

Yad Vashem Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 72, January 2014



Published by:
Yad Vashem

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Photography: **Rachel Barkai, Yossi Ben-David,
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Production: **Ahva Printing Press Company Ltd.**

Design: **Stephanie & Ruti Design**

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



ISSN 0793-7199

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Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education



and the Claims Conference



This edition of *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*
Quarterly Magazine was generously
supported by **Evie and Harry Plotnik** in
memory of their family and loved ones
murdered during the Shoah.

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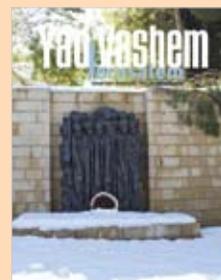
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■ On the cover:
Janusz Korczak Square
after the snow storm
that engulfed the Mount
of Remembrance in
December 2013.
(see p. 13)

Holocaust

■ On 1 October 2013, Prof. Israel Gutman, one of the giants of Holocaust research in Israel and the world over, passed away in Jerusalem at the age of ninety.

Mourning his passing, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said: "My mentor and friend Israel Gutman made a significant and unique contribution to the propagation of historical awareness regarding the Holocaust and its

meaning among the wider public forum in Israel, especially the youth. Prof. Gutman's personal resume – as someone who experienced in the flesh the horrors of the Holocaust, fought in the Warsaw ghetto, endured Auschwitz and was a member



of the camp's Jewish underground, survived the death marches and was a witness to all that occurred – added enormous weight to his rare and exceptional strength as a researcher, teacher and leader. We will miss his insight and his friendship."

Israel Gutman was born in Warsaw in 1923. His parents and older sister died early during the war; his younger sister was taken into Janusz Korczak's orphanage and later deported to Treblinka. As a member of the Jewish Underground in the Warsaw ghetto, Gutman was wounded in the uprising. From Warsaw he was taken to Majdanek, and from there to Auschwitz and then on a death march to Mauthausen. In May 1945, he was liberated in Gunskirchen. After the war, he helped with the rehabilitation of survivors, was active in the *Bericha* movement and then immigrated to *Eretz Israel*. He joined Kibbutz Lehavot Habashan, where he raised a family and was a member for 25 years. In 1961 he gave testimony during the Eichmann trial.

In 1973, Prof. Gutman moved to Jerusalem. Beginning his academic career at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he later headed the University's Institute for Contemporary Jewry. At the same time, Prof. Gutman was a leader and an integral part of the research activities at Yad Vashem. From 1993-1996 he headed

Survivor, Ghetto Fighter, Historian of the Jewish People

Israel Gutman (1923–2013)



■ Prof. Yehudah Bauer addresses the audience at a memorial symposium for Prof. Gutman

Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, and from 1996–2000 he served as Yad Vashem's Chief Historian, and then as an Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem. He was also a founder of Moreshet: Mordecai Anielewicz Memorial, and Deputy Chairman of the International Auschwitz Council. One of Prof. Gutman's main projects was Yad Vashem's comprehensive and groundbreaking *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, among many other seminal works.

Israel Gutman was profoundly influenced by three main inspirations from his youth. The first was the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, particularly during the time he spent in the Warsaw ghetto – “I did not remain alone... It was being connected; it was a shared idea, a shared organization, and also a family” – and his admiration for its leader, Mordechai Anielewicz. Second was the unique educational and humanitarian philosophy of Dr. Korczak: as Dr. Havi Dreifuss recalls in her recent article on him in *Yad Vashem Studies*, Prof. Gutman took special pride in Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies and cherished its educational activities. “As long as his strength endured, he took part in the training of instructors and teachers, attended international

seminars and participated in the School's educational publications.” Finally, although Gutman had only a superficial acquaintance with Emmanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw ghetto archivist became a “veritable mentor,” notes Dreifuss. “Like Emmanuel Ringelblum, Gutman considered himself first of all a Jewish historian, a historian of the Jewish people.”

Indeed, Prof. Gutman's academic success was imbued with the legitimacy and historiographical centrality of the Jewish point of view regarding the *Shoah*. He succeeded in making “room” in the world of research for the experiences, positions and points of view of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, so that their voices would achieve the consideration and attention they deserved.

In his groundbreaking research on the Warsaw ghetto, he established his position at the forefront of Holocaust research and attained international acclaim. His research on the ghetto was the point from which his academic writings broadened into a range of fundamental Holocaust-related issues: resistance, the Zionist youth movements, the Judenrat, Jewish forced labor, Jewish-Polish relations, the uniqueness of the Holocaust, the social aspects of the camps, and more.

From the end of the 1970s, when his position as a leading researcher of the Holocaust and

Polish Jewry had been established, Prof. Gutman turned towards a new horizon of activity: creating active academic contacts between Israeli Holocaust research and that taking place abroad. He achieved this through, among other things, pioneering international research conferences, which, together with the publications that came in their wake, became cornerstones of Holocaust research. Prof. Gutman invested a great deal of effort into nurturing contacts with Poland. Even during the Communist era, the Poles accepted many of his critiques, and after the fall of Communism he became a greatly valued guest (the University of Warsaw awarded him an honorary doctorate).

“To me, Israel was more than just a colleague, he was a soulmate,” said his close friend of more than 50 years, Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehudah Bauer. “We often disagreed, but almost always presented a united front to others. Our basic position was identical, despite the differences in our backgrounds: we looked at the *Shoah* from a Jewish perspective. We wanted to tell the story of the Jews – which did not at all mean that we did not deal with the perpetrators and the so-called ‘bystanders.’ But the emphasis was always on the Jews.”

Revolt or Rescue?

Jewish Dilemmas from the Holocaust

Dr. David Silberklang

■ **“From Warsaw, desperate letters arrived from those still alive. They advised us not to follow their lead; to save ourselves so that at least a small remnant of the movement would survive. Zivia and Antek said that it was a pity for all the blood that had been shed. A telegram arrived from Tabenkin: ‘Pursue all paths to rescue.’ However, we did not agree. We did not wish to live at the price of the death of our comrades in Warsaw; we did not wish to cower in the shadow of their glory.”**

From Chajka Klinger’s, “The [Movement] Branch in Będzin,” in Avihu Ronen, “The Cable That Vanished,” *Yad Vashem Studies*, 41:2 (2013)

Why did Jews attempt revolt in some places and circumstances, yet pursue different avenues in others? What were the goals of attempts at revolts? Were they the same in each place?

Marking the 70th anniversary of various Jewish uprisings during the Holocaust this past year, among them the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Attempting to rescue oneself often meant abandoning loved ones, friends and the community, whereas attempting to organize a communal revolt seemed to be a symbolic, suicidal act for the community

(April-May 1943) and the revolts in Treblinka (2 August 1943) and Sobibór (14 October 1943), has highlighted these basic questions. Jews grappled with insoluble dilemmas during the Holocaust, both in trying to grasp the Nazis’ intentions and in thinking of what to do in response. Naturally, people faced with a death threat try to save their lives. But at what point did Jews recognize that they faced certain death?



impossible. Attempting to rescue oneself often meant abandoning loved ones, friends and the community, whereas attempting to organize a communal revolt seemed to be a symbolic, suicidal act for the community. These were the kinds of human dilemmas that exercised the late Prof. Israel Gutman and to the understanding of which he contributed so much.

Many of the revolt attempts in Eastern Europe had interconnections. The armed undergrounds in Warsaw, Białystok and Będzin maintained contact with each other, and among the rebels in Treblinka were Jews from the first two cities, while the German staff at Sobibór was concerned that the Jews working there would hear about the revolts in Treblinka and in the various ghettos and then attempt the same in Sobibór.

The new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (41:2) addresses questions of facing death and of rescue and revolt regarding Będzin, Sobibór and Warsaw. Avihu Ronen presents a fascinating story hidden from the public eye for decades – the dispute regarding revolt and rescue between socialist Zionist leaders in *Eretz Israel* and socialist Zionist youth movement and underground leaders in the Będzin ghetto in Poland. Following the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, leaders in *Eretz Israel* cabled the underground leaders in Będzin, urging them to save themselves and abandon the idea of revolt. But as Chajka Klinger, the Hashomer Hatzair leader in Będzin who received the telegram, wrote in her diary, the underground rejected trying to save themselves in abandonment of the community and of their ideals. The telegram sheds light both on the sometimes

And if a rescue attempt was to be considered, whom should they try to rescue? Communal rescue, or even family rescue, was impossible in almost all cases, and individual rescue seemed equally

radically different perspectives of people in the midst of the murder vs. people outside, as well as on the development of Holocaust remembrance in Israel.

In order to unravel some of the mystery of Sobibór’s story and the memory of its victims, Yoram Haimi and Wojciech Mazurek have undertaken a new approach to Holocaust research – archaeological excavations. They have successfully determined the actual layout of most of the camp – the camouflaged path along which the victims were driven to the gas chambers, the mass burial pits, and more – as well as numerous artifacts, including pendants and name tags of Dutch Jewish children who arrived in the camp with their parents in the summer of 1943, that help us better understand the life and death of the Jews who arrived there. Some of those Dutch Jews participated in the uprising in October.

Through these articles, as well as Antony Polonsky’s review on an important new book by Dariusz Libionka and Laurence Weinbaum on the true role of the Betar-led ŻZW armed underground in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, historical truth has been retrieved from an obscured past, and in the process a new light is shed on the heartrending, utter impossibility for Jews to rescue large numbers of people in Poland during the Holocaust, and on the insurmountable difficulties facing efforts at revolt.

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

Top International Rating for *Yad Vashem Studies*

■ The Australia and New Zealand Standard Research Classification, which rates 22,000 journals in various languages and disciplines throughout the world, recently gave *Yad Vashem Studies* its highest rating, A*. Similarly, Bar-Ilan University reviewed 113 scholarly journals published in Hebrew in the fields of Humanities and Jewish Studies and 765 in other languages, and awarded *Yad Vashem Studies* its highest ranking, A+, in both languages.

Egyptian Doctor Honored for Berlin Rescue

Recognized as Righteous Among the Nations

Irena Steinfeldt

■ In October 2012, Sabine and Dr. Karsten Mülder, residents of the Moabit neighborhood in Berlin, wrote to Yad Vashem. They had conducted research about their building during the Nazi period, and discovered that one of the residents, Dr. Mohamed Helmy, born in Khartoum in 1901 to Egyptian parents, had hidden a Jewish woman during the war. According to Nazi racial theory, Helmy was

After Yad Vashem gathered all available documentation from German archives, the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous decided to honor Dr. Helmy as Righteous Among the Nations – the first Arab rescuer to be awarded the title

defined as a *Hamit* (a descendant of Ham, son of Noah), and was thus discriminated against: in 1938 he was fired from the hospital in which he worked and was forbidden from marrying his German fiancée, Annie Ernst. In 1939 and again in 1940 he was arrested together with other Egyptian nationals, but was released due to health problems.

Despite being targeted by the regime, and notwithstanding the great danger, Helmy risked his life to help his Jewish friends during the war years. When the deportations of the Jews from Berlin began, he hid 16-year-old Anna Boros (later Gutman), a family friend and former patient, in a cabin he owned in the Berlin neighborhood of Buch. The cabin became Anna's safe haven until the end of the war. At times of danger, such as when Helmy was under police investigation, he arranged for Anna to hide elsewhere. "From 1942 I no longer had any contact with the outside world,"



■ Certificate and Medal of Honor for Dr. Mohamed Helmy

Anna later recalled. "The Gestapo knew that Dr. Helmy was our family physician, and they also knew that he owned a cabin in Berlin-Buch... Nevertheless, Dr. Helmy did everything for me out of the generosity of his heart and I will be grateful to him forever."

After Yad Vashem's Department of the Righteous gathered all available documentation from German archives, the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous decided to honor Dr. Helmy as Righteous Among the Nations – the first Arab rescuer to be awarded the title. In the absence of information about Dr. Helmy's next of kin, Yad Vashem turned to the Egyptian Embassy for their help in finding his nephews. Meanwhile, the medal and certificate of honor were put on display in the exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper," currently on display in the Exhibitions Pavilion on the Mount of Remembrance. The rescue case was based on archival documents of the 1960s, and it was known only that Anna Boros had immigrated to the United States after the war; her family was untraceable.

Like many other cases, however, this story did not end with the official recognition. Following reports in the media about the honoring of Helmy, an Israeli relative of Anna Boros Gutman contacted Yad Vashem and connected the Department to Anna's daughter,



■ Anna Boros Gutman (second from left) with her daughter Carla visiting Dr. Helmy and his wife Annie, Berlin, 1969

Carla. "I'm embarrassed to say that I have often thought about asking Yad Vashem to add Dr. Helmy's name to the list of the Righteous, but never bothered because I knew he and his wife had already passed away and they had no children," Carla wrote in an emotional email to Yad Vashem. Along with the email, Carla sent a photo of her and her mother visiting Helmy and Annie in Berlin in 1969, as well as a number of documents she had found among her mother's belongings. Two of the documents, in German and Arabic, revealed that Helmy had used every possible means to protect his protégé: he even obtained a certificate for her from the Central Islamic Institute in Berlin, headed by the Mufti of Jerusalem, attesting to her (alleged) conversion to Islam, as well as a marriage certificate (in Arabic), claiming she married a fellow Egyptian in a ceremony held in Helmy's home.

"If it weren't for Dr. Helmy, I would not be here today, and nor would my two brothers, Charlie and Fred," wrote Carla. "Between us we have seven children, who also owe their lives to him... Until this moment, I never realized how important making this information public really was."

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

First-ever Seminar in Turkey

■ *“My parents had Jewish childhood friends, but suddenly they were not around anymore. I was always curious about why they had to move away... We were taught about how Turkey has always been tolerant but during my studies I wrote a research paper that made me realize that Turks have to face their past too.”*

This remark was made by one of the participants in the first-ever educational seminar on the Holocaust held in Istanbul at the end of October 2013. A group of 20 Turkish professors, all of whom teach in private and public universities in Turkey, came to Galatasaray University to participate in this tailor-made seminar, which was organized by Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

Jointly coordinated with the Paris-based Aladdin Project and supported by the



■ Senior Historian in Yad Vashem's International Research Institute Dr. David Silberklang (left) participates in a panel discussion at the first-ever educational seminar on the Holocaust in Istanbul.

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the seminar was the first stage of a five-part educational initiative for Turkish academics. The participants, who teach law, social sciences, education and the liberal arts, heard lectures on Holocaust education and antisemitism. Addressing the professors were incoming IHRA Chair Sir Andrew Burns, IHRA Executive Secretary Dr. Kathrin Meyer, Aladdin Project Executive Director Dr. Abe Radkin, the International School's European Department Director Richelle Budd Caplan and Senior Historian in Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. David Silberklang, with closing remarks by Dr. Umut Uzer of the Istanbul Technical University.

“At Yad Vashem, we are witnessing a growing interest in the Holocaust that traverses countries, religion and language,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “The International School for Holocaust Studies is prepared to meet this challenge. This is an initial, although important step, given the significance of Turkish society in the Muslim world.”

Turkey has been an observer country to the IHRA since 2008. Following the seminar, participants began an online study course in January 2014 on four topics: prewar Jewish life, prewar Germany, the ghettos and the “Final Solution.” In June 2014, the group will visit Jerusalem for a weeklong seminar at Yad Vashem. In the fourth stage, they will implement educational programs in their respective universities, with guidance and suggestions provided by staff from the International School's European Department. The program is planned



■ Dr. Abe Radkin and Richelle Budd Caplan at Galatasaray University, Istanbul

to culminate in February 2015, with a video conference bringing together the entire group of educators to assess the outcome of the long-term project.

“A few of the participants want to start implementing Holocaust-related programming in their universities this January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day,” said Richelle Budd Caplan. “They are already requesting more educational resources. This is a very encouraging sign.”

German Education Ministers Commit to Fostering Holocaust Teaching

■ In October 2013, a delegation of the *Kultusministerkonferenz* (the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs—KMK) of the Länder (States) of the Federal Republic of Germany participated in a daylong seminar at Yad Vashem. The visit, the culmination of two years of intensive behind-the-scenes preparation, had three main purposes: to bring the highest-ranking German educational policymakers to Yad Vashem; to strengthen cooperation with those German states that have already signed educational agreements; and to forge new contacts among the remaining states.

The six members of the distinguished delegation were guided through Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum; participated in a wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of

Remembrance; and heard the testimony of Dr. Ehud Loeb, a Holocaust survivor from Buehl who hid with a Christian family in France during the *Shoah*. German Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Andreas Michaelis and Cultural Attaché Stefan Kobsa joined the delegation in the new International Seminars Wing for a fruitful dialogue with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Director of the International School Dr. Eyal Kaminka.

At the conclusion of the visit, a joint declaration of intent was signed at Israel's Ministry of Education between (pictured, left to right): KMK President Stephan Dorgerloh, Israel's Education Minister Rabbi Shai Piron and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The declaration aims to foster the teaching of the Holocaust in the German educational



curriculum by increasing Yad Vashem's cooperation with German universities, Holocaust memorial sites, museums and other pedagogical institutions. This is the first such declaration that includes all 16 states in Germany.

Seminar for Educators from China



■ In October 2013, thirty MA and Doctoral students, university department heads and professors gathered at Yad Vashem for the fourth annual seminar for Chinese educators. The 16-day seminar included academic lectures on antisemitism, prewar and Holocaust literature, cultural resistance and Righteous Among the Nations, as well as pedagogical modeling of lessons about the Holocaust. Participants were provided with articles, documents, literature, maps and extended bibliographies – some in Chinese – to enhance the lectures and the overall learning experience.

The group took extensive tours of Israel, meeting with eight Holocaust survivors at various points in the program. These included two Jews saved by Righteous Among the Nations Oskar Schindler, who shared their experiences in the Emile Factory in Krakow, and Hana

Pick, the childhood friend of Anne Frank, who spoke extensively of their companionship as young children. Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak met with the seminar participants to engage in an in-depth discussion of the challenges of Holocaust education in the 21st century as well as a lively question-and-answer session.

“While the theory of human nature can’t explain the problem of war and peace, the awareness of human nature can save some lives at least,” wrote Zhang Tenghuan of Henan University at the seminar’s end. “Historical memory will never forget the Holocaust, because it is not only the catastrophe of the Jewish people but of all mankind.”

The seminar for Chinese educators was made possible through the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation.

Recent International Seminars

■ Over the course of the last few months, educators from across Europe – from Ireland to the Tatarstan Region of the Russian Federation – have taken part in more than 40 tailor-made professional development seminars, held in the International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies. For the first time, the School organized seminars for educators from Cyprus (pictured), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Hamburg region in Germany.



“Then and Now”: Canadian Alumni Educators’ Conference

■ “I can honestly say I have never attended a conference where every speaker was engaging and gave me something useful I can immediately bring to the classroom – until this one.”

Brenda Ball, participant in the “Then and Now” Educators’ Conference

Educators from across Canada converged in Toronto last summer for the inaugural “Then and Now” Alumni Educators’ Conference, at which graduates of the International School for Holocaust Studies shared their successful teaching practices and learned new pedagogical tools for teaching the Holocaust’s universal meanings. The conference was organized by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem under the leadership of its National Chair, Fran Sonshine, with the assistance of Conference Chair Risa Drimmer, Canadian Society Executive Chairman Yaron Ashkenazi and the Canadian Society’s National Education Advisory Council, co-chaired by David Lebovich and Jacquie Anderson, and in partnership with the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Dr. Mario Silva.



Participants heard inspiring lectures by the International School’s Pedagogical Director Shulamit Imber and Director of International Seminars Ephraim Kaye, Canadian Senator Art Eggleton, Prof. Irving Abella, and Holocaust survivors Dr. Thomas Hecht, a Yad Vashem supporter, and Felix Opatowski. As well as eight practical workshops, roundtable discussions were held on a variety of topics, such as modern-day antisemitism and using the Internet and social media to teach the Holocaust. In addition, a national online educators’ network

was launched to help participants and their colleagues continue to share ideas on an ongoing basis. The conference concluded with the educators signing a declaration in which they affirmed their commitment to carry the torch of memory through the teaching of the Shoah in their classrooms and communities.

The “Then and Now” Canadian Alumni Educators’ Conference was generously supported by: The Azrieli Foundation; The Asper Foundation; Hilton Suites Toronto/Markham Conference Centre & Spa; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Fran and Ed Sonshine in memory of Frida Lebovici, z”l; and Risa and Daniel Drimmer.

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:



Nathalie Leverrier France

James Joseph McIntosh



■ Graduate Nathalie Leverrier

■ After participating in a seminar at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in 2011, Nathalie Leverrier, a French fourth-grade history teacher and member of staff at the historical site of the Rivesaltes detention

camp, introduced her students to Kristian Levien, an elderly Frenchman who was in the process of discovering his Jewish past. Inspired by the International School's unique pedagogical approach to Holocaust teaching, Leverrier decided to acquaint her students at the Saint-Exupéry Secondary School in Perpignan with primary source materials and survivor testimonies as a way to learn about the Holocaust.

"We faced various challenges in trying to piece together M. Levien's story with him," explains Leverrier. "He was very young when the events occurred, and didn't remember much from that time. He had in his possession some photographs, letters and various administrative documents, but found the story too painful to discuss in person. Nevertheless, he agreed to maintain a prolific written correspondence with my students while the investigation was underway."

Over the course of a school year (November 2012-June 2013), Leverrier's students

reconstructed Levien's past, and charted it along a timeline in parallel to the major events that occurred in France during WWII. Leverrier organized study tours to the Rivesaltes memorial site and, together with her students, examined the different sources. One, a photograph of young Levien with his mother and a Swiss Red Cross nurse, was taken just after their liberation from Rivesaltes. His mother is smiling; the photo reveals none of her pain at the death of Laurence, her infant daughter. Levien was too young to remember his sister, and the discovery shook him deeply.

After six months of communicating with the students from afar, Levien announced his willingness to meet with them and discuss his story in person. The moving encounter with a survivor was a crucial factor for the youngsters in bringing a human face and voice to the Holocaust. "For 60 years, the life of a two-and-a-half-year-old little boy, held with his entire family at the Rivesaltes camp from 1941-1942, was 'locked' in a suitcase," said Levien. "I am Kristian, that little boy, the only survivor of his family. I am 74 years old, and I can't bear the thought that my life in Rivesaltes could disappear with my death."

Having studied source material, visited a historical site and spoken with an eyewitness, the students recorded what they had learned in an educational booklet, supported in part by the International School. They then presented the story of M. Levien to their peers, and even

wrote an article that was published in a local newspaper.

"Young people in France must be aware of the tragedy of the *Shoah* and understand



■ Holocaust survivor Kristian Levien works with the students of Nathalie Leverrier to piece together his personal story.

the role that the Vichy government played," said Leverrier. "I want them to learn how to utilize the tools of historians, value their role as 'transmitters of history' and pass on the memory of the past."

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

July 2014: 9th International Conference on Holocaust Education

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem is pleased to announce its 9th International Educators' Conference, to be held on 7-10 July 2014. Entitled "Through Our Own Lens: Reflecting on the Holocaust from Generation to Generation," the conference has three main goals: to provide an interdisciplinary look at the scholarly and determined efforts of the survivors to begin the process of education and remembrance; to examine the Holocaust-related research, art and literature contributed by the second and third generations; and to explore how this

education may be continued in the third and fourth generations and beyond. More than 350 participants from over 55 countries are expected to attend the conference, which will feature plenary sessions, workshops, films and performance arts, along with special guided tours of the Yad Vashem campus.

For the full agenda and conference registration: www1.yadvashem/education

The 9th International Conference on Holocaust Education is generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation, the Asper Foundation and the Claims Conference.



IHRA Defines Holocaust Denial and Distortion

Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman

■ At the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – formerly the ITF) plenary session in Toronto in October 2013, a working definition on Holocaust denial and distortion was formally adopted. The definition, which can be found in full on the IHRA website (www.holocaustremembrance.com), is now an official working tool of IHRA, and as such holds many potential policy ramifications for the 31 member countries. The ratification made international headlines, reopening discourse among the wider public about rising denial and distortion, which according to the IHRA definition can range from outright denial to attempts to minimize or trivialize the extent of the Holocaust.

Additional decisions at the plenary included: establishing the “Yehuda Bauer Grant,” in honor of IHRA Honorary Chairman and Yad Vashem Academic Advisor, for one outstanding proposal each year; the acceptance of Uruguay as an Observer Country; and the endorsement of Hungary to take on the 2015 Chairmanship, after the UK takes over from Canada next year.

Canadian government ministers, diplomats from across the world and local figures

attended the various meetings and events, including a dinner organized by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, at which Righteous Among the Nations Gert Jan Kottelenberg, his brother Jan and his wife Hermina, and Bob and Maria de Jongh were honored (pictured below). Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Israeli Consul General DJ Schneeweiss presented certificates of honor to their descendants.

Further, the two Canadian students who won the “Keeping the Memory Alive” poster competition, Caitlin McGinn and Carling Hind, received their prizes from Canadian Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Jason Kenney.

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



New at the Virtual School Sub-site for 27 January Provides Multilingual Material

Dr. Na’ama Shik

■ *“I believe that, at the end of the day, we survivors deserve a special award, for despite all we went through and where we came from and what we saw, we were able to produce a new generation and live and contribute to our country.”*

Yafa Harth, Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor

The establishment of International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the UN on 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, encourages UN states to develop educational programs and hold state and local remembrance ceremonies that will pass on the legacy of Holocaust remembrance to the younger generations.

To mark this important day, the International School for Holocaust Studies has created a special sub-site comprising a range of educational materials – lesson plans, ceremonies, learning environments and testimonies – on topics that will emphasize, among others, the voices of the survivors. In light of the international focus of the day, and in accordance with the work of the International School around the world, these materials appear in a number of languages, including English, Hebrew, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, Czech, Arabic and Chinese.

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



New in the Art Collection

“In Memory of Our Destroyed Synagogues in Germany”

Yehudit Shendar and Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

■ *“This Judaism again I have come to accept with all my spiritual powers; to this treasure, which the most modern people neither know nor respect, belongs my innermost being.”*

Ludwig Meidner, 1930

The rise of the Nazis to power in 1933 sealed the fate of avant-garde artists: their artworks were declared “degenerate.” The newly instilled ideology considered them a defiling influence on the Aryan race, not least because this art was viewed as having Jewish characteristics.

An exhibition under this very title was opened in Munich in 1937, aiming to incite German citizens against avant-garde art. Among the works presented at the infamous exhibition were the paintings of Ludwig Meidner, a Jewish artist expelled from all public artistic presence alongside his fellow modernists, when German art and culture underwent increasing Nazification under Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels. Meidner’s books and monographs were thrown into the flames at mass book burnings, and 84 of his artworks were taken off display in museums across Germany.

On the artist’s 50th birthday, in 1934, a solo exhibition of his works was presented at the Jewish Museum in Berlin: his last exhibition until the fall of the Nazi regime. Shortly afterwards, Meidner, once a preeminent master at the Levin-Fonka Art Studio in Berlin who mentored such illustrious students as Felix Nussbaum and Felka Platek, found himself struggling to make ends meet. Distraught, he accepted an invitation to teach art at the Yavne Realgymnasium in Cologne, where he moved in 1935 with his painter wife Else (née Maier) and their son David.

Paradoxically, as the persecution of Jews intensified, Meidner became increasingly observant, moving from the Conservative branch of Judaism towards Orthodoxy. It was as an Orthodox Jew that he experienced the events of November 1938 in Cologne that later became known as *Kristallnacht* (it was called by the Jews “the November pogrom”) and took to signing his artworks with the Hebrew letter “Mem” from that time onwards.

In his 1939 drawing in chalk and charcoal – a



■ Ludwig Meidner (1884-1966), *In Memory of our Destroyed Synagogues in Germany 10/11/1938, 1939*. Chalk and charcoal on paper. Collection of the Museum of Holocaust Art

far departure from the style of his more familiar expressionist works – Meidner reacts to the destruction surrounding him. In an inscription on the back of the work, he unequivocally dedicates it to “the memory of our destroyed synagogues in Germany.” The drawing portrays two bearded figures, each donning a skullcap and wrapped in a prayer shawl, against the backdrop of burning ruins and billowing smoke. The front figure is reminiscent of Meidner’s portraits of observant Jews dating back to the 1930s, perhaps even of the artist himself depicted with similar attributes. This figure, sitting according to the traditional Jewish mourning custom, is holding up a parchment of a desecrated Torah scroll. The man behind him is covering half of his face with his hand, eyes shut in an expression of deep distress, evoking *Shema Yisrael* – the foundational Jewish prayer. These two figures

thus symbolize the Jewish people’s attachment to their legacy in spite of past and present tribulations. For Meidner, the Torah and the Jewish faith were the very source of strength for the Jewish people at this fateful hour.

The exact date of the pogrom according to the Jewish calendar is indicated upon a fragment of parchment echoing with the torn Torah scroll: “17 MarHeshvan 5699.” An enigmatic figure only seen from the back – a woman, or perhaps an angel – is pointing a finger at the inscription, in an iconographic reference to Rembrandt’s “Feast of Balthazar.” In that famous painting, depicting an episode from the Book of Daniel, amidst a royal feast prominently displaying the vessels plundered from the Temple in Jerusalem, a

mysterious hand appeared and inscribed a riddle phrase upon the wall, later deciphered by the Prophet Daniel as a prediction of the imminent fall of the mighty Babylonian Empire. Thus, Meidner draws a common thread between the destruction of the Temple and the devastating events of *Kristallnacht*. The artist both foresees and hopes that the destruction and profanation of Jewish synagogues in Germany will bring about the end of the Third Reich. Both the style and the content of the artwork herald the beginning of an artistic series dedicated to the sufferings of the Jews of Poland from 1942-1945, whilst he and his family found refuge in England, managing a narrow escape just months after the events described in this powerful drawing.

Yehudit Shendar is Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director, Museums Division. Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg is a curator in the Museums Division.

Inspired by Her Discovery

Family Reunion Prompts Volunteer Work in Names Collection



Deborah Berman

■ **Bostonian Cheryl Finkelstein (née Priven) understands better than most how commemorating those who were murdered in the Holocaust can have an enormous impact on the present.** Growing up, the Privens did not know much about their family history or the tragic fate of relatives from their father's ancestral village of Pavoloch, Ukraine. Driven to uncover their family roots, siblings Lew and Cheryl embarked on a genealogical search that began with a trip to Ukraine and ultimately led to an emotional extended family reunion, thanks to Yad Vashem's Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names. The reunion prompted Cheryl to join the ranks of the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project's global volunteer network, assisting others in commemorating their lost loved ones.

Following her stay in Ukraine, Cheryl searched the Names Database and discovered Pages of Testimony for her murdered family members, submitted to Yad Vashem in 1999 by Rudolf Priven, who had immigrated to Salt Lake City from the Former Soviet Union in the 1990s. This discovery of previously unknown living relatives, who not only survived the war but also eventually immigrated to the United States, allowed Cheryl to connect with a new branch of her family.



■ Lew Priven (left) and Cheryl (Priven) Finkelstein (second from right) with newly found cousin, Rudolf Priven, and his wife Natalya

Rudolf Priven, 75, is a retired physician who grew up in the Ural Mountains region after he and his mother Fanya were sent there from Kiev by the Soviets. At their reunion, the two groups of Privens confirmed that they were second cousins: Rudolf's grandfather, Haskel Priven, was a brother of Morris Priven, the grandfather of Lew and Cheryl. Morris left Pavoloch for the United States in 1922 and settled in Boston,



■ Cheryl (Priven) Finkelstein speaks at the bar mitzvah "twinning" ceremony of her great-nephew Jalen and Haim Okham, z"l, in Yad Vashem's Synagogue

where he worked as a carpenter. Lew and Cheryl had diagrammed a detailed family tree based on conversations with their father, Julius. The tree proved invaluable in establishing the connection to Rudolf's side of the family.

Subsequent to the discovery, Cheryl's great-nephew Jalen participated in a bar mitzvah commemoration and "twinning" ceremony at Yad Vashem, in which he took it upon himself to honor and uphold the memory of his third cousin, Haim Okham, who was murdered in the Holocaust at the age of 13 and discovered by the family in the Names Database. At this point, Cheryl decided to commit herself to providing assistance to others who were interested in submitting information regarding Holocaust victims. "I was inspired by the discovery in my family not only of a living relative, which in and of itself seems miraculous, but also of members of our family who had been murdered during the *Shoah*. Because someone took the time to put information about them in the Names Database, we have been able to acknowledge relatives we never met, and of course never will. We know their names, the names of their spouses and their children, and we know how and when they died," Cheryl explained. "Through my own experiences, I understood the importance of this work and wanted to be a part of it. Contacting and coordinating with local organizations and

meeting survivors have been both rewarding and personally meaningful."

For more information about the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project, please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il

Young Russians to Help in Names Recovery

■ In October 2013, Dr. Aron Shneyer, Manager of Community Relations and Russian-speaking Jewish organizations of the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project (center, to the left of the banner) joined Igor Dabakarov, Chairman of the Russian Jewish Youth Congress (RJYC) to conduct a training seminar in Ulyanovsk (Russia) for young Jewish communal leaders



who will coordinate names recovery activities in their respective communities in Russia. The seminar marks a new partnership between the RJYC and Yad Vashem in names collection.

Aftermath: Winner of the Chairman's Award

■ The 2013 “Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award” was granted at the Jerusalem International Film Festival last July to Polish director Wladyslaw Pasikowski for his gripping film, *Aftermath*.

Jan Tomasz Gross’s book *Neighbors* (2000) engendered a scholarly exploration of the role of some Poles as perpetrators, the deliberate cover-up of this significant chapter in the history of the Holocaust in Poland and the torment of discovery by a younger generation born after the war. Pasikowski’s film, which brought these charged issues to the screen, attained much public attention and created a lively debate.

The competition jury, which comprised Ami Drozd, a Warsaw-born Israeli film director and producer; American essayist and critic Adina Hoffman; and Prof. Emerita Regine-Mihal Friedman of the Department of Cinema and Television Studies at Tel-Aviv University,

concluded: “*Aftermath* is a gripping journey into the heart of the Holocaust’s darkness, a film that manages both to tackle the most painful of historical events and to bring them eerily to life

in the present tense. Pasikowski’s film is a courageous – and necessary – reckoning with



willful forgetting; it’s also a visually startling and wrenching movie about Poles and Jews, brothers and neighbors, and what lies beneath them.”

Israeli director Yoav Halevy’s *Bureau 06* received an honorable mention at the festival. The jury called the film “an energetic, well-researched examination of the police unit assigned to interrogate Adolf Eichmann before his trial. While the Israeli public knows a great deal about the trial itself, the story of the legal preparation and those involved is not well known. This documentary takes us behind the scenes of history in a dynamic and moving fashion.”

The “Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award” is generously endowed by Michaela and Leon Constantiner.

Israel Educational TV Collection Preserved at Yad Vashem

■ At the end of 2013, the Visual Center signed an agreement with Israel’s Educational Television network (Channel 23), making it the first television channel to deposit copies of all of its programs and films about the Holocaust in the digital film library. According to the agreement, some 160 programs and films produced by IETV since the channel’s inception at the end of the 1960s will be digitally preserved and made available for immediate viewing by Visual Center visitors. In this way, the Visual Center contributes to the preservation of the Israeli audio-visual heritage on the topic of Holocaust, and enables IETV to preserve its contents for future generations.

Among the films to be deposited are interview programs that have had great impact on Israeli public discourse, programming

for younger viewers and many important documentaries. Leora Berger, Channel 23’s Director of Marketing, vigorously devoted herself to the project: “I needed to draw on my inner strength in order to deal with the difficult images while compiling the list of all of IETV’s Holocaust-related programs. But since I have a personal connection to the Holocaust, I saw my involvement as the fulfillment of a mission.”

New Acquisitions

■ Many recent internationally acclaimed Holocaust films were acquired in 2013 by the Visual Center. Of special note are Arnon Goldfinger’s award-winning *The Apartment*, released on DVD a few months ago; *Numbered*, by Dana Doron and Uriel Sinai, dealing with the attitudes of Auschwitz survivors and their families to the numbers tattooed on the survivors’ arms; David Fisher’s *Six Million and One*, covering his family’s journey to Europe to uncover the meaning of his father’s Holocaust experiences; *The Counsel of Bordeaux*, the story of Righteous Among the Nations Aristides de Sousa Mendes; and veteran German director Margarethe von Trotta’s biopic *Hannah Arendt*. The Visual Center’s acquisitions policy has evolved into producing translations into Hebrew of major films for the benefit of its audience at special screenings in Israel. Recent translations include *In Heaven*, *Underground*, the story of Jewish life in Berlin against the backdrop of the Weissensee cemetery (recipient of an honorable mention in the Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman’s Award); *As Day Breaks*, a Serbian drama about Jewish identity and music; and *When Memory Comes: Saul Friedländer’s Story*.

Liat Benhabib is Director of the Visual Center and Mimi Ash is responsible for the Center’s Film Acquisitions.

Saul Kagan, z”l

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Saul Kagan, Holocaust survivor and one of the founders of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.



Saul Kagan was born in 1922, in Vilna. In 1940, the year that the Soviet Union occupied the city, he left for the US and settled in New York with relatives. His father,

Solomon, was administrator of Vilna’s Jewish hospital; he was in the Soviet Union when the German army arrived in Vilna in 1941 and thus survived the war. His mother, Leah, and his brother, Emanuel, were never seen again.

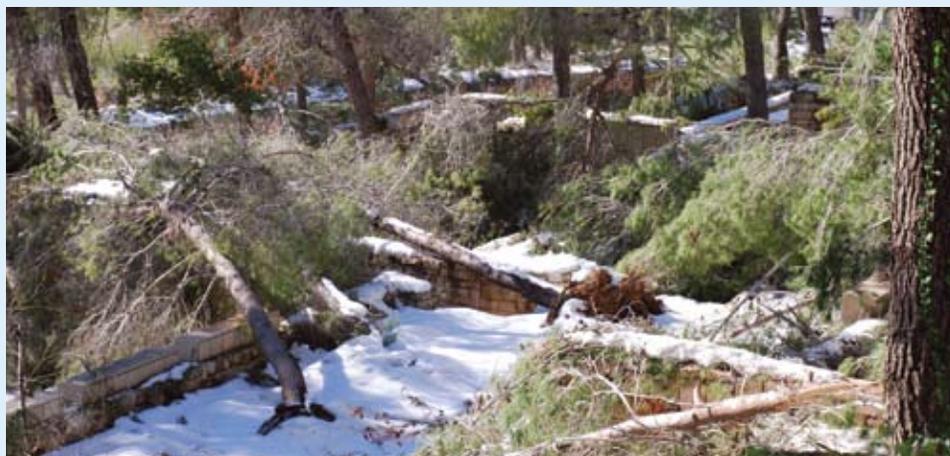
After serving in the US Army, Kagan helped establish the Claims Conference in 1951 to demand reparations from “the successor state of the Third Reich [West Germany] for the Nazi genocide against Europe’s Jews.” When East and West Germany reunited in 1990, Kagan insisted

on establishing additional compensation to reflect the East Germans’ share in the Jewish persecution.

“Saul was a courageous, wise and effective advocate for justice, remembrance and the welfare of the Jewish people and Israel,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “It was a privilege for me to know him, work with him on behalf of survivor rights and Shoah remembrance, and learn from his great wisdom, insight and vast experience.”

Snowstorm Disrupts Activities and Causes Tremendous Damage

■ Despite its breathtaking appearance as the capital city turned white overnight, the severe snowstorm that engulfed Jerusalem in mid-December compelled Yad Vashem to close for several days. In its wake, a great amount of havoc was clearly visible across the Mount of Remembrance. Fallen trees littered the site, and caused significant injury to various areas, including the Garden of the Righteous and the Valley of the Communities. Dedicated maintenance and security staff secured the site during the emergency, and labored tirelessly to ensure the safe return of visitors and employees to the campus. Efforts continue to clear the debris and repair the damage.



New on www.yadvashem.org

Dana Porath

Two New Online Exhibitions: The Jewish Community in Bratislava

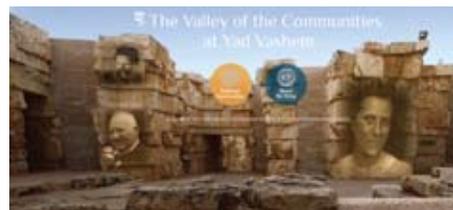
■ An exploration of the dynamic religious and cultural life of the Jewish community of Bratislava before WWII, its fate during



the Holocaust, and efforts at postwar commemoration. Two narrated short films comprising video testimonies and photos visually tell the story of both the Jewish community of Bratislava and the story of the Working Group, a Jewish semi-underground rescue organization in Slovakia – which makes up a significant part of the exhibition.

The Valley of the Communities

■ A showcase of Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities as well as the stories of six Jewish communities from across Europe. Specially



featured is a unique and experiential video tour of the walls and courtyards of the Valley, integrating scenes of prewar Jewish life.

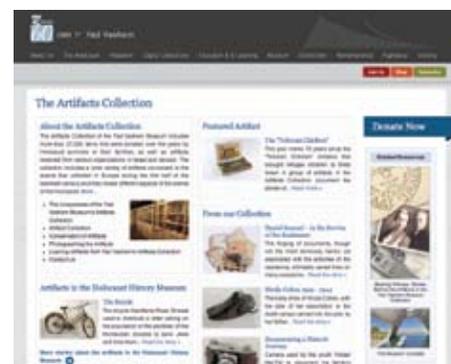
New on the German Website

■ To mark 75 years since *Kristallnacht*, four new online exhibits highlighting personal stories and experiences related to events of the November 1938 pogrom were recently launched on Yad Vashem's website in German.

organized in an exemplary manner. Moreover, the website serves millions of people from hundreds of countries around the world."

Artifacts Sub-site

■ A new sub-site was recently launched featuring the work of Yad Vashem's Artifacts Department. The site presents the history of the unique Artifacts Collection, its mission and various activities; those artifacts displayed in the



Holocaust History Museum with comprehensive information and relevant photographs; and items of Judaica on show in the Yad Vashem Synagogue alongside their individual stories. Also highlighted are groups of artifacts from the Collection connected to specific historical events, as well as new items that have recently arrived at Yad Vashem. The site invites viewers to familiarize themselves with items not necessarily on display in the Museum Complex, and also exhibits photographs from the early days of the Department in the 1990s and onwards, specifically focusing on the assembly of the Collection and the building of the new Holocaust History Museum.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.

Website Wins WebiAward 2013



■ Once again, the Yad Vashem website has won the *People and Computers Magazine* Special Category WebiAward. Rachel Barkai, Director of Yad Vashem's Commemoration and Public Relations Division (center), and Dana Porath, Director of Yad Vashem's Internet Department (left), accepted the prize from



WebiAward Chairman Ido Levy (right). *People and Computers* singled out the Yad Vashem Website for its "unique excellence" regarding the information it provides online.

"The Yad Vashem website is a leading example for websites in Israel," remarked the panel of judges. "It contains an enormous range of content,

“Gathering the Fragments”: Rare Trove of Dutch Artifacts Testify to Remarkable Rescue Story

Richard Mann

■ During the German occupation of Holland, Jan Giliam, a police detective from Haarlem, who frequented the Jewish-owned store of Jacques De Vries, urged Jacques and his family to go into hiding, offering his own home as a temporary way station. Within a few days, Giliam managed to arrange permanent hideouts for the fugitive family. Several months later, the fiancé of one of the De Vries’ daughters, Simcha van Frank, came to Giliam, also seeking a place to hide. He stayed with Giliam for two nights before relocating to a permanent shelter where he remained until the end of the war. In February 1943, Giliam was betrayed; he was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the Euterpestraat, the SS-headquarters in Amsterdam, and then to the Amersfoort internment camp. While in the camp, he succeeded in sending out a warning to his protégés. Only after he heard that they had received his warning and moved to safety did Giliam succumb to torture and admit to having helped Jews. For unknown reasons, he was released. Upon his discharge, he immediately contacted those in hiding to check if they were still safe. He remained in contact with them until the end of the war.

For close to 70 years, the De Vries and van Frank families and their descendants cared for and cherished their personal artifacts and documentation from the war years. In 2008, they decided to donate these items – including a carefully preserved journal, an underground newspaper, forged identification documents, letters and poems – to the Yad Vashem Archives for permanent safekeeping. Last October, some 50 members of the extended family gathered at Yad Vashem for a special event as part of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign to rescue personal items from the Holocaust period.

Attending the event was Lenie De Vries, the last living survivor of the family, as well as Klaas Giliam, the son of Jan Giliam, who was honored as Righteous Among the Nations in 1977. Klaas delivered a heartfelt speech about how his father had courageously come to the aid of the Jewish family in their time of need and did not betray them, even under the most terrible suffering. He then presented Yad Vashem with a memento of his own: a letter written on a piece of cloth that his father had secreted to his mother in



■ Klaas Giliam, son of Righteous Among the Nations Jan Giliam, reads from a letter his father secreted to his mother in a laundry bag while he was incarcerated in Nazi headquarters.

a laundry bag while he was incarcerated in the Nazi headquarters.

“Together with the artifacts donated by the survivor families, this fragile memento serves as testimony to this incredible rescue story,” said Yad Vashem Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner. “The events and their fortunate outcome are a paradigm of how one courageous human being has the potential to save so many innocent lives.”

"Maror" Foundation Enables Discovery of More Information on Dutch Jewry

Sigal Arie-Erez

■ Extensive material on the persecution of Dutch Jews during and after the Holocaust has recently been revealed in the Yad Vashem Archives through a special project generously supported by the Foundation for Collective “Maror” Funds, Israel (Maror Foundation). By locating and cataloging dozens of documentary collections and thousands of files, information on a wide variety of topics has been discovered, including businesses owned by Dutch Jews before the war, the persecution of Jews in Holland by the German occupation authorities, the work of the *Joodse Raad* (the Jewish Council of Holland), Jewish education in Holland during the Holocaust, Jewish prisoners at concentration camps in Holland and in the East, witness accounts given by Dutch Jews, and court claims for compensation of Jewish property robbed by Germans in Holland. In total, 2,100 files were catalogued between 2011 and 2012, and new information obtained on some 20,000 Dutch Jews, which was added to the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names.

With the support of the Maror Foundation, a special team was established for cataloguing and indexing data, including verbal descriptions of the materials and search fields such as geographical locations, relevant dates and other keywords. The new data, accessible to the public via computer terminals in the Yad Vashem reading room and via the Names Database on the Yad Vashem website, enables users to locate necessary information quickly and easily. Among the materials registered in the Archives are collections from the National Archives at The Hague, Amsterdam’s City Archives and NIOD Archives, the collection of Dutch Jewish Communities, which contains documents from over 200 city archives across the Netherlands, and documents donated by individuals of Dutch origin.

“The names of the Jews from Holland murdered during the Holocaust are mostly known and appear in the book *In Memoriam*,” explains Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner. “The goal of the project was to reveal various archival lists

and materials with information relating to Dutch Jews – both victims and survivors – and thus understand what happened to them during the *Shoah*. Finding the information in the various documents and lists allows us to retrace their steps through the various stages of the war: where they used to live before deportation and what was their profession or line of business, when they were arrested, who their persecutors were, at what point they were deported, who was hospitalized at the camps and when, and until what point they remained alive. In this way, we can expand upon the individual stories of Dutch Jewry during WWII, and expose younger generations and the public at large to their fate both in Holland and beyond. The support of the Maror Foundation is thus vitally important, enabling Yad Vashem to present its unique Dutch collections to the public, through the use of advanced cataloguing and indexing.”

The author is Director of the Registration and Accessibility Department, Archives Division.

30,000 Synagogue Photographs Donated to the Archives

Richard Mann

■ On 21 October 2013, Rivka and Ben-Zion Dorfman presented to Yad Vashem their archive of photographs of synagogues throughout central Europe. Over the course of 30 years, the couple traveled from town to town, documenting old synagogues through the camera lens. Now in their late eighties, the Dorfmans gave their extensive archive of over 30,000 photographs to Yad Vashem so that it could be preserved for future generations.

The presentation of the archive included lectures about synagogue architecture, and took place in Yad Vashem's Synagogue, which displays Judaica from destroyed synagogues in Europe and serves as a memorial to the destroyed places of worship of European Jewry.

"The Dorfman Archive of Synagogue Art and Architecture Collection will expand the visual documentation of those communities that were destroyed and provide additional information regarding what remains of them



■ A photo of the architecture inside one of the central European synagogues from the Dorfman Archive

today," said Yad Vashem Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner. "The photographs, information, interviews and measurements included in the archive will enable the expansion of research, not only of the destroyed communities themselves but also of their postwar remnants. The history, architecture and culture of the destroyed



■ Ben-Zion Dorfman (left) presents Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner and Director General Dorit Novak with digital scans of the photo collection

synagogues shed additional light on an entire religious and cultural world that was destroyed with the decimation of Jewish communities in Europe during the *Shoah*."

The Dorfman Archive was acquired by Yad Vashem through the generosity of Sheila and Bob Friedland.

Swedish Ambulance Restored Iris Bar-Nir Cohen

■ This past November, the Swedish Ambulance was put back on display at Yad Vashem following four months of restoration. It will continue to tell the story of how thousands of prisoners were taken out of Nazi concentration camps during WWII to receive medical treatment in Sweden by what became known as the "Bernadotte Convoy." The bus, transformed into an ambulance, was one of the dozens of vehicles that comprised the rescue convoy.

As Nazi Germany was nearing military defeat, Count Folke Bernadotte, appointed by the Swedish Red Cross as the official envoy for POW exchange between Germany and the Allied Forces, reached an agreement with the heads of the SS whereby prisoners would be released from Nazi concentration camps. In negotiations with Heinrich Himmler, Bernadotte managed to secure the release of Scandinavian nationals, including some 400 Jews from Denmark who were being held at Theresienstadt. In due course, Bernadotte brought about the release of thousands of additional prisoners of various nationalities. In the wake of these agreements, in March and April 1945, dozens of buses, some of which had been converted into Swedish Red Cross ambulances, set off for Germany. Over 20,000 prisoners – mostly women, and among them several thousand Jews – were transported out of Germany by these convoys for rehabilitation in Sweden. The convoys were



■ The Swedish rescue ambulance before restoration (left) and arriving back at Yad Vashem afterwards

accompanied by doctors and nurses, as well as a large team of volunteers, and brought food and medical supplies.

In the early 1990s, ties were established with the Sweden-Israel Friendship Association, and one of the original ambulances from the Bernadotte Convoy was donated to Yad Vashem. After the ambulance arrived in Israel, it was restored by a local branch of Volvo and placed in a spot that was later used to build Yad Vashem's International School and Library and Archives buildings. At this point the ambulance received special conservation treatment by Yad Vashem Museums Division restoration experts and was transferred to its current location, next to the Auditorium building and near the Memorial to the Deportees (Cattle Car), with a canopy protecting the venerable bus from the elements.



With the passing of years and due to damage caused by rain, humidity and the powerful Mediterranean sun, the ambulance eventually needed further renovation. When Yad Vashem approached Merkavim Transportation Technologies, Ltd. – a major Israeli company that designs and builds buses – CEO Michael (Mika) Maixner immediately offered to take the ambulance for repair, free of charge, at the company's workshops.

In July 2013, the Swedish Ambulance was taken by Merkavim for restoration and comprehensive conservation treatment. Some four months later, the ambulance was returned to its permanent location at Yad Vashem.

The author works in the Artifacts Department, Museums Division.

Looking Back, Moving Ahead: Yad Vashem at 60

Richard Mann



■ Prof. Pawel Spiewak of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland, addresses the audience at the symposium marking 60 years of Yad Vashem

■ **“Yad Vashem’s story as an institution is rare: an initially small, grassroots initiative in a new nation that developed remarkably into a world-renowned institution which meaningfully influences multitudes of people, in the Israeli, Jewish and international spheres. This influence provides a guiding path in the**

fields of Holocaust research, documentation, education and commemoration.”

So stated Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev at the international symposium marking 60 years since the establishment of Yad Vashem held on 19 December 2013. The day-long event, organized by the International

Institute for Holocaust Research and held in the new Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, featured speakers from Israel, Poland, France and Germany who discussed its formation, consolidation and challenges. In addition to Shalev, lecturers included Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, Chairman of the Claims Conference Executive Committee Reuven Merhav, Head of the Research Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies Prof. Dan Michman, previous Director of the Research Institute Dr. Bella Guterman, Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, Dr. Boaz Cohen (Israel), Prof. Annette Wieviorka (France), Prof. Pawel Spiewak (Poland), and Dr. Susanne Heim (Germany).

Recounting the uniqueness of Yad Vashem in the world, Rabbi Lau highlighted the importance of the institution’s success in maintaining a unified space for Holocaust remembrance. “Yad Vashem serves as a keepsake for the entire Jewish people and not just specific sectors of it, thus providing a more comprehensive and complete account of the Jewish experience during the Holocaust.”

The Symposium was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

Bank of Israel Commemorative Coin Marks 60 Years of Yad Vashem

■ A special commemorative coin issued by the Bank of Israel to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Yad Vashem was presented to Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) by the Governor of the Bank of Israel, Dr. Karnit Flug (left), at a special ceremony held at Yad Vashem on the fourth day of Hanukkah, 1 December 2013.

Designed by artist Yossi Lemel, the coin obverse bears Israel’s state emblem, the word “Israel” in English, Hebrew and Arabic, and the coin’s face value, mint year and mint mark. The reverse depicts a striped shirt with a yellow Star of David, which Jews were forced to wear during the *Shoah*. A Star of David rising in the background symbolizes the continuity and rebirth of the Jewish people in the modern State of Israel. Around the border is the inscription “Yad Vashem – 60 Years.”

“I am moved to stand here at Yad Vashem, as the Governor of the Bank of Israel, and daughter of Noach Flug, who served as chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel,” said Dr. Flug at the event. “I’m proud to take part in strengthening the economy and prosperity of the State of Israel, which serve as a fitting response to the history seen here before us.”

The coin is available in three variations: gold proof-quality with a face value of 10 NIS, and two sterling silver coins of 2 NIS and 1 NIS face value each. The coin is distributed by Israel Coins and Medals Corp., and part of the proceeds from its sale will be donated to Yad Vashem.

To order the coin, or for more information, please go to: www.israelmint.com



International MA in Holocaust Studies

■ This October, a second group of 29 students from eight countries began an MA program in Holocaust Studies at Haifa University, jointly run with Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. The students range from their early twenties and fresh out of college to their late sixties and nearing retirement, and hail from a range of backgrounds, including history, political science, law, psychology, medicine, art, filmmaking, journalism, tour guiding, theater, engineering and marketing.

The MA program – now in its second year – is a unique graduate program in Israel; its multi-disciplinary and international approach is refreshing for both teachers and students, and its inclusion of internships at Yad Vashem and other institutions, a study trip to Poland and Germany, seminars at Yad Vashem and The Ghetto Fighters' House and more make for a stimulating learning experience.

“Class discussions are lively: the students think and analyze as they try to piece together the historical puzzle,” says Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute and a key lecturer in the program. “Their diversity enriches the discussion, and often produces unexpected observations and penetrating questions that challenge me as a teacher. I am hopeful that this program – which will eventually grow into a PhD program – will make an important contribution to Holocaust research and education worldwide.”

New Research on Soviet Jewry during the Shoah

■ The Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust, which was established at the International Institute for Holocaust Research in 2010, is currently engaged in several important projects. Within the framework of the *Search and Research* series published by the Institute, the collection *Representation of the Holocaust in Soviet Literature and Film*, based on materials presented at a conference held at Yad Vashem in February 2013, is currently being completed for publication. This collection contains articles by scholars from the US, Germany and Israel, which deal with the topic of how a number of writers and film directors succeeded in presenting, by indirect means, their views of the Holocaust – despite the firm intention of the Soviet authorities to keep this topic from drawing public attention.

In addition, the Center is working on the preparation of a collection of letters written by Soviet Jews during WWII. Among the major

International Book Prize

■ The 2013 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research, in memory of Holocaust survivor Abraham Meir Schwarzbach and his family members murdered in the Holocaust, has been awarded to Dr. Avihu Ronen for his book *Condemned to Life: The Diaries and Life of Chajka Klinger* (University of Haifa and Yedioth Books, 2011) and to Prof. Bernard Wasserstein for his book *On the Eve: The Jews of Europe Before the Second World War* (London: Profile Books, 2012).

“Of all the books that were placed before members of the Book Prize Committee this year, two books were especially prominent,” commented the Book Prize Committee. “*Condemned to Life* offers a rare blend of logic and emotion, humanity and power – a combination that sweeps the reader



continent-wide step by step overview of the situation of European Jewry between the two world wars.”

with it from the very first page and makes the book suitable for both researchers and the general public alike... Elegantly written and organized in a generally thematic manner, *On the Eve* provides a truly comprehensive,

Najmann Lecture on Holocaust Denial

■ The annual lecture of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies was given on 7 November by Yad Vashem's Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat (pictured). Prof. Porat spoke on “The Christian Roots of Holocaust Denial.” Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies, provided the opening remarks.



Dr. Arkadi Zeltser

Within the educational sphere, in May 2014 the author of this article will be teaching a course entitled “The Holocaust in the USSR and the Countries of Eastern Europe” at St. Petersburg University. The course will examine the specific features of the Holocaust on Soviet territory, as well as the methodological problems involved in studying this topic. The Center has also begun preparing a special course entitled “The Holocaust in the Soviet Union,” to be taught by Yad Vashem researchers at the University of Haifa in the summer of 2014. The course is part of the MA program in Holocaust Studies (see above), organized by the University with the participation of Yad Vashem.

The activity of the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust is made possible by the generous support of the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

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

During July–December 2013, Yad Vashem conducted some 375 guided tours for more than 4,300 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, royal guests and ambassadors, military and religious leaders, NGO officials and members of the entertainment industry. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these six months:

■ During their visit to Yad Vashem on 4 November, **President of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski** and his wife Anna toured the exhibition “I Am My Brother’s Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring Righteous Among the Nations,” accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The President, who previously visited Yad Vashem in 2009, also participated in a memorial ceremony with Israel’s President Shimon Peres and laid a wreath in Janusz Korczak Square.



■ **HRH The Crown Prince of Denmark Frederik André Henrik Christian** (right) was accompanied by Danish Minister of Education Christine Antorini on a visit to Yad Vashem on 30 October. During his tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) pointed out one of the boats that helped rescue Danish Jewry during the Holocaust.



■ **Foreign Minister of Norway Børge Brende** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 24 November.



■ **President of France François Hollande** (center) and his partner Valérie Trierweiler were joined by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara at Yad Vashem on 17 November. Accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, the honored guests visited the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance in the presence of Israel’s President Shimon Peres, visited the Children’s Memorial and signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book.



■ **Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 8 December. In the guest book, he stressed “the need to keep on fighting antisemitism and discrimination.”



■ **Foreign Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida** toured Yad Vashem on 24 July 2013. During his visit, the Foreign Minister paid tribute to Japanese Righteous Among the Nations Chiune Sempo Sugihara at the tree planted in his honor.



■ On 7 October, **President of the Czech Republic Milos Zeman** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Hall of Names and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Prime Minister of Greece Antonis Samaras** (left), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos and other senior government ministers toured Yad Vashem on 8 October. At the visit’s end, Moshe Ha-Elion, Holocaust survivor and member of the Yad Vashem Directorate (right), presented the Prime Minister with a special medallion, issued in March 2013 by Greek Holocaust survivors to mark 70 years since the beginning of the destruction of Greek Jewry during the *Shoah*.



■ On 25 November, **Hungarian Foreign Minister János Martonyi** visited the Yad Vashem exhibition, “With Me Here Are Six Million Accusers: Marking 50 Years since the Eichmann Trial.”



■ On 28 October, **President of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan** (second from left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar.



■ **Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat** (second from right) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 15 October by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (right).



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 24 December, **Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlăţean** (right, with Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Eyal Kaminka) pledged to extend cooperation between his Ministry and Yad Vashem in the fields of education, research and the media, and to deepen Romania's commitment to accurate Holocaust remembrance and to combating any expressions of antisemitism.



■ **President of Guatemala Otto Fernando Perez Molina** visited Yad Vashem on 9 December. The President toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ On 15 October, **Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Peter O'Neill** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 12 November, **Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders** announced the Belgian Government's support of maintaining the online database of Belgian Righteous Among the Nations, and their assistance in scanning the files of the Belgian Righteous. Over the past five decades, the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations has recognized some 25,000 individuals who risked their lives to rescue Jews during the Holocaust, including 1,646 Belgians.



■ **President of the Generalitat of Catalonia Artur Mas** (right) and his wife were guided through the Holocaust History Museum on 12 November by Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram.



■ **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** visited Yad Vashem on 19 December 2013. He toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial.



■ On 10 October, **Andrea Bartali** toured Yad Vashem during his visit to Israel for the Gran Fondo Giro d'Italia cycling event that took place in Jerusalem. Andrea Bartali is the son of the late Righteous Among the Nations Gino Bartali, who risked his life to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. One of those whom Bartali rescued was Guilia Baquis, who also participated in the visit. After a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Andrea Bartali unveiled his father's name on the Wall of Honor in the Garden of the Righteous. A ceremony posthumously honoring Gino Bartali, including presentation of the medal and certificate of honor, took place in Italy with the participation of family members and friends.



75 Years since *Kristallnacht*

■ A memorial ceremony and symposium were held on 10 November to mark 75 years since the *Kristallnacht* pogrom. At the event, which was held in cooperation with the Association of Israelis of Central European Origin, were hundreds of members of the Association, Holocaust survivors, members of the next generations, representatives of the Action



Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP), IDF soldiers and students at the Kfar Hayarok High School. Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, Chairman of the Association of Israelis of Central European Origin Reuven Merhav, Chairman of the Lobby for Holocaust Survivors Dov Khenin MK and ARSP representative Naomi Roth addressed the participants. Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat gave a lecture on 1938 as a turning point in history, and a stimulating dialogue with Holocaust survivors entitled "My *Kristallnacht* – A Scorched Memory" was moderated by Prof. Yoram Yovel.

"From Survival to the Skies"

■ "My most moving moment was not when I got my wings, but when I became an officer. Because I was there, and they yelled "Jew" at me. Just like someone who has never been



hungry cannot understand what hunger really means, in the same way someone who wasn't there cannot understand what it means to come from there. To become an officer after being there is like being on top of the world."

Shaya Harsit, Managing Director of the "From Survival to the Skies" organization

On 4 November 2013, a special event was held at Yad Vashem marking the conclusion of the "From Survival to the Skies" project, the documentation of the stories of Holocaust survivors who went on to become pilots and personnel in the Israel Air Force. This project, in the course of which over 40 testimonies were recorded, was the joint endeavor of Yad Vashem and the "From Survival to the Skies" non-profit organization, and was initiated by former MK Col. (Res.) Eliezer (Cheetah) Cohen, who spoke at the event. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives Dr. Haim Gertner, and Managing Director of the "From Survival to the Skies" organization, Holocaust survivor Shaya Harsit, who went on to become a navigator in the IAF, also addressed the participants. The event was moderated by Malka Tor, Director of Yad Vashem's Oral History Section. A high point of the event was the screening of moving excerpts from three of the recorded testimonies, those of Aryeh Oz, Daniel Gold and Moshe Saar.

Artifacts Director Cited for Unique Achievements

■ Haviva Peled-Carmeli, Senior Curator and Director of Yad Vashem's Artifacts Department, was recently cited by Israel's Ministry of Culture and Sport for her professional achievements as a museum curator.

Peled-Carmeli was nominated for the 2013 Curator's Award by Israel Prize Laureate, curator Yona Fischer, and endorsed by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Museums Division Director Yehudit Inbar. The prestigious award is given to a select few with impressive professional qualifications in the discipline who have incorporated and demonstrated historical research and in-depth knowledge of museology while making their collection accessible to the public. Before coming to Yad Vashem, Peled-Carmeli worked for many years at the Israel Museum, and was the former Director of the Museum of Italian Jewish Art in Jerusalem.



■ Haviva Peled-Carmeli (left) at the opening of the "Gathering the Fragments" exhibition

Since joining Yad Vashem's Museums Division, Peled-Carmeli has been instrumental in developing and expanding the artifacts collection (now numbering some 27,500 pieces), and her input and expertise was an integral part in the curatorial team's efforts in creating the Holocaust History Museum, which opened in 2005. She was personally involved in collecting many of the Holocaust artifacts from Europe

70 Years since Vilna Ghetto Liquidation

■ On 7 October 2013, a gathering was held at the Yad Vashem Synagogue to mark 70 years since the liquidation of the Vilna ghetto. Attending the gathering were Lithuanian Vice Minister of Culture Darius Mažintas; Lithuanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Darius Degutis; Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak; Chairman of the Association of Jews from Vilna and Vicinity in Israel Michael Schemiavit; Chairman of the Organization for Perpetuating the Memory of the Victims of the Landsberg-Kaufering-Dachau Concentration Camps Uri Chanoch; Holocaust survivors from Lithuania and members of the next generations; heads of other Holocaust survivor organizations; and members of Israel's navy. Avraham Fein, born in Kovno, read out the address of the Chairman of the Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel Joseph Melamed, who



was unable to attend. Tenor Rafailas Karpis, who came from Vilna especially for the event, sang songs in Yiddish, accompanied on the piano by Vice Minister Mažintas.

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

and meeting with Holocaust survivors to piece together additional information regarding many priceless relics. She also developed a unique approach to artifact collection by placing an emphasis on the story and deeper meaning surrounding the item.

The Ministry pointed out how Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection is examined and treated at the highest possible level, "the result of Peled-Carmeli's impressive professional capabilities, which combine vision and imagination with a thorough understanding of history and museology."

For information about donating personal items to Yad Vashem: collect@yadvashem.org.il

At the time of press, Haviva Peled-Carmeli tragically passed away before her time. May her memory be a blessing.

New Benefactors

Rachel and Sam Boymel

■ **Rachel and Sam Boymel both survived the Holocaust as young adults, hiding in occupied Ukraine.** Rachel was saved by Vasil Ivanovich Stripskuk;

Sam was saved by Petr Tokarsky, a family friend who hid him in his barn from Nazi soldiers and Ukrainian collaborators. Both



men were later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Most of Sam's and Rachel's family members were murdered. Shortly before the end of the war, Sam and Rachel met and married, living in a DP camp in Germany for several years and then immigrating to the US. After first working in a humble butcher shop, Sam later became a very successful businessman in the nursing home and real estate industries.

Sam and Rachel wrote together about their war experiences in *Run, My Child*, which was published by Yad Vashem in 2010. Their recent contribution to Yad Vashem endowed the Panorama in the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies, in tribute to Holocaust survivors who fought in Israel's War of Independence. The plaque honors Rachel's brothers Yosel and Menachem Czerkiewicz, who fought in the war after surviving the Holocaust.

David Mitzner

■ **David Mitzner's life has spanned five languages, three continents, and encompassed some of the most terrible – and most elating – features of Jewish history in the 20th century.**

Born to an Orthodox Jewish family in Warsaw, David set up a smuggling operation during WWII, ensuring the survival of his family until his mother and sister



were murdered. David was imprisoned in the Soviet Gulag, where his father and brother were also killed. Managing to flee Communist-dominated Eastern Europe in 1949, David arrived in New York, virtually penniless and untrained in any skill. Today he is President of Apollo-Rida Poland, which he founded in 1994. His son Ira, an Executive Committee Member

of the Board of the American Society for Yad Vashem, is President of the American arm of the operation, Rida Development.

David is a longtime board member of the American Society for Yad Vashem. He was married to his beloved wife, Ruth Buchbinder Mitzner, z"l, for more than 50 years. He is the father of Jacob and Ira, and father-in-law to Marilyn and Mindy, as well as the proud grandfather to Steven, Laura, Michael, George and Nathan.

Helene Habermann, Josef Habermann, z"l, and Family

■ **Josef Habermann, z"l, was born in 1919 to a religious family in Germany.** From a young age, he was very involved in congregational and community life and would organize gatherings at his own expense without taking any credit. He was known as a modest and smart young man. During the war, he was interned in the Blechhammer and Buchenwald camps. In Buchenwald, the SS were looking for a locksmith, and Josef came forward even though he knew nothing about the field, thus saving his life.



Josef's beloved wife, Helene, was born in 1928, a long-awaited child. She lost all of her family in the *Shoah*, with the exception of one cousin. Helene is a very positive person with a great deal of inner strength, despite the horrors that she endured during the Holocaust. She has always been determined, caring and supportive of many causes.

Their children, Harry, Roman and Sonja, were born in Germany after the war. Like his parents, Harry believes that not everyone receives an equal chance in life, and therefore sees it an obligation to help those who are less fortunate. Holocaust education is very important for the family, especially after their experiences in the *Shoah*. This prompted them recently to become Yad Vashem Benefactors, endowing the Education Gateway for Learning and Reflection, in loving memory of Josef's parents, Tauba and Abraham Habermann, z"l, and Helene's parents, Sara and Yehuda Kornfeld, z"l, and all their family members who were murdered during the Holocaust. The Education Gateway is situated at the entrance to the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies. The ceremony was attended by many

family and friends, including Helene's cousin Jackie, who flew in from New York especially for the ceremony. In Harry's speech, he gave a blessing to his mother that she should dance at his daughter's bat mitzvah.

David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein

■ **David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein are long-standing supporters of Yad Vashem.**

Born in Sosnowiec, Poland, in 1925, David was taken to a forced labor camp in Silesia in June

1941, and then imprisoned in Auschwitz-Birkenau in March 1942. In May 1943 he was taken as part of a forced



labor brigade to dig through the remains of the destroyed Warsaw ghetto, at which point he escaped and joined the Polish underground resistance. He swore that if he survived, he would dedicate his life to telling the story of the Holocaust, and making sure the world would never forget what had happened by speaking out on behalf of those who were murdered. He has spent his life fulfilling his promise, through decades of involvement and dedication to memorializing the Holocaust on a national and international level. After the war, David married survivor Sara Marysia (née Zucker). They first settled in Argentina and then moved to Chile, where David established a successful business. They have two daughters and six grandchildren, as well as great-grandchildren.

David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein were among the founders and are Benefactors of the Valley of the Communities, and more recently of the Holocaust History Museum. They have also endowed Yad Vashem's VIP Pavilion in memory of David's parents and siblings who were murdered in Auschwitz. Only he and his younger brother Jose survived.

David is the President of the Chilean Society for Yad Vashem. In April 2013, the Senate of the Republic of Chile paid tribute to David Feuerstein, recognizing him as a special ambassador for commemorating the Holocaust. In June, David represented Holocaust survivors by saying *Kaddish* at the opening ceremony of the new permanent exhibition "Shoah," curated, designed and constructed by Yad Vashem at Block 27 in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ This year's **American Society for Yad Vashem's** Annual Tribute Dinner honored the legacy of the American Society's founder and former chairman **Eli Zborowski, z"l**, and awarded Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award. The Annual Dinner was chaired by American Society Executive Committee Board members **Marilyn** and **Barry Rubenstein**. Left to right: American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf**, Mayor Bloomberg, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**



■ In October 2013, the American Society's Young Leadership Associates (YLA) hosted a dinner at Park Avenue Synagogue, NY. Over 150 guests attended the event, which featured a conversation with **Alyson Richman**, author of *The Lost Wife*. The co-chairs of the dinner were **Rachel Anfang** and **Nadav Besner**; **Abbi Halpern** (right) and **Barry Levine** (left) serve as the current YLA Co-Chairs, and **Caroline Massel** is the YLA Founding Chair.



■ On 8 August, Keene State College's Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies held a community reception in honor of the traveling version of Yad Vashem's new exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations," hosted

by C&S Wholesale Grocers and the original exhibition's primary supporters, **Jan** and **Rick Cohen** (left). International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) was the keynote speaker.



■ This summer **Adina** (second from left) and **Lawrence Burian**, son of Holocaust survivor **Andrew Burian**, marked their son **Jonah's** (third from left) bar mitzvah in the Yad Vashem Synagogue after touring Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum. They were joined by their friends, second generation **Tobi** and **Joel Haims**, who also marked their son **Jonathan's** bar mitzvah.



■ Yad Vashem Builder and Executive Committee Member of the American Society for Yad Vashem **Alan Pines** (right) of the second generation was in Israel with a group of young leaders from New Jersey. Their visit to Yad Vashem included a visit to the Square of Hope with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ Yad Vashem Pillars **Jane** and **Mark Wilf** (left) visited with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (right) at the recently dedicated Yad Vashem Square at the entrance to the Mount of Remembrance adjacent to Mount Herzl, which was generously endowed by the Wilf families.



■ Yad Vashem Pillars **Marilyn** and **Barry Rubenstein** (center) visited the Mount of Remembrance with friends **Judith** and **Philip Bloom** (left) and **Susan** and **Kent Seelig** (right). They toured the Archives, Museum of Holocaust Art, new Righteous Among the Nations exhibition, International School for Holocaust Studies – where they support Holocaust education for IDF soldiers – and the Yad Vashem Synagogue, established through their generosity.



■ At a ceremony held on 21 October, **Sheila** and **Bob Friedland** (right and left) were honored for their support in enabling Yad Vashem to further develop and compile material relating to synagogues of various communities destroyed during the Holocaust by acquiring the Ben-Zion and Rivka Dorfman Archives (see p. 15). **Dr. Ben-Zion** (second from right) and **Rivka Dorfman** (second from left) attended with their granddaughter **Sara** (center).



■ **Selma Gruder Horowitz** (second from right) and her sister **Pearl Field** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem in October 2013. Selma dedicated a classroom in the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies, accompanied by International Relations Division Deputy Managing Director **Sari Granitza** (right) and Director of International Relations at the International School **Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman** (left).



■ During their recent visit to the Mount of Remembrance, the Sulkin, Galanti, Levitan and Levine families toured various sites of Yad Vashem, including the Archives, Children's Memorial and Holocaust History Museum.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem last summer, **Jane** (second from left) and **Alan Cornell** (right), their son **Michael** (left), daughter-in-law **Kimberly** (center) and grandchildren viewed the tree of Righteous Among the Nations **Jan Spreij** and his parents **Adrianus** and **Antje**, who saved Alan's parents **Ernest** and **Frida Cohn** during the Holocaust.



■ **Manny Kaplan** (left) from Los Angeles marked his grandchildren **Alexandria** and **Zachery's** bnei mitzvah in the Yad Vashem Synagogue after three generations of the family toured the Holocaust History Museum and various sites on the Mount of Remembrance.



■ A ceremony honoring Righteous Among the Nations **Danuta Renk-Mikulska** (third from left) was held at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in July 2013. Mikulska, who was recognized by Yad Vashem for her courageous rescue of Jews near Lublin, Poland, received her certificate and medal from Israel's Consul-General to the Midwest **H.E. Mr. Roey Gilad** (second from left) and American Society for Yad Vashem Director of Development **S. Isaac Mekel** (third from right).



■ **Mary Aaron** (third from right) visited Yad Vashem in October 2013 as part of a group of women with Aish Detroit on the "Mission of the Moms." The group toured the Holocaust History Museum and the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and longtime Benefactor **Sam Halpern, z"l**. Sam's harsh memories of his Holocaust experiences never dampened his desire to contribute to future Jewish generations. After escaping the Kamionka concentration camp, Sam and his brother **Arie Halpern, z"l**, a founder of the American Society for Yad Vashem, survived the war in hiding until 1944. After the war, Sam married **Gladys** in Bayreuth, Germany, and they moved to the US in 1949.



Sam Halpern flourished as a leading real estate developer with business interests in the US and Israel. Sam was the New Jersey National Vice Chair of the American Society, and he and Gladys were Benefactors of the Valley of the Communities, and received the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award in 1992. Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Gladys; their children **David** and **Sharon Halpern**, **Fred** and **Cheryl Halpern**, **Jack Halpern**, **Murray** and **Batsheva Halpern**; their grandchildren **Abbi** and **Jeremy Halpern**, **Mindy** and **Alan Schall**, **Yonina** and **Eric Gomberg**, **Maeira** and **Michel Werthenschlag**, **Alex** and **Aviya Halpern**, **Rachel Halpern**, and **Sean**, **Nathaniel** and **Gabriel Halpern**; and their 14 great-grandchildren.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Moniek Stawski, z"l**, father of **Dr. Axel Stawski**, an Executive Committee Board Member of the American Society for Yad Vashem. Born in Poland, **Moniek** was interned in several concentration camps during the *Shoah*. He was eventually liberated from the Gross-Rosen concentration camp. **Moniek** continued to live in Europe after the war, where he established a business, married and raised a family. **Moniek's** experience during the *Shoah* led him to support the cause of Holocaust Remembrance; he and his wife **Sara** were supporters of Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities. Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt sympathies to his children, **Dr. Axel Stawski**, **Estera Stawski**, **Irene Fogel**, **Dr. Mike Stawski** and **Naomi Atholz**, and the entire family.



Friends Worldwide

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and longtime supporter **Rafael Feferman, z"l**. Born in Wachock, Poland, in 1927, Rafael was the youngest of three children – a talented student with an unusual recall of the Bible and Talmud, and an interest in metal working. When the Nazis invaded Poland, Rafael and his brother were sent to a forced labor camp in the Hermann Goering Works munitions factory. Rafael was then interned in Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Holzheim, until liberation by American troops in 1945. Rafael was forever haunted by the horrific memories of seeing his family deported to their deaths.

It was these memories that led Rafael Feferman to become an activist on behalf of Holocaust remembrance and education. Rafael restored and rededicated the Jewish cemetery of his hometown in 2006, and initiated an ongoing annual scholarship program with the local high school to encourage Holocaust education, teach tolerance and foster reconciliation between Jews and Poles. Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Rafael's loved ones.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Moses Gewolb, z"l**, in September 2013. Moses was born in Krzeszowice, Poland in 1915. Days after the onset of WWII, Moses and his family were caught in the



grasp of Nazi Germany. Due to his round glasses as well as the many selfless acts of kindness and assistance to fellow inmates in Plasow, Skarszysko and Buchenwald, he was universally known as "Gandhi." Upon liberation, Moses returned to Krzeszowice to search for family members, where he met his future wife, Helene Horowitz, z"l, an Auschwitz survivor, who journeyed with him through Czechoslovakia and France before arriving in the US in 1948. There he created a successful business, established a strong Jewish home, and consistently supported Israeli causes. Moses recently generously donated a classroom in Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. Moses is survived by his sons, Drs. Ira and Jay Gewolb.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Israel Krakowski, z"l**, a founding member of the American Society for Yad Vashem. A teenager when WWII began, Israel hid in a bunker with his parents and six siblings. Following incarceration in various labor camps, he was eventually liberated from Theresienstadt. His entire family had been murdered by the Nazis, with the exception of one sister, who was liberated from Bergen-Belsen.



Israel Krakowski met his wife Ellis in the US, where they married and started a family. The couple hosted the first fundraising meeting of the American Society in their Manhattan home. Both remained active Society members throughout the years, with Ellis serving as Recording Secretary and Israel as a member of the American Society's Executive Board. Their daughter Lili Stawski currently serves as Recording Secretary and as an Executive Committee Member of the American Society. Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Ellis; their children Lili Stawski and Harry Krakowski; and their grandchildren Ariella and Ilana Stawski, and Rachel, Sarah, Sophie and Leah Krakowski.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Builder **Jacqueline Rolat, z"l**, beloved wife of Sigmund A. Rolat, devoted mother of Samantha Asulin and Amanda Rolat, and loving grandmother of Henry, Maya and David Asulin. Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt sympathies to the entire family.



CANADA

■ At the Queen's Park Tribute to Holocaust Survivors on 24 October, **Premier Kathleen Wynne** (center), **Monte Kwinter** of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and **MC Israel Mida**, Board member of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem**, honored survivors **Bill Nightingale**, **Judy Cohen**, **Rose Zimmerman**, **Helen Bleeman**, **Alzbeta Friedmann**, **Fay Kieffer**, **Frank Junger**, **Martin Baranek** and **Joe Leinburd**. Consul General of Israel to Toronto **DJ Schneeweiss** and Ontario's Minister of Immigration and Citizenship **Michael Coteau** also spoke to the audience.



■ Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) paid tribute to Benefactors and donors of the Terrace of the Soldiers **Dr. Max** and **Gianna Glassman** at its unveiling at Yad Vashem on 15 September.



■ Canadian Minister of State (Multiculturalism) **Tim Uppal** (center), accompanied by Yad Vashem Benefactor **Ed Sonshine** and Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, lit a candle at the *Yizkor* Ceremony in Toronto on 22 September in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.



UK

■ Chairman of the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust **The Hon. Laura Wolfson Townsley** (center), her husband **Barry** and their children **Georgina** and **Charles** visited Yad Vashem on 29 October, along with Chief Executive **Paul Ramsbottom** and Trustee **Sir Ian Gainsford**. Accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, they were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives, viewed the new International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies and received a briefing on technology in the service of Holocaust remembrance.



■ **George Weisz**, producer of *Regina*, a documentary about the world's first woman rabbi, visited Yad Vashem on 7 July along with the film's writer **Diana Groo** and co-producers **Gideon Wittenberg** and **Alan Reich**. The group was guided through the Museum and the Visual Center by Yad Vashem Libraries Director **Dr. Robert Rozett**. They also visited the exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations."



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 23 July, **Jonathan Ferster** was guided through the new exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations," which he generously co-sponsored, by Yad Vashem's Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director

of the Museums Division **Yehudit Shendar**. He was also given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives as well as a presentation on the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project by Hall of Names Director **Dr. Alexander Avram**.



■ **Jeremy Coller** (center), CIO of the private equity firm Coller Capital, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 27 August with his two children. Archives Director **Dr. Haim Gertner** gave them a tour of the Archives, after which they visited the exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations."



FRANCE & BENELUX

■ Attending the Yad Vashem Annual Dinner in Paris on 25 November to support the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project were (left to right): Honorary Chairman of the **French Committee for Yad Vashem Paul Schaffer**, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **Maxi Librati**, **Judith Pizar**, Director of Yad Vashem's French, Swiss and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, French Committee President **Jean Raphael Hirsch**, **Jacky Schaffer**, **Jean-Pierre Levy** and **Dr. Samuel Pizar**, French Committee Founder and UNESCO Honorary Ambassador, Special Envoy for Holocaust Education.



GERMANY

■ An event marking Yad Vashem's 60th anniversary and 50 years of honoring the Righteous Among the Nations took place at the Hamburg Municipality on 7 August. Among the more than 500 participants were (left to right): Governor of the State of Hamburg **Olaf Scholz**, Israel's Ambassador to Germany **H.E. Mr. Yakov Hadas-Handelsman**, Chairperson of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany Hildegard Müller**, **Prof. Jan Philipp Reemtsma**, President of the Hamburg Parliament **Carola Veit** and Director of Yad Vashem's German-Speaking Countries and Switzerland Desk **Arik Rav-On**. The Governor of Hamburg welcomed the guests of the event. Professor Reemtsma was the keynote speaker on "Civic Courage – Then and Now."



AUSTRIA

■ On 11 September, the exhibition "The Righteous: Courage is a Matter of Decision" – created and produced by **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** – opened in Steyr. The exhibition details the rescue stories and lives of the Austrian Righteous Among the Nations. More than 400 guests were present for the opening event, including (left to right): Museum Arbeitswelt Director **Katrin Aver**, Israel's Ambassador to Austria **H.E. Mr. Aviv Shiron**, Mayor of Steyr **Gerald Hackl**, Mayor of Linz **Klaus Luger**, Austrian Friends Secretary-General **Ulrike Schuster**, Chairperson **Gunther Schuster**, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and **Prof. Angelica Baeumer**.



Friends Worldwide

PANAMA

■ **Sabrina and Roberto Roizental** were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (center) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



MIAMI

■ **Minnie and Steven Bandel** were joined by their son **Kevin** during their visit to Yad Vashem.



■ **Simy and Sadi Cohen** (second and third from left) were joined by their daughters **Cota** and **Solita** (first and fourth from left) and by **Moseñor Antonio Cañizares** (third from right), **José Luis Mendoza Perez** and **María Dolores García Mascarell** (right) during their visit to Yad Vashem in July.



VENEZUELA

■ **Raquel and Jacobo Szkolnik** (left), **Dorita** and **Leo Horowitz** (right) and **Sara Morgenstern** (center) unveiled a plaque in honor of Leo's parents during their visit to Yad Vashem in July.



SPAIN

■ **Roxana and Ariel Mazin** were joined by a group of friends during their visit to Yad Vashem in September.



MEXICO

■ **Esther and Martín Wengrowsky** were joined by their family during their visit to Yad Vashem in July for the unveiling of a plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope.



■ **Mery and Ariel Croitorescu** visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Isaac**. They were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left).



■ **Anita Benchimol and Angel Dilla Moline** visited Yad Vashem in July.



■ **Lucy and Abraham Zetune** (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 July together with their family, for the unveiling of a plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope.



PERU

■ **Jessica and Alex Wolfenson-Galsky** visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of their son **Nathan's** bar mitzvah.



ARGENTINA

■ **Cinthia and Ariel Pinto** were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** during their visit to Yad Vashem in August together with their sons, **Ezequiel** and **Matias**.



CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ On 27 October at the 32nd Annual Night to Honor Israel at Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (second from right) received a donation on behalf of Yad Vashem for the second year in a row from the John Hagee Ministries of **Pastor John** (right) and **Diana Hagee**. The donation will be used to educate Israeli youth living in the periphery as well as for seminars for IDF soldiers at Yad Vashem. The Hagees are well-known supporters of Israeli causes, and have visited Yad Vashem with the important delegations they regularly bring to Israel.



■ During October 2013, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Director **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (center) attended meetings and Yad Vashem events held at churches across the US. One of the event hosts was a recent Yad Vashem donor, the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. Pictured: Director for Community Relations at the Museum of the Bible **Shannon Bennett** (front right) with Dr. Kokkonen and some of the participants of the special reception.



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

■ To make tax-deductible donations:

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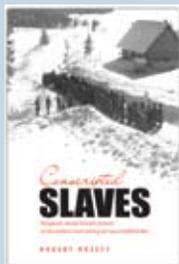
International Institute for Holocaust Research

New on the Shelf

Conscripted Slaves: Hungarian Jewish Forced Laborers on the Eastern Front during the Second World War

Robert Rozett

NIS ~~174~~ NIS 128 ~~\$58~~ \$44 (airmail included)



■ From the spring of 1942 until the summer of 1944, some 45,000 Jewish men were forced to accompany Hungarian troops to the battle zone of the Former Soviet Union. The Hungarian authorities considered these men unworthy of bearing weapons, yet they demanded they take part fully in the “blood sacrifice” that was the war against Stalin and his forces. Some 80% of the Jewish forced laborers never returned home. They fell prey to battle, starvation, disease and grinding labor, aggravated immensely by brutality and even outright murder at the hands of the Hungarian soldiers responsible for them. This study tells the story of these modern-day slaves – a story that is integral to understanding the destruction of Hungarian Jewry in the Holocaust.

The Kasztner Report: The Report of the Budapest Jewish Rescue Committee 1942–1945

Rezső Kasztner

Editors: László Karsai & Judit Molnár

NIS ~~174~~ NIS 128 ~~\$58~~ \$44 (airmail included)

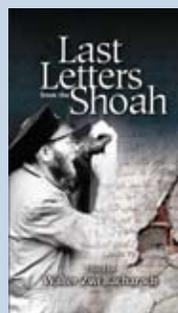


■ Rezső Kasztner was one of the most controversial figures to emerge from wartorn Europe and the ashes of the *Shoah*. A leader of the Budapest Jewish Rescue Committee during the last year of the war in Europe, the Zionist Kasztner became the point man for negotiations with the SS to save Hungarian Jewry. In Israel in the 1950s he was vilified by some for having sold out his Jewish brethren, and was saddled with the blame for the suffering and murder of the lion's share of Hungarian Jewry. Kasztner was assassinated in Tel Aviv following a spectacular postwar libel trial in which he had tried to defend his good name. Today scholarship sees him in a different light and his Report, now published in English and with scholarly footnotes for the first time, is one of the main reasons why.

Last Letters from the Shoah

Editor: Walter Zwi Bacharach

NIS ~~148~~ NIS 108 ~~\$48~~ \$36 (airmail included)

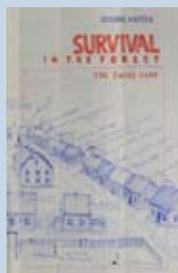


■ “These are my last words...” is a sentence found over and over again in this unique volume of letters written by those who would not survive the Holocaust. The letters were uncovered over the last 60 years, hoarded by the victims’ families and friends, and ultimately collected by Yad Vashem. These last letters were sent from the ghettos, hidden in the cattle cars and train stations, and smuggled out of the concentration camps. Each short letter describes the end of a difficult journey as it reveals the raw emotions of mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers trying desperately to tell their story before it was too late.

Survival in the Forest: The Świrz Camp

Isidore Karten

NIS ~~74~~ NIS 56 ~~\$24~~ \$18 (airmail included)



■ Isidore Karten was born in an idyllic shtetl in Świrz, Eastern Galicia. He experienced the hardship of the Soviet occupation, and witnessed German troops marching into town in July 1941. The Germans established the ghetto in Bóbrka, and the rest of the Jews were ordered into the ghetto. Isidore and his brother joined the Jewish partisans in the Świrz Forest, and Isidore went from ghetto to ghetto calling upon young people to come to the forest to fight. It was on a visit to the Bóbrka ghetto that he met his wife-to-be, Julia, who joined the partisans, and they were married in the forest.

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