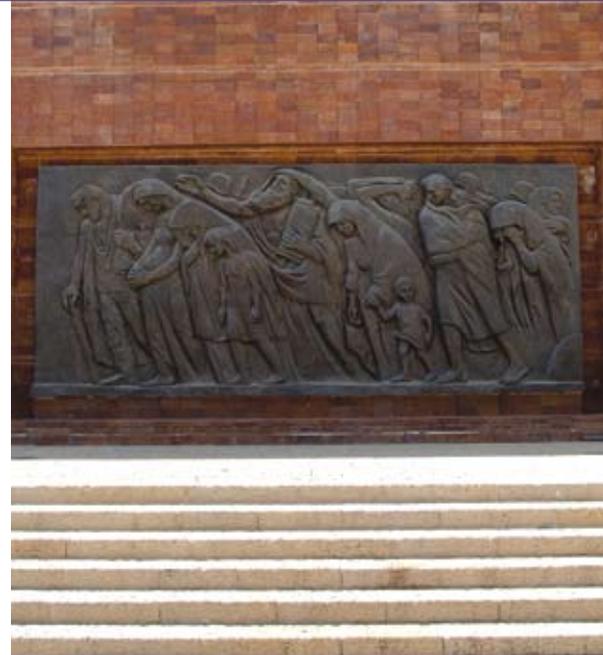
Yehudit Shendar and Orly Ohana



■ Buki Schwartz, *The Pillar of Heroism*, 1967-70



■ Nathan Rapoport, *The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Monument*, 1975-76



■ The 1953 Yad Vashem Law, at the foundation of Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, affirms that amongst its tasks lies the commitment to commemorate "the valor and heroism of the soldiers, the fighters of the underground and the prisoners in the ghettos, as well as the sons and daughters of the Jewish people who struggled for their human dignity." In this spirit, four monuments were erected at Yad Vashem over five decades, the intent of which was to give presence to "Jewish heroism" on the Mount of Remembrance.

It is interesting to note that the impetus behind the initiative to erect the first monument was the victorious Six Day War, as a gesture by citizens of the State of Israel to the armed warriors who fought during the Holocaust. Three more monuments were built following the Pillar of Heroism, together reinforcing the vision of the founders of Yad Vashem. Together, the monuments reflect a range of attitudes, each one representing its own era in its artistic language on the one hand, and a choice of content on the other, and on the whole manifesting the seemingly intrinsic contradiction between commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust and heroism. The fact that the conception of the

diverse monuments spanned decades constitutes a forceful testimony to the consistent significance of heroism, awarded by Yad Vashem, in the face of changes in present perspectives as regards the concept of valor and the empowerment of the individual who survived as a hero.

Buki Schwartz, *The Pillar of Heroism*

In 1967, architect Arie Elhanani, one of the designers of the Hall of Remembrance, approached artist Buki Schwartz to submit a proposal for a monument commemorating Jewish heroism. "We aspire that this will constitute the last and final point of a visit to Yad Vashem," Elhanani wrote. This guideline dictated the decision to place the monument at the highest location on the site, so that the Pillar of Heroism would be seen from afar. The monument was inaugurated in March 1970, during the first international conference of The Prisoners of the Camps and the Jewish Fighters Against the Nazis. At the center of the monument rises a 21-meter-high pillar, comprised of three arched sections. It bears an inscription composed by Yehuda Leib Bialer, then a member of the Yad Vashem Board: "Now and forever in memory of those who rebelled in the camps and ghettos, fought in the woods,

in the underground and with the Allied forces; braved their way to *Eretz Israel*; and those who died sanctifying the name of God." Sculptural walls simulating rocks, which echo the Valley of the Shadow of Death, surround the plaza in front of the sculpture.

Nathan Rapoport, *The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Monument*

As early as 1947, artist Nathan Rapoport conveyed to Mordechai Shenhavi – Yad Vashem early visionary and first director – his plan to build a monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in Warsaw, at Zamenhof Street, where the Uprising had commenced. In 1948, the plaster model that had been used to cast the monument in Poland was acquired, but the erection of the Jerusalem monument encountered funding obstacles, which persisted for many years after the foundation of Yad Vashem. The renewed initiative to build the monument came from Dr. Yitzhak Arad, then-Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. Yad Vashem donor Leon Jolson, a native of Warsaw and Holocaust survivor, endorsed the proposal. In 1976, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Monument on the Mount of Remembrance was inaugurated. It comprises two central elements: the first, a

Together, the monuments reflect a range of attitudes that manifest the seemingly intrinsic contradiction between commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust and heroism



■ *Bernie (Bernard) Fink, Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans who fought against Nazi Germany, 1985*

low relief titled: "The Last Journey," depicting Jews being passively led to their murder; the second, the dynamic and heroic "Warsaw Ghetto Uprising" sculpture, representing the heroism of the fighters. Between the two components one encounters the biblical quote "In thy blood, live" (Ezekiel 16:6) – an addition particular to this site. The three elements are placed against the background of a red brick wall, built at the artist's request. The plaza in front of the monument, Warsaw Ghetto Square, is where the annual state ceremonies in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day take place.

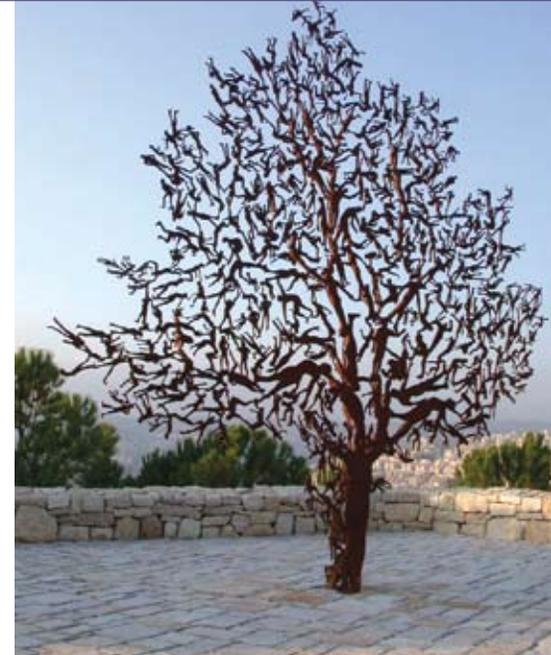
Bernard (Bernie) Fink, Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans who fought against Nazi Germany

"Following many appeals we received from enlisted fighter organizations and on the strength of our own feeling that it was necessary to underscore the fact that one and a half million Jews waged war against Nazi Germany, we intend to establish a monument commemorating the Jewish soldiers who fought with the Allied Forces' armies," wrote Dr. Yitzhak Arad, himself a fighter in the ghetto underground, with the partisans, and later on in the Palmach. The monument

was inaugurated in May 1985, on the 40th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany. The proposal submitted by artist Bernie Fink was selected from among 90 entries. In the center of the monument are six granite bricks chiseled in the shape of a hexagon, symbolizing the six million Jewish victims. The composition of the six bricks creates a negative Star of David on the background of the Jerusalem sky, symbolizing Jewish heroism. A metal spearhead cuts upwards through the Star of David, representing the armed fighters. The plaza leading to the monument is designed in the shape of a seven-branched Menorah. At the base of the Menorah, the inscription reads in English, French, Hebrew, Russian and Yiddish: "Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans who fought against Nazi Germany 1939-1945." The monument, which was inaugurated in the presence of then-Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is the site of the annual ceremony in commemoration of the victory over Nazi Germany.

Zadok Ben-David, "For Man is a Tree of the Field" (Deut. 20:19)

Julia and Isidore Karten, z"l, and family were the initiators of the Partisans' Panorama as



■ *Zadok Ben-David, "For Man is the Tree of the Field" (Deut. 20:19), 2003*

well as the donors who led to its installment, in September 2003, as part of the events held to mark the 50th anniversary of Yad Vashem. The Kartens, both of whom were partisans, survived the Holocaust by hiding in Ukrainian forests and were saved together with hundreds of other Jews in the same situation. Architect Dan Zur, who planned the site overlooking the Jerusalem forest, suggested that a sculpture be placed there. Zadok Ben-David's entry was selected from among four proposals. The sculpture emulates a natural tree; however at a second glance one realizes that its branches are actually comprised of some 600 countenances of men, women and children, who take refuge under its branches up to the treetop. The isolated tree symbolizes the refuge that the forest granted to the partisans. In his letter to the curator, the artist explained, in fact, "For Man is a Tree of the Field" (Deut. 20:19) – a novel interpretation of the biblical text representing the power of survival and the hope for growth.

Yehudit Shendar is Deputy Director at the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator. Orly Ohana is a research assistant in the Art Department of the Museums Division.

A Map for Her Birthday

Miriam Urbach-Nachum

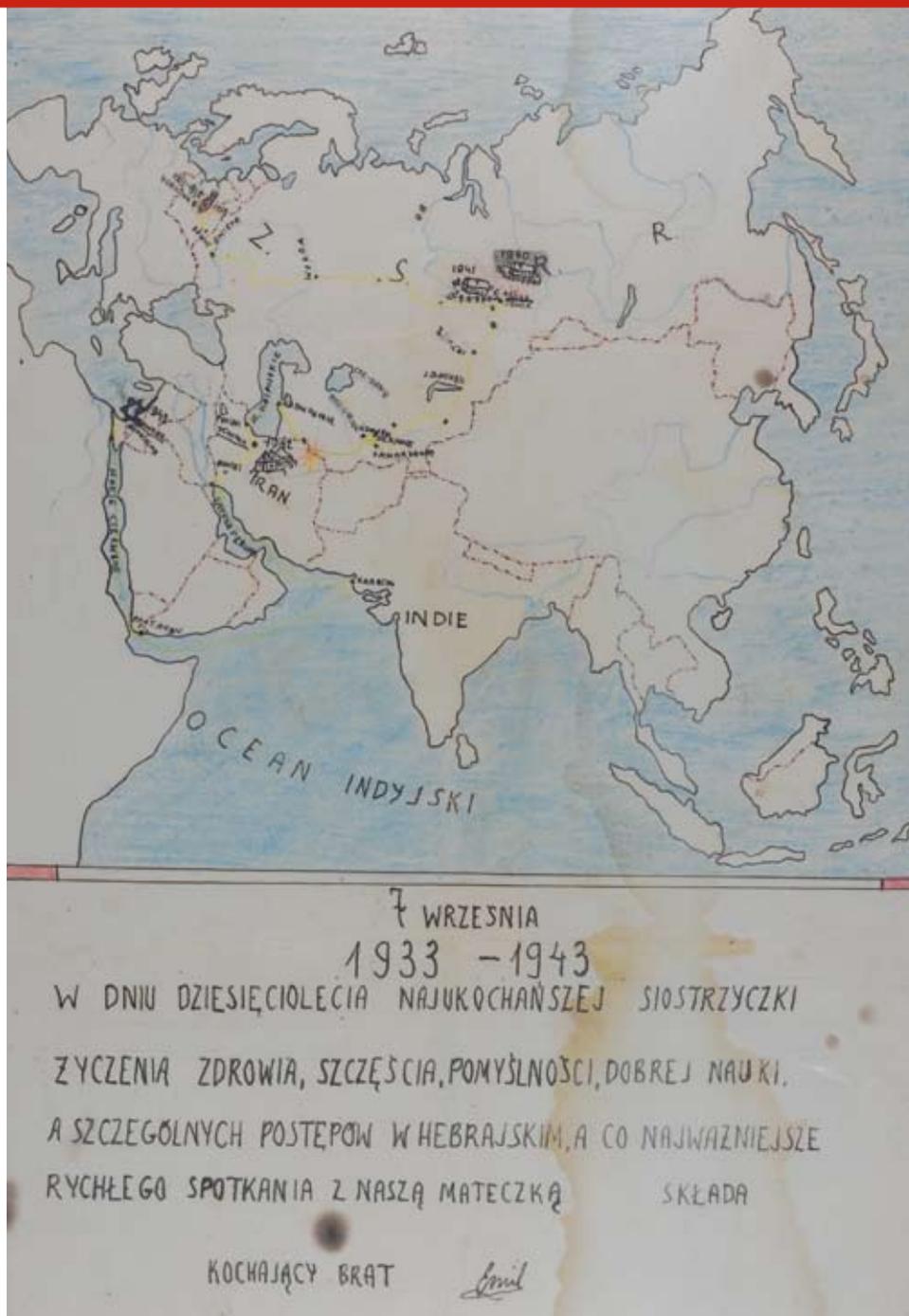
■ Elina Landau was a happy, well-cared for, pampered child. But on her sixth birthday, her world collapsed.

On that day, 7 September 1939, the German army reached the outskirts of Warsaw, the city of Elina's birth. Just days later, Elina, her parents Mieczyslaw (Mietek) and Fania and her 11-year-old brother Emil were among the masses fleeing to the east in the wake of the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany.

Before the war, the Landau family had been a member of upper-class Warsaw Jewish society. Fania was a pianist, and her extended family included many musicians and doctors. Thanks to Mietek's job as a lawyer and account manager for Gestetner in Warsaw, the family enjoyed economic prosperity, even owning their own car. The children grew up immersed in Polish culture and Emil dreamed of studying Polish literature in university. They were a liberal, secular family, and Elina only became aware of her Jewish identity during the war.

The Landaus initially took flight from the city in their car, but at some point they ran out of petrol and continued their way on foot. They eventually reached Rowne, a city in northwest Ukraine on the border between Poland and the Soviet Union. Rowne was under Soviet rule, and the many refugees who wished to gain entry were presented with the precondition of accepting Soviet citizenship. The Landaus, a patriotic Polish family, refused. Accordingly, Mietek was conscripted to the Red Army, and Fania and her two children, together with hundreds of other refugees that had retained their Polish citizenship, boarded trains and were deported to the East. At the end of a torturous three-week journey, the refugees were taken to the Asino labor camp in the Tomsk region of Siberia. Here they suffered from horrific cold and constant hunger, as well as the terrible fear of bears and wolves roaming the dense forest around the camp.

In accordance with the renewal of diplomatic relations between Poland and the Soviet Union, in July 1941 all Polish citizens imprisoned in camps in the Soviet Union were granted amnesty. Most of the freed refugees continued their journey eastwards to Uzbekistan. Fania, Emil and Elina reached Samarqand. One day, their father Mietek returned; he had been sent home



■ The map drawn by Emil showing the route that he and Elina had journeyed from Poland to Eretz Israel. Yad Vashem Archives

by the army after being diagnosed with typhus. The reunion was brief; he died just a few days later. In desperation for her children's welfare, Fania decided to place them in a Christian

children's home. From that moment, Emil acted as both father and mother for his younger sister; his presence gave her a sense of security in the unfamiliar institution. At the same time as

Emil acted as both father and mother for his younger sister; his presence gave her a sense of security



■ Emil and Elina (Emmanuel and Ilana), Kibbutz Ginegar, 1945. Yad Vashem Photo Archive



■ Ilana Karniel at the opening of the "Gathering the Fragments – Behind the Scenes" exhibition on 27 January 2013

they were learning the Christian prayers, however, Elina's brother informed her, for the first time, of her Jewish identity.

Some months later, an emissary from Youth Aliyah visited the children's home in order to remove the Jewish children. This was in accordance with the 1942 agreement

between the Polish government-in-exile and the Soviet Union, which permitted the transfer of 24,000 Polish soldiers and refugees in Soviet territory to Tehran, then under British rule. When they arrived in Tehran, Elina was already nine years old. The children, who had mostly arrived without their parents, lived in an orphanage where they learned from the emissaries about *Eretz Israel*, a fairy-tale place where they would finally find rest from all their wanderings.

Seven months later, in January 1943, the children received immigration visas to *Eretz Israel* from the British mandate authorities, and they set sail to Karachi in India (today Pakistan) and from there to Suez. On 18 February 1943 – 70 years ago – they arrived in *Eretz Israel* by train. Together with another ten "Tehran Children," Emil and Elina (who in Israel became Emmanuel

and Ilana) were sent to Kibbutz Ginegar in the Jezreel Valley.

For her tenth birthday, Emil gave his sister a map he had sketched, delineating the route they had travelled from Poland to *Eretz Israel*. At the bottom of the map, Emil added the dedication: "For my beloved sister's tenth birthday. Blessings of health, happiness and success. May you succeed in your studies and especially in Hebrew. And most important of all – may we be reunited with Mummy soon. Your loving brother, Emil." Sadly, this was not to be. Fania had died of starvation and exhaustion in Samarqand less than a month earlier.

Emil was accepted to the Kaduri agricultural school, after which he enlisted in the Palmach. During all this time, he wrote letters to his sister, advising and guiding her. On 17 March 1948, Emil took part in the ambush of an Arab weapons convoy on its way to Haifa. While they were gaining control over the convoy, he jumped onto one of the trucks loaded with weapons and tried to start the engine in order to transfer it to the Jewish forces. Shots fired towards the truck caused it to explode, killing Emil-Emmanuel.

In a ceremony conducted on 17 July 1949, Emmanuel Landau was awarded the "Hero of Israel" award for excellence and bravery in action together with eleven other recipients who had fought in the War of Independence. Ilana, who had been orphaned for the third time, accepted the honor on his behalf.

Ilana eventually married the artist Hanania Karniel and the couple had three children. Ilana dedicated her life to the needs of children in difficult circumstances through her work as a social worker. But most precious of all, she held on to the last vestiges of her own childhood: the diagram of the Asino labor camp that Emil had sketched together with the map that he had given her as a birthday present following their arrival in *Eretz Israel*. These, together with photographs of her and her beloved brother, were recently donated to Yad Vashem as part of its nationwide "Gathering the Fragments" Campaign to rescue personal items related to the Holocaust. The map currently appears in the



■ Pages of Testimony Ilana completed for her mother Fania and her father Mietek

exhibition dedicated to the Campaign that opened in Yad Vashem's Archives and Library building to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2013.

"This map has always been with me," explains Ilana. "It is etched into my brain. For a long time, I didn't understand its historical value, but years later, when I did, I framed it and looked after it as best I could. Now I want it to be at Yad Vashem, so that others can see it too."

The "Gathering the Fragments" Campaign is run in cooperation with the National Heritage Project at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry for Senior Citizens and the Ministry of Education. To donate Holocaust-related personal items so they may be preserved for generations to come, please call (in Israel): 1-800-25-7777.

The author works in the Teacher Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies and in the "Gathering the Fragments" Campaign.

Elections vs. Democracy

80 Years since Hitler's Rise to Power

Dr. Robert Rozett

■ Eighty years ago, at a time of entrenched and worsening crisis, Adolf Hitler came to power, advocating the politics of hatred, violence and fear. In the early 1930s, Germany was still in the long, drawn-out throes of its devastating defeat in WWI. This was exacerbated by the deteriorating economic woes that struck Germany as hard as any of the nations of the globe. Despite this ongoing and deepening crisis, Hitler did not seize power through a *putsch*, as many believe, but was named chancellor by the ruling elite following freely held elections.

Hitler and his Nazi party received a plurality of votes in the last free elections for the Reichstag in the German Weimar Republic in November 1932. They occupied about a third of the seats as the country's largest party. The Weimar Republic and the democratic system, which had been imposed upon Germany by the victors of WWI, were never particularly popular among either the elites or much of the masses. By the early 1930s, the democracy was greatly weakened through reliance on special, constitutionally mandated authority that had been granted the President, the aged Paul Von Hindenburg, and this authority allowed the circumvention of the legislative process. Wielding this power and anchored in the results of the last elections, Hindenburg and his coterie, led by Franz Von Papen, invited Hitler to become chancellor on 30 January 1933.

Hindenburg and Von Papen believed they could control Hitler, giving the Nazis three ministerial positions out of ten, but Hitler quickly gained the upper hand and proved to be a master of manipulation. The Nazi onslaught against the Republic began when they set fire to the Reichstag building, blamed it on the Communists and proclaimed a national emergency in February 1933. To cope with the emergency, the Reichstag enacted special ruling powers for Hitler. This authority helped him consolidate his authoritarian regime. In the summer of 1934, Hindenburg passed away, whereupon Hitler assumed the mantle of president alongside that of chancellor. This spelled the completion of his drive to dictatorship – and the end of all vestiges of democracy.

The rest is well known: how the Nazis persecuted all who opposed them in reality or imagination; and how they saved their most vitriolic hatred for their imagined and proclaimed archenemy, the Jews. Ultimately – and not because of anything they had done, but simply because they were born Jews – millions of innocent people were sentenced to death. The

Elections by themselves do not necessarily mean society embraces values that protect the civil liberties of the individual, their dignity or even their right to life

Shoah remains the most palpable symbol of the criminal violence perpetrated in the name of ideology by Germany under Hitler and the Nazis during their 12-year regime.

Hitler's ascent to power, in which the electoral process played a principal role, highlights several important ideas. Elections are not necessarily synonymous with democracy. In particular when they are held in a system that is not democratic, they can be manipulated by the powers that be for their own purposes. Elections by themselves do not necessarily mean society embraces values that protect the civil liberties of the individual, their dignity or even their right to life. Indeed in the case of the Nazi rise to power, a large segment of the German electorate voted for a party that was fundamentally and overtly anti-democratic. The Nazis scoffed at all of the humanistic core values of the Enlightenment that are associated with democracy, and attributed them to Jewish machinations. From the first, the Nazis were blatantly violent in both rhetoric and deed against those they believed opposed them. Of course, not every person in Germany in early 1933 embraced Nazi politics, not even a majority. Nonetheless, enough supported them

to enable Hitler and his followers to take hold and eventually embark on a murderous crusade that engulfed a large part of the world. This demonstrates that a majority is not necessary for the politics of hatred, violence and fear to come to the fore, only a critical mass.

Eighty years after the Nazi rise to power, our world is still beset by numerous crises and the politics of hatred, violence and fear are alive and well in many places. The proliferation and teaching of hatred and fear and the consecration of violence remain ubiquitous, especially in the traditional and new media, as well as in schools and even places of worship. Thus it remains essential that we understand that elections alone are far from enough to guarantee that governments will be fair-minded and just. Teaching the values of respect, human dignity, tolerance and pluralism must go hand-in-hand with the electoral process. It is only when these

Not every person in Germany in early 1933 embraced Nazi politics, but enough supported them to enable Hitler and his followers to take hold and eventually embark on a murderous crusade that engulfed a large part of the world

values are immutably ingrained in the fabric of society that we may ensure that freedom and justice truly hold sway and that the politics of the kind that enabled the Nazis to perpetrate crimes against humanity and the *Shoah* will flourish no more.

The author is the Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries. This article first appeared in the online edition of the Ha'aretz daily newspaper on 27 January 2013.

Righteous Among the Nations: The Growing Online Database

Irena Steinfeldt



■ **“I am the grandson of Paul and Kaethe Bongers... Can you please tell me what award he won? I would like to pass this on to my grandchildren....”**

This query regarding a couple from Germany who were honored as Righteous Among the Nations was sent to the Department of the Righteous at Yad Vashem by their grandson living in Hancock, NY. The recent update of the Righteous Among the Nations Online Database will ensure that the Bongers’ legacy will be remembered, both within their own family and among society as a whole. With the support of the German foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ), the stories and digitized information about all of Germany’s Righteous Among the Nations are now accessible online. Thus, the Bongers’ descendants in the United States and relatives around the world of the more than 500 German Righteous Among the Nations now have instant access to the story of their ancestors’ rescue of Jews during the Holocaust.

The uploading of the German Righteous Among the Nations files to the Yad Vashem website is part of a comprehensive project to make all of the Righteous stories accessible worldwide, and to preserve the many testimonies, photos and documents that have been gathered during the 50 years of the Program’s existence. For the past four years, specially trained teams have been digitizing the information, adding the rescue stories and scanning the files of the Righteous, so that searches may be performed by visitors to the website by name of rescuer, rescued, place of rescue, profession, religion and other criteria. The state-of-the-art

database infrastructure created by Yad Vashem’s Information Technology Division is linked to Yad Vashem’s other databases and knowledge tools, and information about some 70% of the more than 24,000 recognized Righteous is currently accessible online.

Recently, Chris Hammond wrote that he was deeply moved at seeing the tree planted in honor of his uncle, George Hammond, Righteous Among the Nations from the United Kingdom. In consequence, Chris Hammond sent Yad Vashem the wartime story his uncle had dictated to him 30 years earlier about the time when, as a British POW, he had contributed to the rescue of Hanna Rigler. Born in Shavli, Lithuania, Hanna was the sole survivor of her



■ *The Bongers family, 1946. Yad Vashem Photo Archive*

family and had managed to escape from a death march in the end of January 1945. Along with the constant updates due to the ongoing digitization process, there are plans in the near future to create an online tool so that members of the public such as Chris Hammond will be able to add information, photos and documents to the online Database in order to enrich the collection.

The project to create an Online Database of the Righteous Among the Nations and to preserve the files in the Department’s archive is an extensive five-year endeavor. So far, the project has benefited from the support of: La Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah (France); the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (Germany); the Netherlands State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport; the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; the Levi Lassen Foundation; the Stichting Collectieve Marorgelden Israël; the Chairman’s Fund of the Open Society Foundations; and the Dutch Friends of Yad Vashem.

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

New on www.yadvashem.org

Dana Porath

Special Video Exhibition on Holocaust Remembrance Day Mini-Site

■ **The Yad Vashem mini-site marking Holocaust Remembrance Day 2013 features a video-based exhibition entitled “The Last Months of the Warsaw Ghetto: Voices from the Inferno.”** The exhibition contains ten short films, each comprised of video excerpts from Holocaust survivors describing the unbearable conditions they endured, the preparations for defending themselves and the uprising itself. Among the many testimonies incorporated into the films are those of Zivia Lubetkin, Antek Zuckerman, Israel Gutman, Marek Edelman, and Simcha Rotem.

As always, the site also contains photos and video from the events and ceremonies that take place at Yad Vashem throughout the day. In addition, the site contains useful resources such as information about the “Unto Every Person There is a Name” project and links to related exhibitions. This year, members of the public can request that the name of specific Holocaust victims be read in the Hall of Remembrance on Holocaust Remembrance Day via a special online form.

Expansion of Arabic Site

■ **Yad Vashem recently expanded its online content in Arabic to include a comprehensive timeline of the Holocaust in Arabic with**



over 200 entries as well as video testimonies of survivors who participated in resistance activities. A special music playlist in the newly redesigned YouTube channel has also been created to provide easier access and exposure.

The expansion of the Arabic website was made possible with the support of anonymous donors from Canada.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.

Events Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ On 27 January, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev took part in a **special government meeting** to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Rabbi Lau spoke about the importance of the day both for the non-Jewish population and for Jews around the world. Avner Shalev presented the contradictory trends that exist in today's global arena concerning Holocaust remembrance: on one hand, the increasing interest in the *Shoah* and the desire to deal with the topic accurately and in depth, especially in the educational sphere; and on the other hand, the growing trend of relativism and "soft" denial of the Holocaust and the attempt to weaken its prominence and uniqueness by generalizing it within the terminology of "genocide." Shalev also summarized for the government ministers the worldwide activities of the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem as well as the expansion of Yad Vashem's internet site with materials and databases in a range of languages, and pointed out that over the past year, the site logged more than 10 million visits.

■ On 27 January, the **Italian Embassy in Israel conducted a meeting and memorial event for victims of the Holocaust**, in the presence of Italian Ambassador in Israel H.E. Mr. Francisco Talo. The event, held at Yad Vashem, was attended by some 200 Holocaust survivors, Italian immigrants to Israel and members of staff at the Italian Embassy. Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications, presented the new Italian version of the Yad Vashem Museum Album *To Bear Witness*, published with the support of the Italian Government.

The address by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev was transmitted live to a ceremony taking place in Milan in the presence of the Italian Prime Minister, where the "Platform 21" memorial site to the Jews of Milan was consecrated.



■ Holocaust survivor Chana Weiss and the Italian Ambassador to Israel rekindle the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance.

■ On 27 January, the new exhibit "**Gathering the Fragments – Behind the Scenes of the Campaign to Rescue Personal Items from the Holocaust**" opened in the Reading Room of the Archives and Library Building at Yad Vashem. The opening was attended by dozens of Holocaust survivors and their families who had donated original documents, diaries, photographs, artifacts and works of art to Yad Vashem. The display, which shows only a few



■ Frida Pleban, who donated artworks created by her father Szymuel Warkowicki

of the items collected, emphasizes the process of preserving and discovering the story behind every item donated, so they may be transmitted to future generations.

The "Gathering the Fragments" campaign is run in cooperation with the National Heritage Program at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry for Senior Citizens and the Ministry of Education.

"IRemember" Wall

■ To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem once again put up an "IRemember" Wall on Facebook, automatically linking everyone who joined with a name from the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names. A new feature developed by Yad Vashem's IT Division internet team also allowed participants to add names directly from the Database to the Wall on Facebook. Thousands participated and joined the Wall; many added additional names.



■ The **launch of Yad Vashem's website in German** took place on 28 January at a press conference in Berlin organized by Axel Springer AG Publishing House. The ceremony, which also marked the 100th birthday of Holocaust survivor and journalist Ernst Cramer, z"l, was attended by 100 guests, including: philanthropist Friede Springer; US Ambassador to Germany H.E. Mr. Philip D. Murphy; Chairman of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein Dr. Florian Marxer; Chairman of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria Günther Schuster; President of the Jewish Community in Zürich Dr. André Bollag; former President of the Jewish Community in Berlin Lala Süsskind; the children of Ernst Cramer, Claire C. Jebesen and Tom Cramer; and Berlin senators. Speeches were delivered by Axel Springer CEO Dr. Mathias Döpfner, Israeli Ambassador to Germany H.E. Mr. Yaakov Hadas-Handelsman and Chairperson of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany Hildegard Müller.



■ Left to right: Dr. Mathias Döpfner, Hildegard Müller, Friede Springer, Claire C. Jebesen, H.E. Mr. Yaakov Hadas-Handelsman, Tom Cramer, Tammy Murphy, H.E. Mr. Philip D. Murphy



■ Yad Vashem Internet Department Director Dana Porath presents the new German website to the distinguished audience.

The website in German was presented to the guests by Director of the Internet Department Dana Porath and Project Coordinator Sarah Eismann. The ceremony was reported widely in the German press and on television.

The German website was created with the support of the Friede Springer Foundation, Berlin.

News from the Archives

Visit of Bundesarchiv President Dr. Anat Kutner

■ At the end of February, a senior management delegation from the Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archives) headed by its President, Dr. Michael Hollman, came for a three-day visit to Yad Vashem. The delegation was invited by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who called cooperation with the Bundesarchiv “one of the most meaningful and important for Yad Vashem.”

The Bundesarchiv, one of the biggest archives in Europe, spans over 110 km of document storage. Documents preserved in the Archives date from 1495, among them numerous records from WWII. Yad Vashem has a long-running agreement with the Bundesarchiv for sharing knowledge and photocopying materials.

Chief executives of the Bundesarchiv were especially interested in the digitization of documents currently underway at Yad Vashem, and toured the digitization and scanning room accompanied by managers of the Information Technology Division. In addition, heads of the research centers on both sides convened to discuss research in which Bundesarchiv staff is involved and the use that Yad Vashem



■ Bundesarchiv President Dr. Michael Hollman (left) tours Yad Vashem with Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner.

researchers make of original materials from the German Archives.

The main focus of the Bundesarchiv visit was the Archives Division, where they reviewed methods of preservation and information backup, comparing them with those used in Germany. Additional discussion topics included the names collection project implemented by the Bundesarchiv, the relationship between Yad Vashem and the International Tracing Service (ITS), and continued cooperation between the two institutions in the future.

The author is Deputy Director of the Archival Acquisitions Department, Archives Division.

The Evacuees Project Susan Weisberg

■ Millions of Soviet citizens moved eastwards during 1941 and 1942, acquiring the status of evacuees. According to recent new research, it is estimated that the total number of one-time evacuees during the war years was somewhere between 6.6 and 7.3 million individuals; among those evacuated were some 1.5 million Jews.

Yad Vashem's Archives currently has information on 650,000 Jewish evacuees, much of it due to documentation copied from archives in Moscow, as well as many other local and state archives in the FSU. Reconstructing the full list of the evacuees is of enormous

historical and personal importance. The list of evacuees from the FSU will contribute to the accurate documentation of information about the Holocaust period, and prevent extreme exaggerations in the number of evacuees from being exploited by Holocaust deniers.

Yad Vashem recently launched a unique indexing project that aims to computerize all known data about the evacuees. During 2012, the names of 120,000 evacuated Jews were digitized, bringing the total number of indexed names to approximately 350,000 thus far.

The Evacuees Project is generously supported by the Claims Conference.

Unique Photograph Collection Donated to Archives Efrat Komisar

■ Dr. Jacob Bramson, a psychiatrist and department manager at the Franeker Psychiatric Hospital in the Frisland district of Holland, was also an amateur photographer. With an 8-mm camera, Bramson filmed his family, different events, and colleagues in training at “Kibbutz Franeker.” His son, Rabbi Joseph Bramson, recently donated copies of these film reels to Yad Vashem. The collection sheds light on the life of a Jewish family in Holland in a remote area before, during and after the war – the latter in Israel without the mother, Corrie, who did not survive.

The films, together with others donated to Yad Vashem, tell stories interwoven with one another, creating a fascinating picture. One of the films from the Bramson collection documents a ceremony held in a synagogue in Veendam, in which a relative, Isaac Polak, received an award for his contribution to the community. The synagogue was demolished after the war, and many of those pictured died in the Holocaust. Present at the ceremony was Rabbi Simon Dasberg, the rabbi of Groningen, who was murdered in Bergen-Belsen. Rabbi Dasberg conducted the June 1942 wedding of

EHRI Marks Halfway Point Hillel Solomon

■ The EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) project, launched in 2010, aims to support the research community by providing online access to dispersed Holocaust-related sources and by encouraging collaborative research through the development of a Virtual Research Environment (VRE). Twenty organizations – research institutions, libraries, archives, museums and memorial sites – from 13 countries are working together to build this unique and far-reaching infrastructure, in which Yad Vashem is a leading partner.

Sponsored by the European Union, the project recently marked its halfway point. Notable achievements so far include: the identification of some 1,500 institutions holding Holocaust-related archives; the production of national reports on over 40 countries, containing information on all relevant national institutions and their archival holdings; the development of a multilingual, well-defined thesaurus of keywords to assist access to Holocaust sources; and the creation of a “hub” (www.ehri-project.eu) offering the broader EHRI community the opportunity to register through the website and publish user profiles. In addition, four interdisciplinary workshops were organized, facilitating exchanges between experts in documenting Shoah victims' names, photos and testimonies. During 2012, fellowships were awarded to 12 researchers at five top Holocaust archival and research institutions and a program of four summer courses is being prepared, placing special emphasis on the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

The author is the EHRI Administrative Coordinator, Archives Division.

Eli (Eliezer) Asscher and his sweetheart Florrie, whose film was donated to Yad Vashem by the Asscher family. Rabbi Bramson later remembered running into a woman after being frightened by an Allied bombing raid. “Why are you so upset?” she said to me,” Bramson recalled. “Don't you know that everything is in God's hands? You have nothing to be afraid of. Suddenly the tears ceased. Who was this smart woman? None other than Clara Asscher Pinkhof [the mother of Eli Asscher].”

The author is Head of the Footage Section, Archives Division.

Joint Seminar with Polish Colleagues **Eliot Nidam Orvieto**

■ On 12 February, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held a symposium presenting new findings on the Holocaust of Polish Jewry. Scholars from the Polish Center for Holocaust Research in Warsaw were invited to showcase a selection of groundbreaking research published over recent years. Prof. Jan Grabowski gave an overview of the work of the Center, established a decade ago by Prof. Barbara Engelking, and spoke briefly on “The Jew Hunt”: current research dealing with the Nazi chase, aided by the local Polish populace, after Jews who had managed to escape deportations to the death camps. Other topics covered at the symposium by both Polish and Israeli scholars included the complex interactions between Jews and Poles in the areas adjacent to the country’s borders; the rescue of Polish Jews during the Holocaust; an in-depth study of the activities

of the Jewish Military Union (ZZW) preceding and during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising; Jewish leadership; and Jewish endurance across the spectrum.

The symposium concluded with a discussion on the future prospects of research in the field, including the presentation of the work of the International Institute’s Center for the Research of the Holocaust in Poland, established at Yad Vashem last year. Director Dr. Havi Dreifuss reviewed the Center’s mission and goals, among them publishing sources from archival collections and leading research in the field; bridging gaps between the research communities working in Israel and Poland; and promoting partnerships among leading scholars around the globe studying the Holocaust in Poland.

A week after the seminar, historians from Yad Vashem and young researchers from Poland

gathered informally at the International Institute to exchange ideas and discuss challenges in their current research.

The symposium was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

The author is Coordinator of Academic Foreign Relations, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

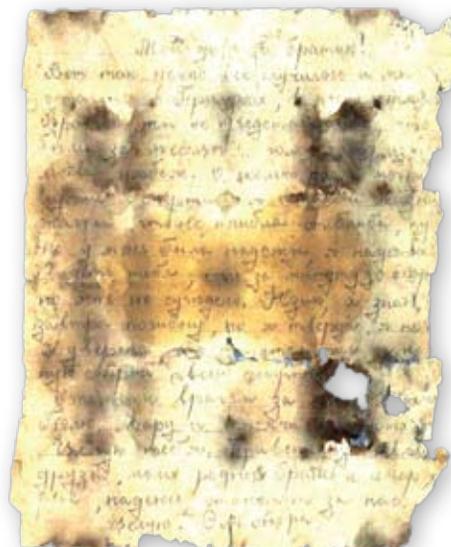


“Untold Stories” Now Features 500 Locations

■ *“My dear brother, everything happened so fast, and suddenly we find ourselves in Priluki, under German occupation. Brother, you cannot imagine what awful months we have had – hunger, cold, abuse, robbery... So many times I wanted to die rather than continue living this kind of life! ... I only have one wish – to see you, even for one minute, before I die – but I know that will not happen. Josik, I know I am going to die tomorrow, but I am strong, I am not afraid; I know you will avenge my death... I truly believe that. Kisses – Eleonora.”*

This last letter of Eleonora Parmut, aged 15, from the Ukrainian town of Priluki, was written on the eve of a major murder operation in the ghetto on 20 May 1942. That day, the women, children and elderly remaining in the ghetto were taken away on the pretext that they were being transferred to another location. In truth, however, they were forced into a ravine near the town of Pliskunovka, where they were ordered to strip and were then murdered by gunfire. Eleonora was among the victims.

Did the young girl feel the approaching end with her sharpened senses, or was her letter a cry of deep desperation? There is no way of knowing, but on the evening before the murder, she entrusted the letter to non-Jewish acquaintances. It eventually reached her brother Josef, and the family carefully preserved it for many decades. In 2010, on a visit to Yad Vashem, Eleonora’s relative donated the letter to the Yad Vashem Archives.



■ Eleonora Parmut before the war (right), and her wartime letter to her brother Josef

Shlomit Shulhani



“The Untold Stories” project documents and uploads research on the murder sites of Jews in the occupied territories of the USSR, which have been pushed to the margins of historiography, or not researched at all. To date, details on murder sites in some 500 locations have been uploaded together with a variety of sources: official documents of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission that investigated Nazi war crimes, *Einsatzgruppen* reports, court records, reports of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, contemporary press clippings and over 200

video and audio testimonies. However, the voice of the actual victims is a rare find. The treasured letter was recently uploaded to the Yad Vashem website as part of “The Untold Stories” mini-site making it available for viewing by the broader public.

“The Untold Stories” mini-site was created with the generous support of the Claims Conference and Dr. Moshe Kantor, Chairman of the European Jewish Fund.

The author is a researcher at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Coordinator of “The Untold Stories” project.

International Conference: The Holocaust in Soviet Literature and Cinema

Dr. Arkadi Zeltser

■ On 19-20 February, an International conference was held at Yad Vashem on “The Holocaust and the Jews in the Second World War in Soviet Literature and Film.” Researchers from the US, Germany, the UK, France, Russia and Israel in the field of Yiddish and Russian-language literature and documentary cinema discussed the ways in which the Holocaust was reflected in artworks created in the Soviet Union.

Opening the conference, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev remarked on the unique role of literature and film in the shaping of collective memory of the Holocaust in modern-day society. International Research Institute Director Dr. Bella Guterman touched upon the representation of the Holocaust in Vassily Grossman’s book *Life and Fate*, and Alexandra (Sana) Britavsky, CEO of the Genesis Philanthropy Group in Israel (pictured), spoke of the importance of broadening the historical discussion to include literature and film. In the course of the conference, researchers discussed the unique methods deployed by the writers



and filmmakers to circumvent the spoken and unspoken restrictions imposed by Soviet censorship – as noted: “Every Soviet book had multiple authors: the writers, the editors, the censors, the Party officials, etc.” However, although the means of conveying the topic of the Holocaust and the attitude towards it were defined by the cultural background of the writers and filmmakers, this reality was practically inconceivable in Western literature.

The Conference was generously supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group and the European Jewish Fund.

The author is Director of the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

87 Transports Added to Online Database; Future Research to Focus on Greece

Dr. Joel Zisenwine

■ As research continues on the deportations of Jews from cities within the boundaries of the German Reich to the Theresienstadt (Terezin) ghetto in 1942-1945, detailed descriptions of 87 transports have recently been uploaded to the “Transports to Extinction: Shoah (Holocaust) Deportation Database.” The transports left the cities of Oppeln (Opole), Gdansk (Danzig), Hamburg, Leipzig, Ústi nad Labem (Aussig), Opava (Troppau) and Karlovi Vary (Karlsbad) – the latter three towns were located within Sudetenland and annexed to the Third Reich under the September 1938 Munich Agreement. By the end of 2013, the project aims to complete research on all the deportations from wartime Germany to Terezin.

Alongside the research on deportations from European cities under Nazi rule to Terezin and other murder sites in Eastern Europe, researchers at the International Research Institute are now focusing on transports from Greece to the death camps. When the Germans occupied Greece in April 1941, its Jewish population – dating back to Hellenistic times – numbered some

70,000 people, most of whom lived in the port city of Salonika. In March 1943, the Germans began deporting Salonikan Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau. A similar fate befell the Jews of Macedonia and Thrace, which had been annexed by Bulgaria: they were deported and murdered at Treblinka. The policy of murder also did not spare the Jews of Athens and the Mediterranean islands, including Rhodes, Corfu, Crete and Kos, bringing an abrupt end to a magnificent and unique Jewish community.

The new research will be based on archival documentation in Greece and Israel, survivor testimonies and various other studies published over the years. The findings will be presented on the “Transports to Extinction” online database.

The “Deportations of Jews” Project is generously supported by the Claims Conference.

The project of the Deportations of Jews from Greece is made possible by the estate of Isaac Jacques Cohen from Salonika.

The author is Director of the “Deportations of Jews” Project, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Seminars Mark 70th Anniversary of Warsaw Uprising

Eliot Nidam Orvieto

■ Over recent months, the International Institute of Holocaust Research has hosted a series of seminars marking 70 years since the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto.

On 4 March, a seminar was held on the topic of “Military Action by the Jewish Military Union (ZZW) and the Beitar Movement,” in partnership with the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel and in the presence of Israel’s Education Minister Gideon Sa’ar. A letter of address from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was read at the opening of the seminar. Among the lectures delivered during the seminar were talks by Prof. Dan Michman on the patterns in Jewish resistance; Prof. Moshe Arens on the youth movements in the Warsaw ghetto;



and Dr. Laurence Weinbaum (pictured) on the interaction between the Revisionists, the *Etzel* and the Polish side.

Yad Vashem also co-hosted a conference on Jewish life in the ghettos under the Nazi regime, together with the Western Galilee Academic College and the Ghetto Fighters House. The conference, held in Akko on 13-14 March, focused on daily life in the ghetto, where both cultural and industrious activities flourished alongside starvation and hardship.

On 18 April, the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, a gathering will be held at Yad Vashem to discuss Prof. Israel Gutman’s book, *The Revolt of the Besieged* (Heb.), recently reissued by Yad Vashem Publications and Mosheshet, and Dr. Bella Guterman’s book *Zivia, the One* (Heb.), a biography of Zivia Lubetkin.

Recent Events at Yad Vashem Limor Karo

70 Years Since the Destruction of Macedonian and Greek Jewry

■ On 5 March, a memorial event marking 70 years since the destruction of the Jews of Macedonia was held with the participation of dozens of Holocaust survivors and their families as well as Macedonia's Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Petar Jovanovski and the Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovnia in Israel



H.E. Mr. Branko Kesic. Pictured left to right, in the Hall of Remembrance: Miriam Aviezer of the Organization of Former Yugoslavian Immigrants; the Organization's Chairman Moshe Ben Shachar; Dr. Rachel Shelly Levy-Drummer of the Second Generation; H.E. Mr. Petar Jovanovski; Chairman of the Organization for Macedonian Immigrants' Next Generations Moshe Testa

■ On 10 March, a gathering was held to mark 70 years since the destruction of Greece's Jewish population, with the participation of some 200 Holocaust survivors and their families. Attending the event was the fifth President of the State of Israel and current Chairman of the National Authority for Ladino Culture Yitzhak Navon; Chairperson of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Colette Avital, the Greek Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Spyridon Lampridis, Yad Vashem Director General Nathan Eitan and Chair of the

Organization of Greek Concentration Camp Survivors Moshe Ha'Elion.

Memorial Gathering Marks "Struma" Tragedy

■ A memorial gathering honoring the memory of the 769 Jews aboard the "Struma" who drowned 71 years ago took place on 17 February at the Struma Martyrs' Museum and Synagogue in Be'er Sheva, in the presence of Chief Rabbi of Israel Yona Metzger, Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Edward Iosiper and Mayor of Be'er Sheva Ruvik Danilowitz. Lital Beer, Head of Yad Vashem's "Gathering the Fragments" project, spoke about the national campaign to rescue personal items from the Holocaust.

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

■ At time of press, Yad Vashem is expecting the honored visit of President of the United States Barack Obama. President Obama came to Yad Vashem as US Senator in July 2008. During this visit, the President will be guided through the Hall of Names and Museum of Holocaust Art, participate in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, view the Children's Memorial and receive a special gift from the Yad Vashem Archives. Full coverage of the President's tour on the Mount of Remembrance will appear in the next edition of *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*, Vol. 70 (July 2013).

News from the Names Recovery Project Deborah Berman

■ In February 2013, Shulamit Kaminsky, a volunteer for the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project, helped people calling Yad Vashem for assistance in submitting Pages of Testimony. The calls came during a successful



radio campaign to raise Israeli public awareness of the project. Shulamit herself submitted nine Pages of Testimony for members of her family murdered during the Holocaust who were not yet listed in Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names. She found the names, including that of her grandmother and her grandmother's young children who were killed

in Treblinka, while looking through family documents.

■ Dr. Aron Shneyer, Manager of Community Relations and Russian-Speaking Jewish Organizations for the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project FSU, toured the Holocaust Museum in Dnepropetrovsk (Ukraine) during



a conference hosted by the "Tkuma" Holocaust Research Institute in January 2013. At the conference, Dr. Shneyer gave a presentation about the Names Recovery Project and met

with dozens of Jewish community leaders and professionals from Ukraine to plan their cooperation in assisting elderly Jews to fill out Pages of Testimony in commemoration of Holocaust victims.

■ Names Recovery outreach efforts in the ultra-Orthodox communities continue to yield growing cooperation for Names Recovery as well as participation in other Yad Vashem projects. Pictured: A group of Hassidim on a recent learning tour at Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum



Friends Worldwide

USA

■ **Jeff Schoenberg** (fourth from right), former Illinois State Senator, visited Yad Vashem with his family and marked his son **Zev Nadav's** bar mitzvah with the special Yad Vashem Bar Mitzvah Twinning Program. Through the program, Zev Nadav (fourth from left) was paired with a Jewish boy who was murdered in the Holocaust. Jeff Schoenberg is an advisor to Yad Vashem Guardians, the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation.



■ The American Society for Yad Vashem Young Leadership Associates 2013 Winter Gala took place on 28 February 2013 at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City. Pictured top, left to right: YLA Event Chair **Barry Levine**; American Society Executive Committee Board Member **Jeremy Halpern**; YLA Co-Chair **Abbi Halpern**; American Society Chairman **Leonard A. Wilf**; and YLA Co-Chair **Jeffrey Wilf**. Bottom: Winter Gala Event Chairs and Event Committee – far left, YLA Founding Chair **Caroline Massel**



■ The American Society for Yad Vashem's Young Leadership Associates (YLA) held a dinner on 11 January, at which the guest speaker was **Ariel Bielsky**. Ariel was joined by her family members **Taylor Bielsky**, **Elana Bielsky** and **Samuel Bielski**. Ariel and Taylor are the grandchildren of **Tuvia Bielski, z"l** – leader of the famous partisan group during WWII – and Samuel Bielski is the grandson of Tuvia's brother, **Yehoshua Bielski, z"l**. The event was attended by over 200 guests and organized by Event Chairs **Rebecca Hanus** and **Alexandra Lebovits**, YLA Co-Chairs **Abbi Halpern** and **Jeffrey Wilf** and YLA Founding Chair **Caroline Massel**.

■ Over 150 participants of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Connection 2013: Mission to Israel came to Yad Vashem for a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum, the campus and its memorial sites, and a ceremony to rekindle the flame in the Hall of Remembrance. Some return visitors, including President and CEO of the Houston Federation **Lee Wunsch** (center), also took a special tour of the connecting path between Yad Vashem and Mount Herzl.



■ Holocaust survivors **Rachel** and **Sam Boymel** (front, center) visited Yad Vashem with their family, where they paid tribute to Righteous Among the Nations **Petro Tokarski** and **Fedora** and **Vasiliy Stripchuk**, who rescued them during the Holocaust. Rachel's brothers – **Yossel** and **Menachem** – fought in Israel's War of Independence, in which Yossel was killed. The Boymels visited Yad Vashem's Tribute Panorama to Survivors who Fought in 1948 at the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ **Bonnie and Tod Greenfield** came to visit Yad Vashem with their fathers, Holocaust survivors **Jack Gora** and **Martin Greenfield**, their extended family and their twin daughters, **Rachel** and **Sophia**. In the Valley of the Communities, the twins paid tribute to Jack's sisters, who were murdered in the Holocaust, and marked their bat mitzvahs in a moving ceremony.



■ Yad Vashem and the American Society for Yad Vashem mourn the passing of **Paula Mandell, z"l**, a generous and lifelong friend of the American Society and widow of **William Mandell, z"l**, a founding American Society board member.



Paula Mandell was born in Modrzejew, Poland. In 1943, she was taken to the Neusalz labor camp and from there transported together with 600 girls to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. She was liberated in 1945. Her parents were murdered during the *Shoah*, but she was fortunate to find other surviving members of her family, including her brother, an uncle and an aunt. She spent time in a Displaced Persons camp, where she met and married William Mandell.

Upon their arrival in the United States in 1957, Paula's hunger for knowledge led her to Queens College, where she earned a Bachelor's degree. She became an active member of Hadassah and, as an accomplished writer, served as the editor of its newsletter for over 21 years. Her love of writing found expression in articles which appeared in various publications, including *The Jewish Press*, *Martyrdom and Resistance*, *Together, A Legacy Recorded* and the *Tel-Chai Newsletter*. She also translated into English poetry and prose written by Holocaust victims.

Paula Mandell leaves behind her two daughters, Tzippy and Hannah, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to whom Yad Vashem extends its sincerest condolences.

Friends Worldwide

■ Yad Vashem and the American Society for Yad Vashem mourn the passing of **Ulo Barad**, z"l, lifelong Treasurer of the Society, one of its founders and a generous and committed friend. Together with Eli Zborowski, z"l, Ulo was instrumental in the creation of the Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem.



Ulo Barad was born in Poland. During WWII, he lived in the Borszczow ghetto until its liquidation by the Germans in 1943. He survived the remaining years of the war in hiding. He lost his entire family in the *Shoah* and spent the last six months of the war in Romania. In 1958, after living for 13 years in a Displaced Persons camp in Berlin, Ulo and his wife Etta immigrated to the United States, where he built a thriving business and served as an executive in the real estate industry, specializing in hotel properties.

Ulo Barad was the proud father of Cindy Howard and Gerald Barad. He also leaves behind his beloved wife Etta and their grandchildren. Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to the entire family.

■ **Leslie and Shlomo Caspi** took a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives during their visit to Yad Vashem, accompanied by Archives Director **Dr. Haim Gertner** (left).



■ **Rhoda Baruch** (center) brought her children and grandchildren to Yad Vashem, where they visited the Children's Memorial and the Holocaust History Museum, including the Hall of Names.



AUSTRALIA

■ **Shlomo Werdiger** (center), Managing Director of the Juilliard Group and son of Holocaust survivor **Nathan Werdiger**, visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 22 January, accompanied by his wife **Shyrla** (left).



■ **Michelle and Ian Fischl** (left) and **Cara and Craig Shapiro** (second and third from right) visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 20 January accompanied by their children, **Ben and Joshua Fischl** and **Koby and Nathan Shapiro**. Ben, Josh and Koby had twinning ceremonies in Yad Vashem's Synagogue.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Frank Lowy** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 30 December. In addition to a short tour of the Holocaust History Museum, he also met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left), who showed him the railroad cattle car Memorial to the Deportees.



■ **Danny Schwartz** (center) from Melbourne, son of Yad Vashem Benefactors and survivors **Baba and Andor Schwartz**, visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum on 18 February, accompanied by his wife **Uschi** (right) and daughter **Delilah** (left). After viewing the monuments bestowed by their parents on the Path of Remembrance and Reflection where they lit memorial candles, they visited Yad Vashem's Archives, where they received documents relating to Baba and Andor Schwartz's wartime experiences.



CANADA

■ Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism **Jason Kenney** (left) honored the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** by lighting a candle in memory of Holocaust victims on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2013, at the Society's office together with educators **Oriane Falkenstein** (center) and **David Lebovich** (right). Mr. Kenney also announced a new award for teachers for excellence in Holocaust education.



■ Gathered together for a ceremony at the Canadian Society's Holocaust Memorial Site on International Holocaust Remembrance Day were (left to right): Vice-Chair and Pillar of the Canadian Society **Joseph Gottdenker**; 2013 Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance **Dr. Mario Silva**; MP **Mark Adler**; Consul General of Israel to Toronto **DJ Schneeweiss**; Holocaust survivor

and Canadian Society Guardian **Willie Moll**; Minister Jason Kenney; Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**; and Councillor **James Pasternak**.



■ Participants at the 2012–2013 Winter Seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies included **Anna-Mae Wiesenthal** and **Dorin Eilon-Heiber** from Vancouver's King David High School and **Alana Saxe** from the Toronto March of the Living. The participation of Ms. Wiesenthal and Ms. Eilon-Heiber was made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Diamond Foundation, while that of Ms. Saxe was facilitated by the March of the Living.



■ To make her bat mitzvah more meaningful, **Dalia Schaeffer** (center) of Toronto participated in Yad Vashem's Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program. Dalia was paired with a child Holocaust victim, **Shulamit Lewin, z"l**, who shared the same birthday. Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi** (left) presented Dalia with a special certificate in the presence of her family.



HONG KONG

■ **Jeremy Amias** and his daughter **Ellie** visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum on 26 December along with relatives and friends. They also took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives with Archives Director **Dr. Haim Gertner** and visited the plaque honoring Righteous Among the Nations **Jean, Madeleine** and **Jeanne Secret** of Belgium, who rescued Jeremy's mother.



UK

■ **Jonathan Walker** (left), incoming Chairman of the Anglo-Jewish Association, visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 15 January.



■ Yad Vashem's Academic Advisor **Prof. Yehuda Bauer** spoke at the London Jewish Cultural Centre. Left to right: Chairman of the Yad Vashem-UK Foundation **Simon Bentley**; Prof. Yehuda Bauer; LJCC Director of Education and Holocaust Studies **Trudy Gold**; LJCC Trustee **John Rosefield**



GERMANY

■ Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 30 January, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "With Me Here Are Six Million Accusers: Marking the 50th Anniversary of the Eichmann Trial" opened at the Central Exhibitions Hall in Hamburg. In attendance were some 200 guests. Speeches were delivered by Finance Senator of Hamburg **Dr. Peter Tschentscher**, Board Member of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany** **Dr. Bernhard Blohm** and Director of the German-Speaking Countries and Switzerland Desk in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Arik Rav-On**. Israeli historian **Dr. Gideon Greif** lectured on "The Role of Eichmann in the Extermination of Jews."

LIECHTENSTEIN

■ On 27 January, the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein** marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Art Museum in Vaduz, Liechtenstein. **Stefan Keller**, a journalist and Vice President of the Paul Grüniger Foundation, gave a presentation about Righteous Among the Nations **Paul Grüniger**, a police captain, and the refugee policy in the Nazi era in Liechtenstein. Speeches were delivered by Government Minister for Justice, Foreign Affairs and Cultural Affairs **Dr. Aurelia Frick**, Liechtenstein Society Chairman **Dr. Florian Marxer** and Israel's Ambassador to Liechtenstein H.E. **Mr. Yigal B. Caspi**.

AUSTRIA

■ On 28 January 2013, the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** and the City of Linz organized a memorial ceremony in the Old Town Hall marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Speeches were delivered by Deputy Chairman of the Austrian Friends **Ing. Gustav Arthofer**, Member of the Upper Austrian State Parliament **Mag. Maria Buchmayr**, Deputy Mayor **Mag. Klaus Luger** and author **Maya Rinderer**.



Friends Worldwide

■ On 4 March, the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** held their Annual General Meeting at the Grand Hall in the Vienna Municipality Building (top picture). Speeches were delivered by (bottom picture) Austrian President **Dr. Heinz Fischer** (back, second from left) and President of the National Council of Austria **Barbara Prammer** (front, third from right), who emphasized the responsibility of Austria and its commitment today to Holocaust remembrance. Yad Vashem Chief Historian **Prof. Dina Porat** (front, right) spoke about six decades of Yad Vashem, 50 years of the Righteous Among the Nations program and 75 years since the *Anschluss* (annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany).

Attending the event were 300 guests, including: Israel's Ambassador to Austria **H.E. Mr. Aviv Shir-On** (back, second from right), Minister of the Interior **Johanna Mikl-Leitner** (front, second from left), Minister of Agriculture **Niki Berlakovic** (front, left), **Margit Fischer** (front, third from left), Austrian Friends Chairman **Günther Schuster** (back, left), Austrian Friends General Secretary **Ulrike Schuster** (front, second from right), Chief Rabbi of Vienna **Prof. Paul Chaim Eisenberg** (back, right), **Arik Rav-On**, Chair of the Austrian National Fund **Hannah Lessing**, Secretary General of the Future Fund of Austria **Prof. Herwig Hösele** and other government ministers and VIPs. The new Yad Vashem website in German was presented to the distinguished audience.



BRAZIL

■ The Stivelman family was accompanied by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (second from right) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



■ **Renato Ochman** (left) recently visited Yad Vashem with his family and a group of friends.



PANAMA

■ The Mermerlszteyn-Blickstein families were accompanied by Panama Ambassador **H.E. Mr. Héctor Aparicio Gallardo** (fifth from right), Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (sixth from right) and the writer **Edilberto Gonzáles** (fourth from right) during their visit to Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvahs of their sons **Israel Meir Mermelszteyn** (fourth from left) and **Meir Blickstein** (second from left).



MEXICO

■ The Askenazi-Mugrabi families were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) during their visit to Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvahs of their sons **Moises** and **Victor** (center).



■ The Sitt family was accompanied by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (fourth from right) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) during their visit to Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Edward** (center).



VENEZUELA

■ The Sternberg family recently visited Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of their son **Misha** (back, third from right).



■ **Jeannette** and **Rafael Gelman** recently visited Yad Vashem and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ **Lt. Cl. Oliver North** visited Yad Vashem during a tour of Israel with a group of influential Christians from the US. In addition to visiting the Holocaust History Museum, the group held a special wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. Following the ceremony, the group met with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and then heard Holocaust survivor **Rena Quint** give her moving testimony.



■ Christian students, currently part of the Russell Berrie Fellowship Program in Rome studying for a Doctoral Degree in Theology with a focus on Interreligious Studies, visited Yad Vashem as a part of their Israel Study Tour. The group was accompanied by Yad Vashem supporter and President of the Russell Berrie Foundation **Angelica Berrie**. They first met with International Relations Division Deputy Managing Director **Sari Granitza**, and then took a guided tour of

the Holocaust History Museum and heard a special talk by **Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto**, Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications. Afterwards, they met with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ **Rev. Christine Darg**, Director of the UK-based Exploits Ministry, brought her annual conference to Yad Vashem for a special meeting with International Relations Division Deputy Managing Director **Sari Granitza** and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (front row, right). Rev. Darg's group took a particular interest in the Righteous Among the Nations, visiting the Garden of the Righteous.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem, Gov. **Mike Huckabee** (second from right) and his tour group were accompanied by **Pat** and **Shirley Boone** (center), who donated to Yad Vashem the original card on which Pat drafted the lyrics of his hit song "Exodus." After a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, a special ceremony took place in which International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) received the "Exodus" lyrics card.



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

■ To make tax-deductible donations:

USA:

American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10110
Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 212-220-4304

CANADA:

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
265 Rimrock Road, Suit 218
Toronto, ONT M3J 3C6
Tel: 416-785-1333

UK:

Yad Vashem - UK Foundation
Stirling House, Breasy Place, 9 Burroughs Gardens
London NW4 4AU
Tel: 020-8359-1146

AUSTRALIA:

Australian Friends of Yad Vashem
c/o Jewish Holocaust Centre, 13-15 Selwyn Street
Elsternwick, VIC 3185
email: afyv.exec@gmail.com

■ Donations may also be sent to:

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

■ For information on societies in other countries,

please visit: www.yadvashem.org

Donate online: www.yadvashem.org

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2013

Program of Events at Yad Vashem

Sunday 7 April

- 20:00** **Opening ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day**, in the presence of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset and President of the Supreme Court and with the participation of 2,500 Holocaust survivors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and youth—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
Admission by personal invitation only

Following the opening ceremony, a study evening will be held for students at the International School for Holocaust Studies. *Attendance to be arranged in advance.*

Monday 8 April

Throughout the day, the International School for Holocaust Studies will hold educational activities for groups, youth movement members and members of the Student Council.

- 10:00** Siren

- 10:02** **Wreath-laying ceremony** with the participation of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Chief of Police, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, representatives of survivor and fighter organizations and delegations from throughout the country—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**

- 10:30 – 12:30** **"Unto Every Person There is a Name"** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names by members of the public—**Hall of Remembrance**

- 11:00** **"Unto Every Person There is a Name"** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names under the auspices of the Speaker of the Knesset—**Knesset**

- 13:00** **Main memorial ceremony**—**Hall of Remembrance**

- 13:30** **Memorial ceremony for the Association of Hungarian Jews in Israel**—**Synagogue**

- 17:30** **Ceremony for youth movements** in the presence of Israel's Minister of Education, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's Youth Movement Council and Youth and Social Administration—**Valley of the Communities**

■■■

- 18:30** **Special evening of the "Generation to Generation-Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy" organization** with the participation of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev—**Tzvata Hall, Tel Aviv**
For registration and details: dorot.hahemshech@gmail.com or tel: 02-6443822

