

Yad Vashem Jerusalem

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“SHOAH”

**New Permanent Exhibition
Opens at Auschwitz-Birkenau**

(pp. 2-3)

New in the Exhibitions Pavilion

“I Am My Brother’s Keeper”

Fifty Years of Honoring Righteous Among The Nations (pp. 12-13)

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■ On the cover:
Prime Minister Benjamin
Netanyahu peruses the
“Book of Names” featured
in the New Permanent
Exhibition “SHOAH”
at the Auschwitz-Birkenau
State Museum.

“SHOAH”

Leah Goldstein

■ On 13 June 2013, the new Permanent Exhibition “SHOAH,” located in Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, opened in the presence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Minister of Education Rabbi Shai Piron, Minister of Strategic Affairs Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Culture and Sport Limor Livnat, Minister for Senior Citizens Uri Orbach, Minister of Science, Technology and Space Yaakov Perry, Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Natan Sharansky, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Piotr Cywinski, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate and exhibition curator Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau.

The new exhibition was curated, designed and constructed by Yad Vashem, in coordination with the Polish state museum. The previous exhibition in Block 27 dated to the Communist-era and had become outdated, in terms of both content and display. In 2005, following a visit by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Yad Vashem was mandated by the State of Israel to undertake the renewal of the exhibition, funded by the State of Israel with assistance from the Claims Conference.

“We recognized that it would not be right for Block 27 to contain a solely historic exhibition detailing the annals of the Holocaust; its unique location – within the Auschwitz camp complex, near the remains of the gas chambers and crematoria of Birkenau – calls for the creation of a different language,” said Avner Shalev. “The displays here are grounded in factual history, but ascend beyond – onto higher emotional and spiritual planes. In this new exhibition, we have sought to present clear, concise concepts. We have aspired to spin and weave together threads of memory into a total experiential tapestry.”

Guests of honor at the opening ceremony included Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad. Auschwitz survivor and President of the Chilean Society for Yad Vashem David Feuerstein recited *kaddish*, the Jewish mourner's prayer. Psalms were read by Israel's Education Minister Rabbi Shai Piron, and Chief Cantor of the IDF Lt. Col. Shai Abramson sang *El Maleh Rahamim*, the memorial prayer for the souls of the departed.

After affixing the mezuzah to the entrance of Block 27, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council

New Permanent Exhibition Opens at Auschwitz-Birkenau



■ Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israeli government ministers, the Polish Culture Minister, the Yad Vashem Chairman and Exhibition Curator, the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, the Chairman of the Jewish Agency and the Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum watch Holocaust survivor testimonies in the newly opened exhibition.



■ Survivor David Feuerstein says kaddish outside Block 27

and Holocaust survivor Rabbi Israel Meir Lau remarked that although the Torah commands Jews to affix the mezuzah to the doors and gates of their homes, he “did not feel at home here.” Rather, he said, “This is a place where, for the first time, visitors will come not only to connect with the memory of the past, but also to draw conclusions regarding the future... This exhibition must be the cornerstone of the education of the younger generations.”

In his speech, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described his personal encounter with the monumental “Book of Names” of Holocaust victims, created especially for the new exhibition: “I saw and touched the names of millions of Jews. Not all of them were sent

here. One-and-a-half million were murdered in the forests and in the towns, in the villages and in the execution pits, including my late father-in-law’s twin sister, Yehudit Hon, who was only in her twenties. I saw her name here. There are people who deny the Holocaust. Let them come to Block 27 and see name after name.”

Speaking on behalf of the Polish government, Minister Zdrojewski addressed Avner Shalev in particular: “The building behind us is very modest... Placing in it the memory of more than one million murdered children seems impossible. [One would think that] this would require huge spaces and vast amounts of activity. But it has been done. You achieved so much... you have created a place for all of these crucial encounters.”

Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Director Dr. Piotr Cywinski emphasized how the new Permanent Exhibition in Block 27 had been created with the main exhibition of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in mind: “The goal of the Museum in Auschwitz and Yad Vashem was to create a space of understanding that will allow generations of visitors to fully comprehend the vastness of the destruction that took place across Nazi Germany-dominated Europe.”

For a more detailed description of the new exhibition, please see the special edition of Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine, inserted with this volume.

View the Exhibition Online

■ A new mini-site on Yad Vashem’s website (www.yadvashem.org) contains a wealth of information and striking images from the new permanent exhibition “SHOAH.”



From the dilemmas faced by the exhibition’s curators, designers, artists and historians to special texts composed by International Advisory Committee Chairman and Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel as well as author David Grossman, the online exhibition provides a comprehensive visual and informative overview of the unique displays.

New School Director Faces Challenges of 21st Century

■ On 23 June 2013, the International School for Holocaust Studies welcomed its new Director, Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and a researcher and lecturer in the field of education.



Dr. Kaminka, who takes over the position from new Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, brings a great deal of experience directing complex projects and processes in large organizations as well as various government offices, including the Ministry of Education.

"I come into this position with a feeling of great responsibility and anticipation," said Dr. Kaminka after his appointment. "The International School for Holocaust Studies faces a number of challenges characteristic of the 21st century, but these are no greater than the talents of the staff at the School who lie at the heart of its enterprise."

New at the Virtual School New Online Course for Elementary and Middle Schools

Dr. Na'ama Shik

■ For the first time in English, a new online course designed for teachers of elementary and middle school-aged children presents the educational philosophy of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Developed by the School's Pedagogical Director Shulamit Imber, the seven lessons of the course clearly and concisely present Yad Vashem's method for teaching the Holocaust to younger ages. As with all of the School's educational programs, historical facts form the foundation upon which the learning is based and so, although the course is instructive in nature, participants are also familiarized with the basic historical background of the subject matter at hand. Subsequent lessons present and analyze several books and teaching aids developed and used by the International School to present the subject to younger children. Each lesson explores one such aid, explaining the pedagogical rationale behind its development and use, the materials it utilizes, and of course suggestions for practical

implementation. All lessons are accompanied by a variety of media: video lectures, photographs, artwork, primary sources, research material and more. They also include teacher assignments and online discussion forums.

The course resides in Moodle, a popular LMS (Learning Management System) in use by many universities and educational systems that allows a diverse and interactive online learning experience. Thus the courses contain online research tasks, built-in discussion forums, implementation of video, photographs and primary sources, and the ability to create a shared study community. For Israeli teachers, the course is eligible for 30 professional development credit (*gmul hishtalmut*) hours plus a grade.

The new online course was made possible with the kind support of Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust, London, UK.

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

Students from the FSU Explore their Jewish History Masha Pollak-Rosenberg



■ Young Russian-speaking activists visit the Jewish cemetery in Lublin

■ At a ceremony held on 9 May at the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site commemorating Holocaust victims and honoring the victory over Nazi Germany, David Noimark, a young activist from the Hillel Students Union in Kharkov, Ukraine, recounted to his peers the moving wartime story of his great-grandparents. Wounded in battle, his great-grandfather Leonid Yoffe,

a Jewish officer in the Red Army, disguised himself as a non-Jewish soldier and was rescued by his future wife, Vera Bereznyak. Both fought as partisans and eventually settled in the FSU, where they raised three daughters.

The ceremony was a culminating moment of the 2012/13 Phoenix Program, in which 90 young activists and leaders from various Jewish communities in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Israel traveled across Ukraine and Poland exploring the Jewish world and Holocaust history. Before they set out, the participants took an intensive training course about the Shoah and submitted proposals for hands-on projects to implement when they returned home. The projects covered a variety of fields, including education, art and creative expression, Internet and social networks, commemoration and restoration of memorial sites, research and teaching.

For many participants, the journey was a formative experience in defining their identity and in awakening their desire to work for the benefit of their communities. Darya Yelizarov, a student at the Max Stern Yezreel Valley College in Israel, later said that through this journey, where she met other young Jews from the FSU, she was able to complete her own "identity puzzle... I am returning to Israel with a feeling of completeness and an understanding of the deep roots of the Jewish people in general and of Russian Jews in particular."

The Phoenix Program is generously supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group and implemented by the International School for Holocaust Studies in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC-FSU and Israel Experience.

The author is Head of the FSU and Baltic Countries Section, European Department, and Manager of the Genesis Project, International School for Holocaust Studies.

1,200 Educators Attend National Teachers' Conference

■ On 1-2 July 2013, the International School for Holocaust Studies held its fifth National Educators' Conference on Holocaust Education. Attracting some 1,200 teachers from across Israel, the conference focused on Jewish heritage and culture during the Shoah and in its wake. In an effort to provide a wide range of topics for the benefit of the diverse audience, participants were presented with expert panels on Holocaust commemoration and education,

heard testimonies from a number of Holocaust survivors, toured the Yad Vashem museum complex and campus, and took part in some 140 workshops that focused on children and women during the Holocaust, the lost Yiddish world, living under communism, creative and religious endeavors during the Shoah, Jewish leadership and rebellion, and more.

At the conference's opening ceremony, the establishment of the Lily Safra Chair of

Holocaust Education at the International School for Holocaust Studies was announced. The first scholar to hold the position is Dr. Eyal Kaminka, the new Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies.

The conference took place in cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Education and Teachers' Union, and with the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation, the Azrieli Foundation and the Claims Conference.

Graduate Spotlight

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



Gertraud Hoheneder Austria

James McIntosh

■ Gertraud Hoheneder is an elementary school teacher at the Haid Elementary School near Linz, Austria, and a dedicated graduate of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies seminars. "For many years, we teachers gathered a lot of information about the expulsion and the murder of the Jewish people during the Holocaust," Hoheneder says. "We also held political discussions, commemoration services and talked to surviving witnesses in Austria and Israel. As a result, National Socialism and the Holocaust has become a recurring topic in our schools. However, pupils of all age groups still only have fragmentary knowledge of this period of time, and it raises challenging questions, particularly in our elementary school classes."

Hoheneder has made several visits to Israel to learn more about the Holocaust and Judaism. During one extended stay in Jerusalem, she volunteered at the retirement home of Neveh Simcha. There she met Ilse Mass, a Holocaust survivor who was born in Linz. The Mauthausen concentration camp is located a mere 20 kilometers from Mass' hometown, and forms an unavoidable part of the landscape. Mass fled Austria with her parents as a child in 1938 and survived the war as a refugee in Shanghai, China. After the war, Mass made *aliyah* and built a new life in Jerusalem. The trauma that Mass experienced during the November 1938 *Kristallnacht* pogrom and the disruption of her childhood moved Hoheneder, motivating her and her colleagues to write a children's book about Mass' life journey.

The German Desk at the International School's European Department aided Hoheneder with its pedagogical expertise throughout the book's production. *Weg von hier... (Away from Here...)*, the fruit of their efforts, gives a human face to the Holocaust and models Yad Vashem's age-appropriate educational approach for teaching this difficult topic to children. By focusing on Ilse Mass' family, school experiences,



and move to a foreign place, Hoheneder encourages Austrian children to empathize with this Holocaust survivor's

personal story. Illustrations and photographs from Mass's personal albums are interwoven throughout the book, beginning with her early years in prewar Linz. Colorful maps also help young readers trace Ilse's journey. The end of the book includes a glossary of terms about Judaism, the Holocaust and the Nazi regime written appropriately for younger-aged readers.

By focusing on Ilse Mass' family, school experiences, and move to a foreign place, Hoheneder encourages Austrian children to empathize with this Holocaust survivor's personal story

The first few paragraphs describe a normal, typical childhood, introducing the readers to a young girl who goes to school, has a favorite doll and loves ballet dancing. After the *Anschluss* (Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria in March 1938), the atmosphere turned hostile and Mass's family fled to the Far East. Shanghai was one of the only cities in the world at that time that did not require an entry visa and approximately 18,000 Jews sought refuge there. However, even those who managed to reach Shanghai faced numerous difficulties along the way, including a very long voyage, culture shock, and the sudden transition from European citizenship



■ Survivor Ilse Mass (left) with the author of her story, Gertraud Hoheneder

to becoming stateless refugees. The story ends with Ilse's immigration to Israel and the life she built there.

"*Weg von hier...* chronicles Ilse's life before, during and after the war, telling a tender story about the Holocaust without using graphic



■ Ilse Mass loved to dance, even from a young age

images," explains Hoheneder. "The narrative captivates the children's imagination, and spurs curiosity about what happened to others like her."

Hoheneder plans to hold a Holocaust-related teacher-training seminar at her school in 2014, and Yad Vashem has agreed to lend its support to the event. During the seminar, she will present the book to Austrian educators and explain how to use survivors' personal stories to teach the Holocaust to elementary school-aged children. "Teaching about the Holocaust through this book has been very successful," she states. "Yad Vashem's expert guidance showed me that one can create appropriate material for any age group, including our younger students."

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

Cooperation with Croatia in Holocaust Education



■ On 2 June, Yad Vashem signed a memorandum of understanding with the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and its Education and Teacher Training Agency. This first-ever agreement outlines cooperation between the respective parties in Holocaust education over the next three years. Approximately 225 teachers from the Republic

of Croatia have taken part in professional development seminars at Yad Vashem over the last decade.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) and Croatian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Pjer Simunovic (right).

Christian Leaders Reflect on Importance of Life Choices Dr. Susanna Kokkonen



■ Seminar participants at the official opening ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ In early April, 82-year-old Rev. Victor Schlatter from Australia and his granddaughter Rachel Toth from California came to Yad Vashem as the oldest and youngest participants

in the fourth annual International Christian Leadership Seminar held at the International School for Holocaust Studies. They joined 21 other pastors and lay leaders from 12 countries worldwide, attending lectures on the basic concepts of the Holocaust, different elements of antisemitism, and the Jewish response during the *Shoah*. This important gathering was funded by ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) as well as its German branch, under the leadership of Gottfried Buehler.

ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Juergen Buehler spoke to the participants about the Christian world and the Jewish State, addressing significant theological issues. The Christian leaders also listened to the testimonies of three Holocaust survivors – Hannah Pick at Yad Vashem, and Nachum and Genya Manor, “Schindler survivors” who accompanied the group to the grave of Righteous Among the Nations Oskar Schindler

on Mount Zion – which made a lasting impact upon them. In addition, they toured various historical and spiritual sites in Jerusalem and in the north of the country, and were honored to join Holocaust survivors and Israeli dignitaries in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies at Yad Vashem.

“A lot of thought clearly went into this seminar,” said one of the participants. “We now have an outline for future study, which we can take to our students back home.” “I am overwhelmed by the wealth of information and lectures of the highest quality,” said another. “This is our life mission: to impart that each of the six million Holocaust victims were individuals, and that the choices we make in life are of the utmost importance.”

The author is Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem.

New-Look IHRA Emphasizes International Scope of Holocaust Remembrance

■ The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) – formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research – has been formally rebranded, following a lengthy process requiring consensus from all 31 member countries. The new look and name was unveiled in March 2013, when the chairmanship passed from Belgium to Canada. Renowned architect Daniel Libeskind generously offered his own design for a logo (pictured).

Libeskind chose the shape of a globe in order to emphasize the international and intergovernmental character of the IHRA. The globe shape has a white space in the middle which can be seen as an hourglass, a symbol of time’s steady passage and the necessity of memory. The space can also be interpreted as a perspective on the Holocaust that treats

Holocaust remembrance as an infinite historical point and a guiding light in the distance on the horizon of memory.

“The new logo of the IHRA encapsulates both its international scope and its focus on Holocaust remembrance,” said IHRA Canadian Chairman Dr. Mario Silva. “The IHRA is deeply appreciative of Daniel Libeskind’s gift and looks forward to its future with this unique visual identity.” The new website (www.holocaustremembrance.com) has been designed with an accessible interface to provide information about the organization, the various projects undertaken under the auspices of the IHRA, and the work of the member countries.

Israeli delegation representatives continue to be active within the IHRA, and are at present engaged in multiyear projects on Holocaust memorial days, archives, killing sites and

research. Additionally, the Yad Vashem-coordinated “Keeping the Memory Alive” poster competition is in its second cycle, with hundreds of entries currently being processed from Israel, the UK, the Czech Republic and Canada under the auspices of the IHRA 2013 Chairmanship, as well as many other countries via the UN Information Centers around the world. Through the competition, young designers are exposed to the importance of Holocaust remembrance with the goal of reaching a global audience. The winning exhibit will be displayed worldwide on 27 January 2014.

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



German Schools Partner with Yad Vashem and ICHEIC to Enhance Holocaust Education

James McIntosh

■ Since 2005, the International School for Holocaust Studies' European Department has organized professional development seminars for thousands of educators in the framework of the ICHEIC (International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) Program. Through the program, many dedicated teachers from throughout Europe, especially from Germany, have established strong connections between their respective schools and Yad Vashem, creating a network of seminar graduates who can pass on the tools and knowledge they have gained. Recently, three schools in the German state of Bavaria joined a pilot network of Yad Vashem/ICHEIC partner schools, aiming to further enhance the connection between the graduates' respective schools and Yad Vashem experts.

The launch of this new initiative took place within the framework of "Israel Day" on 19 March 2013, dedicated to the study of Israel, Jewish History and the Holocaust at the Bavarian Parliament in Munich. More than 270 people

attended the proceedings, including a number of Yad Vashem graduates along with their students. Bavarian Parliament President Barbara Stamm hosted the event, which was attended by Tibor Shalev Schlosser, Consul General of Israel in Munich, and Dr. Noa Mckayton of the International School's German Desk, who gave presentations highlighting Yad Vashem age-appropriate educational materials.

All three Bavarian partner schools – the Melanchthon Gymnasium in Nuremberg, the Katharinen Gymnasium in Ingolstadt and the Anne Frank Gymnasium near Munich – received a "pedagogical resource center," including German-language materials to help their staff implement Yad Vashem's methodological approaches within their lesson plans. In addition, the schools will conduct regional teacher-training workshops, coordinate videoconferences with Israeli students and Holocaust survivors, and field-test materials currently under development by Yad Vashem. An additional school in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



■ Ute Schmidt, Principal of the Schulzentrum Kühlungsborn Secondary School in the Mecklenburg Vorpommern region (left), and Anna Stocker of the International School's German Desk after signing a partner school contract

recently joined the Yad Vashem/ICHEIC school network and one in North Rhine-Westphalia is expected to join later this year. There are also plans to expand the program to other countries across Europe.

Following Up with Australian Educators from Gandel Program

■ From 22 April – 9 May, Nurit Davidson, Program Coordinator for the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies, traveled to Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne for an intensive trip to strengthen contacts with Australian International School graduates and to spark new interest in Holocaust studies in schools across Australia.

Davidson first attended the History Teachers Association of Australia's national conference in Canberra, where Greg Keith, a Gandel graduate from the 2012 seminar at the International School, conducted a session about Holocaust education in Australia, and Davidson presented Yad Vashem's educational philosophy and the Gandel Program.

In Sydney, Davidson met with Yair Miller,

head of the Jewish Board of Deputies, the organization that compiled the Australian delegation to the International Educators' Conference at Yad Vashem in June 2012. The Board of Deputies is currently creating a magazine about Holocaust studies in cooperation with the History Teachers Association NSW, which will be sent to all history teachers in the state. Davidson also visited the Sydney Jewish Museum, where she discussed common programs on Holocaust educational material.

Throughout her stay, Davidson gave dozens of presentations and lectures on a wide range of Holocaust-related topics at local middle and high schools as well as at "teachmeets" – a voluntary initiative of Yad Vashem graduate Cameron Paterson, whereby teachers gather for a range of short presentations to learn new approaches



■ Teachers from the King David School in Melbourne participate in a session on Holocaust education.

and tools that will help expand their teaching in the classroom. She also spent time with a number of Gandel Program graduates, and met representatives of Gandel Philanthropy to discuss further development of the program.

The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators is generously supported by John and Pauline Gandel of Melbourne.

New Agreement with Swiss University

James McIntosh

■ Four years after holding its first seminar for Swiss educators, the European Department of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies recently signed a new four-year agreement with the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. The agreement will allow Swiss teachers-in-training at the University to continue to benefit from seminars with Yad Vashem experts in Jerusalem, with the possibility of preparation and follow-up work through videoconferences. Seminar graduates will also

be encouraged to use Yad Vashem's educational resources to plan and implement projects on Holocaust education in Swiss classrooms.

Signing on behalf of the University of Lucerne was Professor Dr. Peter Gautschi, a leading expert on history didactics in Europe. Dr. Gautschi, who previously signed a contract with Yad Vashem on behalf of the Pedagogical University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland, has written several books; one of the latest, *Die Schweiz und die Shoah* (Switzerland

and the Holocaust), was published this year. Yad Vashem signed the new agreement following Gautschi's move to the University of Lucerne.

"This agreement represents a significant development in training future Swiss teachers in Holocaust education," explained Dr. Noa Mckayton, Head of the German Desk at the European Department. "We look forward to deepening our cooperation with the University of Lucerne and other institutions of higher education in Switzerland."

Vowing Vigilance

The Visit of President Barack Obama to Yad Vashem

Leah Goldstein



■ President Barack Obama listens to an explanation in the Hall of Names by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. Left to right: Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Obama, Avner Shalev, President Shimon Peres

■ On 22 March 2013, US President Barack Obama visited Yad Vashem. President Obama, who had visited the Holocaust History Museum as a US Senator in July 2008, toured the Hall of Names, the Museum of Holocaust Art and the Children's Memorial, accompanied by Israel's President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau. The President also participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.

During the visit, Avner Shalev presented President Obama with a token of remembrance: a copy of an original composition written by Cantor Israel Eljasz (Eliyahu) Maroko in 1941 for the liturgical poem "*Had Gadya*" (One Lone Kid), traditionally sung at the Passover *Seder*. Cantor Maroko's daughter-in-law, Ruth Maroko from Sylvan Lake, Michigan, donated the sheet music to Yad Vashem, along with photos of Cantor Maroko, during the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign in 2012 (see accompanying article).

Upon completion of his visit, President Obama signed the Visitors' Book: "We are ever

mindful of the incredible human cost of the Holocaust – an evil unprecedented in the annals of history," the President inscribed. "And yet we recognize, through this place, the triumph of the Jewish people and the human spirit, and vow to be ever vigilant in preventing such horror from ever happening again."

In his address, which was broadcast live on national and international TV, President Obama thanked "the People of Israel for preserving the names of the millions taken from us, of blessed memory, names that shall never be forgotten." He added: "We could come here a thousand times and each time our hearts would break. For here we see the depravity to which man can sink, the barbarism that unfolds when we begin to see our fellow human beings as somehow less than us, less worthy of dignity, and of life... And yet here alongside man's capacity for evil we also are reminded of man's capacity for good... We have a choice to ignore what happens to others or to act on behalf of others and to continually examine ourselves... This is our obligation; not simply to bear witness, but to act. This means confronting bigotry and hatred in all its forms, racism and especially antisemitism. None of that has a place in the civilized world."

The journey of the musical score resonated far and wide across Israel and the US

■ The souvenir presented to President Barack Obama during his visit to Yad Vashem – a copy of an original composition for "*Had Gadya*" (One Lone Kid), traditionally sung at the Passover *Seder* – had wandered the world for over seven decades: from Holland to the United States and then to Israel. The original score was composed in April 1941 by Israel Eljasz Maroko, Chief Cantor of the main synagogue in Amsterdam since 1926. Cantor Maroko was well known in Holland and beyond for his musical ear and beautiful voice. On 20 July 1943, Maroko was deported from the Westerbork transit camp in Holland to the Sobibor extermination camp in Poland, where he was murdered three days later. His wife Rajsel and their children Hersz (Herman) and Sara-Golda were also killed by the Germans. Another daughter, Miriam (Marjem), who was married to a doctor, had been murdered at Auschwitz a year earlier. Only one child survived, Maroko's son Simon-Wolf. In 1956, two years after the project to gather the names of every single Holocaust victim was launched, Simon-Wolf completed Pages of Testimony and submitted them to Yad Vashem in order to commemorate his father and family members.

A year ago, Simon-Wolf's widow, Ruth Maroko, wrote to Yad Vashem from her home in Sylvan Lake, Michigan, USA. Addressing staff at the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign, she explained that the vast majority of the collection of musical works composed by her father-in-law had been lost during the Holocaust. The only piece to survive was this particular score written by hand by Cantor Maroko; it was somehow discovered in his home after the war. After consulting with her family, Ruth decided to donate the original to Yad Vashem, along with photos of Cantor Maroko, to be preserved for perpetuity. "I feel that here, in Yad Vashem, it is their proper place," she wrote.

The descendants of Israel Eljasz Maroko living in the US were deeply moved by the fact that a facsimile copy of their precious family memento had been chosen to be bestowed upon their country's President as an eternal keepsake of the *Shoah*. The story, however, did not end there. The journey of the musical score resonated far and wide across various

“Had Gadya”

Souvenir for President Obama from the Yad Vashem Archives

Miriam Urbach-Nachum

media channels in Israel and the US. Following President Obama’s visit, Rivka Tucker-Aronson, a resident of Jerusalem, wrote on Yad Vashem’s Facebook page that her father, Aron Adolf Aronson (b. Amsterdam, 1919), was a great admirer of cantorial music and prayed regularly at Maroko’s synagogue. The two men became close friends, and in 1941, Aronson was asked



■ Avner Shalev presents President Obama with a facsimile of the Holocaust-era musical score as Prime Minister Netanyahu looks on.

to conduct a Pesach Seder at the Jewish old age home in the city. In the course of his preparations, Cantor Maroko taught him the tune he had composed for the “Had Gadya” song, and wrote it down for him.

In 1942, Aronson and his brother managed to flee Holland. Before leaving, they gave many books and various documents to their non-Jewish neighbors for safekeeping. Inside a large Passover Hagaddah, Aronson placed the music sheet given to him by Cantor Maroko.

After the war, Aronson returned to Amsterdam and retrieved his books and papers. When he learned that the entire Maroko family had been murdered except for one son, he decided to give Simon-Wolf the precious score, the only memento remaining from his father. Aronson had committed the tune to memory, and every Passover, his whole family still sings “Had Gadya” to the melody he learned from Cantor Maroko.

Simon-Wolf Maroko passed away ten years ago. After Rivka Tucker-Aronson shared her part of the story, his widow Ruth and their children finally understood how the musical score had survived the war and found its way back to



■ The sheet music with the composition written by Cantor Maroko in Amsterdam, 1941. Yad Vashem Archives

■ Cantor Maroko, c. 1937. Yad Vashem Archives

their family. The composer had been murdered, but his music continues to resonate with his blessed memory – and represents a universal commemoration of all Holocaust victims, whose voices can no longer be heard.

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.



Holocaust Remembrance Day

Leah Goldstein, Tamar Don, Yael Dinur and Irit Dagan

■ The central theme for this year's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day was "Defiance and Rebellion during the Holocaust: Marking 70 Years since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising." The official opening ceremony took place on Sunday 7 April 2013 in Yad Vashem's Warsaw Ghetto Square, in the presence of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court and Chief Rabbis. Some 2,500 Holocaust survivors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and youth were in the audience.

"We pledge to take responsibility for the society in which we live... to act as we learned from the ghetto fighters and others, who battled for their humanity, for their faith and for their culture."

Eitan Cohen, Hashomer Hatzair, at the Youth Movement Ceremony on Holocaust Remembrance Day

During the ceremony, Holocaust survivors, accompanied by members of their families, lit six torches, representing the six million Holocaust victims. The first torch was ignited by Sima Hochman on behalf of her late husband Peretz Hochman, ז"ל, who passed away a few days before the ceremony. The remaining torches were lit by Otto Dov Pressburger, Dina Ostrover, Eliezer Eizenschmidt, Miriam Liptcher and Baruch Kopold. Aliza Shomron spoke on behalf of the survivors. Singer David D'Or and actor Ishai Golan presented the artistic portions of the evening, together with the Youth Movement Choir.

■ Hundreds of pre-army/university students took part in a **study evening** held at the International School for Holocaust Studies following the official opening ceremony. The evening focused on "Holocaust Remembrance and Israeli Identity," and featured a dual



■ Top, left to right: Education Minister Rabbi Shai Piron addresses participants at the Youth Movement Ceremony; the Youth Movement Choir performs at the Official Opening Ceremony; Avner Shalev speaks at the Dorot Hemshech Gathering
Bottom, left to right: Senior IDF members on a tour of Yad Vashem sites depicting heroism; singer Gilad Vital and his father, Holocaust survivor Chaim Vital, perform at the International School's study evening; US Secretary of State John Kerry lays a wreath in Warsaw Ghetto Square

performance by Israeli singer Gilad Vital and his father, Holocaust survivor Chaim Vital. The show stimulated group discussions, led by staff in the School's Guiding Department, concerning cross-generational discourse on the Holocaust in the private and public spheres. Participants expressed their feelings on the topic utilizing a range of newspaper clippings, prose, songs and artwork of contemporary young artists.

■ The following morning, after a two-minute silence, **120 wreaths were laid** at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations.

■ At the day's conclusion, some 400 members of Israeli youth groups gathered at Yad Vashem for the annual **Youth Movement Ceremony** held in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Education. Participants took a tour of the

campus and attended a special workshop focusing on this year's winning poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day. They then assembled, together with Holocaust survivors, in the Valley of the Communities for the main ceremony. In his address, Education Minister Rabbi Shai Piron recalled the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, declaring it "a source of inspiration for the younger generations." Eitan Cohen from Hashomer Hatzair pledged to "take responsibility for the society in which we live... to act as we learned from the ghetto fighters and others, who battled for their humanity, for their faith and for their culture."

■ A **special forum for senior members of Israel's Defense Forces** focused on the ethos of heroism in the Jewish world, Israeli society and the IDF. Participants heard from Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, who described the attempts to engender



Jewish heroism during the *Shoah*. They also held a ceremony at the Partisans' Panorama and took a tour of other monuments around the campus in order to understand how the concept of heroism during the Holocaust has been represented in different ways over the decades.

Yad Vashem also held a number of custom-made seminars for senior members of the security forces, including Israel's Police Commissioner, Head of General Security Service, Director-General of the Ministry of Defense, and heads of various military commands. As most of the attendees had already visited the Mount of Remembrance, this was an opportunity to delve more deeply into various topics, and present more challenging questions. Participants met with Holocaust survivors Tzila Yofen, who lived with her family in the Bielski brothers' partisan camp, and Yehudah Maimon (Foldak), who fought with the underground in Krakow.

- Staff at the Guiding Department of the Commemorations and Public Relations Division

gave **69 lectures** across Israel, at government offices and public and private organizations.

Irit Dagan is Coordinator of the Information Unit of the Israel Defense Forces' Education Corps, Yael Dinur is a Coordinator in the Guiding Department and Tamar Don is Middle-School Programs Coordinator in the Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Dorot Hemshech Billie Laniado

- Some 300 people attended a **special evening to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day held by the Dorot Hemshech organization** (Generation to Generation – Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy). Chairman Shmuel Sorek opened the event, and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev spoke about the significance of Holocaust Remembrance at the generational crossroads. Director of the Guiding Department in Yad Vashem's Commemoration and Public Relations Division Na'ama Galil recounted the unique and little-known story of Holocaust victim Tusia Altman, who fought in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

- For the third year running, the **commemoration enterprise "Stop, Remember, Talk,"** took place across Israel. Initiated by third-generation members of Dorot Hemshech Asaf Laniado and Orit Erenberg in cooperation with Yad Vashem, the project tasks itself with persuading different organizations and workplaces, large and small, to hold discussions or other significant events during Holocaust Remembrance Day. At Yad Vashem itself, two seminar days were held for Human Resource managers from across the country, who toured the museum complex and received material to enable them to hold ceremonies in their workplaces. A special website launched by Dorot Hemshech entitled "time 2 remember," as well as two short filmed testimonies placed on YouTube and a special Facebook page, also encouraged and enabled thousands of employees to plan their Remembrance Day events. The warm feedback received by the organization from participants in the events reflects the importance of these initiatives for Holocaust commemoration among the younger generations in Israel, and Dorot Hemshech plans to continue its efforts in the coming years.

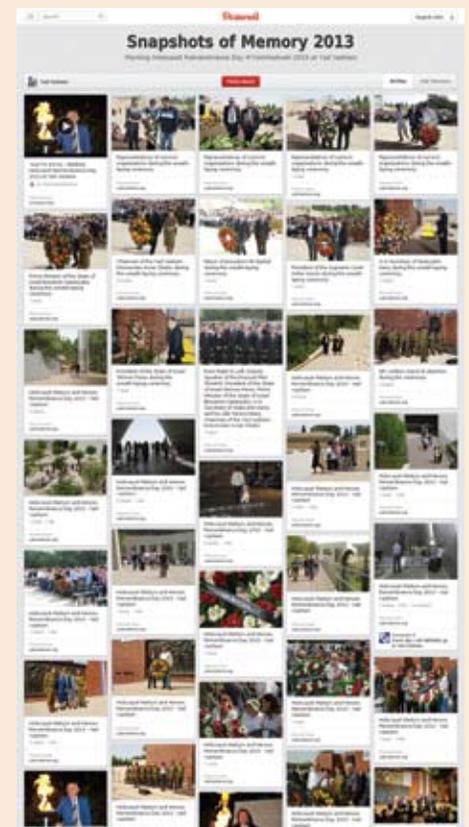
Billie Laniado is Deputy Director-General of the Dorot Hemshech Organization.

Social Media Networks Attract Broad Audience

Dana Porath

- Yad Vashem's online outreach throughout the **Holocaust Remembrance Day period** included **extensive postings and updates on all its social media platforms.** Videos and photos from the ceremonies and events that took place throughout the Yad Vashem campus were uploaded in real time. Hundreds of thousands of people were reached through its Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Pinterest networks, and a multitude of comments and reactions were shared. Along with complete coverage of the events, updates in different formats (photo galleries, video screenshots, etc) were continuously posted, linking to relevant website content such as online exhibitions, names for name reading ceremonies and educational materials.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.



New in the Exhibitions Pavilion

“I Am My Brother’s Keeper”

Fifty Years of Honoring Righteous Among The Nations



■ “An open space layout with intimate screening islands provides a stimulating and engaging platform for discourse” – opening day of the new exhibition

■ As Yad Vashem marks 50 years since the inception of the prestigious Righteous Among the Nations Program, a new exhibition, “I Am My Brother’s Keeper,” recently opened to depict the wide-ranging consequences of efforts to rescue Jewish people during the *Shoah*. A medley of five paradigmatic rescue stories, embodying situations that involve both the non-Jewish rescuers and the Jews they attempted to help, demonstrates the daunting choices and issues faced by those who were later to be recognized as Righteous Among Nations.

“In Cellars, Pits and Attics” presents the narrative of Jews on the run who were offered shelter for indefinite periods of time in crowded hideouts, totally dependent on their benefactors. As a consequence of their courageous decision to hide Jews, the lives of the rescuers were also drastically changed – they were condemned to living in fear and under the immense danger of being exposed.

The fate of hidden children and lost identities is featured in “Parting Once Again.” During the Holocaust, parents faced the impossible decision of separating from their children and delivering them into the arms of strangers in their desperate attempts to save them. In many

cases, at the end of the war, these children were torn again from the families that had cared for them, an added source of torment for the children and their rescuers alike.

Christian conduct during the Holocaust continues to challenge the Christian world well into the 21st century. The exhibition pays tribute to those members of the clergy from all Christian denominations who took a stand and made the decision to rescue Jews. “Under the Wings of the Church” reveals the heroic story of the joint efforts of a rabbi and an archbishop to establish a rescue network.

“Paying the Ultimate Price” narrates the horrifying annals of those who paid for their rescue attempts with their lives: those efforts that ended in death, at times of both rescuer and rescuee. This is the paradigm highlighted in the 1953 Yad Vashem Law, namely, that the Righteous Among the Nations did not merely save Jews, but were prepared to pay the highest price for their deeds.

Most officials on duty in Nazi-occupied Europe continued to perform their designated functions during these trying times, refraining from any kind of deviation from their routine conduct. The courageous few who took personal responsibility for their bureaucratic actions and

decided to defy their superiors are featured in “The Courage to Defy.” In some cases diplomats, policemen and other functionaries were severely punished for their disobedience.

“I Am My Brother’s Keeper” opened on 26 June 2013 in the Exhibitions Pavilion, in the presence of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Holocaust survivor Prof. Shlomo Breznitz, Chairman of the Committee for the Designation of the Righteous Justice Jacob Turkel and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

“Recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations by the State of Israel for the past half century is a unique endeavor initiated by the Jewish people,” says Irena Steinfeldt, Director of Yad Vashem’s Righteous Among the Nations Department, who was responsible for the research and content development of the exhibition. “This exhibition features milestones in the history of the Righteous program, as well as a glimpse behind the scenes of the Righteous Department’s significant contribution to the program, which constitutes the closing chapter of the exhibition.”

“The exhibition utilizes state-of-the-art multimedia projections as a vehicle to provide

A medley of five paradigmatic rescue stories demonstrates the daunting issues faced by those who were later to be recognized as Righteous Among Nations



an emotional and informative immersion into this exceptional phenomenon: those non-Jews who manifested the courage to care for their Jewish compatriots at a time when most of the European population remained oblivious to their fate,” explains exhibition curator Yehudit Shendar, Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division. “We were fortunate to secure Shula Spiegel and Danna Eden, one of the most successful media production teams in Israel, to produce the films and multimedia components of the exhibition. Film director Gabi Bibliovitz, scriptwriter Oren Ne’eman, multimedia artist Udi Morag and designer Chanan De Lange, all leading professionals in their respective fields, also joined the team. The resulting design concept – an open space layout with intimate screening islands – enhances the overall curatorial concept of the cinematographic language.

“The exhibition thus provides a stimulating and engaging platform for discourse via a unique historical phenomenon – a lesson on the capability of a single individual to make a life-saving change.”

The exhibition was made possible by the generosity of Jan and Rick Cohen (USA) and the support of Jonathan Ferster (UK) and The Lauffer Family Charitable Trust (UK).

New online exhibition features history, dilemmas and photos of Righteous and those they saved

Dana Porath

■ Coinciding with the opening of the new exhibition marking 50 years of the Righteous Among the Nations Program, an extended online exhibition on the topic is now available for viewing on the Yad Vashem website. “I Am My Brother’s Keeper’: Marking 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations” includes significant milestones marking the first five decades of the program as well as moving photo galleries featuring those honored together with the Jewish people they saved during the Holocaust. Also featured are five themes depicting the different dilemmas, choices and issues facing the rescuers and the Jews they attempted to help.

The online exhibition was made possible through the generous support of Orna Hayuni-Sharon and Hanna Fisher in memory of their beloved parents, Holocaust survivors Dafna and Menachem Sharon, z”l.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.





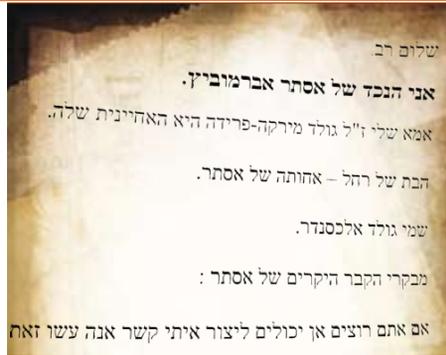
“We Found Your Note”

Mysterious Letter Reunites Families Separated since the Holocaust

Deborah Berman



■ *The reunited families: “A really special moment.” Left to right: Yossi Gross, Nurit Baruch, Dorit Oz Gross, Zehava Gross, Dov Shtaub, Alexander Gold, Alex Gold*



■ *The printed letter left by the grave called on visitors to make contact*

■ When sisters Nurit Baruch and Dorit Oz Gross visited their grandmother’s grave at a Petach Tikva cemetery, they found a chilling message from someone who claimed to be a long-lost relative – someone who was reaching out to them across decades of separation in the wake of the *Shoah*. The letter was written by Alexander Gold, whose family research led him to the grave when, after years of tireless search efforts, he found new information on Yad Vashem’s Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names and was determined to do everything in his power to seek out his surviving lost family. The information in the Names Database and the mysterious letter led to the reunion of two branches of the family that had not known of the other’s existence since the end of WWII.

Growing up, Nurit and Dorit believed that most of the extended Decker family from Budzanow, Poland had been murdered by the Nazis. They had always been told that of the seven Decker children, Aryeh, Sima, Leibish and Rachel were killed, and only Penina, Esther and Chedva had survived. Nurit and Dorit, two of Penina’s granddaughters, visit her grave every year and hold a joint memorial service for her and her sister Esther. They took upon themselves the role of diligently safeguarding and preserving the Decker family memory, in the belief that they were among the only surviving descendants.

During their annual visit in the summer of 2012, they noticed a dusty plastic bag under a memorial candle. The printed letter inside included a telephone number, and called on visitors to the

Growing up, Nurit and Dorit believed that most of the extended Decker family was murdered by the Nazis

grave to make contact, stating: “Shalom, I am the grandson of Esther Abramowich. My mother, the late Milka Freida Gold, was her niece. The daughter of Rachel, Esther’s sister. My name is Alexander Gold.”

After their initial shock, Nurit and Dorit realized that something in Alexander’s story did not add up: since they knew that Esther Abramowitz had only one son who was executed by the Nazis, Alexander could not be her grandson. Upon further consideration, they entertained the thought that perhaps the author of the letter meant that he was a descendant of Esther, but was actually the grandson of Rachel Gold née Decker, who might not have been murdered as they thought but may perhaps have survived the war.

They immediately dialed the phone number that appeared in the letter. “We left my phone number because my father does not speak Hebrew well and we were afraid that he might miss the call,” recalls Alex Gold, Alexander’s son. “The phone rang and I heard the emotional voice of a woman who said: “We found your note.”

Following the war, Alexander’s mother Freida had returned to eastern Ukraine and searched local archives for every scrap of information that would help her determine if any members of her family had survived. It was only when Alexander decided to conduct a search on the Names Database, listing the country as Poland instead of Ukraine, that he found a Page of Testimony commemorating Rachel Gold, submitted to Yad Vashem by her sister Esther Abramovich in 1955.

“My father did not think to search for Poland – the town Budzanow was right on the border,” Alex explained. “For years he entered Ukraine and suddenly, when he entered Poland, he found the name Esther Abramovich – the sister of his grandmother.”

Alex helped his father continue his research in Israel to track down Esther, and eventually contacted the local burial society who told them exactly where her grave was located within the cemetery compound. Alexander visited the cemetery, where he left the letter in the hope that someone from the family would find it.

Alexander visited the cemetery, where he left the letter in the hope that someone from the family would find it

A short time after the graveside telephone conversation, an emotional reunion took place at Dorit’s home in Modiin. The families compared photos and documents and cross-referenced information about the Decker family. It turned out that all the information confirmed that they were indeed related. “The reunion was monumental for my family, and so important to my father,” said Alex. “After years of research, trying to find any surviving members of his family, it was very, very exciting. We saw that we had the same photographs, and our documents bore the same family names. It was a really special moment.”

“For a Few Days’ Leave”

Motives for Participating in the Murder of the Jews

Dr. David Silberklang

■ Why did people make the decisions they made and act as they did during the *Shoah*?

Asked about guarding deportation trains to Auschwitz-Birkenau, one German reserve policeman regretted that he had not had the opportunity to guard such a train, “since the guards were allowed to go back home and they

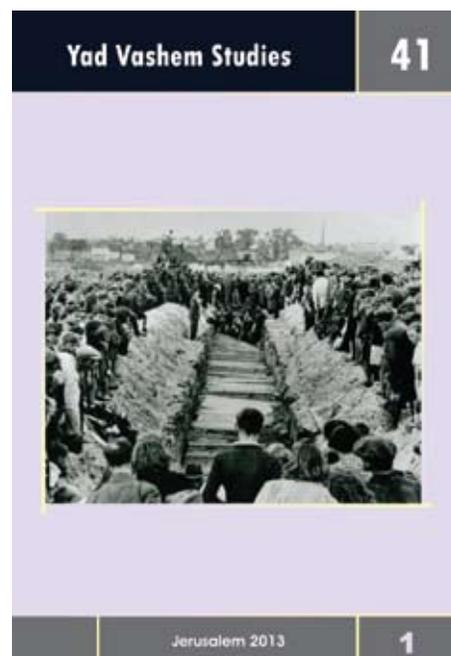
The policemen’s impetus to participate in the murders was largely conformity and the attraction of a steady income

got a few days’ leave. It also would have been interesting for me to see what was happening there.” This is just one of many examples in the new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (41:1), which features a number of articles examining the motivations of various actors in the *Shoah*.

Articles by Yuri Radchenko (Ukrainian auxiliary police in Kharkiv) and Stefan Klemp (German police in Northern Italy) show that ideology was not the main incentive for most of the actions of these policemen during the Holocaust. Radchenko, one of the first scholars to access police documentation in Kharkiv, presents a profile and analysis of the auxiliary police in this region of Ukraine who, from late 1942, were deeply involved in the persecution, spoliation and murder of Jews. The policemen’s impetus to participate in the murders was largely conformity and the attraction of a steady income. Klemp demonstrates that the job of German police guards to escort deportation trains from Italy to Auschwitz, in full knowledge of the fate of the deportees, was highly desirable because it usually also gave the policemen a few days’ home leave. Thus, a regular income or some time at home emerge as sufficient motivation for regular men to willingly participate in genocide.

Three articles examine local attitudes and behavior toward Jews in Poland and France.

Joanna Tokarska-Bakir’s anthropological analysis of the participants in the Kielce pogrom of 4 July 1946 shows how three competing varieties of antisemitism –traditional/religious, racist/nationalist and leftist – coalesced into widespread participation in the pogrom that cut across party lines. In his review of three recent books on rural Polish attitudes toward Jews during the *Shoah*, Samuel Kassow highlights the betrayal encountered by many Jews in the Polish countryside. Generally, the Poles who denounced Jews, turned them in or killed them



in rural areas were respected, decent, hard-working men. Meanwhile, Sanford Gutman’s review of two books on aspects of daily life in Vichy France finds that professional, personal and material interests underpinned attitudes toward Jews. Thus, five articles point to mundane rather than ideological motives as the main factors that underlay the decisions of everyday citizens to participate in murder – or, alternatively, to abstain.

Alongside these examinations of ordinary citizens, three eminent historians analyze the motivations of governments and decision-makers in their policies toward Jews: Randolph Braham in his comparative analysis of six German-allied

countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia); Laurent Joly in his critical review of Alain Michel’s book on Vichy policies; and Omer Bartov in his analysis of Peter Longerich’s biography of Heinrich Himmler. A twisted notion of decency and cold governmental calculation stand out in these analyses. Himmler believed that the murder of the Jews was an expression of SS “decency.” Braham finds that the most important factor in each German-allied country’s policies toward Jews was the leaders’ changing perception of Germany’s fortunes in the war, which could either lead to genocidal murder or to its suspension. Joly argues that the Vichy regime was driven by a pursuit of national regeneration and collaboration in its criminal deportation of Jews who were not citizens.

All the above and other important articles reflect the broad scope developed in this journal by Livia Rothkirchen, its editor for 15 years (1968-1983), who passed away shortly before this issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* was completed. Livia played a major role in developing *Yad Vashem Studies* into a leading international journal, attracting scholars from

Generally, the Poles who denounced Jews, turned them in or killed them in rural areas were respected, decent, hard-working men

around the world. Indeed, one of the rising stars who published important articles early in her editorship was none other than Randolph Braham. The variety and scope of the articles, the mix of young and veteran scholars and the penetrating analyses that characterize this issue were Livia’s hallmark. As such, *Yad Vashem Studies* 41:1 is a fitting tribute to Livia Rothkirchen’s legacy.

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

■ On 1 May 2013, a ceremony was held to unveil the new Yad Vashem Square, situated adjacent to Mount Herzl. The Square, chiseled out of local Hebron stone and inscribed with the Hebrew words “Yad Vashem,” is a welcome new connection between Jerusalem daily life and the unique atmosphere on the Mount of Remembrance for the thousands of visitors from Israel and abroad who cross this square every day to begin their journey of Holocaust study and remembrance.

The Square was unveiled in the presence of Jerusalem’s Mayor Nir Barkat as well as the Square’s generous benefactors, Leonard (Lenny) and Zygmunt Wilf of New Jersey, on behalf of the Wilf Families. The Wilfs are longtime supporters of Yad Vashem and children of Holocaust survivors who helped found the American Society for Yad Vashem. In addition to the establishment of the Yad Vashem Square, which was planned during the tenure of Ehud Olmert as Mayor of Jerusalem, the Wilf Families were among the major supporters of Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities. They also endowed the Holocaust History Museum as well as the Entrance Plaza in front of the Visitors’ Center, and underwrote Yad Vashem’s ongoing project to record testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

At the ceremony, American Society Chairman Lenny Wilf emphasized the significance of Yad Vashem’s endeavors for his entire family. After a heartfelt thanks to the Wilfs for their generous gift, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev



■ At the dedication of the Yad Vashem Square, left to right: American Society Chairman Leonard Wilf; Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat; Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev; Trustee and Secretary General of the American Society Board Zygmunt Wilf

highlighted Yad Vashem’s fitting location in Jerusalem, the city from which the morals and ethics of the Biblical prophets originated. This world-changing vision was precisely the one the Nazis attempted to eradicate during the Shoah, and to which Holocaust survivors have dedicated their lives ever since. “This aesthetic yet modest site serves as a gradual transition between the daily reality of the bustling Jerusalem city streets to Yad Vashem,” said Shalev, “a visit which for many is a very meaningful and emotional experience.”

The new square was designed by the office of Shlomo Aronson Architects, together with Israel Design Prize recipient Prof. Yarom Vardimon, Dean of the Faculty of Design at the Shenkar College of Engineering and Design in Ramat Gan.

The Yad Vashem Square was established thanks to the generous contribution of Yad Vashem’s long-standing supporters the Wilf Families in the USA: Harry and Judith Wilf z”l, Joseph and Elizabeth Wilf, Leonard and Beth Wilf, Zygmunt and Audrey Wilf, and Mark and Jane Wilf.

Pages of Testimony Now Part of UNESCO World Memory Register



■ This June, the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony Memorial Repository was officially included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. This is the first time that Israeli collections have been included in the register, which was founded in 1995 to raise the global awareness and imperative of preservation of, and access to, unique and irreplaceable documentary heritage in various parts of the world. The register so far includes only 299 items worldwide, all of which are endorsed by the Director General of UNESCO.

Yad Vashem has been collecting Pages of Testimony – specially designed forms filled out in memory of Jews murdered in the Holocaust – from Holocaust survivors and those who remember the victims – since 1954. Thus far, 2.6 million names have been recorded on Pages of Testimony, which, together with other documentation, have allowed Yad Vashem to identify by name 4.2

million out of the six million victims. The Pages of Testimony Memorial Repository is housed in the Hall of Names, and the entire collection so far has been uploaded to the Yad Vashem website as part of the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names, available in English, Hebrew, Russian, German and Spanish.

On announcement of this historic achievement, Hall of Names Director Dr. Alexander Avram described the Page of Testimony repository as “unprecedented in history in both its dimensions and its intent to preserve the names as symbols of their humanity.” Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev urged anyone who has not yet submitted Pages of Testimony, which are available in some 15 languages, to do so immediately.

Assistance in filling out Pages of Testimony in Israel is available at: +972 2 644 3808. For assistance in other parts of the world, please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il

Recent Events at Yad Vashem

Limor Karo

“Tehran Children” Mark 70 Years

■ As part of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign to rescue personal items from the Holocaust era, Vera Brand presented Yad Vashem with her doll, “Ilana,” which had accompanied her during her family’s escape from the German occupation of Poland in 1939 towards the east, with thousands of other Jewish families.

From April-August 1942 (following a treaty), the refugees were taken via the Caspian Sea to Tehran, which was under British rule. Most of the children were now orphans, and they were placed in orphanages in Tehran established by the local Jewish community, the Joint and the Jewish Agency. In January 1943, permission



■ A group of “Tehran Children” arrive in Eretz Israel, February 1943

to immigrate to Eretz Israel was given and a ship found, and the children and their escorts sailed to a refugee camp in Karachi, India. From there they journeyed to Suez, and in February 1943

arrived by train in Eretz Israel. The children were taken first to Atlit, and then to one of 11 transit camps. In total, some 800 children arrived from Tehran, the first Holocaust survivors to arrive in Israel.

On 28 May 2013, some 250 “Tehran Children” and family members gathered at Yad Vashem for a meeting marking 70 years since their arrival in Israel. The emotional day was marked by lectures, discussions and tours of the Yad Vashem campus.

Aloumim Gathering

■ On 3 June, some 150 members of Aloumim – The Israeli Association of Jewish Children Hidden during the Holocaust – gathered at Yad Vashem for their annual general meeting. The event took place in the presence of the French Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Christophe Bigot (pictured, right, with Association Chairman Shlomo Balsam and Association member Berthe Bedichi) and Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak.



right): Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. Bella Gutterman, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset Yoni Sitbon, Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver, Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak and Chairman of the Organization of Partisans, Underground Fighters and Ghetto Rebels in Israel Baruch Shub. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Government of Israel, the Knesset, the IDF and fighter and partisan organizations, as well as diplomatic representatives from the Allied countries.

Presidential Salute to the Partisans and Underground Fighters

■ On 6 May, President Shimon Peres (pictured) paid tribute to the former partisans and fighters of the underground and ghettos at a special ceremony in their honor at Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem.



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



■ Seventy years later – former “Tehran Children” gather in the Yad Vashem Auditorium

VE Day Ceremony

■ On 9 May, Yad Vashem held the annual official ceremony marking the anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. In attendance were some 800 people, including Jewish WWII veterans of the Allied armies, the majority from the FSU, Jewish partisans and wounded veterans, underground fighters, volunteers from the Yishuv who fought in the British forces and veterans of the Jewish Brigade. The ceremony was held in the presence of (left to

TripAdvisor: Yad Vashem Fourth Top Museum Worldwide; Most Recommended Site in Jerusalem

■ Yad Vashem was recently ranked fourth in the top 25 museums in the world by TripAdvisor, the foremost travel website driven by reviews and comments of tourists and travelers. Visitors applauded the “moving and informative displays,” calling it an “emotional, educational and inspiring experience” and a “must-see” for any traveler to Israel.

This summer, TripAdvisor also awarded Yad Vashem its 2013 Certificate of Excellence Award – an honor given to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews. To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, sites or businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on TripAdvisor.

Yad Vashem is currently listed as first among 146 recommended sites to visit in Jerusalem.



Master's Degree in Holocaust Studies with Haifa University **Dr. Yael Granot-Bein**



■ Director of the Yad Vashem Photo Archives Dr. Daniel Uziel speaks to students of the new Master's Program in Holocaust Studies.

■ This April, thirty students from the US, Canada, Poland, Holland, Ukraine, Germany and Israel convened at Yad Vashem for a five-day seminar as part of their studies for a new international Master's program in Holocaust Studies. The goal of this one-of-a-kind program, recently launched by the University of Haifa, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research and the Ghetto Fighters' House, is to nurture a new generation

of interdisciplinary scholars and educators in the field of Holocaust Studies who are proficient in a variety of research methods and several relevant languages. The program therefore offers courses in a wide range of fields, including history, social psychology, anthropology, law, literature and film. The students, who hail from a variety of academic disciplines, fulfill an internship at various departments in Yad Vashem and make extensive use of its Archives for writing their

theses, while Yad Vashem researchers and staff teach and lecture as part of the program.

In addition to their academic labors, students are encouraged to establish relationships with Holocaust survivors. In partnership with the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and under the supervision and guidance of the Amcha organization – the National Israeli Center for Psychological Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation – they undergo special training in preparation for their volunteer encounters with the survivors, which include weekly meetings in the survivor's homes, facilitating various workshops for survivors (such as computer literacy or foreign languages), and volunteering at old age homes in which survivors live. This personal involvement creates a meaningful experience for the students who contribute their time and energy for the benefit of the very community that is the subject of their research.

The author is the Director of the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa.

Honoring Pope John XXIII **Prof. Dina Porat**

■ A special international conference honoring the memory of Pope John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli) was held at the Mishkenot Sha'ananim Auditorium in Jerusalem on the 50th anniversary of the Pope's passing entitled "Between Rome and Jerusalem: the Holocaust, Jews and the State of Israel." Just two days after the conference was announced, all of the seats in the auditorium were reserved – and for a very good reason: Roncalli, a man of personal warmth, an open heart and an ear to lend anyone in need of being heard, did everything in his power to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. The first panel was therefore dedicated to Pope John XIII's hard labor and devotion to the cause of rescue during that period of history. After the war, Roncalli helped organize a meeting at the Vatican, which proved vital to the subsequent process that eventually led to the historical UN vote in favor of the establishment of the Jewish State. Upon becoming Pope, Roncalli initiated the Second Vatican Council, whose participants formulated the famous *Nostra Aetate* in 1965 – the document that revolutionized the outlook of the Catholic Church on the Jewish people.

Participants of the conference, among them cardinals, rabbis, professors, researchers from Italy and Israel, the Franciscan Order Custodian of the Holy Land and the Latin Patriarch of

Jerusalem, discussed, on the highest level of expertise, the legacy of the venerable Pope and its importance for the mutual relationship between Jews and Catholics. Israel's President Shimon Peres sent a video message welcoming the participants of the conference and emphasizing the historical contribution and the unique personality of Pope John XXIII.

The initiative for organizing this conference stemmed from the commonly shared feeling that the State of Israel and the Jewish people have not yet expressed their gratitude to this outstanding man. Steering Committee members were former MK and Immigrations Minister Yair Tzaban, who worked tirelessly to promote the conference; Rabbi David Rosen, International Director of Interreligious Affairs at the American Jewish Committee; Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem; Michael Mertes, Director of the Israel office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; and the writer of this article.

The conference took place in cooperation with the AJC, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University and Yad Vashem.

The author is Yad Vashem's Chief Historian.

New Institute and Publications Directors



■ On 1 July 2013, Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto (pictured) replaced Dr. Bella Gutterman as Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research. Dr Nidam-Orvieto, a renowned

scholar in Italian Jewish history, was previously Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications. In advance of her retirement, Dr. Gutterman praised her successor as "an excellent and worthy choice. I am sure that, together with all the excellent staff at the International Research Institute, Iael will take the entire Division forward in a positive and transformative manner."

The new Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications is Dr. Ella Florsheim, an expert in *She'erit Hapleitah* (the surviving remnants) and, in particular, in Yiddish culture in the DP camps in Germany after the *Shoah*. Dr. Florsheim is a graduate of the Institute for Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has engaged in writing and editing for many years.

A Space for Memory

Richard Mann



■ Avner Shalev discusses the unique architecture across the Yad Vashem campus.

■ “Yad Vashem is not a museum; it is a space for memory,” said Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem Directorate, at a special seminar held on 29 May and dedicated to the topic of architecture and Holocaust remembrance. The seminar was the initiative of Prof. David Guggenheim, faculty member of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, and architect Daniel Mintz, who together were awarded the 2012 Rechter Prize for the design of the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies; and Prof. Richard I. (Yerachmiel) Cohen, Incumbent of the Paulette and Claude Kelman Chair in French Jewry Studies in the Department of

Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Speaking at the opening panel were Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies Prof. Dan Michman, Bezalel President Prof. Eva Illouz and Prof. Guggenheim. Additional speakers included Prof. Antoine Grumbach (France), who spoke of exhibition design and urban planning as elements of remembrance, and Prof. Nahum Tevet (Israel), who delivered an address on “Traces of Memory.”

Lectures and panels primarily focused on the artistic means to effectively provide

memorial space, with Shalev focusing in depth on the unique architecture styles visible across the Yad Vashem campus that reflect various structural concepts of remembrance which have evolved over the past six decades: “The first structure of architectural significance [the Hall of Remembrance], created a space of memory for those who survived the Holocaust and immigrated to Israel, and for many held a deep and unique meaning which became manifested in the form of a physical place,” explained Shalev. “Upon rebuilding their lives anew in Israel, Yad Vashem was viewed by many survivors and their descendants as a place in which they could speak to or eternally memorialize their loved ones, reflect on life or God, and internalize and express an entire world of thoughts, emotions, questions and memories.” It was in this fashion that an open space on an empty hill in Jerusalem would undergo a far-reaching transformation and become the Mount of Remembrance, giving extraordinary context to the meaningful impact a space dedicated to memory can have.

The seminar took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund and was held by the International Institute for Holocaust Research in cooperation with the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Performing Arts in Holland during the Shoah

■ On 6 May, a seminar took place at Yad Vashem on the topic of “Performing Arts in Holland during the Holocaust” in cooperation with the International Institute for Jewish and Israeli Culture, directed by Moti Sandak.

Greetings were presented by Rabbi Michael Melchior, President of the International Institute for Jewish and Israeli Culture, and Dutch Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Caspar Veldkamp. The opening lecture by Prof. Dan Michman addressed the history of the Dutch Jewish community before

the war; other presentations were given by researchers from the Netherlands, and film clips were screened illustrating the impressive activities of Jews in Holland in the sphere of theater in the interwar period and during the Shoah. Joost Groeneboer, Director of *Dans Magazine* in the Netherlands, spoke about local and immigrant Jewish artists in the Amsterdam cultural scene; Esther Göbel of the Joods Historisch Museum (JHM), Amsterdam discussed the deportation from the Hollandsche/Joodsche Schouwburg (Dutch

Jewish Theater); and director and producer Erga Netz screened an excerpt from her film on the cabaret at the Westerbork transit camp, courtesy of Yad Vashem’s Visual Center. Playwright and director Rabbi Baruch Brenner spoke about the preparations for a performance about Etty Hillesum, who kept a diary during the German occupation of Holland. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Bella Guterman.

The seminar took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Holocaust Commemoration in Romania Today

■ On 12 May, the International Research Institute held a seminar at Yad Vashem entitled “New Trends in the Research of the Holocaust in Romania and its Memorialization,” in cooperation with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv. Greetings were offered by Head of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Colette Avital; Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Edward Iosiper; Director of the

Romanian Cultural Institute Gina Pana; and Dr. Alexandru Florian, General Director of the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania. The seminar was opened by Prof. Dan Michman and chaired by Dr. Rafael Vago. Romanian researchers Prof. Michael Shafir, Dr. Ana Barbulescu, Dr. Adina Babes and Alexandru Climescu spoke about the preservation of Holocaust memory in the Romanian public sphere; Director

of the Yad Vashem Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram lectured on the commemoration of Romanian Holocaust victims in Yad Vashem; and Dr. Radu Ioanid of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum moderated a lively discussion and brought the seminar to a close.

The symposium took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.

From April to the beginning of July 2013, Yad Vashem conducted some 270 guided tours for more than 3,000 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included presidents, heads of government, ministers and ambassadors, sports personalities, governors and mayors. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:

■ **United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 21 April 2013. Accompanied by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe (Bogie) Ya'alon (left), the Secretary toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, visited the Children's Memorial and signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book.



■ **Prince Albert II of Monaco** visited Yad Vashem on 18 June. Left to right: Israel's Ambassador to France and Monaco H.E. Mr. Yossi Gal, Prince Albert II of Monaco, Director of the France and Benelux Desk Miry Gross



■ **Canadian Chief-of-Staff Thomas J. Lawson** toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum on 24 April and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ On 18 June, **President of Albania Bujar Nishani** (left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar (right). That day, **Vice President of Brazil Michel Temer** also toured Yad Vashem. **President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic** visited the campus on 29 April, **President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades** visited on 6 May and **President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos Calderón** visited on 10 June.



■ On 23 April, **Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel García-Margallo** (center, with Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk Perla Hazan) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram (right). **Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Eide** visited the Mount of Remembrance on 4 April, **Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov** visited on 22 April, **Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter** visited on 2 May, **Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius** visited on 19 May, **Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris L. Avramopoulos** visited on 29 May and **Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans** visited on 18 June.



■ **Prime Minister of Italy Enrico Letta** (right) toured Yad Vashem on 1 July, accompanied by Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs Yuval Steinitz (left) and guided by Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto (center). **Prime Minister of Georgia Bidzina Ivanishvili** visited Yad Vashem on 24 June.



■ On 27 June, **Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby** (right) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (left). After entering the Hall of Names, the Archbishop, accompanied by his wife Caroline and son Peter (center), was presented with a Page of Testimony and archival information regarding a young boy who was murdered during the Holocaust – most likely a distant Jewish relative of the Archbishop. Deeply emotional and with tears in his eyes, Archbishop Welby asked for a moment of solitude before continuing on to the Children's Memorial. The Archbishop concluded his visit by signing the guest book: "This is not a place for words; it's a place for tears and a place for learning and remembering."



New Benefactors: Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman

■ **Born in Toronto to Polish Jewish immigrants, Max Glassman comes from humble beginnings.** His father, Nuson, peddled rags from his horse-drawn buggy, and his mother, Chaya, devoted herself to her family. From an early age, Max always took care of others: at the age of 16, he quit school to care for his chronically ill parents.

Max enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII. Following an honorable discharge, he entered the highly prestigious Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. After seven years, he graduated as a physician and surgeon.

As a doctor, Max founded the Queensway Medical Centre and Clinic in Toronto more than 50 years ago and, for the last 30 years, has conducted seminars and lectured on happiness as an integral component of health.

In 1986, Max married Gianna, who has stood by his side with an abundance of love

and support. Gianna was born in Italy and arrived in Canada when she was five years old. She earned a BA at York University and taught elementary public school students for more than 20 years before retiring.

Max and Gianna are generous philanthropists, supporting many causes in Canada and Israel, including Holocaust education. The “World Rebuilt” balcony, accessed at the end of the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem, was generously endowed by the couple.

Dr. Glassman has also served on the executive committees of major organizations such as B’nai Brith, the Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto, the State of Israel Bonds, the Jewish Immigrants’ Aid Society, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, the Jewish National Fund and the AACI in Israel. Gianna is an ardent Zionist who has been to Israel more than two



dozen times and is involved in many communal and Israeli organizations.

Max has published a book entitled *Children of One*, which advocates human rights, diversity and pluralism, and is nearing the completion of his autobiography.

The Glassmans have four children – three daughters and a son – and four grandchildren.

Agreement with Bulgarian Archives



■ **At the beginning of March, Director of the Bulgarian Central State Archives Dr.**

Martin Ivanov (right) and Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner (center) signed an agreement regarding cooperation between the two institutions in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Shaul Kamisra-Raz (left).

The agreement renews the acquisition activity of the Yad Vashem Archives in Bulgaria after a hiatus of a number of years. The work will now focus on the regional archives across Bulgaria, which are under the control of the central archives in Sofia.

Contact between the two archives began a year ago, and last summer the location of documents regarding Bulgarian Jewry

Dr. Angel Chorapchiev

and the Holocaust commenced in several cities across the country. The agreement was prepared following Dr. Gertner’s participation in events in Bulgaria marking 70 years since the rescue of the Jews of the country and the deportations of Jews from Macedonia and Thrace to Treblinka.

The new agreement will last five years, during which some 400,000 pages testifying to the history of the Jewish community in Bulgaria and their fate during the *Shoah* are to be digitized.

The author is responsible for Bulgaria and the Balkan States in the Archives Division.

Dorit Novak Appointed New Director General of Yad Vashem

■ **Dorit Novak has been appointed Yad Vashem’s new Director General, replacing Nathan Eitan, who retired from his position after seven years working at the side of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev.**

Dorit Novak served as Director of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies for the past seven years, beginning her tenure in January 2006 after serving as Program Director of Mehalev (Wisconsin Plan) at Israel’s Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor. “I am very pleased that we have succeeded in finding

such a worthy candidate from among the executive team here at Yad Vashem,” said Avner Shalev. “As Yad Vashem turns 60, Dorit is the right person to cope with the challenges before us in the coming decade. I wish her much success and am confident that her vast experience at the International School and other educational frameworks, as well as her many achievements



in the field of management and education, will greatly benefit Yad Vashem.”

Upon commencing her new post, Novak said: “I feel an extraordinary sense of purpose and a commitment to uphold Yad Vashem’s unique dedication to Holocaust remembrance. I’m grateful for the trust given to me and, understanding this great responsibility, look forward to working with Chairman Avner Shalev in order to continue fulfilling the missions placed upon Yad Vashem.”

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ **Mark Moskowitz** (right), Executive Committee member of the **American Society for Yad Vashem**, laid a wreath on behalf of the Society with his brother **Dan Moskowitz** (left) and niece **Deena Moskowitz** (second from left) during a ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square on the morning of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2013. Mark's mother, survivor **Rose Moskowitz** (center), and sister-in-law **Wendy Moskowitz** (second from right) were also in attendance.



■ Left to right: **Reed, Gil, Aliza and Oran Margulis** attended the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ **Colin and Gail Halpern** viewed the "Book of Names" with Yad Vashem's Chief Technology Officer **Michael Lieber** (center) at the opening of the new permanent exhibition "SHOAH" in Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.



■ The American Society's Annual Spring Luncheon was held on 9 May at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel. **Abbi Halpern**, a member of the third generation, was honored for her work in the Young Leadership Associates (YLA) and for her commitment to the cause of Holocaust remembrance. Guest speaker **Alyson Richman** provided insights into the research and preparation of her book *The Lost Wife*, which deals with the Holocaust and its consequences. Left to right: Luncheon Honorary Chair **Marilyn Rubenstein**; Luncheon Honoree Abbi Halpern; Luncheon Chair **Elizabeth Mundlak Zborowski**; American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf**; Luncheon Chair **Rebecca Hanus**



■ The American Society's 15th Professional Development Conference took place on 10 March: Top row, left to right: Manager of the United Nations Holocaust and Outreach Programme **Kimberly Mann**; American Society YLA Co-Chairs **Barry Levine** and **Abbi Halpern**; YLA Founding Chair **Caroline Massel**; American Society Executive Board Member **Jeremy Halpern**; American Society Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom**; YLA member **Jessica Mauk**. Bottom row, left to right: Director, Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest **Barbara Wind**; past President and current Executive Board Secretary of the Association of Teachers of Social Studies of the United Federation of Teachers and Sage Editor, **Carolyn Herbst**



■ Yad Vashem's traveling exhibition "Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust" opened on 19 March at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Cleveland. The exhibition was on display for three months, and attracted thousands of visitors. Right to left: Yad Vashem Guardians **Milton and Tamar Maltz**; **Audrey and Albert Ratner**, who helped sponsor the exhibition's display in Cleveland; American Society Director of Development **S. Isaac Mekel**



■ Yad Vashem's exhibition of Belgian artist and Holocaust victim **Carol Deutsch's** Bible paintings has been on display at the Holocaust Memorial in Miami since Holocaust Remembrance Day. Among the guests present at a special program marking the day were Yad Vashem supporters **Lydia and Jimmy Resnick** and **Ezra Katz** and family. Yad Vashem Benefactors **Irma and Norman Braman** (center and right) and American Society Director of Development **S. Isaac Mekel** (left) visited the exhibition.



■ During their visit to the Mount of Remembrance on 23 June, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Sharon and David Halpern** toured various sites, including the Children's Memorial.



■ **Jeanette Rubio** (center), consultant to Yad Vashem Benefactor The Braman Family Foundation, visited Yad Vashem in February. Jeannette, wife of US Senator **Marco Rubio**, learned about Yad Vashem's work and toured the Museum of Holocaust Art and the International School for Holocaust Studies, where she spoke with Israeli soldiers participating in a seminar.



■ **Lauren** (second from right) and **Martin Geller** (left) and their family and friends visited Yad Vashem in March and dedicated a classroom in the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies, accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ Yad Vashem Guardian **Alan Zekelman** (center) toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, Archives and Synagogue in April with his cousins, accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left). Alan also visited the Memorial Cave, the expansion of which he is supporting.



■ **Diane Troderman** (right) and **Sarah and Sam Clarkson** (left) marked their daughter **Maya's** bat mitzvah in the Yad Vashem Synagogue after the three generations of the family toured the Holocaust History Museum and Archives.



■ **Barry Levine** (right), Co-Chair of the American Society's Young Leadership Associates, attended the dedication of the Yad Vashem Square on 1 May 2013. He and American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf** (left) also viewed the *Sefer Torah* donated to the Yad Vashem Synagogue by Barry's grandfather and American Society Board Member **Ed Mosberg**.



■ On 13 June, **Harley and Rochelle Gross** (left) took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives Division, receiving an introduction to the "Gathering the Fragments" exhibit by International Relations Division Deputy Director **Sari Granitza** (right).



■ The **Hilton family** visited Yad Vashem on 7 June following a family roots trip to Europe. As part of their visit, they heard stories regarding the Righteous Among the Nations at the entrance to the Avenue of the Righteous.



■ **David Werber** (left) and **Bracha and Martin Werber** (right) toured Yad Vashem on 13 May. During the visit, they decided to publish their mother's memoir *Two Rings* in Hebrew.



■ On 10 June, **Ronald and Glenda Krongold** (right) took a special tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



Friends Worldwide

■ On 27 June, President of the Ford Foundation **Luis A. Ubiñas** unveiled a plaque marking the special endowment of the Foundation to care for the trees planted in honor of the Righteous Among the Nations. The Ford Foundation is an important partner of Yad Vashem, supporting its mission to honor the Righteous Among the Nations and to disseminate their stories.

Also present at the ceremony was **Abe Foxman**, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, and his wife **Golda**. Abe, a Holocaust survivor who was saved during WWII by a Christian woman, is a close friend of Yad Vashem, and was instrumental in facilitating this special gift to Yad Vashem.

Left to right: American Society for Yad Vashem Director of Development **S. Isaac Mekel**; International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**; Luis A. Ubiñas; Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**; Ford Foundation Vice President of Global Communications **Marta L. Tellado**; Former Deputy Prime Minister **Adv. Dan Meridor**; Abe Foxman



SWEDEN

■ **Tobias Rawett** and **Elisabeth** and **Georg Citrom** participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, representing the Swedish Holocaust Survivors Association as well as the **Swedish Friends of Yad Vashem**. Left to right, holding the wreath: **Georg Citrom**, **Tobias Rawett**



CANADA

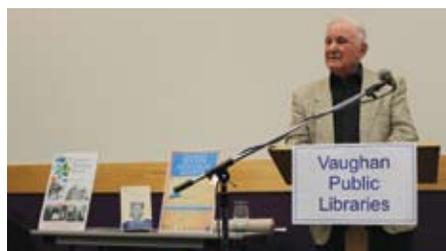
■ Thorndale Elementary School students participated in the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony at Ottawa's National War Museum on 23 April 2013. The event was attended by approximately 800 people and organized and led by the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem**. The masters of ceremonies were Chair and CEO of the Azrieli Foundation **Dr. Naomi Azrieli** and Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**.



■ Some 60 Holocaust survivors from across Canada were honored in Parliament on 23 April in a ceremony led by Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the Hon. **Jason Kenney**; Speaker of the House, the Hon. **Andrew Scheer**; and MP **Mark Adler**, with assistance from the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and Ambassador of Israel to Canada **H.E. Mrs. Miriam Ziv**.



■ To celebrate Ontario's Jewish Heritage Month, Holocaust survivor and Canadian Society Sponsor **Joseph Tenenbaum** shared his insights and launched his memoirs, *Legacy and Redemption: A Life Renewed*, at Vaughan's Bathurst Clark Resource Library, in partnership with the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.



AUSTRALIA

■ **Danny Schwartz** (right) from Melbourne, son of Yad Vashem Benefactors **Andor** and **Baba Schwartz** who endowed the Path of Remembrance and Reflection, visited Yad Vashem on 18 February with his wife **Uschi** (left) and daughter **Delilah** (center). The group lit candles on the Path at the plaques commemorating Andor and Baba's families.



■ **Silvia** and **Phillip Piorun**, children of survivors and active members of the Melbourne Jewish community and **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem**, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 13 May. They also met with Director of Reference and Information Services **Lital Beer** to review research on their families.



■ Holocaust Survivor **Eva Slonim** (right) and her husband **Ben** (left), prominent members of the Melbourne Jewish community, attended the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony at Yad Vashem on 7 April. During their visit they also met with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (center).



■ The Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce brought a Venture Capital and Entrepreneurs Mission to Yad Vashem on 14 June. In addition to visiting the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, the group also laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Richard Rogers, Vedran Drakulic and Nicole Brittain** of Gandel Philanthropy visited Yad Vashem on 18 June for a meeting to discuss the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators. Vedran Drakulic (center) and Nicole Brittain (left) subsequently toured the campus, guided by Director of International Seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies **Ephraim Kaye** (right).



ISRAEL

■ On 18 March, the Stephanie and David J. Azrieli Holocaust Training Center for Israeli Educators was opened at the International School for Holocaust Studies. The opening ceremony was attended by (left to right): Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**, Adv. **Dana Azrieli**, **Dr. Naomi Azrieli** and Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (right), as well as members of the Azrieli Foundation Directorate.



FRANCE & BENELUX

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Builder **Josef Chaim Kaufman, z"l**, a long-time supporter of the Remembrance Authority.



Josef Chaim was born in Bucovina Siret, Romania in 1926. In October 1941, his family was deported with 1,300 other Jews from the city to the village of Tzibulivka, Transnistria. His parents and their four children were hidden in a *kolkhoz* (communal farm) in difficult conditions, and suffered from hunger and disease. Only 160 Jews from Siret, the Kaufman family among them, survived. In 1948, they immigrated to Belgium, where Josef Chaim worked in the diamond industry. Together with his wife Renee, who was always at his side, Josef Chaim Kaufman became one of the pillars of the Zionist Jewish community in Antwerp and maintained close ties with Israel. His three children made *aliyah*, and Josef Chaim and Renee often visited them.

Working tirelessly to commemorate the Holocaust and its victims, Josef Chaim returned to Tzibulivka and erected several tombstones and memorial markers at massacre sites. When Yad Vashem opened its Holocaust History Museum in 2005, he endowed the films that captured Jewish life before and during the Holocaust as well as their translations to all languages of the audio guides. Josef Chaim also enabled the renowned Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko to come to Israel in November 2007, where he was honored at Yad Vashem at a special event and read his poem "Babi Yar."

Josef Chaim Kaufman will be remembered as generous, modest and kind, as having a good sense of humor, and above all, as a dear friend. Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to his wife, children and grandchildren. May his memory be blessed and be an example to future generations.

■ Friends of Yad Vashem from France and Benelux visited the "Gathering the Fragments" exhibition on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Left to right: **Rodica and Ervin Bodnar**, Director of the France and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross, Arièle Nahmias, Patricia and Willy Fazel, Jean-Pierre Levy, Maxi Librati, Bernard Emsellem, Régine Hausler, Yves Roth, Joop and Judith Levy**



UK

■ **Paul and Peggy Brett** from London visited Yad Vashem on 3 April and toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. They also took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives with Archives Director **Dr. Haim Gertner** and met with Director of Reference and Information Services **Lital Beer** to review research on Peggy's family, as well as to donate an extensive collection of Holocaust-era photos and documents from the family's collection.



■ UJIA brought a group of women participating in a tour entitled "Mission Possible" to Yad Vashem on 4 March. They heard the testimony of **Hannah Pick**, a childhood friend of **Anne Frank**, and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives with Archives Director **Dr. Haim Gertner**.



Friends Worldwide

GERMANY

■ The Yad Vashem traveling exhibition marking 50 years since the Eichmann trial opened on 10 June at the Supreme Court in Cologne. The event was attended by some 200 guests, among them Justice Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia **Thomas Kutschatj**, President of the Supreme Court **Johannes Riedel**, judges, lawyers and media personnel. The keynote speaker was former Israel Supreme Court judge and vice-president and deputy prosecutor at the Eichmann Trial Justice **Gabriel Bach** (pictured). The exhibition was displayed for a month, and was visited by many students from across the Cologne region.



■ On 10 April, the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "Besa: A Code of Honor" opened in the entrance hall of the Karlsruhe municipality in southern Germany. Some 300 guests attended the event, including the mayor, city council members, Baden members of parliament, public figures and students. In his address, Mayor **Dr. Frank Mentrup** emphasized the importance of Yad Vashem's work in the preservation of Holocaust memory and the significance of the exhibition in portraying civilian courage. Hundreds of people have visited the exhibition, including some 25 school groups.

DIASPORA

■ Yad Vashem donor **Mikhail Omskiy** from Russia (fourth from left) attended an unveiling ceremony with family and friends in honor of his grandfather **Mikhail Zunshein**, who fought in the Soviet army against the Nazis and went missing in action in 1941.



MEXICO-ISRAEL

■ **Jennie Wengrowsky-Samet** (right) and her daughter **Adi Barchad** (left) were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



MEXICO

■ The Saba-Cohen families were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and her husband **Moshe Hazan** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



PANAMA

■ The Marcha de la Vida-Panamá 2013 group visited Yad Vashem in April, and participated in ceremonies in the Hall of Remembrance and Synagogue, accompanied by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan**.



VENEZUELA

■ A group from Venezuela visited Yad Vashem in April. They were joined in the Valley of Communities by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan**.



■ **Ester** and **Guillermo Roizental** (left and right) were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem in April for the unveiling of a plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope.



SPAIN

■ **Estrella** and **Michel Eljarrat** (left and center) were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem in May together with their sons.



■ **Esther Koplowitz** was joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** during a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance on Holocaust Remembrance Day.



CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ During her tour of the United States in February-March 2013, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** visited the South Carolina statehouse with **Rep. Alan Clemmons**, a long-term supporter of Yad Vashem.



■ ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) Executive Director **Dr. Juergen Buehler** and International Director **Rev. Juha Ketola** participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony. Left to right: Dr. Juergen Buehler; Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**; Rev. Juha Ketola; International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben-Yehuda**



■ The International Relations Division of Yad Vashem recently launched its new "Worldwide Friends of Yad Vashem" sub-site, available through the Yad Vashem website (www.yadvashem.org). The new site contains information on local Friends' societies, recent events and visits, photos and ideas for getting involved in Yad Vashem's vital commemoration and educational efforts. We welcome you to join us.

■ Leading a tour group, **Pastor Mark Jenkins** (right) from the US-wide NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) network attended the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony, accompanied by **Teresa Jenkins** (center) and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (left).



■ ICEJ Latvia, headed by **Ilze Saulite**, brought the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition "No Child's Play" to Riga, Latvia with the assistance of the Israeli Embassy in Latvia and in cooperation with the Latvian Ministry of Education and other donors. Israel's Ambassador to Latvia **H.E. Mrs. Hagit Ben-Yaakov** (pictured) opened the exhibition.



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

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■ Donations may also be sent to:

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■ For information on societies in other countries,

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International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

Days of Ruin: The Jews of Munkács During the Holocaust

Raz Segal

NIS 98 / NIS 74 | \$32 / \$24 (airmail included)



■ *Days of Ruin* provides a comprehensive and well-documented account of the tragic fate of the Jews of Munkács (Mukachevo) from the incorporation of the town in Hungary in November 1938 to the deportation of the overwhelming majority of the community to their deaths in Auschwitz in May 1944. This book gives a moving and shocking account of how the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question” was implemented in a single town in Greater Hungary. It also documents

fully how this mass murder was carried out by the Hungarian Police Force and Army with only limited German assistance.

Postcards to a Little Boy: A Kindertransport Story

Henry Foner

NIS 148 / NIS 108 | \$48 / \$36 (airmail included)



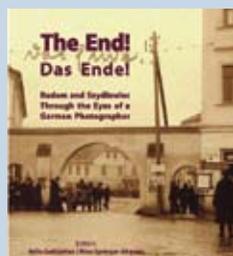
■ Henry Foner (Heinz Lichtwitz), who had lost his mother at a young age, was sent from Berlin to Wales, where he lived with a Jewish couple who provided him with a warm, loving home. From the moment they parted, Henry’s father sent him colorful illustrated postcards written in German and later on in English. This authentic and moving document presents the postcards and letters that

Henry received from his father and other relatives and friends, along with their translation.

The End! Radom and Szydłowiec Through the Eyes of a German Photographer

Editors: Bella Gutterman and Nina Springer-Aharoni

NIS 218 / NIS 164 | \$68 / \$51 (airmail included)



■ The photographic album of Radom and the nearby community of Szydłowiec is the work of an unknown German photographer who documented the scenes and events he had witnessed during his stay in this region, and later added short captions to the photos – the street scenes; the Jewish cemetery; the figures of the women, children and men; the suffering and the poverty of the Jews; and the

exceptional and shocking scenes of the Jewish victims’ deportation; and the looting of their property. This publication is a powerful photographic document that presents the end of two Jewish communities and reflects the fate of many other Jewish towns and villages in Poland.

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